



# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.50 / OCTOBER 2016

FEATURED INSIDE

## The future's bright

Face-to-face with the  
UK & Ireland's best  
student greenkeepers



**INSIDE THIS MONTH**

Toro Student Greenkeeper Awards / Social media / Whitley Bay

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# WELCOME



Naga Munchetty will  
present the Welcome  
Celebration at BTME



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

## Autumn is a depressing time for some, signalling the move towards the dark and often dismal winter that affects the UK.

For BIGGA's part, autumn and winter are the seasons when we are at our busiest. As the growing season ebbs away there are a large number of conferences, seminars, workshops and golf tournaments, all of which gives us at the Association a much greater interaction with our members. And this is without mentioning BTME, the annual highlight.

However, the last few weeks have been challenging at times as I and your dedicated team of BIGGA staff have regularly been in contact with members under substantial pressure within their workplace. Generally the pressure is self-imposed as our members have exceptionally high aspirations for their courses and, with resources squeezed like never before and our climate presenting serious challenges, it has been very difficult to achieve those goals.

The board and I are determined to bring our influence within the golf industry to bear to ensure clubs set realistic expectations, provide clear guidance and line management and treat our members with the respect they, and all employees, deserve.

But sadly in recent times, far too many of our members have been the subject of intolerable and inappropriate demands and treatment

from their employers. The facts are clear – extraordinary weather and low staffing levels make course presentation incredibly difficult. Yet expectations continue to rise and treatment of greenkeepers in some clubs has plumbed new depths. Our six regional administrators, each dedicated to supporting our members at local level, have been kept extremely busy assisting and guiding members through stressful times.

Education is, as always, the key to progress, so it is timely that this magazine comes with the comprehensive guide to the Continue to Learn at BTME programme for 2017. The schedule for January contains many courses on communication and management to aid our members in effectively managing expectations among golfers and employers. It also contains a range of sessions aimed at those who are dealing with stress. I make no apology for this, our members are passionate about their craft and take the challenges presented by the weather and the economy very seriously and often personally.

Peer support is hugely important in difficult times. This was the primary motive for setting up the early greenkeeper associations and it remains critical to this day. BTME represents the greatest opportunity for turf professionals to network, share problems, vent their spleen, explore potential solutions and make strong plans for the season to come. Registration opened just a few days ago so sign up now and make plans to attend Harrogate in January, you know it will be of value.

BTME is THE turf industry gathering and once again we will recognise and celebrate the many exceptional achievements in greenkeeping over the past year. I'm delighted Naga Munchetty, who was such a hit in January this year, will again be hosting our Welcome Celebration in the Royal Hall.

Enjoy the read.





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# FROM THE EDITOR

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



## Meeting award finalists was a real privilege

**This month we welcomed 11 ambitious young professionals to BIGGA House.**

Dressed immaculately in suits and shoes, they spoke passionately about their industry, showcasing a breadth of knowledge that can only come from the highly-educated.

Yet the surprising thing was these weren't IT professionals, they weren't salesmen, and I'm not sure any of them have been to university.

They were the finalists of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards and, I hope my colleagues at BIGGA, Toro and Reesink Turfcare don't mind me saying, they were a real credit to this great industry.

If these 11 students represent the future of greenkeeping, then we are in safe hands.

At the conclusion of the awards I got the opportunity to sit down with Jimmy and Dan, the two winners, and had a chat about how they came into the greenkeeping profession, and what their ambitions were for the future.

Neither of them 'fell' into greenkeeping because they had no other choice, and both were considered to be smart kids when they were at school. They became greenkeepers out of choice, because they saw it as a career worth pursuing.

Looking to the future, and one of them would like to try his hand at the country's top championship venues, while the other wants to take up a position at a run down course and try to make his name by bringing it back to its former glory. Both are goals worth applauding.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication the pair have shown over their short time in the

industry, they have joined a prestigious and exclusive list of greenkeepers who have a Toro Student Greenkeeper award to their name and, as such, their future is in their own hands.

You can read more about the Toro awards and meet the winners within the pages of this magazine.



Jimmy Heritage receives his award

Elsewhere, you can read about the importance of having an effective social media strategy. While this sounds complicated, we hope to show you how the social media you already access on a daily basis can be used to boost the reputation of your greens team among the golfers at your club.

Autumn maintenance programs are well underway and we've got a couple of handy tips to help you prepare your course for winter.

There's also some great technical articles from our partners at ICL and Bayer. All of which reminds us that those students who we welcomed to BIGGA HQ weren't the exceptions. Through your desire to progress your career and education, coupled with the support you receive from the team here at BIGGA, we're redefining how greenkeepers are perceived – not just within the golfing industry but also in the wider world.



## James Jeynes ▶

How important is it to be active on social media in the modern world? We spoke to James Jeynes, chief executive and founder member of MemNet. He explained how an active social media profile can help make life easier for today's greens teams

page 26



## ◀ Henry Bechelet

Henry is technical sales manager for ICL's Turf and Landscape divisions in the UK and Ireland. He explained how ICL and Syngenta have worked together to produce an integrated turf management programme to help combat the threat of disease this autumn and winter

page 30



## Dr Colin Mumford ▶

A member of Bayer's Turf Solutions Team, Colin is a former greenkeeper with a wide range of experience in the amenity and sports turf sector. This month he explains how changes to legislation mean its time to get creative when tackling pests on the course

page 50



## ◀ Laurence Pithie

The first turf professional to attain BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper certificate in 1991, Laurence also won Greenkeeper and Groundsman of the Year in 1984 and 1988. This month he visited The Chase in Staffordshire and saw how the team is working to increase its sustainability

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# ACROSS THE BOARD



**Les Howkins**  
Chairman

Summer has well and truly rolled in to autumn and winter is just around the corner.

Social media is awash with greenkeepers all over the country starting their winter construction work and carrying out renovations on managed turf areas. It's great to see the developments that are going on and even more reassuring is how so many clubs utilise the skills within the team to carry out these projects in-house.

Over the summer I have met with many members at various events and a comment that has popped up several times surrounds the issue of course managers leaving the industry. Maybe I look at life in a different way but, when a course manager moves in to a senior role with a company that provides services or products to the greenkeeping industry, or to a general manager's role, I see it as a good thing.

It's a good sign that greenkeepers are seen to be professionals who have developed a wide range of skills that can be utilised in different parts of the industry. This is testament to the education that is on offer to greenkeepers. BIGGA and the GTC have done so much good work in the last 20 years and the effects are starting to be seen in the varied job



Les Howkins speaking at January's BTME Welcome Celebration

opportunities now on offer.

At the September board meeting, the board of management were joined by several representatives of the Young Greenkeepers Committee. They reported on the initiatives they have been carrying out and what is planned for the near future. These young men are a breath of fresh air and their enthusiasm is infectious.

With a different outlook on life, they played an important role in one session where we discussed stress in the workplace and what BIGGA can do about it. The board has long recognised that work place stress is an issue, but it is increasing, and there will be several initiatives in the coming months to help our members cope. During the discussion it was noted that BIGGA as an association offers help through its Lifestyle Counselling helpline, and it is clear from the uptake that this is not a widely utilised service.

For anyone suffering with work-based stress,

call the helpline or talk to your regional administrator who will be able to guide you to the most suitable help.

BTME is less than 100 days away and you should have received the Continue to Learn brochure with all the educational offerings. As you start to plan your week, take a few minutes and think about what areas you need to develop. Pick the most suitable workshop or seminar and use the information to make clear justifications to your employer.

When you are planning your week, don't forget that the BIGGA Welcome Celebration on the Tuesday evening will be one of the highlights. We are pleased that once again Naga Munchetty will be the host and it is sure to be another great night. You can also claim a CPD point as a networking event.

Anyway, that's enough from me. Let's all hope the winter is not too wet and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Harrogate in January 2017.

# 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, Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn, Jaey Goodchild, Michael Beaton, Frank Newberry







# GI Newsdesk

The latest greenkeeping news

## Members conquer the Irish Sea to raise awareness of MND

**Greenkeepers formed part of a team which made a treacherous journey from Northern Ireland to Scotland in a homemade raft.**

The 12-strong team featured five greenkeepers, who made the 10-hour journey from Donaghadee in Northern Ireland to Portpatrick in Scotland.

In doing so, the team raised more than £17,000 for MND Scotland, which works to tackle motor neuron disease.

The BIGGA members to take part were Michael Mann, of Walton Heath, Danny Murray, of Wisley, and Steve Richardson, of Queenwood.

The 20-mile journey was the brainchild of former Wentworth greenkeeper Tommy Monteith, who was inspired by a similar journey his father had once made with his friend Alan Patterson.

Alan, known as Ackie, was

diagnosed with motor neuron disease 18 months ago and Michael, who grew up in Portpatrick, said: "Around 20 years ago they did a charity row from Stranraer to Portpatrick, using six fertiliser barrels tied together.

"We wanted to do something and Tommy thought it would be good to give a nod to that journey. MND is a horrible disease and completing this challenge was a great way to raise awareness and support for the charity."

MND is a rapidly-progressing terminal illness which causes sufferers to lose the ability to walk, eat, speak and breathe unaided. Average life expectancy is just 14 months after diagnosis and comedian Ronnie Corbett died this year after a short battle with MND.

Despite having researched tide times in the build-up, there was no guarantee of success. But starting the journey at 4.30am, the 12 men were determined that nothing could



The team row the homemade raft across the Irish Sea

stop them.

Michael said: "Mid-channel it got choppy and we were thinking 'we shouldn't be here'. There were white horses on the waves, but we knew the tide would soon turn and our camaraderie and sense that we were doing it for a good cause kept us going.

"When we came into the village there were people cheering us on, a piper playing and fireworks going off. It was quite emotional because Alan was there in his wheelchair to greet us."

If you would like to donate to the cause, check out the Just-Giving page at [www.justgiving.com/Michael-Mann](http://www.justgiving.com/Michael-Mann)

## Dale helps at PGA Tour finals

**A course manager from Birmingham made the trip Stateside to help out at the finale of this year's PGA Tour.**

Dale Housden, of Hollywood, joined the team at East Lake, Atlanta, for the Tour Championship and FedEx Cup finale.

He said: "I was overwhelmed by the welcome that I received. Not only did they all make me feel part of the team, they all took the time and effort to get to know my role and course back in England."

With a total prize fund of \$13m up for grabs, immaculate presentation was required. This included precision works taking 45 minutes to complete per bunker.

"It was a lovely touch one evening when Brandt Snedeker came into the shed to offer dinner to all the staff and volunteers in return for how the course was presented," said Dale. "So what did I learn? The majority of skills are ones practiced everyday throughout the UK, but attention to detail was on another level to anything I have seen before. I also admired the personal drive and teamwork between all staff."



Dale Housden at the FedEx Cup

## Ticket savings for BTME visitors

**Discounts will be available for greenkeepers who travel to BTME by train this January.**

Harrogate International Centre has agreed a deal with Virgin Trains to bring discounts for visitors to the North Yorkshire venue.

With Virgin Trains planning to run 14 daily services between London and Harrogate by 2019, the agreement will see BTME delegates offered special savings on ticket prices.

HIC Yorkshire attracts 300,000 visitors to the region every year. Discounts will be arranged between Virgin and BIGGA, the organisers of the event.

## BIGGA AROUND THE WORLD

**Brian Sullivan MG Bel-Air Country Club Los Angeles, USA**

**How would you describe the style of course you manage?**  
Bel-Air is a parkland mountain canyon course with a world-renowned architectural routing.

**How does managing a course in the USA vary from the UK?**  
It never rains, it has poor soils, high salts. And we have a lot of golf carts.

**What is the best part of living in the USA?**  
There's opportunity for anyone willing to work for it.

**What is the worst?**  
Our presidential politicians are an embarrassment. Hopefully this will change in four years.

**How does the weather in California affect your work?**  
We have very old Poa annua and bentgrass push-up greens adapted to about nine months of the year and bermudagrass fairways and roughs adapted to eight months of our 12-month season. Consequently, the golf course turfgrass optimum growing timeframes cover half of the year.

**What types of wildlife do you get on the course, that you wouldn't in the UK?**  
We get coyotes and invasive species rolling out of our airports that attack trees and ornamentals.

**What is your club management structure like?**  
General manager, director of golf and golf course and grounds superintendent. All report to the club president and GM, with the GM as



the ambassador to the president, board and membership.

**Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?**  
A part of the Master Greenkeeper experience is joining BIGGA. Though this occurred many years ago, I have benefitted from the communication and friendships with my counterparts in Great Britain and Ireland. Running into many of these individuals at the US GCSAA trade show is always a highlight for me. I have had a good career and BIGGA and the MG has been an important component. Now that my four children have grown, I look forward to the BIGGA meeting at Harrogate.

**What one tip would you give to British greenkeepers that you have learnt in America?**  
In the United States, we over-manage as those are the expectations and demands of our clientele. This is often referred to as the 'Augusta Syndrome'. Often, golfers have little understanding of water conservation, poor water quality or environmental constraints. In the UK, it seems to me the average golfer is more informed and sympathetic to the input necessary for turfgrass success.







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lead this group. Very  
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they have produced this  
week. Andy Ivel 25yrs  
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for a truly unique couple  
of days. Well done to  
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worthy winner



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Raking bunkers, the  
perfect way to blow the  
cobwebs away on a  
Monday morning  
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**@TwigletHugton**  
My mates Alba Macleod  
and @AngusMacleod9  
feature in @BIGGALtd  
magazine this month...  
@DogsofTurf

## GI COURSE DOGS

**Name:** Sydney  
**Owner:** Robert George  
**Course:** Thorndon Park  
**Breed:** Italian Mastiff/Boxer cross  
**Age:** 11 months  
**Favourite treat:** Pro-V1  
**Favourite spot on the course:**  
On the back of a mower or on the  
seat of a workman truck

**Naughtiest moment:** Nicking one  
of the lads' lunch or putting muddy  
paws on the club manager

**My dog is happiest when...** she's  
hanging out the window of my truck  
with the wind blowing through her  
chops and slobber blowing over my  
windows

*If you know a dog we should  
feature, email karl@bigga.co.uk*



The team from Minchinhampton celebrated victory in 2015

## Time running out to get your BIGGA awards entries in

**October is your final  
opportunity to enter the  
BIGGA Awards, with three  
prizes up for grabs.**

The prestigious BIGGA Awards  
are now in their third year and  
will see prizes given out for the:  
BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the  
Year; Championship Greenkeeping  
Performance of the Year; and the  
BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement  
of the Year.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Crox-  
ton said: "Each year we see the  
BIGGA Awards grow in popularity.

"This is great to see as it means the  
very best greenkeepers in the UK  
golf industry are pushing each other  
on to achieve better results.

"From the largest championship  
course to the smallest municipal, we  
want to hear golf's success stories  
and we look forward to choosing  
our favourites and announcing the  
winner at BTME in January."

The closing date for nominations is  
31 October. For criteria and details  
of how to enter, visit [www.bigga.co.uk/events/bigga-awards-2016](http://www.bigga.co.uk/events/bigga-awards-2016) or  
scan the QR code above.



## Bears' necessities win day for Prior



Scottish Golf Championship winner Chris Prior

**Chris Prior from Bearsden  
won the 2016 Scottish Golf  
Championship sponsored by  
Circle Golf with a level par score  
of 71.**

Ladybank hosted the championship  
and was in excellent condition, as  
you would expect from Colin Powrie,  
David Gray and their team.

BIGGA regional administrator John  
Young said: "There was no doubt the  
course was set up worthy of BIGGA  
Scotland's major golf event, with  
the players in full praise of course  
conditions, particularly the trueness  
of the greens."

Level par around Ladybank proved to  
be a great winning score, with only 17  
players posting in the 70s and almost  
a third of the 88-player field failing to  
return a score at all.

Champion Chris birdied two holes on

the front nine but dropped two on the  
back nine to finish level, two shots  
clear of previous champion Gordon  
Sangster, of Cathkin Braes.

Other successes to note include  
Kenny Mitchell of the St Andrews  
Links Trust, who won the Ransomes  
Trophy, and Alan Madden, of Irvine,  
who won the St Ives Jubilee Trophy.  
BIGGA president Iain Macleod of  
Tain won the Pattison Trophy with a  
net score of 72.

John added: "Overall the day proved  
to be a great success and Jim Paton,  
Scottish chairman, was on hand to  
thank all of those who took part in  
the competition and again thanked  
the patrons for their continued sup-  
port. Jim paid special thanks to Col-  
in, David and the team at Ladybank  
for all of their hard work."

Competitors and guests raised £400  
for the BIGGA Benevolent Fund.



Ben receives his certificate

### Ben working on another Level

**Mid Herts Deputy  
Course Manager Ben  
Croft is celebrating  
after achieving  
his NVQ Level 4  
Qualification.**

Having studied towards

the qualification with  
Oaklands College, Ben said  
he was extremely pleased  
to obtain the Level 4.

"It was a lot of hard work,  
but well worth the effort,"  
he added.

Ben thanked his course  
manager, Jody Wilson,  
for his support and

encouragement, and also  
thanked BIGGA for its  
part sponsorship of the  
qualification.

Ben's tutor, Andy Wright,  
said: "Ben was an excellent  
student who put together  
a professional portfolio of  
evidence and will no doubt  
make an excellent course  
manager in future."



Rigby Taylor's Dave Weir, Gary Brindle  
and BIGGA's Tracey Maddison

## Brindle wins Whitelaw Bowl

**A beautiful day greeted the  
participants for the BIGGA Northern  
Region Championship at Penrith.**

Sponsored by Rigby Taylor, the event was  
hotly contested, with Gary Brindle winning  
the Whitelaw Bowl with 38 points.

Regional administrator Sandra Raper said:  
"Neil Robinson, head greenkeeper at Pen-  
rith, and his team, prepared a superb course  
despite the torrential rain that has thwarted  
the area of late. Thank you to Penrith for  
hosting the event and to everyone who took  
time out to travel and support the event."



Rob Smith won nearest the pin



Ben Johnstone came in second



By James Hutchinson - BIGGA's Sustainability Executive



The recently released State of Nature document developed by 50 conservative groups, such as the RSPB, has decided that nature's in decline.

Tell us something we don't know.

The marsh grasshoppers, sand lizards, great crested newts, natterjack toads, water voles and high brown fritillaries are all knackered, along with the beautiful pasque flower and corn marigold. However, help's at hand in the shape of pro-active greenkeepers and their desire to make a change.

Take this stunning wildflower meadow, developed by the team at Mere, which feeds the local butterfly and bee populations. Or this fizzzer by the Whitley Bay chaps which has corn marigold and the ultra-rare corncockle growing alongside one another.

Sand lizards are known to frequent golf courses, as are great crested newts and natterjack toads, with courses leaving bare sand for the aforementioned amphibians to warm their bodies on.

The sides of waterways of numerous courses are left to nature, thus developing a habitat for water voles to return to the area. All good stuff, if you ask me, but I am preaching to the converted. We in the greenkeeping industry already know how hard we are working to improve habitats for these critters.

BIGGA has recently held talks with the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Imperial College London, Natural England and others to assist and offer our help in return for advice from these important bodies. It is our aim to do all we can to highlight the graft you guys do for the environment. So well done to all who want to make a change.

The on-course sightings have gone wild of late, with some smashing snaps being sent in. Here are some belters to be getting on with.

The wildflower meadow at The Mere

Craig Boath's kingfisher

Kevin Weller's crayfish

A beautiful beetle

Tom Jacques toadstool-like fungi

Corn marigolds at Whitley Bay

## SeaMax

"SeaMax is playing an important part in my fertilizer programme. You get such a natural green up."

Steve Wilson  
(Trump International Aberdeen)

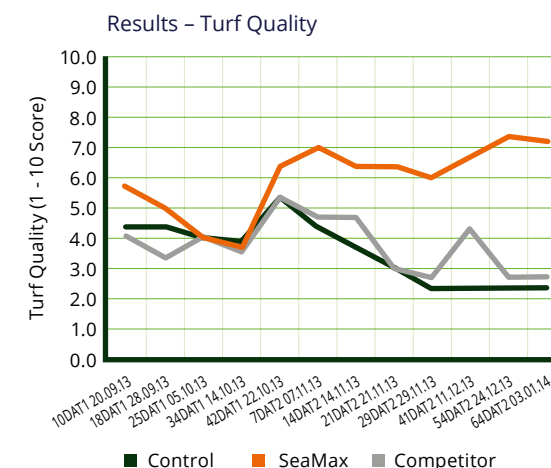
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# MEMBERSHIP

Latest news and information from the BIGGA membership team



## Reaping education rewards with ICL and Syngenta

Turf rewards, the loyalty scheme from ICL and Syngenta, provides the opportunity for customers to earn points from purchases that can then be exchanged against a selection of agronomic or turf related items and learning opportunities, including BIGGA 'Continue to Learn' vouchers.

Two Turf Reward participants who have used the scheme for 'Continue to Learn' education vouchers are Gordon Moir, director of greenkeeping at St Andrews Links Trust, and Andy Wood, course manager at Robin Hood in the West Midlands.

Gordon said: "I used the Turf Rewards to buy education vouchers as it allowed me to send more staff to BTME to take part in the seminars, as well as take part in the exhibition. I thought this was a great way of sharing things around

more of the team.

Signing up for Turf Rewards is quick and easy by visiting [www.turfrewards.com](http://www.turfrewards.com), where you can begin registering your purchases.

Andy said: "We decided to opt for the education vouchers this year and the team will be using them at BTME in 2017.

"I think it's an excellent way to reward the whole team, rather than any one individual. Turf Rewards is a great scheme. We are already planning our next Turf Rewards purchase, which is likely to be the soil moisture meter. It's such a fantastic scheme and allows us to get training and tools without having to budget for them."

For more information and to sign up for the scheme, call ICL on 01473 237100 or visit [www.icl-turf.co.uk](http://www.icl-turf.co.uk)



# NEW!

From the makers of  
Revolution  
and Porthcawl

# PROVIDIAN



## A complete, balanced plant stress and turfgrass health enhancement package

A balanced growing environment is necessary to produce healthy turf that can withstand abiotic stresses and less than ideal weather conditions. Strengthening turf and maximizing the growing environment before the onset of stress is the only way to ensure consistent, high quality turf when conditions begin to deteriorate. With that in mind, we are pleased to introduce Providian, a complete, balanced plant stress and turfgrass health enhancement package.

Providian contains Aquatrols patented "Synergy" technology combined with a proprietary blend of the highest quality cold process sea plants, multi-source chelated iron and manganese, and a custom amino acid package. The sum of this unique stress management package is greater than its individual parts, resulting in a more balanced growing environment and healthy, resilient turf.

### Benefits from Providian include:

- Increases stress resilience and water stress tolerance
- Enhances turfgrass quality and visual presentation
- Increases photosynthesis of the plant
- Improves root development
- Speeds recovery of stressed turf
- Promotes a more natural and sustainable green colour

For more information, contact Farmura today!

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# L&D NEWS

Latest news from the BIGGA Learning and Development team

## Making it even easier to book your place at Continue to Learn



There is a new way to book your Continue to Learn sessions



This year we have made it even easier for you to book your education sessions for Continue to Learn 2017.

With more than 250 hours of education, we know there will be something for everyone, no matter what your level of expertise or experience.

And BIGGA's Learning & Development team has joined forces with online ticket marketplace Eventbrite to make signing up for seminars and workshops quicker and easier.

BIGGA Head of Member Development

Sam Strutt said: "In the past members have had to select the courses they want to enrol on individually, which has been a time consuming process and I'm sure will have put some people off signing up for more workshops.

"The Eventbrite process allows those coming to Continue to Learn to select every course they want to attend on one single page, making things much easier and allowing them to keep track of what they have enrolled on."

We will be launching the Continue to Learn programme during October, and with 9,000

turf managers and greenkeepers heading to BTME at Harrogate, places are sure to fill up fast. Eventbrite is a great way to present our educational offering in one easy-to-access page. The site is used by hundreds of thousands of event organisers each year to sell tickets and ensure events take place without a hitch.

With fierce competition for places, advance booking is essential for any of the educational sessions.

To start booking your places, scan the QR code above or head to [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk)



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

Ben Croft, Mid Herts; Stuart Imeson, Dunstanburgh Castle; Sidney Arrowsmith MG, Frilford Heath; Simon Dexter, Myerscough College; Jon Methven, St Andrews Links Trust; Rich Mackay, Student; Andrew Clark, Remedy Oak; Gavin Jones, St Andrews Links Trust; Josh Dunn, The Belfry.

The following members also achieved their Milestone this month: Stefan Carter, Wentworth; Jamie Wade, The Belfry.

## Jacobsen Higher Education scholar

The latest Jacobsen Higher Education scholarship has been awarded to Benjamin Williams of Llandudno Golf Club (Maesdu).

Ben is studying towards his FdSc Sportsturf at Myerscough College.

"It's definitely going to be a big help," said the 24-year-old. "The three-year course is self-funded and so this will relieve some of that pressure and allow me to focus on my studies, which is done via distance learning and so a lot of time management and discipline is required."

Thanks to support from Jacobsen, BIGGA has been able to award higher education scholarships to a growing number of members.

Designed to help greenkeeper members move into higher education, the scholarships may be awarded to those studying towards SVQ Level 4, Higher National Certificate, Foundation Degree/HND or the BSc Turf Management.

A former Ohio State Study candidate, Ben has worked at Llandudno for a year, and before that spent six months in working in Australia.



Ben Williams

## McCulloch nets learning scholarship

Whitecraigs Deputy Course Manager Barry McCulloch will be aided in his career development after securing a Jacobsen higher education scholarship.

Barry is studying SVQ Level 4 Management at Gosta Training and said: "I believe the course is necessary for my career development, but if I hadn't gotten this scholarship, I doubt my club would have been able to cover the cost of the fees for the course, and so this is a massive help."

Since 2002 the Jacobsen Higher Education scheme has been invaluable in ensuring greenkeepers have access to higher education.



Barry McCulloch



### INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Steven Tierney MG;  
Chris Lomas MG; Andrew Campbell MG CGCS; Steve Dixon; Richard McGlynn; Jaey Goodchild; Michael Beaton; Frank Newberry





Biological pest control



GI Innovation



Rare island course switches to Toro



Club Car's Ryder Cup deal



New Amega recruit

# GI Industry Update

The latest industry news

## Bayer in \$66bn purchase of Monsanto

**BIGGA Education Supporter Bayer has announced the purchase of US seeds company Monsanto in the largest all-cash deal in history.**

If the deal closes, the combined company will command more than a quarter of the world's market for seeds and pesticides.

Werner Baumann, CEO of Bayer AG, said: "This represents a major step forward for our

Crop Science business and reinforces Bayer's leadership position as a global innovation-driven Life Science company."

Together, the companies would have a research and development budget of around €2.5 billion, which Bayer say will lead to innovation in environmental protection and sustainability.

However, the deal has its critics, including

from some of Bayer's own shareholders. Should the deal fail to be ratified, a \$2bn severance package, which Bayer would pay Monsanto, has been agreed.

"We are entering a new era in agriculture," said Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant. "It is one with significant challenges that demand new, sustainable solutions and technologies. This combination with Bayer will deliver just that."



Werner Baumann, CEO of Bayer AG, and Hugh Grant, chairman and chief executive officer of Monsanto. Picture by Bayer AG

## Award-winners using Wiedenmann



**Brighton's Pyecombe Golf Club has taken remedial action to help speed up play and allow easier ball retrieval.**

The recipient of the STRI's Golf Environment Awards 2016 golf course of the year title, the Pyecombe greenkeepers targeted two

long strips of rough about 4 metres wide. Using a Wiedenmann Super 600, a three-in-one flail mower, collector and scarifier and a 1.7m trailed Terra Rake in tandem, the club thinned down the area to half the height of the remaining rough.

Course Manager Simon

Wells said: "Many of our fairways are on a slope, as we are a downland course, and balls were getting lost by just rolling into the edges of the rough.

"Play was slowing down, so we identified problem areas, cut and collected the rough, then raked out the base and cut again."

## Jacobsen help revive world's oldest golf society

The Royal Burgess Golfing Society, located on the outskirts of Edinburgh, has seen improvements in the quality of its course and in increase in membership figures after purchasing a range of Jacobsen equipment.

Royal Burgess traces its origins back to at least 1735 and Head Greenkeeper Chris Yeaman said: "When I arrived, the course was not in the best shape. This as partly due to an aging fleet of equipment that was just not doing the job."

Among the Jacobsen fleet is an 11-blade Eclipse 322 ride-on greens mower, which Chris said is the "best on the market."



## Finale wins Best Product

Contact acting herbicide **Finale 150**, a leading alternative to glyphosate, has won the award for Best Product 2016 at this year's annual GLAS amenity trade show.

Since its launch in April this year, Finale 150 has had great success, especially after the recent concerns over glyphosate's future. The herbicide has proven to be particularly effective around bunker and path edges.

Greg Collins of the Bayer Turf Solutions Team said: "The National Agrochemical Distributors sells our products, and entering Finale 150 to the competition really shows the confidence the company has for the product. There's a lot of interest in the product already, and the Turf Solutions Team always strives to provide full sales support to distributors."



## Ryder Cup Europe extends Club Car deal



**Ryder Cup Europe has extended its long-term agreement with Club Car, who will provide a fleet of more than 500 vehicles for the The 2018 Ryder Cup at Le Golf National.**

Club Car, as official supplier of the European Tour, will provide a fleet of vehicles that includes golf cars, utility and transporter vehicles, that all prove essential in the operation of golf's greatest team event.

Richard Hills, director of Ryder Cup Europe, said: "Club Car is among the most respected brands in golf and, having now worked with them for almost 20 years, we had no hesitation in extending our existing agreement."

Much of the fleet will be

used by rules officials, television production teams and staging staff to ensure the smooth running of the biennial match, as well as specially-equipped captains' cars to be used by the European and US captains and their vice-captains.

Club Car has been associated with The Ryder Cup since 1997, the last time the event took place in continental Europe. Many memorable images captured the Club Car's roles in the matches, not least Seve Ballesteros, who was regularly seen navigating the course at Valderrama en route to victory.

Marc Dufour, chief executive officer of Club Car said: "Club Car's historic association with many of the game's leading organisations, golf destinations and tourna-

ments around the world has enabled us to fully understand the specific needs of one of golf's most iconic events.

Club Car and its distributor ORA Véhicules Electriques, currently supply Le Golf National with a fleet of 50 Precident 13 vehicles, which are used across the three courses at the venue, L'Albatros - the 2018 Ryder Cup course - L'Aigle and L'Oiselet.

Speaking from Le Golf National during the Ryder Cup Trophy Tour, Marco Natale, vice president of Club Car, said: "Many Ryder Cup captains and vice-captains have commented on the important role Club Car vehicles have played during the match itself. Everyone at the company is extremely proud of our on-going role."



## Sherriff Amenity launch biological pest control range

One of the largest national amenity distributors in the UK has launched a unique range of biological pest control products.

As summer fades, now is the time when unwanted visitors are discovered dwelling in soil, feeding on plant roots and damaging turf.

The emergence of leatherjackets and chafer grubs are all too common at this time of year, so those experiencing this problem will appreciate the launch of Sherriff Amenity's three biological pest control products.

The first is named Sportnem-H and is intended for the control of chafer grubs and bibionid fly. The product contains the insect pathogenic nematodes *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, which targets chafer grubs in turf. Applied as a drench, the nematodes move through the moist soil

to find chafer grubs.

Sportnem T is intended to control leatherjackets and contains the insect pathogenic nematodes *Steinernema carpocapsae*. These are effective against a number of turf pests, especially the larvae of crane flies.

Nemaflo is a specifically designed carrier to aid the movement of insect-parasitic or entomopathogenic nematodes into the soil profile to the target pest. Nemaflo is designed to partner the other two products and any other beneficial nematode product.

The reason to use a carrier is that the nematodes, being very small, can get 'stranded' within a water droplet. Nemaflo reduces their ability to spread out and will aid movement towards the target.

Best results are achieved when treatment starts at first signs of larvae.



Reesink Turfcare's David Raitt and Head Greenkeeper James Sievwright

## One of world's only inland island courses switches to Toro

Scotland's 157-year-old King James VI Golf Club, one of the very few in the world occupying a riverine island, has made the switch to Toro.

Formed in Perth in 1858, King James VI moved from North Inch to Moncreiffe Island in 1897, where it's believed to be the country's only inland island course.

Head Greenkeeper James Sievwright, who's spent 12 years working at the club, said while the island offers a unique golfing experience, it can be challenging when it comes to machinery repairs.

Having just invested in a Toro Greensmaster TriFlex 3400, James said: "There are some weeks when we don't get off the island. Previously, if one of our machines broke down, we'd have to wait a long time to get someone sent out, which isn't ideal, espe-

cially when issues were frequent.

"Our previous greens mower cost us £22k in upkeep costs alone. Aside from the financial burden of the recurrent issues we endured, it was also a huge hassle."

Heading up a greens team of six, including three full time greenkeepers and three from an open prison, James said he and the team are all very happy with the new arrival. He added: "The new Toro offers much better quality of cut - you can actually see that it's better. It also has groomers that fluff the grass up, which is a great bonus. We've also found that we've saved a lot of time. The set up is far quicker, as you can take the units off with ease. Greasing is also quicker as you only have six points to grease. With our old machine, we had up to 40 points. When you have a small team like us, these things are very important."

## Finney joins Amega Sciences

Mike Finney has been announced as international technical sales development manager for ICL's Amega Sciences.

An experienced commercial manager, Mike joins Amega Sciences from chemical manufacturers BASF,

where he played a role in Biological and Turf, operating throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa as key country sales manager.

ICL Business Director Stephen Squires said: "We are delighted to have Mike join ICL's technical sales team. Having worked closely

with us in his commercial role at BASF, we knew Mike had the key technical and sales skills needed to help us drive Amega business forward."

As a part of the team, Mike will be responsible for sales and marketing development in international regions.

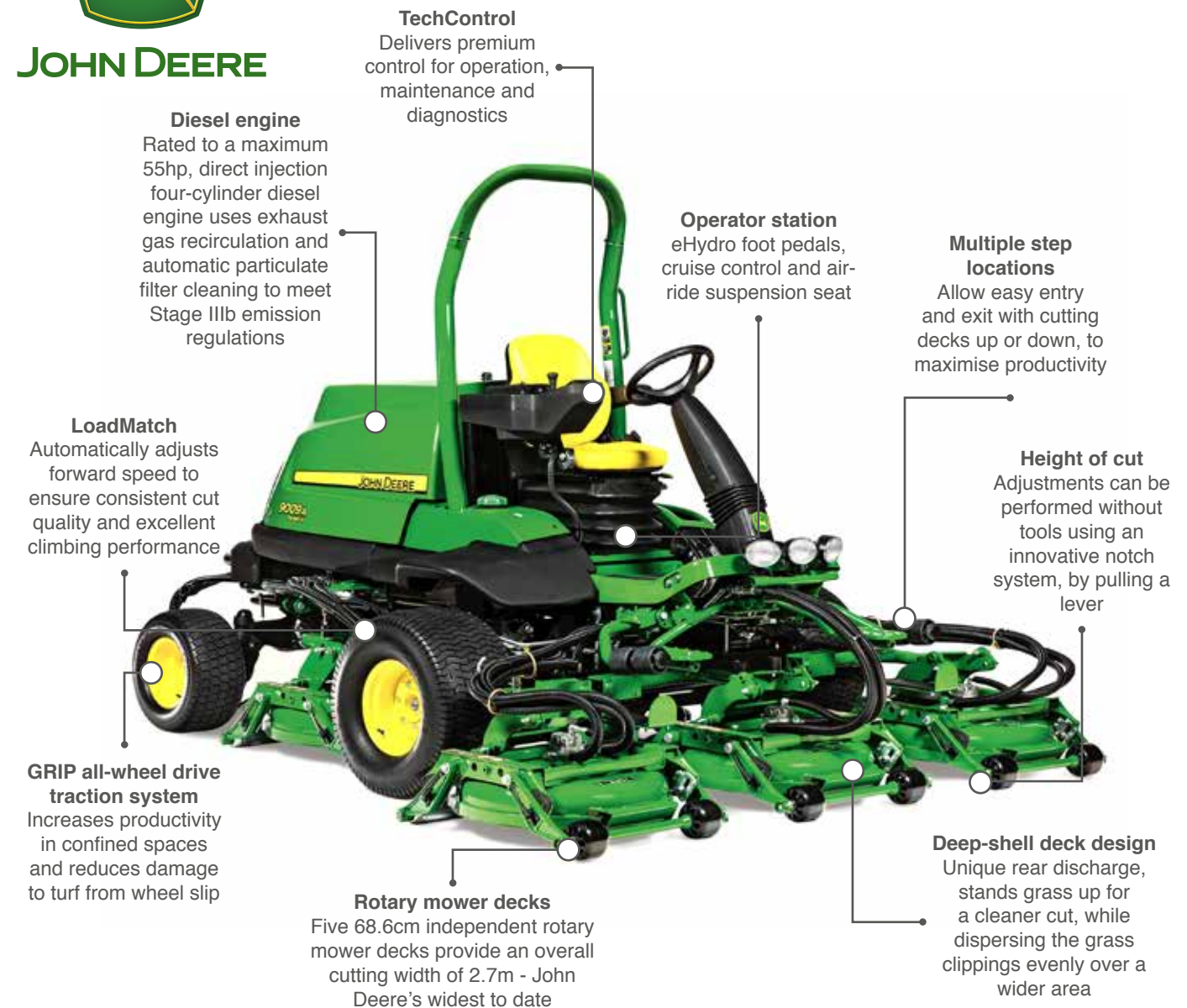
# GI Innovation

Machinery releases



JOHN DEERE

## 9009A TerrainCut rough mower



Launched at BTME 2016, John Deere's 9009A TerrainCut rough mower is the latest addition to the company's award-winning A Model family of fairway, rough and tees & surrounds mowers.

John Deere turf division manager Chris Meacock said: "In the

past, using a wide area mower in the rough could mean compromising on the quality of cut. With the 9009A, greenkeepers can maximise both productivity and cut quality while having more control over how the machine performs."

For more details contact your local dealer or visit [www.Deere.co.uk](http://www.Deere.co.uk)



Using different screens on the password controlled display, mowing and transport speeds can be electronically set by pressing a button. Turning speed can be slowed down to a set percentage of the mowing speed when the cutting units are lifted after a pass, which reduces scuffing



# Leaf blowers



As autumn arrives and the leaves turn brown, areas of the course shaded by deciduous trees are soon covered in a blanket of fallen foliage.

Keep the leaves clear and golfers will enjoy playing in the crisp autumn air. But let the leaves get on top of you, and you'll soon discover a large number of lost balls and disgruntled golfers.

For quick and efficient leaf removal, a blower is vitally important. Traditionalists will lean on their rakes when autumn comes, but they are labour-intensive and inefficient. On the other hand, modern technology has helped speed up the sweeping process, ensuring leaves aren't falling just as fast as you are clearing them up.

The priority is to keep the greens and surroundings clear of fallen leaves, as that's where you will have the highest concentration of golfers. With leaves steadily falling, it is likely greens will need to

**'We've teamed together with these leaf blower manufacturers to showcase some of the best products on the market'**

be cleared several times a day.

The next priority is the landing areas, which can be huge and therefore require many man-hours. A strong breeze may assist these efforts, but it may also hinder them by shaking more leaves from the canopy and undoing your hard work.

Lastly comes the roughs, bunkers and tees – meaning the clearance of these areas may be sacrificed at courses with small teams. Greenkeepers are no longer allowed to burn fallen leaves, as

Leaves on the course

Belfry leaf blowing



was done in days of yore, so other methods of disposal are needed. However, you can put the fallen foliage to use by making compost. When you've collected all your leaves, shred them using a mower. Mix five wheelbarrows of leaves with a wheelbarrow full of grass clippings or manure, and you have created a simple compost.

We've teamed together with these leaf blower manufacturers to showcase some of the best products on the market and to ensure the autumn breeze and falling leaves don't ruin your hard work when keeping the course in top condition.

## TRILO

Autumn has started and the leaves are falling from the trees. The removal of leaves and debris on the course is a major task for greenkeepers and groundsmen this time each year. Importantly, greens and tees should be cleaned at this time every day to prevent mold and diseases in the turf.

Established blowers and vacs manufacturer Trilo has a number of products that have specific applications on golf courses.

The Trilo B7 leaf blower features a hydraulically operated 180-degree reverse spout as standard for the ultimate in blowing convenience. The wide castor wheels and the anti-scalp roller on the back follow the most extreme undulations on the course.

This lightweight blower has a statically and dynamically-balanced impeller to ensure smooth and vibration-free operation. It is also powerful, with 540 cubic metres per minute airflow. Weighing in at



215kg, the machine is a match for tractors from 30hp with a Cat I or II linkage.

The Trilo B7 will be available to view at Saltex on 2 and 3 November at

stand G010.

The Trilo S3 vacuum sweeper and Trilo SU60 compact vacuum unit will be displayed.

## MAKITA

Makita's 4-stroke backpack blower is proving a winner with grounds maintenance operators across the country who are choosing the power and performance of the Makita MM4 engine, coupled with low running costs, low noise and low vibrations.

An anti-icing feature enhances cold weather performance and winter fuel consumption, while the operator control handle is adjustable for comfort and control.

The Makita EB7650TH blower maintains the Makita MM4 75cc 4-stroke engine with 2.7kW output, and with 4.4Nm of torque, generates an air volume of 19 cubic metres per minute with an air speed of 90 me-

tres per second.

The harness has a padded back plate and fully padded shoulder straps, which allow more size adjustment.

Makita's twin-battery power system means two 18v batteries are directly installed on the machines to supply energy to the 36v DC motor. This system is what powers the Makita DUB362Z brushless LXT blower.

The DUB362Z runs up to 21,500rpm and produces a maximum air volume of 13.4m<sup>3</sup>/m with a maximum air speed of 54m/s. Weighing just 4.1kg the blower has a comfortable hand grip and three-stage telescopic nozzle with 100mm adjustment on the overall length of the pipe.





# Does your social media make the cut?



**James Jeynes from MemNet explains why you can't afford to miss out on the social media revolution**

**We don't need to tell you that greenkeepers are integral to golf courses.**

You have been saying just the same thing for years, and BIGGA has been working on your behalf to ensure the rest of the golfing world gets the message.

Despite playing such a crucial role, greenkeepers have historically been among the least credited aspect of golf courses, especially when you consider the wealth and acclaim that is associated with golf.

At MemNet, we'd like to elevate the role of the greenkeeper, and we are going to help you take control

of your own reputations through education and by showing you the boundless advantages using social media can bring.

A key factor in the importance of social media in golf and greenkeeping has been the move by the various golfing authorities to allow smartphones on to courses and at tournaments. This is a huge movement into the modern world, and an opportunity greenkeepers should take full advantage of. Greenkeepers have a unique viewpoint when it comes to looking at golf courses. They have a vantage point unlike any other, and when shared effectively on social media, the effects for your course, and

potentially your own career, are priceless.

Many of you will already use social media in the comfort of your own home, whether it's to document precious moments with family or friends, or just to share sights and experiences that have affected you.

But it has already occurred to many greenkeepers to start using such platforms for professional use. As greenkeepers, the sights and sounds witnessed at rare times and places make for really engaging social media posts.

Think about the sunrises you have seen, when no one else is around to share the experience with. That kind of quiet moment can become something really special on social media. A great example is the photograph-sharing app Instagram, where each aspect is geared towards sharing and enhancing those beautiful moments.

What comes along with this greenkeeping perspective is an incredible insight into the running of the course. Greenkeepers are able to provide accurate appraisals of golf courses, which can then be aired

to a receptive audience on social media sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn. These sites allow you to build audiences and authority by writing posts that demonstrate an expertise that is highly valuable.

There's also room for fun on sites like Twitter, as Andrew 'Beef' Johnson has greatly demonstrated recently, while boosting his reputation within the golfing world in a way that simply would not have been possible just a few years ago.

Given that greenkeeper insight is so often overlooked, social media is a great way to empower a greens team to take part in turf industry and golfing debates on a massive, sometimes global, scale.

Ultimately, building up a social media profile is a transferrable skill that makes your life a lot easier across the board. It is important to build greenkeepers up and recognise the important work that is being done.

For something to be recognised – such as the hard work you do – it needs to be visible. And these days the best and cheapest way to increase visibility is to use social media. Instagram is especially perfect given the wonderful natural sights witnessed by greenkeepers during those thankless hours spent curating the course before anyone else is there to see it. And the great thing about apps like Instagram is you can remain in nature while sharing these sights on social media, so no dull deskwork is involved.

## Want to drive forward membership success?

Our one-day package will provide you with a master class on using social media to increase awareness of your Golf Course and its benefits. We will also, as part of the master class, give you ideas on how to convert those interactions in to new members and better commercial success.

**Prices start from £700 plus expenses plus VAT**

Contact the MemNet office on **020 3012 0031** or email [james@memnet.org.uk](mailto:james@memnet.org.uk) to discuss your needs.

**memnet**

For an extra 10% discount off the day fee please quote the code **BIGGA2016**. Valid until end of November 2016.

As well as the three main social media networks of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, there are a smattering of others that are more than worth dabbling in. YouTube is a combination of video hosting and active social networking that makes for great response and reach to videos posted there. Videos featuring exclusive, potential-

ly even funny, shots of the course could accrue great currency.

As well as YouTube, Snapchat is a growing force of engaging content. It's combination of fun and spontaneity make an excellent pairing with greenkeeping daily life.

We believe greenkeepers can claim a role through social media. Through the reach and capacity for expansion that social media provides, you can demonstrate the years of information and intuition that you have developed over the years. The wildly useful skill of optimised social media usage is priceless in this time, and is something that everyone is now aware of.

Whether it's Instagram for exclusive photos of the course or Facebook and Twitter for an insightful commentary, social media is undoubtedly a great way to boost the power of the greenkeeper.

### DIFFERENT PLATFORMS AVAILABLE

With over 500 million daily users, Instagram's photo-oriented app is highly influential and great for creating communities around beautiful images.

Facebook remains the giant of social media with its 1.71 billion global active users. Most people are aware of its size but not everyone knows how great its tools for business advertising are.

LinkedIn is hugely popular with businesses looking to build authority through networking and posting content. It's ability to connect with all kinds of professionals provides a significant audience for greenkeeping content.

Now famous for its 140 character word limit, Twitter remains a powerful social media force with 313 million monthly active users. It's short format is great for pithy insights into the everyday greenkeeping life.



**memnet**



# Offering a helping hand to heathland

A leading national supplier for landscapes and sports, Tillers Turf supply turf to many of the UK and Europe's leading courses

In this feature, golf and technical manager Richard Owens explains why the Nottinghamshire-based company is excited about the two latest editions to its expanding portfolio.

This autumn, at the request of many course managers and head greenkeepers, we are proud to be able to supply our pioneering Tillers Poa/Bent Greens Turf. The turf is managed throughout the whole production process by highly qualified and dedicated greenkeepers, and maintained in a traditional manner conducive with the majority of UK golf courses. Regular verti-cutting, top dressing and a height of cut of 4mm at point of harvest ensure a quick and smooth transition into play. This makes the turf ideal for greens repairs, extensions and rebuilds to ensure a match with greens of similar sward composition, and therefore retaining similar playing characteristics and appearance. This process has been used to great effect

at Woburn, who recently installed Tillers Poa/Bent turf to create a new practice putting green at the halfway house on the internationally acclaimed Marquess Course. Secondly, we are pleased to announce that from October 2016 we will be able to supply high quality Tillers Heather Turf. Heather, also known as Ling, is found predominantly on heathland, moorland, bogs and even in woodland with acidic or peat soils. The species contained in our heather turf is predominantly the delicate pink, July to October-flowering common heather. But it may also contain some bell heather and cross leaf heather. Low numbers of other indigenous heathland species may also be present, such as dwarf gorse and various species of fescue, all helping to make up a diverse heathland carpet. The heather plants grow tightly packed together and can live for up to 40 years or more.

Harvested from October through to March from a sustainable source

A successful Poa and bent turf installation



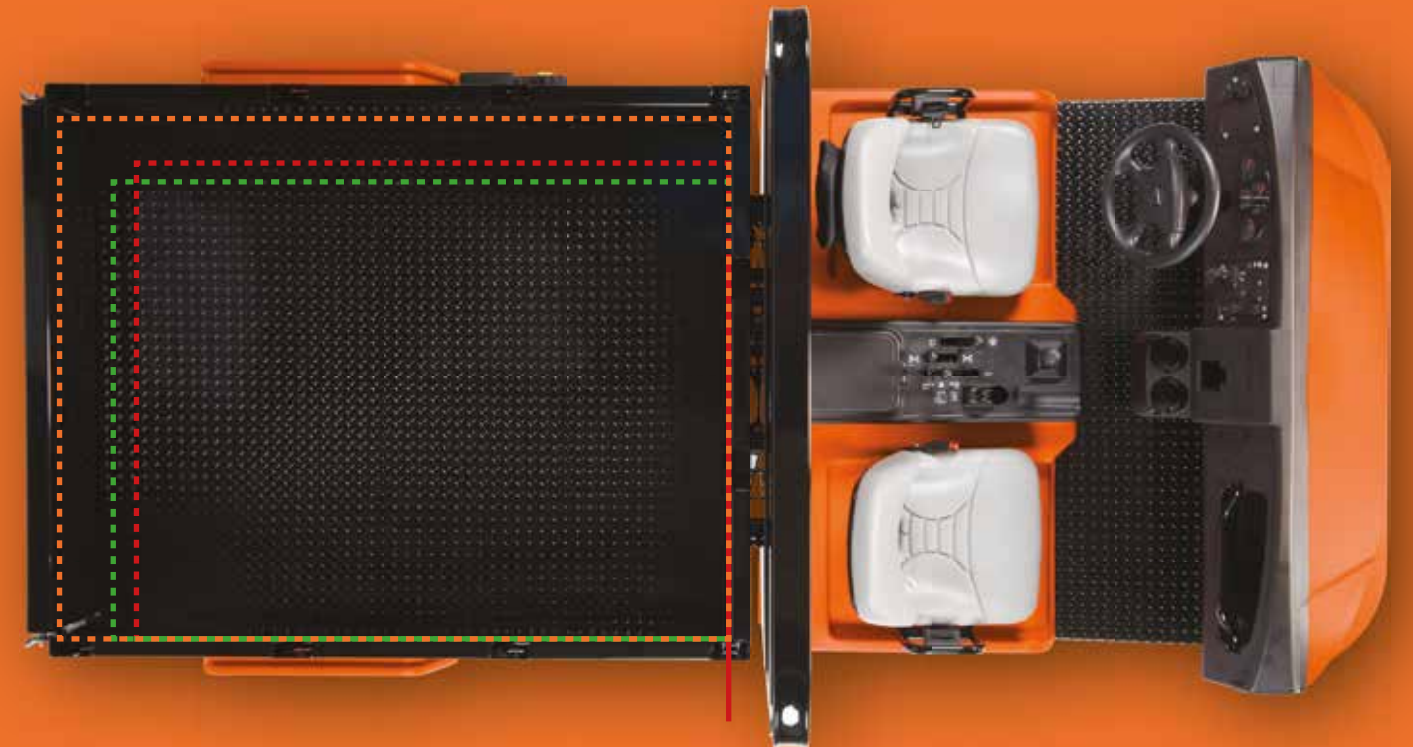
and forming part of an overall heathland conservation and regeneration project, our Heather Turf will be the ideal product for heathland restoration projects as well as bunker banks, tee banks and other landscape projects.

Each pallet of Heather Turf contains 10.08 square metres cut into slabs measuring 0.6 x 0.3 metres, making the product easy to handle and install. The heather turf you receive also benefits from having a seed bank contained within the heathland soil profile the heather grows on. The seed can lay dormant for many years, and germinate when environmental conditions are suitable.

Heathlands also form a very important habitat for many species of wildlife including Adders, Common Lizard, Woodlark and the ground nesting Nightjar.

For more information visit [www.tillersturf.co.uk](http://www.tillersturf.co.uk) or call 01522 704949

# PUTS THE COMPETITION TO BED



## Class-Leading Payload Capacity, Power & Comfort

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



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GI/TrucksterBed/10/2016



# Rewards for better turf health



**Targeted nutrition can help to develop rooting and hardness for winter survival and plant health, advises Henry Bechelet**

**Greenkeepers and turf managers have the chance to get ahead of damaging disease this season, with the new integrated turf management programme from Syngenta and ICL.**

The proactive approach to continuously improve turf quality combines the best turf protection and nutritional products to maintain turf health and playing quality.

Syngenta Business Manager Daniel Lightfoot said: "Together with ICL we have sought to provide a framework of a highly-effective and trials-proven program, from which turf managers can select the best options for a more sustainable strategy. And they will get their just rewards – from both improvements in turf quality

to keep their clubs and players happy, as well as extra Turf Reward points to convert to valuable turf management tools."

Developed by turf technical specialists at Syngenta and ICL, the Ultimate ITM Program utilises the optimum fungicides for specific seasonal challenges, in conjunction with appropriate nutritional inputs to promote healthy turf and deliver an effective integrated turf management (ITM) strategy.

Marcela Munoz, technical manager at Syngenta Turf, highlighted how the Ultimate ITM Program has been designed to work alongside agronomy practices and skills and has a flexibility that can be suited to different course requirements.

**Turf nutrition and fungicide treatments are just part of the overall integrated turf management approach that greenkeepers can employ to minimise the risk of disease and optimize playing surface quality through the winter**



**'If disease breaks out and scars appear, it could mean months of poor playing surface performance before there's growth to repair the damage.'**

"It is impossible and irresponsible to be too regimented and prescriptive by dictating fixed recommendations or timing," she said. "It is essential for greenkeepers and agronomists to use their experience and local knowledge to select the most appropriate option for

their specific course at any given time."

Marcela warned that, with continued mild weather through early autumn, Anthracnose has been reported to have frequently flared up, resulting in patches of turf loss affecting playability and visual appearance of greens.

She said: "Greenkeepers should remain alert to risk periods, particularly when turf is under stress in dry weather or heat. Wide diurnal swings, from warm days to cool nights, can be particularly stressful for turf."

Marcela added that the GreenCast website is a valuable tool to help identify disease risk periods and optimise fungicide application timing to prevent infection and protect playing surface quality.

"While turf is still actively growing through a mild autumn, we suggest using a systemic fungicide, with the Ultimate ITM Program highlighting Banner Maxx as the best option for the timing."

She highlighted that Heritage Maxx provided long-lasting results while turf is growing, thanks to the root uptake and the active recycling of protection after mowing. But if conditions have started to cool and growth is slowing, the fast uptake and movement of Banner Maxx may be more effective to give protective, curative and eradicator activity.

At the same late-summer timing, ICL Technical Sales Manager, Henry Bechelet, advocated the use of SeaMax in the early autumn application.

He said: "Applied at monthly intervals as part of the autumn program, trials at STRI showed marked increases in turf colour and turf quality, without any additional nutrition."

Henry added that with over 75% active seaweed content, including the premium

**Decision support tools can help greenkeepers to identify periods of potential disease risk, to tailor ITM inputs and actions to achieve the best possible results**

**Greenkeepers' experience and local knowledge is crucial to developing a programme that works best for their course, according to Marcela Munoz**



high-density Atlantic ascophyllum nodosum, SeaMax outperformed other seaweed products in the trials. Further into the autumn, Marcela indicated how attention would switch to preventing microdochium patch, known as fusarium.

She said: "Again there is a range of ITM measures that must be utilised wherever possible and when it is acceptable to players. These include keeping surfaces dry and light, surface aeration and adjusting cutting height.

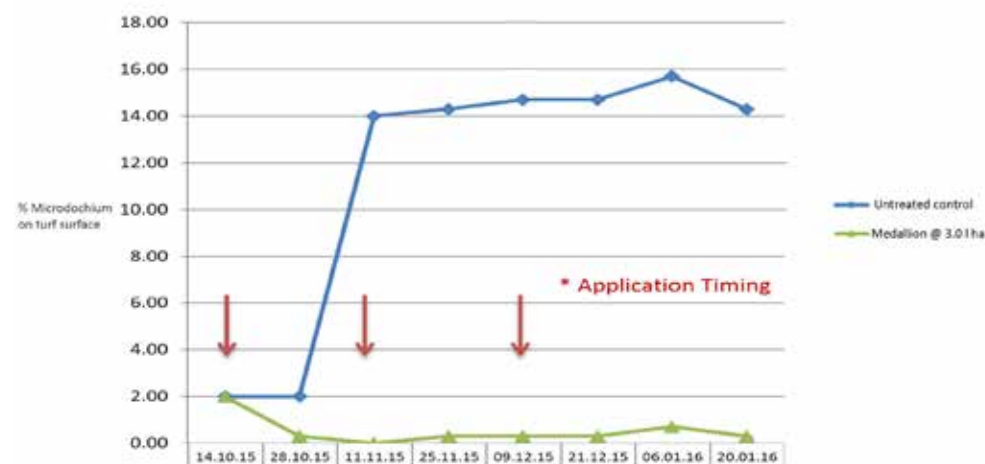
"But alongside that, fungicide protection can be essential going into the winter. If disease breaks out and scars appear,





## STRI WINTER FUNGICIDE TRIALS 2015/16

Medallion TL results on Microdochium Patch



syngenta

it could mean months of poor playing surface performance before there's growth to repair the damage."

The Ultimate ITM Program also indicates the optimum use and timing for the highly reliable and well-proven Instrata. Marcela added: "Greenkeepers only have one application of Instrata per year, and this is often the optimum timing to make best use of the contact and systemic activity to control any disease inside and out of the plant."

Henry added that pre-winter turf can effectively be hardened to minimise the stress effects of cold weather and play with the high potassium K-Step included in the Ultimate ITM Program for September and October. "The nutrition is targeted at root development and stress tolerance," he said.

Into November and December, and the third Ultimate ITM Program nutrition would suggest a switch to Greenmaster Liquid Effect, added Henry. "This would harden turf with quick green-up effects lasting up to six weeks, without resulting in excessive growth and increasing disease susceptibility.

Furthermore, with the liquid formulation there's no surface blackening from wheels or footmarks."

"When soil conditions cool and turf growth slows or stops, fungicide strategy moves to contact+ activity," said Marcela. "Medallion TL trials by the STRI in the UK and across northern Europe, have shown exceptional results for long-lasting disease prevention.

"Its ability to knock-down spores on the leaf and in the thatch is extremely effective in reducing infection during periods of risk or very early signs of infection."

Medallion TL and Greenmaster Liquid Effect can be tank-mixed to further enhance turf health and disease prevention through the winter.

"Using the Ultimate ITM Program, alongside all traditional turf management techniques, gives the best chance to keep your turf clean and green right through the winter," she said. "That means you can start the spring in great condition, and without the cost and effort of intrusive renovations." ■

Proactive fungicide treatment ahead of disease risk pressure has proven extremely effective in maintaining turf health and quality right through the winter

## Proven winter performance

STRI trials at Bingley in Yorkshire over the winter 2015/16 clearly demonstrated the high level of effectiveness of well-timed fungicide treatments to control Microdochium Patch (Fusarium).

First applied in mid-October, just a few days ahead of infection causing visible damage to the turf (spots covering >2% of the surface), Medallion TL treated plots had zero infection a month later. Over the same period, infection on untreated plots had escalated to 14% of the surface area – which would have been having serious effects on playability and players' comments of turf quality.

With a three spray programme, at 28 day intervals, Medallion TL plots still had zero infection at the end of January – over 50 days since the third and final application. Untreated plots had reached 16% infection over the course of the winter.

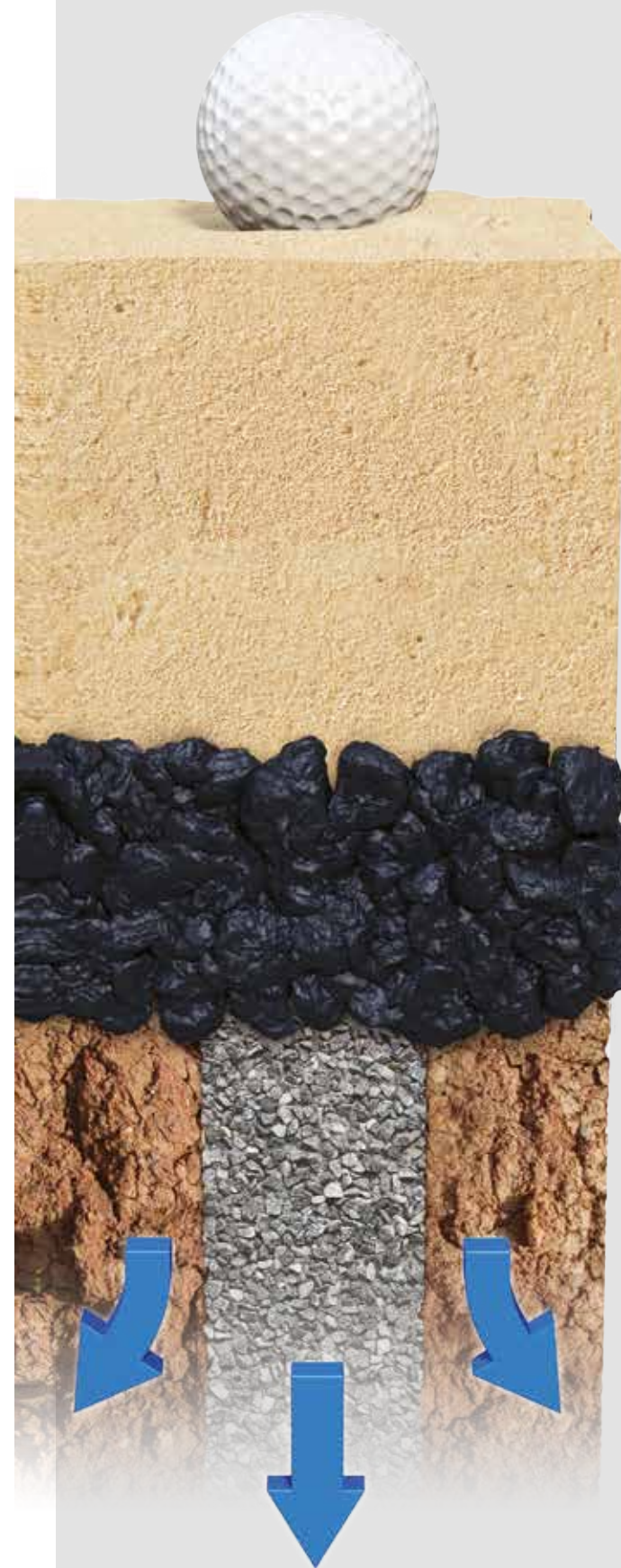
"With the turf protected the initial infection cleared up, and then stayed clean right through the winter," commented Marcela Munoz.

"It further reinforced the advice to use fungicides preventatively at the very first signs of disease, and to maintain protection through risk periods over the winter," she said. "The early start is crucial to help greenkeepers to prevent damage that could affect playing quality right through to the spring."

Each stage of the Ultimate ITM Program carries extra bonus Turf Reward points, which are available whether turf managers buy one, two or all three components of the Program. For more information visit [www.turfrewads.com](http://www.turfrewads.com)



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# Toro Greenkeeper of the Year Awards

## TORO GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

48 entries  
8 days of interviews  
11 finalists  
2 winners

### THE JUDGING PANEL

David Cole, managing director,  
Reesink Turfcare

Bruce Jameson representing Toro

Chris Sealey, Course Manager at  
Chippenham

Sami Strutt, head of member  
development at BIGGA

Les Howkins, BIGGA chairman and  
Course Manager at The Richmond

### YOUNG AWARD JUDGING PANEL

Les Howkins

Stuart Green,  
BIGGA head of member learning

Here at BIGGA, we consider the Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards to be among the highlights of our year.

The awards give us the opportunity to celebrate those talented young greenkeepers who are making a career within this great industry.

This year saw the 28th edition of the student greenkeeper awards, but for the first time we introduced a new category aimed at recognising the best greenkeepers aged 20 or under.

Sponsored once again by machinery manufacturer Toro and distributor Reesink Turfcare, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award was won by Jimmy Heritage, 24, of Maylands in Romford, Essex.

Ashbourne Golf Club's Dan Waring, 20, was the winner of the inaugural Toro Young Greenkeeper of the Year award.

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton said: "Every year the standard keeps getting better and

better and I don't envy the judges, who had to choose between our fantastic finalists. I am so excited by the amount of talent on show in both awards as it gives me great confidence that the future of golf is in good hands. I am grateful to our friends at Toro and Reesink for once again supporting these awards."

The runner-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper award was David Perdisatt of Naas in Ireland, while Vincent DeMarzo of Wildernes was the runner-up in the Young category.

As part of his prize, Jimmy wins a seven-week scholarship at the University of Massachusetts in the USA, as well as a trip to the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show in Orlando and a trip to Toro's headquarters in Minneapolis.

Meanwhile, Dan won an all-expenses paid trip to BTME in Harrogate, as well as a two-week work placement at the prestigious Vidauban Golf Club in France, a trip which will coincide with his 21st birthday.

## JIMMY HERITAGE

When his parents divorced, a game of pitch and putt at the weekend was when Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Jimmy Heritage, 24, would get the opportunity to spend time with his dad.

Jimmy, a greenkeeper at Maylands near Romford in Essex, decided to pursue golf as a career, and this month became the 28th recipient of the prestigious student greenkeeper of the year award.

A student at Writtle College, Jimmy said: "It's been three years of hard work. Greenkeeping is the sort of thing where it's every day and you can't really get away from it. That's the problem, or blessing perhaps. I get that bug when I step away from it, but I can't walk past someone's garden without looking at their turf."

Jimmy has been at Maylands for three years, working under course manager Paul Farrow. He is a member of the new generation of greenkeepers who understand the importance of education. He did well at school and achieved his A Levels before deciding to pursue a career in greenkeeping.

"Everyone can be taught to just sit on a mower and do the job," said Jimmy. "But the education teaches you about the soil science and the biology. That's not something you are going to get if you just fall

into greenkeeping because you can't get any other job.

"I enjoy the breadth of knowledge, the spectrum of information that's available. I like to be stimulated and I like to have stuff going on in my head all the time. I really enjoy understanding what's going on below the surface and it is the biology and science that really get me interested."

Having achieved the student greenkeeper award, Jimmy will spend seven weeks at the University of Massachusetts on the institute's turf management course. He will get the opportunity to gain a whole raft of new skills and expertise, but Jimmy said his ambition is not to join the team at one of the UK's most prestigious venues. Rather, he would like to make his name improving the country's struggling courses.

He said: "Personally it's not my ambition to work at a major championship course. I like the idea of going to a really worn out golf course and turning them round. Places that need a little bit of tender loving care.

"There's enough people that want to do tournaments that they don't need any more competition from me."

In the near future, he also intends to enroll on the recently-launched Diploma in Golf Club Management, which will allow him take the step towards running his own club.

He played his way on to the Derbyshire county team aged 16, but developed his passion for greenkeeping when volunteering around the club where he grew up.

Now, as the first ever winner of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, the Reaseheath College student has set his sights on working at the country's biggest courses and competitions.

"I just couldn't see myself being indoors," said Dan. "I love the sport and understanding the game and the rules allows me to know what golfers are after when I'm greenkeeping."

"My dad is academic but he didn't try at school so he didn't get to where he wanted to be. He said to me 'work for it. If you want it, you go and do it.' That's what started my ball rolling."

Dan's first taste of big tournaments will come this month, as he is one of a number of BIGGA members who are heading to The Grove for the British Masters.



"I think more greenkeepers want to get into club management," he said. "Traditionally it has been club pro's who take up that role, but I don't think they have enough understanding of the budgets and what it takes to run a golf course, whereas a greenkeeper does."

"Right now I can't think of anything worse than sitting in an office all day. But every winter you get reminded that you are getting older and winters are getting harder and maybe you wouldn't want to be suffering when you are 40 years old. There will come a day when my body won't thank me for doing this any more."

"My boss used to work at Hoylake," said Dan. "He loves tournament set up and he misses that because we don't have that at our course. The biggest we do is a charity day. He treats it like a tournament but he misses the buzz of 80 or 90 lads setting up a course for a championship. It's something I want to experience to see if it's for me."

As part of his prize for winning the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper Award, Dan will get to sample a course of a different kind at the prestigious Vidauban Golf Club in the south of France.

The success does not come without sacrifice – the trip to France coincides with his 21st birthday. However, Dan said his mum wasn't too upset when she heard he had won: "She didn't say much to be fair. She was shocked and couldn't believe I did it."

"It's special to go down in history. Thanks to all the lads at Ashbourne, all the staff at the college, and all my family. All the lads that I work with have supported me and wished me luck."

## DAN WARING

Dan Waring, 20, has been going to Ashbourne Golf Club ever since he could walk.





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Stuart Green and David Cole,  
managing director of Reesink Turfcare

## STEVE THORNE

Rushmore's Steve Thorne won the  
Toro Student Greenkeeper of the  
Year award in 2015.

He told GI about his experience  
on the turf management course at  
the University of Massachusetts  
and spoke about how his life has  
changed since winning the award.



**How has your year been since you  
won the student greenkeeper award?**

It has been amazing. Where I work, at  
Rushmore, is quite a positive place. We are  
growing the membership and getting in-  
vestment in machinery. It's a very positive  
place to be and I enjoy it. The team I work  
with are great.

**Like most greenkeepers, you en-  
joy the job because it allows you to  
spend time out in nature. How did  
you find it, going back to school?**

For the first week it was challenging to  
retain all the information we were being  
given. It would be 30 hours full-on in the  
classroom for seven weeks.

You are constantly being tested and chal-  
lenged but it was amazing. For example,  
when we were looking at soil samples, they  
tested us two or three times a week, so you  
had no choice but to work hard.

Then put on top of that, it was the middle  
of winter and the lowest temperature we  
experienced was minus 24 degrees.

**How did you readjust to life back  
home when the course finished?**

Coming back to work was quite difficult re-  
ally. You have been away from everything  
that's familiar and you have experienced so

many different, fantastic things.

Over there you are so focused. You haven't  
got work or your family as a distraction so  
you are able to concentrate on the work-  
load.

It's great to see your wife and family and  
get back into the routines of everyday life,  
but it's an incredible thing to do and it's an  
eye opener to see that there's a whole other  
world out there.

I found that when I was in that environ-  
ment on a day-to-day basis it was hard to  
soak it all in. But now it's easier to recall  
the information that I learned, and I find  
myself referring back to my notes from the  
course on a regular basis.

**What message would you give to  
Jimmy after his award win?**

Try and soak up as much as you can. Eight  
weeks in America sounds like a long time,  
but boy does it go quickly. You are back  
before you know it and your year is over  
before you know it."





# Get into the Grove

## Kubota fleet arrives at British Masters venue

Few golf courses can claim to have hosted two of the world's most powerful men. But in April, The Grove in Hertfordshire did just that when Barack Obama joined then Prime Minister David Cameron on course during the President's UK visit.

The two men played 18-holes, accompanied by a considerable entourage, and put politics aside to enjoy the surroundings at one of the UK's most prestigious courses.

Built in 2001, the construction of the Kyle Phillips-designed course was from the outset overseen by Course Manager Phil Chiverton.

The club's reputation as a leading UK venue was solidified in 2006 with its hosting of the WGC-American Express Championship, which Tiger Woods won, and it will further stamp its authority this October when it plays host to the British Masters supported by Sky Sports.

With such a high-profile roster of guests, the task of on-going maintenance is no mean feat. Yet it's one Phil is well-equipped to lead, having previously spent a decade at The Buckinghamshire and before that two years at Wentworth.

Thirty-two years in the trade have given Phil the grounding needed to tackle what is now a wide remit, which also includes maintenance of a football pitch, bowls green, croquet lawn and a walled garden – a task for which he is supported by a team of 14 full time staff.

"The Grove is a fantastic place to work, and the mix of duties makes it both enjoyable and challenging," said Phil. "In support of our 14 permanent staff are five seasonal staff, and we expect to welcome around 40 volunteers for the forthcoming British Masters this autumn.

"The greenkeeping staff are just one part of our wider team, which also includes a service and maintenance division, headed up by Head Mechanic Neil Corley. Neil and the rest of the team take an active role in the decision making, and that includes the purchase of a wide range of kit and machinery needed to maintain our span of facilities."

Building upon established relationships is central to Phil's operation. Where equipment is concerned, this has resulted in partnerships with brands and dealer networks that have lasted decades.

One of these long-standing part-

nerships is with Kubota, who Phil has been associated with for over 25 years, having used its range of compact and mid-range tractors, utility vehicles and mini-excavators throughout his career.

Most recently, the club welcomed the arrival of three new machines: a L5740, a M9960 and an RTV-X900. This adds to an existing fleet of Kubota machinery, which includes three RTV-X900s, an M8540, two compact STV40s and a U Series mini-excavator.

All of this equipment has been supplied by dealer George Browns.

"I've always bought Kubota tractors," said Phil. "They're extremely reliable, well built, simple to use and have excellent residual value.

"The nature of our mixed workload, which includes a lot of pallet work, top dressing, hollow coring, composting and grab work, means we need kit that is powerful but compact. Our front loader sees a lot of action, so we need tractors that have a good lift capacity but are also workhorses. I've always found Kubota gives us that match."

Prior to trialling the latest models, which the club has now purchased,

Phil and the team tested other rival manufacturers, but was adamant his loyalties lay with Kubota.

He added: "It's good practice to go to market and test other options, but we found that on a number of factors Kubota won outright. The input from our head mechanic is key to these decisions, as ease of maintenance and reliability must be factored in. We've always found Kubota's range to be easy to manage and, importantly, they rarely break down."

Phil's commitment to building on existing partnerships is evident not only via his relationships with Kubota and George Browns, but also the relationships he and the club have with the likes of Toro and Club Car.

"We've used both brands for as long as I've been here and we have no inclination to switch," Phil added. "My belief is that if it isn't broke, don't fix it."

Away from the golf, Phil's skill set has widened since he joined The Grove, with the demands of maintaining a football pitch, bowls green

Kubota machinery on course at The Grove



and croquet green. While not used all year-round, the football pitch has in the past played host to the England squad and, more recently, American Football clubs from the NFL, which have used The Grove as a base when in the UK for fixtures at Wembley Stadium.

As a result of the increased demands, the pitch has undergone a recent investment, upgrading from a natural construction to an Eclipse Sports Turf pitch - a stabilised system that combines natural and synthetic elements.

Phil said: "The industry has changed drastically from a scientific perspective and the sophis-

tication of modern turf machinery. I've been a greenkeeper my whole working life, but preparing turf for football is a very different challenge. This is in regard to the conditions needed for optimum play, as well as mowing and maintenance practices. These wider requirements on us have led to the whole team improving its skills set.

"We strive for the highest possible standards, which includes our commitment to invest in continued staff development and training through to using the best turf machinery on the market. We feel we have the right balance, supported by our dealer partners who understand our needs."



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The Grove Course  
Manager Phil Chiverton



# 'Hey petal'

Greenkeeping Geordies embrace their flower-loving side



James Hutchinson  
BIGGA

**BIGGA Sustainability Executive James Hutchinson travelled to England's north east coast to meet a team who are making a positive impact on the environmental stewardship of their course.**

If it's flora you're after, then spare a few minutes of your time to read the following words. I can safely say that, during my time visiting courses, I have never seen as much orchid activity in one place as I did at Whitley Bay. Some were pure breeds, some were hybrids, and some were just down right spectacular. Most of them, I still have no idea of their parentage.

It was understood by many wildflower and orchid groups that the spring and summer of 2016 has been among the best for growing many types of flora – this is related to the warm and wet start to the year. I have visited about 100 golf courses this year, but never have I seen so many stunning orchids in one place. Common spotted, heath spotted and northern marsh

The team at Whitley Bay

Orchids in the rough



orchids are growing in abundance at Whitley Bay, along with many types of hybrids – which are extremely difficult to positively identify – budding contently alongside one another.

It has to be said at this point that orchids require a mycorrhizal relationship with a fungus at some time in their development. If the golf course was mismanaged and chemicals were over applied then these beautiful flowers would simply not grow as the correct balance of life would not be present. Another reason why there are so many is the fact Course Manager Simon Olver and the team are un-

dertaking a great amount of rough grassland management. The guys are using the cut and remove method of systematically thinning out their grasslands, resulting in finer grasses and sites for native wildflowers to grow.

Included in all the orchid diversity came a solitary white flowered type. Stunning to see, it stood out against the backdrop of green grass.

Still on the subject of flora, the team at Whitley have been proactive in their approach to wildflower management, with many new meadows popping up across the site. Simon mentioned their first attempt in 2015 was not as successful as they would have liked – the reason is the polar opposite of why there are so many orchids and other wildflowers onsite this year. I heard numerous reports that last year newly-created wildflower areas were just not growing well and the reason was a cold and dry start in many areas, which is not conducive to growing flora. As



a result, most wildflower meadows failed – but not this year. There are now a great collection of colours showing, made up of cornflower, corn marigold, viper's bugloss and ragged robin, to name but a few. The highlight of the team's hard graft is the small and extremely elusive wildflower called corncockle, which is growing on the course well. It was at the turn of the last century that it was thought corncockle was extinct here in the UK, until 2014 when an eagle eyed National Trust employee found one just down the road in Sunderland. Modern farming methods are to blame for its demise, but it is golf courses such as Whitley Bay which are leading the way in land management and are to be admired. One thing to note is, if you find a corncockle on your golf course then don't touch it or eat it as they are quite poisonous to us humans.

During my visit to Whitley, I noticed a small community of yellow rattle showing in an area of rank grasslands. This native wildflower is classed as semi-parasitic and as such will attach itself to other grasses or wildflowers in its vicinity. If yellow rattle is chosen to holistically thin out an area of rough grassland on your course, and I hope you do, then be aware that a mono-culture could form over time. Mono-cultures are never good in an environment such as ours, so be aware of the pros and cons to sowing yellow rattle on your courses. There are other semi-parasitic plants which will do a similar job much more discreetly and these are eyebright and members of the bartsia family.

To run smoothly alongside all these wildflowers are a collection of honey bee hives which the team have installed. These have been up and running since March and are already showing great results – we await patiently for our jar of Whitley Bay honey at BIGGA HQ.

There are numerous wetlands onsite with the recent additions of low lying wet holes for amphibians to breed in. Any golf course could have a wet hole and to create one, simply dig down to below the wa-

**'If the golf course was mismanaged and chemicals were over applied then these beautiful flowers would simply not grow as the correct balance of life would not be present'**

ter table, allow it to fill naturally and then wait until something turns up. It's simple, but you do have to be aware of any underground pipes or wires.

Along with the wet holes, the Whitley Bay team is in the process of developing a small lake for diversity, ecology and aesthetic reasons. The margins are to be planted-up with native types such as marsh marigold, purple loosestrife, yellow flag iris, water forget-me-not, cotton grass, soft rush, hard rush, spearwort, water mint and flowering rush. For water cleansing reasons, common reed is to be used in the holding parts. This will clean away any pollutants via phytoremediation, which is a holistic method of removing any baddies from the aqua.

These wetlands should attract the egret, which frequents the adjacent farmer's field, and other feathers such as reed bunting or reed warbler to the course.

In terms of birdlife, Whitley Bay could be described as diverse, with linnet, skylark, whitethroat, meadow pipit and willow warbler being the more interesting visitors to the small but significant shrubs. The larger bird types are also numerous with buzzards making regular appearances.

Buzzards are the UK's most common bird of prey, despite coming close to extinction at the turn of the 19th Century due through per-





Whitethroat at Whitley Bay

secution. The 1950s saw another dramatic decline as myxomatosis swept through the UK, but this bird's ingenuity allowed it to adapt and hunt other prey. This included, believe it or not, the common earthworm.

To protect and enhance the birds onsite, the team have made a collection of nest boxes and two owl boxes, which were erected earlier this season. There are no signs of

owls as yet, but the other boxes are proving to be a success with many already in use.

The Whitley Bay team has funded projects from The Wildlife Trust and the local Beekeeping Agency.

One of Whitley's members has taken a keen interest in the wildlife onsite and caught a smashing snap of a family of roe deer. There are many trees on the course,

Fox cub



making this an ideal location to raise a family. Speaking of young fauna, there's also a family of foxes, which can be seen by the early golfers and greenkeepers – these should keep the rabbit population in check.

To go with the woodlands, the team have planted a few thousand tiny gorse saplings to further enhance the biodiversity and playability of the course. There are already gorse shrubs growing so there's no reason why these new plantings won't take a foothold within the next few years. There's one or two RSPB Red List bird species at Whitley Bay, such as the linnet I mentioned earlier. Linnets are known to nest in gorse and so the addition of this spinney plant will go some way to raising the



Deers at Whitley Bay

A recycled bench



status of this beautiful bird to Amber and then a subsequent Green again – great work guys.

Recycling also features highly on their 'to do' list, with rest areas being created from old wood and pallets. This is better than burning and the wood dwelling critters will gain a valuable source of food and shelter over the winter.

Simon and the team recently took up BIGGA's offer of assistance regarding wildlife and ecology and commissioned the development of an environmental plan for their course. This is offered to all BIGGA members, so please contact me at james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk for further advice on any eco-issues you may have.

majority of the course's environmental work has been carried out over the past two years, and that a new green complex was built in the same period, Whitley Bay's greenkeepers have performed nothing short of a phenomenon. I realise this is a strong word to use, but it is correct nonetheless. The team made it all the way to the final four in last year's Golf Environment Awards run by the STRI and are now working alongside numerous outside bodies to promote and enhance their environmental credentials. When you process the sheer amount of hard work and research which has gone into this beautiful golf course, you can see why they are placed in the top four in the UK. If the team carry on in the same vein as they have been doing then the number one spot must surely loom on the horizon.



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# Design with maintenance in mind

By Rhydian Lewis, Durabunker director

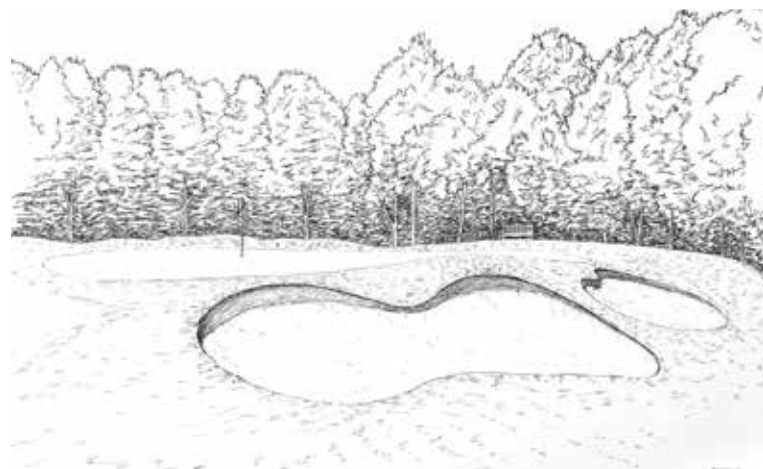
**North Manchester Golf Club, located at the heart of the north of England, is a typical rolling parkland course which has been entertaining the golfing fraternity ever since 1925.**

As with all courses, it has its own set of greenkeeping challenges, but an innovative bunker project carried out in November 2015 has transformed their signature 18th hole and set a blueprint for a wider reaching bunker renovation project.

Course Manager Alex Lowes recounted his collaboration with the company behind the project, Durabunker Ltd, and the patented synthetic bunker edge product that

has established itself as a world-wide product, having reached countries as far afield as Australia.

Alex said: "Like many members clubs we have a limited budget, yet the demands of the membership are such that higher and higher standards of presentation are expected. Our bunkers presented a big challenge and we could either spend countless hours edging, strimming, re-instating after washout and picking out stones, or we could let them deteriorate into a condition that would be entirely unacceptable to the membership. The old bunkers we had on our signature par 3 18th hole had been edged to death. Both right side bunkers were starting to encroach on the green and had lost their



A sketch outlining the new bunker design



North Manchester Golf Club

shape entirely. The left green-side bunker was also in a state of disrepair. Areas surrounding the bunker edge had begun to slump and it was getting more and more difficult to get the mower around them."

Alex explained how the club decided to look at what products were on the market, and how they would suit the specific problems the team faced.

He added: "I didn't really have a clear idea of what I wanted to do on our 18th hole. I knew the bunkers needed renovating and re-modelling but was unsure as to what look and style we should go for. It was around that time in Autumn 2015

**'Member feedback has been really positive, which is refreshing and the bunkers are as good now as they were the day they were installed'**



that we contacted Durabunker, and discussed our plans."

Rhydian Lewis visited the site and shared his ideas for the hole. "I loved the idea he presented of rising sand faces meeting a rolling shallow edge revetment and other simple ideas such as creating a wider area between the two right side bunkers to enable us to comfortably run the mower through," said Alex. "We felt entirely comfortable with the proposals put forward and went ahead in November 2015 with the initial project."

Once the scope of work was agreed, Rhydian sent along a small team for a week and was personally on site the whole time, overseeing the shaping work and ensuring the installation went as smoothly as possible.

Alex said the synthetic edge of the product looks incredibly natural and the liner and construction, coupled with the synthetic edge, have prevented washout despite large amounts of rainfall. He added: "The process was fairly straightforward but we would not have felt comfortable taking this type of project on ourselves. So to work in collaboration with Durabunker was perfect for us on this initial



Bunker before



Bunker after

**DURAbunker** Bunker Face and Edge Solutions

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**"We felt Durabunker was a perfect fit here. The bunker faces look fantastic"**

Kirk Richmond, Director of Golf Course Maintenance  
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# Saltex '16

Year's final turf-related show sees industry descend upon Birmingham

**What?**  
Sports, Amenities,  
Landscaping Trade  
Exhibition

**Where?**  
NEC Birmingham

**When?**  
2-3 November

With three halls containing many of the major players from across the industry, SALTEX 2016 will see a large range of exhibitors descend upon the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

Visitors to the two-day event can expect to see new products and services being unveiled, as well as guest appearances on the exhibitor stands.



This year's Saltex will feature a number of education opportunities via Learning Live, a free-to-attend education programme designed for all sectors of the industry. Last year saw 1,655 minutes of seminars and this year's incarnation will be expanded further.

Speaking at the event will be Steve Chappell, head greenkeeper of the PGA Centenary Course at Gleanagles, who will discuss thatch management in preparation for major golf tournaments. The BIGGA member will be presenting the work that was undertaken – both mechanically and biologically – to reduce a 5-inch thatch layer on 12 hectares of fairway in preparation for the 2014 Ryder Cup.

In a separate seminar, Steve will also explain how volunteering helped him from starting as a trainee to becoming a Ryder Cup

superintendent.

Elsewhere within the programme, David Snowden from Agronomic Services will be revealing how to maximise root strength and development in new and established rootzones. Expert representatives from the supply industry will also be focusing on turf and grass seed technology and in particular how developments in cultivars are helping to improve golf courses.

Based upon feedback surveys from last year's SALTEX, outdoor working demonstrations are returning. These will take place on a grass area outside halls 6, 7 and 8 and will provide visitors with the opportunity to see a number of products in action, which could improve the overall quality of golf courses.

Represented at SALTEX will be exhibitors from sectors such as turf maintenance equipment, fencing and landscaping, sports surface design, research and consultancy, seeds, turf, treatments and facilities services management.

Visitors to the Institute of Groundsmanship Hub will receive a unique opportunity to gather one-to-one



Learning Live

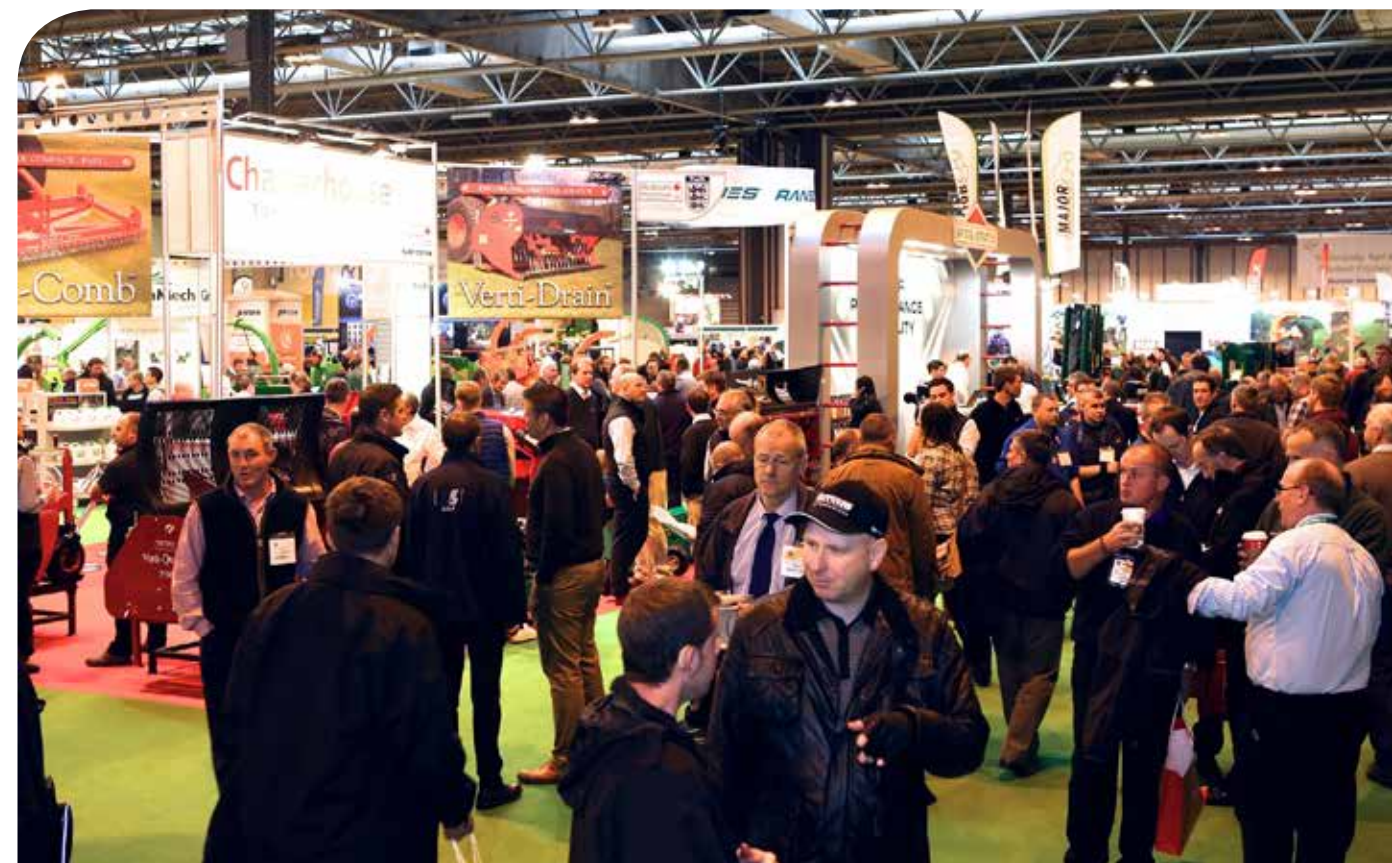
Over 8,000 exhibitors

turf management advice from IOG regional advisors whose aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs.

SALTEX 2016 introduces a feature called Pathology and Soil Science Live, which will be located in the IOG Hub and hosted by renowned turf consultant Alex Vickers and Kate Entwistle, MD of the Turf Disease Centre. Alex and Kate will use a microscope to demonstrate what can be seen from a fungal disease and nematode analysis of pre-prepared samples.

Coinciding with SALTEX will be the IOG's annual industry awards dinner. Held on the evening of 2 November at the National Motorcycle Museum nearby, the event will be hosted by talkSPORT Radio's Mark Sagers. The presentation ceremony will see 20 awards up for grabs and will be followed by entertainment from stand-up comedian Simon Brodtkin, also known as Lee Nelson.

The full programme of SALTEX events will be updated via [www.iogsaltex.com](http://www.iogsaltex.com), where free visitor registration can also be made.





# Sampling southern Sweden's fairways



with Peter Driver, formerly public relations manager at Ransomes Jacobsen

**Landeryds Golfklubb is one of Sweden's top golf courses and is situated in Linköping, a city in the south of the country.**

**The club has signed an agreement with Jacobsen distributor, Gräsvårdsmaskiner AB, which has resulted in one of the biggest course machinery fleet upgrades in Sweden, valued in excess of €1.2 million.**

**Peter Driver visited the club as the first machines were delivered to take a look at the challenges of managing a course in Scandinavia.**

Arriving at the club, I was warmly greeted by Courses Manager Daniel Pantzar, his brother Kristoffer and Björn Sturehed, the club's general manager for the past six years.

During the high season, the team at the club expands from 25 to 70 and Björn said: "We have two 18-hole courses, the Norra – North – which opened in 1989 and Södra – South – which followed in 1991. Our 9-hole course was completed in 1994, giving us 45 holes on this one site.

Golfers at Landeryds Golfklubb

"But that's not the complete picture as we purchased Vesterby Golfklubb, which was built in 2005 and is about 20 kilometres south of here, when it got into financial difficulties some eight years ago.

"The result is that we now provide our 3,600 club members with a choice of 63 holes of golf."

The purchase of the second club was the first time this had occurred in Sweden.

Another site operated by Landeryds is an undercover winter golfing facility with driving nets, chipping and putting greens and a coaching area, located in the centre of Linköping.

Björn said: "So as you can see, we are a progressive club, providing a wide range of golfing and recreational facilities for our members."

Courses Manager Daniel began his career at Landeryds working in the kitchen as a junior chef. He joined the greenkeeping team in 2000 and gradually took on more responsibility, continuing his education through the Swedish Greenkeepers' Association. In 2006 he was promoted to the role of courses manager.

"I have a team of 10 full time staff on the greenkeeping team, which includes two dedicated mechanics," said Daniel. "I'm responsible for the management of the golf-



ing surfaces here and at Vesterby, supported by my brother Kristoffer, who is the head greenkeeper for the Norra and Södra courses and began working here in 2004, and also Peter Isacksson, the head greenkeeper at Vesterby.

"The golfing experience is undoubtedly different at each course as the layout, features and challenges vary significantly."

The Norra course was the first to be constructed, in 1989, originally with push up greens. These were rebuilt to USGA specification in 2004 and seeded with creeping bent. There are 43 bunkers on the 6,095-metre championship course, which has hosted the Nordea Masters PGA Championship. It is an interesting combination of heath, parkland and forest, which winds along the Kinda Canal.

The Södra opened in 1991, has push up greens and is mainly Poa. It has 33 bunkers, with 17 rebuilt on the back nine last winter. A green was relocated and an artificial stream built using water pumped from one of the holding lakes. At 5,085 metres with a par of 70, it lies in meadowland and attracts golfers who appreciate precision, good quality and fun rounds of around four hours.

Vesterby is the youngest course and has a links feel as it features fescue on the USGA greens. It was designed by Johan Benestams and

was intended to provide an experience that rewards the risk-takers. The course measures 5,576 metres from the yellow tees with a par of 72 and has relatively large fairways. However, the greens are demanding, as they are undulated, elevated and quite fast. There is less bunker maintenance here as there are only 29 to look after.

That means the team is responsible for a total of 79 bunkers, 338 hectares of grass – of which 100 hectares are managed – 30 hectares of fairway and 4.5 hectares of greens. However, the club has no water restrictions as the club is able to call upon its own reservoirs.

We met Kent Messleth, GVM's sales manager for the Linköping and Jönköping area. He had arrived with a trailer containing eight Jacobsen Eclipse2 walking mowers, the first delivery of the new fleet of equipment. Four of the new mowers with 15-blade cutting reels were for greens mowing – two with lithium-ion battery packs and two hybrid versions with a Honda petrol engine powering a 48 volt generator. The remaining four were hybrid versions with 11-blade reels and would be used on tees.

The new fleet also included a number of Cushman Hauler electric utility vehicles. "We selected the Hauler PRO utility vehicles because they fit in with our environmental policy. Electric technology has improved greatly and we



Kristoffer and Daniel Pantzar

are now getting the productivity that you would expect with a petrol-powered vehicle," said Daniel. "The AC drive system provides regenerative braking, recharging the batteries whenever the vehicle's brakes are applied, and speed control to maintain constant speeds on steep slopes. They're economic, silent and the semi-automatic battery fill system makes for easy maintenance."

After I left, and during the three and half hour journey across southern Sweden, I had ample time to review the day's events and my time spent with some very pleasant and hospitable people. There's no doubt that the club is obviously very well managed, has a strong vision of where they want to be in the future and are a long way down the road in their quest to become one of the best in Sweden.

The fleet of Jacobsen Eclipse arrives





# How to protect turf following pesticide ban



with Dr Colin Mumford,  
Bayer Turf Solutions

**In April 2015 the amenity sector heard about the loss of the active ingredient imidacloprid, which is a feature of the key pesticide Merit Turf.**

This means any existing stocks of Merit Turf must be used up before 31 October 2016, after the withdrawal from sale and distribution last year.

Dr Colin Mumford, from the Bayer Turf Solutions Team, recommends using up any remaining Merit Turf by 31 October. After this date it must be disposed of correctly by a registered contractor as it will be classed as illegal hazardous waste.

These changes mean there will be no chemical solutions available for the control of chafer grubs or leatherjackets in the UK grassland and amenity sectors.

Colin said: "There are a number of alternative control methods, many of which have been used for decades by greenkeepers across the country. However with no chemical control available due to the EU restrictions on neonicotinoids, I would suggest reviewing practises

to keep on top of the problem."

**What are these alternative methods of control?**

## Cultural control

The removal of the organic matter, more commonly known as thatch, lying in the upper root zone, takes away a key food source for chafer grubs and leatherjackets. Ensuring nutrition and water levels are not in excess minimises surplus growth and therefore reduces thatch build up.

If thatch is already present, then scarifying the area will physically rake out any thatch lying on the surface. Also applying a top dressing can dilute thatch build-up due to the mineral component. Finally, hollow tining, a process that involves removing small plugs of the turf, can be used to help take away some of the thatch.

Limiting water applications is always recommended, and even more so in the period when chafer grub and leather jacket eggs have recently been laid, between May to June and August to September. Colin said: "If the eggs do not receive any water they can desiccate



Adult Cockchafer

and become unviable, therefore limiting the size of the hatching population. This can only happen in dry weather and when irrigation can be stopped for a number of weeks in a single period.

"An old saying was that if you have a wet September, you know you'll have leatherjacket problems the following year. This is an old wives' tale perhaps, but it really highlights the importance of monitoring environmental factors and understanding the pest."

## Biological

Understanding the pest is key to integrated pest management. The natural predators of chafer grubs and leatherjackets are nematodes and so these will be an essential control in any greenkeepers tool-box for the foreseeable future.

Heterorhabditis bacteriophora is the species used to control chafer grubs and Steinernema feltiae for leatherjackets. These can be used at the same time without disrupting each other as they only effect the target organism. This method has proven effective for a number of years, if applied at the correct time in the correct temperatures.



## Top tips for nematode use

**Storage** – ensure adequate refrigerated storage is available in order to keep nematodes dormant before application

**Water** – a large volume of water is required to mix with the nematodes before spraying. This will help them travel into the soil, but must be the correct temperature

Further irrigation is then required to 'water in' the nematodes, so they reach the target hosts

In the absence of an irrigation system, use a greater ratio of water to nematodes during application

**Soil temperature** – nematodes are most active in the soil when its temperature is above 12°C. Ensure the soil is warm enough or the nematodes will remain dormant

**Timing** – applications should be made after the eggs have hatched

Turf managers and greenkeepers should bear in mind that nematodes are a curative rather than a preventative measure as they cannot survive without their target species as a host.

Colin added: "Pheromone traps are an excellent way of monitoring whether chafer grubs or leatherjackets are present in the area. This will then allow for a targeted nematode application."



Chafers under surface

Chafer and bird damage



## Secondary pest control

"We term chafer grubs and leather jackets as primary pests," said Colin. "But the visible, more devastating damage is done by secondary pests. These tend to be badgers, foxes or birds."

"The primary pests feed on and damage the grass roots, but if the grass is watered there will be no visible sign of this until secondary pests lift the weakened turf to access and feed on the grubs."

In order to control foxes, fencing can be installed either around the perimeter of a green or the entire golf course to stop them entering the area in the first place.

Bayer technical manager and pest control expert, Richard Moseley, said: "In most cases birds are en-

couraged to populate areas such as golf courses, gardens and parkland. However, it's sometimes necessary to frighten birds away if they are damaging the turf."

Handheld and programmable, fixed lasers are an increasingly popular bird deterrent in a variety of situations including golf courses, flat roofs and landfill sites. If used correctly, specialist lasers are highly effective, safe and have been seen to change the behaviour of birds.

"The use of specialist lasers for bird control is silent, long range and animal and environmentally friendly. It causes next to no disturbance to humans and only deters birds from target zones, allowing them to continue their residence in surrounding areas," added Richard.

Colin said feedback indicates industry professionals are extremely unhappy about Merit Turf's removal from the market.

"Bayer is always looking for solutions to the problem," he said. "But in the meantime an integrated approach is more important than ever and lifecycles should be taken into account when considering cultural control methods."

For further advice on alternative control methods contact the Turf Solutions Team on 0800 1214 9451 or email [turfsolutions@bayer.com](mailto:turfsolutions@bayer.com)



# Chasing sustainability



Laurence Pithie MG

**Laurence Pithie met up with The Chase's Course Manager Simon White to find out more about their course management practices and learn how the team is working to achieve greater sustainability.**

The Chase near Cannock in Staffordshire opened for play in 1991. Unusually, it was built by a local haulage company, but passed through Crown Golf ownership before ending up under the stewardship of the property-developing Simmons family in 2009.

The 160-acre site was formerly arable land and sits on a light sandy soil with varying amounts of gravel and clay, providing good natural drainage. Additional and mainly peripheral mounding was created from infill material, but otherwise the course was formed using the existing contours.

A key aspect of the site are the extensive vistas towards Wales from the upper part of the course, while the Cannock Chase forestry serves as an interesting backdrop.

A number of greens are semi-plateau in nature, having been pushed-up originally,

but built to a specification which included the use of a recycled drainage material as a base. A soil and sand mix were added to form the root-zone and although fairly unique in style, the greens have performed reasonably well since conception.

Tasked with maintenance and development is 39-year-old Course Manager Simon White, who has been at The Chase since 2007. Simon began his career at The Forest of Arden in 1999, before enjoying spells at Abbotsley and The Nottinghamshire as a deputy.

The club has five full time staff, plus a summer casual employee and a part time gardener to maintain the various borders around the clubhouse, putting green and car park.

He said: "Just prior to The Chase being



Lesley Simmons and Simon White at The Chase

Quality of collar & putting surface The Chase

purchased by the current owners, there was a period of uncertainty and apprehension as to what would happen. This is a common experience for many within our industry, but fortunately the outcome was positive and the club has gone from strength to strength ever since."

Simon explained how the key objectives for the owners were to complete the clubhouse development and make improvements within the property. The task was made easier with an effective reporting structure, and Simon added: "Daily management of the course within budgetary parameters is my responsibility and I have a close working relationship with Matt Southwell, the general manager, who is a former professional and is supportive of our objectives and working practices.

"Course improvements are largely decided



between the owners, the general manager, and myself. The owner, Lesley Simmons, takes great interest in the course and has a hands-on approach, which is appreciated and respected throughout the club.

"In comparison to many other golf clubs it makes decision making that much easier and far quicker."



Simon is passionate about making the course as sustainable as possible within its environment. This is a view shared by Lesley and a concept that needed the support of the membership. Managing members' expectations is probably the greatest challenge faced by clubs and Simon explained what this entailed at The Chase. He said: "When I started in 2007, measures were already in place to reduce the level of organic matter on the greens, which had led to soft, moisture retentive surfaces and a heavy reliance on fungicides."

Records kept at the club indicated that in 2001 a staggering 396kgs/Ha of nitrogen was being applied each year. By 2007, this had dropped to around 100kgs and has now levelled-off at around 50-60kgs per annum, using a cocktail of organic feeds and bio-stimulants.

Organic matter content is between five and six per cent, while black layer has been eliminated.

One hundred tons of Fendress is applied each year and regular aeration takes place, using a variety of tine sizes at varying depths, along with two passes using the Air2G2 injector.

Coring the greens takes place in September, but this is under review, and Simon overseeds three to four times a year using two Germinal cultivars of browntop bent, broadcast and brushed into the small, dimple holes created by the Blec Multi-seeder, then lightly dressed.

The greens are a mix of poa and bent with the latter slowly increasing in terms of content. Mowing height varies between 3.5 and 4mm, with vibrating rollers used up to

Hole 13 and good balance of diversity The Chase

Excellent standard of course conditioning The Chase

twice per week.

"We don't use any growth regulators on the greens but do apply a wetting agent each month," said Simon. "As a result of this work program the greens are drier, firmer, smoother and of sufficient pace, while we only require one fungicide application per year. Informal member presentations have been held to explain our strategy as a key aspect is to keep our members informed.

"Teeing areas receive similar treatment but not to the same intensity; the main differences being that they are more rye based and we do use a growth regulator in order to give us the turf density we require and to reduce our irrigation needs. We have put a great deal of effort into improving the turf quality of the collars by adopting similar practices as well as 'softening' the front approach slopes on a few holes.

"Fairways are foliar fed with an organic molasses-based feed in spring, while the growth rate on the lower fairways is controlled by a PGR. Deep tining is carried out every two years, whereas deep slitting is continuous from October to January. Mowing strategies have been altered to give the course greater shape and definition, while being more pro-active with rough grass management. Areas of deep rough are cut and collected each year, which has led to 'cleaner' rough. Some of these areas have now been brought into play and have given the course greater character without slowing down the pace of play."

In terms of course development work, a few tees have been added, namely the 1st & 10th, while re-contouring work has taken place around the 13th green.

Many paths have been extended and resurfaced, while a start has been made to altering and improving bunkers. This is the next challenge and the club is undecided on the design and construction method.

A borehole has been introduced which gives sufficient water to irrigate greens and tees, while investment in equipment has continued at a steady pace each year.

Upon entering the property via the drive to the clubhouse, the quality of presentation and cleanliness give a great first impression and this trend is continued throughout. The owners have made great strides in raising the calibre of the club while accepting that improvements to the course take time. Using a mix of traditional methods with modern techniques has given the course greater sustainability at a time when many clubs are faced with similar challenges.

Simon said: "I am fortunate to work within a family business environment where we have similar passions for the course. Each head of department is encouraged to take ownership and work for common goals.

"With regular communication to the membership we have received positive feedback and a steady increase in numbers, which allows us to make further improvements both on and off the course.

"In essence we are endeavouring to make this course the best it can be, not just for the present but also for future generations. This is why we have adopted a more sustainable approach by focusing on the fundamentals of turf grass management while embracing the need for change in an ever changing environment."







## BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION



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## Section News

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karl@bigga.co.uk  
by the 16th  
of the month

# AROUND THE GREEN SCOTLAND & N IRELAND



The winning team  
from St Michael's

## St Michael's show their winning colours

Stirling played host to the BIGGA Scotland Golf Management event in July, with St Michael's crowned the winner after scoring 89 stableford points. There were 21 teams participating, an increase of 12 teams on last year's event. 2015 winners, The Williamwood, proved very consistent in the competition by taking the runners-up spot. Both clubs have now been given the opportunity to take part in the national final. In addition to a fantastic golf event, over £400 was raised through a raffle in aid of the BIGGA Benevolent Fund.

## Central

Thank you to all who attended our autumn outing at Strathmore, played in glorious sunshine. The results are: BIGGA Trophy (best scratch), S Robertson, 74pts. Soutar Cup (best stableford), G Neill, 37pts. Rigby Taylor Cup (1st class): 1st, D Gray, 37pts; 2nd, W Saunders, 37pts; 3rd, W McNaughton, 35pts. SGM Cup (2nd class): 1st, T Harris, 37pts; 2nd G Bolton, 35pts; 3rd, C Boath, 32pts. Rosebowl (best spring and autumn combined), won once again by D Gray with 76. Trade winner: G King, Hugh King, 33pts. Thanks to all our patrons who attended the event and sponsor the section. Big thanks to Strathmore for looking after us and to Scott and the team. The course was in great condition.

It was good to see courses from our section on TV again, with St Andrews, Kingsbarns and Carnoustie hosting the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

Well done to all involved, the courses looked great.

## Upcoming events

We have events coming up, including a course visit and talk at Stirling on Wednesday 19 October, with designer Howard Swan discussing the rebuilding and shaping of bunkers. Howard is happy to give up some of his time to explain his designs on the course. There may be space left, so get in touch with Bob at bob@crailgolfingsociety.co.uk

The section AGM is on Thursday 10 November at Elmwood, 1pm start. An email will be sent out so please reply if you can attend.

## SW Scotland

A huge thanks to the members for supporting the recent autumn outing. Unfortunately the weather didn't play the game and only the bravest of the brave managed eight holes. Well done to all the winners for taking on the monsoon. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Derek Wilson and his crew for providing an excellent track, Bogside F&B staff for our delicious meal, Neil who delivered a great presentation on wetting agents on behalf of Rigby Taylor, all of the sponsors, and to Graeme King of Hugh King & Co who provided the autumn trophy.

Best of luck to Rory Aitchenson who has moved on from Largs to the Colony Club - congratulations on your new role.

Congratulations to 2016 Patron's Award winner Robert Tosh, Bar-

rassie Links - we hope you enjoy your time at BTME.

2015's Patron winners attended the STRI Research Day in Bingley, so thank you to Richard Windows for organising the trip.

I would like to wish all of the Golf Environment Award entrants the best of luck for their visit.

Congratulations to Steven Miller and Ian Smith on becoming doubles champions at Troon Welbeck and a special mention to Ian, who is also Gents Club Champion.

## Upcoming events

Please save the date for the new-look conference and AGM on 27 October at Bogside.

## East

Massive congratulations go to Ryan McCulloch, course manager at Berwick-upon-Tweed (Goswick), who is this year's East Section Patron's Award winner. This is a well-deserved award for Ryan, who is a long-time supporter of our sectional, regional and national events. Ryan stepped up to course manager at Goswick earlier this year following George Thompson's retirement. Ryan will attend BTME and the Continue to Learn events.

The section recently held the Willie Woods Trophy, kindly hosted by Eyemouth on a beautiful day. The tournament was won by Alan Campbell and Adam Brown from Dundas Park. Runners up were Keith Burgon and Colin Aitchison from Eyemouth. Longest drive: Ian Lauder, Thomas Sherriff. Closest to the holes: Clair Shearer, Dunbar; Connor Dickson, Edinburgh Leisure. Thanks once again to everyone for playing and to Eyemouth for the hospitality and a cracking course in wonderful condition.

As well as working hard on the course at Gifford, our chairman Jamie Martin has been taking part in various boot camps, culminating in the Bear Grylls Survival Academy. It may have hurt a little, but he came out smiling.

We welcome Daryl Burdett, Rigby Taylor, to the section committee.

## Upcoming events

Our AGM takes place in November at Carricknowe.

## North

By the kind permission of Boat of Garten we held our autumn outing at the club. It was a fantastic day with Allan and his team presenting the course in first class condition. The weather was very kind to us, with beautiful sunshine and a testing breeze. For the first time we played a stableford format and this was met very positively by all who played.

The results are as follows: Handicap class 1: 1st, Dennis Grant, Newmacher, 36pts; 2nd, Scott Crawford, Moray, 32pts; 3rd, Adam Lindsay, Deeside, 31pts. Class 2: 1st, Dave Inglis, Peterculter, 31pts; 2nd, Kenny Kinnaird, Grantown-on-Spey, 30pts; 3rd, Dylan Meinen, Peterculter, 29pts. Class 3: 1st, Ryan Day, Fortrose & Rosemarkie, 29pts; 2nd, Douglas Lambie, Moray, 29pts; 3rd, Dale Robertson, Newburgh, 28pts. Veteran: Dale Robertson. Trade winner: David

Greenshields, Barenbrug. Committee winner: Robert Petterson. Best overall winner from both outings: Dennis Grant. The 200 club winners are: Roy Donald, £30; Neil McGlauchlin, £50; Jack Craig, £30; Wilson Morrison, £100.

I would like to thank Colin Powrie and David Gray for having Ladybank in superb condition for the Scottish championship. There was a good turnout from the north, with the section winning the St Mungo Trophy. North Section members also fared well with Iain Macleod winning the Pattison trophy. Other prize winners include Richard Pirie, Chris Lamb and myself, Neil Sadler.

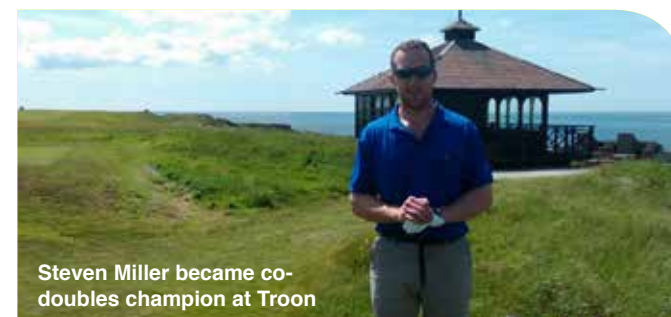
Make sure your contact details are updated. We intend to use emails as our main way of communicating information.

## Upcoming events

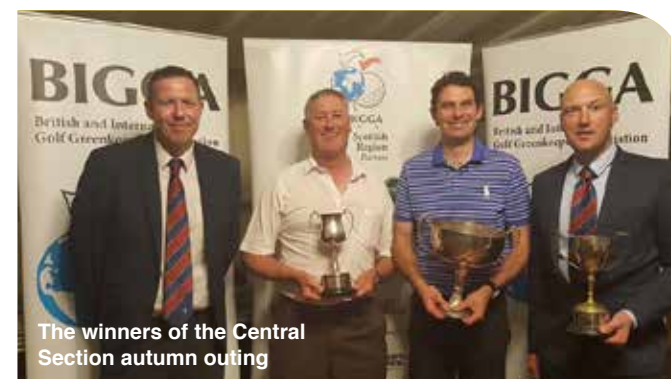
We will be holding our AGM on 27 October at Kippie Lodge. The format for the day will be a shotgun start to the golf at 11am followed by soup and sandwiches.



The winners of the East  
section's Willie Woods trophy



Steven Miller became co-  
doubles champion at Troon



The winners of the Central  
Section autumn outing

## New Members

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Andrew Napier GK - Baberton  
George Taggart GK - Ardeer  
Philip Masheter CM - Aigas

### Northern

Matthew Cavill GK - Beauchief  
Peter Lewis GK - Royal Liverpool  
Richard Flint GK - Bradford Moor

### Midland

Alex James HGK - Frilford Heath  
Andrew Green GK - The Nottinghamshire  
Daniel Wheatley HGK - Chilwell Manor  
Luke Gray HGK - Pottergate  
Martin Waine Education Supporter  
Michael Heron GK - Norwood Park  
Norman Knox HGK - Frilford Heath  
Peter Hawkes GK - Tadmarton  
Thomas High GK - Northamptonshire County  
Tom Barnett GK - Moor Hall

### South West and South Wales

Andrew Symons GK - Cricklade  
Ben Walsh GK - Carmarthen  
Chaz Whiting GK - Waterlooville  
James Brooks GK - Exeter  
Josef Evans Education Supporter  
Paul Clarkson GK - Sherborne  
Richard Goddings Education Supporter  
Timothy Brown HGK - Frilford Heath

### South East

Alexander Heath GK - West Sussex  
Andy Boxall Groundsman - Goodwood  
Ben Crane Groundsman - Merrist Wood  
Ben Jackson GK - Cowdray Park  
Conor Barrett GK - Birchwood Park  
Geoffrey Pridmore GK - Crews Hill  
Jordan Thompson GK - Sunningdale  
Lee Wimpress GK - Romford  
Paul Russell GK - West Malling  
Peter Corbett Education Partner  
Philip Chiverton CM - The Grove  
Stuart Twine GK - Cooden Beach

### International

Simon Douglas International - Costa Navarino  
Trevor Briffa International - Royal Malta

### Key

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





## BIGGA NORTHERN REGION



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# AROUND THE GREEN NORTHERN

## Section News

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



Andrew Ivel at Moor Allerton

### Andrew celebrates 25 years at Moor Allerton

Andrew Ivel is celebrating 25 years at Moor Allerton. At the age of 19 he was a fully qualified printer, but decided he preferred working outside. Family friend David Anderson, then head greenkeeper at Moor Allerton, agreed to take Andrew on and see if he had what it takes to make a greenkeeper. Andrew remembered his first day during a wet spring, being sent out to rake wet bunkers with not much sand in them.

Andrew has seen a few staff moves and is working with Adam Matthews, Moor Allerton head greenkeeper. Andrew said he has enjoyed being involved in the changes to the course over the last year. He has seen many advances in the machinery used on courses and notes the changes in seasons, with the lack of heavy winters and wet summers that don't dry the course out the same.

### North East

Close House has constructed a 800m² putting green along with a couple of new medal tees.

Ashleigh Marshall, Hexham, and Stuart Imeson, Dunstanburgh Castle, have both been selected to work at the British Masters.

Congratulations to North East greenkeepers Tom Alexander, Parklands, and Grant Burton, Pitlochry, who both recently completed the Great North Run. Their respective charities will

benefit from their fundraising. Well done lads.

### North West

Congratulations to Nylle Jones, previously an apprentice at Formby Hall and who recently completed a five-month placement at Trump International. He has joined West Derby. Neil Austin has been promoted to deputy head greenkeeper at West Derby, replacing Simon Barker, who has been appointed head greenkeeper at Southport Old Links.

Turf Club held at Garstang was a big success, with Mark Hunt giving a talk to over 30 greenkeepers about the weather, growth potential and growth degree days.

Aaron Watkinson, deputy head greenkeeper at Bolton Old Links, recently visited Castle Stuart with Syngenta as part of a prize, which he won for getting a hole in one on the simulator at Harrogate.

Congratulations to Vincent Kenson, deputy course manager at The Mere, who got married to Rachel Pocknell.

#### Upcoming events

The Bert Cross Memorial Trophy will be at Wilmslow on Tuesday 8 November followed by the AGM. Please contact David Weir on 07774999230 or email d.weir@rigbytaylor.com.

As ever, keep updated by tuning in to Twitter and Facebook.

#### Sponsor thanks

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

### Cleveland

Wow, what a month. I am quite simply knackered. After my staffing levels were reduced to two, due to my assistant James Tock moving on to bigger and better things, all of a sudden I had the realisation that my deputy had a holiday in Portugal booked. He was ready to head off to sunny climates, leaving me to run the course by myself for a fortnight. No problem. At least it was for the first three or four days, then the extra hours started to add up and I could feel the life draining out of me. To the rescue was my lovely wife Storm, who quickly learnt how to cut greens. Ian Stewart of Seaton Carew came in on a bank holiday to help me cut the fairways and semi-rough – massive thanks to both of you.

Well done to Alistair Whitby in completing the Great North Run. Alistair has only been running a short time but finished the race in a respectable time of 2hrs 26.

Ian Pemberton has been making good use of the fair weather and has been constructing some winter tees. With any luck they will be a little more forgiving when we play the Christmas fun comp.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, it would be great if you could sign a petition to help make sun cream part of PPE. The link can be found on the Cleveland section Facebook page.

#### Upcoming events

Our autumn tournament will be held at Wynyard on Wednesday 12 October. Tee times are to be confirmed so keep a look out on Facebook. Hopefully it will be a little bit drier.

### Northern

I hope everyone is having a good season, with most greenkeepers probably getting ready to carry out their autumn renovations.

Thanks to Gorforth and to Andy

Fowler and his team for preparing the course. The greens were immaculate and proved a real challenge for the field of outstanding golfers. My excuse was the extra large portion of pie consumed before tee off. Oh and the apple pie I forced down my neck. The results were: 1st, N Coultash, 34pts; 2nd, J Waite, 32pts; 3rd, N Booth, 30pts; 4th, K Christie, 30pts. Nearest the pin: R Illsley. Longest drive: D Lindlay. Thanks again to Balmers GM and Greensman Ltd.

#### Upcoming events

Unfortunately our Moor Allerton outing had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. The next event is Cleckheaton on 27 October. Let's hope we have enough entries to make a fourball. Event sponsored by ICL.

#### Sponsor thanks

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

### Sheffield

On 15 September our autumn competition was played at Renishaw Park. Mark Nelson and his team had the course in great condition. With holidays and autumn projects the day was lacking in numbers, but there were some good scores. Results: 1st, Rob Acheson, Worksop, 39pts; 2nd Paul Hobson, Bondhay, 36pts; 3rd Mark Morgan, Grange Park, 34 pts. I have to give a special mention to Mark Robinson from Rigby Taylor for a 3 net 1 on the 9th. All who attended had a good day.

### North Wales

Thank you to everyone who organised and attended the Flailbot demonstration at Maesdu

and also thank you to the golf club for hosting the event. The Flailbot is a wirelessly operated track mower. It is designed with particularly challenging terrains in mind, with zero operator risk. For more information, contact Bryan Lewis-Jones by email to bryan@360timber.co.uk or call 07818 033414.

Thank you to all at Leasowe for our autumn competition. With a betterball pairs format, the scoring was really close between all that played. Even with the wind howling, the winning scores show the quality of the golf and the way the course was presented. It was a great effort from the boys at Leasowe.

Local knowledge from Head Greenkeeper Ian Murphy and his partner for the day, Craig Lewis of Prenton, meant they finished top of the scoring with a superb 43 points. Second were Rigby Taylor's own resident tour pro, counsellor, rep and myself, as we carded a respectable 41 points. Thank you to Andrew Cornes of Thornetree Amenity for sponsoring the two nearest the pins, with the winners being Migs Williams, Rhyl, on the 12th and Andy Noone, Heswall, on the 18th.

#### Upcoming events

Please put in your diaries and send Carl Crocher your entry forms from the Christmas Comp and AGM at Wrexham on 24 November, which will no doubt be another cracking day.

#### Sponsor thanks

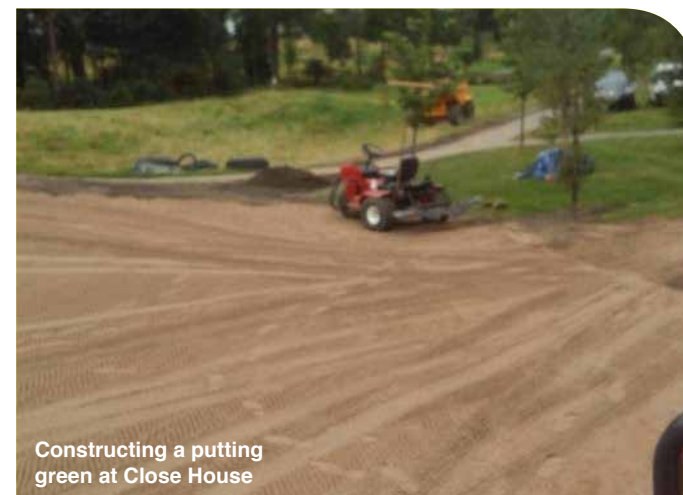
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Flailbot demonstration at Maesdu



Tom Alexander and Grant Burton completed the Great North Run



Constructing a putting green at Close House



Vincent Kenson married Rachel Pocknell



A recently-constructed medal tee at Close House





## BIGGA MIDLAND REGION



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# AROUND THE GREEN MIDLAND

## Section News

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



Derek Shortley's well-manicured lawn

## BB&O

The Rigby Taylor knockout has come to an end for me this year, having been beaten by Simon and George at Harewood Downs. A big thank you to both of them for being excellent hosts, and good luck to them and the remaining pairs in the closing rounds.

A full report of the autumn golf day will follow next month.

Please feel free to email me at [bmoggridge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bmoggridge@hotmail.co.uk) with any news from the section.

### Upcoming events

Keep an eye out for the Turkey Trot invites which will arrive with you soon. The Green course at Frilford Heath will once again host this event on Wednesday 7 December and a shotgun start will begin at 10am. Coffee and bacon rolls from 8.30am. Following the golf, a sit down Christmas meal will be served. Jacket and tie to be worn.

## Mid Anglia

### Upcoming events

Thursday 8 December is our annual Turkey Trot and Texas Scramble. This year Dunstable Downs are kindly hosting. As ever, this is a team event of usually four players, which is

hugely popular, so keep an eye out for more information on our Facebook page. Entry forms will be out in due course.

### Sponsor thanks

The Mid Anglia section would like to thank its wonderful sponsors for 2016 and we are very grateful for your continued support.

## Midland

What a day at Patshull Park in the Midland autumn golf day. A massive congratulations to Mal Mitchell and his team who put on a great competition and pulled out the stops in awful preparation conditions to produce a course that was in great condition.

Thanks to Working Turf for sponsoring the day. The day finished with an impressive win for the Blackwell team of R Thomas, C Hartley and E Stant, closely followed by last year's champions, aptly named Champions 2015 and consisting of S Banks, S White, A Wood and A Jones.

Coming in a respectable 3rd was the host team from Patshull, consisting of M Mitchell, P Small, S Kimble and A Cornes. There were two nearest the pin prizes, on 2nd and 10th and won respectively by A Wood and B Turner. Nearest the white line on 13th was won by D Adams. Karl Williams won

nearest the pin in 2 on 15th. The AGM took place on the same day, with the existing committee remaining in place. Stress in the workplace was brought up again and we implore anyone suffering to not do so alone. Contact any one of us or Roger Butler.

Oh and one last piece - our lawn picture recently got some interest so we have another one. This time we have Labrooke Park's former head greenkeeper Derek Shortley keeping his lawn in shape.

Entries are still open for the calendar. A bottle of champagne for the best picture. Please send to [bigga.midlandphoto@gmail.com](mailto:bigga.midlandphoto@gmail.com).

Good luck to the finalists in ICL doubles at Woburn, Adam Moss and James Martin against Nick Bird and Dace Fellows. Thanks to ICL for sponsoring - we will have a report in the November issue.

### Upcoming events

We have a great afternoon in store this month at Gaudet Luce, playing footgolf. A trophy has been put up by Geoff Fenn at Countrywide for the winner. You can play as a group, or come along and we will put you in a group. The date is Thursday 20 October from 1pm. £10 per person, to include footgolf and a burger afterwards. Call Andy Laing on 07870 188619 or email [andrew.laing@gaudet-luce.co.uk](mailto:andrew.laing@gaudet-luce.co.uk). Our events are becoming very popular and friendly so come along and have some fun.

We have had two very successful events this year, so please book early and come along to the Christmas event at Redditch on 14 December. Start at 10am, cost £27. The day will be kindly sponsored by Banks Amenity. It's a pairs comp and the pairs will be drawn on the day. Please contact Karl Williams on 07584196172 or at [coursemanager@redditchgolf-club.com](mailto:coursemanager@redditchgolf-club.com) to book a place.

### Sponsor thanks

Thanks to ICL and Emma Kilby for sponsoring October calendar. For all your fertiliser and chemical needs, please contact Emma on 07748 111965 or email [emma.kilby@icl-group.com](mailto:emma.kilby@icl-group.com)

# AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH WEST & S WALES



## BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION



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## Section News

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

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## South West

Congratulations to David Moreno of Mendip Spring and John Bachelor of Long Ashton, who were successful at the South West summer tournament and have qualified for the BIGGA National Championship being held at Bowood. Well done guys.

As per previous years, the section is offering two places to attend BTME, with accommodation provided for the duration of the event. For your chance to benefit from this opportunity, send a brief email to me outlining why you would like to attend and how it will benefit your greenkeeping.

We are looking for members to take up roles on the section committee. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the success of the section and offer all those involved a chance to work within a small, hardworking team and make great friends. Contact Tracey Walker, James Braithwaite or Lucy Sellick for details.

### Upcoming events

Our section AGM is being held at Ashton Gate, Bristol City Football Club. In addition to the meet-

ing, we will be hosting a guest speaker. Reply promptly to Lucy to book your attendance.

The Christmas tournament is being hosted by Burnham & Berrow in December. Invitations will be mailed out in the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for these and get your name down quickly as demand to play such a fantastic venue will be high.

Don't forget the South West and South Wales regional conference being held at Somerset County Cricket Ground in Taunton. Email [tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk) to register.

### Sponsor thanks

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

Support from our patrons allows the South West Section to provide free education events and provide an opportunity for our members to attend national level events.

## South Coast



MIDLAND: The team from Blackwell won the autumn medal



MIDLAND: Patshull hosted the Midland autumn medal

### Upcoming events

The details of our section AGM, scheduled for early November, are being finalised as this is written. Watch this space and your email inbox for details.

The South West and South Wales regional conference takes place at Somerset County Cricket Ground, Taunton, on Wednesday 16 November. This is a fantastic day of presentations and is an event well worth putting in your diary. Contact Tracey Walker on 07841 948110 or email [tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk) for more details and to book your place. It would be great to see the section supporting this regional event.

The countdown begins to the ever popular turkey trot Christmas event. This year it takes place at Salisbury & South Wilts on Tuesday 6 December. An invite, together with details of how to book a place, will be sent out by email shortly. Again, keep an eye on your inbox.

## South Wales

Autumn is in full force and most of us have finished our renovation. May I remind everyone the regional conference is being held at the Somerset County Cricket Ground, Taunton, on 16 November.

A few changes within the committee. We welcome Mark Tucker, head greenkeeper at Neath, as our new section secretary. A big thank you to Paul Handy for his efforts over the last three years. A huge thank you to Pater Lacey of Farmura. Peter has served in many different roles on the committee and we wish to thank him for all his hard work. With this in mind, Rhys Norville of Avoncrop has joined the committee as one of our trade members.

Congratulations to Rhys McDonagh, who has taken over as head man of Parc GC.

### Upcoming events

This year's Christmas competition will be held over the undulating course and towering dunes of Pyle and Kenfig. More info soon on social media and by email.





## BIGGA SOUTH EAST REGION



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# AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH EAST

## Section Notes

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



The greens team at  
Seaford Head

## Surrey

August saw the annual Essex, Surrey, Sussex BIGGA match this year, hosted by Essex at Benton Hall. The day was won by the Essex BIGGA section as they reclaimed the shield for the next 12 months. Sam Bethell was the top scorer for Surrey. Also contested in August was the McMillan Tankard, won by Gary Ogilvy.

At the time of printing, the Surrey Bowl has reached the semi-finals. Good luck to all that are still in the competition and I look forward to seeing who will be in the final, which will be held at Foxhills on 4 October.

### Upcoming events

Stella Rixon of the STRI is hosting our Free Third Thursday seminar. The talk is titled 'In search of smoothness - trials and tribulations' and takes place at 4.30pm at the Harris Centre, Merrist Wood College. Contact Lewis Birch to book a place.

## London

As we move into autumn, we all wish Adam Clark and Paul Simpson the best of luck representing the London section as they play in the National Championship.

We also wish good luck to all those volunteering to help Phil Chiverton at The Grove, preparing for the British Masters from 13-16 October.

At the next committee meeting we will decide subjects for the short winter lectures, to again be hosted at Muswell Hill, so look here for information, which will also be emailed to members.

### Upcoming events

We have a change of venue for the Christmas tournament and it will now be at South Herts on Thursday 15 December. It will be Texas Scramble followed by the AGM and dinner, so let's hope the course manager (me) presents a good course to finish off a demanding year.

## Essex

On 7 September Essex BIGGA hosted the annual Tri-match vs our Sussex and Surrey counterparts at Benton Hall. Special thanks to the kind sponsors, as without Farmura and Ernest Doe & Son, the event wouldn't be possible. On a warm and humid afternoon the players representing Essex BIGGA triumphed and reclaimed the shield for the next 12 months.

Thank you to all who participated, especially those that made long journeys on the day. Thanks also to the Benton Hall staff for their hospitality.

Good luck to Stuart Playe and Callum Smith who are representing the section at the National Finals - bring it home boys.

Congratulations to Harry Carter on his role at Collier Turf Care. He will be assisting your scribe in Essex so you will get to meet him soon.

### Upcoming events

We are running a coach to the South East Regional Seminar being held at Surrey Downs on 17 November. This will be free to members, £15 to non-members. Numbers are limited so to book or for further details contact Ian

Nichols on [ianichols@aol.com](mailto:ianichols@aol.com).

Our Christmas golf event and AGM will once again be held at The Essex Golf and Country Club on 1 December. This will be a team event, Texas scramble format, £50 per team, £12.50 per player. To book a place contact Mick Fance on 07894 423086.

### Upcoming events

All the section sponsors are on our website. As always, thank you to our patrons for your support.

## Sussex

The Sussex section held its autumn meeting on 14 September at Seaford Head on the picturesque chalk cliffs of Seaford. We had all been praying for a pleasant day weatherwise as it can get pretty wild on the cliff top. We were served up with a totally windless day with unbroken sunshine and temperatures pushing 30 degrees.

There was a field of 40 playing the individual stableford match over the stunning downland course that had been presented in impeccable condition by Head Greenkeeper Simon Lambert and his team. There were three nearest the pins, won by Phil Beeny, Chris Wells and Gary Ogilvie. The longest drive was on the famous feature hole, the 18th, and won by Chris Asher. Division 1: 1st, Chris Wells; 2nd, Lewis Turner; 3rd, Glynn Pollard; 4th, Danny Birchill. Division 2: 1st, Andy Norman; 2nd, Pav Griffiths; 3rd, Matt Hutchinson; 4th, Nick Rouke. Division 3: 1st Dave Whitlock; 2nd George Morely; 3rd, Phil Hughes; 4th, Kelvin Brown.

Many thanks to Seaford Town Council and its staff for their wonderful hospitality in the new clubhouse, and to all the sponsors that support the section through the year, and especially to Simon Lambert, Adam Peck, Ben Clark and Nathan Sutliff for providing such a magnificent course for us.

### Upcoming events

Our next event will be the Turkey Trot at Worthing. Book your place early as this is always a very popular event.





# GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

## Changes to the GTC and student awards praise

**Following a review of the GTC's key aims and ambitions by its board of directors, which involved a wide consultation of stakeholders in the greenkeeper education sector, a few changes have been instigated.**

The key change is BIGGA will take over the administrative function of the GTC.

The review concluded that BIGGA's focus on improving standards in greenkeeping was entirely in tune with that of the GTC, so combining forces on an administrative level makes perfect sense. To that end, Fiona Lyttle, GTC manager, has joined the staff at BIGGA and will, along with colleagues in the learning and development department and various technical panels, work to further the good work of the GTC

Pooling the resources available from both organisations, with committed support from the Home Unions and the PGA, will undoubtedly strengthen the quality of education in greenkeeping. The opportunity to ensure national qualifications are in sync with the educational provision and CPD for BIGGA members, is surely a good thing.

The new Level 2 Apprenticeship in England has its standard recognised by BIGGA and all new registrations on it will, at the start of their apprenticeship, be registered with BIGGA. When they complete the qualification they will be eligible to join BIGGA as a full member.

Becoming a member of BIGGA



**BIGGA's Stuart Green speaking at the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finals**

opens up so many opportunities, from attending further workshops and seminars, which can help gather evidence for their portfolio, to personal development and networking at many of the events organised by BIGGA's Regions and Sections throughout the UK.



The GTC is funded by:



One of the highlights of the greenkeeping education calendar, as you will have seen in this month's magazine, is the opportunity to apply to become Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

These prestigious awards in the greenkeeping industry test the applicants on a wide range of skills including their knowledge of greenkeeping, health and safety, personal development and industry awareness.

For more information on both awards visit [www.bigga.org.uk/education/toro-student-greenkeeper-of-the-year-award](http://www.bigga.org.uk/education/toro-student-greenkeeper-of-the-year-award).

While many greenkeepers achieve considerable success regardless of their achievements in the Toro awards, a quick glance at the progress made by recent winners demonstrates what an excellent addition to the CV the award is. Matthew Perks has progressed from mechanic at Ham Manor when he won in 2011 to head greenkeeper at the New Course at Sunningdale, and 2014 winner Kevin O'Neill has risen from deputy to top job at Muswell Hill. The successful finalists for 2016 surely have outstanding careers in greenkeeping ahead of them.

Congratulations to the winner, Jimmy Heritage, of Maylands in Essex. Jimmy is studying his Level 3 at Writtle College.

For the winner of the inaugural Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year, congratulations go to Dan Waring of Ashbourne in Derbyshire. Dan is studying his Level 3 at Reaseheath College.

Great achievements all around and well-deserved. Such a fantastic achievement to have on your CV, indicating dedication, knowledge, drive, personal development, aspiration and a love of the job. Everything and more employers look for in an employee.

Congratulations to all who took part – you are all winners.

A huge well done to Sami, Stuart and Deb of the Learning and Development department, for organising the awards. And to Toro and Reesink Turfcare for their dedication to celebrating young talent within the industry.

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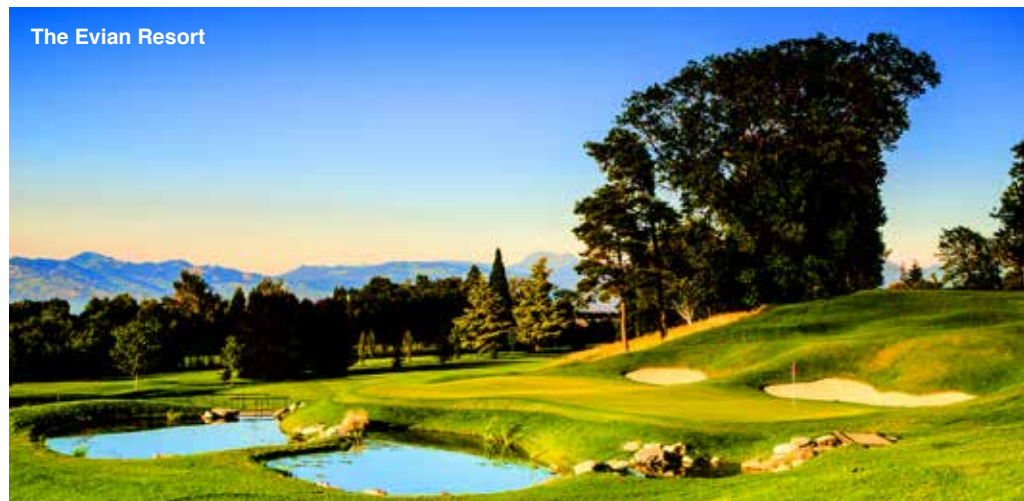


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Forest of Arden



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M D Earthworks are involved in prestigious projects across Europe. They have been chosen to provide specialist services for the renovation of the spectacular L'Albatros course at Le Golf National in France - host for the Ryder Cup match in 2018. They have assisted in shaping the Brabazon course at The Belfry and The Evian

Resort Golf Club, overlooking Lake Geneva.

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01347 833812

## Experienced Machinery Technician/Mechanic

Bowood are seeking a full time mechanic/technician to join the team in managing a facility that includes a golf course and practice facility, extensive parkland and varied agriculture and forestry operations.

The primary responsibility of the position will be to service and maintain the golf course maintenance fleet to a high standard with additional responsibility to service and maintain a small fleet of estate plant equipment.  
Key skills and experience will include:

- Self-motivated and adaptable
- Familiarity with precision cylinder cutting units including the use of cylinder grinding equipment
- Strong record keeping skills
- Welding and basic fabrication skills
- Experience with plant equipment
- Strong regard for safe working practices
- Relevant qualifications

A competitive salary will be offered to the successful candidate, as will a range of generous benefits.

Please apply via email, including a covering letter and CV to Jaey Goodchild at [j.goodchild@bowood.org](mailto:j.goodchild@bowood.org)



## Sales Representative ThornTrees Amenity Limited



ThornTrees Amenity Limited are looking to recruit a Sales Representative to call into our existing base of customers in the Fine Turf Industry throughout Scotland.

We are a long established business providing specifically designed and sourced products to help our customers attain the highest standards possible.

This is a full time and permanent position for an enthusiastic and motivated individual.

Salary experience would be preferable however training will be given to a suitable candidate.

Salary by negotiation.

To apply please send CV and covering email to [mike@thorntreesamenity.co.uk](mailto:mike@thorntreesamenity.co.uk) closing date Friday 12th October.

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Elounda Golf Club located within the grounds of the Porto Elounda resort in Crete (turf area approx. 30.000sqm) is looking to recruit a Head Greenkeeper to manage a team responsible with maintaining at high standard the 9-hole par-3 course & practice facility of 1000sqm. Currently, the course hosts one single-day competitive event per annum.

The successful applicant will report directly to the Club Chairman, but will be expected to manage staff, resources, and budgets on a daily basis & present plans and budgets on a monthly basis. Prior experience in Mediterranean-like climatic conditions is very important. Considerable mechanical knowledge of machinery maintenance is also important.

This position is ideal for a semi-retired head greenkeeper, permanently based in sunny Elounda. Salary will be offered commensurate with qualifications & experience. Accommodation and meals are provided.

Applicants should send CV, salary expectations to: [hr.admin@elounda-sa.com](mailto:hr.admin@elounda-sa.com)

## Head Greenkeeper



West Middlesex Golf Club is looking for an ambitious Head Greenkeeper with the desire and ambition to help drive the course forward, with previous experience at Head Green keeper level or at least 3 years' experience at Assistant Green Keeper level and be qualified to at least NVQ L3 or equivalent.

The successful person will be expected to maintain the course to the highest standards for our members and guests with the given budget and resources available. Further information is available in the Careers section of the BIGGA website.

The Head Greenkeeper position is full-time, permanent based on a 40 hours' week with alternate weekend working on a Rota basis. Remuneration will be based on skill level and experience.

To apply, please forward your covering letter and C.V to Jon Baker-Odlin, General Manager, West Middlesex Golf Club, Greenford Road, Southall, UB1 3EE or email: [jon@westmiddgc.co.uk](mailto:jon@westmiddgc.co.uk)

Closing Date: 8th November 2016

## Greenkeepers



We are currently looking to recruit full-time Greenkeepers over our three Championship golf courses. You will be provided with full on-site training to carry out daily duties. These will include:

- Hand cutting greens & tees
- Triplex cutting foregreens
- Triplex cutting 1st & 2nd cuts of rough
- Bunker maintenance
- Ecological management
- Irrigation and hand watering

In addition to a highly competitive salary, you will be provided with full uniform, PPE and also a range of exciting benefits.

Skills & Qualifications Required:

- NVQ/SVQ in Greenkeeping/Sports Turf Management or equivalent
- Minimum of two years' experience in a similar role
- Full driving licence
- An aptitude for 'all weather' working
- Ability to work both as part of a team and on your own
- Flexible approach to working patterns

The closing date for applications is Friday 7th October 2016 at 5pm. To apply, please visit [www.gleneagles.com/hotel/careers](http://www.gleneagles.com/hotel/careers) and register your application. For more information, please contact jenny.douglas@gleneagles.com

## Head Greenkeeper

Elfrather Muhle Golf Club is a privately owned park land course just 18 KM from the beautiful city of Dusseldorf. Our 18 hold golf course also has a large driving range and a 3 hole short course. We are looking for a dynamic, hands on Head Greenkeeper to manage our course and our experienced greenkeeping team. Our team have a mechanic and have experience with our Toro irrigation system.

Desired Experience, skills and qualifications:

- NVQ2/NVQ3 or HNC/HND
- Minimum of 7 years greenkeeping experience
- A keen golfer would be an advantage
- Flexible and willing to work extra hours
- Strong leadership skills
- Basic knowledge of the German language (would be helpful)
- Experience of maintaining and operating irrigation systems

Salary and terms will be negotiated according to experience.

Applicants are requested to apply by post or email, enclosing a covering letter, salary expectations and a full CV to:

Mr. Dr. Friedrich Landwehrmann,  
Golf & Country Club An der Elfrather Muhle,  
An der Elfrather Muhle 145, 47802 Krefeld, Germany.

Email: [friedrich@landwehrmann.de](mailto:friedrich@landwehrmann.de)



## Burghley Park Golf Club

Requires a

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

The club, founded in 1890, maintains a sustainably managed native grassland links course with a high proportion of bents and fescues in the greens and fairways. We have recently embarked on a course development and improvement programme, under the guidance of a leading golf course consultant.

We seek an ambitious Head Greenkeeper with the desire and experience to drive the course forward. Previous experience as a Head Greenkeeper level is desirable, and the successful candidate will need to be qualified to at least NVQ L3 or equivalent.

Excellent management, motivation, team building and communications skills are essential, as is experience in managing fine grasses. Further details on BIGGA website.

Excellent package for the right person.

Please apply in writing or email, with CV, to:

David Ford, General Manager, Burghley Park Golf Club, St Martins Without, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 3JX or email [manager@burghleyparkgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:manager@burghleyparkgolfclub.co.uk)

## ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

PERMANENT – 40 HOURS PER WEEK  
52 WEEKS PER YEAR  
COMPETITIVE SALARY – DEPENDENT ON EXPERIENCE

Wellington College, one of the world's leading coeducational day and boarding schools, is seeking to appoint an experienced and reliable Assistant Greenkeeper.

Working within a small yet highly motivated team, the successful candidate will be responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the golf playing surfaces, based on our exclusive nine hole course and set within a 400-acre parkland, woodland and heathland estate.

The post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check, satisfactory professional references and medical suitability for the role. Wellington College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE

For full details please visit the Vacancies page of our website [www.wellingtoncollege.org.uk](http://www.wellingtoncollege.org.uk). Alternatively you may contact Head Greenkeeper, Rob Collins, via [rjc@wellingtoncollege.org.uk](mailto:rjc@wellingtoncollege.org.uk) for an informal discussion.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE, CROWTHORNE, BERKSHIRE RG45 7PU

## THE ROYAL COUNTY DOWN GOLF CLUB



### Qualified Greenkeepers

Royal County Down Golf Club is seeking qualified and experienced Greenkeepers to join our professional team maintaining our two 18-hole links courses - the Championship Links rated one of the best courses in the world.

Working up to 40 hours per week - weekends worked on a rota basis.

Minimum 2 years Greenkeeping experience required  
NVQ level 2 & 3 Sports Turf Management required  
Valid driving licence required

Pay competitive and commensurate with qualifications, experience and suitability.

This is a great opportunity for enthusiastic and highly motivated, qualified Greenkeepers to work on a world-class links. Our current team has a strong work ethic and is dedicated to high levels of service to Members and visitors and we are looking for dynamic team members to join us.

CV to: Royal County Down Golf Club, Golf Links Road, Newcastle, Co Down BT33 0AN or email: [kstuart@royalcountdown.org](mailto:kstuart@royalcountdown.org)

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## A place to call home at John O Gaunt

**BIGGA Sustainability Executive James Hutchinson made the journey to John O Gaunt in Bedfordshire. The club features two courses, the John O Gaunt and the Carthagena, and greenkeeper Steve Thompson gave James a tour of the club's 20-year-old nestbox project.**

I have been a greenkeeper at John O Gaunt for nearly 26 years and I have always had a keen interest in birds. Way back in 1996 I started a small nestbox project in conjunction with the Hawk & Owl Trust.

We erected a barn owl box, which was used by the owls for the first two years, but then kestrels and mostly jackdaws since 1999. Barn owls returned in 2012.

In 1998 we erected a kestrel box, which wasn't used for the first few years but is now used in most years by kestrels and sometimes stock doves.

A few years later in 2000 I thought, as these big boxes were successful, I would put up a few small boxes for birds like blue tits. I put up four around the car park area, and three of these were used. My next thought was to ask myself how many boxes could I get on our two courses?

I went round both with expert and licensed ringer Peter Wilkinson to look where we could site them and how many we could fit in. He suggested 70-80 and I turned to him, laughed and replied 'don't be daft, we won't get that many'.

In 2001 we put more boxes out on the John O Gaunt course, then the following year we put some on the Carthagena course, gradually increasing the number to its total of 125 across two 18-hole courses.

The boxes cover a variety of species. There are small ones for blue tits, great tits, coal tits, robins, wren and spotted flycatcher - used by blackbirds in recent years. Nuthatch have

used a tit box once and there is also a wedge-shaped box for treecreepers. There are bigger boxes for stock dove, which are often used by jackdaw, grey squirrel and sometimes tawny owl. We have woodpecker boxes, a frame for barn owl, large open fronted box for kestrel and a chimney-style box for tawny owl.

Most years around 70-80% of these are used, producing between 3-400 chicks.

2009 was our best year, with 478 chicks, while 2012 was our worst. We had only 226 chicks, but this was probably due to the very wet weather at the end of May.

In 2016 we have had 470 chicks, including a record 146 great tits.

In 2009 we erected a kestrel box on the Carthagena course. We were fairly hopeful it would get used, but as the years passed it remained empty, with the occasional grey squirrel using it. In February this year

I checked the box and cleaned out the twigs etc left from the last resident, a squirrel. Then on 30 June we ringed two kestrel chicks. At last, this box has its rightful residents.

### Records of nestbox successes since 2007

**2,570 blue tits**  
**1,057 great tits**  
**22 kestrels**  
**23 jackdaws**  
**13 stock doves**

Robin boxes are not often used, but when they are, they are often predated. A box in 2016 had four chicks.

A kestrel chick





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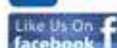
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