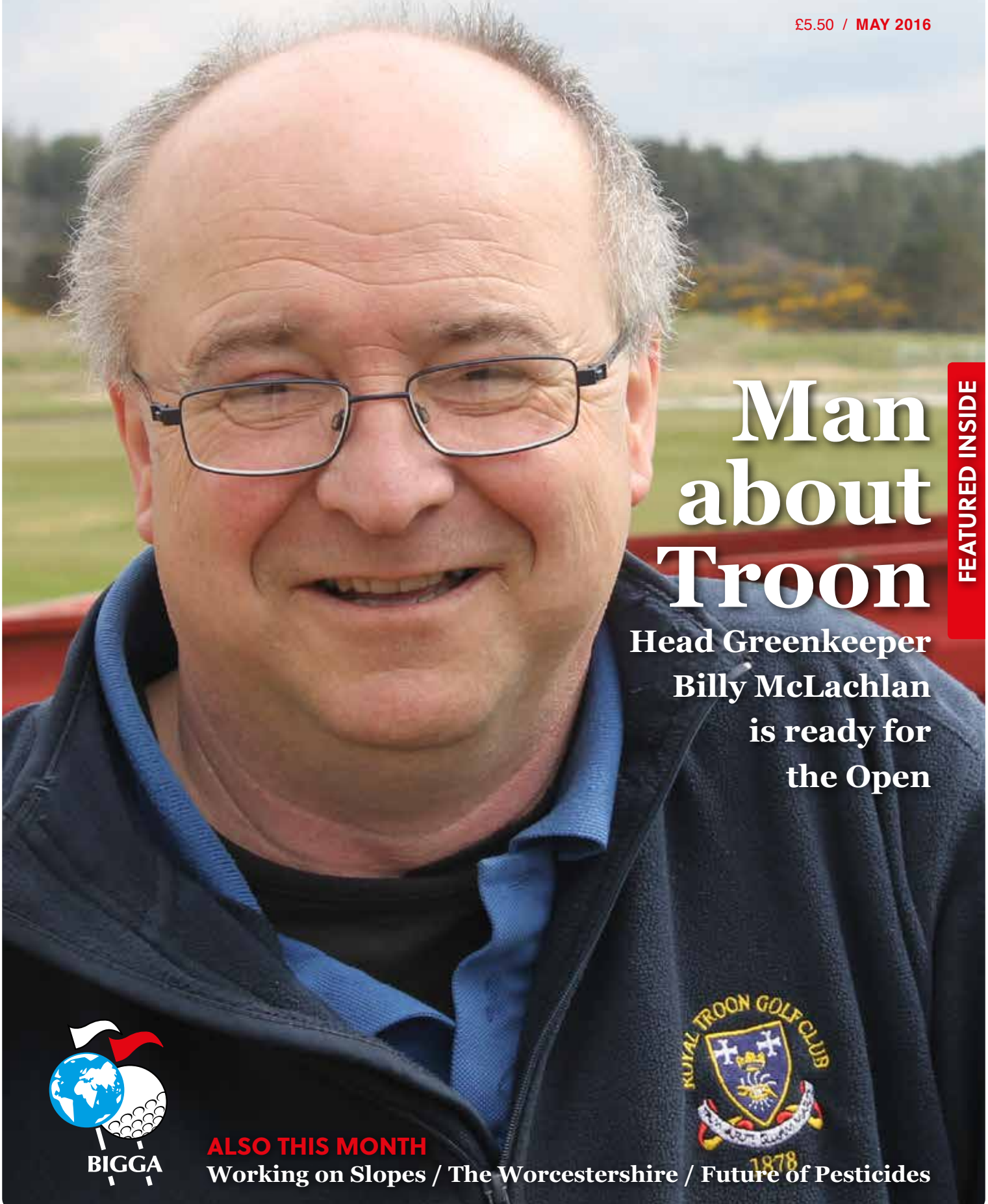




# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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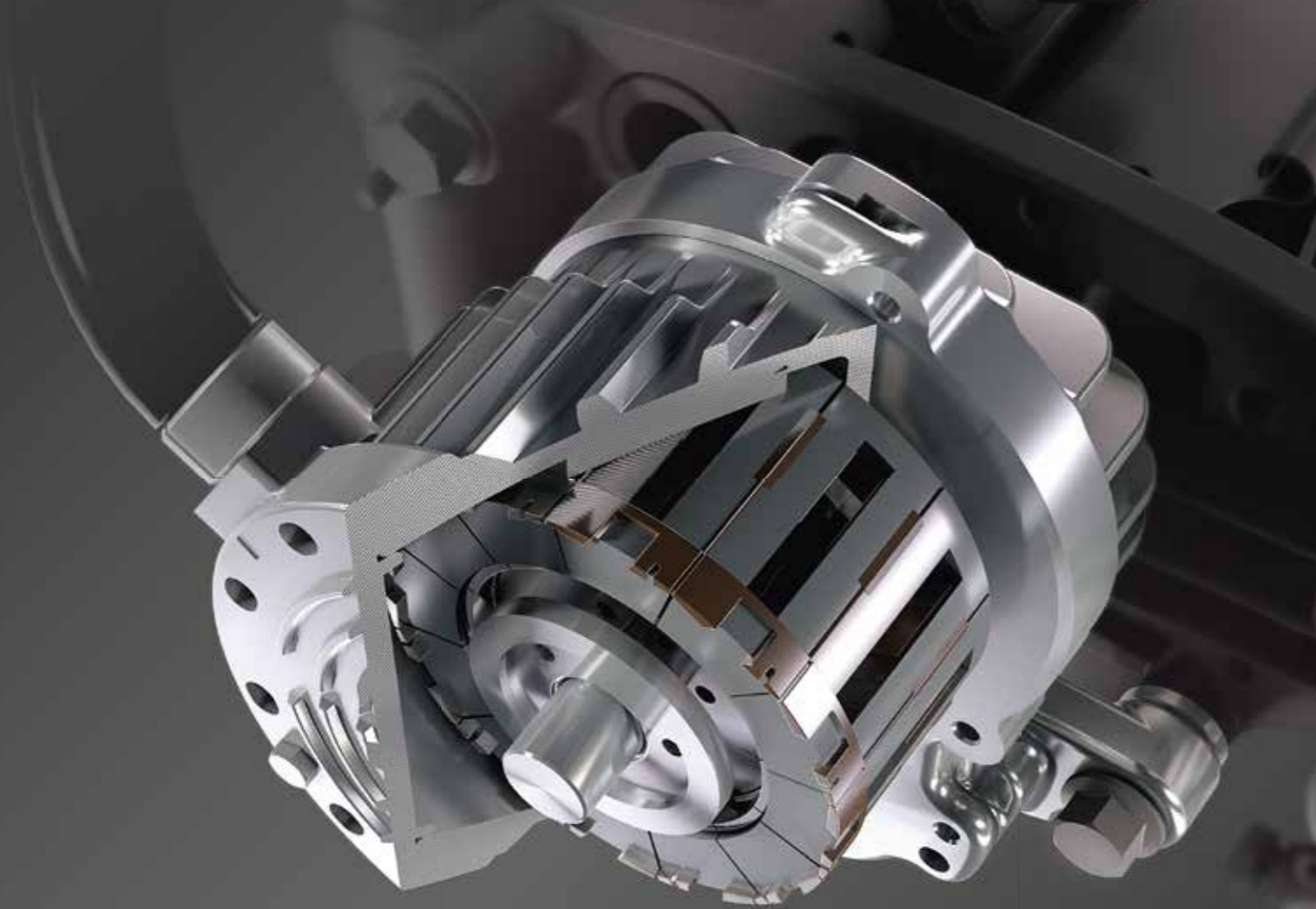
## Man about Troon

Head Greenkeeper  
Billy McLachlan  
is ready for  
the Open

FEATURED INSIDE



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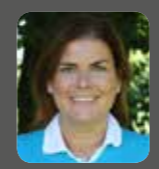
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# WELCOME



Jim Croxton  
BIGGA Chief Executive

## Wet April led to missed opportunity

Typically at this time of year we reflect on the start to the season signaled by The Masters and look forward to the feast of golf to come.

But it is hard to do so when at the end of April there is snow on the ground and 'course closed' signs in evidence all around the country.

The weather we are experiencing is nothing short of extraordinary, playing havoc with course management plans, putting huge stresses and strains on our members and having a negative effect on participation, which leads to financial pressures in clubs. This affects budgets, leading to further stresses and strains for greenkeepers.

It is a huge shame the weather is making life so difficult, as Danny Willett's unexpected but hugely-deserved victory at Augusta National put golf firmly in

the spotlight and could have been a fantastic catalyst for participation. His nerveless performance down the stretch while the wunderkind Jordan Spieth made a right rickets of the 12th hole was thrilling to watch and provided a fabulous impetus for the sport. Let us hope that people who have been inspired to get back on the course are made of tough stuff.

**May is National Golf Month, a concerted effort spearheaded by the British Golf Industry Association to bring more players into our game. There will be an increased media profile for the sport, culminating in the European Tour's flagship event, the BMW PGA Championship, which is taking place once again over the West Course at Wentworth.**

We wish Kenny Mackay and his colleagues all the best in preparing the course leading up to and during the event and I hope the BIGGA Support Team enjoy their experience rubbing shoulders with some of the world's greatest players.

Later in the year Royal Troon is the venue for the 145th Open and this month we feature the course's head man, Billy McLachlan, who is preparing for his fifth championship at the historic Ayrshire links. Billy's is a fascinating story of a lifetime in greenkeeping and the article very much focuses on his personal story. Further information on the course preparation will follow next month.

Elsewhere in these pages we have the first in a series of articles by members of the National Board of Management, which will complement the regular contributions from the president and chairman. Scott Reeves is the course manager at Leyland in Lancashire - by his own admission a 'regular club' - and he reflects on the trying winter and how the support of fellow members is critical in difficult times.

Enjoy the read.

WELCOME



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Raising a family and continuing traditions at this year's Open venue

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# FROM THE EDITOR



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

## Time for a spring clean

Welcome to this month's edition of Greenkeeper International where, you'll have noticed by now, we've had something of a spring clean.

There are a few changes, but we're keen to stress that although it looks a little different, it's the same great magazine you've gotten used to. We'll continue to tell you about the latest available vacancies, and our Around the Green contributors have been working hard to bring you news from around your section.

Our features are bigger and better than ever, with this month's stand out piece an extremely rare chat with Billy McLachlan, head greenkeeper at this year's Open venue, Royal Troon. I've had a look, and I reckon the last time Billy was the subject of a feature was more than a decade ago. So it was a privilege to get a rare insight into the life of one of Ayrshire's most enigmatic and traditional greenkeepers.

While you're reading the mag, if there's anything you think we should introduce, or perhaps something you don't like, let us know and we'll see what we can do.

The whole greenkeeping industry continues to lead



the way in professionalism and as such we wanted your magazine to reflect this, so we're taking steps to remain at the cutting edge.

On a similar theme, I attended a conversation recently with some of the guys from the PGA and the GCMA to discuss a new diploma in club management that will soon be launched. We hope it will give some greenkeepers a greater opportunity for career development by giving them the skills to run the entire club, not just the course management side of things. There's more information about the diploma in this month's L&D news section.



# CONTRIBUTORS

## Billy McLachlan ▶

Course manager at Royal Troon, Billy is known for avoiding publicity. In an extremely-rare interview, he talked to GI about his life and raising a family beside the Ayrshire Open venue.

page 22



## ◀ Laurence Pithie

The first to attain BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper certificate in 1991, Laurence is a recipient of both Greenkeeper and Groundsman of the Year in 1984 and 1988. He paid a visit to The Worcestershire Golf Club to see the innovation taking place there.

page 26



## John Ross ▶

John was BIGGA section chairman of Surrey in 2011, a MG and former course manager. His company, Compliant Grounds, works with many of the best clubs in the UK to improve safety standards. He talked to us about how to operate safely on inclines around the course.

page 34



## ◀ Mark De'Ath

Mark is operations director at Headland Amenity, a specialist fertilizer and pesticide manufacturer. He talks us through changes to pesticide regulation and how greenkeepers will evolve their methods to cope.

page 40



# ACROSS THE BOARD



## Scott Reeves

This month BIGGA board of management member Scott Reeves explains how talking to other association members helped relieve the depression of a long winter.

Scott is course manager at Leyland, a parkland course near Preston, and has been a member of the BIGGA board since June 2015.

Writing something that is going to be seen by nearly 6,000 BIGGA members can bring a certain amount of pressure.

When I had mustered the courage to get started, my first action was to put down on paper all the issues that greenkeepers are finding most important right now. It quickly became obvious that 'pressure' was a common factor among all of them.

It is no secret that the game of golf faces many challenges and the burden placed on greenkeepers is definitely not the least of them. While I am fortunate at Leyland to have members who appreciate the hard work of their greenstaff, not all course managers are so blessed. Sadly, we hear stories of greenkeepers facing hostility, aggression and unrealistic expectations on an increasingly-regular basis.

The widespread use of Twitter and Facebook has also led to the rise of those who see no harm in making career-damaging comments, sat at home with a glass of wine in one hand and typing away on their phone with the other. Unfortunately, this is not only confined to golfers, with occasions of greenkeepers sometimes slating their peers with little thought for the consequences.

The winter we have just been through has, without



Flooding caused by winter storms played havoc with courses

question, been one of the worst I can remember for many years. It's hard to put into words the feelings of frustration at watching the course flood for the umpteenth time and having to put up the dreaded 'course closed' sign. Seeing the course lose its definition, cancelling projects and battling to provide any sort of playing surface test all of us. Given these factors will undoubtedly increase the financial problems for clubs, it seems inevitable greenkeepers and their precious budgets are vulnerable.

I make no apology for this sounding depressing – if we don't acknowledge and define the problems, we can't start to look for solutions. For me personally, getting through this winter has meant releasing that pressure wherever possible and trying to stay positive.

One of the best ways to do this has been by simply talking to other course managers in the area. More often than not they are going through exactly the same problems and getting things off my chest has made it much easier to cope. We can get very isolated and start thinking that it's just us who have these issues, when in fact greenkeepers at all levels struggle sometimes.

No one can stop the rain falling, nor force grass to grow in excessively cold temperatures. However, our association can help in a number of ways. At a

national level our voice is being heard when the people who steer the game of golf get together. We are taken seriously as the voice of greenkeepers, so we can advance our collective interests. The pace of change may not suit everyone, but we have come a long way from the mental image of muddy boots and overalls.

Our Sections are a great mechanism for struggling greenkeepers to reach out to their peers for support and advice. If you need help, this should be your first port of call, as no one understands what you are facing like your fellow greenkeepers. The helpline for counselling is important, but our predecessors formed greenkeeping associations because we are stronger together. We look out for each other, something that doesn't happen in many other professions.

For an ordinary greenkeeper like myself, becoming a member of the National Board of Management was a huge honour and my priority is to serve the members of the Northern Region as well as I can. Issues such as wage scales, helping members with disabilities such as dyslexia and our code of conduct are all areas I am keen to assist in developing.

Being an active member of our association has benefited me greatly in my career and I am relishing the opportunity to give something back and help my fellow members.

# Funding your future

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



JOHN DEERE



Bayer CropScience



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



Temple GC  
course management team  
sign up



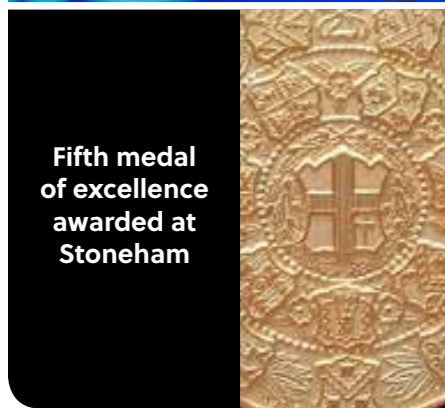
Michael Fance  
Marathon Man  
The Migraine Trust



Volunteers sought at  
Hanbury Manor



Celebrations  
at Walton  
Heath GC



Fifth medal  
of excellence  
awarded at  
Stoneham

# GI Newsdesk

The latest greenkeeping news

## Migraine runs gain charity funds

'I have suffered from migraine headaches for nearly 30 years and I hope to raise as much money as I can for such a worthy cause'

One of the South East's most well-known industry faces is appealing for help as he attempts to complete a marathon series of challenges.

Michael Fance, a longstanding sales advisor in the South East region, is undertaking not one marathon, but more

than 26 events to raise money for The Migraine Trust.

Michael said: "I have suffered from migraine headaches for nearly 30 years and I hope to raise as much money as I can for such a worthy cause."

"I believe running a marathon doesn't represent

enough of a challenge for me to expect individuals to put their hands in their pockets for, so I am undertaking a series of physical challenges in the hope people will respond to my efforts and donate as generously as they can."

Among the events completed by Michael have been the

Brighton and London marathons, held in consecutive weeks.

Greenkeepers have been among those willing to lend their support, and Michael has so far raised almost £900 via his JustGiving page, which can be found at [www.justgiving.com/MICHAEL-FANCE](http://www.justgiving.com/MICHAEL-FANCE)



Michael Fance

## European Tour volunteers needed

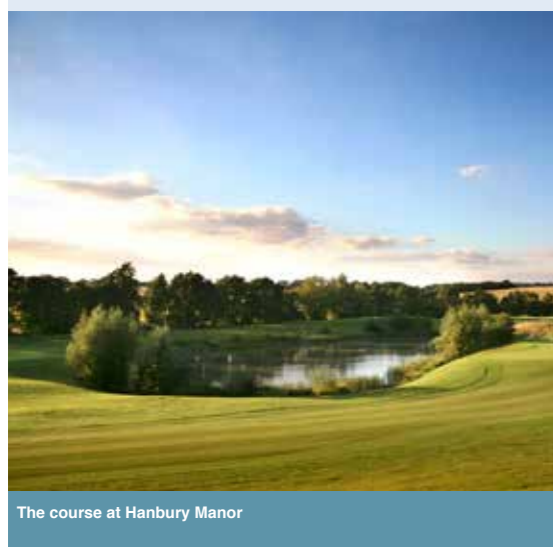
Marriott Hanbury Manor are seeking volunteers to help in the preparation of the course during the Willow Senior Golf Classic, a European Senior Tour event to be held on 26-28 August.

Volunteers will assist the Hanbury Manor team in all aspects of tournament set up, including mowing and preparation of the course in the morning and repairs in the evening.

Food will be provided to all volunteers during

the morning and evening shifts.

For more information contact:  
Duncan Sieling on 07706420323 or email [Duncan.sieling@marriott-hotels.com](mailto:Duncan.sieling@marriott-hotels.com)



The course at Hanbury Manor

## Nominations open for Scottish Patrons awards



2015 Patron's Award winners

The nomination period for the 2016 Scottish region's Patron Award is open, and greens teams are being invited to nominate their colleagues, who they believe could be in with a chance of winning.

Last year's award ceremony was held at at Dunblane New GC and saw five greenkeepers and course managers, one from each BIGGA section, receive an award.

BIGGA's John Young said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for greens teams to show their appreciation of a colleague who is going above and beyond their usual duties, but who would otherwise be unable to attend BTME due to financial constraints."

To achieve the award, the BIGGA member would need to meet three out of the six criteria below, as well as being active in the

CPD system.

The candidate:

- Must be a member of the association for a continuous two-year period prior to their nomination;
- Must not have been a recipient of the award within a 10-year period from their nomination. However, all winners pre-2012 are eligible;
- Could be actively participating in education, either through attending industry events, college attendance or other external pursuits;
- Could be active in environmental or ecological projects on their course;
- Could be active in section activities, such as taking on a role for the section board;
- Would benefit from attending BTME, but are unable to do so through financial constraints at their club

Each section will provide one winner of the award, who will receive a pack-

age that includes three nights' accommodation in Harrogate during BTME, travel expenses and £250 towards education in the Continue to Learn programme.

The award is made possible through the support of Aitkens, Amenity Sales, Amtech, Barenbrug UK, BAYER, Campey Turf Care Systems, Charterhouse, Double A, Fairways, Farmura, Fraser Robb, Germinal Seeds, Greentech, Ground Water Dynamics, Hamilton Bros, Headland Amenity, Hendersons, Hugh King, ICL, Lely UK Direct, MacGregors, MTS Group, Naim Brown, Rigby Taylor, Scotlube, SGM Contracts, Sherriff Amenity, Souters, Sports Turf Services, Stewart Plant Sales, Symbio, Tacit UK, Terra Firma, Thomas Sheriff, Thorntrees, Turf Irrigation Services, Turf & Amenity Solutions, Turftec Amenity.

## Spraying board amends pointing structure

The National Register of Sprayer Operators has made changes to how CPD points are issued for the training of pesticide application courses.

The NRoSO board has concluded that points should only be given for the achievement of the qualification, rather than given to all those who embark on the course. The amendment will come into effect from 1 May 2016

and for a member to claim points, they must submit evidence of the achievement by providing a copy of their CRD Specified Certificate of Competence to the NRoSO support team. For more information visit [www.nroso.org.uk](http://www.nroso.org.uk)

Countrywide  
TURF AND AMENITY

## Countrywide lend learning support to BIGGA

'It is great to add Countrywide to our ever-increasing list of BIGGA education supporters'

Countrywide Turf & Amenity is the 18th industry organisation to sign up as a BIGGA education supporter, while ten others count themselves as partners of the association.

This backing sends out a clear message that the sports turf management industry firmly supports the continuing personal development of BIGGA members.

Sam Honeyborne, turf and amenity business manager at Countrywide, said: "We are delighted to be working more closely with BIGGA this year. Since our inception in 2002, we have been regional patrons of the association, supporting our growing customer base in an educational capacity."

"This relationship has provided many opportunities to connect and support new sites with our infield team of turf specialists and their added value approach."

"We recognise how important it is to promote and encourage best practice in our industry and we look forward to working with BIGGA and its members in the coming years."

BIGGA business development manager Jill Rodham said: "Countrywide is a dynamic company that works tirelessly to be the leading supplier of products and services to the rural community. It's great to add them to our ever-increasing list of BIGGA education supporters and we are excited about passing on the benefits to our members."



Graeme Davidson @kiwigreenkeeper  
Can't wait to get to The Players now! Big thanks once again to @BIGGALtd @JohnDeere @TPCSawgrassAGR @MurrayfieldGC for this opportunity

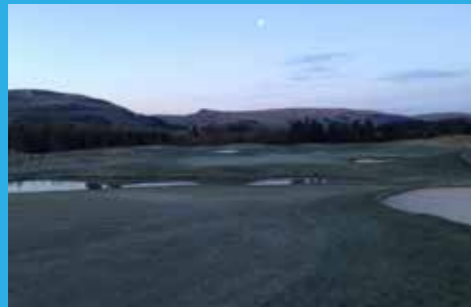
RMS-Greens @rmsgc\_course  
@rmsproshop @BIGGALtd A super-fantastic effort from our greenstaff this week! 8 sleeps to the Spring Meetings!!

Jackson Woolley @1JacksonWoolley  
Great turn out today for the @BIGGALtd @bbogreenkeepers comp @sandmartinsgc @SMGCgreens great to see you all

Gavin White @gavinwhiteNI  
For goodness sakes Spring where art thou?? @greenkeepingire @BIGGALtd



Steve Chappell @CentenaryHGK  
Jack's about this morning. -2.5 at 05:00 @Gleneagleshotel @BIGGALtd Welcome to May almost #delay #greatviewthrough



Paul Hay @PHay01  
New #drain going in at the back of 13th #green No1 @GullaneGolfClub #golf @BIGGALtd



## Kebby leads the way for Temple sign-up



**The entire course management team at one Berkshire course has signed up as members of BIGGA.**

Temple GC head greenkeeper Ben Kebby is a BIGGA committee member for BB&O and said that the association was so important for his development, he made it a priority to make sure the rest of his team also signed up.

Ben said: "As a young apprentice I was lucky enough to be offered BIGGA membership as part of my position. For me this was essential to my personal development and I would go so far as to say that without this simple gesture by my course manager and club, it would have been far harder to develop within the industry."

Having risen to the role of course manager, Kebby said he felt duty bound to offer the same help and guidance to his team.

He added: "The benefits, possibilities and opportunities available through being an active member of BIGGA not only develops and motivates the individual but also has a direct effect on the golf course at which one works. This is the reason I have made it a priority to have a full team as members of our industry association."



Andy Wight of Oaklands College (L) presents Matt Plested with the award

## Medal of excellence

**Matthew Plested from Stoncham has been presented with a City and Guilds medal of excellence.**

The award is the fifth presented to the club this year and is given for outstanding performance. Matt is also due for the City and Guilds' Lion award.



Mark Henderson, Graham Shillings, Jason Hunt, Ron Christie, David Langheim MG

## Annual celebration brings together region at Walton Heath

**The South East region's annual golf and dinner day was blessed with fine weather at Walton Heath.**

A large field of competitors enjoyed the condition of the course and the pleasant spring weather.

The excellent work carried out by course manager Michael Mann and his team throughout the wet winter months was evident and appreciated by all who played.

BIGGA president Iain Mcleod thanked the host club for its continued support of the association, with

this long-running event having taken place at Walton Heath for over 50 years.

He also congratulated the team from Pyecombe for their achievement of winning this year's environment award.

The winners of the Ian McMillan Trophy for members and their guests were Mark Henderson and Graham Shillings from Rookery Park, who had a combined score of 76 points.

The Team Challenge was won by the Surrey section, whose top three players had the best combined score to receive the Silver Salver.

The evening was concluded by the presentation of the Ray Day Memorial Trophy to Jason Hunt from Addington Palace with a steady 74 gross to beat his boss Ron Christie, who got round in the same total but was beaten on countback.

The South East region thanked sponsors Avoncrop Amenity Products, Banks Amenity, Britrisk Safety, CMW Equipment, DayLinks Golf Course Equipment, Ernest Doe Grass Roots Trading Company, Indigrow, Lely Turfcare UK, Rigby Taylor, Speedcut Contractors, P. Tuckwell, Sherriff Amenity, Tacit Golf.

## Sawgrass winners prepare for Florida adventure

**Excited BIGGA members from each of the five regional sections will this month head Stateside for the opportunity of a lifetime.**

The greenkeepers will be joining the course maintenance team at the TPC Players Championship, courtesy of John Deere.

Joe Dormer of West Sussex won a place on the inaugural trip to golf's 'fifth major' in 2015 and gave the greenkeepers a taste of what they can look forward to. He said: "It was a phenomenal 12 days unlike anything

I have ever experienced before. There was flawless organisation and unrivalled passion and motivation."

Heading to Florida for the event are: Pete Corrick, assistant greenkeeper at Remedy Oak; Graeme Davidson, first assistant greenkeeper at Murrayfield; Stuart Imeson, head greenkeeper at Dunstanburgh; Nicholas Roberts, deputy course manager at South Essex; and Chris Sharp, course manager at Hampstead.

The greenkeepers won their place on the trip by

recording a short video about themselves and their career aspirations. The winners then made it through their regional interviews, conducted by a panel of representatives from BIGGA and John Deere.

American Rickie Fowler won the 2015 Players Championship following the greatest last round finish in the 34-year history of the event.

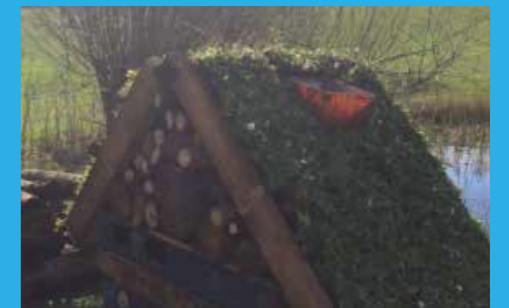
"It was a privilege to share this experience with other greenkeepers," said 2015 team member Chris McArthur, from Portstewart in



Jenky @jenky0  
Irrigation system start up @BIGGALtd @GrantFrog



Gareth Watkin @GarethWatkin  
@Adi14 almost finished the bug hotel @GreethamValley @porterax #greenkeeper @BIGGALtd @\_BTO @Natures\_Voice



Scott Corrigan @Scoot\_1988  
18th stand coming along nicely @RoyalTroonGC for @TheOpen @BIGGALtd



Northern Ireland. "From taking their advice and witnessing their aptitude, to conversing with the team on such a stage, it was a great learning curve."

The TPC Sawgrass volunteers alongside John Deere's Nick Ashman, Chris Meacock and Antony Scott

# GI ecology

With BIGGA's sustainability executive, James Hutchinson

It's not too late to sow wildflower seeds for a splash of discreet colour to your out-of-play areas. The majority of the UK's hibernating pollen-loving insects are now on the wing and they need all the help they can get from us greenkeepers.

To grow a wildflower area, simply strip away the top vegetation and loosen up the underlying soil or sand. Sow the seeds but be aware to roll them in rather than to rake them as burying could cause rotting to occur. Choose the correct flower type for your site by checking shade, pH, growing medium type and drainage.

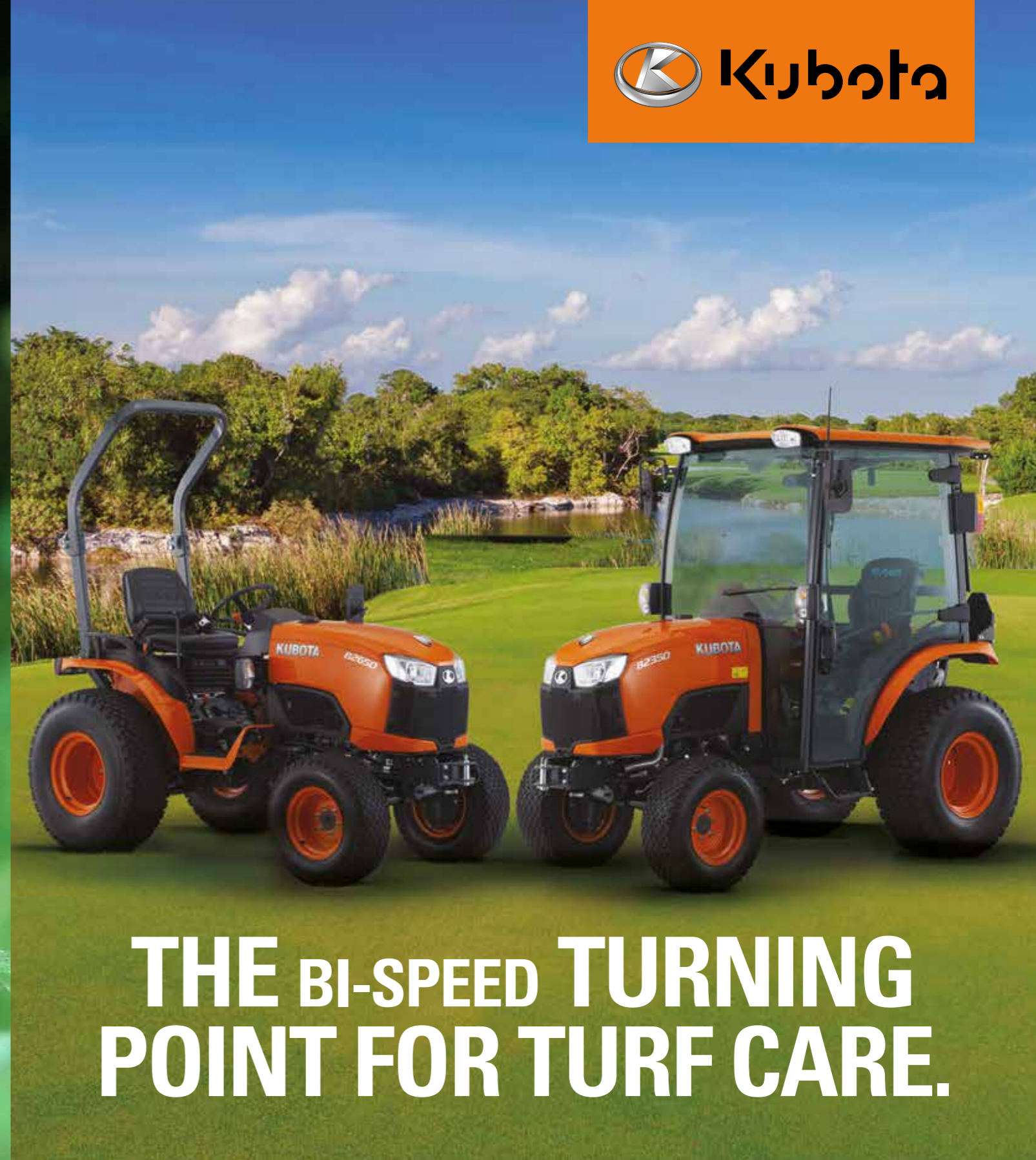
BIGGA members have recorded some wonderful sightings this past month, including grasshopper warblers, redpolls, wheatears, ospreys and a male redstart on a course near the Borough of Sefton, Merseyside. Stephen Thompson's bird ringing demo unearthed some beauties such as goldcrest, dunnock and the ever elusive song thrush. Other reports include skylark nests, Egyptian geese with chicks, great crested newts and common lizards – golf's bad for the environment is it?

Anyone reading this in the Chilling area of Hampshire should keep a look out for the extremely rare alpine accentor which has been spotted recently – that's classed as a 'MEGA' by the Rare Bird Network people.

Keep the sightings coming by sending to: [james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk](mailto:james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk) or via Twitter to @Ecology1BIGGA



Woundwort wildflower



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For Earth, For Life  




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0844 770 1036  
www.arcllegal.co.uk/carefirst

# MEMBERSHIP

Latest news and information from the BIGGA membership team

## Kerry joins team



### Regional administrators new face for the South East

We are delighted to welcome Kerry Phillips to our team of regional administrators, as we further bolster the support offered by BIGGA headquarters to all our sections and regions.

Kerry will be teaming up with Clive Osgood in the South East region to expand on the already excellent support Clive offers the six sections in supporting their activities and those of the region.

We're sure you will welcome Kerry and make her feel part of the team.

### What's in it for me?

Greenkeepers join BIGGA for many different reasons, but recent research has shown us many simply benefit from the many avenues

of support that come from being a member. This includes fellow members, regional administrators and the staff at BIGGA House all working together to create a large community, helping each other.

Look out for events in your section and stay in contact on social media via Twitter or Facebook.

### Greenkeepers' Benevolent Fund

Our very own general manager, Tracey Maddison, is planning a tandem skydive in June to raise money for the Greenkeepers' Benevolent Fund.

As this crazy idea comes to fruition, details will be posted via social media on Facebook and Twitter and you will be able to sponsor Tracey in her quest to raise money for this excellent cause.

Keep an eye out for further news on this as there may be four greenkeepers joining Tracey in freefalling from around 12,000 feet at a speed of around 120mph.

Don't forget, if you know anybody who would benefit from the fund, please contact your regional administrator or the membership department at BIGGA House.

### Spring, or is it?

At the time of writing this, BIGGA House is experiencing quite a hailstorm. We are enjoying seeing all your photographs of the section spring events on social media, although everybody is wrapped up in their winter clothing, trying to keep warm. It's good to see so many of you supporting the section events and a thank you must go to all those fantastic volunteers who make these events happen.

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# L&D NEWS

Latest news from the BIGGA Learning and Development team



## Diploma a major step forward for industry



BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton (right), with the GCMA's Bob Williams and PGA's Sandy Jones

### Flexible industry-specific management qualification announced

Representing a fundamental shift in the approach to professional education in golf club management, the three partner organisations of the Golf Club Management Partnership have joined forces to create a new diploma in golf club management.

GCMA, BIGGA and PGA

have created the ASQ Level 5 Diploma in Golf Club Management, which is suitable for all levels of skills and business experience.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA chief executive, said: The launch of this qualification is an important moment for the golf industry. The collaboration between the three key organisations along with extensive consultation has produced a blueprint of the skills and knowledge required for professional

golf club management. One of the key challenges facing the sport as a whole is poorly managed or governed facilities. A major part of which is unrealistic expectations on greenkeepers and poor management of the greenkeeping department.

Our hope is this diploma will help create more effective club managers, some of whom may well come from a greenkeeping background, who are fully able to professionally manage a golf



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

Aaron Watkinson, Bolton Old Links; Matthew Baird, Elmwood; Craig Boath, Carnoustie; Adam McColl, Gerrards Cross; Scott Aitchison, Royal Dornoch; Rhys Norville, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd; Anthony McGeough, Richmond (Yorks); Lee Carratt, Belton Park; Benjamin Smith, Basingstoke; Laurence Pithie MG, Turfmaster One Ltd; Colin Powrie, Ladybank; Paul Armour, St Andrews Links Trust; Jamie Martin, Gifford; Russell Carr, Goodwood Club Ltd; Scott Roberts, East Berkshire; Craig Potts, Coventry Hearsall; Philip Butler, Murrayfield; Susan Reeve, Castle Royle; Derek Fullerton, Murrayfield; Lee Brady, Muswell Hill; Matthew Plested, Stoneham; Simon Bailey, Ropehampton

club and have the diploma to prove it.

The enormous strides made in course management over the last couple of decades have been based on a commitment to formal and informal education and I firmly believe this launch is a key stage on a similar journey for club management."

With the first induction days taking place in October this year, the diploma can be studied at the students' own pace, over a maximum of three years. This allows it to accommodate the varying schedules of working managers or aspiring industry professionals.

With an emphasis on flexible learning, it will be delivered through a combination of online and face-to-face workshops.

Relevant training and education that has previously been undertaken can be recognised through a formal process, to ensure course work is not unnecessarily repeated.

The diploma covers the core skills required to manage a golf club, and will be an ASQ externally quality assured qualification, meaning it will be visible on the framework of regulated qualifications.

For anyone looking to specialise in a particular area of the industry, or to supplement existing experience, there will be an option to complete pre-defined, individual ASQ Level

5 Certificates within an 18-month period. The three certificates are: Golf Operations and Management of People; Finance, Legislation and Marketing in Golf; Enterprise, Innovation and Management of Change in Golf. If all three certificates are completed, students will then be awarded the overall diploma.

To register interest or for more information, visit [www.gema.org.uk.diploma](http://www.gema.org.uk.diploma) or contact Niki Hunter, education coordinator at [Niki@gema.org.uk](mailto:Niki@gema.org.uk) or call 07990 520173.

The units of the new diploma qualification are:

- Leading and managing people
- Managing change
- Managing the operations of golf club
- Marketing
- Finances
- Understanding personal and enterprising skills
- Legislation
- Socially responsible business
- Managing innovation and growth



## DEMO DAYS

Wed Jun 1 & Thurs Jun 2  
10:00am - 3:00pm

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School  
playing fields  
Twickenham North Car Park  
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Presented by GKB Machines, Husqvarna, Ransomes, Martin Lishman, Rigby Taylor, Shelton Drainage, Wessex International and Wiedenmann UK, this unique event will give you opportunities to see the latest innovations and equipment on offer.

FREE ENTRANCE Pre-registration is essential  
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or call 0141 814 3366





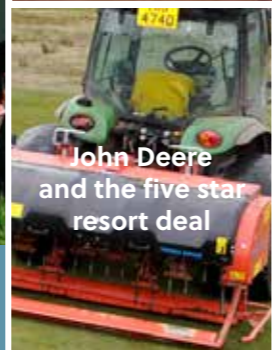
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Kubota  
The Royal Horticultural Society  
Chelsea



Moray GC  
and the architect



John Deere  
and the five star  
resort deal



ICL product  
launch



Toro joins  
programme

# GI Industry Update

The latest industry news

## From surf to turf

A seaweed product has been attributed with maintaining the high standards at The Links in Newmarket.

Located opposite the famous racecourse, the club is under the stewardship of Rob Boyce.

Rob has been at the club for 20 years and recently began using Aitkens Award Surf to Turf Triple 30 Sea-

weed. He said: "It's been superb since the first use and it's the best ever response I've had from a seaweed product after a first application.

"I really like that it retains a tight sward and keeps a healthy root system. Also, we don't get any flush when we use it – the golfers can come out and play the course after we've done the work and the greens

are still at an acceptable speed."

The range of five Surf to Turf liquids are extracts from the seaweed species *Ascophyllum nodosum*, harvested from the Atlantic Ocean off south west Ireland. This area is renowned for its pristine waters, so the seaweed is rich in natural organic compounds which help turf plants in a number of ways.



Rob Boyce at The Links in Newmarket

## Dubai agreement for TourBest

A supplier agreement will see TourBest LLC work with Dubai's leading courses.

The partnership with Dubai Golf will see Tour Best provide a liquid feed programme for Dubai Creek Golf and Yacht Club and the Emirates GC, which hosts the Omega Dubai Desert Classic, and Omega Dubai Ladies Masters.

Dubai Golf's director of course maintenance, Craig Haldane, said: "We are delighted to be supported by Tour Best, who not only supply us with high quality product, but follow this up with outstanding after sales

service throughout the year."

Dubai Golf's flagship courses use a predominantly liquid feed programme, which has been developed over years of testing and trials.



## Turf maintenance Live

Turf Maintenance Live returns in June, when eight of the UK's leading turf industry suppliers will be showcasing the latest technology and practices in turf maintenance.

The event takes place at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School in Twickenham on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 June.

Attending the event will be representatives from GKB Machines, Husqvarna, Martin Lishman, Ransomes, Rigby Taylor, Shelton Drainage, Wessex International and Weidenmann UK.

Richard Fry, of Rigby Taylor, said: "All the participating companies are highly-respected names and together bring a wealth of knowledge and

experience. Whether your interest is in turf aeration, scarifying, spraying, mowing, drainage, line marking, fertilizer spreading or anything else, this is the live event that should not be missed."

Visitors will be able to meet with suppliers and have the opportunity to see the latest innovations and equipment in action.

The event is being supported by BIGGA, IOG and the STRI and visitors will be able to claim CPD points for their attendance.

Entrance to the event is free, but pre-registration is essential and can be done by telephoning 0141 814 3366 or completing the registration form online at [www.turfmaintenancelive.com](http://www.turfmaintenancelive.com)



## Manager Franklyn 'Charts' a course to quarter century

Hot on the heels of Nick Darking clocking up 25 years at Charterhouse Turf Machinery, comes technical manager Tim Franklyn.

Tim joined Charterhouse as workshop manager in March 1991, where his duties included painting the fabricated parts and constructing finished units.

He is described as the 'quiet man' of the company,

with a vast product knowledge and professional attitude that also puts him in the 'go-to man' bracket.

Having recently celebrated his own 25 years with Charterhouse, sales manager Nick Darking said: "It's like they say, behind every good man there's a good woman. Well, behind every good salesman there's an even better engineer. I have been delighted to share the ups and downs of the last 25 years with such a dedi-

cated colleague."

Tim plays a key part in customer and dealer support, delivering knowledge and training to the expansive dealer network. He was also fundamental in the Charterhouse Interaction Days, where grounds professionals were treated to educational lectures and product demonstrations at a range of locations in England.

## Every Open venue achieves gold standard for sustainability

All 10 host venues for The Open have achieved golf's global eco-label, GEO Certified.

The certificate recognises clubs which have shown a strong commitment to environmental stewardship, resource efficiency and community value.

Martin Slumbers, chief executive of The R&A, said: "The Open is played over many of Great Britain and Ireland's most cherished links courses. We are delighted all 10 host venues have demonstrated a long-term commitment to sustainability best practices by achieving GEO Certified status. This is very much in line with the R&A's approach to sustainability and is certainly a key priority for us in the years to come."

# Toro joins PGA Official Supplier programme

A global leader in turf and landscape maintenance, Toro, has joined the Professional Golf Association's Official Supplier programme, which comprises of a network of leading companies within the golf industry.

The turf machinery and irrigation product manufacturer has signed a three-year agreement, which is an opportunity for Toro to strengthen its strong foundations with golf facilities around the world.

Robert Maxfield, the PGA's deputy chief executive, said: "I am delighted Toro has joined our Official Supplier programme. It's evident many PGA members work closely with green-keeping staff on a day-to-day basis and through Toro have a unique opportunity to expand their knowledge base."

PGA members will benefit through the association with Toro, who are offering

education and insight into the latest developments in agronomy.

Greg Janey is Toro's director of marketing and international business and said: "Toro's history with world renowned golf venues and our relentless efforts in improving the golf experience are a good match with the PGA.

"We look forward to leveraging our in-house expertise in agronomy, technology, equipment and irrigation to deliver PGA professionals with education and the insight Toro has accumulated over the years."

Toro has fuelled creative solutions to improve productivity and performance, reduce water use and increase fuel and energy efficiency.

It also seeks to improve the environmental footprint of global manufacturing operations – in addition to reducing water usage, waste and energy.



## Five star resort strikes major John Deere deal

One of Northern Ireland's most luxurious golf resorts has taken delivery of an extensive range of John Deere turf machines to help maintain its courses.

Lough Erne is home to a five star hotel and two courses, the Faldo Championship and Castle Hume.

The Faldo course was the first design by the five-time Major champion in Ireland and the course has been chosen to host a future Irish Open.

With 600 acres to look after, greenkeeper su-

perintendent Sean Reilly worked closely with the team at Johnston Gilpin & Co to determine exactly which machines were required.

Sean said: "Here at Lough Erne we only want the best of everything, so when compared to other available options, it was quite an easy decision to choose the John Deere brand and the services of Johnston Gilpin.

"The efficiencies gained will also allow us to significantly improve the Castle Hume course, enhancing the playing experience for its members and other players,

as well as providing a great additional golf option for the resort's guests."

Lough Erne is also well-known for hosting the G8 Summit in 2013, when US President Barack Obama met with other world leaders.

Mark and his team elected to buy a John Deere 5100M 100hp utility tractor, two 8800A TerrainCut five-gang rotary rough mowers, a 2030A ProGator utility vehicle equipped with a low-profile HD200 turf sprayer, a 1200A self-propelled bunker rake and a 2653B PrecisionCut triplex tees and surrounds mower.

## Celebrating a Highspeed anniversary

Highspeed's longest serving staff member celebrated his 21st anniversary with the Yorkshire company.

Nigel Coleman has been responsible for sales of the Highspeed Group's products and services for over 21 years in the south east

of England.

Company director David Mears said: "This is certainly an achievement for Nigel and Highspeed. Nigel has worked diligently on his area, developing business for many years and grasping the many opportunities presented to

him. All of us at Highspeed congratulate him and wish him many more successful years with the company."

Among Nigel's proudest achievements is expanding sales of Highspeed's Clear-Water washpad water recycling system, which was launched 14 years ago.



Highspeed directors David Mears and Andy Vincent with Nigel Coleman



## Kubota in bloom at RHS Chelsea

Ride-on mowers will be present at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, with Kubota UK set to showcase some of its latest models.

The GR2120S and GR1600-II ride-on models and W821-PRO and W819-PRO walk-behind models will be featured on the tractor and groundcare machinery manufacturer's stand.

## ICL launches treatment for broad-leaved weeds

A low volume, dual action selective herbicide for the control of broad-leaved weeds has been launched by ICL.

Esteron T is a selective turf herbicide containing the active ingredients 2,4-D. With just one treatment required per year, the product is rainfast in just one hour.

ICL has continued to live up to its reputation for introducing innovative products. During 2016 the company has also launched Spotless, for the cleaning of spraying equipment, and Ranger, a hard surface cleaner.



## Moray set for first update in four decades

For the first time in over 40 years, Moray has engaged an architect to help develop a blueprint for the future of its courses.

The decision to commission an audit of the club's two 18-hole courses continues a precedent established at the renowned club of working with golf's finest designers.

Swan Golf Designs will be the latest name added to a list of prestigious architects who have made their mark at Moray, including Old Tom Morris and three times Open champion Sir Henry Cotton.

Moray captain John Thomson said: "Moray has been associated with a number of legendary names in course architecture. When the decision was made to create a master plan that would enhance the already great holes we have at Moray, it was important to continue

that precedent. That's why we called in Swan Golf Designs."

Coincidentally, Thomson's father assisted Henry Cotton during the initial design-and-build phase of the second 18-hole course at Moray. His central role was recognised when he was asked to hit the inaugural tee shot to open the New Course in 1979.

John added: "This is a hugely important step for Moray and for the development of the New Course, in particular as it approaches its 40th anniversary in 2019. Moray is a special place, especially for lovers of traditional links golf. We want to make our courses relevant and challenging now and in the future."



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# The chart toppers

## Refurbishing bunkers on Nick Faldo's course



Bunker performance is a vital factor when it comes to building the reputation, and ultimately profit, of a course. Preventing the issues and high maintenance costs associated with poor bunker drainage led Chart Hills to look for an innovative solution, with the help of Tarmac's Topsport.

**'The improvements we've seen have been remarkable'**

Topsport at Chart Hills Golf Course

Situated in the High Weald of Kent, Chart Hills is an award-winning course designed by six-time Major winner Sir Nick Faldo. Featured in the Rolex Top 1,000 courses in the world, Chart Hills is built in the traditional US parkland style. The course's greatest challenge comes from the large number of bunkers which line its fairways and surround its greens, including 'The Anaconda', which is the longest in Europe. Bunkers are therefore central to the reputation and popularity of the club.

search for a fresh solution that would avoid all of these common issues, reduce maintenance, and meet its high performance standards.

Neil Lauder, course manager at Chart Hills, said: "We were looking for a bunker liner because we have had a real issue here, given the significant number and sheer size of the bunkers at Chart Hills. We looked at several different ones and Tarmac and its Topsport bunker lining was the one we wanted to go with.

Ensuring effective and long-lasting bunker drainage is surprisingly still a common problem for golf courses across the UK. With a requirement for an effective lining that could be retrofitted onto the existing green-side bunkers, the Chart Hills team began its

"The improvements we've seen have been remarkable. We suffer significant washdown through heavy rain here at Chart Hill and we are also situated on heavy clay. However, the new lining has just improved the bunkers no end."

During extensive research, the Chart Hills team came across two courses using the innovative Topsport bunker lining. Following these site investigations, the Chart Hills team decided to apply the unique engineered solution to an initial five bunkers in 2014. A further 11 green-side bunkers, totalling around 900 square metres, were completed in 2015 and following their success, an additional 20 are due to be lined in 2016.

With 133 bunkers on the course, Neil explained how prior to the lining being installed, around 60% of the greens team's resources were being spent on bunker maintenance. He expects this number to be significantly reduced.

Peter Cullen, technical sales manager for Tarmac's Topsport team, said: "The simple structure of Topsport's bunker liner is beneficial for a number of reasons. Chiefly, as it avoids the use of chemicals it can be laid in all weather conditions, meaning work can be undertaken during the winter months when courses may be closed or used less frequently, minimising any potential course downtime.

Far right: Topsport at Chart Hills Golf Course

"Plus, having a dedicated Topsport approved installer means an efficient installation. For instance, a delivery of Topsport's premixed bunker liner arrived at Chart Hills at 8:15 am to work on the ninth hole. Five installers barrowed, laid, and compacted the material for 100 square metres of lining, with the sand being replaced just two hours later. This speed meant that golfers teeing off at 9am didn't experience any disruption to their game, with the bunker fully playable by the time they got to the ninth hole.

"Chart Hills has certainly seen an improvement in free drainage. This has simultaneously reduced the levels of repair after very heavy rainfall, with the liner completely preventing wash-out from the bunkers to date. This ultimately means less replacement sand is needed over the course of the year, further contributing to reduced maintenance costs."

For more information on Tarmac's range of Topsport golf course solutions, please visit [www.topsport.co.uk](http://www.topsport.co.uk)



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# A look at the STRI's conservation greenkeeper of the year award

## How prestigious award affected careers of these winners

“Speechless”, “absolutely over the moon”, “a dream come true” and “jellylegs” are some of the words the winners of the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year awards said in reaction to their victories.

In this article, BIGGA's sustainability executive James Hutchinson looks at how winning the award helped shaped the future of these young men.

### Dan McGrath, winner in 2012

*'I have fond memories of the entire experience'*

Dan's history prior to winning the award lies heavily with the agronomy side of things, rather than within ecology. After beginning his Sportsturf Management studies in Ireland in 1994, Dan joined the grow-in team at the Old Head of Kinsale in Cork. From there, he moved on to Kings Hill in Kent, working his way up to course manager.

He said: “This allowed me to gain a vast amount of experience and knowledge, no more so in the line of course ecology and environmental issues as a whole.”

Dan's next move was on to the post of course manager at North Foreland on the Kent coast, where he would win the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year award. Dan is keen to point out the team at North Foreland were great in assisting him towards the award.

At North Foreland, the daily management of the site and renovations of



2012 winner, Dan McGrath, winner in 2012



Top right: John Kelly, winner in 2015



2016 winner, Ant Darker

the chalkland roughs allowed them to combine the day-to-day maintenance, while also building a course environmental and ecology portfolio. Using recycled materials, creating simple habitats and working with local groups gave them the confidence to put an application together for the awards, while taking nothing extra out of the course maintenance budget.

Dan said: “On winning the title, there came great pride and overwhelming emotions for the team and club as a whole to be recognised for such a prestigious national award. I can only encourage people to apply, as it doesn't matter how much or how little you feel you are doing, it is still having a positive impact.

“Meeting other individuals and tapping into the knowledge of BIGGA and the STRI under Bob Taylor is a fantastic experience and you make friends for life.

“Looking back now, I have very fond memories of the whole experience and it has served me well personally, and the club as a whole has gained valuable marketing from the process and success.”

These days Dan is implementing similar practices on a different site, although though not a golf course. He works at a private college, where the rewards and diversity bought to such places can be immense.

### John Kelly, winner in 2015

*'I was overcome with emotion'*

John Kelly has been at Royal Birkdale for 16 years and he describes the course as a haven for wildlife and birds. While I was with John, I was in awe of his knowledge on birds and their calls, which is an art I am yet to master. Antony Wainwright also possessed the skill, which was well known throughout the greenkeeping industry.

One of the many impressive things about John is the fact he has been recording bird migration and breeding, which he said “is vital information as to why birds are declining”.

John said winning the award gave him recognition, not only within the industry, but within his place of work, and



said members email him asking what he has seen. This is a great way to get the word out that courses can be a haven for wildlife and course walks are planned for the near future, centring on the importance of the wildlife.

Talking about winning the award, John recalled the night's events. He said: “I remember nervously waiting for the result and then I heard ‘John Kelly, Royal...’ and my feet didn't touch the floor. I ran up to the front, received my award from Gordon McKillop and then froze. I was that overcome with emotion I don't remember what came out of my mouth and I doubt anyone there did either.”

John's advice for environmental management is to say you need a good strategy for the overall maintenance of your course from a bird's point of view. Take stock of what species you have been breeding, identify the number of breeding pairs and monitor their success. If a decline is noticed, try to find out why. Usually it's down to food or habitat loss or decline, so look for ways to improve it. It's best to be proactive than reactive.

### Richard Owens, winner in 2014

*'I was absolutely over the moon with winning the award'*

Richard's ascent to his current position as technical manager at Tillers Turf has taken a few twists and turns along the way, including being a caddy on the European Tour. His initial role within the golf world was to be an assistant professional at Sleaford but, as many aspiring youngsters do, he decided it wasn't for him and took a sabbatical into the world of caddying for 18 months.

On his return, he took up the position of course manager at Boston West, where he oversaw the construction, grow-in and subsequent management of the course. Richard said: "During my time at Boston, I took it upon myself to create an oasis for wildlife, and my efforts were rewarded with several awards, including conservation greenkeeper of the year."

After 20 very happy years I accepted the role of technical manager at Tillers Turf, but still really enjoy promoting ecological good practice on courses.

"I was absolutely over the moon with winning the award. I worked extremely hard for many years in my spare time, creating and managing habitat for nature on what was previously intensive agricultural land with little or no ecological value. I'm still extremely proud of what I achieved and I really hope I can continue to inspire and help others by sharing my experiences."

Asked how the industry can change for the better regarding environmental practices, Richard said: "There is so much we can do. In fact, it's already becoming very noticeable that the industry is riding the 'enviro-wave'. It's great to see so many inspired greenkeepers happy to share their projects, whether it be bug hotels, wildflower areas or a basic log pile."

"There also seems to be a real shift towards more 'organic' turf management. Many clubs are getting involved with species surveys, with great results further proving how vital courses are in keeping our natural spaces connected."

"The Golf Environment Awards are extremely beneficial to the industry and it's great to see so many clubs getting involved and entering. The awards are not about the scale of the project, but about clubs throughout the UK uniting to play and promote an active role in good environmental stewardship."

**Ant Darker, winner in 2016**

*'Every team has that person that can make something out of nothing'*

Another Tillers team member who is rapidly making a name for himself is Ant Darker, the latest recipient of the conservation greenkeeper award.

Ant said the three years of his life leading up to winning the award were extremely memorable. He added: "It was a great night and I was surrounded by some very inspirational people. Winning the award on the night was the icing on the cake, my legs went like jelly when my name was called and I had a smile from ear to ear. It was definitely a night I won't forget for some time to come."

I asked Ant how we could take the industry forward via eco initiatives, and his response was thought provoking. He said: "I think BIGGA and other big players in the golf industry should provide more ecology friendly advice, including seminars to encourage more greenkeepers to do their bit. Advice on the legal side of ecology and document writing to back it up and the creation of habitat handbooks, would be good."

"Every team has that one person that can make something out of nothing – that's how most of our machines stay running as long as they do. I think we all need to do more to protect the British wildlife for the future."

Ants final thoughts were that he thought the awards are highly important for the industry. They highlight the positive work that is going on around Britain's courses and the work that is carried out helps dispel the bad name courses get by the media for being bar-

ren green spaces.

"The winner in all of this is the wildlife and environment and it should be celebrated," he added.

**Antony Wainwright, 2011 winner**

Another former winner is a chap called Antony Wainwright who, to those who knew or met him, say he was an inspiration. I had the honour of listening to Antony's influential talk on bird calls at Wentworth and his words led me to learn more about our native birdlife, whereas STRI's Bob Taylor used the term 'unique' to describe him. Antony impressed Bob to such an extent that he offered him a role as an ecologist with the STRI.

Sadly Antony passed away in 2014.

It seems winning the award has given the boys the confidence to go on to something extraordinary, whether it be moving up the ladder or simply being outstanding in their field. As for me, since winning the award in 2010, I was promoted to Fairhaven's ecology manager, gained a BSc (Hons) from the Royal and Ancient Scholarship, worked for the St Andrews Links Trust and I now ply my trade here at BIGGA.

Are the awards worth entering?  
You bet. ■

Richard Owens, who won in 2014



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# Management and vision

## Making progress at The Worcestershire



MANAGEMENT & VISION

Steve Lloyd, course manager at The Worcestershire

**Steve Lloyd was appointed course manager at The Worcestershire in October 2014 with the task of improving the golf course. Over one year later, Laurence Pithie met up with Steve to view what progress has been made so far.**

Living in Leominster and having a grandfather and uncle as previous head greenkeeper and deputy, 36-year-old Steve Lloyd can probably be described as being a 'local' lad with a good mix of modern and traditional greenkeeping skills.

He began his career with a brief spell of summer work at Leominster with his grandfather, then took up a full-time role at Burghill Valley. Starting off as an apprentice in 1995, he worked through the ranks before taking on the lead role in 2001.

During his tenure there, Steve gained NVQ levels 2 & 3 while attending Elmwood College on a block release course; this giving him a sound foundation in turfgrass management.

After 14 years in charge, the opportunity to take on the challenge of The Worcestershire beckoned.

### The course

The Worcestershire is one of the oldest clubs in England, having been established in 1879 on nearby Malvern Common.

In 1927, the club moved to its present site, but interruptions during WW2 meant the course was used for the war effort, with various temporary buildings and personnel stationed on site.

In 1972, the course was re-designed by Fred Hawtree as a full 18 holes, while a clubhouse built in 2001 replaced the old farm building that had served the club well for many years.

Edward Elgar, the famous English composer, was a noticeable member, having joined the club in 1893, aged 36.

The mature and rolling parkland course is nestled below the Malvern Hills, which provide a fine backdrop for

**'Members appreciate these simple but effective methods'**

many holes. The soil is fairly heavy in nature, leading to Shelton's being enlisted in 2001 to install fairway drainage on eight holes.

Grasses are largely a mix of annual meadow grass and common bent, with the latter being more common on fairways and roughs where both sunlight and air movement is plentiful.

Trees line most fairways, most of which are deciduous, while a brook traverses the site, providing excellent Malvern spring water as an irrigation source, and coming into play on several holes.

With such a diverse environment, there is a good natural habitat for both fauna and flora.

### Key objectives

A re-structuring of the club resulted in a smaller number of board directors being appointed, along with a change in management and reporting structure. The board concluded course standards had fallen and changes were necessary if a decline in membership numbers was to be reversed.

As part of the management re-structuring and following Steve's appointment, the club set clear objectives to improve the quality of the course. Quick fixes included the overall presentation and playability of the course, whereas overcoming agronomic and drainage problems on the greens were part of a longer-term strategy, along with improvements to bunkers and tees.

In terms of reporting and communication, Steve attends six greens committee meetings each year, as well as participating in board meetings. A club manager is in the process of being appointed to manage the day-to-day business of the club, while Steve continues to report directly to the chairman of the board.

### Opportunities

Steve said: "Starting here in October 2014 gave me the opportunity to assess the drainage and playability of the course during winter, while reviewing the resources I would require to implement the planned changes."

While Steve believed staffing levels were adequate, levels of training were in need of improvement. Similarly, there had been a significant lack of investment in equipment.

He added: "On the equipment front, many items were old and continually breaking down. Replacement parts alone were costing around £21,000 per year, which is not financially viable. A full equipment review lay ahead to determine what was required, thus enabling our team to make the necessary changes and to implement much-needed work programs.

"From a playability aspect, there were several issues I needed to address. Although roughly half the course had been drained 15 years ago, water was lying on the surface for too long, yet the drainage channels were running okay. It was time for the verti-drain to

do what it is best at - namely opening up vertical channels for water and air to pass through."

On the greens, six were the original soil 'push-ups' from 1927, and so did not drain well. The worst of these, the 7th, would be closed all winter. All greens contained too much organic matter so there was a 'top to bottom' issue on all greens, while a 'bottom-up' problem to tackle on the older greens as well.

**'It's all about getting more bang for our buck'**

In addition, access around parts of the course was poor, with too many limited walkways, hemmed in by trees and bunkers.

Other key issues were bunkers and the breaking up of the original sportcrete liner. Drainage was fine but having lumps of material mixed in with the sand was a constant issue.

### Progress

Some of the changes Steve made have come to fruition, as he explained: "My team are more involved with the running of the course, have greater awareness and have the opportunity to network with other greenkeepers at regional events, now they are BIGGA members. This has led to improved performance and pride in their work activities."

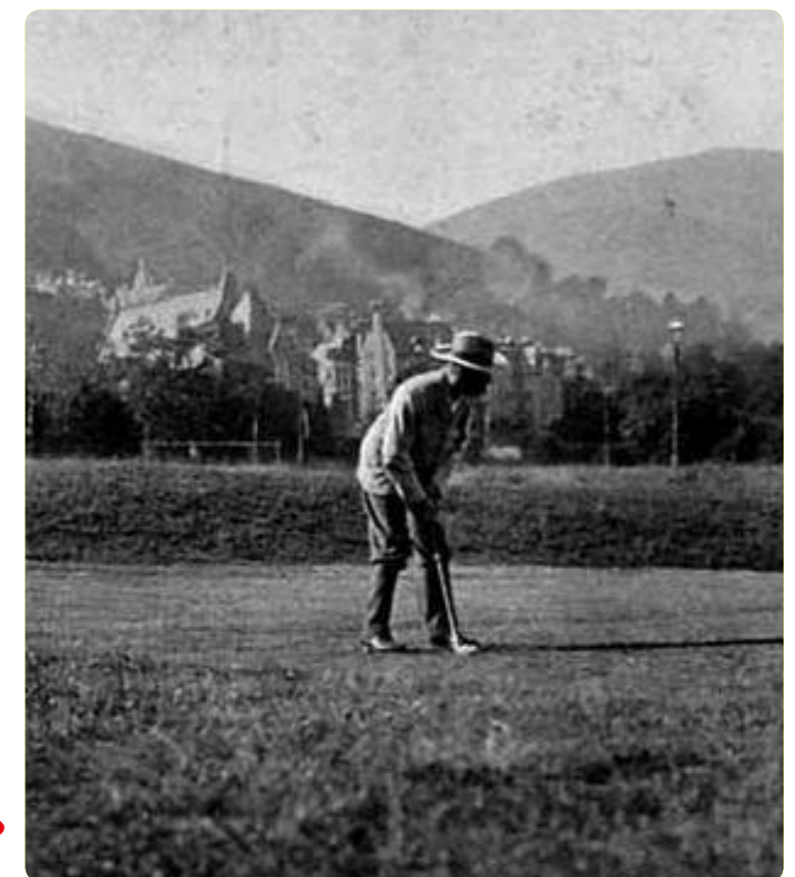
Following his equipment review, the club invested around £270,000, mainly in Jacobsen equipment, on a 5-year HP deal. Full support from TH White from Redditch provides service.

Steve added: "Tees, fairways and greens surrounds have been re-shaped with more areas being block mowed, while the first section of rough is striped mowed. This gives excellent presentation from the tees, which are now square cut.

"These simple but effective changes have been appreciated by members, while speeding up mowing routines, which allows us to better prepare the course ahead of play."

Agronomic improvements have been made to fairways, which were hollow

A historic image of the greens



MANAGEMENT & VISION

cored using two JD Aercore 1500s and then deep tined twice over the winter. This has led to improved drainage and less drought stress during the summer months.”

“For greens we have cored, deep scarified and increased our top dressing amount, which has reduced the level of organic matter while firming up the surfaces,” said Steve. “We still have some way to go on this and will amend our current program as required. We are also applying the same amount of nutrient as before on greens, but our fungicide applications have been reduced.

“Total spend on fertiliser and chemicals has reduced, which allows us to foliar feed fairways three times per year and improve turf quality via the use of a PGR.

“It’s all about targeting resources where they are required and getting the best ‘bang for our buck’.”

While the focus remained on course conditioning, the winter program of project work was in full swing.

Through the winter months the 7th green was drained with an AFT 45 trencher at two-metre intervals. After 100mm piping, stoning and root-zone, the turf was re-laid and levels made good via regular sand dressings. This has created a firmer green, with turf lines growing-in so it will be back in play for the new season.

A number of paths have been installed and after laying a hard-core base, they have been topped off with a material from the Forest of Dean, which binds well and does not wash-out. This has given improved access from green to tee and beyond.

Steve added: “The other main area for improvement has been with bunkers and to date we have renovated about 15. Sportcrete liner was removed 5 years after being installed, bunkers re-shaped where necessary and existing drain lines topped with Aquadyne drain tiles. We use turf to line the base, green-side up and then apply glyphosate to kill the grass before the sand is added. This is a cost effective method which works well and is less labour intensive than using one of the many liners now available.”



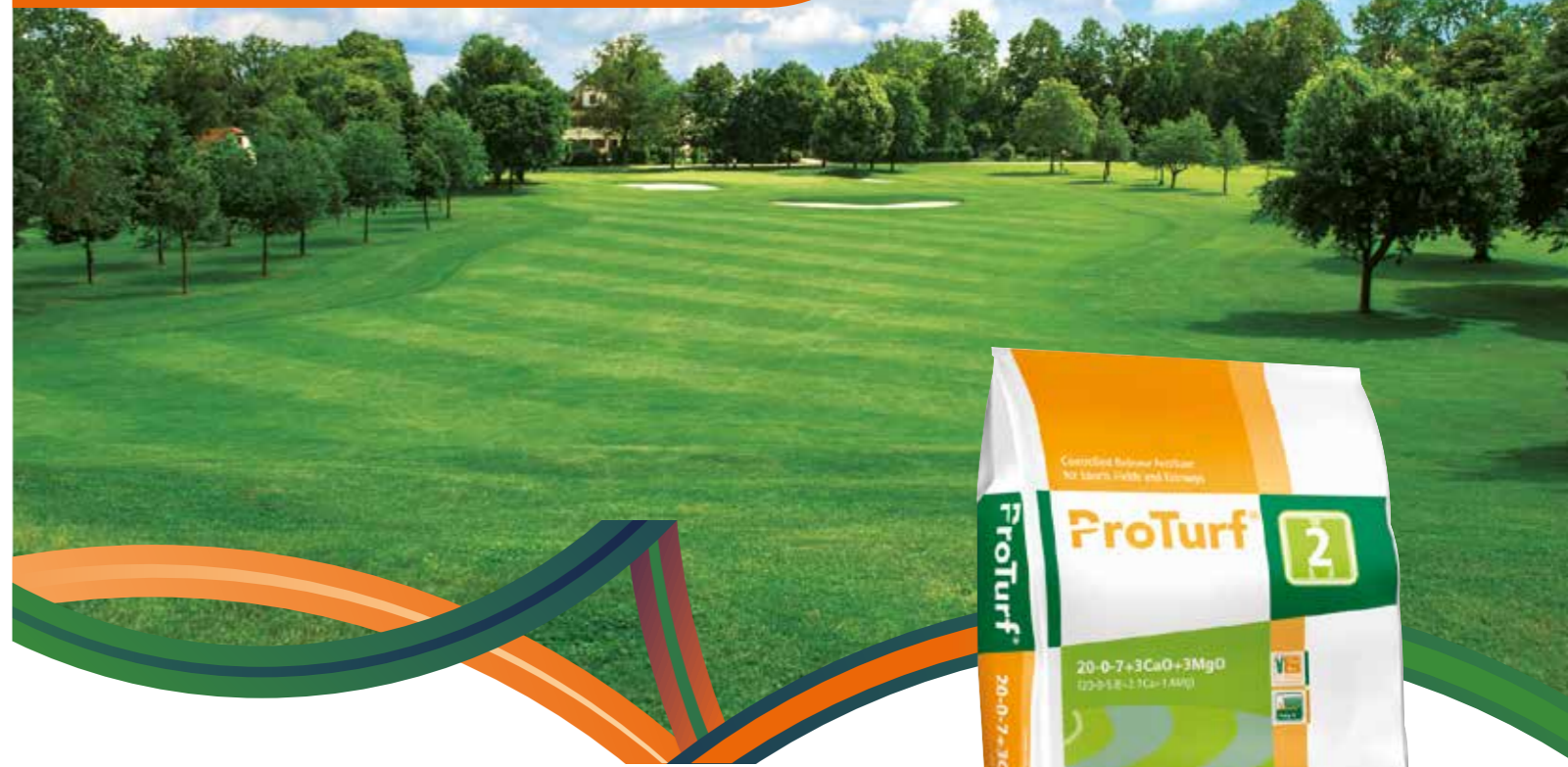
#### Communication

Anyone visiting The Worcestershire for the first time appreciates the beauty of the course set below the Malvern Hills. They will also appreciate the firm playing conditions on greens, tees and fairways, giving year round golf.

What they will also notice is the amount of work taking place in the form of bunker renovations along with many new sections of path.

This is a course that is fast moving, but in a controlled and organised manner. Customer feedback has been excellent and membership numbers are showing an increase. Steve provides regular news updates and course blogs via the club’s website to keep the members informed of what is happening on their course. Like many other good managers, Steve has a clear vision of what the objectives are which is fundamental in achieving success. ■

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# On course with King Arnie

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**Q&A**  
with **James Gotts**

**James Gotts is the greenkeeper at the RJ National, Ransomes Jacobsen's three-hole course at its European headquarters in Ipswich. This year, he got the opportunity to join the greens team for Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Invitational in Florida.**

*How was the course prepared in the build-up to the event?*

With just four days to go until the start of the tournament, on my first day I was called into a meeting with Chris Flynn, the director of grounds at Bay Hill, and received a warm welcome from all the guys who work for him. Jobs were assigned to us and I was given the responsibility for cutting the fairways with Kelly, Dave, Sully and Doug, who took me out onto the course and helped me get to know the layout. This was the first time I had seen the course and I was blown away by the perfection of it – there was not a single blade of grass out of place.

We cut from tee to green so there would be one continuous stripe on the fairways, which would help the ball roll after teeing off. This is the way we'd cut each morning over tournament week, so the cut was clearly defined by the first day of the event.

*How did you find the early mornings?*

Monday was the first day of job run-throughs, where we carried out tasks in the same manner as we would on tournament mornings. We started at 4am and usually finished by around 7.30am, which coincided with the first tee time on tournament day.

It was a cooler start to the day, but still considerably warmer than the weather back home. It was also darker, so lights were vital on the machinery and head torches mandatory for the guys not driving equipment. When you looked around the course, it looked like a swarm of fireflies buzzing around.

Once the first shift was completed, we breakfasted on bacon and French toast, which went down a treat. I was able to get to know the guys a bit more over breakfast and find out about the ins and outs of tournament week.



Divotting

Team at the 18th green

*What is it like working around celebrities during the pro-am?*

My fifth day was the start of the pro-am tournament, which featured some celebrities, including retired NFL players. This was another early start so we could get ahead and finish before the golf commenced, but after a few days of doing the same routine, Kelly and I had a good system going and we completed the task in plenty of time.

Similar to the previous days, once the golf started we were given some free time to go and watch the golf, which was great for me as it was my first time watching live golf and also my first time being involved in a tournament week.

That afternoon, after the golf had gone past the 15th hole, we were able to start work again. I was paired with Charlie Jr and we joined the rest of the guys who were filling fairway divots. We used green sand to fill these so that, not only did they fill the areas, but also made them less prominent. We also collected the loose divots to keep the fairways looking good.

We had a later finish that evening, but it was nice to see the course once the sun was setting – it was breathtaking.

*What was the wildlife like on the course?*

The course was a haven for all sorts of



18th final round

animals and reptiles and something I had never experienced before. It was great to see ospreys stalking the fish in the lakes and buzzards swooping over the rough. Not to mention my first encounter with alligators. That is something I will definitely remember for some time.

*Rain was forecast on the Saturday of the event. How did that affect your duties?*

With rain scheduled for later in the day, it was important the first jobs were completed before it arrived, so an early start was essential. Round three was well under way and the golf was starting to get more exciting as the leading players' scores were so close.

Once the first shift was completed, we headed out and watched the play unfold, but around lunchtime the heavens opened, although luckily not enough to postpone the round.

Because of the wet weather, the divots were larger, so I went out with Doug and linked up with the back nine divot

team. There were more of us, as there was no cutting being done due to the rain, so we finished earlier.

The rain had come as a bit of a shock as this was the first time I had worn waterproofs during my time in Florida, but I was glad I packed some before leaving the UK. The rain had come from a storm that was predicted to be quite disruptive, but luckily it had dispersed considerably before reaching us, otherwise it could have been a completely different story.

*How exciting is the final day of a tournament for the greens team?*

The morning of the fourth round is our final chance to get everything looking spot on and the course certainly didn't disappoint, with feedback coming back from everyone saying the course was the best it's looked.

Luckily the rain was holding off and we were able to get all the jobs done prior to the tee off. The waterproofs were still on, but we knew if it didn't

rain before nine o'clock, we would be in for a hot day. We completed the back nine fairways on time and after cutting them each morning for the past week, the definition was certainly clear and the course looked fantastic, especially with all the different heights of cut between the playing areas.

We had the opportunity to catch up with the last few groups and follow them into the closing holes. The top two were tied as they came into the last hole and we were given access to watch from the 16th tee, which overlooked the 18th green. We were in an excellent position to see Jason Day's winning putt that brought the tournament to a close – and what a tournament it was.

I had such an amazing time and I am so thankful for the opportunity that came my way. It was great to be involved in such a prestigious event and learn from such knowledgeable people.

It was the experience of a lifetime and to top it off, I got to meet the great man himself, Arnold Palmer.



Fairway mowing

ON COURSE WITH KING ARNIE

ON COURSE WITH KING ARNIE

# 'This time there's no hiding place'

## Billy McLachlan is looking forward to life after The Open

Early in the morning, as the first rays of sunlight crept over the Dundonald Hills, Billy McLachlan would take his daughter out on the fairways, where she helped him begin the day's tasks.

In the peaceful stillness of the Ayrshire coast, Billy and his daughter Laura, who battles severe physical disabilities, were at home.

Billy, 52, is course manager at Royal Troon, the venue for the 145th Open. The eyes of the golfing world will turn to these famous links for one week in July. But for Billy, this is where he raised his family, and a place he has dedicated his entire adult life to maintaining the highest standards.

Born in the town, Billy joined the greens staff at Troon as an apprentice in 1981, under the tutelage of Norman Fergusson. Norman was head greenkeeper for 35 years, succeeding his father, who previously held the job for 40 years. This means

Billy, appointed to the senior role in 1994, is only the third head greenkeeper at Troon in almost a century.

Norman was born in the greenkeeper's bungalow that sits halfway along the 16th fairway, and besides which the equipment sheds are located. It was this same bungalow where Billy raised his own family.

"Norman was a proper greenkeeper," said Billy. "He was a far better greenkeeper than I will ever be.

"In those times they didn't have modern machinery. For example, they would spend months just hollowtining greens. Today, if we really went at it, we could do both courses in a day.

"I've got a wet gauge which tells me if a green needs watering. Before I had that, we would go and look and say 'it needs a bit of water'. I still do that, but now I can stick the gauge in the ground and confirm it.

Billy McLachlan at Royal Troon

**'I've got a wet gauge which tells me if a green needs watering. Before I had that, we would go and look and say, it needs a bit of water'**

"Everything has got more technical and expensive."

Billy follows in Norman's footsteps as a greenkeeper who enjoys tending to the course more than he does working in the office.

You won't see Billy on social media, and he bemoans the amount of paperwork that

comes with operating a course these days. Instead, he'd much rather be out on the course, riding a tractor.

"It's quite therapeutic, seeding something the size of half this room," he said. "Rather than spending the day dealing with emails, you feel like you have actually achieved something.

"Back in Norman's day, you would go out on the course and do what you needed to do. If something was desperate, they would come get you."

When faced with the politics that come with hosting an Open in 2016, Billy knows exactly how his predecessor, Norman, would respond. "Away to Hell," the elder Scotsman would say of anything he thought detracted from his time spent managing the course.

Now, approaching his own centenary, Norman remains "as sharp as a tack", in Billy's words, and to this day when the two

meet they discuss the course. On the last occasion, Norman pointed out the trees to the bottom end of the course looked a little scruffy, taking his former apprentice to task.

But things have changed since Norman was in charge. The greens team has expanded to 16, up from 11 when the Open was last here in 2004. There's also more equipment and the sheds have expanded massively, due to the increased revenue a club is able to generate as part of the modern Open rota.

Such funds weren't available when Billy joined the club in 1981 and he recalls a very different working environment for the team.

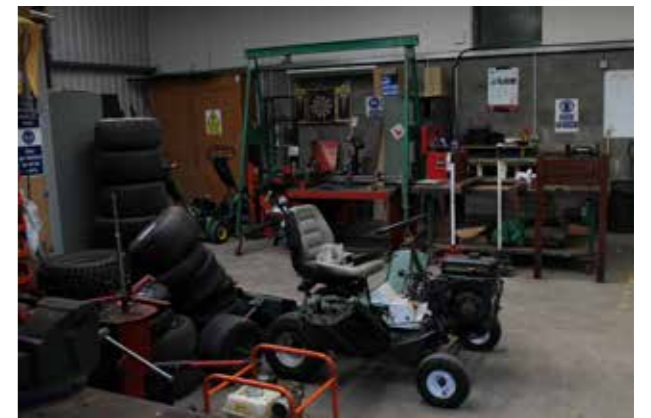
"There was next to nothing, you could actually laugh," he said. "I remember the club didn't have very much money at all."

It was a time when greenkeepers were kept at arm's length and the team had only a basic shed with a corrugated tin roof that would let water in when it rained. They would sit around a fire to keep warm, and if it got windy – which it does, a lot, in this part of the world – the roof would come off.

The first ride-on they purchased was a Ransomes Triple. "It was pretty bad to drive it green to green – it was actually quicker in reverse," said Billy.

That changed when Sir Jimmy Armour took over the operation of the course, and he began to invest in course management.

Another distinction from Norman's time has seen Billy no longer living in the greenkeepers bungalow, his place taken by the club secretary. The decision to leave was made to give the four McLachlan children a better social life – there aren't many other



Equipment and storage has improved under Billy's watch

children to hang out with on a prestigious Scottish links – but that doesn't mean the old home isn't missed.

Billy said: "We used to play football in the front garden. We would be having fun and then someone would be coming down the 16th and it would be "shh, shh, wait, OK we can play again".

In 2004, the year Todd Hamilton won his only major championship, youngest son Matthew was aged just four. At the time, Billy recalled how Matthew grew attached to the staging when it was stored outside the bungalow and would ensure no one messed with it. Then, when the contractors came and moved it up to the 18th green, Matthew was almost reduced to tears.

Matthew is now 16, and the excitement of living on a golf course wore off long ago. It led to the family leaving the greenkeepers' bungalow and moving out of town, to Dundonald.

Eldest son David has returned to the club as a greenkeeper, while daughter Emma is training to be a nurse.

Eighteen-year-old Laura suffers from cerebral palsy, a weakness to her entire right-hand side and hydrocephalus, a build-up

Pumping away surface water





The famous Marine Hotel that is adjacent to the course

of fluid on the brain that would quickly prove fatal were it not treated. To relieve the pressure, Laura is fitted with a shunt that drains the fluid into her stomach. It's a piece of life-saving equipment that Laura will wear her entire life.

"She's my inspiration, if that's the right word," said Billy. "She's a proper angel and I wish I had half her spirit."

"She will live with these disabilities her whole life and it makes you think, my problems on the course don't really matter."

In years gone by, Billy would bring Laura down to the course, before the rest of the staff arrived, so she could help him spray the greens. She would mix the seaweed treatment while he sprayed it.

"She thoroughly enjoyed it, and I enjoyed the company," said Billy.

When the Open gets underway, and with the role of the greens team largely complete – bunker raking and daily mowing aside – the family will return to the course to witness the action.

This will be the fifth Open Billy has worked on, and with 12 years having passed since 2004, it's the biggest gap he's experienced between Championships.

Although he is under no illusion about what a privilege it is to host the championship, he's also looking forward to getting back to the everyday routine of running his course.

He said: "If you were to ask me, 'do you enjoy the Open?' the answer is no. And I don't mean I wouldn't like to have it here, I do. But it's so far away from the normal running of the course, and there's so much more to hosting it than there has been in the past. This time, there's no hiding place."

Innovations this time around include eight cameras being fitted by Sky Sports into the bunkers around the Postage Stamp. There have been changes to the course too, such as the 15th fairway being moved inland, adjustments to bunkers and a bund has been built around the rear of the 9th green to catch over-enthusiastic approaches.

Not a fan of fiddling with his course, Billy is happy to play the diplomat. He said: "If you keep saying no, they will eventually say 'this guy says nothing but no'. So lots of times I say, 'well if you like it, go ahead'. I'm keeping my powder dry for when they suggest something that's really nuts."

"This is what Troon is. There have been certain changes made, but the course you see today is what Troon is, and what it has been for 140 years. I wouldn't like to think we were messing about with it too much. The danger is people think you are lazy, but the hardest thing sometimes is to just sit on your hands."

"I wouldn't like somebody to come around here in 60 or something ridiculously low, and the only way this place will get trouble is if we have a strong wind. But if it's windy, the back nine is really hard. So equally, you don't want a best score of 77 and the best players in the world thrashing around in the wind."

"I don't want it to be a dull Open, but it would be quite nice if it went through quite uneventfully."

After five Opens, however, there have been one or two eventful moments. Take Thursday morning in 2004, 45 minutes before the first tee time, when it was discovered that one of the holes was not as perfectly-shaped as it needed to be.

Billy was undertaking a course walk with Peter Dawson, when the former R&A chief executive turned to him.

Billy said: "Peter looked at me and said 'would you say that hole's round?'"

"No," I replied. The blades of the cutter had become misaligned caused one edge to jut out at an angle. It meant every hole had to be checked before everyone teed off.

"It was a dead easy fix, but what a shock 45 minutes before the Open starts."

This excitement was the exception, as Thursday morning is usually when the pressure is off and there is nothing more

that can be done. Should all go to plan, Billy will be sat in his office with a walkie-talkie, awaiting the call should problems arise.

Whether watching in person or on the TV, don't be surprised to see spots of the course that are a shade of brown you certainly wouldn't find on the PGA Tour. Billy was once quoted as saying 'a bit of brown adds drama' and it's an ethos he sticks to today. Forget lush American parkland, it's Scottish links where real golf is played.

Billy said: "Everything these days is striving to make everything uniform, whether it's the fifth green on the Old course, sitting up pretty high, or the 15th, sat in a hollow. You have to treat the two differently to get them the same, but I think it would be quite nice to make things more natural. My ideal here is to have the fairways where they are browning off and they are quite hard."

"This is real golf. It's natural, it's beside the sea, it's fresh air, it's open, it's a nice place to be. Don't get me wrong, there are days when you can't see for spray, but you look across to Arran, Ailsa Craig and inland to the Dundonald Hills. We get spoiled and every now and then I stop and think, how good is this?"

With five Opens under his belt, plus other championships such as the British Seniors Open in 2008, Billy is counted among the top greenkeepers in the country.

It's an accolade that he is uncomfortable with, suggesting it is the course managers who have to achieve high standards on much smaller budgets who should get the credit.

"I am just an ordinary greenkeeper," he said. "There are guys around here who are every bit as good."

"Take Brian Finlayson at Kilmarnock Barassie, who has 27 holes to manage but just nine guys. It's guys like Brian that are doing a good job and I sit and think, how does he manage?"

"His members give him an expectation of what they want and he has to do it, with less guys and less machinery. Whereas here, if things are working well, people say 'well it should be working'."

"All the guys around here have got the same thing. They are looking after a golf course and it just happens I got this one. They are all doing as good a job as they can." ■



#### Troon enlists help of John Deere

With changes being made to all the Old Course greens, Royal Troon has again enlisted the help of John Deere.

Continuing its close relationship with dealer Nairn Brown at Busby, Glasgow, the club has bought five 220SL walk-behind greens mowers and a 2653B ride-on triplex cylinder mower.

"We've been using the 220 walk behinds for the past 12 years, going back to the B Series models, and the latest SLs are part of our rolling machinery replacement policy," said course manager Billy McLachlan. "The staff think they are the best walk behind, as does my brother John, who is the co-deputy course manager and does all the setting up on the mowers."

Billy said the 220SL's 22-inch width suits the smaller 9th and 8th greens, including the famous Postage Stamp, and they will be used to cut all the greens before and during the Open.



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# Staying safe on the slopes



How you can keep your team safe on the course

Safety on the slopes

John Ross MG is a golf and green services safety specialist. A master greenkeeper, he is safety consultant for Compliant Grounds, working with courses such as Shirley Park and Cuddington.

In 2015, 20-year-old Ollie Floyd died in a tragic accident at Celtic Manor. In this feature, John takes a look at the various risks greenkeepers could encounter when working around sloped areas, and proposes ways to ensure such tragedies do not reoccur.

Many golf courses feature undulating land comprising of slopes, banks, bunkers and ditches. All with different gradients, all maintained or traversed in different ways, with diversity and changing conditions, the result can be a golf club with a serious safety challenge.

On these areas staff and guests are most at risk when working in, or near self-propelled machinery. It is far too easy to lose control of equipment and set off a chain of events that can have an undesired outcome.

The main risks are:

#### Loss of traction

When wheels lose grip it makes brakes and steering ineffective. Gravity and momentum take control of the vehicle until the driver can regain it, or until the vehicle loses momentum.

#### Overturning

Caused by moving across or turning down a slope or as a consequence of a runaway. Machines can also overturn if too close to a ledge that gives way, or if the driver makes an error in judgement when close to a ledge. Additionally, there are gravitational shifts on a slope when lifting trailers or buckets to move or tip loads and when transporting fluids in holding tanks such as a bowser or sprayer.

#### Jack-knifing

When a trailer or trailed appliance moves down the slope and pushes into the tractor or slews the tractor round. In this circumstance poor ground conditions, heavy loading and poor wheel grip increase the risk of an overturn.



John Ross MG

#### Managing work on slopes

##### 1. Assessing the risk

The hazard is something with the potential to cause harm, the risk is the potential for the hazard being realised. In this instance the hazard is working on slopes and banks, while the risk will vary dependent upon the topography and maintenance regime.

Factors that affect risk will include:

- How many slopes you have
- How steep they are
- How often they are maintained
- The equipment used
- Equipment condition and maintenance
- Staff experience, quality of training
- Ground conditions
- Human factors such as staff suitability for the task

Once a risk assessment is completed it is then used to make an informed judgement as to how the risk is going to be lowered to tolerable levels. This is called "as low as is reasonably practicable".



'All with different gradients, all maintained or traversed in different ways, with diversity and changing conditions, the result can be a golf club with a serious safety challenge'

##### 2. Planning the task

All tasks within the workplace should be planned, and the greater the risk the more detailed the plan has to be. The plan incorporates three elements that together contribute to a Safe System of Work:

##### People

Select individuals who will work safely, not get distracted and not take risks. Train your staff in the safest method of cutting slopes and banks. All staff who are required to drive or work on slopes should receive adequate training so they are aware of the hazards. Allow staff to participate in the design of tasks, meaning they take ownership of it. Then encourage them to report back with ideas and methods for improving it

##### Task

Only the safest means of working on slopes should be considered in the task design. Design the task so it is as safe as is reasonably practicable. Any area

Staying safe on the slopes requires careful planning and risk assessment from the outset

STAYING SAFE ON THE SLOPES



Safety on the slopes

to be maintained on self-propelled machinery should have a safe means of access, run off areas and a means of egress. Operators should fully understand how the slope is to be maintained, knowing directions of travel and turning points. Turning should take place uphill with descents being down the gentlest of gradients. The design of the task should not involve taking risks, with operators demonstrating their skill and driving ability and seeking productivity ahead of safety. Within the design, establish who is at risk, ask is it solely the operator or are others also at risk? Consider weather, ground conditions and any loads being carried or lifted, determine if they increase the likelihood of an accident or incident occurring.

**Plant**

Equipment should be designed for the task and adjustable to the individual. In selecting the equipment, make sure you trial it under the conditions in which it is to be used and consider wide wheeled vehicles with a low centre of gravity. The equipment should not be used beyond its safe working capacity. All equipment has to be adequately maintained - especially brakes, steering and tyres. At no time should equipment with defects be used until those defects

have been rectified. Remember equipment carrying a load such as a tractor and a trailer will respond differently and that the load will put increased demands on those tyres and brakes. Also consider sprayers and bowsers with large tanks may have a load that will shift within the tank, on slopes it will move around, imparting forces on the vehicle. For work in areas where there is a possibility of rollover, always select self-propelled equipment fitted with a rollover protective structure (ROPS). The roll bar or safety cab is designed to provide protection for the operator and staff should use the lap belt or seat belt.

**Learning from the task**

All work practices and risk assessment should be reviewed. Do not underestimate what you can learn from an accident or near miss. An accident is an event that caused injury or ill health, a near miss is an event that could have. They could be the same event but with different outcomes: in a scenario where an operator slides down a slope and rolls over, breaking his arm, we have an accident. Similarly, he could slide down, stopping just short of rolling over. These are the same event with different outcomes. By recording accidents and near misses and looking to

identify the root cause, looking beyond operator error, you can use incidents as part of a learning process to create safer workplaces. In reviewing, you may want to update the risk assessment.

**When considering whether the risk has changed, ask yourself:**  
**Have skilled operators left to be replaced by less skilled ones?**  
**Is equipment maintenance as it should be?**  
**Is the equipment showing signs of wear and tear?**  
**Are ground conditions too soft, slippery, rutted, has flooding eroded banks, or sand splash destabilised bunker faces?**  
**Have we had any accidents or near misses?**

Celtic Manor

Remember to encourage staff feedback, if they do not feel safe sit down with them and go through the risk as-



assessment, rethink your approach and implement the findings of the risk assessment.

**Avoiding Risk**

if it is proving difficult to reduce risk to tolerable levels, then another approach must be considered.

Ask yourself the following questions

**Has technology moved on?** The employer has a duty to keep up to date with technological innovation. This means observing the market place and communicating with suppliers to see what they are doing to create safer equipment.

**Can it be done by hand?** This will increase the manual handling burden and exposure time, however reducing the likelihood of a serious accident

**Does it need to be done at all?** There is always the option of leaving areas to nature and redesigning the golf course in the name of safety.

**Key points to safety on slopes**

- Identify the hazard
- Evaluate the risk
- Use the risk assessment in the decision-making process, that means take it to the board or committee
- Reduce risk by:
  - Selecting the correct equipment
  - Maintain the equipment
  - Train operators how to use equipment safely
  - Train Operators how to understand the terrain and safe moving techniques
  - Consider forces from additional loads lifted or carried as in loaders, trailers and sprayers
  - Remember your centre of gravity will shift when you lift a load, a trailer or traverse a slope with a fluid in a tank
  - Do not exceed the safe working angle of any equipment
  - Allow for run-off areas
  - Always travel up or down slopes, avoiding diagonal or horizontal travel on slopes
  - Turn when traveling uphill
  - Ensure brakes are working
  - Check tyre condition and pressure
  - Check floors of cabs are not cluttered, restricting pedal movement of brakes
  - Use ROPS including the seat belt
  - In the worst case scenario of a roll over hold tightly onto the steering wheel
  - React to staff feedback
  - Learn from accidents and near misses
  - Review



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# Pesticides: How greenkeepers will cope with recent restrictions

## Mark De'Ath of Headland Amenity explores whether there really is a future for pesticides

Though the UK already has long standing statutory and voluntary restrictions for the use of pesticides in all amenity areas, changes in legislation mean the range of products available to greenkeepers is becoming increasingly limited.

Pesticides come in four main varieties: herbicides to control weeds and unwanted vegetation; fungicides to combat disease; insecticides to control pests; and plant growth regulators that control plant growth, including grass.

There are a number of issues surrounding amenity chemicals, most of which spill over from their use in the agricultural market. In addition to the much-discussed health and environmental impact of chemical usage, some of the active ingredients require hundreds of thousands of pounds to be spent on retaining their registration. Most active ingredients in the pesticides available to the amenity market today originate through 'extension of use' registrations, where products approved for agriculture are developed to fit the requirements of controlling

weeds, pests and diseases specific to amenity areas.

This can prove difficult, as these agricultural chemicals may not control the species that the amenity market is looking for. As the market is relatively small in comparison to agriculture, some of the large chemical companies are less interested. However, there are several global manufacturers that are committed to the amenity market going forward, which is encouraging. This means that hopefully, active ingredients that work in our market with

even better toxicity and environmental profiles will become available to us in the future.

Amenity chemicals remain an essential tool to control pests, both in effectiveness and economics. They are safe, but only where approved chemicals are properly applied and users follow best practice. However, we must look at this as part of an integrated approach to weed, pest and disease control.

At Nuneaton in the Midlands, course manager James Mannion explains how pesticides fit into the club's maintenance programme.

He said: "As with most clubs, we use pesticides when necessary, but view them as a last resort, though there are times when spraying a chemical is the best course of action.

"If there's a Fusarium attack and the putting surface deteriorates, golfers become unhappy and the knock on effect could be disastrous, so the first thing I would do is go out and spray a fungicide. In examples like this, using chemicals is totally necessary and justified.

"However, most of the spraying we conduct is done in a preventative manner, rather than reactionary, and attempts to prevent the disease from occurring in the first place. That's all part of good greenkeeping practice – making sure you have a healthy sward to start with, maximize drainage and use good greenkeeping principles to prevent problems occurring.

"When considering the use of pesticides, there are a number of important things we take account of here at Nuneaton. You will get a much better result if you get a good weather forecast beforehand. We're subscribers to the Weathercheck service offered by Headland, and this is a great tool when thinking about buying or applying pesticides. If it's going to chuck it down with rain, there's no point applying a weed killer – it'll just wash away. Also, if the wind is strong, you don't want to spray because of the risk of drift. You must also think about your members – try not to do it when there are a lot of people about.

"As already mentioned, with good greenkeeping practice you can reduce the financial implications that using

**'If there's a Fusarium attack and the putting surface deteriorates, golfers become unhappy and the knock on effect could be disastrous'**

pesticides can bring. Preventing weed ingress through a dense sward and keeping nutrient levels up on fairways, greens and tees, you can reduce your requirement for pesticide products.

If there is to be a future for amenity chemicals, we must demonstrate as a sector our commitment to best practice. Better we keep control of products we have than have controls imposed upon us. In doing so, we need to embrace integrated approaches with new technology and innovation. As an industry we must ensure we have trained spray operators, sales and technical advisors available and that spray work carried out by contractors is to Amenity Assured standards.

Interested parties would be well-advised to join the Amenity Forum, which represents a broad church of users including industry, local authorities and organisations such as BIGGA, as well as the regulators CRD. The Amenity Forum is a UK-based, industry-led body set up to promote and encourage best practice principles within the amenity sector when using pesticides.

The EU has one of the strictest regulatory systems in the world when it comes to the approval of pesticides. All pesticides on the market have been subject to a thorough assessment to ensure a high level of protection of both human and animal health and the environment.

Further research is underway in the area of bee populations and the impact of certain chemicals, which, if EU scientists discover a risk, could see more bans for the pesticide market.

It is therefore easy to see why certain

**'The EU has one of the strictest regulatory systems in the world when it comes to the approval of pesticides'**

Pesticides

countries around the world have already decided to go above and beyond the EU guidance and significantly reduce pesticide use or eliminate it altogether. France, for example, will ban all non-agricultural pesticides by 2020. There are already over 400 pesticide-free towns in France and that same number again have restrictions on pesticide use in public places.

Trials are also underway within the UK, where pesticide-free zones and organic alternatives are being trialled. It can be argued the trend for chemical-free courses is being undermined by the ever-increasing demands of the members and committees for better greens and playing surfaces.

**‘When you start thinking about it, there’s a huge knock-on effect’**

When it comes to considering the potential time bomb of a total ban on pesticide use on courses, it has a much wider impact than you would imagine. James added: “A total pesticide ban would have a devastating effect on the golf industry. If we had greens that were full of disease, members are not going to be happy. The club’s reputa-

tion will go right down, meaning ultimately member’s clubs wouldn’t survive.

“Some clubs are already struggling and we hear so often of clubs closing. A complete chemical ban would just enhance this problem.

“This then has a knock-on effect on suppliers who deliver into golf clubs, while the social interaction and the exercise element for the golfers will decline, and that puts people like me out of a job.

“When you start thinking about it, there’s a huge potential knock-on effect.”

In response to these concerns, Head-

land Amenity has taken the lead in integrated control, with a turf disease management programme developed during eight years of trials alongside the STRI. Both the trials and commercial use of specific targeted nutrients and fungicide application have shown it is possible to minimise chemical use and still provide a good playing surface.

What is harder is selective weed control in amenity turf. Here there are no real alternatives, but once the user gets on top of the problem, they can look to utilise spot treatment, rather than a blanket approach to spraying. This has been the case with controlling weeds on hard surfaces, where spot treatment is the norm, rather than overall application of amenity chemicals. ■

James Mannion of Nuneaton



Nuneaton GC

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# A matter of fact

## Once hated, now embraced, all-weather mats are big business

Attention to detail at Club La Santa

All-weather mats were once the scourge of the golfer, causing cries of derision when the prospect of striking a ball from an artificial surface was realised.

But greenkeepers have long-known the benefits of all-weather surfaces, and its popularity is steadily growing as golfers continue to demand year-round golf.

Huxley Golf is a market leader in artificial golf surfaces, and we asked them to bring BIGGA members up to speed on what courses around the world are doing.

An invaluable asset to greenkeepers, such surfaces are useful in a wide variety of remedial situations where natural grass doesn't thrive or can not cope with the amount of wear from golfers. Practice tee areas, alternative or winter tee positions, pathways and shaded areas are all circumstances where top quality all-weather surfaces are proven to play a key role in keeping playing standards high and taking the pressure off natural turf greens and tees.

Increasingly, all-weather surfaces are also being specified for proactive reasons. They can help clubs operate to their fullest potential, such as through the creation of short game practice areas, to help maximize income and support their sustainability goals.

Dedicated all-weather practice and



Jumeirah Golf Estates

**'I doubt any other company in the world has a comparable research and development programme'**

**'We listen to feedback from pros and greenkeepers to ensure we are on the right lines'**

short game areas are becoming commonplace. In some cases they have even been specifically requested by members, because an all-weather facility enables them to get out and enjoy their club community and facilities all year-round. For club and courses, this is a potentially lucrative profit boost because while these practice areas assist with getting members to come to the club more often, there are no corresponding increases in running costs. Maintenance is minimal, so vital greenkeepers' time can be used productively elsewhere on the course.

### Fifteen years of research

Just as some natural grasses are better than others in certain applications, the same holds true for artificial surfaces for golf. Huxley Golf's all-weather surfaces have been developed over 15 years through a continuing research and development programme and with specialist input from greenkeepers and a small number of select-



A Huxley surface in Shanghai

ed manufacturers, with whom they have a close working relationship.

Huxley Golf's general manager Paul Chester said: "All of our all-weather turf is made especially for us after selecting the optimum yarn type and specification for the intended purpose. Face weight, tufting gauge, stitch rate and manufacturing process, combined with the optimum pile height and finish, all play their part in ensuring our surfaces perform as they should."

One development saw Huxley Golf do away with the need for sand or rubber crumb infill for their tees, as this generated greater maintenance requirements. Huxley Golf's second generation tee turf no

longer requires infill of any kind and so combines superb playability and length of life with absolute minimum maintenance.

Paul added:

"We listen to feedback from pros and greenkeepers to ensure we are on the right lines with our product development programme in order to continually improve our range and deliver what our customers require. I doubt any other company in the world has a comparable research and development programme and facility dedicated to providing the best all-weather golf surfaces achievable."



Jumeirah's Neil Graham, left, marking the Huxley installation\*+.



**‘It was a logical choice to work with Huxley Golf, whose experience and reputation is renowned’**

In **Austria**, Modern Golf is a nine-hole course that has been constructed using all-weather surfaces on the greens and tees and is the largest installation in Huxley Golf’s history.

Other locations: **Shanghai, Hong Kong, Dubai, India, Russia.**

**From Scotland to Shanghai**

Huxley Golf projects from around the world:

**Castle Course St Andrews** – an improved practice area, from where more than 800,000 shots are played each year.

**Lanzarote’s Club La Santa** installed an 18-hole all-weather putting green as part of an overhaul of its golf training centre.

**Jumeirah Golf Estates**

Huxley Golf installed an all-weather practice tee at the Jumeirah Golf Estates ahead of the 2015 European Tour Race to Dubai finale.

Environmentally sound principles were adopted in the estate’s development. The Huxley Golf all-weather installation helps support these by helping to conserve water in difficult climate conditions, while achieving the objective of reducing

wear on grass areas and preventing overuse. Positioned at the lower tee of the driving range, next to where the top 60 tour players practice, the Huxley all-weather tee area was installed for use by all members and guests.

Neil Graham, general manager of club operations at Jumeirah Golf Estates, said:

“The Premier Tee is a fantastic surface to hit from and one that has been widely accepted and put into full use for evening practice to help rest the grass turf from overuse. As an extremely busy facility with over 700 members, it was a logical choice to work with Huxley Golf, whose experience and reputation is renowned and whose product quality is in keeping with our five star surroundings.” ■

**‘The Premier Tee is a fantastic surface to hit from and one that has been widely-accepted and put into full use for evening practice to help rest the grass turf from overuse’**



Hugh Fraser, Scottish Area Manager, at Huxley Golf and Kevin Mackay, Operations Manager of The Castle Course, St Andrews

The practice area at the Castle Course in St Andrews



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A MATTER OF FACT

A MATTER OF FACT



## BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION

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



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# AROUND THE GREEN SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

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

## South West of Scotland

Well done to the world's number 11, Danny Willett. His fabulous finish earned him his well-deserved green jacket. I believe the Yorkshire lad started out at the local pitch and putt – there's hope for us all.

South West of Scotland's courses are about to be thrown into the public eye as the Open rolls back into town, so with this in mind I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Billy and his team at Troon the very best of luck. I hope all of our courses will be busy with the influx of people visiting the shire.

On behalf of SWS, I'd like to thank Allan Patterson and Martin Lothian for hosting the section at the recent course walk, *below and right*.

The feedback has been excellent and everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing the changes – best of luck team Turnberry.

The Golf Environment Awards 2017 is now open, so best of luck to all of the entrants. It's a great platform for golf, so don't forget to apply before 31 July.

And finally, thank you to Chris McGhee at Prestwick for volunteering to assist with the section's Facebook and Twitter accounts.



### Section Notes

Please email your notes to [karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk) by the 16th of the month

## East

I was fortunate enough to be at Augusta for a practice day for the Masters, purely in a personal capacity.

The three things which struck me most were:  
How hilly it is. Above is a picture of the 6th hole, which is a short par 3 and the players play over the spectators, straight downhill to the green.

The attention to detail. This picture, *bottom left*, is the rear of the par 5 13th. It's like this on every hole and it's only Monday.  
The importance of putting. Here is Bernhard Langer practicing, *right*. He was using six or so different putters – some long, some regular, and he was also using different grips.

It was a wonderful place to be – it is as green as it looks on TV, the food is cheap and tasty, the parking is easy and the hosts' hospitality was second to none. It's well worth a visit if you are lucky enough to get tickets.

Good luck to Dougal Melville on his move from the supervisor's post with Edinburgh Leisure to the head greenkeeper's job at Falkirk.

Remember your committee meets regularly and welcomes any input from members. Anything is up for discussion, so get in touch via email to any committee member, via Facebook at Bigga Scottish East or through Titter using @BIGGA\_ES

There is a demonstration day being hosted by Charthouse, by

kind permission of Kingsacre, on 4 May. This event will feature products from Charterhouse, Hugh King Sands, Thomas Serriff Groundcare and Advanced Turf Technology. There are also education events from Rigby Taylor and the STRI, among others.

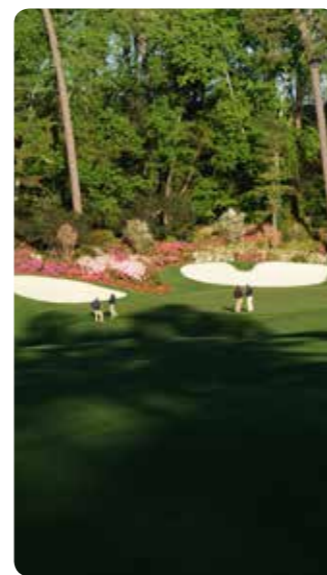
Remember Graeme Davidson's blog about The Players, which you

can find at [www.playersvolunteering2016.blogspot.com](http://www.playersvolunteering2016.blogspot.com). This should be live by the time you read this, with plenty of photos.

Many thanks to Ryan Beck and Aitkens for hosting the educational visit to Levensseat Quarry, with an excellent tour of the plant. It was an enjoyable and educational day.

## Upcoming events

Please note the spring golf outing is almost upon us, so please register if you haven't done so already. This year's outing is Loudown Gowf Club – looking forward to seeing everyone.





## BIGGA NORTHERN REGION

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



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# AROUND THE GREEN

## NORTHERN

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

### North East

Congratulations to George Thomson on his 50 years' service at Goswick Links and we wish him well in his retirement.

Congratulations also to Malcolm Latham, Hexham, and David Simpson, Tyneside, on 25 years' service at their respective clubs.

Congratulations to Jack Hetherington, Ponteland, who has taken up the role of course manager at Alnwick. Jack's passion and commitment to greenkeeping will be to Alnwick's benefit.

Garry Morse has joined Wickham as a full-time assistant, level 3 qualified. He has brought experience and enthusiasm to Wickham.

Grant Burton has left the Northumberland club to become greenkeeper at Pitlochry in the Scottish Highlands. Good luck Grant, it's a fabulous part of the world to work.

Wickham has two new holes which should open in mid-summer, that will have taken just 17 months to create from scratch to opening. Development of a teaching academy is taking place and a new member of staff will be joining. For more information call head greenkeeper Brian Hughes on 07877755696.

### North West

May is here and hopefully we are all enjoying the weather we deserve. Thefts from courses have continued in the past month so

stay alert of suspicious persons and vehicles.

If possible: Keep access secure and uninviting to potential thieves Communicate with staff within the clubhouse, members and other local courses

Phil Worth as moved to Prestbury as assistant greenkeeper.

Congratulations to Robert Cooper, who has moved from Lymm to Trafford Leisures Altrincham. If anybody has news of promotion, leavers, graduations, long service, births, marriages, which they would like to be mentioned, email Leekburton@gmail.com In the meantime, keep a look out on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

### Upcoming events

Sunday 12 June: Bathgate Silica Sandsponsor the Yorkshire v Lancashire Cricket match at Ashley Cricket Club, Altrincham. As ever, keep updated by tuning in to our Twitter and Facebook pages.

### Sponsors

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

### Cleveland

I have just returned from my wonderful trip to Portugal after Richmond won the STRI outstanding environmental project of the year award. The weather was



slightly better than what we had back home. The trip involved visits to four equally-beautiful golf clubs, each of which with its own unique features. San Lorenzo had a tidal wetland bordering it, with viewing platforms for the avid bird spotter to catch glimpses of exotic birds such as weaver birds and flamingos. I don't fall into the avid birdwatcher category, but I appreciate beautiful things and believe me, all the places we went



to were just that.

I'm almost positive I wore Bob Taylor from the STRI down with my endless 'What's that one and is that such and such?' So much so, he gave me his bird identifica-



tion book.

If you are doing anything at your



own club, no matter how big or small, that you think is worth of entering the Golf Environment Awards, then do it. You never know, you just might win.

### Ramside Hall

Roger Shaw hosted a working demonstration of the range of equipment utilised by Shelton Drainage. They had on show a wide selection of machines, including a Whiz wheel drainage machine, which cuts channels for the installation of pipe drainage. Several other machines were also there and the new Cathedral course provided the perfect location to view the laser-guided machines and the system 25 that they operate. The day was an opportunity not to be missed, especially after all the horrendous winter weather we have had, and the demonstrations highlighted solutions to problem wet areas on our courses.

### Upcoming events

We are trying to organise a Cleveland vs. North East section paintballing challenge. The event will be sponsored by Paul Fosten of Indigrow. However, we are having some teething problems. We were intending to hold the match before the growing season started, but for some it has come at a little short notice. As a result, we will be looking to move the fixture to later in the season, around September. We are looking for teams of around 15-a-side to make the day competitive. Remember, we will be playing for the honour of the Cleveland section. A date will be confirmed and passed on to everyone through social media and around the greens as soon as we can.

Lastly, congratulations to Pete Newton, formerly of Rockcliffe Hall, on his new appointment at Toro Irrigation and Otterbine aeration. Good luck and all the best.

### Northern

What a year it has been so far. Rain, rain and more rain. There has so far been Frisbee Golf and Foot Golf. Maybe at present we should try Scuba Golf? We were

thinking of buying a new triplex. Perhaps my money would be better spent buying a submarine?

A bit of movement news: Simon Rothwell (AKA La La) is leaving Marsden for pastures knew at Whitwood Park as senior greenkeeper. Good luck in your new role, you'll be pleased to find you don't have to grit your car park in July.

### Upcoming events

12 May: Wakefield, £12 each, food from 12.30pm, first tee 2pm, limited to 30 people  
28 June: Garforth, £15 each, food from 12noon, first tee 1.30pm, limited to 20 people  
5 September: Moor Allerton, £TBC, tee starts on EuroPro course at 1.30pm, limited to 48 people, sponsored by ICL  
Further sponsors welcome  
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Thank you again to any sponsors who have supported the Northern section.

### Sheffield

This month saw Steve Pickering start his new job at my favourite club, Renishaw Park. I'm sure you will enjoy your time there Steve.

Just a quick warning for you all – there has been a few break-ins in the Sheffield area so be careful.

I think we all deserve some credit in the Sheffield section, who have all provided Danny Willett with the surfaces which helped him adapt so well at Augusta.

Thanks to Rob Acheson for providing us with a picture, which tells a story of our winter. We've had a rough time with rain, which at times seems to have never stopped, and all our squeegees are worn out. Thankfully, it's spring and some warm weather is around the corner. Good luck to all the clubs in the section for the season ahead I hope to see some of you all soon.

### Sponsors

A big thanks to Russell Group for sponsoring the spring competition.



**Section Notes**  
Please email your notes to [karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk) by the 16th of the month



## BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION

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# AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

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

## South West

Some important change to be aware of regarding events and section days. We have the facility to accept BACS payment now and will require all entrants to make payment in advance of events. This system will ease the workload of our voluntary committee who undertake much work behind the scenes in ensuring our events run smoothly.

The section will be sponsoring two places to the BIGGA National Championship, being held this year at Bowood. In order to qualify for a chance at winning a sponsored position at the nationals, you will need to qualify through the South West Summer Tournament. This is being held at Mendip Spring on 6 September.

Big news has come from Long Ashton, where two of the team have recently had new additions to their families. Congratulations guys from all of the section.

Finally, some of you in the Bristol area may have heard about a recent bust up between John Keenaghan and a rubber drag mat, with the mat coming out on top. Sympathies John, you'll bear the scars for life.

## Upcoming events

Don't forget our first golf event is the annual team match against South Wales and Golf Club Secretaries on 29 June. We are looking for a large team, so get in touch with Chris Sealey for team details.

The par 3 competition and barbeque takes place on 8 July at Thornbury. This should be a great afternoon with tee times from 3pm and the BBQ starting shortly after. We will need advance numbers for the afternoon to enable catering to be organised. Please bear this in mind and take note of event-related emails.

South West Turf Clubs will continue through 2016 and a couple of these afternoon events are in the pipeline. If there are topics 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.

## Sponsor thanks

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

## South Coast

Congratulations go to our section members who have been selected for the support team at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth this year. It is great to see the section being selected at these events.

## Spring Tournament at Broadstone

Thanks go to all section members

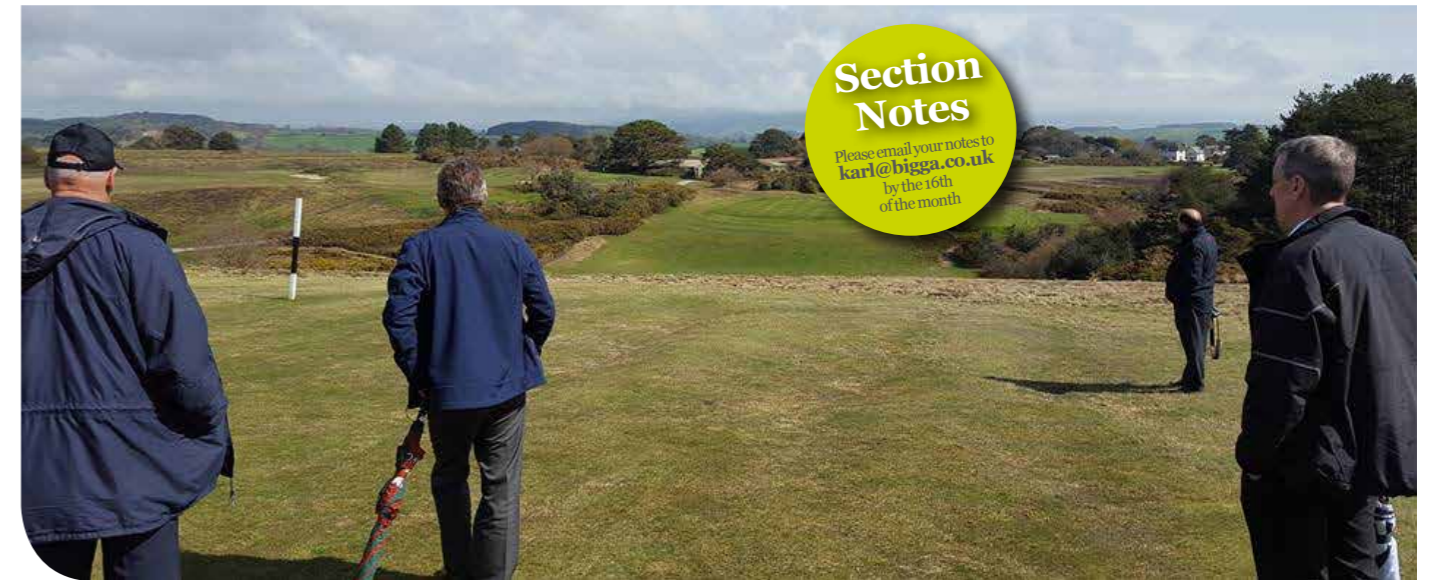
for attending our first golf event of 2016 and for making it such a success, even if the weather was against us at times.

The section committee and members who attended would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin Coward and his green-keeping team at Broadstone for creating a truly magnificent venue for the day – your attention to detail did not go unnoticed. We would also like to extend our thanks to all the clubhouse staff who looked after us and made us feel so welcome throughout the event.

The event was our first trial of a revised format for our golf fixtures. From feedback received during the day and a start sheet with 38 members taking part, it would seem to have been a success with positive comments from many people. We look forward to continuing and building on the success of the day in future events.

## Results

Category 1, Handicap of less than 13: 1st place, Ben Bright from Wellow, 35 points; 2nd place, Luke Elgie from Rushmore, 30 points  
Category 2, Handicap of 13 and over: 1st place, Ben Tyrell from Weymouth, 34 points; 2nd place, Louis Stephenson from Swanmore, 29 points  
Longest drive: Ben Bright from Wellow, with a two-iron  
Nearest the pin: Jaime Acton, from Rushmore, with a four-iron



## Upcoming events

The section has its annual match against the general managers on 21 June. This year the event is being hosted by Rushmore. The day is open to all members of the South Coast section and includes a light lunch before play and a formal meal after the match, which is all kindly sponsored so there is no cost to members. We would be very grateful to anyone wishing to put their names forward to participate in the event, to contact biggasouthcoast@hotmail.com for further details.

Our summer tournament is scheduled to take place at Corehampton on 30 June. An invite and application form will be emailed out soon. Keep an eye on your inbox for details.

At the time of writing, details are being finalized for our upcoming Turf Club at Roffey Bros. quarry. Again, details of how to get involved with Turf Club events will be sent by email shortly.

## Sponsor thanks

Thanks go to the companies and individuals who have signed up for the South Coast Section Patronage Scheme 2016. Their continued support is much appreciated and allows us to continue to provide education, networking and golf events to our members. So far the patrons for 2016 are: New Forest Farm Machinery, M.J.

Abbott, Famura, Banks Amenity, Indigrow and T.H. White.

## Devon & Cornwall

On the move is James Rendal, who has left his post at Cape Cornwall to move up the road and work with Gordon at Mullion.

Since the last report, we have had two golf days with education. The first of these was on 24 March at Mullion. The numbers attending were slightly disappointing, but this was due to many factors. Course manager Gordon Tamblin led his course walk that was named by himself: 'the good, the bad and the ugly'.

The golf was unsurprisingly won by Jacko from Truro. Second

place was Gavin Moore from Launceston. Nearest the pin was David Timms and the longest drive was won by Jim Sheahan. After a welcome lunch we were given a talk by Andy Church from Ultra soil solutions about the benefits of Liquid Gypsum which Gordon has used with very good results.

On 14 April we travelled to East Devon in Budleigh Salterton. It was a glorious day and the rain stayed away long enough for everyone to finish in sunshine. Course manager Paul Newcombe led a healthy course walk around his beautiful course.

The golf competition prize was for the honour of representing the section at the national championship at Bowood later in the

year. The course was set up to test the golfers to their limits and the only person who was up to the challenge was Dave Bodger from Tiverton who scored a net 70. Shaun Warren from Staddon Heights was second with a net 75. These two qualify for the national championship. Richard Parker won both nearest the pin and the longest drive. The educational talk was given by Geoff Fenn on the subject of keeping your greens healthy.

## Sponsors

The section would like to thank Barunburg, Farmura, Avoncrop and Siblico for their sponsorship of the two recent events.





## BIGGA MIDLAND REGION

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



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# AROUND THE GREEN

## MIDLAND

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

### BB&O

Our educational event, entitled Environmental Issues and Chemical Legislation, was held at Harleyford in March and was a great success. As a result of this, more events are now planned. The first of these is entitled 'Renovations' and is to be held at Studley Wood on 26 May. There will also be a 'Golf Course Architecture' event on June 1, to be held at Camberley Heath.

Entry details to both are out soon. Please keep an eye out on either the Facebook page, BIGGA – B, B & O, or the website, www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk, for further details. The committee are working hard to keep these social media pages regularly updated, so take a look and feel free to make comment. You can also email me with any news and gossip.

### Midland

A great day was had at Robin Hood, with Andy Wood spending the day with the young greenkeeper's committee. Please watch for more of these as it was great networking for the under 30s.

Congratulations to Andy Moon on becoming a dad – no more sleep for you good sir.

Well what a few weeks it's been. As I write this it's poring down and feels like it hasn't stopped in the Midlands. A big 'hi' and well done to everyone who is still producing golf courses and persevering with passion under terrible conditions – you are all

what makes greenkeeping a great industry. Keep your heads up and don't be alone – talk and help each other. It will soon be summer and the winter conditions will be forgotten.

### Upcoming events

Rigby Taylor is sponsoring two events: a trip to Mansfield sands is taking place on 25 May 2016 and a wildflower seminar, which will be held at Great Barr on 26 July.

Spring tournament at The Worcestershire. Thursday 12 May, start at 1.30pm, cost £25, closing date for entry 2 May. Prizes sponsored by Campey Turf Care Systems and the format is 18-hole stableford.

Team event and AGM at Patsull. Wednesday 14 September, start at 12noon, cost £25, closing date for entry 5 September. Prizes sponsored by Working Turf and the format is 18-hole tableford, make your own team.

Christmas tournament at Redditch. Wednesday 7 December, start at 10am, cost £27, closing date for entry 23 November. Prizes sponsored by Banks Amenity, format sees pairs for partners to be drawn on the day.

### Sponsor thanks

Thanks to Global Sales for sponsoring May on the calendar. Phone 0121 4367272 for more details.

### East of England

We had 37 attendees at Woodhall Spa for our educational day. Our thanks go to Woodhall Spa and England Golf for the use of the facilities. The highlight was the course walk by James Hutchinson, BIGGA's sustainability executive, whose enthusiasm was plain to see and infectious. Thanks also to all the other speakers.

### Upcoming events

Our spring golf day is to be held at Louth on 12 May. Details will be available on the section Facebook page. Please contact Bruce Hicks if you wish to attend any section event.

Fixture booklets should be with you all by the time you read this. Our thanks go to FG Adamson & Son for making these possible. We hope to provide an additional section education day this autumn, so if anyone wishes to see any specific topics covered, let a committee member know asap.

### East Midlands

There have been some moves around the area. Congratulations and best wishes to Chris Taylor, moving to Morley Hayes, and to Mark Yates, moving to Kirby Muxloe. Both are head greenkeepers, and welcome to the East Midlands Mark.

For anyone who knows me, I won a golf event recently. Yes me, the chopper from Farol. So as I have my name on the board, I thought

I'd take the liberty to put it here too.

After almost two years in the office, Nigel Colley has decided to step down as chairman with immediate effect. Nigel has worked hard on behalf of the section to enable it to develop to where it is today. The committee and section would like to thank Nigel for all his hard work and commitment to the role. In the meantime, Chris Weir will stand in until a new chairman is voted in at the AGM. Any members who wish to be considered for this or any

role, please contact the section via Facebook, Twitter or email Martin Hickling or Roger Butler.

Please send in anything you have for the GI magazine, and also keep an eye out on Facebook and Twitter. Roger is getting out and about, so make our foot soldier a nice cuppa. Don't forget, there are lots of events happening within BIGGA and the East Midlands and Midland sections. We need your support and look forward to catching up with you all this season.

### Upcoming events

Summer, Matlock, 27 July  
Par 3, Beedles Lake, 24 August  
AGM/autumn, Stanton on the Wolds, 27 October  
Christmas, Greetham Valley, 8 December

Headland pairs: The draw has recently been made. All first round ties are to be completed by the deadline given.

### Sponsor thanks

A big thank you to Headland Amenity Products, Henton & Chattell and Banks Amenity Products for sponsoring our spring golf day at Radcliffe on Trent. Results and photos to follow next month.

Thank you to all our sponsors past and present. We are moving forward with the section and without your help it would not be possible.





## BIGGA SOUTH EAST REGION

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



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# AROUND THE GREEN

## SOUTH EAST

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

### Surrey

The Surrey Bowl draw has been made and our 2015 champions Grant Stewart and Andy Gibbs are going to be making their defence of their title. If you have not received the draw, please get in contact with Ashley who will add you to the email list. Also, can we please help Roger this year by playing the games by the due dates and let him know the results as soon as possible. All the Home pairings are to contact their opponents, with handicaps this year 90% of the difference, in line with CONGU regulations. I have managed to fluke a bye in the first round so good luck to all those who are in the preliminary matches.

By the time this goes to press, we will have played the second event of the year, the spring tournament at Camberley Heath on the 26th, and next month there will be a report of the event. Thank you to our sponsors for making these events possible.

Please don't forget each month we have our Free Third Thursday Seminar. In April this was hosted by Sophie from the STRI.

### Kent

Our next golf event is on 11 May at Wilderness. All are welcome to attend.

### Sussex

Joseph Dormer is moving from deputy head greenkeeper at West Sussex to amenity specialist with Sherriff Amenity.

On 21 April, it was not just the Queen's 90th birthday, but also the Sussex section spring competition, held at the highly-acclaimed East Brighton on the south downs, overlooking the town.

Thirty-seven greenkeepers from all over Sussex took part in the

stableford competition. While the weather was dry, it was rather breezy and this made play a little tough up on the downs. The course was immaculately presented and the greens were very slick. Ian and his tea have done a fantastic job in preparing the course to championship standards and the club were very welcoming hosts, thank you Rebecca.

Nearest the pins were Dave Allen, Gary Ogilvie and Danny Birchall. The longest drive was Mike Fance.

Division 1: winner Danny Birchill, 34 points; 2nd Glynn Pollard, 34 points; 3rd Eric Green, 31 points. Division 2: winner Pete Smith, 35 points; 2nd Fraser Brooks, 34 points; 3rd Matt Hutchinson, 31 points. Division 3: winner Ian Gosling, 34 points; 2nd Kelvin Brown, 30 points; 3rd Dave Whitlock, 30 points.

The wooden spoon for the day was won by me with an impressive nine points.



Many thanks to all the sponsors, not only for the day but also for supporting the section throughout the year.

Michael Fance, formerly of ICL and now Farmura/Aquatrols, is partaking in a number of challenges this year, including running the London Marathon, in aid of the Migraine Trust. If you would like to support Mick, do so via: [www.justgiving.com/MICHAEL-FANCE](http://www.justgiving.com/MICHAEL-FANCE)

If you have any news or interesting stories to share, email [chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk](mailto:chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk) or 07912669457.

### Upcoming events

The next event is the summer competition at the Old course, Royal Ashdown, on 2 June. If you are interested in playing, contact Pete Smith on [pds1@btinternet.com](mailto:pds1@btinternet.com).

### Essex

April saw the first day of the year at Marylands. The course was in superb condition for the time of year, which is a credit to Paul Farrow and his team. Our thanks go to all at Marylands for their hospitality.

Prize winners on the day: 1st Calum Smith from Essex G&CC with 43 points; 2nd George Grimes from Garons Park with 38 points;

3rd Paul Farrow with home advantage scoring 36 points.

Nearest the pin winners were Sam Vidler twice, Dougie Fernie from Upminster and committee member Mick Fance. Straightest drive was Jimmy Heritage from Maylands. Longest drive was George Grimes.

The section made a donation to the ladies' and men's captains charity. Thanks for the support of those who attended, we hope to see more faces at the next day.

Welcome back to Essex Jeff Foulger, new headman at Chigwell. Good luck in your new position and we hope to see you at future events.

Good luck and congratulations to Kim Yeldham, who is leaving Romford to move to Royal West Norfolk as deputy head greenkeeper. Kim worked at four clubs in the section and although sad to leave the section, he is looking forward to the challenge ahead and hopes to pop back for the odd golf day.

Good luck also to committee member Mick Fance, who is moving jobs from ICL to Farmura. Mick has undertaken the challenge to complete a minimum of 26 challenges this year, including the Brighton and London marathons to raise money for the Migraine Trust. If you want to donate visit [www.justgiving.com/Michael-Fance](http://www.justgiving.com/Michael-Fance)

### Upcoming events

Our updated website is up and running at [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk). Add to your favourites and keep an eye out for future events and news in your section. Thanks to Arnold Phipps Jones for his work on this.

Our Facebook and Twitter also display details on future events and news. If you have any pictures of interest from your club, please feel free to post them. The next golf day will be held at Thorndon Park and will be the



national qualifier. The date and information will be posted on the above and you will also get a text or email.

We are also planning an education course walk at Channels to look at the new construction that is happening at the moment. Again, details will be posted on the above and you will get a text or email.

### Sponsor thanks

Thank you to all our sponsors. We have an impressive 28 companies supporting the section and these are listed on the website. Your continued support is much appreciated. Special thanks this month goes to Ernest Does and Son, ICL and P. Tuckwell for the raffle prizes at the Maylands Golf Day.

### London

Around the London area on the heavy clay soils, we are all finding it difficult to maintain our course as we are now experiencing the 11th consecutive month of above average rainfall, which is making mowing very challenging on the soft ground.

A few things that may help you include: reducing tyre pressures so more of the tyre can grip. Secondly, removing the early morning dew by dragging a 25mm hose around the fairways and sem-rough, with two vehicles – ideally ATVs or golf buggies – and finally the benefit of experienced staff can also help.

### Upcoming events

The spring tournament is at Porters Park on Wednesday 18 May. This will be a two-tee start at 1pm with coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, two-course dinner after the golf and smart casual dress code. This is the national qualifier, entry forms will be out shortly and all must pre-enter, with the closing date Friday 13 May.

The summer tournament is at Sandy Lodge on Thursday 18 August and finally the Christmas tournament will be at West Herts in early December.





# GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

## Improving the quality of apprenticeships



GTC's education director David Golding explains the changes in apprenticeships, starting in England with the introduction of graded end point assessments.

At present, greenkeeping apprenticeships across the UK are delivered through a network of approved centres and training providers, based on a period of ongoing education, training and assessment.

The centres and training providers are approved and quality assured by either City & Guilds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland or the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) in Scotland.

Those of you familiar with apprenticeships will know golf clubs across the UK have, over many years, relied heavily on the support of their chosen centre, college or training pro-



The GTC is funded by:



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www.greenkeepertraining.com



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vider to coordinate all aspects of the apprenticeship including the funding of the agreed programme. The delivery options, especially for the knowledge required, vary between centres as there are the day or block release off-the-job options, or the 100% on-the-job, supported by online learning, which has proved very popular with many employers and learners.

The majority of practical skills training has and will, quite rightly, remain in the hands of course managers, head greenkeepers or their deputies. Therefore, the major role for the centre staff is to liaise with the employer regarding funding and to coordinate the knowledge and skills to the required standard. A team effort is always required to ensure an apprentice's progress.

Some years ago, the GTC carried out a sustained period of delivering assessor training, with over 900 greenkeepers achieving the

D32/D33 or A1 certificate.

This campaign certainly helped raise the awareness of vocational training and qualifications into the sector and was designed to put course managers and head greenkeepers at the heart of quality assuring "their" professional standards.

As years have passed, the GTC has worked with its Quality Assured Centres to promote the partnership approach to apprenticeships. In the majority of cases it has resulted in competent greenkeepers at the end of their apprenticeship programme.

As one of its main roles and responsibilities, the GTC has continually worked with all the various organisations to improve the quality of apprenticeships, and now there is an even greater opportunity to become involved.

All UK governments and parliaments are committed to promoting and funding industries who see apprenticeships

as producing the highly skilled workers and employers of the future.

Funding opportunities and incentives vary from country to country and this is where centre staff will help employers, but we all know today's apprentices are tomorrow's course managers, so I trust we can all embrace the changes on the horizon.

Work is on going through the GTC Trailblazer technical group to design quality programmes of education, training and assessments for the new approved Advanced Golf Greenkeeper and Golf Course Manager (Higher Apprenticeship). These two apprenticeships are due to be introduced in 2017.

The new Golf Greenkeeper apprenticeship in England will become available very shortly as a new nationwide network of centres and training providers receive approval, having met City & Guilds criteria.

The criteria have been agreed with the GTC and we will take on the monitoring of the new centres. This is a huge change in who carries out the role of ensuring the education, training and assessments are meeting the required standards.

We will, through a collaboration agreement with City & Guilds, ensure all approved centres are using the GTC's training manual to record learners' progress from registration and, together with a portfolio of evidence, ensure they are prepared for the new series of graded, independent end point assessments.

You might be asking, what has changed? After all, the current apprenticeships throughout the UK have a programme of education, training and assessments.

But the Government guidance on apprenticeship reform has a stipulation that there has to be independent end point assessments. This is a challenge the GTC has taken on with the help of representatives from across

the sector. Alongside City & Guilds these new assessments are close to being agreed.

A new suite of questions and a series of practical tasks are being developed and will form 80% of the end point assessments with a grading system introduced at pass, merit and distinction levels.

This is something I know many employers and course managers feel is missing from the apprenticeships, which include either the City & Guilds Work Based Diploma or the Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ). Either the learner is competent or not, but in England this will change as the Golf Greenkeeper apprenticeship is introduced with the new Level 2 qualification, the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping.

So who should be the independent assessors of the new qualification?

Currently all assessments are carried out by approved centre staff and many are occupationally competent as former greenkeepers. But as centre staff will be involved in assisting with the delivery of the programme to prepare the learner for their end point assessments, they clearly cannot be the independent assessors.

City & Guilds, with the GTC's support, has received approval as an assessment organisation and they will have overall responsibility for quality assurance of centres and the end point assessments.

I hope you agree it is necessary for the industry to monitor its own standards and as discussions are on going, I can only say again, watch this space regarding the independent assessors. Really exciting times are here, as is a wonderful opportunity to drive up the quality of the industry's most popular career path.

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## BUYERS' GUIDE

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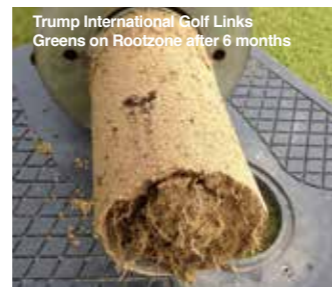
With the summer months fast approaching, Tillers are now focusing on nurturing fields of golf course turf to ensure they are in pristine condition ready for the upcoming Golf season. Over 60 years of golf course greenkeeping experience within the management team means they are well qualified to understand the requirements and demands of all types of golf courses.

Where turf for high specification golf greens is required, they have pioneered the production of turf on a USGA rootzone to ensure compatibility with USGA specification greens construction. This product has not only been installed successfully at Trump Aberdeen in Scotland, but also at Trump Doonbeg in Ireland, throughout Europe, and more recently at Le Touquet in France.

Tillers also produce a greens turf grown on light sandy indigenous soils to match with traditional soil based greens. The production system delivers exceptional levels of sward purity with negligible Poa Annua. Tillers understands the needs of greens with a Bent/Poa sward and are excited to be launching a compatible turf later this year which may be used for repair work, greens extensions and remodelling.

This should ensure a better match

to the existing sward than regular Bent/Fescue Turf.



Tillers has seen an increase in demand for good quality clean 100% Fescue turf, so this year they have increased the acreage and will be investing more time and resource than ever to ensure the high standard required by customers is consistently delivered.

Tillers has supplied several large projects recently, with no fewer than 30,000 square metres installed on the stunning links at Ballybunion on the West Coast of Ireland, all of which was harvested and delivered within 24hrs without a hitch.

They were also proud to supply Fescue Turf to 2015 Golf Environment Award winners Royal St Davids in Wales, and the beautiful heathland courses at Parkstone Golf Club in Dorset and Hankley Common in Surrey, among many other valued customers.



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Not only is it great to see so many manicured golf courses, but also many golf clubs showing a commitment to ecology and environmental issues. Wildflower areas on golf courses are not only cosmetically appealing but also a huge benefit to our bees and other pollinating insects.

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For Further information please visit [www.tillersturf.co.uk](http://www.tillersturf.co.uk) or contact Richard Owens, technical manager, on [richard@tillersturf.co.uk](mailto:richard@tillersturf.co.uk) or call 01522 704949 and ask for either Richard or Rachel Fairfield, customer service & sales manager.

## ALL WEATHER SURFACES

Photo courtesy of Rubbing Park  
Royal St Davids, Gwynedd, Wales

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**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Assistant Greenkeeper  
**LOCATION:** Leeds Golf Club (Cobble Hall), Leeds, West Yorkshire  
**CLOSING:** 13th May 2016

We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated individual to join the greenkeeping team at Leeds Golf Club. The club was founded in 1896 and is the original home of the Leeds Cup, the oldest trophy in professional golf. You will be an integral member of the team and will be involved in the day to day presentation of the golf course, to ensure the course is presented to the highest standard.

Working under the direction of the Head Greenkeeper, the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the ongoing development of the golf course, and will have the following attributes:

- \* NVQ level 2 or equivalent
- \* Minimum of 3 years experience in greenkeeping.
- \* PA1/ PA2/ PA6 desirable
- \* Competent with modern machinery
- \* Flexible approach to work, working hours and weekend duties.
- \* Chainsaw and First aid qualifications preferable but not essential.
- \* Ideally a golfer or have a good knowledge and understanding of the game of golf.
- \* Ability to work as part of a team or on their own initiative

In return we are offering a competitive salary with additional weekend/bank holiday duties on a rota basis, and excellent training opportunities.

Please apply by email or in writing and enclose CV to the Head Greenkeeper (cobblehall@gmail.com) or Leeds Golf Club, Elmete Lane, Leeds LS8 2LJ

Sheringham Golf Club is an 18-hole private members club in North Norfolk, which was founded in 1891 and sits on the edge of the cliffs with outstanding sea views. Sheringham is regularly ranked as one of the top 100 courses in England and has hosted many championships including the English Ladies Championship (3 times) and the England Girls Open Amateur Championship in 2015. We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated individual to join the greenkeeping team. You will be an integral member of the team and will be involved in the day to day presentation of the golf course, to ensure the course is presented to the highest possible standard. Working under the direction of the Head Greenkeeper the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the ongoing development of the golf course. The ideal candidate should be able to demonstrate a proven track record with the following attributes:

- NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
- Minimum 2 years' experience (Preferred)
- High level of competence with modern greenkeeping machinery
- PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates
- Chainsaw licence (not essential)
- Ability to work as part of a team
- 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
- Have a keen interest in ecology and sustainability management
- Excellent communication and timekeeping skills
- The application to build a career in golf course management and the determination to continue and accelerate professional development

The position is full-time, permanent and offers a competitive salary.

Please apply in writing or e-mail with a covering letter and CV to: Neal Milton, General Manager, Sheringham Golf Club, Sweetbriar Lane, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8HG

**RheinEnergieSportpark – Cologne, Germany**  
**www.fc-koeln.de**

**Head-Greenkeeper**  
**Training Ground of the German Bundesliga Club 1. FC Koeln**

Located in the southwest of Cologne, the training ground covers five grass pitches and two artificial turfs. The training ground is the home of the 1st team which plays in the German Bundesliga, the youth teams and the women's football team.

The successful candidate will be qualified to an acceptable level and have at least 5 years involvement with sports turf management and a know-how with substantial experience.

- SVQ Level 3 in Green-keeping or equivalent
- Experience in how to lead, motivate and develop a team
- Be an excellent team player with strong communication and reporting skills
- Excellent practical skills including technical knowledge relating to machinery operation
- Football turf experience preferred
- Green-Keeping software know-how preferred
- Fluent in spoken German preferred
- A valid driving licence

Flexibility is vital for this full time, five out of seven day a week role, and will include weekend working.

**How to Apply:**  
**Please send a cover letter and CV covering at least 10 years by email to Sonja Gaertner: gaertner@fc-koeln.de**



**Greenkeeping Machine Engineer**

An exciting position has arisen for an enthusiastic, motivated, qualified engineer to join our team of greenkeeping staff at Harleyford Golf Club. The successful applicant will be responsible for the repair and day to day maintenance of a wide variety of golf course machinery and equipment.

**Duties include:**  
 Servicing, repairs, fabrication, welding, cylinder grinding, maintaining stock levels, adherence to health and safety policies, along with general green keeping duties, (experience in Green keeping not essential as full training will be given)

The successful applicant will report directly to the Golf Course Manager.

**Benefits**

- Further training & education
- Staff uniform
- BIGGA membership
- Good rates of pay
- Lunchtime sandwich
- Golf Membership\* t&c apply

Please apply in writing or by email with full CV: craig@harleyfordgolf.co.uk



**Course Manager**  
 Posted: 20th April 2016 / Closing: 22nd May 2016  
 Location: Hadley Wood Golf Club - Hertfordshire  
 Website: www.hadleywoodgc.com

Hadley Wood is noted as one of the top 100 golf courses in England and one of the very best in Hertfordshire. The club is located only 12 miles from central London and is set over 200 acres of beautiful, rolling woodland consisting of 18 holes and a large grass practice academy. The course was designed by Alistair Mackenzie in 1922 and the club is restoring the original design features over the course of the next 5 years. The club is vibrant, has a strong financial position and a waiting list for membership. Hadley Wood is a club looking to invest heavily in its course, machine equipment and staff in the run up to its centenary in 2022. The club has a strong philosophy towards attention to detail, constant development and improvement driven by the desire to achieve the very best we can deliver. The playing surfaces and environment at Hadley Wood are at the forefront of golf course presentation and quality. We are looking for a highly dynamic and motivated Course Manager to take the club forward through careful management and long term planning. As well as possessing the appropriate knowledge, experience and skill set, candidates should also have a positive attitude and be an excellent communicator with the ability to work effectively within the existing management team at the club. Applicants will, as a minimum be expected to demonstrate a proven track record of the following:

- NVQ Level 4 in Green keeping or higher in Sports Turf Management. A minimum of 5 years supervisory experience with a proven ability to plan, organise and implement work programs. Proven ability to motivate, lead, develop and mentor others. To be able to prepare and implement budgets. PA1, 2 and 6a spraying certificates. Equipped both technically and practically to undertake green keeping duties to the highest standard required at a prestigious members club. Excellent knowledge of Health & Safety legislation. Previous experience in leading construction. Irrigation experience including repair and maintenance.

An attractive salary package including private health care and pension scheme will be offered to the preferred candidate. C.V. and a covering letter should be sent to the General Manager, David Jackson gm@hadleywoodgc.com Due to the expected high level of applicants, only those successful for interview will be contacted. Applications close on 22nd May 2016 Twitter @hadleywoodgc



**COURSE MANAGER** Saffron Walden Golf Course enjoys an enviable reputation as one of the finest member's clubs in East Anglia. Established in 1919 and measuring 6,632 yards from the back tees, our 18 holes stretch across the Capability Brown landscaped old deer park of the Audley End estate in Saffron Walden, Essex. The chalk downland drains well and as a busy and popular golf club we see extremely high traffic for a member's club. Recently voted the best course in Cambridgeshire by the Top 100 Golf Courses of the World, we continue to strive to improve our already exceptionally high standards. We continually invest in both golf course development and the very best in equipment to ensure we remain at the cutting edge of golf course management. The successful candidate will be an integral part of our management team and must be a leader capable of realising the high expectations of the members. They will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the green keeping team. The successful applicant must also be comfortable talking to members and committees and must be committed to ongoing personal and professional development. They will need to demonstrate a professional and modern approach to green keeping, as well as the ability to manage people, budgets and strategic planning responsibilities. Applicants will, as a minimum be expected to demonstrate a proven track record of the following:

- NVQ Level 3 in Green keeping or higher in Sports Turf Management. A minimum of 3 years' supervisory experience with a proven ability to plan, organise and implement work programs. Proven ability to motivate, lead, develop and mentor others. Confident in using computers and the internet to management level. To be able to prepare and implement budgets. PA1, 2 and 6a spraying certificates. Equipped both technically and practically to undertake green keeping duties to the highest standard required at a prestigious member's club. Knowledge of Health & Safety legislation.

It would be an advantage but not essential to have:

- Irrigation experience including repair and maintenance. NPTC Chainsaw license. Construction experience. Experience of Strategic Planning

Salary will depend on experience and qualifications. Accommodation is available with this position if required. Due to the expected high level of applicants, only those successful for interview will be contacted.

Please send a full CV with a detailed covering letter to:

Thomas Munt, General Manager  
 Email: tom@swgc.com  
 Closing Date: 15th May 2016

Our Greenkeeping team is expanding and we are currently recruiting for

**Experienced Greenkeepers**

to be part of our team.

**Competitive salary and benefits offered.**

Candidate must have a minimum of two years Greenkeeping experience and ideally hold NVQ 2 and PA 1 & 6 Certificates.

We will consider candidates without these who can demonstrate their abilities to a high standard.

**For Full details please visit the BIGGA website or Email our Course Manager, Scott Litchfield at scott.esn@gmail.com**



**SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB**

**Deputy Courses & Estate Manager / Head Greenkeeper (Old Course)**

Sunningdale Golf Club wishes to recruit a Deputy Courses & Estate Manager, with direct management responsibility for the Old Course.

The candidate should have:-

- Over 5 years' practical experience in turfgrass maintenance and golf course construction techniques
- Experience in managing a team of significant size
- Tournament experience preferred
- International experience preferred
- NVQ level 3 or HND or equivalent
- PA1, PA2A and PA6
- CS 30 and CS 31 preferred

Sunningdale is dedicated to achieving truly World Class standards:

- Investors in People Gold Standard Award
- Venue for the Seniors Amateur Championship 2017 (Old Course)
- Platinum Clubs of the World: Ranked No 14
- Golf Course Architecture Magazine World Top 100: Old Course @ No 22 and New Course @ No 53
- Golf Digest Magazine World Top 100: Old Course @ No 23 and New Course @ No 92

**Closing Date for Applications: 21st May, 2016**  
 Please apply in writing or email with full CV and covering letter to:  
**Clare Livingston, Administration & HR Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club**  
 Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR  
 jobs@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk  
 www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk



**Deputy Course Manager**  
**Chart Hills Golf Club**

An excellent opportunity has arisen to work as Deputy Course Manager at Chart Hills Golf Club, one of the South East's premiere golf courses and host to England Golf's Brabazon trophy in 2017.

The successful candidate must have:

- \* 5 years Greenkeeping experience
- \* A recognised qualification in turf management
- \* Hold PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spray certificates
- \* CS30 & 31 Chainsaw certificates would be desirable along with First Aid at Work.
- \* Proven ability to motivate, lead, develop and mentor others

Applicants must be self motivated with a keen eye for detail; insist on exceptional standards and able to work with an existing team. Salary will depend on experience and qualifications.

**Applicants are requested to apply by email with a full CV and covering letter. Neil Lowther Golf Course Manager. Email: chgreenkeeping@tiscali.co.uk**

Due to the expected high level of applicants, only those successful for interview will be contacted.

Closing Date – Monday 23rd May



**Multiple Greenkeeper positions**  
**The Royal Automobile Club**  
**Woodcote Park, Epsom**

As part of a plan to redevelop and upgrade our two stunning courses at Woodcote Park, The Royal Automobile Club is seeking positive individuals at all levels with relevant experience or enthusiasm and a flexible approach to work and working hours, to strengthen our excellent Golf team here in Epsom.

**Old Course**  
 total bunker reconstruction, new irrigation system and woodland management  
 Development of our practice academy and short game area

**Coronation Course**  
 involving construction, bunker reconstruction & new irrigation system.

Ideal candidates will have an interest in golf and be capable of demonstrating relevant knowledge of course management/greenkeeping or a practical aptitude for landscaping, gardening or woodland management. You should also be able to demonstrate the following attributes:

- Relevant experience in a similar role
- A flexible approach to working on a rota basis and covering early hours
- A positive attitude and the ability to work as part of a team or alone
- Attention to detail

For the right candidates we will offer a competitive salary, excellent training opportunities, full uniform, free meals when on duty, a pension scheme and BIGGA membership

**For further information or to apply please email recruitment@royalautomobileclub.co.uk**

Application deadline is Friday 13th May



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## Keeping standards high after the Masters

**With player expectations through the roof after the high standards seen at Augusta National, the greatest challenge for greenkeepers will be to maintain healthy greens with colour, a consistent playing surface and fast putting speeds.**

The turf experts at Rigby Taylor have produced this easy guide to help greenkeepers match expectations, while protecting the long-term integrity of the course.

**What** you feed your turf. Not all seasons are the same, so not all fertility plans are created equal, nor do they produce equal results.

For optimal turf quality, the emphasis should be placed on complete and balanced nutrition involving organic complexes and chelated nutrients, proteins, seaplant extract and other beneficial supplements such as amino acids, vitamins and fulvic acid.

**How** you feed your turf should be directly related to mowing height. When heights are low, root mass potential is diminished. When root mass is weakened or roots are un-

der stress, it's important to feed the turf directly through the leaf tissue.

**When** you feed your turf has a great effect on the carbohydrate storage and leaf tissue growth. You want to plan the distribution of nutrient loading to maximize root mass and carbohydrate storage and minimise leaf tissue growth.

**Tournament preparation for when the course needs to look extra special**

**Soluble silica** has shown to increase leaf turgidity and stimulate the grass blade to become more erect, resulting in a uniform, con-

sistent cut and truer ball roll. Additional benefits will be seen as faster healing of spike and ball marks.

**Seaplant extract** containing products introduce high levels of cytokinin plant hormones into the programme. This improves stress toleration and increases root mass and depth.

Also consider **magnesium and manganese**. Magnesium is the cornerstone of chlorophyll production and regulates the uptake of plant nutrients. Manganese increases the availability of calcium, phosphorous and stimulates photosynthesis.



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