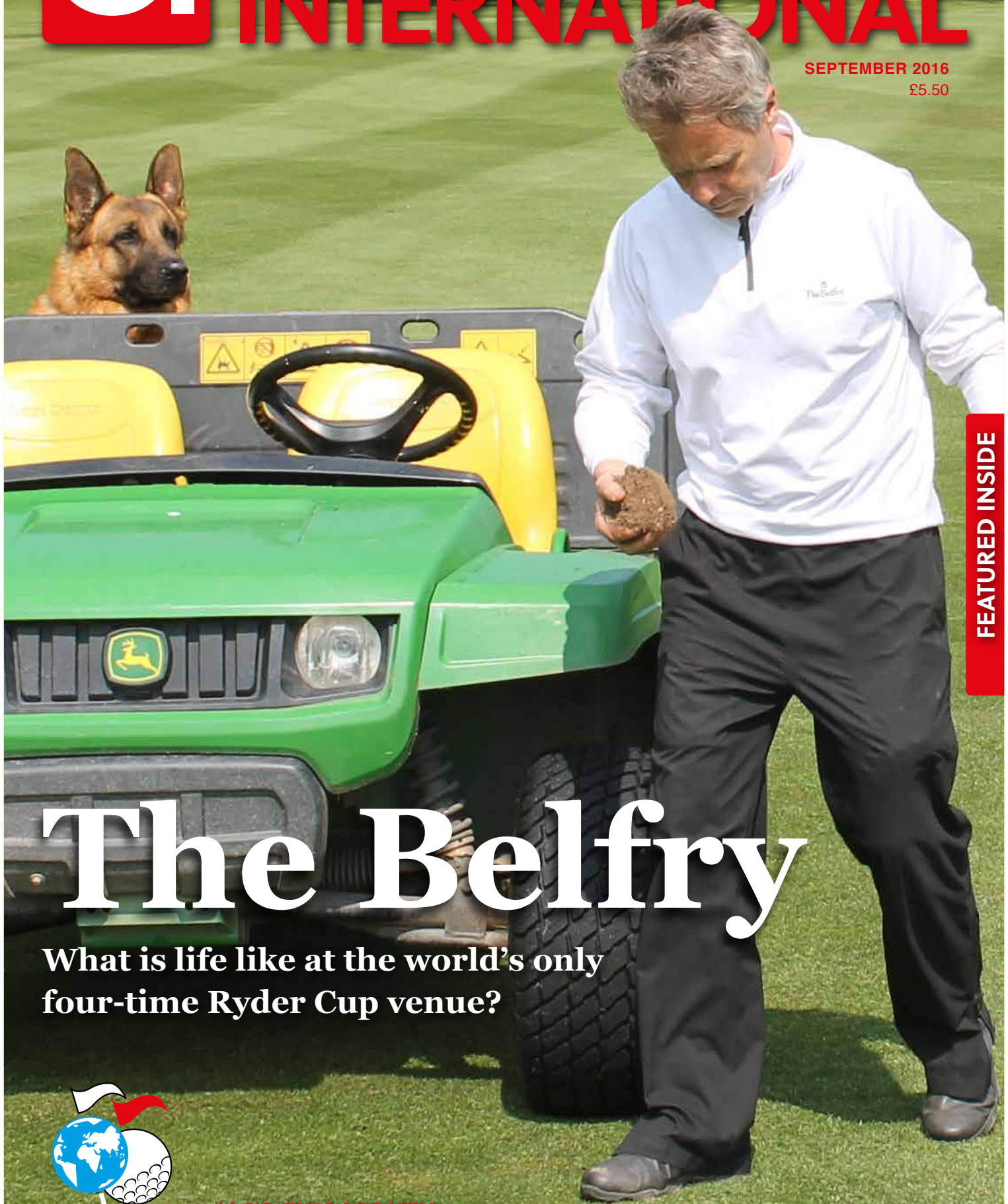




# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER 2016  
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## GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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**Golf's Olympic medal winners**



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

## As season closes, attention turns to our BIGGA champions

**What a truly inspirational Olympic Games we were provided with and it was so thrilling to see the golf events fit in so well with all of the competitors who chose to take part, while really getting into the Olympic spirit.**

There was a fantastic win for Justin Rose, a player who clearly revelled in the experience of being an Olympian and thoroughly deserved his gold. Massive plaudits too to our own Neil Cleverly who led his team of greenkeepers, all trained from scratch by himself, to a hugely successful performance.

Normally the Olympic Games is a detriment to golf, coming as it does in the height of our season and providing yet another distraction to keep the casual golfer away from the course. I hope though that this year's games, with golf taking centre stage, will provide a filip for the industry – already buoyed by Danny Willett's win at Augusta and the soon-to-be legendary Stenson-Mickelson duel at Troon – and justify the terrific work the leading golfing bodies put in to get the sport back into the Olympic fold after more than a century's absence.

Hopefully we will also experience a clement end to the season so golf clubs can mitigate some of the

difficult months earlier in the year. With Darren Clarke having made his Captain's picks, all eyes now turn to the Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National in Minnesota to provide further memorable golfing moments for 2016.

Closer to home and the stage is set for BIGGA members to make their own little pieces of history. The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year final is just around the corner and I'm looking forward to seeing who will join the illustrious list of winners and be crowned the best greenkeeping student of 2016. It will also be great to see the calibre of competitor in the brand new Young Student Greenkeeper award.

And then early next month it is time for us to find our own champion golfer as the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota heads to Bowood in Wiltshire. The preview article in this edition has certainly whetted my appetite for the event. I know all the competitors are assured of a warm welcome and that Jaey Goodchild and his team are pulling out all the stops to present the course at its finest.

While I sincerely hope the golfing season extends deep into the autumn, our attention is now turning to the winter months. This of course means BTME, as well as regional and sectional conferences and seminars. The finishing touches are just about complete on the Continue to Learn programme and we have some exciting 'headline acts'. The aforementioned Neil Cleverly from the Olympic course in Rio will be discussing all the challenges he has faced in taking the course from its absolute beginnings to the championships we have just witnessed. And the Ryder Cup will also take centre stage as Hazeltine superintendent Chris Tritabaugh joins his opposite numbers from the past few matches to give attendees an insight into the ever increasing demands of the biennial Europe-USA contest.

Registration for BTME opens this month and the full Continue to Learn programme will be available at the start of October.

Meanwhile it is gratifying to see that our Sections continue to provide many opportunities to attend educational events via formal seminars or the more informal 'turf clubs'. Continued professional development is at the heart of greenkeeping and it remains BIGGA's key focus to ensure our members have access to all the developmental events they need.

WELCOME



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# FROM THE EDITOR



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

## Working to get better together

**Here at BIGGA House, there's a sense of anticipation in the air.**

As the golf season subsides and the nights draw in, BTME increasingly comes into view over the horizon. It's some way off yet, but here at HQ, we're working incredibly hard to make sure this year's offering is the best ever – and from what I've seen so far, I'm pretty certain that's going to be the case.

If you'd like to attend BTME, but not sure you can afford to, head on over to our Learning and Development pages, where there is still time to apply for the ICL Scholarship, which comes with 15 hours of education at Continue to Learn.

This month's edition really is jam-packed full of opportunities for career progression. Whether it's Lorna D Sheldon talking about how to write the perfect CV, to the launch of the new Diploma in Golf Club Management, which will give ambitious greenkeepers the opportunity to play a leading role at their club.

Also on the L&D pages, we're delighted to launch this year's Future Turf Managers Initiative, which will see 20 up-and-coming greenkeepers head to the European headquarters of BIGGA Partner Jacobsen for three days of education.

We had some incredible entries for this year's BIGGA Photographic Competition and we need your help narrowing down the finalists to choose the 12 images that will form next year's BIGGA Calendar. Head to GI Newsdesk to learn how you can vote for your favourite.

When I joined BIGGA earlier this year, I promised you this magazine would continue to evolve and improve, as we strive to make it the most entertaining and informative publication within our sector. We've got the usual expert features in the mag, but we've also added

some features, which I hope you'll enjoy.

Machinery is a vital part of our industry, and historically GI has been at the forefront when it comes to telling you all about the latest releases, so we've introduced a new page, entitled GI Innovation.



Ilan Joseph Harrison's competition entry

On a slightly different angle, we want to reinforce how by being a member of BIGGA, you actually join a worldwide community of industry professionals, from as far away as Nigeria, New Zealand and South America. We wanted to learn more about how life for these greenkeepers differs from that here in the UK, so there's a new regular feature focussing on international members.

And we've also introduced a 'Dog of the Month' feature. One of the best tips I've heard for new head greenkeepers is that they should get a dog, as it encourages you to actually get out on your course early in the morning, when you notice areas that need attention. So, to celebrate our furry friends, we want to see your pictures of course dogs, which we'll feature in the magazine each month.

I hope you enjoy the read, and as always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have an interesting story to tell from your club.

# CONTRIBUTORS

## Lorna D Sheldon ▶

Lorna has spent more than a quarter of a century working in 27 countries and training over 65,000 people. So there is perhaps no one better to explain how to write a job application your new boss won't be able to refuse

page 28



## ◀ Jon Kiger

Director of media and membership at TurfNet, an online community of golf course managers, Jon possesses dual nationality in the USA and Brazil. He was in Rio for the Olympics, where he met Olympic Golf Course superintendent and fellow BIGGA member Neil Cleverly

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## Richard Brown ▶

Autumn is the time to be on the lookout for turf diseases and Richard, amenity sales manager for Germinal, gave us his top tips for ensuring your grass doesn't fall victim to the UK's most common turf disease, fusarium

page 50



## ◀ Brian Aconley

Brian is technical director for Ilex EnviroSciences Ltd and the Soil Harmony brand. As a graduate chemist, he has 27 years' experience in plant nutrition and product formulation for the agricultural and sports turf markets

page 52



# ACROSS THE BOARD



**Iain Macleod**  
President

Hello from sunny Tain.

June and July were fairly wet, apart from three or four days, whereas August has been warm and sunny up here in the Highlands.

Our annual golf week, which is eight days of tournaments for all categories, men and women, was held in the early part of the month and was a great success once more. Each evening there was entertainment. Indeed on the Wednesday, Elvis was in the building – well it looked and sounded like him.

This was the 40th such event I had prepared the course for, going back to 1977. I'm celebrating 40 years' service to Tain, having started on 25 October 1976. On 24 September, the club are having a three-person team event in my honour and it's open to everyone at £10 per person. The front nine will be an individual stableford competition, then the back nine will be a team event, probably a Texas scramble. Anyone fancying to play in it, please get in touch as after expenses, all proceeds will go to the BIGGA Greenkeepers' Benevolent Fund. It should be a fun day and plenty of teams have entered already, including some greenkeeping ones.

My presidential duties have been fairly quiet



The view from the 10th tee at Tain

during the summer. June saw me at BIGGA House for the national board meetings, then later in the month I attended the grand reopening of Trump Turnberry. The work Allan Patterson and his staff have done on the course is amazing. Turnberry is one of my favourite courses and now it's even better.

Next up I was back in that area, to Royal Troon for the Open Championship. Billy McLachlan and his team had the course in great condition and the tournament was another great success.

It was an honour to spend time with the BIGGA Support Team of dedicated guys, who were all a credit to the association. Everything went like clockwork, thanks to our staff, and it was a wonderful few days.

I'd like to mention one of the Open Support Team from a few years ago, Neil Cleverly, who was a regular back in the late '80s. Now he's been receiving the plaudits for his excellent work on the course in Brazil that hosted the

Olympic tournament, won by our own Justin Rose. Anything is possible in this industry.

As autumn sets in, the grass growth slows and we can turn to our care and maintenance period. This means a little more free time for some. Holidays too, maybe! I have a few functions coming up, which I am very much looking forward to, but how the year has flown by. It's nearly over, before it ever began.

Those of you that are lucky enough to have maintenance weeks or days, I hope all goes well. While for the others, like myself, we'll try and work the jobs around our 'lovely golfers'. It would be nice to think the weather will behave and allow us to get everything done in dry conditions, but is that just wishful thinking?

It's also getting around to the time when sections, regions etc. put on some great educational events. So try and support your committees and take the chance to learn more. We can never stop learning in this ever moving industry.

# Funding your future

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



JOHN DEERE

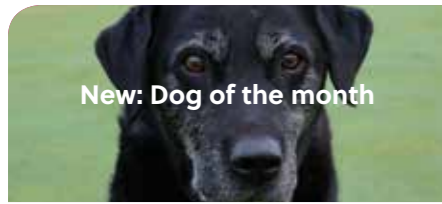


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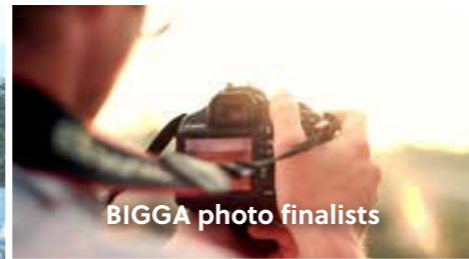




New: Dog of the month



International member  
This month: Abushie Odihili  
New monthly column



BIGGA photo finalists



South Coast  
Turf Club



Boulby visit



# GI Newsdesk

The latest greenkeeping news

## Finalists announced for BIGGA Photographic Competition 2016

From the fairways of Camberley Heath to the Remarkables mountain range in New Zealand, we had some spectacular entries in the BIGGA Photographic Competition, showcasing life on your golf courses.

We received more than 70 entries and were faced with a difficult decision. Some heated debates took place at BIGGA HQ, but after a rigorous selection process, we've chosen our top 20 finalists.

We would be proud to feature each within the BIGGA Calendar 2017, but unfortunately

there are only 12 spots.

So we need your help to choose the top 12 by casting your vote online. You can scan the QR code to the right or head to the BIGGA website, where you'll find a link to the voting section.

Your vote will help decide which images feature in the BIGGA calendar, as well as help choose the overall winner, who will receive a framed print of their picture and a brand new Apple Watch.

Member voting closes on 23 September and we will announce the winner in GI.



John Parry's entry, entitled Autumn Breeze



Phil Rowbottom

### Shooting bronze for Rowbottom

Woolley Park Course Manager Philip Rowbottom proved himself among the best clay pigeon shooters in the world when he came third in the World Championship.

Held in Italy, 41 nations were represented and over 1,000 individuals took part.

The event takes place over four days and Phil said: "I liken the shoot to playing golf. There are courses you go to and you have a good day, and it's the same with shoots. Sometimes you just get your eye in."

The top three finishers were all English, but Phil had driven himself to the Italian venue after failing to secure a place on the England team.

Phil added: "The world championships are in Hungary next year and the Americans have already got a wager on. 'We will see you in Budapest,' they said."

## South Wales group heads underground



The South Wales section members who visited Boulby Mine

Members of the South Wales section descended a mile below the Yorkshire coastline to check out ICL's Boulby Mine operations.

Seven members of the section were invited to the mine, which processes the fertiliser potash.

The group were transported 1,400 metres below ground, where temperatures exceeded 50°C.

Andrew Hatcher, head greenkeeper at Coed-Y-Mwstwr said: "ICL's slogan is 'Where the need takes us', and what a visit this was. We jumped in a transit van and headed for the mine face. It was a 13km journey, with the majority below the sea."

More than 1,000km have been excavated since the mine opened in 1968, but a power cut meant the visit to the extremities of the mine was cut short.

However, on the return journey the group were able to visit the mine's laboratory.

Andrew said: "We viewed an underground laboratory, which I can only describe as a white cathedral. It was absolutely huge and they were looking into the origins of dark matter. Turn off the lights, and it's certainly dark down there."

The mine produces potash fertiliser, with the by-product of rock salt for roads. However, recent excavations have opened up a new mineral fertiliser called polysulphate. At present, Boulby Mine is the only place in the world mining this natural multi-nutrient fertiliser that was deposited 260 million years ago.

"We were so impressed by the site and its employees' remarkable work," said Andrew. "Thank you to Nick Martin from ICL for a fantastic visit."



Matthew Robinson

### 'Matty' heads home for last ride

Oakleaf greenkeeper Matthew Robinson passed away on 10 July after a short illness.

Matty, 45, worked at Crook, Bishop Auckland, Dinsdale and finally Oak-

leaf in Aycliffe, prior to his death. Shanklin & Sandown Head Greenkeeper Tony Mears said: "Matty will always be remembered as firstly a very good greenkeeper, a great friend to many, but mostly he'll be remembered as a really nice guy."

Matthew enjoyed cutting

the fairways on his Toro 5610 and a couple of weeks before he died, he asked to go back to the club and cut the fairways one last time. When he arrived, the team had put a number plate on the back of his beloved 5610 which read MATTY.

Matthew is survived by his wife Tracey.



The fire at Northenden

## Clubhouse open after fire drama

The greenkeeping team at Northenden has been praised after helping to keep the course in top condition in the aftermath of the club's historic clubhouse burning to the ground.

Almost two years later and a new clubhouse was unveiled at a special event, attended by former Ryder Cup player Jamie Donaldson.

Course Manager Rob Cleisham said: "More than anything, it's a relief to see this coming to a conclusion. There's a relief because you know you can just concentrate on the golf course and hope the club can run the new clubhouse as well as it can be done."

The fire struck during the night of October 2014, completely destroying the 100-year-old clubhouse. More than 20 firefighters spent several hours battling the blaze.

Rob said: "It was a weekend. I woke up to a lot of missed calls and a voicemail saying the clubhouse was ablaze. His words were 'It's gone'. By the time I got there the walls were burning down, it was such a shock."

In the aftermath of the disaster, Rob instructed his team to carry on as normal. The course was open that same day and Rob added: "Not once did we close the course. I can't thank my staff enough. They got on with their job and didn't complain once."

After the official unveiling of the clubhouse, Rob walked the course with Donaldson, who was complimentary about the team's work.



@johnllewellyn48  
Hard at work on Rouen Golf Course in France  
@BIGGALtd



@wearegerminal  
Germinal pleased to support Norwood Park GC event which has raised over £3000  
@MoretonGerminal @strirturf



@Sammy3334 @FulwellGC  
greenkeepers giving a good performance at Sandy Lodge in @biggalondoners summer meet



@slater3ns  
A familiar sight for many greenkeepers lately I'm sure @BIGGALtd @biggalondoners #rainisonitsway



@avrogreenkeeper  
Both Verti drains in full swing during our maintenance week with @BIGGALtd @My\_Apprentice Wayne



@paularmour  
Beautiful morning @dunbargolfclub @sherriffgroup @BIGGALtd



@rustycarr5  
Nothing like a bit of early morning greens maintenance microcoring #greenkeeper



@rmsgc\_course @BIGGALtd @rms-proshop  
Look what the RMS Greenstaff have left behind at work tonight! A GOLD Medal for @hcannon34

## GI COURSE DOGS

**Name:** Guinness  
**Owner:** Lee Strutt  
**Course:** Royal Automobile Club  
**Breed:** Labrador  
**Age:** 13  
**Favourite treat:** Anything edible  
**Favourite spot on the course:** Anywhere close to rabbits



**Naughtiest moment:**  
My friend Mark Winder offered to look after Guinness while I was away. Mark put Guinness in the house, while he kenneled his own dogs for the night. On Mark's return, he was ready to eat the lovely chicken dinner his wife had made. Well, there was only an empty plate on the side. Guinness had taken a fancy to Mark's dinner, gravy and ate everything, with the plate licked clean. An hour later, Mark's daughters

were going to bed. They returned to say their sweets were gone and only the wrappers were left on the floor. There was only one culprit possible.

**My dog is happiest when...** he is about to be fed.

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



The winning team from the event held at Remedy Oak

## SW&SW raise Benevolent Fund cash with qualifiers

**The South West and South Wales region raised funds for the BIGGA Benevolent Fund during qualifying for the Golf Management Trophy.**

The first event was held on 3 August at The Kendleshire, Bristol, and attracted 18 teams from Devon, South Wales, the Cotswolds and South West. The winners were Burford, with 84 points, with The Kendleshire in second.

The second event took place at Remedy Oak, Wimborne on 11 August. Fourteen teams from around

the South Coast enjoyed the course. The winners were Highcliffe Castle, with 87 points and second place was Rushmore with 83.

£350 for the BIGGA Benevolent Fund was raised through the sale of raffle tickets on each day.

The top two teams from each day progress to the Golf Management Trophy final on 31 October.

To enter the final qualifying event on 16 September at Torquay, contact Tracey Walker via tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk

## Bunker camp at Dunstanburgh

**Following on from its previous two successful years, Stuart Imeson is bringing Bunker Camp back to Dunstanburgh.**

Stuart is a member of BIGGA's Young Greenkeepers Committee and has this year increased the scale of the camp to encourage more greenkeepers to get involved.

"The camp has grown massively," said Stuart, head greenkeeper at the Northumbrian club. "Last year we had a great bunch of lads and even managed to have a laugh. We've received so much interest, which makes it viable for our small club."

Bunker Club sees the group building traditional revetted bunkers on the links at Dunstanburgh. Throughout the week, meals and accommodation are provided onsite.

The camp runs from 14-25 November and concludes with an education day featuring three speakers from across the country.

For more information or to book a space, contact Stuart Imeson on 07808831172 or email s.imeson.dunstanburgh@live.co.uk



Event winner Martin Durham

## Durham crowned the king at Hart

**Harwood head greenkeeper Martin Durham claimed the top spot at the Campey Pro Am at Hart Common.**

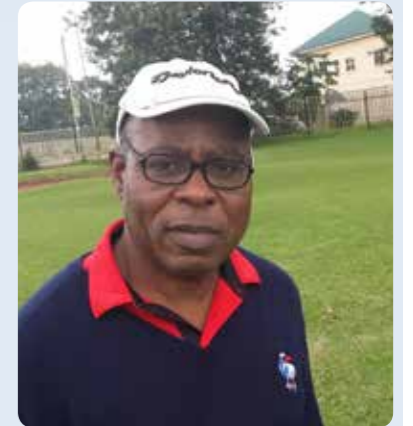
The event sees PGA professionals square off against greenkeepers and groundsmen.

BIGGA Regional Administrator Sandra Raper said: "Huge thanks must go to Ian Campbell of Campey Turf Care and all the team for organising another very successful match. Richard Roberts and his team prepared the course in superb condition."

Greenkeepers did well on the day, claiming three of the top four places and winning some of the other various prizes on offer.

## BIGGA AROUND THE WORLD

### Chief Abushie Odihili Ikeja GC, Nigeria



**What is the most interesting thing you would tell other BIGGA members about Nigeria?**

I am a chief in my native home town. My full title is Iyase of Jagbe Kingdom. The meaning is 'Traditional Prime Minister of Jagbe Kingdom'. Jagbe is located in Et-sako West in the south of Nigeria.

Our weather is very extreme. We have a rainy season with lots of rain and poor drains, or none on most courses. Then the dry seasons are too dry and humid. There is no proper irrigation system in most courses, except those built recently.

**How would you describe the style of course that you manage and what are its most defining features?**

Most of our courses were not professionally-designed and therefore lack character. Features are mostly accidental, except for the six or seven that were built to international standards lately.

**What types of wildlife do you get on the course, that you wouldn't in the UK?**

Our courses are mostly in urban areas and there is no history of wildlife, except the few harmless crocodiles in the water at IBB International in Abijia.

**How does managing a course in Nigeria vary from the UK?**

Unfortunately, greenkeepers are not recognised or accorded the respect we deserve here.

**What is the public perception of golf in Nigeria?**

Clubs are regarded as elitest. All golf is played on club-owned course and so there are no public courses accessible to ordinary people.

**What is the best part of living in Nigeria?**

We are the masters of enjoyment. Nigerians are hospitable and very happy people in spite of the numerous challenges we face.

**Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?**

I am proud to be a member of BIGGA. I have a passion for the game of golf and I continue to be a BIGGA member to acquire the knowledge that allows me to give my total support for the development of the game of golf in Nigeria.

**What is the worst?**

We have unpredictable and poor utility services, such as our power, water and environment.

**How does the weather in Nigeria affect your work?**



By James Hutchinson - BIGGA's Sustainability Executive



August was pretty wet for most of us. It was so wet that I saw greenkeepers describing it as 'wet as a really wet thing', 'soaked', and 'wetter than an otter's pocket'. The wildlife did not seem to mind the deluge of aqua as the number of excellent photos sent in to us shows.

Take this snap from Southwick Park of a covert of coots for instance. Coots like the rain and spend about half their lives wading in water.

Or a beautiful lapwing at Morecambe. This chap was collecting the grubs which came to the surface during a spell of rain - fulfilling its role as nature's herbicide I reckon.

Still on the subject of birds, and kestrels are known to frequent courses as greenkeepers generally keep areas of long rough on site. These areas act as ideal hunting grounds for these acrobatic birds to use as a source of food.

Kestrels are in decline here in the UK, so next time one of your members asks you to have the rough cut down, tell them you are contributing to saving this spectacular raptor. Here's one hovering over the course at Knott End in Lancashire.

Amphibians need the wet weather to survive as their skin requires moisture for long periods of time. Pretty much all courses have an amphibian or two in the long wet grass or low-lying wetlands, but this toad appears to enjoy the sunshine, fescues and great views on offer at Gullane.

Here's an easy tip to improve the number of amphibians on your course. Choose an area which is miles out of play, dig down to just below the water table and shape the spoil neatly. Allow it to fill naturally - don't use irrigation water.

Create at least three of these at around 3m<sup>2</sup> and wait patiently to see what comes. These areas are now not only a breeding pond for amphibians, but are also a place for larger mammals to drink from.

On a more entertaining note, it's generally golf balls which reside on the next line of your mow is it not? This swan at Gleneagles had other ideas and was not moving by the looks of it.

Don't forget to keep your wildlife sightings and conservation projects coming by emailing me at [james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk](mailto:james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk)



**Kestrel at Knott End**

**Jim Fancey's coots at Southwick**



**A toad at Gullane**

**A lapwing at Morecambe**



**Swan vs greenkeeper at Gleneagles**

# SeaMax

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

**Steve Wilson**  
(Trump International Aberdeen)

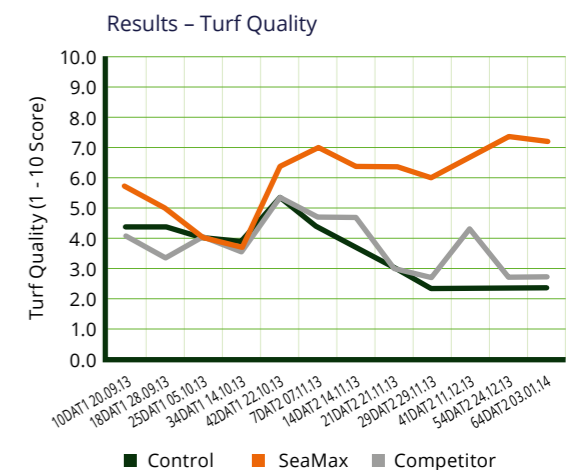
## Not all seaweeds are the same



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# MEMBERSHIP

Latest news and information from the BIGGA membership team

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## How you can form the next generation of club managers

As part of a fundamental shift in the approach to professional golf club management, BIGGA, the GCMA and PGA have launched a new ASQ Level 5 Diploma in Golf Club Management.

For the first time, greenkeepers will be given the same opportunity as current club managers and professionals to train towards senior management positions at clubs.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "Education has always been central to the greenkeeping profession and BIGGA has worked incredibly hard over the years to ensure the qualifications that greenkeepers attain are given appropriate respect within the club structure. Greenkeeping and greenkeepers have made extraordinary progress over the last 30 years or so based on the twin pillars of education

and passion for the craft.

"I am delighted therefore that we have been involved from the very start with the Diploma in Club Management. It will enable the profession of club management to progress on similar lines, and will give many talented current managers the opportunity to demonstrate their competence. Among them will be ambitious and professional greenkeepers who have made the transition into a management role. This can only be a good thing for golf club businesses and the golf industry as a whole."

Suitable for, and open to, all levels of skills and experience, this accredited golf-specific qualification is suited for existing managers, and those looking to move into the profession, perhaps from related roles in the golf industry - including club professionals and

greenkeepers of all levels. Registration opened on 1 August, and the first induction days will take place in October.

The diploma can be studied at the learner's own pace, up to a maximum of three years, to accommodate varying schedule. With an emphasis on flexible learning, it will be delivered through both online and face to face workshops.

The collaborative development of the diploma builds on the close relationship between the three organisations, who form the Golf Club Management Partnership, reflecting how successful clubs usually have an effective and cohesive team - manager, professional and head greenkeeper - at the heart of the business.

Scan the QR code above or visit the GCMA website for more information.

## TYM SUPERB RANGE UNBEATABLE VALUE

The TYM compact tractor range. Powerful, reliable, four-cylinder diesel engines available from 23 to 100hp mean these superb workhorses can cover a wide variety of tasks on the golf course, while offering outstanding value for money.

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# L&D NEWS

Latest news from the BIGGA Learning and Development team



## Take your chance to become a Future Turf Managers' Initiative delegate



Careers expert Lorna D Sheldon



Applications are being taken for the Future Turf Managers' Initiative 2017, made possible by Jacobsen and being held at the company's European headquarters in Ipswich.

Until 31 October, you can apply to become one of 20 delegates selected for this opportunity to develop your career.

The event will take place from Tuesday 7-Thursday 9 March and is aimed at up-and-coming greenkeepers who want to make the leap to course manager. Focusing on personal and professional development rather

than agronomy-based subjects, the FTMI programme utilises the expertise of leading course managers, dynamic trainers and industry experts to mentor and educate the next generation of industry leaders.

The Future Turf Managers' Initiative is already in its fifth year in the UK and has become an internationally-recognised educational event, with programmes successfully being introduced in Australia, New Zealand, Portugal and the US.

FTMI graduates join a global network of like-minded pro-

fessionals, providing extensive opportunities within the industry and social events, such as the FTMI reunion at BTME in Harrogate.

Subjects covered will include: communications; budgeting; leadership; team management; interview techniques.

The ideal candidate will show initiative, dedication to green-keeping, a genuine interest in the industry and will be actively involved in education at both a regional and a national level. They will have worked as a greenkeeper for a minimum of three years and



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

Phillip Hind, St Andrews Links Trust; David Thompson, Hexham; Graeme Roberts, Camberley Heath; Lewis Birch, Sunningdale; Sam Bethell, Chipstead; Craig Boath, Carnoustie Golf Links; Jon Parr, Exeter Golf & Country Club; Leigh Powell, Hockley; Marcus Tolmie, Longridge; Daniel Dumbrill, West Sussex; Richard Sheldon, Marriot Forest of Arden; Tom Smith, Cams Hall Estate; Steven Hirons, Kirtlington; Elliot Wilson, Myerscough College; Mark Broughton MG, Aldeburgh; Adam Moss, Henley Golf & Country Club

The following members also achieved their Milestone this month: Jason Brooks, Torquay; Simon Dexter, Myerscough College; Robert McDowell.

## ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship

Time is running out if you would like to apply for the ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship.

The scholarship offers five BIGGA members the chance to attend Continue to Learn at BTME 2017 programme.

The scholarship, worth £500, comprises three nights' accommodation and a 15-hour education bundle.

Applicants must be a BIGGA member from the full member categories 1A or 1B or an assistant greenkeeper in training from categories 2A or 2B.

Those applying should be CPD Active – which is simple to begin via the BIGGA website



– and should be able to attend BTME and Continue to Learn from 15-19 January 2017.

The closing date for applications is 11 September, so you only have a few days to get your application completed.

To apply, scan the QR code above or head to the Funding Opportunities tab in the Education section of the BIGGA website. Applications can only be made through this online route, but members can nominate themselves.

will hold their Level 2 qualification. A nominator will be required to validate each application.

Representatives from BIGGA and Jacobsen will select the successful delegates. Only BIGGA members can apply.

To access an application form, log in to the members area of the BIGGA website and click on the Future Turf Managers Initiative tab for more details.

Alternatively, you can scan this QR code using your smartphone to take you straight to the application form. Applications will only

be accepted via the online system.

The online application system

will be open until 5pm on 31 October 2016. For more information, email sami@bigga.co.uk



Some of the 2015 delegates



### INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

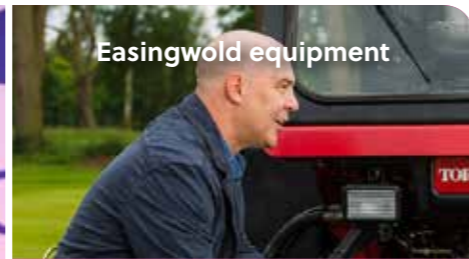
Steven Tierney MG; Chris Lomas MG; Andrew Campbell MG CGCS; Steve Dixon; Richard McGlynn; Jaey Goodchild; Michael Beaton; Frank Newberry



Aberdeenshire machinery



Industry leaders prepare for GolfBIC at BTME



Easingwold equipment



Jacobsen's 95 years



GI Innovation

# GI Industry Update

The latest industry news

## Turf managers' conference at Goodwood

**Agronomic Services will be hosting a joint event with Goodwood on 11 October.**

Guest speakers from all over the world will come together for the event, which will be held in the setting of Goodwood Racecourse.

Agronomic Services' David Snowden said: "The Turf Managers' Conference will be a fantastic opportunity to network with industry

colleagues and share information. Our invited speakers will deliver on a diverse range of subjects and we are looking forward to welcoming fellow turf professionals for what promises to be an enjoyable day."

Travelling from USA for the conference is Paul Ramina of Floratine Products Group Inc.

Paul brings over 30 years' experience in the golf industry.

Another international guest is Jace Bertsch, of the Toro Motor Company, who will give the latest on Toro machinery. A Toro demonstration will be available on the day.

Other guest speakers include: Phil Helmn MG, of Goodwood; Tom Mackenzie, of Mackenzie & Ebert Golf Course Architects; Eddie Bullock, Golf Course Management Consultant; and David Stansfield, agronomist.



David Snowden

## John Deere back at The Belfry

**A fleet of John Deere machinery has arrived at The Belfry for the first time since the 2002 Ryder Cup.**

Director of Golf Courses and Estates Angus Macleod has overseen the purchase of grass cutting and ancillary equipment from John Deere dealer Farol.

He said: "When I arrived in 2012 we were experiencing the usual problems associated with an ageing machinery fleet, particularly the increasingly-high cost of parts. The owners, KSL, gave me a budget and we agreed on a phased replacement deal over several years, starting with the mowers."

The new machines include five 260SL walk-behind greens mowers, two 2500E hybrid electric greens triple mowers, a 7200A PrecisionCut tees and surrounds mower, a 9009A rotary rough mower and a 2030A Pro Gator utility vehicle equipped with an HD200 low-profile amenity turf sprayer.



## Tacit appoints area manager for North of England

**Tacit Golf has welcomed Tom Smith as sales area manager for the North of England.**

Tom has been a greenkeeper since leaving school and spent five years at Bracken Ghyll in West Yorkshire under the guidance of Course Manager Rob Walker. He was heavily involved in the construction of four USGA greens, in addition to daily course maintenance.

Tom said: "I have found this transition into this sector of the industry exciting and hope my knowledge of the industry will help both myself and the people I am dealing with understand the great products and service we have to offer."



## TYM helping The Henley

**The Henley, which overlooks the historic town of Henley-in-Arden, has purchased two TYM compact tractors as it aims to create a new premier club for the Midlands.**

Course Manager Adam Moss joined the 250-acre club eight months ago to an empty shed including two old tractors. He said: "This is a young course, which for one reason or another hasn't been pushed. When I joined we put a plan in place to create a premier facility for the area. In order to achieve that it was imperative the club had the right equipment for the job."

As the club starts its five-year plan of improvements, two TYM T503 Tractors were purchased to join a 28-strong fleet of Toro greens, grounds and fairway mowers, aeration equipment, UTV's and sprayers.



## Jacobsen celebrates 95th anniversary



**Machinery manufacturer Jacobsen is this year celebrating its 95th birthday.**

The Textron Inc company was founded in 1921 by Oscar Jacobsen, who had taken over his Danish father's business.

Previously known as Thor Machine Works, in 1921 Jacobsen released the 4-Acre mower, a gasoline-powered reel mower marketed through Jacobsen Manufacturing (above).

"Since Oscar Jacobsen founded the company 95 years ago, his original vision really hasn't changed much over the years," said David Withers, president and CEO of Jacobsen. "He set out to provide equipment that helped turf managers provide superior

conditions, maximise productivity and reduce costs. From his original putting greens mower to today's HR Series of wide-area rotary mowers, we've delivered on that vision for 95 years. And now it's the countdown to our centennial in 2021 when we will celebrate our 100-year anniversary."

During the company's 95-year history, Jacobsen has developed a number of products that helped advance the turf management industry. Here are a few notable milestones:

1921: Oscar Jacobsen founds the company and releases the 4-Acre mower. Intended for use on "the vast estates of millionaires", the mower boasted a cutting capacity of four acres a day, which was a huge feat at

the time. 1923: Jacobsen introduces the world's first cast aluminium professional greens mower. The Jacobsen PGM can still be found on courses like Oakmont Country Club, host of this year's US Open.

1968: Jacobsen produces the world's first riding greens mower, the Greens King.

1986: The industry's first Turf Groomer is introduced and serves as a major advancement in greens care by increasing green speed without lowering height of cut.

1998: Textron buys Ransomes, a British company with a 200-year history manufacturing agriculture and turf maintenance tractors, mowers and accessories.

## UK golf industry leaders in the spotlight at GolfBIC

The leaders of various UK golf industry bodies will take part in a Leaders Forum at GolfBIC 2017.

Those confirmed to take part in the forum discussion are Jim Croxton, BIGGA chief executive officer, England Golf's Nick Pink, Sandy Jones of the PGA and Andrew Lloyd-Skinner and Colin Mayes of the UK GCOA.

The session will provide a platform for the representatives of the various bodies to discuss the current challenges in the UK golf industry and what is being done to support the sustainability of the game. The session will also include a Q&A opportunity for delegates at GolfBIC to ask any questions they have for leaders' panel.

Other speakers confirmed to take part in the seminar programme are Jay Karen, CEO of NGCOA, Lodewijk Klootwijk, CEO of the EGCOA,

and former Beach Club general manager Gregg Patterson.

GolfBIC is the annual Golf Business and Industry Convention and is presented by the UK Golf Course Owners Association and the Organisation of Golf and Range Operators, in association with BIGGA.

The event takes place at Harrogate International Centre on 17-18 January 2017 in conjunction with the BTME show. It is designed to attract course owners and operators, secretaries and general managers and other club operational staff to learn, network and get inspiration and ideas to help grow club businesses.

The event also hosts a drinks reception on the evening of Tuesday 17.

Registration for GolfBIC opens later in 2016, but you can register an interest in attending by emailing [debbie.goddard@ukgcoa.com](mailto:debbie.goddard@ukgcoa.com)



Jacobsen mowers will maintain Sport Aberdeen's courses

## Landscape Group chooses Jacobsen for Sport Aberdeen

The Landscape Group, a UK-based green service provider, has chosen Jacobsen equipment to maintain Sport Aberdeen's four council-owned courses.

Sport Aberdeen, a registered charity, operates four courses in Aberdeenshire: Balnagask, Hazlehead Pines, Kings Links and the MacKenzie Championship.

The Landscape Group has invested in an array of machinery and Head of Fleet and Assets Angus Lindsay said: "I have a policy of using local suppliers for our frontline machines.

"The decision to purchase Jacobsen equipment was not taken lightly, and I had to evaluate and consider several aspects. This included the level of after-sales support, both on a local and national level, product flexibility and

the requirements of the contract from a client and staff perspective, previous experience, third-party endorsement and value for money."

The machinery purchased includes four GP400 greens mowers, four Tri-King triplex mowers for tees and surrounds, a AR522 rough mower, a Fairway 305, and three MH5 tractor-mounted large area reel mowers.

Stewart McBain, contract manager for The Landscape Group, said: "The quality of cut from the MH5 and the AR522 are probably my standout observations of the current equipment. The AR522 has enabled us to cut down the amount of time it takes to cut the rough from three days to just 10 hours. This has made a huge difference to our productivity and the accumulative amount of time we have saved is staggering."

## Cleaner cut at Easingwold

Following the arrival of two Toro mowers, Easingwold in North Yorkshire has reported a much 'cleaner cut'.

Course Manager Andre Eriah, who has been at Easingwold for 15 years, took delivery of a Toro Greensmaster TriFlex

3400 greens mower and a Reelmaster 5510-D fairway mower recently.

He said: "Alongside increased reliability and decreased fuel consumption, the primary benefit for us has to be the quality of cut. We're getting a cleaner cut, a better pace on the greens, and can now

cut at 4mm instead of 3mm. Having longer blades means less stress on the grass."

The cleaner cut noted at the club can be attributed to the 3400's precision manufactured cutting units, which maintain adjustment for longer to increase performance.

# GI Machinery releases Innovation

## Wiedemann Terra Spike SL

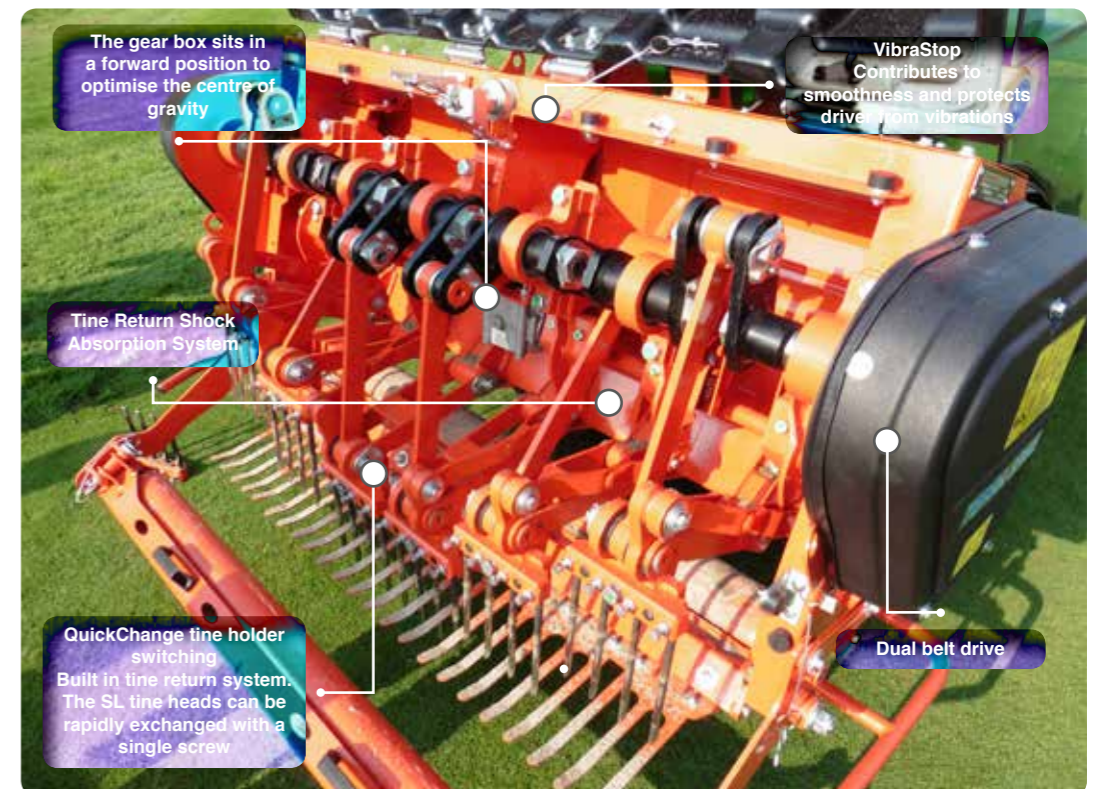


Able to tine down to 210mm on fine turf, the Terra Spike is more than twice the match for some shallow aerators.

The SL introduces a built-in tine return system and additional shock absorbing facility never seen before.

The engineering development helps keep the SL's weight to just 470kg, even though the aerator is 1.4m wide. Suited to compact tractors from 20hp with 600kg lift capacity, it has a very light footprint and will decompact greens and tees.

For more information visit [www.wiedemann.de](http://www.wiedemann.de)



# It's time for the BIGGA National Championship

Date: 10 – 11 October

Location: Bowood Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort, Derry Hill, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9PQ



Sponsored by:



Arrive at Bowood and you pass through the grand Golden Gates and its opulent towers that date back to 1834.

There can be no mistaking – you're entering an estate with a deep history. The house has been home a Prime Minister and is built in fine 18th-century architecture. There is a renowned arboretum and a laboratory where Dr Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen in 1774.

But on 10-11 October, history of a different kind will be made as BIGGA members contest the annual National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, the most prestigious golfing event on the association's calendar.

The course immediately makes itself known, and looking left as you head down the driveway, you are introduced to some of the parkland layout's finest holes.

Constructed on the area of the park known as Home Farm, where once

**'I am really excited about hosting the BIGGA National Championship as it will be all my peers from across the industry who are playing the course'**

cattle grazed and crops were planted, the championship course is intended to compliment Capability Brown's Grade I listed gardens.

Renowned architect Dave Thomas designed the layout, which still has evidence of the ploughing that took place there through its gentle rises and furrows, and the course opened for play in 1992.

The hotel and spa, which sit ad-

jacent, wouldn't come about until May 2009.

Course Manager Jaey Goodchild is responsible for the upkeep of the course, which is now 24 years old and starting to mature. He joined Bowood five years ago, becoming only the third course manager in the club's short history.

Born in Australia, Jaey has lived in the UK for 18 years. Bowood is his first course manager role, after serving his apprenticeship at Chobham in Woking and then joining The Richmond, where he was deputy course manager.

At Bowood he joined a course that was quickly gaining a fantastic reputation, but he wasn't daunted by the challenge. Jaey said: "I was pretty confident when I came here. I have learnt a lot from working with some very well-respected and skilled course managers.

"They were the ideal greenkeepers to learn off as they gave me a lot of

responsibility, so when I arrived at Bowood it didn't come off as such a big step."

With regional PGA events and high profile corporate clients choosing to host their events at Bowood, Jaey has gotten used to high standards and having his work closely scrutinized. However, he added the BIGGA National Championship may just be his biggest challenge yet.

Jaey said: "I enjoy working here and I knew when I arrived that it was one of the higher profile clubs in the region, so I was expectant of events of a high calibre.

"I love it when we host events as it gives you a target to reach, when you know you have something major coming up. You have to plan everything and streamline your preparations so everything peaks at the right time.

"I am really excited about hosting the BIGGA National Champion-



The 13th

ship as it will be all my peers from across the industry who are playing the course. I am viewing it as there being a lot more pressure on myself and my team than there has ever been before."

There are nine members of staff on Jaey's team, including a mechanic responsible for maintaining Bowood's Jacobsen fleet. They will be hoping to get the course in its best-ever condition.

"I think we are just going to go the extra mile," said Jaey. "We'll have a look at areas we usually don't feel the need to, or have the opportunity to. We're going to look to be a lot more thorough and try to push the boundaries, but I'm not going to give any secrets away.

"It's about enjoying the game, so

generally we will set up the course for enjoyment, but there will be a couple of juicy pin positions in there, I'm sure."

Built on the estate's former farm, the parkland course is divided into two distinct sections, with their own subsoil. There are USGA greens on all 18 holes, but one side is heavier, made predominantly of clay. This area was traditionally used for grazing, so there is a large amount of accumulated nutrition.

The other aspect is the high ground, where the soil is sandier. This makes it free draining and although the greens team do their best to treat both sides the same, the clay side has a much longer growing season.

The main cause for focus at pres-



16th green



The 13th

ent is the rough management, where Jaey is undertaking a project to restore these areas to their original wildflower-rich profile.

Jaey, who took part in last month's Greenkeeper International feature on Rough Management, said: "We have been doing a lot of surveying on the rough to try and renovate it to what the profile should have been like when the course was first constructed. That's been quite an intensive project to regenerate the finer swarding as the original vision was a thin grassland with a strong wildflower population."

"What I am trying to do is bring back that original feeling and so we are managing these areas for meadow regeneration."

Through this dedicated programme of restoration, the wildflower population of the course is developing well. Working alongside the STRI, Bowwood has been recognised as an Operation Pollinator Champion Club by Syngenta.

"I'm not a fan of having green everywhere," said Jaey. "I like to see seasonal changes on the golf course. My fertility and irrigation regimens are predominantly about maintaining plant health, rather than for cosmetic reasons."

The present Lord Lansdowne opened the house and gardens to the public in 1975 and has worked to maintain and improve Bowood's features. He has planted more than a million trees and has introduced

hundreds of varieties of flowers across the estate.

These rare species maintain the aura of a Regency parkland, and Jaey meets regularly with the 9th Marquess to discuss the course and their visions for the future.

"Rather than woodland planting," said Jaey. "His work planting has been focused on individual specimens. I have a passion for trees and we have quite a strong responsibility to look after the legacy. The marquess is involved with all the tree planting on the estate and we take a lot of pride in it."

Combined with the course's four lakes, these features make a fantastic habitat for wildlife, with deer, brown hare, kestrels, red kite, buzzard and heron calling Bowood home.

**CHAMPIONSHIP CHECKLIST**  
 Are you prepared for the National Championship? Here's our checklist to make sure your experience goes without a hitch. Good luck!

- Book accommodation for one or two nights.
- Book a practice round - courtesy will only be given if booked 10 days prior to the championship on Sunday only.
- Bring along proof of handicap.
- Don't forget all your golfing attire and equipment.
- Bring a suit and tie for the presentation dinner.
- Check your tee times for the first round - to be sent out two weeks before.
- On the day, arrive at least 40 minutes before your tee time.

18th and clubhouse

**BIGGA National Championship**

**Signature hole**  
 A 402yd par 4, the 16th calls for an accurate tee shot. Carry the bunker at 200 yards off the tee, but don't go too long unless you are staying right of the next set of bunkers, which require a 280-yard carry.

The approach to the slightly-elevated green is protected by two deep bunkers on the left, but there is a way through on the right. Make sure the approach shot is held, as the green is only 19 yards deep.

**Jaey's favourite:**  
 "I really like the 13th hole. It's a long par 5 and it's bordered by some fescue-dominated grassland. It's a nice place to be and there's some great views across the attractive landscape towards the Wessex Downs."

Jaey's tip for playing Bowood:  
 "Number one tip is don't go in the bunkers. There are nearly 90 bunkers on the course and they are big bunkers."

**Jim Croxton:**  
 "This is a top quality course which has hosted the Challenge Tour and various PGA events and will therefore provide a great test for our finest players. The course will be in excellent condition under the direction of a high quality course manager and team, meaning our competitors will get a true championship experience."



Toro Lynx™ Control System

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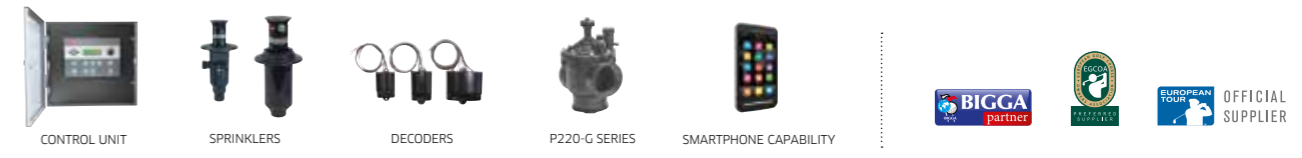
The Lynx™ Control System helps golf course managers do just that.



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Member of Royal Reesink

# Height of cut for greens

## Do faster speeds make for unhealthy greens?



**Vinny Tarbox**  
Advanced Turf Technology



**The pace of golf greens has never been more central to how the golfer views the quality of a given golf course. Speed is demanded instead of wanted and the virtue of patience is a distant memory of days gone by.**

**Vinny Tarbox, sales manager at Advanced Turf Technology, explores how the height of cut affects the health of greens, as well as looking at alternative methods of increasing the greenspeeds.**

Firstly, what determines the speed of a green? According to classical mechanics, ball-roll distance relates to the ball's initial energy when a putter strikes it – or when it's released from a Stimpmeter – and friction – the resistance between the ball and the turf surface. As the ball rolls across the turf surface, the resistance of the putting surface slows it down. A green with high resistance decreases ball speed more quickly than a green with low resistance and results in a shorter ball roll, what we call a slower green. Therefore any activity that alters the resistance will have an effect on the speed of a green.

There are many ways to decrease the resistance between the green surface and the ball and thus increase green speed, perhaps the most obvious of which is reducing the cutting height. The correct

height of cut of any grass sward is a subjective issue and dependent on a number of variables. To postulate what the correct height of cut actually is would necessitate a measurable conclusion. But the question arises as to what variables would the result be measured against?

If we look at just two different aspects of greens management – sward pace and plant health – then one can see both of these are measured in different ways and are affected by the height of cut. A lower height will undoubtedly increase pace, which is a positive effect if that is the intention, but the effect on plant health may be negative.

It's probably fair to say the best course managers are those who manage this continual trade off in the most effective way. The demands of the golfer for fast, smooth greens need to be considered against factors such as overall plant health and putting surface consistency, sustainability, amount of player traffic and cost. The conclusion therefore is there is no actual overall 'right height', but rather a right height for a given circumstance.

There are some fundamental guidelines with respect to height of cut. A less vigorously growing plant is not able to recover from the stresses of a lower cut and so during the colder months, the height is increased and the frequency of mowing

is reduced. Similarly, other forms of plant stress such as wilt, drought, excessively wet periods or an occurrence of disease may necessitate an increase in the height of cut. The reason increasing the height helps to combat plant stress is due to more leaf being left on the plant and thus a greater surface area being made available for photosynthesis.

When discussing changing the height of cut it is important to consider how the cut is altered mechanically. This can have an effect in the way the leaf blade is cut. The height is normally changed by moving the front or rear roller up or down – only one for micro adjustments, and the other for macro adjustments. Using either the front or rear roller for daily adjustment is fine, but each will alter the attitude angle of the unit differently. The aggressiveness of cut is progressively increased when lowering the height using the front roller, and decreased when lowering via the rear roller. A plant that is under stress should not be cut with a cutting unit set with a very aggressive attitude angle as this will further compound the stress problem. In this scenario the height of cut may be correct for the situation, but the unit set-up is nullifying any positive effects.

As we move into autumn, the slower growing conditions may necessitate an increase in cutting height. A common issue encountered in the UK is soft greens

caused by water retentive surfaces. When a green is soft, the effective height of cut will be much less than the bench setting due to the weight of the unit pressing in to the turf. To lessen this effect it is a good idea to use mowers with a lower ground pressure. Floating head walk mowers are probably the best solution here.

Grain control is also a factor to consider when looking to achieve consistent, fast greens. The result of graining is a non-uniform green with non-uniform putting speed. Putting with the grain results in significantly longer ball rolls than putting against the grain. However, the closer a green is mown, the less effect grain has on the roll of the ball. One method of minimising grain is mowing in different directions from day to day. For example, if greens are mowed east and west on Monday, on Tuesday they should be mowed north and south.

Different types of grass and their various cultivars chosen will have a bearing on the optimal height of cut that a playing surface is maintained at. It does not denote, however, that a finer density cultivar can simply be cut at a higher height, due to the decreased surface area contact the denser grass has on the ball, which results in faster green speeds. As an example, most new cultivars of creeping bent grass have very high shoot density and fine leaf surface, but this comes at the expense of a propensity for them to increase organic matter build up. This is why the optimum height of cut of these cultivars is low, at around 3mm. Cutting any higher than this during normal growing conditions can lead to accelerated organic matter build up, which can quickly negate the benefits these grasses can have on smoothness and speed. One grass species that can normally be cut at a higher height of cut without a compromise in pace is fescue. Its density and fine-textured leaf can still provide decent speeds when cut at higher heights of cut. The caveat here is that fertility levels need to be maintained low enough so excess organic matter build up is avoided.

Golf greens however, can be managed to produce firm, true putting surfaces without the need to cut them down to excessively low heights. Some examples include reducing nitrogen levels to help fine down the grass leaf, regular light grooming and verti-cutting to promote a more upright growth, and topdressing to 'fill in' any small voids in the turf. A simple and frequently used method is to use rollers to

smooth the green.

The basic roller consists of a drum of a given weight, which may vary in diameter, that is rolled across the green to even out small deviations in the surface of the green. The weight of the roller will determine the extent to which these deviations are compressed. An evolution of the basic roller system is to use several rollers in train so that for a single pass over the green, the surface may be rolled in multiples determined by the amount of rollers in use. Ride on rollers are being used in increasing numbers but must be used carefully as over use can cause soil compaction, which can increase invasion of annual meadow grass, disease and their subsequent problems. However, occasional light rolling can help to increase green speed without the need to lower grass cutting heights.

Incorporating vibration into the rolling of greens has recently gained acceptance among the greenkeeping fraternity. A Vibrating Roller System works by generating vibration through an offset weight placed on a rotating shaft. As the shaft rotates, energy is transferred back and forth from one side of the shaft to the other. This alternating shift in weight creates the vibration. Using a vibratory roller has the added advantage of being able to vibrate topdressing into the turf canopy. Their use will help true the surface and it is ideal for use between cuts to keep a consistent speed on the playing surface. Integrating this with the topdressing of the greens will get a firm and true playing surface while not adding the compaction issues that traditional rolling can add. The SMARTVibe Vibration cassette from ATT offers a method of levelling the greens surface while limiting the stress on the plant. SMARTVibe has an operating frequency of 83Hz transferred through two 63mm diameter rollers to achieve fast putting surfaces with no chance of corrugation occurring on the green surface.

At Rushmere on the outskirts of Ipswich, Head Greenkeeper Pat Swinn has invested in three ATT SMARTVibe units for their Toro Greensmaster, for use on the greens on the 18 hole course.

Pat said: "With a small team, speed is of the essence. Any equipment that can get the job done quicker is welcome. When Eddie and Stuart from Ernest Doe came in to discuss the levelling of our greens, and set up a demo of the ATT cassettes, we were really impressed and hooked.



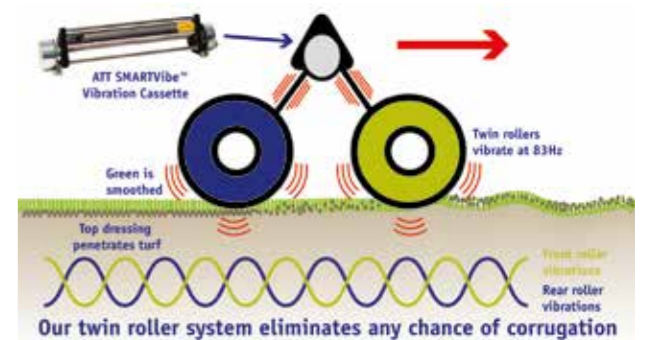
Height of cut isn't the only method of adjusting green speeds

"We all said what great tools they were.

"We previously used a ride on unit but this was a bit awkward – you had to hitch it up, tow it behind a buggy, unhook it, ride across the greens sideways then hitch it back up and move on. It would also make quite a bit of mess and struggle with any sort of incline if the grass was even slightly damp. With limited resources this was a big exercise. We've been able to use these cassettes more in the few months we've had them than we did with the other unit that we'd had for years. We're saving so much time by using them on our Toro Greensmaster - it's just as quick as cutting a green.

"The feedback we've had from the players on the speed and trueness of the greens has been great – they say play is quicker now than it ever has been."

In conclusion, the correct height of cut and greens speed for your course comes down to the skill, patience, attention to detail and careful management from the greenkeeper. Regular measurement of your greens should be a part of your routine and analysis as you head towards the colder months.



# How to get your dream job



with Lorna D Sheldon  
Careers expert

**You've seen the job of your dreams and you want to impress. Unfortunately, your CV looks like it was drawn with a crayon.**

**You've applied for a top job, but so have hundreds of other candidates. How do we polish things up to make your prospective boss stop and take notice when he comes across your application?**

**To answer the question, we enlisted communications specialist Lorna D Sheldon, who has spent 25 years helping over 65,000 people achieve their goals.**

**Once again she'll be bringing her expertise to her successful workshops at BTME, but this month Lorna gave us the low down on how to create a world class CV and covering letter.**

Short-listed and successful candidates are invariably the people who provide employers with the best CV's and covering letters. When it comes to getting a job, how you perform at the interview is, of course, crucial, but only the people with the best CV's and letters get to that stage.

On average, recruiters only give 15 seconds to the first glance. If the CV does not catch their interest or there are any spelling mistakes, it may go straight in the bin.

So to achieve an interview, your CV must be presented professionally, clearly and in a way that indicates you are an ideal candidate for the job.

When you think about it, what is the purpose of a CV? It's to show the employer you have the right skills, experience and attitude to be a success, but it also demonstrates your ability to communicate in a professional manner.

Your CV is a form of advertising, only the product is you.

**HOT TIP:** Who said a CV had to be a text document? Step outside the box and make a CD or DVD. If a picture paints a thousand words, imagine what moving pictures could do.

When applying for nearly all positions you should aim to fit your CV on to one side of standard A4 paper. Use as few words as possible and get rid of any that are unnecessary. This will help you create a template that can be tailored specifically when you apply to differ-

Lorna presenting at BIGGA BTME

ent jobs.

If you find blowing your own trumpet difficult, then you might be one of the many people who like to deal in direct facts. If this is the case, get someone who is creative and enthusiastic to help you write powerful descriptions about yourself.

**HOT TIP:** Keep it simple, keep it concise, keep it easy to read. Sell yourself by tailoring your CV to the individual employer

## Writing tips

1. In the UK, use 's' in words such as realise, finalise, organise. Using a 'z' is the American spelling
2. Be careful with apostrophes and make sure they're used in the right place.
3. Use short sentences of up to 15



words. The longer your sentence, the less clear it becomes.

4. Write the covering letter in a style you think will appeal to the employer.
5. Avoid jargon, acronyms and technical terms unless essential.
6. Avoid fancy fonts or a mixture of more than two.
7. Use 10-12 point size for the main text, 14-20 for headings and 10-12



in bold for sub-headings.

8. Black text on white background is the easiest to read. Avoid colourful or black backgrounds.

9. Avoid background graphics or pictures behind the text.

10. Italics and heavy bold types are difficult to read.

11. In letters, position your main heading between two-thirds and three-quarters up the page.

12. Use left-justified text

13. Only use capitals for headings, not the main text. Capitals are more difficult to read than lower case. Avoid fully-justified text as it's also more difficult to read.

## CV template

### The heading

Include your name and the words Curriculum Vitae.

On the left hand side your contact details, including your address, telephone number, email and driving licence status.

On the right you may wish to include a photograph.

### Personal profile

List five to seven high impact statements that describe you and your personal strengths.

Put serious qualifications towards the end of the list.

Don't waste space with "I have" or "I completed". Bullet points will do.

### Experience

This is not your career history but a bullet point description of your experience and your capabilities. This section will include such points as:

- Background in wide range of course types...
- Management of change...
- Implementation of modern management procedures...
- Over 10 years' experience in...

Go for active descriptions, rather than passive. For example, this will be when you have made things happen, not when you had things happen to you.

If you are at a very early stage in your career you won't have a great deal to put in this section. If you have just left college, you may wish to include experience you had there, such as "set up a committee for..." or "managed the basketball team..."

Some experience-type examples include:

- Working effectively in a team
- Supervising others and activities
- Researching and exploring
- Decision making
- Dealing with suppliers, partners and associates

You can add a bit of definition to the above, such as:

- Number of staff or members
- Annual turnover or revenue
- Size of location or site
- Value of business

There are also non-work experiences which should be added under that heading:

- Volunteer work
- Fund-raising
- Committee member of club or society
- Collecting and making things
- Local politics





**Achievements**

This is where you write your major achievements. Refer to facts, figures and timescales. These achievements should be based on facts and figures and back up statements made in the personal profile section.

Remember in the present work climate, employers are looking for other abilities in addition to academic qualifications. They want life skills, emotional intelligence and maturity, tolerance, wisdom and triumph through adversity. They will be looking for a well-rounded person.

Non-work achievements might include creating things, managing people, selling and marketing items or products or hobbies and interests which will show a rich source of achievements.

**Career history**

**HOT TIP:** By just adding the years you worked at a company, it hides that you may only have spent a few months there

Neatly presented summary of your career history. Starting with the most recent or present job and work backwards. Show start and finishing years, company name,

city or town but not full address and job title.

**Education and training/ Membership of professional bodies**

List bullet points showing exams you have taken, such as GCSEs, AS and A Levels and college or university degrees. GCSEs can be sacrificed if there isn't enough room.

What training courses, workshops or seminars have you attended?

Finally, list your membership of professional bodies or sports associations.

**Covering letter**

Your covering letter should be no more than one page of A4 and addressed to a person with their title and the correct address. If you don't have these or a name, telephone the company and find out. Look at what the job advert is asking for. Make sure your key skills, attributes and experience are reflected in the letter as well as your CV. Draw the reader's attention to the fact your profile fits their requirements.

Keep the letter brief and concise and ensure you use key words and phrases.

Try to use the first line to grab the attention. The last line should be a strong statement.

**HOT TIP:** Add a PS - a sentence at the end of your letter. A PS is a marketing ploy and draws a final look at the entire covering letter.

**Covering letter template**

**Heading**

State the job you are applying for in a heading

**First paragraph**

State the job again and where you found out about it. Also when you are available to start

**Second paragraph**

Why are you interested in this specific type of work and why does the company attract you?

**Third paragraph**

Summarise your strengths and how they would be an advantage to the organisation. Relate them to the competencies required for the job you are applying for.

**Last paragraph**

Mention any dates you are not available for interview. Thank the employer and say you look forward to hearing from them.

**Signature**

Print your name as well as signing it. Use Yours sincerely if you know their name or Yours faithfully if you do not - but it's always better to call and find out their name.

**PS**

Always add a PS It's a really good marketing tip

**HOT TIP:** Looking for a new job? Checkout the recruitment section on page 64. You can also head to the recruitment section on the BIGGA website by scanning this QR code.



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# Shape the future

How next year's grass cover and soil profile will improve thanks to work you do now

Dr Andy Owen and Henry Bechelet  
ICL Turf and Landscape

As the summer comes to an end, the focus of our greenkeeping practice changes and our thoughts turn to preparing for the following year. Autumn is generally a time of renovation when we try to bring about improvements in the quality of the grass cover or the nature of the soil profile that will stand us in good stead for the next year.

Autumn is the time when we try to shape the future.

Autumn can also be a time of jeopardy, with disease pressure and moisture levels potentially exerting a negative influence on the turf qualities. This can affect the performance of the greens through the upcoming winter, spring and early summer. What

happens in the autumn can have a major influence on golfer's satisfaction and damaged or unhealthy turf can set an uneasy tone for months on end.

Autumn disease control on our greens is one of the key disciplines of the modern greenkeeper if we are to produce good playing surfaces throughout the year and keep everyone happy.

At ICL we value trial work. We invest in independent and internal trial work to help us innovate and produce the best technologies. We conduct product testing to help us provide the best advice for our customers and because we find it interesting as it stimulates a progressive and positive outlook towards turf maintenance.

Last year we commissioned a



**'At ICL we value trial work. We invest in independent and internal trial work to help us innovate and produce the best technologies'**

trial to investigate a few interesting questions regarding fine turf disease control in the autumn. We hope the findings help you put together a better disease control plan for this autumn. The objectives of the 2015 ICL Autumn Disease Control Trial were three-fold:



sandy loam soil with the sward composition being a blend of annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*) and browntop bent (*Agrostis capillaris*). The site was managed to maintain a high disease pressure, and to encourage *Microdochium* outbreaks.

The key results are described below.

**1. Using a quality Dew Dispersant in a programmed approach can significantly reduce disease outbreaks.**

DewSmart dew dispersant was applied every 14 days at 10L/ha in 250L water. Application was made to a dry leaf where possible – both switched and air-dried. The programme of DewSmart applications was shown to significantly reduce the incidence of *Microdochium* disease on the turf (Figure 1). It did not prevent the outbreak completely, but it clearly had a positive effect and shows one of the benefits of dew suppression.

**2. Dew Dispersants and some fungicides are compatible – but care is needed.**

We often get asked if the application of dew dispersant could adversely affect the performance of other treatments such as autumn fungicides. So to investigate this, H2PRO DewSmart was either applied tank-mixed with the contact fungicide Medallion from Syngenta (a.i. fludioxonil) or applied two hours after Medallion. In both cases the efficacy of the fungicide was not adversely affected and in both cases Medallion controlled disease incidence.

DewSmart was also applied tank-mixed with the systemic fungicide Banner Maxx from Syngenta (a.i. propiconazole) as well as being applied two hours after Banner Maxx. In both cases the efficacy of the fungicide was reduced. When tank-mixed with the H2PRO DewSmart, the efficacy of Banner Maxx was significantly reduced (Figure 2). Also for the staggered appli-

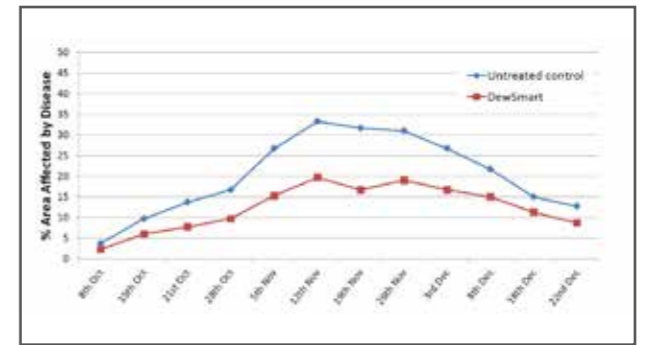


Figure 1: Area of plot affected by Microdochium, DewSmart vs Control

cation, the efficacy of the fungicide treatment was reduced, but not significantly, compared with straight Banner Maxx application. The Banner Maxx application without any associated dew dispersant effectively controlled disease incidence.

DewSmart was applied two hours after Instrata from Syngenta (a.i. chlorothalonil, fludioxonil and propiconazole). DewSmart and Instrata are not tank mix compatible. In this

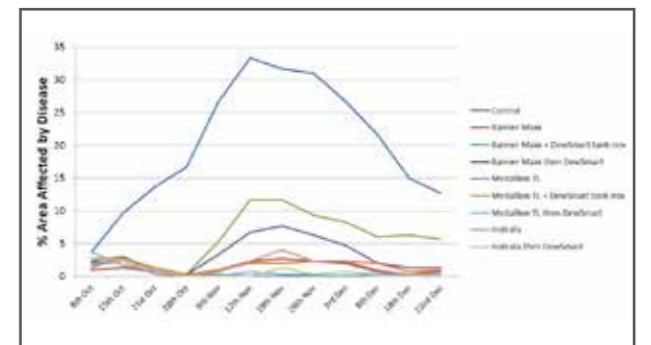
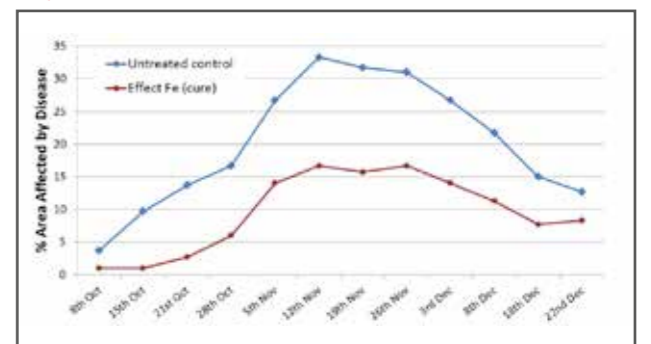


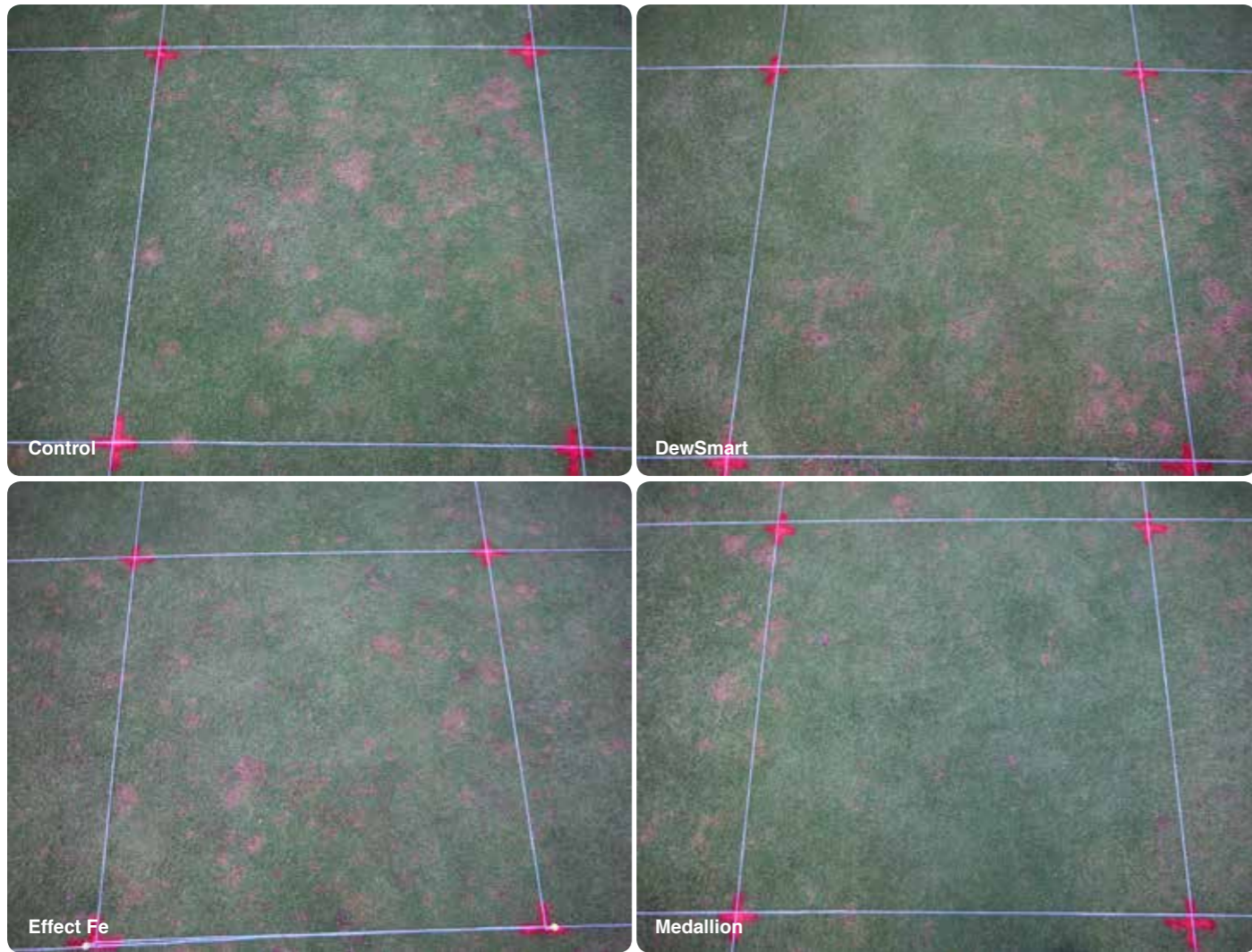
Figure 2: Area of plot affected by Microdochium, DewSmart and fungicide interaction

case the efficacy of the fungicide was not significantly affected. In all cases Instrata effectively controlled disease incidence.

So, no benefit was demonstrated by combining DewSmart with a fungicide. For Instrata and Medallion there was no negative impact associated with their use in conjunction with DewSmart, but when it was used with Banner Maxx, the effectiveness of the fungicide treatment was adversely affected.

Figure 3: Area of plot affected by Microdochium, Effect Iron vs control





**3. When applied curatively, Greenmaster Effect Fe significantly reduced disease outbreak and development**

Greenmaster Liquid Effect Fe, a specially formulated mix of complexed and chelated iron, had been previously shown to have an apparent fungistatic effect against *Microdochium* patch disease in a laboratory study.

This characteristic was tested in this trial as a potential preventative ITM measure to reduce the risk of *Microdochium* patch disease developing in the field. The Greenmaster Liquid Effect Fe was either applied preventatively at 28-day intervals or curatively at the first sign of disease. Both are applied at a rate of 30L/ha in 400L water. This study showed that applying Effect Fe curatively at the first sign of disease significantly reduced the disease development and outbreak (Figure 3).

However the disease levels sustained would not be considered acceptable for fine turf management. Applying Effect Iron preventatively as a 'turf hardener' did not reduce disease incidence or severity.

In conclusion, it is crucial during the autumn months to minimise disease incidence on our fine turf surfaces. This study showed there are significant benefits to be had from suppressing dew formation with H2PRO DewSmart and treating emerging *Microdochium* attacks with Greenmaster Liquid Effect Fe but these methods should only be considered as a part of your ITM programme.

This study also served to confirm the overwhelming benefits of using premium-formulated fungicides applied preventatively when trying to achieve full disease control. The study showed the use of DewSmart did not adversely affect the

performance of Medallion and Instrata, but it did reduce the effectiveness of Banner Maxx, which is an important consideration if we are looking to maximize the effectiveness of those fungicide treatments.

As with all disease control plans it is important we consider all that influences the development and severity of the outbreaks, such as light, shade, thatch, grass types, plant health, and others. We hope that in this simple study we have helped you with your thinking about a few possible additional elements to this year's plan.

We would say to use DewSmart and Effect Fe as part of your plan, but if you need complete control then the preventative use of premium fungicide technology is also vitally important. With this information we hope to have helped you shape the future in a positive, proactive and integrated way. ■



David Greenshield is Amenity Business Manager for Barenbrug's technical sales in Scotland. He possesses a Master's degree in Environmental Biology and a PhD in Plant Genetics. This month he offers five ways to ensure overseeding success.



If you're a golf greenkeeper or other turf professional, finding a way to get greater returns for those overseeding efforts is always on your mind. The cost of seed, machinery and the man hours involved are certainly significant chunks in a maintenance budget.

Fortunately, following a few simple suggestions from Barenbrug, the UK grass expert, could result in helping you get a whole lot more grass for your buck.

**Go for the Goal!**

Before you set out to overseed any grass surface, it's important to decide what you want to get out of the process. Maybe you're lucky enough to have a great deal of

the grass species you need. If this is the case, your focus may be on maintaining this balance so surfaces stay consistent, and one or two applications during your yearly maintenance sessions should do the trick. If exchanging species is your intent, consider seeding as often as once a month during the growing season, so new grasses have a better chance of gaining the upper hand. Replacing a dominant species takes time, so plan on keeping overseeding efforts consistent over several years.

**Conditions, Conditions...**

Without the right growing environment, overseeding won't yield the results you're searching for. Finer grasses require good surface and subsurface drainage. A minimal, organic thatch layer of 20mm or less allows water to seep down to subsurface drains where it prevents surfaces from becoming waterlogged. Ample sunlight and airflow are also considerations to bear in mind. Seeding at the right soil temperature for your chosen grass species is another necessity – above 14°C for bent grass, 10°C for

fine fescue, and 8°C for perennial ryegrass is recommended.

**Room to Move**

Just as growing children, grass seedlings need adequate space to thrive. Proper surface preparation is the key to giving young grasses room to take root. Mechanical preparation will make all the difference in helping seedlings make contact with the rootzone, as well as providing drainage and aeration. Chemical application can also give overseeding efforts a boost by removing unwanted grasses or weeds so desired species have a chance to dominate.

**Sowing Class**

If seeds can't make contact with the rootzone below the organic thatch layer, the odds of successful establishment are slim. Be sure that sowing depths fall below the thatch – meaning a 6mm sow depth translates to 21mm when you figure in a 15mm layer of thatch. Because sowing rates are calculated in terms of weight per unit area, the quantity you need to sow is directly related to seed size. When aiming for species exchange, you'll need to multiply quantities by four to five times for an annual requirement.

**Keeping up Appearances**

Once you've got a good grasp on the ins and outs of overseeding, it's all about proper maintenance. Take fertilisers for example. Waiting to apply nutrients until after seedlings germinate reduces competition with grasses you already have. Top dressing should be relaxed during seeding establishment or applied little and often, avoiding dragging and brushing of abrasive sands, which can easily uproot fragile seedlings. Simply raising moving heights by a millimetre or two can help seedlings flourish, as it reduces stress and allows for increased photosynthesis.



# Life at The Belfry



**Karl Hansell  
BIGGA**

## It's just before dawn and The Belfry is stirring.

I'm at the 6am roll call, where the staff of around 40 greenkeepers have gathered to receive their tasks for the day.

Mowing, spraying, bunker raking – each greenkeeper is given their task for the morning. With more than 40 greenkeepers divided between The Belfry's three courses – The Brabazon, The PGA National, and The Derby, it's a huge operation.

Jobs assigned, first coffee of the day

drank, and the team disperses. The machinery shed, which had been neatly packed with machinery, empties within seconds.

This morning I'll be joining Deputy Head Greenkeeper Jamie Wade, who is responsible for the world famous Brabazon – the scene for Ryder Cup moments such as Seve's historic drive on to the 10th green, Sam Torrance's putt that won the 1985 edition and Christy O'Connor Jr's 2-iron across the lake on the 18th. Where such Ryder Cup legends have been written, standards are at their highest.



Deputy Head Greenkeeper Jamie Wade (left) and Head Greenkeeper Jamie Brooks

I'm new to this course set up business – having only been at BIGGA a short time, but on a day such as that which I enjoyed at The Belfry, I envy you greenkeepers. I'm sure for most of the year, you aren't always that lucky, but this was a day to savour.

**'We are trying to achieve a course that is tournament standard, every day'**

Heading from the maintenance shed towards the hotel, the first job of the morning is to dew off the putting green. Each of the greens are cleared, which I learn is to help prevent disease.

Close to the hotel, mowers aren't allowed this early so as not to disturb guests staying at the hotel. Instead, Jamie fills divots and the first tee is hand mown, with Ed Beard doing the job this morning.

Officially there are five members of staff assigned to The Brabazon. But

Angus Macleod and his team of green staff at The Belfry



with others who float between the courses, 12 qualified greenkeepers and eight students work on this historic layout each day.

Others are assigned to The PGA National or The Derby – each very different courses with their own specific needs. The Derby is a small parkland course, not unlike members' layouts throughout the country, while The PGA National is evolving into an inland links with long rough and firm, running fairways. "We have banter about whose course is better, but it's never serious," said Jamie.

Tees on The Brabazon are cut to nine millimetres, with the tee markers placed front left at the start of the week and steadily moving backwards and towards the right. This gives the grass

comprise The Belfry estate, but they are all out here.

Some course managers prefer staff to be seen, as it reminds members of the hard work you put in to maintaining the course. But at The Belfry, the greens team keeps a low profile and let the courses speak for themselves.

The majority of the work takes place ahead of us, which allows Jamie to check everything is in order and to add the final flourishes. We polish course signs, clear leaves from the path, and pick up broken tees. Tee markers and plaques that commemorate famous moments from Ryder Cup history are lifted and trimmed.

Likewise, each hole gets lifted, cleaned, trimmed by hand and replaced.

"We are trying to achieve a course that is tournament standard, every day," said Jamie. "This means I have to trust my guys to make sure they are doing their job. Jamie and Angus put their faith in me and I do the same to my every one of my guys."



The machinery facility and former farmhouse

time to recover as players generally walk from the back of the tee to where they are to hit the ball. Shifting the tee markers backwards keeps them off the area damaged the previous day. Divots are filled with a mixture of 20/80 sand to soil, mixed with rye seed.

From the tee we head to the first green, and there is evidence that the greenkeepers have been here ahead of us. There is foam from spraying, and the grass is mown.

The other greenkeepers are unseen, swallowed up by the 550 acres that

For Jamie, who joined The Belfry on a temporary summer contract and worked his way upwards, such responsibility is a blessing. He said: "I am really proud of working here and what I have got. I never take it for granted and I never thought I would ever get into this position, where I am responsible for such a big course. I knew I could if I put my mind to it, but with being part of a big team, you really have to make yourself stand out."

We are interrupted by the crackle of the walkie-talkie. We try to make out the Inverness drawl of Angus – who,



Washing down machinery after use and, above left, cleaning course signage

despite being responsible for the entire estate, heads out every morning to ensure the courses are in prime condition.

Every so often, you'll catch a sight of Angus, driving around the course on a truck, accompanied by Alba, who is quickly becoming a star of The Belfry experience.

Alba is an eight-year-old German Shepherd, and is as loyal as they come.



Angus and Alba

Out on the course in the early morning and Alba chases rabbits, with no hope off success, and has a mistrust for switches, barking at them nervously. When Angus is called into the hotel for a meeting, the 50kg dog will sit patiently and silently in the trailer, awaiting his master's return, while visitors stroke him and take photographs.

"When I am out on the course with my dog, that is when I am happiest," said Angus.

The youngest of three brothers, Angus left school without a single qualifica-



Preparing the first tee



tion. The Monday after he left school, he started work at Inverness Golf Club and never looked back. He claims that weekend after school finished was the last he had off work, 35 years ago, and I'm inclined to believe him.

The rest of the staff work one in three weekends and although he prefers a hands-on approach, Angus' other commitments mean he leaves the running of the course to his deputies, first among which is Jamie Brooks.

Head Greenkeeper Jamie joined The Belfry as a 12-year-old and has been here ever since, aside from a very brief stint in sales – which he hated.

“Our number two guys are exceptionally good,” said Angus, who estimates he has filled 95% of vacancies by promoting internally. “If I go away, Jamie Brooks can definitely lead the team.

“You can see a spark in people quite early on and I am going to go to my grave with a headstone that says ‘at-

titude overrides ability’. What that means is, if you have a good attitude, I can make you world class.”

Angus joined The Belfry in 2012, five months after the former estate manager, Kenny Mackay, had made the switch to Wentworth.

In the intervening period, it was Jamie Brooks who was tasked with ensuring the world's only four-time Ryder Cup venue had a successful summer.

“Honestly, I was really nervous,” said Jamie. “But it was the best thing that could happen to me.

“I am quite ambitious and keen to run my own place. But where my next move would be, I haven't a clue. My dream is to have Angus' job as I have been involved with the Belfry since I was 12 and so it is pretty much home.”

I asked Angus how he remains motivated, after achieving his personal career ambitions. He has purchased a

Fairway spraying

Angus conducting a monthly team meeting



home back in Inverness, but his wife works in the centre of Birmingham and the pair are a few years away from retirement.

He answered that with the course and practice facilities in capable hands, the development of staff has become a major cause for pride.

“When you get to the pinnacle of the profession, what do you do?” he said. “When you have achieved your goals, how do you find the new motivation? I want to see these guys going off and running their own courses, that would be a great thing.”

This ambition is one appreciated by Jamie Wade, who spends a couple of weeks each year volunteering at Le Golf National in Paris and who this year was a part of the BIGGA Delegation to the GIS, sponsored by Bernhard.

Jamie said: “Despite our size, we have a close team and we try to instill in them that this is one of the best places to work if you want to make a career in greenkeeping.

“Here they are given all the tools and opportunities to be the best greenkeepers. They don't get turned down for training and we have regular workshops, including visits from BIGGA.

“The Bernhard trip was probably the best experience of my life. I am really trying to push the lads here to do it. They think it's out of reach for them, but it really isn't.”

It's now 11am and we have made our



Chatting to the members

Tidying memorials to Ryder Cup glories past



Sprinkling the putting green in front of the hotel

way back to the maintenance shed, which sits beside an old farmhouse that serves as the course manager's office and a dormie room for young apprentices that may be staying the week.

In the tea room the entire staff has reconvened for a monthly departmental meeting. There is an ongoing discussion about the renovation of bunkers, with today's focus being The Brabazon's 10th hole.

Previous owner Sean Quinn had constructed steep bunker faces – impressive looking from the tee but incredibly difficult and costly to maintain, with the sand washing down into the base of the bunker. The team sketched out the changes themselves, and when it comes to a hole as iconic as the 10th, that's a lot of pressure.

Angus begins the meeting by praising the team for their work in making the previous day's event, a golf day hosted by Lee Westwood, a success.

He then moves on to the results of the latest 59 Club visit. This is basically a mystery shopping service for elite golf courses, and The Belfry has to score

highly to maintain its status.

“These guys are looking for faults, so if you are getting a score above 90%, I tell my team not to get too down about it, as it's a great score,” said Angus, who also makes a point of showing the entire team operational statistics such as budget and payroll.

“It's important that although they may not understand it, the guys are familiar with some of the figures that they are

going to see when they go into a management role.”

The meeting concluded, the staff briefed for their afternoon tasks, and everyone once again heads out into the Warwickshire sunshine. Angus and his team operate with budgets far beyond the reach of all but the UK's elite clubs, but at their heart is the same passion to produce the best golfing experience possible, with the resources available to them. ■

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# Battling storms at Baltusrol



**Mark Fry**  
Worplesdon, Surrey

**Mark Fry is deputy head greenkeeper at Worplesdon in Surrey. After a chance meeting at BTME in Harrogate, he was invited to join the greenkeeping team at Baltusrol in New Jersey for the USPGA Championship.**

**He recalls battling storms to help ensure this year's final major was a success.**

Back in January, I visited BTME at Harrogate and one of the seminar's I attended was 'Tournament preparation at Oakmont Golf Club and Baltusrol Golf Club' by Mark Kuhns.

Mark was my mentor when I was an Intern at Baltusrol and after his presentation we had a long catch up while walking around the show.

We talked about his excitement at having the coming 2016 PGA Championship at his course. He asked if I'd like to come back as a volunteer, and if I'm honest, I was hoping he would offer, so I quickly accepted. After volunteering at tournaments across Europe, I really wanted to do a tour-

name in America and could think of no better way to do it than at my old club with my former colleagues.

After getting the invitation, I wanted to make sure this visa malarkey doesn't ruin my chances. I took some advice from two friends who have attended many American tournaments as volunteers – Lee Strutt and Graeme Roberts. Both told me about the ESTA visa, which is easy to apply for online, and I was approved. Thanks guys.

Sunday 24 July was my first day. A 3am alarm went off and this is where I first met my flatmate, Chris Rapp. He is a mechanic at Bellerive, which is holding the PGA Championship in 2018. Chris was volunteering as a spare mechanic and had been here for a day already, presumably coming back from Baltusrol late last night, as I didn't hear him come in. I wasn't due to go in until 1pm for the volunteer's orientation meeting, but Chris offered me a ride, which I decided to take so I could have a look around. Everything was pretty much still the same, however there were some slight changes and definitely more machinery.

As the crew came in, I started to recognise some of the crew who were still there 12 years after I left. One of them, nicknamed 'Shorty', recognised me. He's been there for 24 years, which is amazing. That shows you Baltusrol and Mark look after them well. Then I met up with Dan Kilpatrick, who is now the 'lower superintendent' and was the irrigation technician the last time I saw him, and James Devaney Jr. who was an intern with me and is now the upper superintendent.

I had a lot of time to kill before the volunteer's meeting, so had a couple of course tours and caught up with my old friends, before helping out with the volunteer's hospitality marquee as the other volunteers began to roll in. One of the volunteers was Kevin Doyle, who works for the GCSAA and was our dedicated bus driver.

Monday morning was the first day of the practice and the bus was waiting for us all at 3.30am. We had a group meeting at 4am at Baltusrol with all the seniors, regular crew and volunteers. Mark and Dan told us what we were doing for the week, but made

sure we understood that a huge storm was brewing and coming our way so things could change very rapidly.

My assignments were:  
Morning: Ball mark repairs, swish debris and double hand cut the 3rd and 18th greens, then help out with the bunkers crew or fluffing up rough (standing up the grass) from 250-350 yards from the tee and around greens.  
Afternoon: Ball mark repairs, swish debris and double hand cut the 3rd and 18th greens, then help out with the fairway divotting.

However, before we went back and every morning they did a raffle and the prizes were all sorts of goodies. The main prize which everyone wanted to win was the official 18th PGA flag. Once we were ready, it was time to head out and start our assignments.

The bunker faces are flattened by a squeegee and the middle is springbok raked, so they look amazing.

Once everyone finished their morning

assignments, it was then into our hospitality marquee for our huge breakfast. Here I met two Brits who are doing an Ohio State Programme. Lewis Cassidy from Blackburn is doing his internship at Plainfield in New Jersey, and Gavin Keyworth, from Nottingham, is doing his internship at Liberty National in New Jersey.

Some of the volunteers went back to the hotel after breakfast to sleep, while others stayed to watch the professionals. However, it looked like the storm was coming closer.

By dinner at 4pm the storm reached us and the almighty thunder and lightning came onto us. The heavens opened and I've never seen rain like it. In just a couple hours we had two inches and some of the bunkers are washed down, with lots of standing water. After looking at the weather forecast, we learned there was another one coming in and we were told to head home.

Tuesday morning came and things on



Storms submerged portions of the greens



Superintendent Mark Kuhns, centre, with James Devaney Jr and Dan Kilpatrick

the course didn't seem as bad as we all predicted. There were a lot of bunkers washed down, however it could have been a lot worse. We were all relieved and a large group attacked the bunkers, while another group cleared any standing water on the fairways. All the greens were good to hand cut so our group continued to do our assignment and then helped out with the bunkers.

Once all the bunkers were completed and back in play and water removed from playing surfaces, we were all in for a well-deserved breakfast. The weather now was baking hot – it often reached 43°C – and extremely humid, staying like that throughout the week, with occasional storms.

During round one on Thursday there were no problems, but during the night we had a storm. When Friday morning came, we still had heavy rain, which delayed our start as there was standing water everywhere. Once it calmed down we needed to get the practice ground tee sorted by removing standing water so the pros could warm up and practice before their second round. This was where I first used a 'Water Hog' to remove standing water from the surfaces. They are an excellent piece of kit for getting water off

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The maintenance team heads out before dawn

without damaging or stressing turf.

On Saturday I met my brother, who lives in Long Island, for breakfast and we watched the golf. However, reporting for work that afternoon we were hit by another storm. Play was stopped, meaning some of the players had to mark their balls and head off the course. The PGA postponed the competition, making the decision to continue on Sunday.

When Sunday came we still managed to double cut every hole and tracked the bunkers, despite some of the pros being out early and on every single hole. The plan was to fully complete the bunkers and change the holes behind round 3, so the final round could be played to schedule.

However, the storms kept brewing and throughout the day we had spo-



Mark Fry with the Wanamaker Trophy

radic rainfalls and one little storm, which delayed play from continuing. This only lasted for about 30 minutes and play resumed, but meant we were on every green with a squeegee to push any water that built up to allow play to continue throughout the day. Amazingly we all pulled it off and the tournament finished, later than normal, but completed on Sunday. As Jimmy Walker and Robert Streb in the last group came down the 18th, we were all behind the green getting ready for a group photo with the winner. It was certainly a close one with Jason Day challenging, however it was Walker's day and he finished up on 14 under par. After we had our group photo with Walker – he was holding a squeegee as well – we all headed back to the shed and said our goodbyes.

It was a difficult but an amazing week here at Baltusrol and it's sad to leave this place once again.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mark Kuhns and Baltusrol for inviting me back to do a PGA Championship. I would also like to thank my club, Worplesdon, Course Manager Paul Robinson and Secretary Chris Lomas for giving me the opportunity to go and experience this major event.

For anyone who is interested in volunteering at any tournaments, I wouldn't hesitate to go for it. If you are interested, then a good place to start is with BIGGA. Take a look on their website and you'll see that they organise several tournament opportunities each year for you to apply for. I would take advantage and apply as many times as you can. If you don't get in first time, you must keep on trying. Trust me, you'll eventually be given the opportunity and will not regret it. ■

## Stefan's tale provides warning when travelling to America



Wentworth's Stefan Carter had hoped to volunteer at courses around the USA this year, but was refused entry to the country when he discovered he didn't have the correct work permits.

"I know friends who have volunteered for tournaments in America before, so I didn't see there being any problem going over there myself," said Stefan. "I got my travel insurance and an ESTA travel visa without ever thinking I would need a work visa as I wouldn't be getting paid for my time there."

Flying into Detroit, Stefan was stopped at border control and taken to a questioning room, where he was told he should have acquired a work visa. "I said I wouldn't be getting paid and that this is a common thing to do in our profession, but they didn't want to listen," he explained.

After a failed attempt to contact the course superintendent in Ohio, Stefan was sent home on the next flight to the UK. He had his phone and passport confiscated and he was escorted to his seat on the plane, having spent just three hours in America and after paying for the flights himself.

"It was a rather embarrassing situation to be in," said Stefan. "When I called my girlfriend early on Sunday morning, she presumed I was ringing her drunk from America. Sadly, she discovered I was back at Heathrow and needed picking up, less than 24 hours after she had dropped me off."

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# From quarry to green

## A focus on Bathgate Silica Sand

**Nick Gray has been in the sand industry since he left school and has been at Bathgate Silica Sand for 20 years.**

**The company is a leading provider to courses around the UK, including Open championship venues, and Nick gave Greenkeeper International a tour of Bathgate's Arclid quarry, to discover the journey sand makes, from quarry to green.**

Sand is one of the world's biggest commodities.

Humans use more than 40 billion tons of it each year and the world-wide economy is estimated to be \$70bn annually.

In the golf world, we largely consider the sandiest parts of the course as something to be avoided at all costs. But as most greenkeepers will tell you, the bunker isn't the only use for sand on a well-manicured course.

Bathgate's Cheshire quarry produces 500,000 tons of silica sand each year. This is the primary ingredient in the production of rootzone for fine turf and so is one of the most important elements for making sure greens are durable

and of the highest quality for players. Like a solid old Scottish links, a well-constructed green will resist compaction even under frequent close mowing and play. It will hold its nutrients and allow the right amount of water to percolate and air to circulate.

It's a fine balancing act in order to achieve perfection, and since golf is an all year round sport, it must take into account the most unpredictable ingredient of all – the weather. Greens must withstand seasonal conditions draining water away in wetter months, but retaining it for drier ones. Planning for every eventuality is the key to success and laying the groundwork is imperative.

So what makes the perfect green? From the point of view of construction, there are up to five

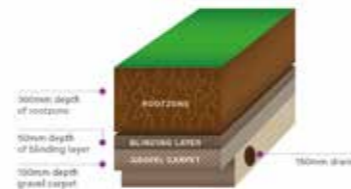


Nick Gray at the quarry face

Bathgate's Arclid quarry

layers. The base layer is where drainage pipes are installed, and that is topped by a gravel carpet upon which a blinding layer of clean, fine grit is laid to bridge the gravel and prevent the rootzone penetrating the gravel carpet. The rootzone is laid upon the blinding grit. The top layer consists of fine grasses and is maintained through high quality top dressing.

Silica sand plays a crucial role in both the rootzone and the top dressing, so it's here where we're focussing our attention.



### Getting to the roots of the matter with sand

In both rootzone and top dressing, sand is critical to success. According to the requirements of each green, they should be produced to a precise sand-soil mix for optimum effect. In the case of the rootzone, USGA and UK guidance is focused around generating the correct hydraulic conductivity - the ease with which water can move through the pore spaces – and air porosity rate. Bathgate achieves the optimum



flow rate and particle size through a sand and loam mix, typically split 70% sand and 30% loam.

However, there are a variety of options that can be produced dependent on particular specifications. This example is the optimal specification in order to produce a healthy, nutritious root environment for sustaining growth and providing a balanced, durable and consistent green.

Bathgate produces a range of sand and compost mixes, including Re-Root, Re-Root USGA and Re-Divot. These provide a green alternative to loam, and have a typical

Agitating the sand to sort it into various sizes

The processing facility



70% sand and 30% compost mix. This acts as an organic fertiliser that sustains nutrition, enhances root growth and reduces nutrient losses through leaching.

Topdressing should subsequently match the profile of the rootzone to achieve compatibility in particle size, pH balance, hydraulic conductivity and air porosity. Incompatibility can compromise a green's performance.

Bathgate Silica Sand has seen an increasing demand for pure sand dressings in response to the changing climate and increased rainfall. Choosing the wrong topdressing can cause layering within the rootzone, inhibiting turf grass root development and can cause root break. It may also cap the sur-

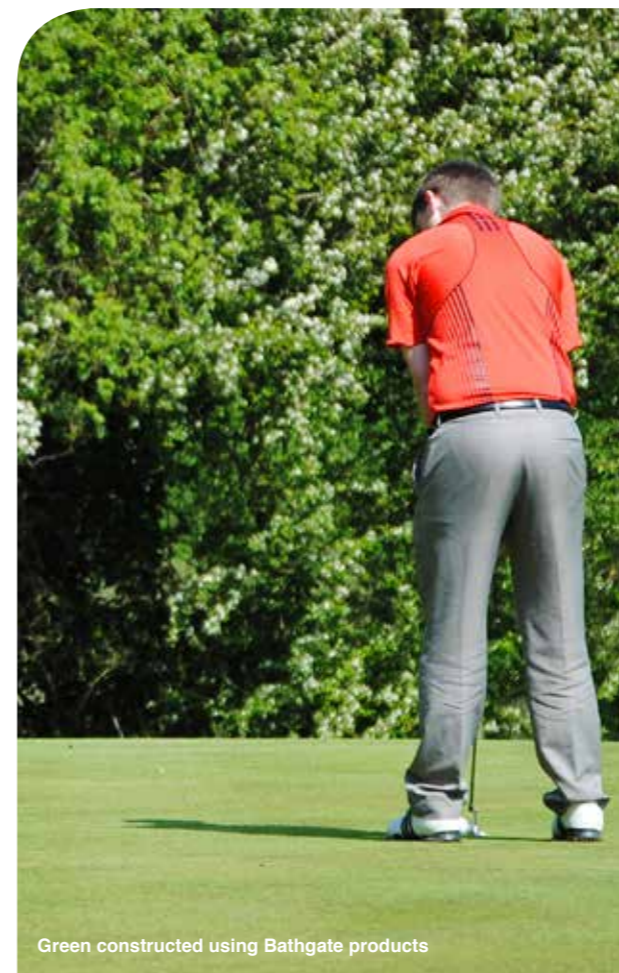


Some of the coarser sand on site

face of the green, reducing absorbency and inhibiting water and air movement.

Greens that are not top-dressed on a regular basis are more likely to have poorer turf quality and the surface can become uneven, resulting in frustrating play.

Topdressing can also be restorative to surface levels and correct soil problems by providing a source of nutrition and protecting the crown of the grass plant, which in turn leads to a smooth, firm sur-



Green constructed using Bathgate products

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face. With the continued demand from golfers for greater ball-roll distances, greenkeepers have begun topdressing more often in recent years throughout the growing season – typically every 14-21 days to ensure all round performance is achieved.

**From quarry to green**



There are many different grades of rootzones and topdressings to consider based upon the conditions of each individual course, including soil type. During the production process, sand is mixed with compost or loam to deliver the right composition of sand for the green.

A meticulous testing procedure alongside an expert partner with

Rigorous tests carried out at Bathgate's on-site laboratory

the knowledge to ensure the rootzone and topdressing compositions are right first time, can smooth the path to successful greenkeeping.

Bathgate Silica Sand has an onsite laboratory to carry out tests on all grades of sand, topdressing and rootzones produced. 100 grams of product is tested and passed through a number of sieves, the largest of which is 4mm, the smallest is less than 0.053mm.

Each sieve vibrates over a period of an hour and the amount of product left on the sieve at the end of the

process is measured to determine the percentage retained and the product specification. Bathgate also tests the pH balance and carries out silt and clay tests in their onsite laboratory.

All tests are rigorous and in accordance with Sports Turf Research Institute guidance to ensure the highest standards are met. Samples are also sent to the STRI for independent testing. Bathgate also offers a bespoke free soil profile abstraction and testing service for greens in order to provide an expert recommendation based on individual needs. ■

Topdressing ready to be shipped and, left, sand martins nest within quarry faces



# Skincare

**Rates of melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, have doubled in the last 14,000 years, with over 2,200 deaths last year.**

Exposure to sunlight is attributed as a high risk factor, and greenkeepers can receive up to five times the amount of ultraviolet radiation needed to cause sunburn in just an hour. We've teamed up with Melanoma UK to provide five top tips for staying protected in the sun.

**Slip, slop, slap**

An average body needs a full shot glass size of sunscreen to cover themselves adequately, around 20 minutes before you go outside. Apply sun cream again after going into water and reapply every two hours.

**Bin the base tan**

The idea of a base tan protecting skin is a myth. The process of ac-

quiring a tan damages the skin, with the skin turning a brown colour to protect itself. Short, sharp sessions on a sun bed can be up to 15 times stronger than the Mediterranean midday sun.

**Avoid burning**

The early evening sun can still be dangerous, especially in countries with warmer climates. Suncream should be applied again after showering or utilise an aftersun that offers sun protection.

**Vitamins**

You only need a brief period of exposure of around 10-15 minutes in the sun to give your body a daily dose of vitamin D.

**Check yourself**

Make regular checks on your skin, perhaps using pay day as a guide. If you notice anything unusual, always seek medical advice.



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# 'There was a great sigh of relief'



**Jon Kiger**  
TurfNet

TurfNet's Jon Kiger met Olympic Golf Course superintendent Neil Cleverly during the third round of golf's historic return to the Olympics.

Despite having the eyes of the world on the Olympic course, BIGGA member Neil took the time to share his thoughts on hosting the historic event.

**JK:** You've had the course pretty much to yourself for the last three years, what's it like finally having the golfers and the spectators here for the Olympics?

**NC:** It's good to see the course is being played as a golf course instead of just being maintained as a course. When the first flag went in and the first tee markers were put out during the test event in March you could see the value of the course. You could see the design in its true form. Now the Olympics are here, you see the Olympic flags and the Olympic tee markers out and it brings to reality what we've been doing for the

The three medallists celebrate, including England's gold medal winner Justin Rose

Golf Course Superintendent Neil Cleverly



last three years. It's great to see spectators walking the golf course, and the professionals doing what they do best – and that's play golf on a great course.

**Tell us a little about your anticipation and expectations of this particular piece of land and what it meant to build the golf course in this location.**

I think the expectations from everybody when they realised golf was back in the Olympic Games were that this parcel of land lends itself to having a great-designed golf course. And this is

a great design. Gil Hanse and his crew put a golf course together and took it from paper to reality and we all had a hand in it from Day One – from construction, to grassing, to grow in, to where we are now. Did we expect the golf course to be as good as it is? I did.

There were others that had some difference of opinions but we all saw the value of having this golf course here.

**Were you at the first tee for the first group on Thursday or was there work to be done elsewhere on the course?**

Unfortunately I was working on the course when the first tee shot was struck. I think the organisers got it right - the Brazilian golfer Adilson da Silva – great guy, I've met him a few times – had the honour of opening the first round and that was a great move by the organisers.

**I heard from some of the crew that when the inaugural tee shot was struck and the word came**

**over the radios at 7.30am, that folks paused to take in what an historic time this was for golf. How did you feel at that moment?**

It was a great sigh of relief, I think, when the first golf ball was hit from the first tee. Almost relief more than anything else that we got where we needed to get for the first round, and the golf course looked great. Leading up to the Olympics the weather wasn't really paying attention to what we wanted but we got through it. It's been quite a bizarre winter in Rio, considering what the locals are telling me, but we got through it.

**You worked with mainly local workers until the volunteers arrived. Tell us a little about the impact the volunteers are having now that they are here.**

My crew comes from zero turf background as there's no turf school in this country. Everything they know I taught them to do with the help of other people that I've been in the business with for a number of years. The crew gelled and became a team prior to the tournament, so we've been maintain-

ing this course as best we can with what we had.

Obviously the volunteers are required to maintain the golf course in tournament condition in a very short space of time. The number of crew I have is not the number that is required for this tournament, or any tournament. So we definitely had to have volunteers from the industry itself – many from Latin America, some Europeans, and some Americans. It was vitally important that we had people who understand golf and what we are trying to achieve and what we need to do. And that's what we have right now.

**We are three days into the Men's competition. Do you anticipate any changes in your operation as you look ahead to the Women's competition?**

Not really, I think we have the program where we need it to be. The only thing we can't control is the weather so we adapt the program to whatever weather we get. The golf course should play the same in terms of parity between men and women.

The organisers will place the tee mark-



Brit volunteer Gary Walters hand-watering the fairways, rather than watching the medal ceremony

ers where the ladies will hit their tee shots and second shots in parity with the men - hopefully. Pin positions will more or less be the same where the men are playing them now just again to get parity between both ladies' and men's tours.

**What have you enjoyed the most about your time in Brazil?**

Training the crew, because it's been seven days a week work. I've enjoyed seeing them learn how to use a machine or understand why we do certain jobs at certain times. Even weed picking – they never got it or understood it – but it was unfortunately one of those necessary evils that you get on a course when you're not allowed to use any herbicides. Having a crew now after three years doing what they're doing so well, they're my heroes. That's what I've enjoyed.

**What is the most meaningful thing you'll take away from the experience?**

"I think the willingness of a lot of people who didn't understand golf – I'm talking about the crew again – being willing to work long hours in the rain, in the sun, in the heat – doing what they knew nothing about. And then seeing them enjoy what they do. I think that's one of the lessons I've learned from this particular task, having been around the world in other countries, training people on different golf courses. I think achieving what we've achieved in respect to how difficult it has been, is major point we will take away from this.."



British volunteers Adam Wise and Gary Walters

# Three strategies for tackling fusarium



**Richard Brown**  
Germinal



## Fusarium, or fusarium patch, is the number one disease in UK sports turf.

Caused by the fungus, *Microdochium nivale*, it can prove extremely costly to control, both in terms of man-hours and chemical inputs.

For this reason, coupled with the detrimental affect fusarium infection can have on the aesthetics and playability of fine golf greens, prevention rather than cure is the preferred management technique.

Therefore, as autumn – the traditional fusarium season – approaches, greenkeepers should be turning their thoughts towards the prevention and control of this key disease.

While it isn't feasible to entirely eradicate the fungal pathogen from the soil profile, greenkeepers can prevent the disease from having a detrimental effect on green quality, simply by following a few simple guidelines and turf management protocols. Thatch removal and the prevention of water-logging are critical for the reduction of the conditions which favour fusarium, but there are other aspects of sward management which can be

equally as effective.

Speaking to GI, Richard Brown, amenity sales manager for Germinal has outlined three sustainable strategies for controlling and preventing the disease.

### 1. Variety choice: select a grass cultivar which offers good fusarium resistance

“When it comes to seed selection, not all cultivars offer the same amount of protection or resistance to fusarium,” said Richard. “Greenkeepers should give a lot of thought to their seed choice, ensuring whichever cultivar they settle on, it must be appropriate to their soil type, aspect, and prevailing climatic conditions and to their grass sward management technique.”

For parkland courses with predominantly browntop bent or *Poa annua* greens, greenkeepers should select the most resistant variety of browntop bentgrass available. “Not only will this offer improved disease resistance, it will also ensure give a good, year-round green colour,” said Richard, recommending Germinal's newest browntop bentgrass variety, AberRegal.

Overseeding with a fusarium-resistant bentgrass can create a firebreak barrier between patches of infection and, inset, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* R6-CDX is resistant to fusarium

He added: “AberRegal is our second home-bred browntop bentgrass and has been warmly received by UK greenkeepers thanks to its excellent overall disease resistance, especially against fusarium.”

Trials carried out by the Sports Turf Research Institute have shown that overseeding golf greens with resistant cultivars offer improved resistance against *microdochium*, reducing the requirement for a full programme of fungicide applications. Richard said: “By acting as a firebreak between patches of infected grass, overseeding with a resistant cultivar can inhibit the spread of fusarium and prevent patches of infection from joining together.”

### 2. Anti-stress fertiliser: apply magnesium to maximise the sward's resistance

No matter how naturally resistant a grass cultivar is to fusarium, an unhealthy sward will be not be able to combat the disease pressures caused by a wet and cold autumn. Richard said: “Feeding the sward goes beyond applying the main three macro-nutrients – nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. In addition, micro-nutri-

ents, namely magnesium, must also be supplied in the correct quantity and at the right time.”

He recommends Kali Gazon from Compo Expert. This is a micro-granulated 0-0-27 anti-stress fertiliser with an additional 11% magnesium and 17% sulphur content. “Kali Gazon has been specifically formulated to improve turf health and to increase the disease resistance of fine amenity turf,” said Richard.

This anti-stress fertiliser can be applied throughout the year. During dry summer conditions the high potassium content supports transpiration control, enabling plants to cope more effectively with drought-induced stress. At the same time, the high magnesium content promotes good metabolism and healthy plant growth through increased chlorophyll production.

When used in the autumn and winter, the formulation of Kali Gazon helps to harden the turf and prevents diseases from taking hold. The hardened sward is also less susceptible to cold weather stresses. By preventing

diseases such as fusarium from taking hold during the autumn and winter, Kali Gazon enables hard-working grass swards to recover more quickly and to grow away more vigorously in the subsequent spring.

Anti-stress fertilisers like Kali Gazon help to maintain a deep and rich green colour, and are particularly affective on sandy soils where the potassium and magnesium elements help to rectify low Cation Exchange Capacity, the measure of a soil's ability to transfer water and nutrients to the rootzone.

### 3. Rhizosphere bacterium: inhibit the fusarium pathogen within the soil profile

Greenkeepers can reduce the background level of fusarium disease pressure by applying a rhizosphere bacterium to the soil profile. “Friendly bacteria such as *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* R6-CDX negate the effects of harmful pathogens by competing for the soil space around the roots of the grass plants,” Richard said. “Through a process of symbiosis with fine root hairs, the bacillus strain

creates a live barrier which physically protects the roots and inhibits the advance of soil borne fungi such as fusarium.”

In addition to repelling harmful pathogens, the bacteria contained within liquid fertilisers such as Vitanica RZ also enhance plant and root growth by producing phytohormones, which increase nutrient availability to the plant.

“For maximum effect, the R6-CDX bacteria require water, oxygen and a minimum soil temperature of 12-15 degrees,” Richard said. “Soil structure, aeration, irrigation and applying at the right time are all essential to the success of these bacteria, but if managed correctly, they can provide up to six weeks' worth of protection from one application.

“For busy greenkeepers operating on courses where fusarium is a particular problem, that level of protection can be invaluable, especially during the busy spring and summer playing seasons and in advance of the autumn when disease pressures are naturally heightened.”

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# Turf nutrition

## Balancing short and long-term efficiencies



**Brian Aconley**  
Soil Harmony

As we approach autumn, our attention turns to health recovery, maintenance and preparing turf for the stress of the winter to come.

This makes it a good time to take a look at the potential for using targeted nutrition to address both adjusted nutrient requirements for this time of year and the longer-term aims of improving soil fertility and nutrient-use-efficiency.

Pressure on greenkeepers to provide the highest standards of playing conditions at all times, while employing sustainable management practices with limited resources, drives the need to achieve more with less. In agriculture and amenity, such pressures have encouraged the industry to look below the surface and consider the role of the soil's natural ecosystem in delivering efficiencies.

We are becoming more aware of the vital role the health of the soil plays in plant health and efficient nutrient uptake. Whereas historically the approach was to simply apply greater quantities of fertiliser, it is understood this can have dramatic effects on the delicate balance in the soil.

The availability of nutrients is influenced by many factors, including nutrient levels, pH, temperature, microbial activity and their physical proximity to the plant's root system. Interactions between

soil nutrients may also result in a chemical imbalance where the availability of one is reduced by over-supply of another.

The importance of microbial activity is much better understood as greatly influencing nutrient provision and exchange at the surface of the root. Well-structured loam soils are the best medium for supporting a healthy and active soil microbiology, but the prevalence of sand-based substrates and the stress caused by intensive wear and close mowing makes sports turf difficult to maintain in terms of soil biology. The unique nature of turf and turf management, however, allows for more efficient management of these situations via planned programmes or direct intervention at key stages.

The Soil Harmony approach is founded on the principles of amending and maintaining soil conditions to allow soil microbes to flourish and optimise the availability of nutrients. We help turf managers improve fertility by balancing soil chemistry, managing soil pH and, with the help of our tailored programme, promote root growth and feed the soil biology.

We encourage all turf managers to get to know their soil and work towards gaining maximum efficiencies in nutrient uptake. But also to use foliar inputs to enable minimal quantities of targeted nutrition to be delivered rapidly and efficient-



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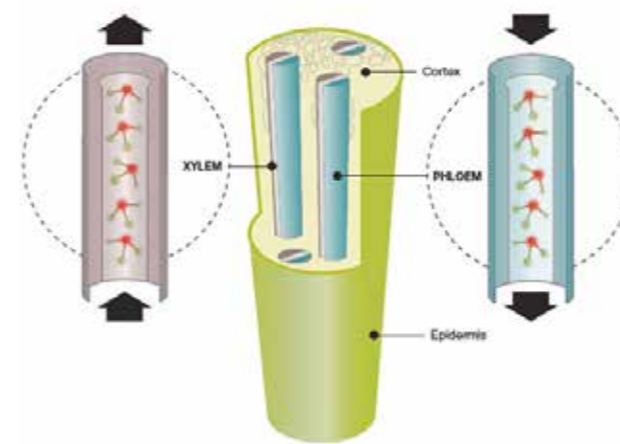
ly. Foliar application has the advantage of by-passing imbalances in soil chemistry and structure and the advances in formulation chemistry have taken liquids from basic mineral salts with their high application rates and risk of scorching to highly concentrated, highly compatible liquids. It is these formulations that are key to achieving high performance with minimum input. Many managers are turning to foliar applications for greater convenience under today's pressures but also to keep nutrient levels and growth under control.

Reduced rates and improvements in tank mix compatibility mean easier and more efficient application, saving time and money.

Advanced formulations use the most readily available forms of nutrients and using plant science and the chemistry of nutrition, product formulations can be designed to maximise nutrient uptake by optimising leaf coverage, retention and penetration without causing adverse effect to the physiology of the plant itself.

Another benefit of using liquid nutrition is the option to include biostimulant activators such as phosphites, amino acids and seaweed to enhance uptake, stimulate root growth and improve natural resistance to environmental stress and disease pressures.

Your autumn and winter pro-



An illustration of phosphite action: rapid and systemic delivery of nutrients

gramme provides a good opportunity to consider the benefits of using a full liquid programme or supplementing your granular fertiliser programme with high-efficiency foliar. When considering nutrient requirements to boost winter hardiness, building carbohydrate reserves and developing root mass all help to harden turf against adverse weather and disease stresses and are vital for maintaining sward health.

Phosphite technology can be of great assistance here. Phosphite is a highly mobile form of phosphorus, readily able to enter and be transported within the plant. Widely adopted for agricultural crop use, phosphite chemistry has proven effective in increasing the mobility of nutrients and stimulating root growth to produce healthier, more resilient crops. Ilex EnviroSciences have been pioneers in the use of phosphite technology in combination with key minerals such as calcium, manganese and silicon, to target deficiencies and boost health and crop quality.

Initial research into the use of phosphites on turf has focused on its potential to reduce susceptibility to turf patch disease caused by *Microdochium nivale*. Research is focusing on its proven ability to increase root mass and the benefits of increased nutrient uptake to stimulate this natural resilience.

Our own trials on field crops have given consistent results in stimulating root development and shown the ability of foliar applied phosphites to improve nutrient uptake. In trials comparing the effects of applying calcium supplements and biostimulants to white cabbage, our multi-nutrient phosphite, which contains a broad range of micronutrients despite containing no calcium, increased levels of this particular element in the leaf tissue by 23%. This could only be achieved by stimulating the uptake and mobilisation of calcium already present in the rootzone. We found similar results for boron and manganese.

Formulated for use on turf, using the same technology, Defence II is a highly-concentrated source of potassium combined with the stimulating effects of phosphite P. Often referred to as the 'health element', potassium controls the opening and closing of the stomata on grass leaves, regulating the intake of carbon dioxide for photosynthesis. It also promotes the formation of strong cell membranes to improve tolerance to stresses such as cold and disease.

Although highly mobile in the soil, potassium can be quickly displaced from available exchange

sites in the soil by excess calcium and magnesium. The pure solution phosphite formulation increases the mobility and delivery of the potassium, with the benefit of stimulating root development.

Applied monthly at a rate of 6-12 litres per hectare on greens and fairways, Defence II stimulates both leaf and root health to aid recovery from stress, helping provide winter resilience.

Feeding and sustaining the soil's biology should not be overlooked during the autumn and winter months. Formulated with complex carbohydrates and amino acids, BIOS® Turf Tonic is designed to boost the availability of carbohydrates through the months of reduced photosynthesis to provide a food source for the microbiology without drawing on reserves.

Bi-monthly applications over all course areas will help maintain sward health and appearance throughout this dormant period, while enhancing the mycorrhizal colonisation of the rootzone to support longer term soil health and fertility.

Both Defence II and BIOS® Turf Tonic have excellent tank mix compatibility and can be added either separately or together to your existing spray programme.

Healthy turf is all about balance. When juggling demands above and below the ground, the implementation of small adjustments to seasonal nutrition programmes can help turf managers make major gains in the control of both.



Pioneering the development and production of high quality sand-based products for over 150 years



Contact Sharon Morris on 07932 342 044 or email: sharon.morris@mansfield-sand.co.uk www.mansfield-sand.co.uk



## BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION



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### Section News

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

# AROUND THE GREEN SCOTLAND & N IRELAND



## Central

The BIGGA Scottish Golf Championship received a record number of entries this year, with 90 attending Ladybank. There was a good turn out from our own section to play a course in tip top condition, set out by Colin Powrie, David Gray and team.

### Upcoming events

A course visit and talk will be held at Stirling on Wednesday 19 October with course designer Howard Swan talking about rebuilding and shaping bunkers.

The section AGM is on Thursday 10 November at Auchterarder.

## SW Scotland

The heather is in bloom and looking stunning. The Open has been and gone and winter work is planned or in the planning stage. Where has 2016 gone?

On a personal note, my long wait (seven years) for Harry Potter is finally over. I can't believe I was in my 20s – admittedly late 20s – when the last book was released. Back then I took a midnight trip to Tesco and took a two-day holiday. No such luck now, although I can confirm it is now finished.

Good luck to everyone who participated in the Patrons Award – the winner will be announced at the AGM. Please remember to save the date for the autumn golf outing on 8 September at Brighthouse Bay, and the AGM on 27 October at Irvine.

Congratulations to Jim McMurdo for 28 years spent at Prestwick.

Well done to Ian Smith for becoming Wellbeck Club Champion.

Dundonald Links will host the Scottish Open in 2017, so if you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with frank.clarkson@dundonaldlinks.com

## East

It was great to see Archerfield Link so well presented on Sky TV's coverage of the Paul Lawrie Matchplay. The schedule was jiggled around due to extreme weather forecast for Sunday. It turned out there was no damage and the greenstaff coped brilliantly, adding some wind of their own to clear the debris on the greens.

It was good to see Jimmy, at the recent committee meeting, and Jack Dalrymple, both up and about after recent health scares. We look forward to seeing you soon at one of the section golf events. We need your keen support out on the course.

Remember, as well as sectional, regional and national Twitter accounts, there is also an environmental BIGGA Twitter account, where some great photos are being posted. Don't be shy and get yours up there too.

### Upcoming events

The East section autumn meeting takes place on 20 September at Duddingston and the entry form is on the East section page of the Scottish region website.

The AGM is booked for November 15 at Carricknowe at noon, followed by nine holes of golf for the Jimmy Neilson trophy.

The committee hope to organise a winter/Christmas get together at the end of November. An Indian meal out Friday at 5pm-ish or Saturday afternoon has been suggested. But if enough members would prefer something else, that may be doable instead. Get in touch with suggestions.

## North

Has summer passed us? Up here

in Portlethen we are not far from the coast and we have already had a slight touch of frost in the long grass. After speaking to my colleagues further in land, they have reported temperatures dropping to -1.

Mechanic Jock Stuart has left Deeside and has joined Newmacher. We wish him all the best.

Our next article will have all the results from the Autumn outing to Boat of Garten.

### Upcoming events

We are planning to hold our annual AGM at Kippie Lodge on 27 October. The format will be the same as previous years.

## West

The Scottish qualifier for the Golf Management Trophy was held on 27 July at Stirling. The course was in magnificent condition, thanks to James Lindsay and his staff. 21 teams, made up of greenkeepers and club officials, took part. Congratulations to winners St Michael's GC, and to runners up, Williamwood GC, who have qualified to play in the national final later in the year. Well done to John Young for all his promotion and organisation of the event.

Congratulations to Pollock assistant Andrew Aitken, who is moving to Prestatyn, where he will take up the role of deputy head greenkeeper. All the best of luck in your new position.

Congratulations to Ryan Brennan, who has been selected as this year's recipient of the Patrons award for the West section. Ryan will receive his award at the awards lunch later in the year.

If anyone has any information they would like highlighted in Around the Green or on Facebook or Twitter, then don't hesitate to call me on 07721610160 or email bria1706@hotmail.co.uk

### Upcoming events

The West section autumn outing notice will be emailed out to you shortly. This will take place at Strathaven on 27 September. First tee time is 12noon.

# AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH WEST & S WALES



## South West

Thanks to everyone who attended Turf Club at Bowood on 18 August. The topic was long rough management and with a turn out of 20 greenkeepers and industry professionals, we had a great discussion among everyone. If anyone would like to host a Turf Club, please get in touch with members of the committee.

Our annual match against South Wales and Golf Club Secretaries was postponed due to inclement weather. We will be publicising a new match date as soon as possible, keep an eye out for this.

### Upcoming events

The Christmas tournament is being hosted by Burnham & Berrow in December.

### Sponsor thanks

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

## South Coast

Congratulations Andy Clark of Remedy Oak and Tom Smith of Cams Hall Estate, who are through to the finals of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. This is a tremendous achievement and it is great to see the section being represented at such initiatives. We wish them both the very best of luck.

Apologies go to all members who were hoping to attend our proposed Turf Club at Broadstone this month. The event has been

temporarily postponed but we hope to re-schedule it for some time in the future.

Mike Cartwright of Highcliffe Castle attended the Turf Club at Goodwood. He said: "I think the Turf Club days are superb. I've been attending seminars for 25 years and I find the format very refreshing. Getting out on the course is a fantastic way to see results gained and problems overcome. Another huge bonus is my entire team come along. We talk about what we see, pick up ideas and take them back with us." The section would like to thank Phil Helmn MG from Goodwood for making the day possible.

### Upcoming events

Our section AGM is scheduled for the first week of November. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

At the AGM, the draw will take place for the section attendance lottery. This scheme offers the chance for members to win a sponsored place at BTME with three nights' accommodation provided. Members who have attended four or more events - this includes golf tournaments, turf clubs or educational events - will be entered into the draw for a chance of winning the prize. This is a great opportunity to get to BTME and experience some of the superb education on offer and to look at the latest industry innovations in the trade halls.

## Devon & Cornwall

Sponsored opportunities to attend BTME are available through the section, region and, new for this year, via the ICL sponsored place. Each place includes B&B for three nights and education

opportunities. If you have never been, this could be your chance. Contact Tracey Walker for details.

This month we welcome back to the area Shaun Cuffin, who has joined Dan and his team at Newquay.

### Upcoming events

The next event in the diary is the section AGM at Exeter, which is to be held on 20 October. There will be the normal course walk with Course Manager John Parr. This will certainly be worth attending as there have been many changes implemented at Exeter.

## South Wales

I think I will always be remembered for the Patrons Cup on 10 August at Coed y Mwstwr, having owned up to placing 17 difficult pin positions. Thanks to my team for their hard work in producing a well-manicured course. Results on the day: Winner, Steve Lloyd, 34 points; 2nd, Rhys Mcdonagh, 33 points; 3rd, Christopher Jolley, 32 points; nearest the pin & longest drive, Rhys Mcdonagh.

Both Rhys and Steve qualify for the BIGGA National Championship at Bowood on 10-11 October. Congratulations to both.

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for members to attend BTME 2017, with one place for the section and one for the region. You can either be nominated or you can put yourself forward. This will include three nights' B&B, just email Tracey Walker by the AGM on Friday 7 October.

Steven Higgins has been appointed as head greenkeeper at Cradoc. He was at Ardeer in Scotland for the last 20 years.

### Upcoming events

The Worcestershire will welcome us on Friday 7 October with the first tee from 1.30pm. The club is nestled in the picturesque Malvern Hills and the day costs £20. This includes coffee and bacon rolls on arrival and a two-course meal after golf. The AGM will also be held on this day, which will enable you to put any views across.

## BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION



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### Section News

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

### SEND US YOUR PHOTO'S

Set your phone/camera to HD (high definition)

Email to karl@bigga.co.uk

letting us know your name and the location of the pic

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## BIGGA MIDLAND REGION



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# AROUND THE GREEN MIDLAND

## Section News

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the guys at Turfcare for sponsoring the summer golf day. The BBQ and drinks provided by Dan on the 10th were much appreciated, unlike the choice of song that some of the guys chose to tee off to. CTH Engineering sponsored one of the nearest pin holes and the longest drive hole at Harleyford, and for this we are also extremely grateful.

## Mid Anglia

### Upcoming events

The autumn meeting will be hosted at Berkhamsted on 12 October with tee off around 10am. Please get entries in to Richard Saunders in order to secure your place. This will also be our AGM so all are encouraged to attend to pass on any thoughts to help improve the running of the section

### Sponsor thanks

Tuckwells Machinery, Avoncrop Amenity, Headland Amenity, Amtech Amenity, ICL, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS, Farmura and Rigby Taylor. The Mid Anglia section would like to thank their wonderful sponsors for 2016 and we are very grateful for your continued support.

## Midland

Guys, an important issue of late. A break in at Broadway and a stolen trailer at Gaudet Luce mean we all need to be vigilant in trying times, so watch your security. Also, anyone going through tough times, please do not suffer alone and contact your regional administrator if you need help. It's important to get help at an early stage and we can all watch out for one another.

On a lighter note, Chairman Rhys Thomas of Blackwell appeared in a cricket match for Gary Watkins of Droitwich team Rushwick Cricket Club in an over 45s cup match. The team lost in the semi final, but despite it being his first game in 11 years, Rhys put in a very respectable 50 not out.

Droitwich has a new member of the greens team and Ryan Neal is settling in very well. He's a BIGGA member, so welcome Ryan.

organisation and sponsorship of this tournament.

Warren Bevan recently left Bearwood Lakes and has gone to work for Turfcare, covering the north of the country. We wish him all the best in his new role.

### Upcoming events

The autumn golf day will be held at Calcot Park on Wednesday 5 October - invites should be with you by now. If you are yet to receive yours, email Matt Short at bbosecretary@gmail.com. This is your final chance to get order of merit points for 2016, so lets hope for a good turnout and for someone to challenge Adam King, who is the current leader.

Frilford Heath will once again play host to this year's Turkey Trot. The green course has been booked for Wednesday 7 December and a shotgun start will occur at 10am. Coffee and bacon rolls will be served from 8.30am. Following the golf, a sit down Christmas meal will be served. Jacket and tie to be worn please. Further details to follow and demand is likely to be high, so return entry forms as soon as possible.

### Sponsor thanks

A huge thanks to Dan Jones and



## BB&O

The summer golf day was held at Harleyford on 28 July. 45 golfers competed against each other to win one of two places to represent the section at the BIGGA National Championship. The course was excellently presented by Craig Earnshaw and his team but scoring on the day was low as the course provided a challenge not many of us could rise to.

In first place was Shaun Deller with a great 38 points. Second with 34 points was Matt Short and third, also on 34 points but losing out on countback, was Charlie Munn-Cocks. Shaun was presented with his trophy by Sid Arrowsmith, president of the BB&O section.

Nearest the pin: hole 6, Clive Parnell; hole 12, Rob Catlin. Longest drive: 10th, Ben Kebby. Nearest the pin in 2: 14th, Brett Moggridge. Good luck to Shaun and Matt at Bowood.

The Rigby Taylor Knockout is well underway. Please remember to email results through as soon as possible to enable further games to be arranged. A huge thanks must go to Gareth Acteson of Rigby Taylor for his continued

Congratulations to Dave Gibbons on getting the course manager role at Little Aston.

Congratulations to Dave Stewart in being made deputy head greenkeeper at Walmley.

Also, watch social media for info about our rearranged Footgolf comp sponsored by Countryside.

Plus, get your photos into us at bigga.midland@gmail.com and get the chance to appear in the calendar or social media.

Lots of things are being planned for the autumn period, including a seminar with our friends from Avoncrop in early November, venue and date to be arranged. Watch this space and also the website and social media.

A bunker drainage seminar is being held at South Staffordshire on Wednesday 21 September between 9am-12noon. Andy Campbell of Billy Better Bunkers and Peter Read of Rigby Taylor Ground Water Dynamics will be the speakers. The event is being hosted by Rigby Taylor and BASIS and CPD points are available for attendance. Contact Glen Howard for information at g.howard@rigbytaylor.com and 07778 665506.

### Sponsor thanks

Thanks to all our sponsors who give us great support throughout the year. This month, a big thanks to Tony Cheese and Colliers for sponsoring the month of September in the calendar. For all your fertiliser, chemical needs, call Tony on 07972913592 or email tonyc@collier-turf-care.co.uk

## East of England

I was lucky enough to be involved with the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal Troon and was especially proud to have a chat with Dave Coupland before his first round. It's great to see he hasn't forgotten his greenkeeping roots and still remembers his time at Boston with Bruce Hicks and the section events with a smile.

Congratulations must go to Dan Watts of Cleethorpes, who made it to the regional final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition. Also to Jack Evans of Waltham Windmill who progressed to the national final of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year, to be held in September. Good luck from the section.

The summer golf day was held on Wednesday 27 July at Waltham Windmill. The event was attended by 23 players who were blessed

with great weather. The course was in good condition and the scoring, by a few, was exceptional. After the golf, we were treated to what can only be described as whale on a plate (fish and chips). Nearest the pin and longest drive were won by Jack Evans of Waltham Windmill. We'll call it inside knowledge and blind luck. Paul Barker of Cleethorpes won the trade prize with 38 points. First prize with an awesome score of 43 points - with 25 on the back 9 - off a handicap of 5, was Rob Bemment of Immingham.

### Upcoming events

Our next event is the autumn golf day and AGM in October at Sudbrook Moor. This day will consist of a 9-hole betterball chosen pair event followed by the AGM and additional education content. Look out on the Facebook page for additional information.

We are also looking to hold an educational day at Waltham Windmill in late November. All content suggestions welcome, please send to either Bruce Hicks or Graham Ives.

### Sponsor thanks

Our thanks go to Waltham Windmill for their hospitality and catering and Rob Welford and his team for the course condition.

Thanks FG Adamson & Son, Tony Jenkins and Steve Blanchard for sponsoring the summer golf day.

## East Midlands

Thank you to Derick McJannet and team for hosting the East Midlands meet at Matlock. It is a great course, but boy am I glad I hired a trolley.

Division 1: 1st, Jordan Baker (-4 back); 2nd, Rob Duval; 3rd, Martin Anderson. Division 2: 1st, Les McJannet; 2nd, Paul French; 3rd, Asa English. Longest drive: Martin Anderson MH; Nearest pin: Geoff Fenn, Countrywide Martin Hickling, aka Q, was 'away on business at an undisclosed location', eg Woburn. Anthony Simons had the best haircut in the East Midlands, and this was the first section visit from Market Harborough - welcome. The sponsors on the day were Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands. Thank you for your support Carl Chamberlin and Mark Robinson from Rigby Taylor, Sharron Morris from Mansfield Sands and Kelly and Geoff from Countrywide.

### Upcoming events

Our next event is the par 3 competition at Beedles Lake.

# SCOTLAND & N IRELAND



Top: Family-friendly events at the Ladies Scottish Open  
Bottom: A family of swans on the Buddon Links  
Scot&NI page: Paige Spiranac at the Ladies Scottish Open

# SOUTH WEST & S WALES



Top: The South West Turf Club visited Bowood  
Bottom: A difficult shot at the Patrons Cup, Coed Y Mwstwr SW&SW page: Taking a tour in vintage carts at Bowood



## BIGGA NORTHERN REGION



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# AROUND THE GREEN NORTHERN

## Section News

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gained helping out at various tour events and if you think it's for you, keep an eye out on the BIGGA bulletin boards and Facebook. Big thanks to Kevin Weller and his team, including Tim (Dory) Franks for making my stay down there such a laugh.

Congratulations to my assistant greenkeeper James Tock on his appointment at Rockcliffe Hall. I have worked with James for just over six years and I know they are getting a very good greenkeeper.

## North West

Hello everyone, I have had a great response to my request for news. Thank you to all who sent me details. Please keep it coming.

Congratulations to the deputy head greenkeeper at Towneley, Billy Thompson, on his marriage to Nicola Slater in July.

There has been job movement at Shaw Hill. Mark Haines has been promoted to course manager, with Rob Davis from Pleasington being appointed deputy course manager.

Ryan Donnellan has moved from assistant greenkeeper to deputy head greenkeeper at Runcorn.

All the best for the future in your new positions.

Congratulations to Martyn Durham, head greenkeeper at Harwood, in winning the Campey Turf Care Pro Am held at Hart Common. Martyn won on count back with 34 points.

## Cleveland

Another busy month on the golfing calendar has seen Derek Thompson of Wynyard completing a week of Open support. I hope you enjoyed it Derek. I missed out on the Open this year but still managed to gain some tournament experience working at Lingfield Park on a JAMEGA Tour event. The Cleveland section was well-represented by myself and Chloe Gallagher from Ramside Hall. Somehow I ended up strimming and Chloe ended up cutting fairways - not sure how that works! There is a vast amount of experience to be

## Northern

### Upcoming events

5 September, Moor Allerton, £19. Jacket and tie needed. Eating after golf. Event sponsored by ICL.

### Sponsor thanks

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

## Sheffield

Hi everybody. On 21 July we had our summer competition in the beautiful setting of Chesterfield. Nick and his team had the course looking absolutely marvellous.



What a turnout we had. I can't remember when we had as many golfers, and long may it continue. One golfer stood out on the day, as Oliver Smith from Sickleholme won best net and gross with 71. Rob Acheson from Worksop was second with 73 - no idea how, he played like a dog. Richard Marshall from Stocksbridge was third with 75. Well done to all of those.

### Upcoming events

Our autumn competition will be held at Renishaw on 15 September, with the first tee at 1.30pm. The format will stableford. Smart casual for meal please.

### Sponsor thanks

Thank you to our sponsor on the day, Mansfield Sand. Without our sponsors we would struggle. Also, a big thank you to all the reps who attended and brought prizes, it was very appreciated.

## North Wales

I would like to apologise for not submitting a news article for August. It's a busy time of year and with many of us working at clubs where the list of problems far outweigh the positives, like tight working budgets, employees disgruntled about pay or a lack of recognition for work. All I can say is do not suffer in silence. BIGGA has people, services and contacts outside the industry that, unless you need them, you'll never know are actually there. This vocation can be so satisfying when everything works that you forget it's an actual job. However, when people start making it unfairly difficult, it shouldn't be allowed to go unchallenged. If you feel you're being seriously mistreated at work and you're not getting anywhere through the official channels at work, there are BIGGA staff members on hand who can give you the support you need.



Top: Matthew Robinson of Oak Leaf, who died aged 45  
Bottom: Billy Thompson of Towneley married Nicola Slater  
Opposite top: The Whitelaw Bowl is up for grabs at Penrith  
Opposite bottom: Oliver Smith won the Sheffield summer meeting

## New Members

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Justin Lochrie DHGK - Spey Valley  
Andrew McIntee GK - Royal Troon  
Mark Cruickshank GK - Glenbervie  
Jamie Edgar GK - Castlerock  
Scott Muir GK - The Duke's St Andrews

### Midland

Jackie Howe Affiliate - NCGAA  
Gareth Blinko DHGK - Billingbear Park  
Ryan Neale GK - Droitwich  
Robert Brinkley GK - JCB  
Jason Gowland GK - Chiltern Forest  
Calum Young AGK - Coventry  
Matthew Brown AGK - The Grove  
Shaun Deller AGK - Billingbear Park  
Charlie Munn-Cocks AGK - Billingbear Park

### Northern

Ryan Martin GK - Longhirst Hall  
Oliver Price GK - Formby Ladies  
Andrew Swift GK - Formby Ladies  
Peter Tudor GK - Formby Ladies  
Adrian Hankin GK - Wath  
Kristian McLane GK - Ganstead Park  
Jamie Littler GK - Eaton  
Craig Denton GK - Lindrick  
Mark Hollingsworth GK - Whitley Bay  
Michael Tabiner GK - Dean Wood  
Gareth Tucker HGK - Glossop & District  
Lewis Jackson-Johnstone AGK - Elsham  
Oliver Smith AGK - Sickleholme  
Nile Lilley AGK - Lindrick

### South West and South Wales

Paul Chester Affiliate - Huxley Golf  
Alan Pacey CM - Pacey Manning Associates  
Stuart Tate Education Supporter - Rain Bird  
Jimmy Sandison Education Supporter - Rain Bird  
Adam Weaver GK - High Post  
Daniel Collings GK - High Post  
Paul Rickard AGK - Parkstone  
Samuel Bishop AGK - Goodwood  
Ben Adams AGK - Parkstone  
Alexander Jones AGK - Alresford  
Rebecca Dakin AGK - High Post  
Jake Hope AGK - High Post  
Ricky Sherwood AGK - Bowood

### South East

Jason Sarna CM - Brighton & Hove  
Colin Forde DHGK - Mill Hill  
Andrew Drysdale GK - Silvermere  
Antony Bristow GK - Woking  
Jack Mead GK - Drift  
Jack Ellis GK - Moor Park  
Harry Wallace GK - Moor Park  
Tim Muir GK - Silvermere  
Ryan Botton GK - Harewood Downs  
Simon Kirkham GK - Hankley Common  
Liam Close GK - Stoke-by-Nayland  
Kane Munday AGK - Royston  
Robert Boxall AGK - Old Thorns  
Brad Symington AGK - Goodwood  
Lee Hall AGK - Mill Hill

### International

Anthony Byrne Affiliate - Tralee



## BIGGA SOUTH EAST REGION



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



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co.uk



**SUSSEX**  
Chris Humphrey

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co.uk

@BIGGALtd

# AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH EAST

## Section Notes

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



## Surrey

This month's Surrey section news was submitted by Lewis Birch.

A huge thank you to Ashley Allpress for all the hard work over the last 10 years. Ash started as regional representative and then spent the last six years as secretary. The Surrey section is indebted to his dedication to the role. Ash is stepping down at the end of the month and I look forward to stepping up to the secretary position. I will do my best for the Surrey section members.

Sam Sweetzer and Stefan Carter are working hard in the education department. They're planning the remainder of 2016 and already have plans for 2017. The September and October seminars are organised and the flyer will be emailed to all members shortly. Please note there will be no seminar in November due to the regional conference.

The McMillan Tankard golf day at Sunningdale has taken place. Clive and Kerry eased any nerves when they greeted everyone on the 1st tee. Thank you to Jamie Wilson at Sunningdale, plus all the greens staff. The course was in fantastic shape and the hard work was appreciated by the competitors. Results: 1st, Gary Ogilvie; 2nd Michael Fance; 3rd Roger Tydeman; Nearest the pin: Roger Tydeman; Longest drive: David Searles.

Scott Roberts is working on fixtures for 2017. Keep an eye on our website for upcoming events.

BIGGA HQ has revamped Greenkeeper International and we'll soon be updating the Surrey section website as well.

I'm looking forward to the year ahead and catching up with you all in due course.

### Upcoming events

South East conference will be 17 November at Surrey Downs.

## Kent

### Upcoming events

Our next day is at Ashford on 20 September. Details regarding times etc will be sent out via text or posted on the website prior to the event. Invitations will be sent out soon, but all are welcome.

## London

Bush Hill Park head greenkeeper Graham Careford is celebrating 30 years at the club. Graham joined the Enfield course straight from school and has been head greenkeeper for the past 14. Graham leads the team at Bush Hill Park, with brother Mark taking the deputy head role.

Summer has arrived in full force this month and with it the usual challenges, so a big thank you to Rob Phillips at Sandy Lodge for presenting his course in excellent condition for the London section summer meeting. The section would also like to thank Banks Amenity for sponsoring the day. Without our sponsors' help, these days would not be possible.

The winners of the day were: Charlie Simper, 39pts; Glenn Stone, 38pts; Graham Jones, 37pts. Nearest the pin: James Lomas, Chris Carpenter, Richard Elderfield, Graham Jones, Sean Eckett. It was nice to see BIGGA's Tracey Maddison join in with the golf and win the guest prize.



Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for details of the Turkey Trot and any other events.

## Essex

Congratulations to Stuart Reece-Ford for his promotion to head greenkeeper at Maldon and to Stuart Rogers on his new position as head man at Brentwood.

Our latest golf day was held at Stoke by Nayland. The results of the day were: 1, Stuart Playle, 38 points; 2, Callum Smith, 35 points; 3, Dougie Fernie, 34 points; 4, Ian Nichols, 33 points; 5, George Grimes, 33 points. Trade/guest: 1, Jim Patey, 33 points; 2, Alan Line, 32 points. Nearest the pin: 4th hole, George Grimes; 8th hole, Callum Smith; 13th hole, James Taggart; 18th hole, Dominic Nea. Longest drive: 7th hole, James Taggart. Straightest drive: 12th hole, Simon Bartrum. As this was our qualifying event, both Stuart Player and Callum Smith will be both going to BIGGA National at Bowood. Many thanks to all those that played but special thanks to Michael Fance of Farmura for organising this event and to Kevin King, plus all his staff for laying on a superbly presented course.

### Sponsor thanks

Thanks to Tuckwells, CMW, Farmura and Collier Turf Care for raffle prizes at the golf day.





# GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

## Introducing the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping

**As the GTC begins a new chapter without David Golding at the helm, we need to ensure his dedication to greenkeeper education will continue.**

David had the foresight to see our sector was perfectly positioned to become the first land-based organisation to develop the Trailblazer apprenticeship programme in England based on the Government's new guidelines.

The reform was intended to engage with the employer more – to get them involved with education and ensure staff are trained to the highest standard. With so much support from our industry, getting a working group together to develop this programme was easy. Everyone who was contacted showed support and gave us a good starting point to develop a quality programme of learning.

We already had a highly recognised learning tool for the Level 2 qualification. But through the Trailblazer technical working group, made up of employers, training providers, the awarding body and BIGGA, the GTC's accredited training manual has been updated. It encompasses more of the skills and knowledge that employers expect staff to achieve in order to become a competent greenkeeper. The training manual is the recommended documentation for centres and employers to deliver the new Level 2 programme of education.

With the manual updated, City & Guilds has launched the new



to centres that will deliver the education that is most appropriate to your needs. The lead training provider will agree a programme of education and training and develop an individual learning plan with the trainee and employer. The provider will register the trainee with the awarding body. Once registered, they can access the training manual, which can be available via their training providers' e-learning platform or in hard copy format.

### Quality Assurance:

When the trainee is registered, the GTC will be notified and the Quality Assurance process can be put in place. We want to ensure the trainees experience a quality programme of training and education and so processes will be put in place to monitor the progress of each trainee and to ensure the programme of education is being upheld.

### Completing the qualification:

When all parties agree the trainee is ready for the end point assessments, the training provider will liaise with City & Guilds to co-ordinate the series of end-point assessments:

- An online knowledge test
- A trainee statement, summarising their training
- Practical end assessments at the trainees own place of work

All the above will be graded pass, merit, distinction or fail.

Monitoring the quality of training and education will enhance the credibility of those undertaking the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping. For more details visit [www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications](http://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications)

qualification, the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping.

Susie Brennan, portfolio manager at City & Guilds said: "The improved training materials, developed by the GTC and their technical working group, will undoubtedly raise the quality of education within the sector and produce highly knowledgeable professionals."

As this is a new qualification, centres are being invited to complete a City & Guilds Approval form. Those centres which are currently GTC Quality Assured can complete the fast track approval form. Centres that are not currently GTC QA approved, will be required to complete the Approval form.

### How to get started:

Employers and trainees can contact the GTC, BIGGA or England Golf for further information on apprenticeships. As the trainee will have to be registered with a training provider, you will be directed



The GTC is funded by:



### Contact Details

Fiona Lyttle  
GTC  
Office manager

01347 838640  
[fiona@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:fiona@the-gtc.co.uk)

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near Alne  
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## Green innovation on the golf course

This month, specialist turf growers Lindum tell us how they have spent 25 years developing a reputation for high quality, innovation and service.

All of our turf is produced using top-rated, named cultivars and is grown on stone-free, sandy loam soils to rigorously high standards. We have invested in the latest technology and machinery to ensure our turf reaches you in the best possible condition.

Years of growing experience ensure our turf is consistently of high quality, strong and stays looking good with easy care. A diverse range of turf is needed to cover greens, tees, fairways, bunkers, high traffic areas and course landscaping. Rather than a 'one grade fits all' policy, we have a range of turf so you can choose the grade for your specific budget.

### Tees and fairways

With the renovation season fast approaching, Lindum can supply a choice of tees grade turf to suit your preferences. LT4 Smooth Stalked Tees is a high quality mixture of smooth-stalked meadow grass and fescue base.

**Establishing new greens**  
New greens can fail to

establish because of soil particle size incompatibility. To combat this, Lindum can supply Washed Turf to avoid the development of a layer that inhibits root growth and water percolation. Particularly recommended for greens is LT1 Tournament Greens turf, a dense bent and fescue sward with very high purity and low thatch content. The final composition is 70% bent and 30-40% fescue.

### Reducing inputs

Providing an environmentally-sustainable option, LT2 Low Input Fine Turf requires reduced mowing and irrigation, fertiliser and fungicide inputs. Its fine appearance is suitable for greens and surrounds as a fescue replacement. The mixture is based on fescues and includes Crested Hairgrass, which thrives in dry, low-fertility situations, along with hard fescue, which is drought tolerant. It is a good choice for exposed drought-prone areas as well as difficult banks where mowing is a problem. It will tolerate sand splash, making it an ideal choice for bunker faces and is also salt tolerant so is well suited to links courses.

### Go wild

More courses are recognising their contribution to the envi-

ronment and planting natural wildflower areas. Lindum Wildflower turf produces an established wildflower area and is easy to install - ideal for enhancing biodiversity.

### No more muddy walkways

Stabilise high traffic areas with Lindum Lokturf, a hard-wearing mix of ryegrass and smooth-stalked meadow grass that grows in a fibre-reinforced rootzone and reduces the impact of trolleys and golf shoes in all weathers.

### Solutions for bunkers

Lindum can supply ready cut Bunker Revetting turf. Supplied ready cut in easy to handle strips, unsprayed and sprayed-off options are available. Lindum also has available bunker lining turf for a cost effective lining solution.

Lindum has a strong environmental policy which aims to make the production of turf as sustainable as possible. Particular attention is focused on nutrition to ensure maximum uptake using foliar application and avoiding leaching into watercourses. Lindum are also members of LEAF.

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Photo courtesy of Rucking Park  
Rampton Short Course, "Signature Island Green"

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### Assistant Greenkeeper Head Greenkeeper



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This is an ideal opportunity for an experienced **Assistant Greenkeeper** looking to forward their career or a **Head Greenkeeper** looking for a new challenge. This is a challenging position and given the small team and limited resources, you will have to demonstrate an ability to budget and use resources carefully and creatively to deliver the improvements and presentation that the Directors of the Centre demand for the benefit of members and our pay and play golfers.

To apply please email with CV to [directors@sandownparkgolf.com](mailto:directors@sandownparkgolf.com)

### Head Green Keeper Abbeydale Golf Club Sheffield



Abbeydale Golf Club is looking to recruit a Head Greenkeeper to manage and lead a team working to consistently present the course to the highest standard. Recognised as one of the district's finest, Abbeydale provides a memorable golfing experience for players of all handicaps and retains some of the best views of the Derbyshire countryside.

The Head Green keeper position is full time permanent based on a 37.5 hour week with week end working on a rota basis. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applicants are requested to apply via e mail with an introduction letter and CV not later than 14th September outlining your suitability for the role to Jayne Wing, Office Manager [abbeygolf.office@btconnect.com](mailto:abbeygolf.office@btconnect.com). Further details and job requirements can be found on the Bigga website or by contacting the above on 0114 2360763. Abbeydale Golf Club, Twentywell Lane, Sheffield S17 4QA

### GREENKEEPER



Full time qualified greenkeeper is required at Sherborne Golf Club to work with a team of dedicated staff who present the course to a very high standard.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of three years' experience at NVQ level II. Chainsaw qualification & PA1, PA2 would be beneficial. A practical knowledge and understanding of machinery and a sense of humour will come in handy! Competitive salary and uniform will be given in return! Company pension is available after probationary period. For relocations, there is the possibility of rented on-site 3 bedroom accommodation for up to 6 months.

Please apply in writing to Mr C Watson, Course Manager, Sherborne Golf Club, Higher Clatcombe, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4RN or by email to [sgcoffice@sherbornegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:sgcoffice@sherbornegolfclub.co.uk)

### Greenkeeper



Addington Palace Golf Club require an experienced Greenkeeper to join its dedicated team. The successful candidate will need to excel in all areas, be reliable and self-motivated. You will be an integral member of the team and will be involved in the day to day maintenance of the golf course, in order to ensure that the course is presented to the highest possible standard.

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

- Qualified to, or working towards NVQ Level 2
- Minimum 3 years' experience within the turf industry.
- PA1, PA2, and PA6 spraying certificates desirable.
- CS30, CS31 chainsaw certificates desirable.
- Experience in the use of golf course machinery.
- An active golfer with a keen eye for detail.
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To apply, please email your CV with a covering note to: [ronnie@addingtonpalacegolf.co.uk](mailto:ronnie@addingtonpalacegolf.co.uk) subject - Greenkeeper.  
Web: [www.addingtonpalacegolf.co.uk](http://www.addingtonpalacegolf.co.uk)

### Mechanic/Greenkeeper



Due to the retirement, at the end of October, of our current mechanic with over 20 years' service, The West Lancashire Golf Club is currently looking to fill this position with full time/permanent position of Mechanic/Greenkeeper.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the maintenance, servicing & repair of the golf course equipment and vehicles in order to maintain the Links to the highest possible standard. Relevant mechanical qualifications required. You will be required to work on the golf course to carry out general greenkeeping duties, mainly morning set-up & any special projects with direction from the course manager.

A full job description is available.

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

Stuart Hogg, Course Manager, The West Lancashire Golf Club,  
Hall Road West, Blundellsands, Liverpool L23 8SZ.  
Email: [course@westlancashiregolf.co.uk](mailto:course@westlancashiregolf.co.uk)

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# GI

# & FINALLY...

## Constructing Chorley's reed bed

**BIGGA sustainability executive James Hutchinson visited Chorley to learn how Anthony Grayson and his team have solved their need to recycle water sustainably**

For some time now, we at Chorley have needed to come up with a solution to our problem of dirty 'wash off' water resulting from cleaning our machines.

We looked at the recycling units, but unfortunately these fell out of our price range for our budget.

Reedbeds, however, were a viable alternative that would meet our legislative requirements.

So, with the assistance of STRI, a location for the reed bed and waste pad was identified. Plans were drawn up and the cost was found to be in our budget.

First, a wash pad needed to be constructed to contain the wash off water and also to prevent external water from

entering the system. A primary silt trap, constructed by one of our members, was installed to collect any solids.

From here, a pipe was connected and run down to the reed beds, located about 50 yards behind the greenkeeping compound.

Construction of the reed bed began, with the felling of conifer trees that would have caused problems due to the shade they cast.

Digging began, with a primary bed and smaller secondary bed forming the system. An inspection chamber was also built, and from these the water could be tested.

Second-hand carpet underlay then butyle liner was laid into the beds and then the stone was added. Precise gravel bandings allow water to percolate in a specific way and the outlet bed would sit within the middle layer of larger stone.

Once the stone was in place and our final level was achieved, the pipework into

the beds was completed, with an inlet running into a cross section that filled the whole width of the bed (below). Holes were drilled into this pipe at set intervals to allow even distribution of water across the width of the bed.

The beds were now ready to be planted, with Phragmites australis planted directly into the gravel as the growing medium.

The next process was to flood each bed to get the reeds to establish. To do this, we put vertical extensions onto each outlet pipe in the inspection chambers then started to run water into the beds.

The reed bed was complete and took us about four weeks, when weather and other jobs allowed.

During construction we found the use of a dumpy level invaluable as this guided us in the subtle changes in fall to achieve the correct height differences.

The final outlet from the reed beds was tapped into an

existing drain on the course, which leads into a ditch, which in turn runs into our irrigation water pond. As we will be using this irrigation water to wash the machines off, we are recycling the water as well.

This was a very interesting project to undertake and it means a lot to us as a club. 18 months ago we had a biomass boiler fitted to heat the clubhouse and we asked the STRI and agronomists to start visiting us to offer advice.

On the course, we started the introduction of bird boxes as part of a commitment to the environment and ecology. These initiatives will form part of the club's ecology policy.



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**Chris Haspell,**  
Course Manager, Castle Stuart  
Golf Links

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GI/Eclipse2CS/9/2016

# JACOBSEN



The Toro® ProCore Series

# Total Aeration

The Toro ProCore aerator series.  
The complete choice for the perfect finish, everywhere.



THE PROCORE 1298 FOR LARGER AREA AERATION

No matter where - healthy turf starts down at the roots. That's why Toro developed the complete range of walk-behind, tractor mounted and deep tine aeration products, giving you the machines to professionally aerate your turf from tee to green.

Toro know regular aeration relieves soil compaction, increases drainage and promotes deeper root growth for vigorous, and healthy turf. And with years of research, customer input, testing and unrivalled attention to detail - the expansive Toro ProCore aerator series is the most productive and efficient on the market. So whatever the application, the ProCore series from Toro ensures your course maintains a perfect finish.

Full details at [www.reesinkturfcare.co.uk](http://www.reesinkturfcare.co.uk)  
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PROCORE SR54-S



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