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History makers

The Open 2017

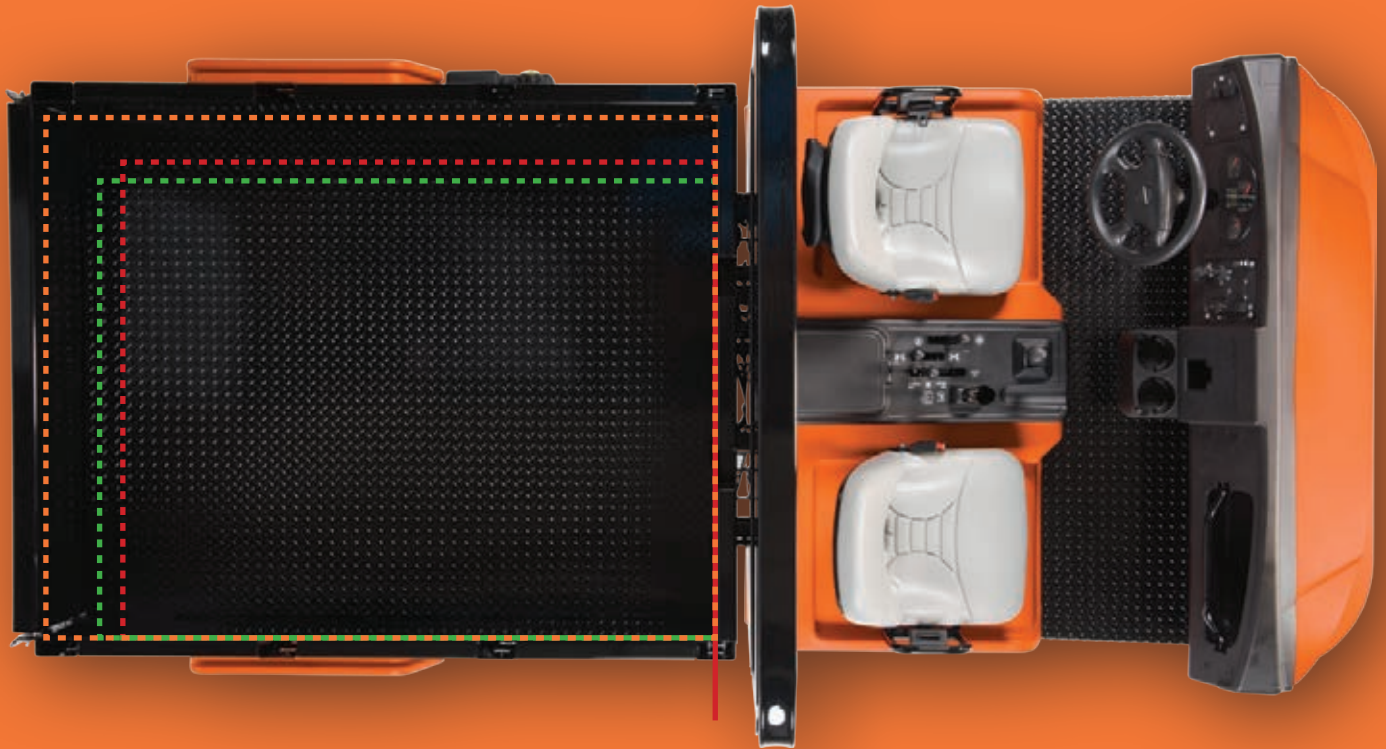
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the BIGGA Volunteer
Support Team

Featured Inside

Preparing for autumn & winter | Sprayer MOT's
Overseeding | Golf course security | Disease prevention



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Welcome



The R&A's Gordon Moir addresses the BIGGA Support Team on the eve of The Open



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

Perhaps my perspective is biased, but I consider the preparation of the course at the recent Open at Royal Birkdale to have been one of the finest triumphs of the entire championship.

Whether coping with a deluge on Friday evening or putting their systems back together after lightning hit the maintenance facility on the eve of the tournament, Chris Whittle and his team prepared an immaculate golf course. If this was, as he claims, his final Open, then Chris signed off with a bang and he and his team should be rightly applauded.

It was, as ever, a privilege to attend the event, spend time with Chris, who was calmness personified, and his team and also with the enthusiastic BIGGA Volunteer Support Team. Our involvement in the championship is a brilliant opportunity for the association and the BIGGA marquee becomes a focal point for the industry for a few days. I thoroughly enjoyed

spending time with our members and friends from the trade between the many meetings we held.

Once again, it was heartening to see the course manager stood on the 18th green during the televised prize presentation, as part of the presentation party. This sort of recognition is crucial for our profession and something we should all aspire towards. BIGGA is working hard with the other bodies within golf to ensure this becomes the standard across the country. I know the guard of honour by the greenkeeping team for the winner isn't to everyone's taste, but personally I think it's wonderful that the team are placed in such a prominent position at the culmination of what comprises years of hard work and personal sacrifice.

The Royal Birkdale team played its part in ensuring their efforts were known, and our BIGGA Support Team also got involved with promoting the profession. Every member was full of enthusiasm for golf and greenkeeping and all were a credit to our association.

Away from the Open, members must play their part if they are to achieve this level of recognition. Before the Open I attended a dinner at a well-known club in the south of England as a guest of the course manager and it was gratifying to see how hugely-respected he is by the club after only a short time in the role. But this hasn't happened by accident, and it is to his credit that he has worked hard to achieve this.

Too many clubs do not consider their course manager to be a member of the senior management team despite their responsibility for the key asset of the business. We are actively engaged in effecting change in this area but it is critical our members don't just wait for the club to come to them. We must all build bridges and become influential. Enthusiastic, professional behaviour, as exhibited by each and every greenkeeper I encountered at Royal Birkdale, will go a huge way towards achieving this. As ever, the Continue To Learn education programme at BTME will also aid this and we will be launching the 2018 programme in the coming months.



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From the Editor



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

With greenkeeping, it's never too early

As the Open drew to a close, the Lancashire weather drew in. Clouds gathered, the rain started to fall, and I was reminded that summer will soon give way to autumn, with winter not far behind.

Not long after you read this edition, the first shops will begin introducing Christmas decorations to their displays. Each year we complain that it happens earlier and earlier and yet there's a remarkable parallel between that and the efforts of greenkeepers. It's August outside and the kids are still on their summer holidays, but in offices the length and breadth of the country course managers and head greenkeepers are starting to plan for the coming winter. For that reason we've got a range of features within this magazine that are intended to help you plan ahead for your winter maintenance.

Whether it be machinery maintenance, disease prevention, or increasing the resilience of your turf for the coming months, it's important that you take a proactive approach to autumn and winter, and I'm sure there's something for everyone within the pages of this magazine.

As part of my role within the association, I keep an eye on news stories relating to the golf courses around the country. It has been disheartening over the past year or so to read so many stories about thefts from greenkeeper maintenance facilities, and as the nights draw in, the opportunities for would be thieves will increase. For that

reason we've put together some tips that we hope will help secure your equipment, and therefore help maintain standards out on the course. You can't work to the high standards you expect if all your machines have been stolen, after all.

This month sees entries for the BIGGA Photographic Competition draw to a close, so if you have been looking to enter, don't hesitate any longer and send your images to karl@bigga.co.uk. Whether using a high-spec camera or a standard smartphone, you may have the winning image sat in your pocket at this very moment.

We're also delighted to announce the finalists of the prestigious Toro Student Greenkeeper and Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards. Twelve talented greenkeepers will head to BIGGA House next month to contest the finals across two days. All are a credit to the association and should be applauded for making it so far.

And don't forget, opportunities such as this are available to all members of BIGGA. Whether it be the student greenkeeper of the year awards, the BIGGA Awards – of which nominations are still open – or applying for BIGGA Volunteer Support Teams or schemes such as the FTMI and BIGGA delegations to various events, all you have to do is make the effort to get involved. The personal and professional benefits are boundless, and the experiences unforgettable.

In this Issue

Our Contributors

38 Nigel Church

Nigel is a product trainer with Cutting Edge Training, an operating division of Ransomes Jacobsen. A well-known and respected figure within the industry for over 40 years, he began his career as an apprentice at Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies in 1970 and has worked in the UK and Europe. In this issue he looks at winter maintenance procedures.



42 John Band

The head greenkeeper at Swinley Forest in Berkshire, this month John and his deputy, Tony Stephen, met with GI contributor Terry Mabbett to explain why their winter disease prevention measures were already well underway in July.



46 Ian Sumpter

Ian has been working in the industry since 1982, when he attended Hadlow College. In 2003 he joined Toro distributor Lely UK as a training manager, later adding service manager to this role. He is proud to be a member of the institute of agricultural engineers.



52 Leah Brilman

Director of product management and technical services for DLF-Pickseed USA, Leah received PhD degrees in agronomy and plant genetics from the University of Arizona. Previously a turfgrass breeder, she now provides support to customers in the utilisation of cultivar and is a Fellow of the Crop Science Society.



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As the nights draw in, opportunist thieves will be on the lookout for easy targets

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Prof James Beard is appealing for help to uncover some of St Andrews' lost greenkeepers

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Swinley Forest's winter disease prevention programme is already well underway

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What can you expect from your overseeding programme?

Across the Board



Sidney Arrowsmith President

I hope this month's magazine finds you healthy and well following what can only be described as a testing season so far. At the time of writing we have had very little rainfall in Oxfordshire and the courses are giving off that lovely heathland golden glow.

I am sure you have all enjoyed watching some great golf on television at some superb venues. Bernard Findlay and his staff at Portstewart won the hearts of all competitors and visitors during the staging of the Irish Open. The course was in magnificent playing condition and was a great credit to Bernard's links management skills.

The following week we saw the Scottish Open played over the superb Dundonald Links. Congratulations to Frank Clarkson and his staff for producing a great test on a beautifully-prepared course.

And finally we take our hats off to Chris Whittle and his greenkeeping team who, on the world's biggest stage for golf, came out the heroes of the week for the conditioning of the links at Royal Birkdale for the 146th Open. I was very fortunate to be part of the support team, which was both enthralling and rewarding. The match I raked for included Bubba Watson, Rafa Cabrera-Bello and Scott Hend. All three were polite and engaging, and it was a pleasure to be present.

My congratulations not only go to the small army of volunteer greenkeepers who unselfishly offer their time in support during the championship but also the excellent BIGGA team: Rachael, Sandra, Tracey, Kerry and finally BIGGA's answer to Lord Snowdon, Karl Hansell, whose photographic skills are becoming a hot topic! These people were magnificent in every aspect of their work. You are all a great credit to our profession and I thank you all.

I am sure that you have all had your own majors to contend with over the season so far. Both Ladies' and Men's Captains days, club championships, pro-am days and the like are all a test of your skills, patience and knowledge. Congratulations to you all for producing great courses, in many cases with limited resources and variable budgets.

You are all a great credit to yourselves and to our wonderful industry.

Presidential duties so far this season have been very varied and most interesting, and as I have stated in previous correspondence it is hard to believe just how far we have come, so that we are now recognised as industry leaders.

While undertaking my duties as president of this great association, I still have a day job to do at Frilford Heath. Two EuroPro Tour events, our club's pro-am and Gold Medal Championship, plus Open Championship Regional Qualifying kept me out of mischief. This is a great opportunity for me to say a huge thank you to our three fine head greenkeepers Alex James, Tim Brown, and Norman Knox. They do a fantastic job week after week with their respective teams. The men do a fine job and I thank them all.

As we are heading very quickly towards autumn, our thoughts will be directed towards potential turf difficulties that we will all face as the removal of pesticides bites. Be prepared by offering clear and precise communication to your members. An autumn bulletin will work wonders and help members to understand the predicament that you are in.



Sid Arrowsmith joined the BIGGA Volunteer Support Team at Royal Birkdale

Funding your future

The Continuing Professional Development and world class education we provide would not be possible without the assistance of BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters. Ensuring our members stay at the forefront of the turf management industry takes considerable investment, and we are hugely grateful to the following for their ongoing support.



Individual Contributors: Steven Tierney MG ■ Chris Lomas MG ■ Andrew Campbell MG CGCS
Richard McGlynn ■ Jaey Goodchild ■ Frank Newberry ■ Greg Evans MG

Plane emergency



Picture by Philip Craig Dearden

The greenkeeping team at Westthoughton had a shock after an aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing on the course's 14th fairway.

Ironically, the plane landed on a fairway which had specifically been designed with a hump in the 1940s to prevent German aircraft landing on the green.

Although the course was busy at the time, no one was hurt in the incident and the course wasn't damaged by the landing.

Westthoughton greenkeeper Richard Sumner said: "The plane was probably lighter than our fairway mowers, so thankfully no damage was caused, other than a few tyre tracks."

Volunteering

An exclusive opportunity has arisen for young greenkeepers to gain European Tour experience this autumn.

Forest of Arden in the West Midlands will play host to the European Senior Tour from 20-22 October, and the club has requested the assistance of BIGGA members to help prepare the course. Volunteers will be required to undertake a variety of tasks throughout the week, ensuring this is a fantastic opportunity to network with fellow greenkeepers and is a chance to develop both personally and professionally.

Accommodation, catering and uniform will be provided. For more information and get receive an application form, email Craig Potts at CNPGK@outlook.com. The closing date for those interested is 25 August.

Celtic Manor team's sun safety

As part of national skin cancer charity Skcin's ongoing collaboration with BIGGA members, Celtic Manor's greenkeeping staff got involved with an education day recently.

The event was attended by Skcin's Marie Tudor, dermatology consultant Dr Rachel Abbott, and two supporting nurses, Sharon Hulley and Lisa Jones from Cardiff University Hospital.

Jim McKenzie, director of golf at Celtic Manor, said: "I first came across Skcin at BTME earlier this year and I was immediately struck by the importance of the work they do. We take our legal and moral responsibility in all aspects of the health and wellbeing of our staff very seriously and have invested heavily in it.

"The screening day is a fundamental part of this commitment and it provided a great opportunity for the team to understand the significant effects of working outdoors in the sun for periods of time. The Skcin team provided a very professional approach to this important and sensitive issue and encouraged the team to participate in lively discussion."

Celtic Manor is working towards securing their Sun Safe Workplace Accreditation, the scheme offered for free by the charity to aid employers.

The scheme helps support the employers in their duty of care to protect their workforce, providing sample policies and risk assessments. The four step process, once completed, ends with the site rewarded with a Sun Safe Accredited workplace certificate.

Skcin's objective is to raise awareness of skin cancer and promote sun safety and early detection and diagnosis. Marie said: "The rates of skin cancer are rising faster than any other cancer, and 86% of cases are due to over exposure to UV, meaning they are preventable. Skcin works with 'at risk' groups and the Sun Safe Workplace accreditation will help reduce the chances of developing skin diseases."

Any clubs wanting to sign up to the free scheme can do so at www.sunsafeworkplaces.co.uk



Jim McKenzie and the Skcin team

Mark Thompson



Is Mark Thompson of The Richmond the longest driving greenkeeper in the country?

Mark, 34, has qualified for the final of the American Golf UK Long Drive Championship following a mighty 389-yard drive.

Mark will now line up against the best long drivers in the UK at Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire.

"I am hoping I can beat my personal best in the finals, and if I can do that I'll be happy," said Mark. "Next year I will train harder and see if I can break 400 yards.

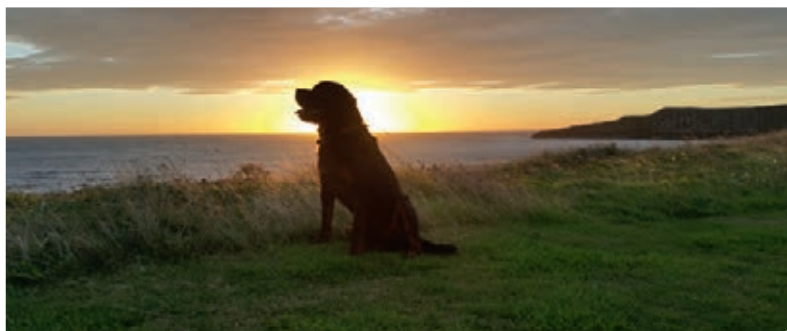
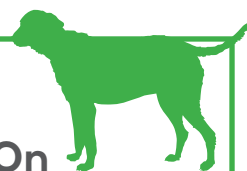
The final was due to take place on 4 August.

If you think you can beat Mark's effort, tweet us a video at @BIGGALtd



Dogs

On Course



Name: Henry

Owner: Glen Baxter, Rigby Taylor

Course: Various throughout Northern England, but this photo was taken at Dunstanburgh Castle

Breed: Rottweiler

Favourite treat: 'The Sausage' from the girls at Dunstanburgh clubhouse

Naughtiest moment: Isn't naughty, he's as good as gold, though his biggest problem is that he is over friendly! And being a big dog can be over powering sometimes, striving for attention of love!

My dog is happiest when...

Walking courses with me on my rounds, and sometimes showing the lads where to put the hole

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

Newsdesk



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**FINANCE
AVAILABLE***

MODEL SHOWN: TYM T503 WITH TURF TYRES



Member of Royal Reesink

GI Ecology

By James
Hutchinson
BIGGA
Sustainability
Executive



Background:
Iain Watson's
twayblade

Left: West Lancs
members

Congratulations to Hexham on winning 12 months' free access to the Environmental Solutions International environmental management system for their beautiful old oak tree. Their name was picked out at random by Stuart Hogg MG and myself so well done team and enjoy the free advice!

At West Lancs the club undertook an eco-afternoon where 25 members showed up to hear about the great environmental work going on. During the walk a common sandpiper, whitethroat and a family of stonechats showed up, so an enjoyable time was had by all. Not surprising to hear that we will have to undertake another one as the first sold out in no time. Course ecology and wildlife are becoming more and more popular with golfers and they appear to appreciate being part of a biologically friendly environment. Let me know if you would like a talk at your golf course.

The mountain of photos and stories sent in this past month has been nothing short of fantastic with tales of friendly foxes, sociable butterflies and general approachable wildlife taking centre stage. Take this snap of Gareth Watkin at Greetham Valley and his new friend, a marbled white butterfly — it is actions such as this that led them to win the STRI's Environment Awards top prize.

In terms of wildflowers, wait until you see what's been peeking in Scotland! Twayblades, those interesting orchids which are perhaps not as spectacular as the more exotic vars but are brill to inspect nonetheless, have been showing at numerous places across the northern parts of the UK. Iain Watson, of Gullane Number Two and Gordon Moir, St Andrews Links director of greenkeeping, both mailed over great images. It's wonderful to see that the 'larger' clubs are taking such an interest in flora and fauna – thank you gents and keep a look out for the ever-elusive ghost orchid which hasn't been seen in the UK for years.

Keep those sightings coming to james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk or @Ecology1BIGGA on Twitter.



Right: Gareth
Watkin's butterfly

Below: Anthony
Sunney's apiaries



Right: Dave
Edmundson's orchid

Below: Stapleford
Park's wildflowers



Right: Ken Tilt's
Milkweed and Bee



GI Ecology sponsored by

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Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Representing the youth of the sports turf management industry

Each month the Young Greenkeepers Committee is growing in popularity and influence across the association.

The small group of BIGGA members who comprise the committee are proving effective in their efforts to increase recognition for the hardworking younger members of the association, who will in turn become the course managers and head greenkeepers of the future.

A sure sign of the committee's success is that it has grown to the extent that a Scottish branch of the YGC has been adopted. This is not a separate group, but is rather an extension of the existing committee.

The Scottish group held its first meeting at Gleneagles and began with a conversation about ways in which it could help support young greenkeepers. The Scottish YGC will be on hand to assist any young greenkeepers throughout the region and will also create and present opportunities for career progression and development as they arise.

Stuart Tait is soon to begin a role in groundcare sales and

will relinquish his role on the YGC. However, prior to this he has been instrumental in the establishment of the Scottish YGC. He explained why he considers the committee to be so important: "When I meet people that are likeminded and passionate about the industry it inspires me to continue to have that same drive and ambition."

"Being able to visit interesting places through the YGC is a great perk, but from a personal point of view I would rather pass these opportunities on to others, and so I am proud that I have been able to do this through the establishment of the Scottish YGC."

The day at Gleneagles included a course

walk with Scott Fenwick, courses and estates manager. Stuart said: "This was a great insight into the work that takes place here and has been taking place over the years to maintain and improve standards and to continue to build for the future."

"They have a great training process for young greenkeepers in place and this definitely shows over the golf courses. Thanks again to Scott and to Gleneagles for allowing us to have our meeting there."

"This was a fantastic opportunity to see an amazing complex and to meet fellow likeminded young greenkeepers."

Young Greenkeepers' Committee



Scottish YGC at Gleneagles

GI Around The Globe



Name: Rick Tegtmeier CGCS MG

Position: Director of Grounds

Position: Des Moines Golf and Country Club, Iowa

What is the most unusual or interesting thing you would tell other BIGGA members about your country?

The United States has a very diverse climate, many of my fellow greenkeepers grow entirely different turf than what we do here in Iowa. All turf in Iowa is cool season turf, no warm season grasses. We primarily grow bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass and fescues.

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

Our golf course has been on this property since 1967, we are a parkland style golf course with rolling terrain and good sized trees. We have a very deep, dark top soil profile that enables us to grow great turfgrass.

How does greenkeeping in your country vary from the UK?

Sometimes I feel in the US we have taken greenkeeping too far. Bunkers now have to be perfect as well as the turf. We sometimes try to manufacture something that should not be there. We should take the golf course as it lies and enjoy the natural beauty of what is there.

What is the best part of living in your country?

We have some of the best greenkeepers in the world and it is great to become friends with them. Interacting, sharing knowledge and seeing what the new innovations are is very exciting to be a part of. Social media has helped all of us to become more connected.

What is the worst?

The demands put upon our profession. No longer is it about what you have done for your club, it is what are you going to do for me today. You have to become very diverse in all aspects of maintenance and you have to wear many hats. Labor shortages are becoming a very difficult item to deal with because of the higher paying jobs in other markets. No one wants to get

their fingers dirty anymore and some people turn up their noses at those who do.

How does the weather affect your work?

Like any other golf course we are greatly affected by weather. We have limitations on our well water usage and if we do go into a drought situation our water supply could be limited or even shut down.

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

Our golf course is certified in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System for Golf Courses. We try to manage our golf courses to become a safe haven for our feathered friends. We have a vast variety of song birds like Orioles, Bluebirds, Juncos and many different species of Warblers. We also have geese, ducks,

Below and right:
Des Moines Golf
Course





Good luck to Rick and the team for this month's Solheim Cup!

cranes, and herons. For predator birds we have Hawks, Owls and Bald Eagles. Many times we see Whitetail deer traveling through the area. We also have fox, coyotes, mink, and raccoons.

What is your club management structure like?

We have a general manager who has been at the club since 2000. We have nine different department heads who operate their own divisions and we all answer to the general manager. We do have a board of directors for the club who set policy and give direction to the general manager as to how they would like to see things operate. They do not micro manage us and it works well.

What is the public perception of golf in your country?

Right now I feel that golf is starting to make a slow recovery from the setbacks it received in 2008. Golf is a complicated sport and sometimes it takes a long time to play. We need to figure out how to get more young people involved in the game and keep them there. We need to assist and promote junior golf programs and help them enjoy the game. It is a life sport that can be played at all age levels. Somehow that message needs to transcend down to the people who are not presently involved in the game.



Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

Originally I joined because I wanted to become a Master Greenkeeper. Then I started making acquaintances and started to learn that there is more than just one way to grow turf. I quickly learned that golf in the UK is very advanced and I could learn a lot from my fellow greenkeepers. I look forward to making new friends and I hope to attend the show in Harrogate in the near future.

What one tip would you give to British greenkeepers that you have learned in your country?

You never know it all. Someone always has a new way or a better way to do something. Keep your eyes open and learn. Then share that with a fellow greenkeeper. I was given a tip many years ago to never upset a young golfer because someday he might be your club president if you are at that club long enough. He will remember it and you might not. Good advice.

**This month
@BIGGALtd**



@stirlinggcsec

@BIGGALtd Golf Day. Auchterarder course in superb condition @CampbellLeggat was on fire playing great golf @jameslindsay



@DaveTaylor101

@Matthew198James it has been a tiring week to be fair #BIGGASupportTeam #BIGGA



@westlancsgreens

Great to see chairwoman of @WestLancsGC scoring @TheOpen along with @BIGGALtd @Stevious1979 today! #topteam @linksgolf



@mortonhallgolf

Great first day @TheOpen. We are on the late night graveyard shift today. Going to get wet following the Rose and Streb groups



@JamegaTour

Chatting with dedicated HG Kevin Weller @Kev_rh @LingfieldGolf @BIGGALtd #teamwork



@adambrackley89

First time @TheOpen with @chloe_gall @BIGGALtd #BIGGASupportTeam #TheOpen



@TeignmouthGolfC

Our greenkeepers still working hard out there for renovation week @BIGGALtd



BERNHARD

THE MAGNIFICENT TEN



Join the BIGGA delegation at GIS San Antonio in February 2018



Representing the Best of British Greenkeeping at the Golf Industry Show 2018

- The Golf Industry Show is billed as the main event in the industry calendar. Bernhard and Company is giving you the opportunity to join nine other successful candidates on a trip of a lifetime to visit the show and attend the GCSAA sponsored educational conference in San Antonio, Texas, February 3rd — 8th 2018.
- Your ticket allows you access to the World's leading educational conference, you will be meeting industry experts and enjoying field trips to top US golf courses, building your network of global contacts.

Network with the World's largest gathering of turf care specialists.





Network with the industry's leading experts

An Unrivalled Professional Development Opportunity

The search is on. The Bernhard sponsored BIGGA Delegation will be heading to San Antonio in February 2018 to attend the Golf Industry Show, the biggest single event in the industry. Sample the legendary educational conference and have the opportunity to network with the World's largest gathering of turf care specialists.

To attend this unique event simply go to www.bernhard.co.uk/bigga2018 and complete the online application form by September 18th 2017.

Candidates will be invited for interview with BIGGA and Bernhard in November and ten successful applicants will be announced in the December issue of Greenkeeper International. Each delegate will receive return flights to San Antonio, hotel

accommodation and transfers for the duration of the event, an entry ticket to GIS 2018, 2 days of seminars at the GCSAA educational conference and a guided tour of a top US course. All courtesy of Bernhard and Company.

To be eligible for this event you simply have to be a full BIGGA member.

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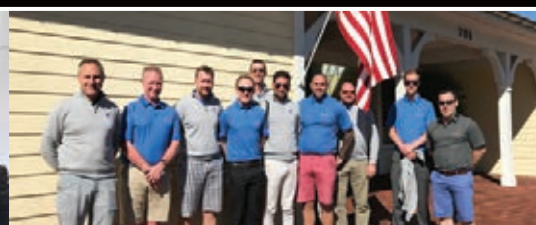
Paul Brown, Course Manager, Ham Manor Golf Club
BIGGA Delegate San Diego 2017



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Membership

Latest news and information from the BIGGA Membership Team

BIGGA Northern Ireland



Regional Administrator John Young and Royal Portrush's Graeme Beatt

A major event is being hosted on 24 October to promote BIGGA within Northern Ireland.

The event is taking place at the College of Agriculture, Farming and Rural Affairs' (CAFRE) Greenmount Campus in Antrim.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "With the most recent Irish Open being hosted by Bernard Findlay and the team at Portstewart, and Graeme Beatt and his team at Royal Portrush due to host The Open in 2019, the eyes of the golfing world are firmly set upon Northern Ireland and BIGGA is proud to represent our successful and talented members who live and work there.

"Naturally, it can be a challenge to ensure our Northern Ireland based members feel as engaged with our activity as those in Scotland, England and Wales due to logistics and geography. We are firmly committed to supporting all of

our members and the event at CAFRE will give us a chance to fully explain all the benefits of membership while also hearing at first hand just how we can ensure those benefits are fit for purpose."

The event at CAFRE is open to both members and non-members of the association and is free to attend.

There will be presentations on the association's strategic vision, membership benefits, learning and development opportunities, golf course ecology and the environment, and a discussion on how to move forward within Northern Ireland. There will also be a guest presenter.

For more information, contact Regional Administrator John Young on 07776242120 or email johnyoung@bigga.co.uk.

BIGGA members in Northern Ireland have experienced other success in recent times, with students from CAFRE winning the inaugural SALTEX College Cup 2016. A part of the prize for the winning team was the opportunity to gain work experience at Wembley Stadium in the run up to this year's FA Cup and FA Trophy tournaments. Gavin White, of Ballyclare, was a member of the winning team, alongside Brian Boyle, John Kennedy, John Crawford, Michael Dundee and Gavin White.

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L&D News

Latest news and information from the BIGGA Learning and Development Team

Toro student awards

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists revealed



Last year's winners and runners-up with David Cole of Reesink

For ambitious BIGGA members, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award can represent the culmination of years of hard work, and we are delighted to announce the finalists of this prestigious competition.

These 12 student greenkeepers, featured opposite, will contest the 29th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and 2nd Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards in September.

The awards enable BIGGA, turf maintenance equipment manufacturer Toro and distributor Reesink Turfcare to celebrate those talented young greenkeepers who are dedicating themselves to a career within the industry.

Last year's winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award was Jimmy Heritage, of Maylands in Essex. He said: "My life has been changed by the whole Toro Student Greenkeeper

of the Year process. I've met some incredible people, done some incredible things and gained a mass of knowledge and confidence along the way. There hasn't been a day since returning that I haven't used something I gained from it all."

The final will begin on Monday 11 September, where candidates will join an industry discussion group hosted by BIGGA Chairman Les Howkins.

The finalists of the two awards will then undertake a variety of tasks, culminating in the awards presentation, which will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 12 September.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner will receive an eight-week all expenses paid scholarship, including a six-week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, a trip to the Golf Industry Show and a visit to the Toro factory.

The Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year, won last year by Dan Waring of Ashbourne, will receive a work experience placement at the exclusive Vidauban Golf Club in southern France. They will also receive a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME and enjoy a five-night package that includes hotel, four days of education, travel and £125 expenses, plus a Toro training voucher.

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists

Chloe Gallagher, Ramside Hall

"Chloe is a strong student and a role model for her peers."

Graham Hastie, Stoneham

"Graham is a hardworking and very experienced greenkeeper and he is always cheerful and enthusiastic when I visit him in the workplace."

Levi Pethick, Stoneham

"Levi is passionate about education and produces a high standard of work, both in his college work and out on the course."

Matthew Kitson, Royal Mid Surrey

"To virtually complete his course in less than a year shows great qualities and the basis for a great greenkeeper of the future."

Michael Budd, Westerham

"Michael is one of the most passionate greenkeepers I have ever come across."

Nick Machin, Royal Cinque Ports

"Nick has absolutely excelled from day one and is a credit to the team."

Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists

Angus Roberts, Roxburghe

"Angus has proven himself to be an extremely keen greenkeeper, consistently performing well and producing work of very high quality."

Joe Spadaccini, Scraftoft

"Joe is an integral part of Scraftoft, he has a great future in greenkeeping."

Callum Done, Trump International Golf Links Scotland

"Callum is an excellent example of a college student who is a perfect endorsement of the sports turf industry."

Christopher Clark, Royal Cinque Ports

"Chris was the first apprentice to really make an impact and his enthusiasm and drive to do better is really inspiring."

Craig Woodman, Bramshaw

"Craig is enthusiastic about learning and improving his knowledge, but is also supportive of this in others."

Matthew Bowles, Kings Hill

"Matthew has always worked beyond expectation with regard to his course work."



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

Lubor John, SRUC (Elmwood); Robert McDowell, Whitehill House; Anthony McGeough, Richmond (Yorks); Michael Davies, Gathurst; Sam Evans, Fulwell; Darren Moxham, Saltford.

Congratulations to the following members who achieved their CPD Milestone this month: Ian Nichols, Orsett; Lee Strutt MG, RAC



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS, Richard McGlynn, Jaey Goodchild, Frank Newberry, Greg Evans MG

Amenity Forum's 'Question Time' to return

The Amenity Forum will once again be hosting its Question Time at SALTEX 2017, with BIGGA's Jim Croxton due to take part in the popular event.

The event is modelled upon the BBC programme, where a panel of people, drawn from the sector, respond to audience questions on a range of topical issues concerning amenity management.

Professor John Moverley OBE, independent chairman of the forum, will act as 'David Dimbleby'. He said: "We are delighted to have been invited to once again host this popular event at SALTEX. The IOG are supportive members of the

Amenity Forum and this Question Time allows the opportunity to discuss and debate key issues surrounding amenity management."

In addition to BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, the panel will include Will Kay, managing director of Languard, Mark Pyrah, landscape and industrial business manager UK and Ireland for ICL, and Tony Saunders, area manager and professional head of environment for JSD Rail.

If previous years are repeated, there will be a full house and a lively debate. With no shortage of issues to be discussed, the event will take place at 2pm on 1 November at the NEC.



Amenity Forum

FTMI Down Under

The Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association, in conjunction with Jacobsen, hosted its second Future Turf Managers' Initiative, after the success of the inaugural event last year.

With help from the NZGCSA, delegates from New Zealand were also selected to take part in the joint venture. FTMI took place at the 33rd Australian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Exhibition in Mudjimba Beach, Queensland.

Leon Hennessey, superintendent at Cromer, New South Wales, was a mentor at the event and said: "It has been a privilege to be a part of this unique event in Australia. I personally found it such a fulfilling experience to mentor a group of superintendents who are so passionate about the industry and furthering their careers."

More than 160 greenkeepers from around the world have taken part in FTMI during the past five years.



FTMI Australia

Herbicide renewal

Approval for use of turf herbicide, Dicophar, which offers effective weed control for up to three months, has been successfully renewed by the HSE's Chemicals Regulation Division.

The product, by Arysta LifeScience, is applied to managed turf for long-term selective control of broad-leaved weeds such as buttercup, clover, dandelion, deadnettle and dock.

Drawing on the combined power of four active ingredients, Dicophar provides an optimal range of weed control and resistance management for up to six months after application.

Arysta LifeScience Product Development and Technical Manager Don Prendergrast said: "Dicophar is rather unique in that it contains four active ingredients, and this is why it is so effective in controlling such a broad range of troublesome weeds.

"We are delighted the CRD has renewed the use of this product, a powerful tool for those looking to control weeds on golf courses and large areas of turf."

Applied once a year, Dicophar contains the active ingredients 2-4D, MCPA, MCPP-P and Dicamba. With a wide application window, it is selective even when used on young turf.

Irriplan and Hunter

The first British club to host the Ryder Cup, Moortown, has completed the installation of a new irrigation system, replacing a failing 35-year-old system.

The club chose a Hunter irrigation system installed by Knaresborough-based contractor Full Circle Irrigation. Irrigation engineers Irriplan provided design and project management.

"Our existing irrigation system was very old, and it was failing miserably," explained Moortown secretary Peter Rishworth. "We were constantly getting leaks in the underground pipework due to age, and regularly seeing other faults too. The project was completed in two and a half months and obviously it's early days, but we can see the level of control is 100 times better."



Irriplan and Hunter at Moortown

Sherriff Amenity

Sherriff Amenity, the fine turf and landscaping division of Agrovista UK, has announced the acquisition of Terra Firma (Scotland), one of Scotland's largest specialist suppliers to the amenity and local authority markets.

Simon Gough, founder of Terra Firma (Scotland) said: "Terra Firma joining with Sherriff Amenity is a really exciting prospect. The combination of both companies' industry knowledge, experience and customer service ethos will form a strong, sustainable and service-focused business model."

The purchase allows the two businesses to combine existing technical expertise and broad product ranges to provide land managers, local authorities, contractors, groundsmen and greenkeepers in Scotland with a full agronomy service.



Ask Dr Mumford

With Colin Mumford, Bayer Turf Solutions

Do you need advice with your turf problems?
Email info@bigga.co.uk

Question: I've heard about treating disease preventatively, but I don't know how to go about it. Do you have any tips?

The key to preventing the grass plant from succumbing to disease, or to make it better able to withstand it, is to keep it healthy. Anything you can do to maintain or improve turf health will give you a head start against diseases like Microdochium patch and Anthracnose later in the season.

Firstly, ensure that your turf has adequate nutrition to help sustain or enhance plant health, and if needed, you can apply nutritional supplements, which have been shown to be beneficial to turf development.

Drought stress can weaken the grass plant and make the turf vulnerable to disease. But providing supplemental irrigation in dry periods can help to reduce this risk. However, you shouldn't irrigate excessively, especially in the early autumn, when you want to try and keep the surface as dry as possible, because moist conditions favour certain diseases.

It's important to be proactive with your biological and cultural controls. Fungicide application timing depends on a number of factors including location, prevailing weather conditions and historical disease pressure data.

At this stage (early autumn), the grass will still be actively growing, so you'll need to apply a preventative, systemic fungicide before any potential disease takes hold. Systemic chemistry transports the fungicide around the plant so that areas that didn't come into direct contact with a spray droplet are also protected.

Finally, as the dew starts to remain on the grass for longer, it's essential to remove this and keep the surface as dry as possible, to reduce the chances of disease taking hold.

Tweet us your turf questions @BIGGALtd using #AskDrMumford for your chance to win a hamper!

Souters Sports

After successfully completing a huge bunker renovation project at West Kilbride in Ayrshire, Souters Sports has been widely praised by the club's secretary and architect.

The club has rejuvenated over 30 bunkers and managing secretary Graham MacKenzie said: "On some of the older bunkers the drainage had suffered and over time had developed a poor shape. We also wanted natural looking bunkers to

give the courses more of a links feel.

"After a few of the members had commented on them, we decided to go ahead with the project."

With the architect's vision in place and the Souters team briefed, construction commenced in late October and was complete by the end of February, giving time for establishment in advance of the season ahead.



Souters Sports

Germinal

Germinal has introduced a bentgrass mixture which the seed company claims offers enhanced disease and stress resistance.

Designed specifically for use on soil or sand-based greens, Forefront Greens is made up of three separate bentgrass varieties, all of which have been selected to offer increased wear and heat tolerance, vigorous growth and good all-round disease resistance for hard-working, modern greens.

Comprising 35% AberRegal, 35% AberRoyal and 30% 007DSB, Germinal's amenity sales manager Richard Brown said: "AberRegal and AberRoyal work well together by offering a duo of Browntop Bentgrasses which will thrive on soil and sand based greens anywhere in the UK. This pairing provides greenkeepers with improved genetic diversity and a sward with higher resistance to key disease threats such as Red Thread and Fusarium."

007 DSB was developed in the US using 24 parent plants to produce a single cultivar with a wide genetic base. Richard explained how it is this background which enables it to deliver all the qualities of a Creeping Bentgrass, such as prostrate growth habit, high shoot density and good wear tolerance.

"Unlike older Creeping Bent varieties, 007 does all this with a lower requirement for water and nutrients," added Richard. "This means that, for the first time, a Creeping Bentgrass can be successfully blended with high quality Browntop Bent varieties to deliver an added benefit, but low input seed mixture."

"As such, Forefront Greens is the perfect solution for progressive greenkeepers who are currently managing Browntop Bents, but who are seeking extra performance from the same management inputs. The combination of cultivars ensures greens remain verdant year-round and, thanks to the inclusion of three top-performing varieties, avoids the risks associated with creating a mono-culture of grasses."

AberRegal and AberRoyal are two UK-bred cultivars to come out of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences in Aberystwyth.



Germinal

GreenTek

Ross Fairgrieve has been appointed as GreenTek's business development manager for the northern area.

Ross, 30, from Midlothian, joins GreenTek with sales responsibility for Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England.

"We're thrilled to have Ross on board as the newest member of the GreenTek team," said Mike Stott, GreenTek's global sales manager. "His understanding of the industry, coupled with his experience, passion and professionalism, will undoubtedly be of great benefit to our customers."

Previously, Ross worked as a sales representative for Logic Manufacturing, a store manager for Dunbar Rickerby's and an agricultural engineer for Kelso and Lothian Harvesters.



Ross Fairgrieve

Graden Contour Sand Injection (CSI) Unit

Charterhouse
TURF MACHINERY

The Graden Contour Sand Injection (CSI) Unit is a 3-in-1 verticutter/aerator, often considered the flagship product in the Graden range, designed to improve the soil profile



STRI Group announce Research Day dates

STRI group has announced the dates for its free annual Research Day event, hosted at its world-class facilities in West Yorkshire.

Greenkeepers, grounds staff, course managers and other sportsturf professionals are all invited to attend the open days on 20 and 21 September.

On the days, STRI consultants will give attendees a guided tour

around the STRI research grounds and show partners' latest trials and technology that will benefit the sports industry in the future.

The event is supported by Farmura – an Aquatrols company, Bayer, ICL, Syngenta, Sherriff Amenity and StadiaPitch.

To book a place contact info@strigroup.com or call 01274 565131.





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The GTC is funded by:



Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping

Guide to the End Point Assessment

Andy Wight, Oaklands College and member of the
Trailblazer Technical Working Group

Here is a quick overview
of the new End Point
Assessment (EPA) process.

**All apprenticeships
will now have an
independently
assessed EPA.**

The Level 2 Greenkeeping
apprenticeship is an
18 – 24 month duration
apprenticeship. Candidates
can complete in less time
but **may not** complete in
less than 366 days.
The apprenticeship will
most likely follow the
outline below.

- Apprentices must sign an Apprenticeship Agreement with their employer before the apprenticeship begins.
- The apprentice will be employed at a golf course and an application to a training provider is made.
- Initial advice and guidance, skills scan and development of a training programme with an assessment of maths and English takes place.
- The employer negotiates the cost of training based on the results of the skills scan and training programme.
- they are working a 40-hour week then eight hours per week must be directed to training. This can include study and practical training, such as instruction in machinery use. If an employer is unwilling or unable to provide this they should not apply for an apprenticeship. For more information visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeships-off-the-job-training
- Enrolment onto the apprenticeship takes place.
- A period of study to gain the knowledge required, backed up with training in the workplace on the skills required.
- Regular reviews of progress will be held between the apprentice, employer and provider.
- Around three to four months before the planned end date, the employer and provider will meet to decide if the apprentice is ready for the "Gateway". This means the apprentice is considered ready to take the End Point Assessment (EPA).
- Provider books EPA and EPA period begins.

Note: all apprentices must be given 20% of their working hours to train e.g. if

The EPA consists of the following:

The learner will be required to collect a portfolio of evidence throughout their training. This supports their development in the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to carry out the role of a golf greenkeeper.

1. **Trainee statement — (20% of the final mark) to be completed at least 2 weeks prior to the EPA.**

The learner will be required to use the evidence from their portfolio to write up a short reflective summary of the training, focussing on their personal development and behaviours. It will concentrate on the apprentice's impact on his/her greenkeeper team and the business. **This statement must be word processed** (hand written statements are not acceptable).

It will cover the required behaviours of an apprentice Greenkeeper, such as:

- a. A strong work ethic including pride in work, attention to detail, integrity and time management.
- b. A flexible positive attitude to work.

- c. Ability to work as a lone worker and as a member of a team.
- d. A willingness to learn and contribute to their own continuing professional development (CPD).
- e. A safety mind-set for self, colleagues and golfers.
- f. A clear and effective communicator who can use a variety of methods to give and receive information accurately and in a timely and positive manner.
- g. Problem solving and effective decision making.

2 Written exam — (30% of the final mark)

A 1.5 hour exam with a combination of short answer and multi-choice question paper.

The further two sections will take place at the candidate's place of work and between 24 to 48 hours prior to the visit the independent assessor will make contact with apprentice's workplace to arrange the visit with employer. Due to the seasonality of works, it has been recommended that the practical task assessment day is not carried out between the months of December and February.

3. Practical end assessments (50% of the final mark)

Course walk

A 1.5 hours course walk of one hole at the apprentice's place of work. The course walk will consist of a candidate-guided tour and discussion of one hole, selected by the independent assessor and the candidate on the day, as appropriate. This may begin at the tee and proceed through to the green.

The discussion must include:

- Basic knowledge of soil type on the course and its potential effects on maintenance (for example drainage and irrigation where applicable).
- The mowing regime (mowing types, heights and frequencies, equipment, its effects on play and presentation).
- Typical maintenance operations carried out and the reasons for doing them (frequency, intensity and types: switching/brushing, aeration, top dressing, scarifying/verti-cutting, over seeding, feeding/turf conditioners, repairing divots, irrigation, drainage, repairs and rolling).

During the walk the independent assessor will assess the candidate's communication skills and ask them to identify the following:

- A range of plants present (grasses, trees, shrubs, wild flowers, weeds). Genus and species will be required for higher grades. It is acceptable to test this criteria anywhere on the golf course if insufficient evidence is available on the selected hole.
- Potential threats to the health of the turf surface and to name actions that can be taken to deal with them (pests/diseases/disorders or factors that may encourage these such as shade).

Practical tasks

The independent assessor must select **five tasks** for the candidate to undertake. This decision should be based on the time of year and golf course maintenance activities scheduled, as advised through the discussion with the employer. The selection of tasks must also meet the following criteria:

Group A: Both tasks must be selected

Course preparation
Grass identification

Group B: Select one task from Group B

Prepare a tractor with attachments for operation
Dealing with threats to the health of turf
Prepare ground for establishing plants
Plant identification

Group C: Select one task from Group C

Turf scarification, verti-cutting & grooming
Applying top dressing
Applying fertiliser/turf conditioner
Irrigating playing surfaces on the golf course
Maintain drainage systems
Mowing a turf area on a golf course
Establish plants on a golf course
Renovation and repair of turf
Aerating turf surfaces on the golf course
Rolling turf

Group D: Select one task from Group D

Moving tee markers
Maintaining bunkers
Changing the hole on a golf green
Switching and brushing

The assessment will also include verbal questioning.

Note: all tasks are graded fail, pass, merit or distinction and an overall grade is given at the end.

Who pays for the cost of the EPA?

The cost of the EPA is capped at 20% of the Apprentice Greenkeeper funding band which is £6,000, so the EPA will be £1,200. The £1,200 can be used from the £6,000 funding to pay for the EPA. Any cost over this price would have to be paid for by the employer. At this point in time it is anticipated that the EPA will fall within the 20% cap.

Reducing crime on golf courses

Thefts from the UK's golf courses are increasing. As clubs invest in more and more high-value equipment, criminals are viewing them as easy targets.

Few people around, isolated locations, the cover of darkness, it's not hard to see why.

One club that has been hard hit is Broadstone, near Bournemouth on the south coast. In a one-year period between January 2016 and '17 the club was broken into three times, leading to a clamp down on security.

Acting Head Greenkeeper Paul Staples said: "That 20 minute drive into work after I've had the phone call to say we've been burgled is the worst. I'm going to find the sheds broken into, machines gone, and who knows what else."

On one occasion the criminals drove a car through the metal shutters to gain entry to the maintenance facility. The attack was caught on CCTV and watching the recording back, Paul was amazed to see how relaxed the criminals were as they walked around, looking for things to take.

He said: "I feel gutted for the golfers as they won't have the same quality course they had the day before. And I'm gutted for the lads as they can't maintain the course to the level they would like.

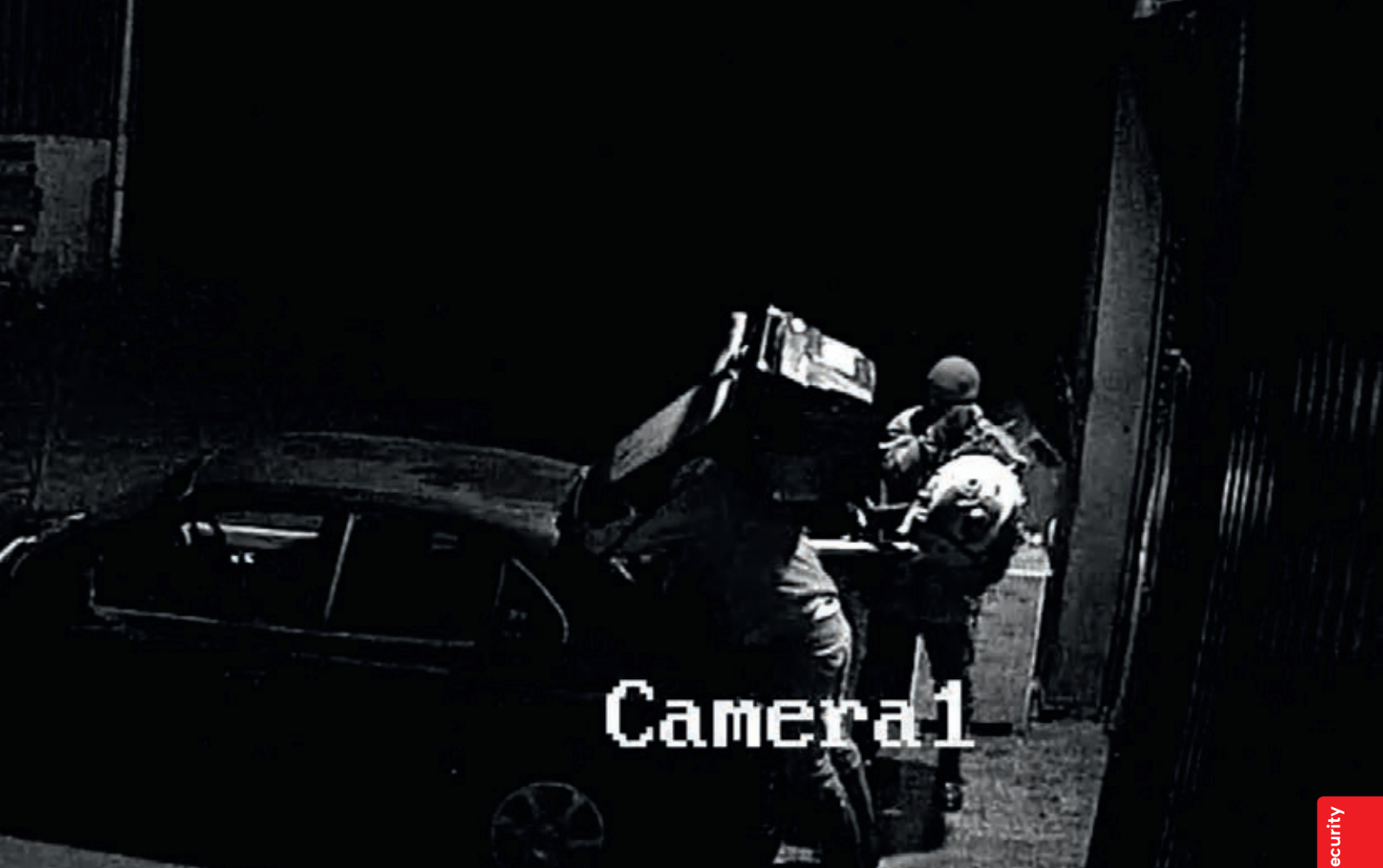
"I spoke to a policeman and he said that criminals will talk to each other, and if they find somewhere that's easy to hit, they'll keep coming back time and time again."

To combat the thieves the club has installed CCTV, which Paul can log into on his smartphone. There's also security lighting installed, while the alarm system is directly linked to the police. At the only entrance to the course they've installed a security gate and dug ditches around the border to prevent cars being driven on site.

Make sure you don't become a victim by following the following tips.

Top 10 tips for crime prevention

1. Install CCTV and intruder alarms. Also install security lighting and remember, darkness is a criminal's friend. Check these measures regularly to ensure they are working
2. Be aware of loiterers and strangers in the maintenance facility area and challenge any suspicious behavior. If possible record vehicle details and descriptions of people involved
3. Store equipment and tools in a secure building behind a strong locked door. Use British Standard locks and protect windows with metal bars
4. Always lock doors to outbuildings when not in use
5. Keep gates locked and ensure the perimeter around your golf course and maintenance facility is secure as this will deter thieves. Grow prickly hedges or dig ditches around perimeters to make access more difficult.
6. Visibly mark machinery and tools, such as with paint. This acts as a deterrent to thieves and also helps police reunite stolen property to its rightful owner.
7. Keep a list of tools, together with serial numbers. Register your property on the UK national register, Immobilise.
8. Put signs up asking members/visitors to report any suspicious activity immediately
9. Block smaller machinery in by using larger vehicles which are harder to move
10. Put warning signs up around your premises indicating you have high security measures in place.



Camera 1



Above: A burglary in progress at Broadstone Golf Club

Fuel theft

- Store diesel in a secure fuel tank and use good quality locks
- Avoid installing storage tanks in isolated areas such as outlying buildings
- Consider the use of a diesel dye that makes your diesel traceable and therefore less attractive to thieves.

Maintenance facilities

- Check fences and hedges to ensure there are no weak spots
- Consider a gate alarm or barrier system to restrict access.

Machinery and tools

- Lock or immobilise vehicles and equipment when not in use. Remove keys from unattended cars, tractors and other vehicles
- Avoid leaving machinery in isolated locations as this is where they can be removed without attracting attention.

Metal theft

What do thieves mainly target?

- Copper lightning conductors
- Lead and copper rainwater pipes
- Bronze statues and metal garden ornaments
- Iron gates
- Catalytic converters from cars and commercial vehicles.

Legal disposal of scrap metal

- Dispose of scrap metal regularly using a legitimate waste carrier. Thieves will use the excuses of 'can I take your scrap away' to have a look around and assess the vulnerability of your site.

Vehicle theft

- Industry recognised locking systems on steering and brakes can delay thieves by several minutes per device
- Vehicle immobilisers can be expensive but are effective
- Ensure vehicles are locked and keys stored securely.

What to do if you are the victim of crime

1. Act quickly and tell the police
2. If the equipment is insured, tell your insurer
3. If your equipment is registered with a commercial registration or tracking company, remember to tell them too
4. Don't disturb the scene of the crime until the police have investigated
5. Get the names and addresses of any witnesses
6. Make a note of the date, time and place of the theft and who saw the equipment last
7. Let the police have access to your equipment database so they can enter the correct information into the Police National Computer.

Produced with the assistance of Staffordshire Police



Can you *shine a light* on the historic greenkeepers of St Andrews?

Historic St Andrews

Much is known about the St Andrews Links' most famous head greenkeeper, Old Tom Morris, who laid the foundations not just for modern greenkeeping, but helped define the sport of golf.

A number of well-respected greenkeepers have held the top position at the Home of Golf since Old Tom retired in 1904, right through to current Director of Grounds Gordon Moir.

However, a number have been forgotten to history and Professor James Beard is working to uncover some of these lost greenkeepers.

His annual visits to the Auld Toon have uncovered a wealth of detail from the extensive sources available to the determined researcher. The St Andrews golf club minutes, old town council records, university libraries and some of the earliest photographic collections have proved rich sources of information.

However there are several areas where there is very little information and James is seeking help from readers with long memories and an interest in greenkeeping history. Due to the changing ownership and administration of the links over the years, there are some major gaps in our knowledge of some of the greenkeepers or those who managed the links for golf.

If you can help, contact Graeme Forbes on graemeforbes@yahoo.co.uk or 07778 524187.

Hugh Hamilton and David Honeyman

Hugh was a bright star that flashed across the greenkeeping sky in the late Victorian period.

A professional gardener, Hugh became head greenkeeper at North Berwick in 1902, before rapidly being headhunted to Portmarnock in 1903. Following a very brief sojourn on those challenging links he re-crossed the Irish Sea to St Andrews.

He was to follow the great double act of Old Tom Morris and David Honeyman, who

had run the greenkeeping operations at St Andrews for a long number of years.

While Old Tom got the credit, it appears Honeyman was the man who did most of the work. We know a lot about Hamilton and Morris, but little or nothing about David Honeyman. Do you have any knowledge or photographs of him?

Similarly, do you know if Hugh Hamilton was a greenkeeper anywhere else before North Berwick or after St. Andrews?

James Blackwell

James was appointed links curator in 1912, a post he held until 1933. He followed Hugh Hamilton and curiously was an R&A member, joining the club in 1879 and serving on the R&A Green Committee from 1911 to 1912.

Despite having no experience, he became links curator at age 55, in the middle of the worst drought in history with no irrigation system.

War duties intervened in 1915, but upon his return to St Andrews in 1919 he renewed his responsibilities.

We have been unable to find any photographic record of him. Strange as coming from a wealthy family, one would assume a photo exists somewhere in the surviving family.



Andrew Constorphine

Born in 1899

Head greenkeeper on the Old Course, and probably The New, from 1934-1952. Andrew left St Andrews to follow the money south, heading to Tyrrells Wood in Surrey.

Andrew had a fascinating life, even being involved in the arrest of one of the Great Train Robbers, Jimmy White. Apparently Andrew recognised him standing at a bus stop and reported the sighting to the landlord of the Hand in Hand pub. The publican phoned for the police, who quickly arrested White.

Andrew died in 1994, but despite his colourful life and surviving relatives, intensive enquiries have failed to establish a date and place of birth, nor find a photograph of him.

Andrew J Nicol

Andrew Nicol was in charge of the entire links from 1953 to 1961.

He was initially employed by the Town Council in 1939 as a greenkeeper on the Eden Course and was later named foreman of the Jubilee and Eden courses.

In 1953 the newly formed Links Committee named him foreman of all four links courses, but he was never given the title of head greenkeeper, apparently to save money.

For 20 years the committee debated whether to employ a 'professional' head greenkeeper. The short-sightedness of the committee, plus the lingering post war

recovery, restricted budget, antiquated equipment and limited staff made management of the links difficult over these years.

It is suspected that Andrew was a local man living nearby, and he worked for the Joint Links Committee until his retirement in 1962.

There is little information other than regular references in the records. We need to know his date and place of birth and death. What was his middle name? What was his history and did he have any other employment other than the Town Council or the R&A?

John Campbell

Finally and much more recently, we seek information on the late John Campbell. We hold a lot of information on John, a man with a unique and interesting life both in and out of course management. We are trying to establish where and on what date was he born?

John was appointed as the first ever links superintendent at St Andrews.

Following his departure from the Links he went to Foxhills, Ottershaw, Surrey,

and after retirement from that course he acted as a consultant. But was he a course manager anywhere else?

One final question on John is, what was his middle name, was it Kirkland or Kirkwood or maybe neither? Maybe there is a relative known to a reader who can provide the answers.

The Open

at Royal Birkdale



The Open once again threw up an exciting finale on its final day, with members of the BIGGA Volunteer Support Team on hand to soak up the incredible atmosphere at Royal Birkdale.

The event broke records, becoming the highest-attended Open ever held in England, and more than 40 BIGGA members were able to contribute to its success. In exchange for giving up their free time, the BIGGA Support Team got a front

row seat to all the action, meaning they witnessed Branden Grace's record-breaking 62, amateur Alfie Plant stealing hearts to win the Silver Medal, and the epic final duel between Jordan Spieth and Matt Kuchar.

The home greenkeeping team also received a huge amount of praise, with the tournament organisers and the world's best golfers all making public their admiration for the team's efforts.

With a BIGGA member assigned to every match, the Support Team was called into action a total of 1,220 times across the four days,

attending to matches during sunshine and storms, but never losing their enthusiasm for the event. BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "The Open Support Team acted flawlessly throughout The Open and once again did the association proud. Thanks must go to everyone who volunteered for the event, you are all superstars."

Turn the page to see a gallery of images from the entire event, and to read some of the stories that the BIGGA Support Team are certain to never forget.

Continued over



Tom Pattison

"On the 8th green I got a round of applause after raking the full bunker as Shiv Kapur took three shots to get out of it."



Stephen Dale

Rain threatened to disrupt the championship throughout the event, but the heaviest fell in one sharp shower on Friday evening.

Stephen Dale's match was on the final few holes at the time, and he said: "You have just got to get on with it. I was on the 15th and we had teed off. Steve Stricker came up to me and said 'would you play in this if it was the start of your club event?' I said, 'no I wouldn't, I would go back to the clubhouse and the bar'. By the time we got to the green it had stopped raining and he said 'Would you go out now?' I said 'It depends how many pints I had had'. He just laughed and walked off."



Thursday

BIGGA at The Open



Asa English

Asa English was reunited with Padraig Harrington, nine years after raking the bunkers during the Irishman's Open winning round at Royal Birkdale in 2008.

"He didn't recognise me as he's played a lot of golf since then," said the Rothley Park deputy head greenkeeper. "But it was nice to be able to shake his hand again after so long."





Friday

Andy Naismith

"Alexander Levy gave me his ball and chipped in with his new one. His caddy came said to me, 'that's why he gave you that old one'."

Tom Freeman

On Thursday Tom Freeman was in a group with Masters champion Sergio Garcia, former world number one Jason Day and 2015 Open champion Zach Johnson.

The High Post course manager said: "It was pretty exciting. They're golfers that I look up to, top class celebrities. I was pretty star struck."

"But it was humbling because those guys who you think wouldn't give you the time of day came over and thanked me afterwards. They all signed a flag for me and that was absolutely incredible."

On the second day of play Joe Frampton, of Pyle & Kenfig, had the same group. He was given a signed ball by each of the players following their round.

BIGGA at The Open

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Saturday

Royal Birkdale Course Manager Chris Whittle

There was electricity in the air on the eve of the tournament.

And for Chris Whittle and his team, this was in the most literal sense.

On Wednesday evening a thunderstorm hit Royal Birkdale, with lightning striking the maintenance shed and shortcircuiting all the electrics.

Unperturbed, Chris took it all in his stride. He is a veteran of hosting these things, after all.

"The lightning blew the computers and alarms systems out," explained Chris, who has been course manager at four Opens. "We haven't had chance to test the irrigation to see if that's been hit, but on Wednesday night the storm clobbered us. The shed must have been hit by lightning because the box in here was absolutely frazzled and the site manager could hear the static electricity crackling from one of his towers."

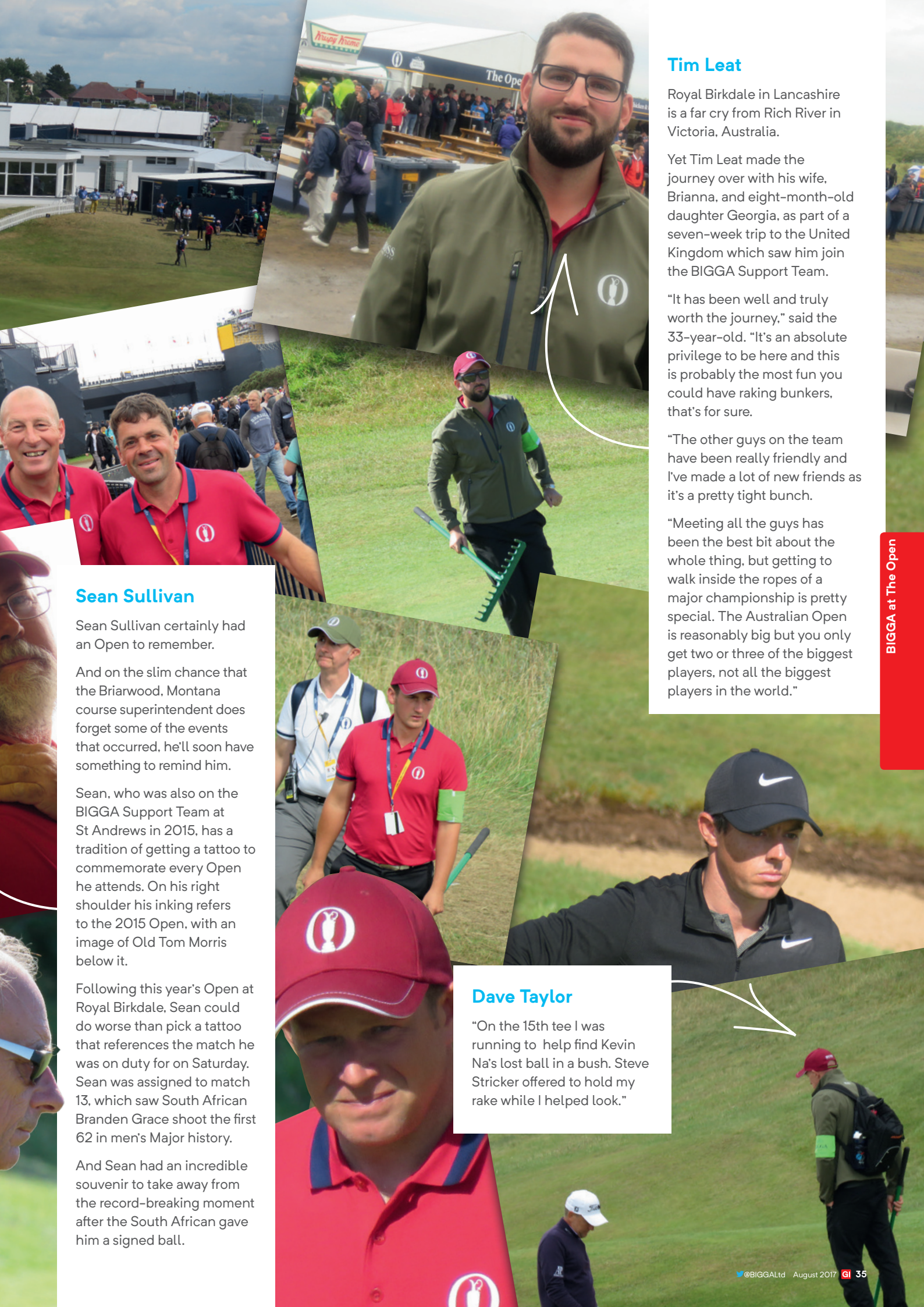
With changeable weather throughout the week, and no margin for error, the team was averaging 17-hour days, starting at 4.30am each morning.

"It's been a great experience and everything has gone like it should," Chris added. "We have to deal with the wind and rain on a daily basis, so to deal with it during The Open is no different. In fact it's easier during a tournament because you have more lads here to help you out."

"Thank you to all the members of the BIGGA Support Team. Everyone has done their bit and I've been able to meet a number of people I haven't met before, which has been really nice."

Tom Pattison

"Richie Ramsay did a practice swing on the rough near the 5th green and covered a guy in grass. The crowd laughed and then he did it again. Then at the 6th I was asked to retrieve a clumsy cameraman's lens that had rolled down the hill into a bunker."



Tim Leat

Royal Birkdale in Lancashire is a far cry from Rich River in Victoria, Australia.

Yet Tim Leat made the journey over with his wife, Brianna, and eight-month-old daughter Georgia, as part of a seven-week trip to the United Kingdom which saw him join the BIGGA Support Team.

"It has been well and truly worth the journey," said the 33-year-old. "It's an absolute privilege to be here and this is probably the most fun you could have raking bunkers, that's for sure."

"The other guys on the team have been really friendly and I've made a lot of new friends as it's a pretty tight bunch."

"Meeting all the guys has been the best bit about the whole thing, but getting to walk inside the ropes of a major championship is pretty special. The Australian Open is reasonably big but you only get two or three of the biggest players, not all the biggest players in the world."

Sean Sullivan

Sean Sullivan certainly had an Open to remember.

And on the slim chance that the Briarwood, Montana course superintendent does forget some of the events that occurred, he'll soon have something to remind him.

Sean, who was also on the BIGGA Support Team at St Andrews in 2015, has a tradition of getting a tattoo to commemorate every Open he attends. On his right shoulder his inking refers to the 2015 Open, with an image of Old Tom Morris below it.

Following this year's Open at Royal Birkdale, Sean could do worse than pick a tattoo that references the match he was on duty for on Saturday. Sean was assigned to match 13, which saw South African Branden Grace shoot the first 62 in men's Major history.

And Sean had an incredible souvenir to take away from the record-breaking moment after the South African gave him a signed ball.

Dave Taylor

"On the 15th tee I was running to help find Kevin Na's lost ball in a bush. Steve Stricker offered to hold my rake while I helped look."

"Callum Shinkwin took a 7 on one hole (+3) and turned to the scoreboard carrier and said 'I hope you've got enough numbers'."

Peter Allam raked the final match of the tournament and witnessed Jordan Spieth make history by becoming only the second male to ever win three different majors before his 24th birthday.

As the young Texan threatened a meltdown on the 13th, eagled the 15th and then sank a birdie putt on the final hole to claim his third Major, Peter was there to witness it all firsthand.

"It was one of the best things I have ever done," said the Berkhamsted greenkeeper, who was volunteering on the BIGGA Support Team for the second time.

Peter was assigned the final match when his name was picked out of a hat at random, and he added: "I didn't even think I was going to be here. I was on the reserve team and it was only when I got a call three weeks ago that I knew I'd be coming here, so to get the final match was incredible."

Despite so much at stake, Peter said what surprised him most was how relaxed the players actually appeared. He said: "They came across as cool as anything. Even when Spieth kept dropping shots, he looked like he knew he could get it back. His final holes, I have never seen anything like that."

“Towards the end we were egging Spieth on. That big eagle putt, everyone cheered for him.

“Kuchar gave me an autograph and I shook his hand, but you couldn’t get near to Spieth, there was so much media around.”

"Prince Andrew walked the first two holes with us. He said good morning to us all, but the scorer didn't know who he was."

"Jimmy Walker decided to lay down on the 17th fairway for a rest."



Wes Lenihan

"On the 5th hole Marc Leishman hit the leaderboard with his shot. His ball bounced out and stopped at the front of the green. Crazy luck!"

The Open at Royal Birkdale

In Numbers

Bunkers: 123

Total rounds 468

Average bunkers per round 2.6

Total bunkers raked 1,220

BIGGA at The Open

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PREPARING FOR WINTER...

Nigel Church, Cutting Edge Training

Preparing for Winter

With schoolchildren on their summer holidays, and the course looking as good as it has all year, we may be tempted to sit back and relax for a little while.

However, now's the time to start planning ahead for your autumn and winter servicing. Early preparations this year will pay dividends next season.

The traditional winter service in our part of the northern hemisphere is increasingly becoming less and less time bound. It seems that the climate is changing, and we are working with variable mowing conditions that easily takes us into December, when we are still cutting grass. In fact, December has often been milder over the last few years than spring in April.

Gone are the days of parking up the mower in October or November for a few months, stripping it down, checking it for wear, and rebuilding it ready for action the following spring.

But climatic changes aside, machinery still needs its annual service. More and more golf clubs are getting staff to carry out this work, either the greenkeepers themselves or by employing a mechanic. This can be cost effective and given the reliability of both hydraulic and electrical systems on many machines, a winter service does not necessarily



Above: Gavin Neill's photos of The Old Course during winter and during the 2015 Open

mean a workshop full of machines, stripped down into multiple parts. Simply following the guidelines in the operator's manual can ensure that, at least, the power unit is serviced sufficiently for future use. The cutting units are of course a subject in themselves when it comes to the grinding of cylinders (reels) and bottom blades (bedknives).

So, should you prepare the machine with a good pressure washing? Well, not necessarily. I would often find that **a walk around a machine** before washing may highlight some areas not seen after washing. For example, there may be weeping connections on the hydraulic system, and you can see whether the engine bay and cooling system is dry, or if there are leakages or wet areas. If anything is found, then note where they are for later attention during the service.



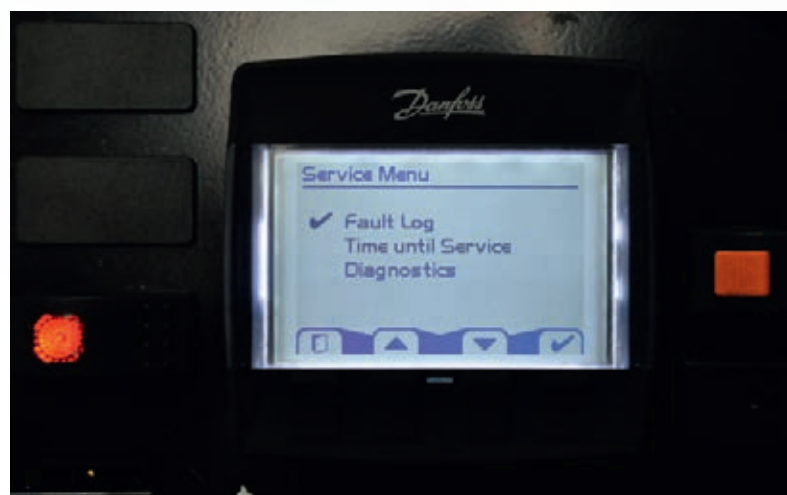
Engines and hydraulic systems have benefitted from improved technology as oil coolers and radiators have been replaced with more efficient heat exchange units. The improved technology has also been applied to the warning systems; digital display screens offer more information, and horns and buzzers give the operator clear

warnings. Some systems even record the number of warnings given to the operator, so accurate investigations can take place in the event of system failure. This recorded information can be very beneficial in the planning of the servicing of the machine, and also when asking why the problem arose in the first place.

Installing service indicators

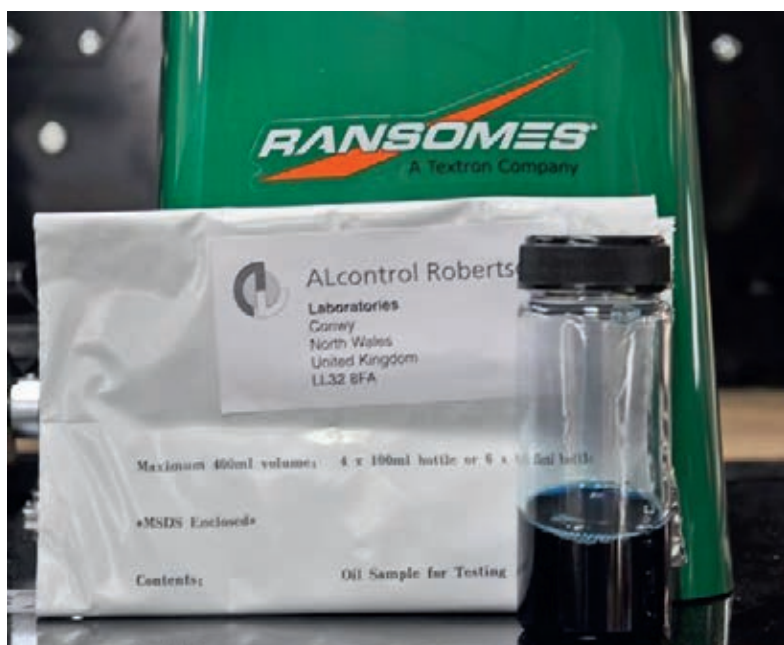
on key components such as hydraulic filters and air filtration systems is also a good idea. These could be in the form of a sight gauge, a pressure gauge, warning lights or warnings on the operator main display unit. So, check the hours of use on your machinery, and based on the information supplied in the operator's manual, determine whether or not the filter or oil actually needs replacing.

Instead of draining and replacing hydraulic fluids as part of a routine service, most manufacturers now recommend that hydraulic fluids are tested before unnecessary expensive replacements, and the costs and environmental issues involved with disposal. Testing also checks for particle build up, moisture content and viscosity.



Left: Modern machines have useful display screens

Continued over



An inexpensive test kit can be purchased from many machinery suppliers and the samples sent away for analysis.

So, while fitting more expensive filtration systems has actually reduced the running costs by reducing hydraulic oil and filter changes, there still comes a time when both will need replacing.

Braking systems have also improved dramatically, with many machines now using hydraulic wet disc brakes and requiring no maintenance. However, there are still plenty of machines with mechanical disc, drum or band brakes systems which will require servicing and a quick test can highlight potential requirements for service or repair.

As well as visual indicators for service items, many machines now have warning lights to test the operator presence control system. These may give a simple warning or may be more specific in identifying potential faults. Safety switches have vastly improved over the years with proximity switches replacing less reliable micro switches. **Check that the system is functioning correctly.** This has to be one of the most crucial areas of correct functionality when machines are being serviced or overhauled and then returned to mowing duties.



Top: Test kit

Bottom: Careful maintenance is a vital part of producing a quality turf surface

So, earlier we mentioned giving the machine a pressure wash, which is an effective way of having a clean machine to work on. A few things to bear in mind though:

1. Don't do it with the engine running! If water gets into the engine air filter system you will have a very expensive repair bill.
2. If some areas were in good condition, lift arm pivots, roller bearings, then ensure you grease those soon after the pressure washing to expel any water or debris that may have entered those areas.
3. Keep water away from the radiator and heat exchanger wherever possible. Unless you can be absolutely certain that pressure washing this area will totally clear out the cooling fins, then don't do it! Use compressed air.
4. Dry the machine, wherever practical, using an airline and ensure water is blown away from electrical areas in particular.
5. Wear protective eye wear and clothing.

We now have a check list to work to, an operators or maintenance manual to follow, and a clean machine to service, so what next?

1. Order the required parts from the dealer — always use genuine parts.
2. Ensure any oils purchased are the correct specification — brand is not a problem.
3. Always support machinery correctly and safely when removing wheels.
4. Replace chaffed or damaged hoses.
5. Do not undo hydraulic hoses unless you are aware of the outcome — maybe a raised cutting unit could fall to the ground unexpectedly.
6. Beware of trapped inertia — hydraulic systems on mowers can operate at pressures of 3,500psi and above.
7. Work in a clean environment and dispose of waste materials responsibly.
8. Have a supply of correct tools to carry out the tasks. Machinery can vary between imperial (inches) dimensions for nuts and bolts and metric (mm). Use of wrong size spanners and tools can lead to damage to both you and the machine.

All manufacturers have factory trained dealer technicians, so always remember that if the task requires greater in-depth diagnosis, service and repair, the technicians are there to supply their knowledge and expertise.



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Disease prevention:

Be prepared for winter

Dr Terry Mabbett

Time and tide wait for no man, and especially greenkeepers, who need to be like the proverbial Boy Scout and 'be prepared' for winter — including all the multitude of tools with a Swiss army knife-approach to tackling disease.

On a blazing hot July day, with winter the furthest thing from my mind, I paid a visit to Swinley Forest in Berkshire to meet head greenkeeper and BIGGA member John Band and his deputy,

Tony Stephen. The meticulously prepared colour-coded charts across the office walls – for everything from machinery maintenance to visiting golfer schedules and the turf agronomy

programme – highlighted their approach and forward vision.

"The secret is to balance day to day activities with the need for forward planning," said John.

Swinley Forest is tucked away in between The Berkshire and Sunningdale and is not easy to find. The club was established in 1909 on heathland and farmland and is a classic Harry Colt-designed heathland course, with 20% of land owned by the club and 80% rented from the Crown Estate.

It was the first week of July with temperatures approaching 30°C, but the Swinley Forest plan for winter was already in place. The team were preparing the turf for what descends in autumn and winter, when grass growth slows and conditions are most favourable for thatch-residing fungal



Above: 18th hole and clubhouse viewed from 1st fairway

Right: John Band, head greenkeeper



pathogens like *Microdochium nivale*, *Colletotrichum cereale* and their respective diseases – Fusarium patch and anthracnose basal rot.

I asked John about their forthcoming winter preparation programme of fungicide spraying and he said: "Our first application is scheduled for the end of August, but that's not to say our John Deere sprayer rests up in summer. We're looking to stay ahead of any problems before they occur, with cultural practices and our fungicide programme."

Tony explained that foliar blight anthracnose had been present for the first time in summer 2016. So they played safe and put on Heritage Maxx (azoxystrobin) this year in late June after the weather had cooled off with rain. "If we fail to control this stress-related foliar

blight phase of anthracnose, and thereby not reduce the inoculum, we can expect higher than normal pressure from the basal rot phase of the disease three months down the line in autumn," he said.

Flexibility for fungicides

"You must have flexibility within the plan, which for us includes application timing within the four months of high disease pressure, from September to December," said John. He explained how future planning depends on historical data relating to weather and disease pressure, adding: "We use Syngenta's 'GreenCast', which documents weather and disease pressure over the last 10 years.

Continued over





Swinley Forest Golf Club

Greens staff

John Band, Head Greenkeeper

Tony Stephen, Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Charlie Brown, 1st Assistant

Alan Bradley, Greenkeeper

Paul Sheridan, Greenkeeper

Alex Forrister, Greenkeeper

Kirk Hall, Greenkeeper

Luke Brophy, Apprentice Greenkeeper

Tim Robson, Mechanic

Machinery

4 John Deere 2500 greens/aprons triples

John Deere 8000a fairway mower

Jacobsen SLF fairway mower

John Deere 8800aa semi rough mower

John Deere WAM rough cutter

Tru Turf roller

HD200 John Deere sprayer

Toro procore 648

Dakota top dresser

3 Baroness LM56 tees hand mowers

2 4066 John Deere tractors

5090 John Deere tractor

S4 Trillo

Charterhouse 7316 verti drain

Weidenmann XF verti drain

16 ton CAT digger

5.5 ton Kubota digger

We relate the two and when similar weather patterns prevail we can predict high disease pressure and move proactively.

"September is known to be a high disease pressure, high risk month for our turf, which is why it is so important to get protection in place by the end of August."

He explained why there is no point putting on lots of contact protectant fungicide in September because it will just be mown off.

Tony added: "Of course a cold November is a different matter. The grass is not growing so we are not mowing, which means contact fungicide just sits there on the leaf surface."

Both agreed weather is having an ever-greater impact on everyday greenkeeping decisions, as well as long-term planning.

John's philosophy is to plan ahead, spray in advance of the disease and to exploit the widest range of 'mode of actions' by moving through the fullest range of fungicide families.

"Things are changing fast for chemical pesticides," he said. "Frankly without a plan you are always on the back foot and as far as Swinley Forest is concerned, the more disease control aids which are at our disposal the better."

At this point we were joined by Daniel Lightfoot from Syngenta who was visiting the course and

able to contribute a number of non-partisan points with respect to turf fungicides. Like John and Tony he advises greenkeepers to look carefully at the full range of products at their disposal, irrespective of commercial origin. And specifically for Swinley Forest, he advises the team to utilise a 'fistful' of different fungicide actives and modes of action across the planned three-spray application programme from late August and through into December.

Dan highlighted that, in today's market, there is a broader range of fungicide actives and mixtures available to turf managers, where they can forward plan to use the different groups to select the right product at the right time.

"The classic case in this respect is our annual late summer renovation programme," said John. The sequence of procedures starts with a boost for the summer-stressed turf in August, using a granular organic 4:3:4 fertiliser.

"Renovation typically involves a deep vertidrain using 12mm pencil tines to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. This is followed by hollow-coring using our Toro Procore to remove a 10mm hollow core but not going in so deeply. The difference in depth means we will have catered for the entire root zone. We over-seed straight after, using 100% Bent grass to move our bent/fescue/poa greens to a target 60% bent grass.

Bottom left: Tony Stephen, deputy head greenkeeper

Bottom: 1st fairway out - left - and 18th fairway back - right



A top dressing of DM45 kiln-dried sand is dragged in after.

"As we have got more on top of thatch and season-long turf health, we can afford to be less intensive with the actions, which is better all-round."

Out on the course

We finished up with a walk around Swinley Forest, which is laid out across a well-drained sandy substrate and — as the name suggests — with fairways flanked by pine woods. I noticed how the woods were remarkably clear of undergrowth, which is unusual for pine planted at a relatively low density. Tony explained: "That's because we have been systematically ripping out Rhododendron ponticum using a 16-tonne excavator and burning the debris. This has clearly improved the look of the course and allowed sunlight to illuminate the ground to let the heather back in.

"However, perhaps the most important consequence and benefit of Rhododendron

clearance is improved air flow, especially around the greens which are generally healthier and cleaner. The fox-gloves have bloomed and the heather come back really well, which has been welcomed by the members too."

It exemplifies how John, supported by the Swinley Forest club management team, has adopted a fully Integrated Turf Management approach, utilising a full range of cultural controls to promote healthier turf and where the selected use of fungicides can work most effectively.

On the way back I asked John and Tony to sum up their thinking behind good planning and preparation of turf for winter.

"How well we plan and prepare for winter governs how well we will come out at the other end and that is foremost our minds," said John. "What will the greens look like in March and April?

"If we plan well and spray in advance of disease attacks we have a better chance of coming out of

winter clean and not getting hit by a disease surge in April as grass and pathogens respond to warmer soil temperatures. With healthy, clean and good looking greens in spring there is less pressure to 'push it' with fertiliser for recovery, so we can relax on nitrogen to avoid soft growth and corresponding explosions of foliar disease."

Sound planning means less fire-fighting, and more time to tackle other things across the course.

'Frankly without a plan you are always on the back foot and as far as Swinley Forest is concerned, the more disease control aids which are at our disposal, the better.'

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Sprayers – Winter Maintenance and storage

Ian Sumpter, Mow-sure Consultants

Sprayer MOT's

As we leave the summer months behind and head into autumn it's a good time to review maintenance and storage. Specifically, what we should be thinking about when hibernating our sprayer through the winter months?

I have been involved with service and training in this industry for the past 15 years and before that I worked on different aspects of sports playing surfaces. I took my PA assessment at Brinsbury College on 6 September 1988. At that time I was a very inexperienced young greenkeeper studying for my City & Guilds in Sportsturf Management.

Now, some years later, when dealing with service issues or delivering training, I like to refer back to my own experience. I often find myself reminding customers of their own PA2 training and in particular making sure the machine is fit for purpose.

We are all aware of how our climate is changing and warmer winters may not see the sprayer out of action for too long. However, if we remember back to the winter of 2009 we had record temperatures of -22°C. I remember this time in particular due to experiencing

a high volume of sprayer issues when the spring arrived. Nearly all the issues at that time were a direct result of the low temperatures and poor winter maintenance and storage.

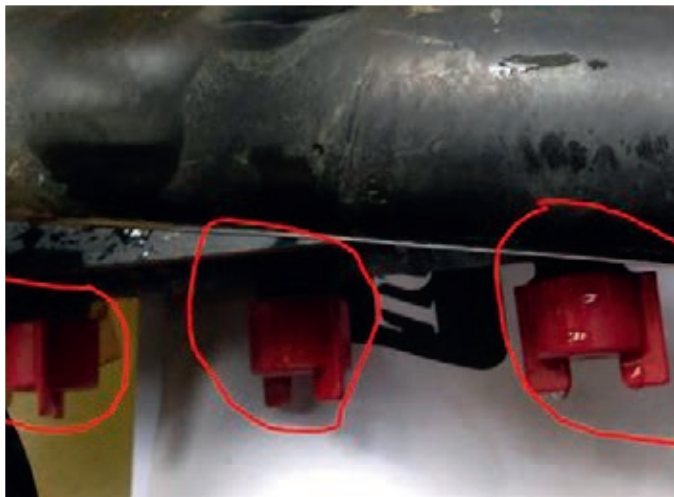
Below: Effective sprayer maintenance is important



Luckily we don't experience that type of weather on a yearly basis, but correct winter maintenance and storage will ensure the machine is fit for purpose.

In my time as both a trainer and sprayer specialist I have come across all types and age of sprayers and generally the age of the machine can be irrelevant to achieving good results as long as you have regularly followed a good maintenance regime. As operators with a PA2 licence we will fully understand prestart checks, correct calibration process





and end of day maintenance. All of these done correctly will ensure the sprayer is fit for purpose and improve the lifetime of the sprayer.

Additionally, with ever stringent legislation on chemical application, following good maintenance practice will ensure that the sprayer can achieve the National Sprayer Testing Scheme standards when inspected by a qualified technician. The NSTS became mandatory for the UK on 26 November 2016 and applies to anyone using chemical application prime movers. The NSTS satisfies the sprayer testing requirements of the Sustainable Use Directive and has been part of the UK as a Voluntary Initiative since 2003. The current EU legislation states that owners of pesticide application equipment which is over five years old and in use must ensure it is inspected at regular intervals.



At the end of the season it is an ideal time to run through preventative maintenance. If anything needs replacing it will give you time to order and fit new parts. This will ensure you will be ready to run at the start of the new season. As always my advice is to comply with the manufacturers recommendations on winter storage and maintenance. This information will be available in the operator's manual or from your local dealer.

Dealing extensively with sprayers over the years in both service and training I have found the fundamentals are often



Above left: bypass valves

Below: New Jacobsen Spraytek XP



overlooked. Ignoring these basics can affect the application rates, spray consistency and reduce the life of the sprayer, all of which will increase the operational cost of maintaining the playing surface.

Before commencing maintenance work on the machine it should be thoroughly rinsed inside and out three times. Whether an operator or technician when working with or on sprayers, we need to consider and use appropriate PPE. Maintenance should be carried out when the machine is likely to stand idle for a long period or is placed in storage at the end of the season.

Continued over

The NSTS website has all the up to date information on testing. To help you achieve good machinery maintenance practice there is an NSTS Operator Check Sheet freely available to download. This sheet is an excellent resource and will help you:

- ❄ Prepare your machine to pass the NSTS when inspected
- ❄ Help to implement a good maintenance regime
- ❄ Help to achieve accurate, sustainable and safe application



This process should include:

- ☼ Cleaning dirt and grime from the entire machine, including the outside of the engine. Use a tank cleaner to remove as much staining as possible from the tank. NSTS guidelines are for the tank markings to be legible. The machine looks better and encourages good maintenance.
- ☼ Adding a rust inhibiting, non-alcohol based antifreeze solution to the system will prevent damage from water freezing in the system over winter. Check with the manufacturer as to what is recommended to use. You will need to ensure it is flushed out when you use the machine for the first time after storage.
- ☼ Grease the bypass valves so you can trim each boom bypass easily at the start of the season. This is one area that I find is missed and damage to the adjusting method can occur at the start of the season when trying to adjust bypass valves.
- ☼ Remove and inspect filters, if required order and replace. It has been a common theme for me to find filters either missing, damaged or blocked, which is causing an issue. I have often found it is difficult to remove the suction pipe to check the filter due to missed maintenance. I always recommend light lubrication around the rubber seal to help removal of the suction pipes. This is particularly important in warm countries or when we have a long hot summer.
- ☼ Take off the pump head and inspect pump, check for damage, wear and general debris. Inspect the check valves making sure they are seating correctly. If there is any doubt service the pump with the service kits available from the manufacturer.
- ☼ Service intervals vary but a general rule I apply is to service the pump every two years. If in doubt check the manufacturer's recommendations.
- ☼ Lubricate all grease points on the boom, pump and machine. The pump usually has a grease point to lubricate the internal moving parts of what is fundamentally the heart of the sprayer. Only too often I hear operators and technicians take the view that they will wait for the pump to fail before carrying out maintenance. Remember, preventative maintenance, if not carried out, will affect the application rates, spray consistency and reduce the life of the sprayer, all of which will increase the operational cost of maintaining the playing surface.
- ☼ If fitted, check pressure dampener. When you open the valve, only air should be released. If water and air is released the diaphragm is damaged and will need replacing. Make sure you add the correct pressure back into the valve. This will depend on your spraying pressure. If in doubt you should refer to manufacturer's guidelines.
- ☼ Check suction dampener for a spongy/floating movement. This will indicate there is fluid behind the dampener which is correct. If a check valve is damaged an indication of this will be the suction dampener not having that spongy/floating movement.
- ☼ Check for any leaks by running the machine above normal working pressure and looking for any drips. Generally we run between 30-50PSI (2-3bar) so running the machine over the working pressure will show any leaks. Use a torch

to check all the pipe work and fittings tucked out of sight under the machine. Inspect all pipe fittings and jubilee clips for signs of deterioration or leaks. It will be easier to replace these at this stage with the machine clean, rather than a field failure with chemical in the system.

- ☼ Check nozzles for pattern and conformity. This is something we should be doing regularly throughout the season. We should all be aware of the value in doing a catch test on each nozzle. This will check nozzle conformity as well as correct application rate based on litres per minute caught in a jug. If you find a discrepancy of +/- 5% on any nozzle it is recommended you change the complete set of nozzles.

Lastly, this time of year is an ideal time to look at your own training and continued professional development. When was the last refresher training you attended? How current are your skills? When we undertake and pass a City & Guilds PA assessment it has no expiry date. The responsibility is on the holder of the certificate to maintain and keep a record of continued professional development. I often carry out PA1, 2 & 6 training and sprayer operation and maintenance refresher training on site with the customer's sprayer. The benefit of delivering this training onsite is familiarisation with your sprayer. Ensure sprayer is fit for purpose and meets continued professional development.

Scan here to download your copy of the NSTS checklist



Below: Sample of the NSTS Operator Checklist available from www.nsts.org.uk/documents



National Sprayer Testing Scheme - Operator Check Sheet

Owner: _____ Model: _____ Date: _____

Operator: _____ Serial No: _____ Hours/Mileage: _____ Make: _____ Reg No: _____

Key: ☐ Checked/Completed ☒ Adjusted ☐ Needs Attention ☐ Not Applicable

Regularly

Mechanical

- ☐ Is the attachment to tractor secure?
- ☐ Is the chassis and structure free of cracks and rust?
- ☐ Are the wheels and tyres in good condition?
- ☐ Are guards, inc. PTO shaft guard, secure and undamaged?

Hydraulic system, inc. tracking system if fitted.

- ☐ Are they free from leaks under pressure?
- ☐ Are the hoses and connections worn or cracked?

Electrical system

- ☐ Is the wiring undamaged & are all connections properly insulated?
- ☐ Do all the lights work properly?

Pneumatic system

- ☐ Is the system free from leaks when under working operating pressures?

Sprayer tank

- ☐ Are the tank/chassis fasteners secure?
- ☐ Free from leaks?
- ☐ Does the lid fit securely and free from leaks?
- ☐ Is the contents gauge clearly legible?

Boom

- ☐ Is it properly latched when folded for transport?
- ☐ When unfolded, is it etc.

Regularly (cont)

Controls and valves

- ☐ Are the master on/off switches working correctly?
- ☐ Are all boom section switches functioning?
- ☐ Can you read the pressure gauges easily?
- ☐ Are all labels appropriate and legible?
- ☐ Is the pressure adjustment/valve properly?
- ☐ Pressure gauge reading zero?

Chemical induction system

- ☐ Are the system and controls working properly?
- ☐ Is it free from leaks under pressure?
- ☐ Are all labels appropriate and readable?
- ☐ Is the rinse system and container wash system working properly?

Tank rinse system

- ☐ Is the system functioning properly?

External washdown

- ☐ Is the system functioning properly?

Personal

- ☐ Water supply tank filled?
- ☐ Is the clothing locker clean and contents complete?

Periodically

Mow-sure Consultants

Ian Sumpter, Co-Owner of Mow-Sure consultants has been involved in the Turf care industry since the early 1980s. Over the past 15 years Ian has had key machinery service and training roles within the industry with responsibilities that have included; planning, developing and implementing comprehensive training programmes for a large European distributor and customer network.

Mow-sure Consultants evolved from what we saw as the need to provide professional machinery training advice to the industry. This need for good advice and training delivery was further strengthened as manufacturers scale back their training delivery and capability. Partnering with other companies, Mow-sure is now able to offer different training solutions including on-line health & safety training options.

Mow-sure - Expanding knowledge through growth

As part of a training plan we develop staff training to comply with current legislation which includes aspects such as a disability policy dealing with areas like dyslexia and how to manage training for all individuals. As the new trail blazer apprenticeships come into affect this type of policy will enhance training being delivered through apprenticeship

programmes. By mapping and promoting internal staff training and development we see a direct affect on improving staff efficiency and productivity. The main benefit our customers are expecting from our consultancy is to have a one stop staff training solution. This allows busy course managers to concentrate on other aspects of running the day-to-day business, safe in the knowledge they are developing their staff for the ever evolving skills required in the industry.

Mow-sure Consultants

T: +44 (0)738 758 7717 | W: mow-sure.co.uk/



Have you had your sprayer tested?

NSTS (National Sprayer Testing Scheme)

There are still many golf courses/sports grounds and stately homes whom have still not had there spraying equipment NSTS tested. As from 26 November 2016 it became law that all spraying machinery should be put forward for testing if it is five years old or more. There after it is subject to a test every third year. Knapsacks can be tested by your own operators but the results must be recorded and retained. If you would like more information about getting your machine tested and registered.

Please look at this link.

www.gambettiuk.co.uk/service-support



Wetting Agent Quiz



With ICL's Henry Bechelet and Dr Andy Owen

Test your knowledge of wetting agents with these 10 TRUE or FALSE statements from ICL's resident quiz masters.

1. Dry patch and drought stress are the same thing.
2. Residual (or water conservation) wetting agents work by holding onto water in the rootzone.
3. Using a penetrant wetting agent will improve the drainage of a golf green.
4. You cannot combine a penetrant and a residual wetting agent in the same bottle.
5. All residual wetting agents are essentially the same.
6. Starting a wetting agent programme early in the year is not necessary and is just a tactic to sell more product.
7. Using wetting agents will make my greens softer.
8. Using a dew-dispersant product will reduce autumn disease development.
9. Wetting agents can improve golf green playing quality consistency.
10. Using wetting agents can save staff time.

Answers

1. **Dry patch and drought stress are the same thing**

FALSE: Dry patch, or localised dry spot (LDS), is an area of turf that dries out and becomes water repellent, even when copious amounts of water are applied. It is usually characterised by the presence of a water repellent (or hydrophobic) soil. On the other hand, drought stress is when the turf health suffers as a result of insufficient water availability and it is not necessarily related to the development of a water repellent soil. Drought stress could develop due to a lack of rainfall or poor irrigation practices. Drought stress could also be related to poor rooting, which could be due to a range of causes, such as close mowing, thatch accumulation or insufficient nutrition.

2. **Residual (or water conservation) wetting agents work by holding onto water in the rootzone.**

FALSE: Residual wetting agents do not hold onto the water; instead they reduce hydrophobicity in the rootzone by coating the sand grain surfaces, which allows any water applied to fully wet through the whole soil volume. A fully 'wetable' rootzone will allow for more pervasive and far reaching soil water movement. This will result in less water lost from the system by surface runoff, surface evaporation and selective penetration through to the drainage system.

3. **Using a penetrant wetting agent will improve the drainage of a golf green**

SOMETIMES TRUE / SOMETIMES FALSE:

A penetrant wetting agent acts on water to lower its surface tension and allow it to move through a soil or rootzone more easily. It can help dry the surface of a golf green in wet conditions and assist moving surface water down and so could improve drainage. However if the rootzone is fully saturated, or a golf green has no underlying drainage and there is nowhere for the water on the surface to drain away to, then the application of a penetrant will not assist drainage.

4. **You cannot combine a penetrant and a residual wetting agent in the same bottle**

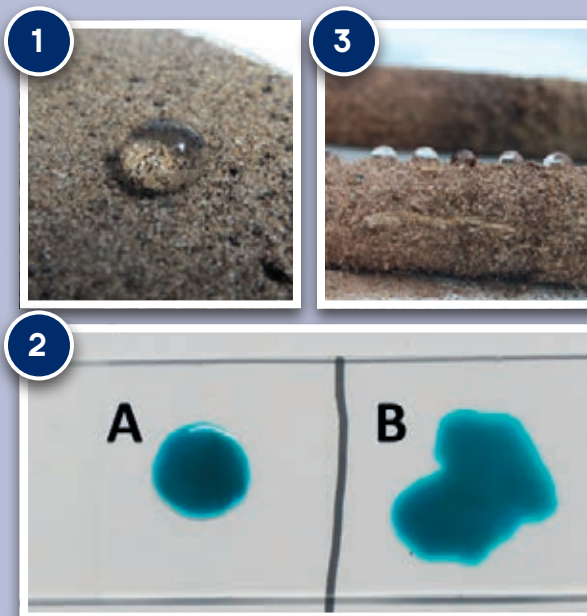
FALSE: Both penetrant and residual wetting agents can be combined in the same well formulated product. The reason to combine both technologies is that a penetrant component can greatly assist in moving the residual wetting agent down and through the surface layers and allow it to be evenly spread into any hydrophobic layers. Qualibra from Syngenta and H2Pro TriSmart from ICL are good examples of well formulated blends.

BONUS Picture questions

Image One: Can you provide two reasons why this water droplet is not soaking into the sand?

A: The sand is hydrophobic, and water displays a high surface tension so will naturally want to form a droplet.

Image Two: Equal drops of a penetrant wetting agent and a residual wetting agent, with blue dye added, on a glass slide. Which is which?



A A = Residual wetting agent **B** = Penetrant wetting agent (see how it reduces the surface tension of the water droplet to make it flow more easily)

Image three: A simple test for assessing the hydrophobicity of a rootzone is the WDPT, as shown. What does WDPT stand for?

A: Water Droplet Penetration Test

5. All residual wetting agents are essentially the same

FALSE: There are many residual type wetting agents available on the market, but generally these will all be formulated from different surfactant chemistries. Simple residual wetting agents may be based upon a single surfactant, whereas others could be formulated from a number of compounds to provide improved performance, unique activity or better longevity.

6. Starting a wetting agent programme early in the year is not necessary and is just a tactic to sell more products

FALSE: In fact it is essential to start early. To prevent the development of dry patch or hydrophobicity in a rootzone our research suggests there needs to be a "preventative" build-up of wetting agent in the rootzone. The hydrophobic soil particle surfaces need to be "masked" before hydrophobicity develops to ensure water continues to move freely through the rootzone even after periods of dry weather. To achieve this "preventative masking" a number of pre-emptive applications should be made at intervals through the spring and summer.

7. Using wetting agents will make my greens softer

FALSE: There is independent research to show firmness of putting greens can be maintained and improved during a frequent

wetting agent programme. Testimonial reports show good firmness on golf greens, which have a full wetting agent programme. There is anecdotal evidence that basic surfactants can hold water to soften the surface but ICL has no direct evidence of this with its products.

8. Using a dew-dispersant product will reduce autumn disease development

TRUE: Independent research completed by ICL at the STRI over two autumn seasons in 2015 and 2016 clearly demonstrated a significant reduction in Microdochium patch where frequent dew dispersal applications had been made over control plots with no applications. It is important to note disease was still present and only the fungicide treated plots remained clear of disease. Dew dispersants do not have fungicidal properties but they can form a part of an integrated approach to disease control.

9. Wetting agents can improve golf green playing quality consistency

TRUE: The development of dry patch and drought stress on a green can severely affect playing quality of the putting surfaces, particularly smoothness, firmness and consistency of ball roll. A wetting agent programme has been shown to significantly reduce dry patch, and improve playing quality consistency.

10. Using wetting agents can save staff time

TRUE: Using a well formulated wetting agent as part of a programmed approach to controlling dry patch will reduce the hours spent hand-watering hotspots and high points which might be prone to drying out, saving time and resources.

So how did you do?

Don't worry if you got some questions wrong, the reason we wrote this quiz was to help you understand the technologies a little better. Soil moisture management is a crucial aspect of turf maintenance and you need a good understanding of the technologies available to help you get it right. Wetting agents are important because they help prevent potentially serious conditions such as the development of LDS, drought stress and they can also help maintain all aspects of turf quality in variable environmental conditions.

The problem is there are many types of wetting agent on the market of widely different qualities. If you are to manage soil moisture optimally then you will get better results with properly formulated and blended technologies. Qualibra from Syngenta and the H2Pro range from ICL are fully researched products that have been developed to help you manage soil moisture content and if used correctly can be trusted to do a job at any time.

Contact ICL's team of Technical Area Sales Managers for more information
icl-sf.com/uk-en/contact





Improving your course by interseeding

Leah A. Brilman PhD, DLF Pickseed USA

Interseeding

Turfgrass breeders have made significant improvements over many years that enable higher quality turf using less inputs and with reduced diseases.

The key to taking advantage of these improvements is to develop a strategy to incorporate this new material into an existing stand. This strategy can be as simple as overseeding with improved material on a consistent basis — so every time there is a hole in the stand you have a chance for a desired grass to germinate instead of a weed — to a concentrated program of interseeding to change the stand.

The first job in overseeding or interseeding is to identify the species of grass and desired cultivars that may help you achieve your goals. I always suggest walking around your property and identifying the species of grasses that grow best on certain areas of your course. If *Poa annua* is

your primary grass and you want to reduce it, then changes in management strategies to favor the desired grass will be necessary. You can use sources such as STRI and other turf trials in Europe and the United States to help identify a list of cultivars within each species. Often each seed company has blends or mixtures of grasses that have proven successful with a balance of desirable characteristics. These are often an excellent choice if they contain a large percentage of your desired species.

Multiple years of scientific research, plus experience in both sports fields and golf courses have demonstrated certain key points to be successful in interseeding.

Simple steps to successful seeding

1 The first key point is higher seeding rates are needed when interseeding new grasses into an existing stand, especially with wear on it. The new grass seedlings have to compete with the existing grass and weeds plus tolerate wear which will destroy many of them. Heaviest wear areas will need the most seed. A minimum of twice the rate used for new seedings will be required.

2 This is most successful if done over multiple years or more than one time per year.

3 If possible correct problems before you start, including drainage, shade or heavy wear areas.

4 If you have perennial broadleaf or grass weeds, interseeding by itself will not remove weeds already present. You can potentially weaken them and prevent new plants but other controls may be necessary to remove these from a stand.

5 For removal of heavy thatch and weeds without herbicides fraze mowing can be used. This is very useful on teetops. Recovery time depends on species chosen for establishment.

Below: Vredo overseeder



Continued over



Interseeding

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BTME

6 In order to improve the chances of establishment, reduce the growth of the existing stand by scalping, or create holes using aeration equipment or spiking, so seed to soil contact is increased. The key is less competition between existing plants and new weak seedlings.

7 The best time for interseeding is actually the summer if *Poa annua* is your primary problem. The desirable species including perennial ryegrass, fine fescues, browntop bentgrass, creeping bentgrass and smooth stalked meadowgrass germinate and establish faster at this time of year, while *Poa annua* primarily germinates during autumn's cooler temperatures and shorter days.

8 Interseeding can also be done in spring and autumn, especially to repair damage. Observe what caused the damage, such as heat, disease, drought or cold, and select species and cultivars that are excellent in that characteristic.

9 Drop seed your seed into the stand. Verticutting beforehand can help if you have the equipment. Make sure the seed is not planted too deep, however recent research by Grande and Shortell (2015) has shown that species can come up from a much deeper depth than often thought, which can be valuable on unirrigated sites. Slit seeding can be used but is better if the stand is not in play.


10 Sand topdress and drag seed in to achieve better seed to soil contact.

11 You can continue to mow after seeding. Mowing short can help reduce competition and increases tillering of the young seedlings. Leaving clippings can help retain moisture also.

12 If you have irrigation, utilise it at least once per day. Try to keep the stand from being too wet or soft, which is not acceptable to golfers and favours *Poa annua*.

13 Nitrogen on the seed or applied at time of seeding can improve stand establishment.

Successful establishment has been done with perennial ryegrass, fine and tall fescues and creeping bentgrass in the United States. Repeated heavy seeding seems to be the best recommendation and sports fields are successfully maintaining stands of grass and preventing weeds with this advice.



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Campey Turfcare

Six-years of reliably high germination rates has made the Vredo Super Compact from Campey Turf Care Systems a popular choice at the prestigious Castle Stuart Golf Links.

Course manager, Chris Haspell, has been using the Vredo overseeder on his course since 2011, with consistent and fantastic results on his greens, which receive a double pass once a year, and fairways that get a single pass.

The success of the machine comes from its seed application, placing it directly in the ground and removing any external factors that could see it lose contact. Chris has seen this time and time again since first using the seeder, and draws upon its other features to tailor it to the seed he is using.

"In combination with the other machines we use, it's a fantastic piece of kit, and we get a high take up with it," Chris explained.

"The machine drills the seed into the ground and does a very good clean job, and we get very consistent germination.

"Another feature we utilise is the varying seed depth. We adjust it when we're using different grasses, so the greens are a little bit less etc. but it really depends on the size of the seed we're using."

The varying seed depth, double row of 35mm spaced disks, high-germination rate and no disruption to play has the Vredo in use at distinguished venues across Europe.



Wiedenmann

Not only is Wiedenmann UK's sweeper, blower, collector hugely versatile, it also comes with various options which allow users to tailor a perfect specification.

Take for instance the noise-to-a-minimum Wiedenmann Mega Twister blower. Incredibly manoeuvrable, with 230° of swivel, it blows a mighty 390m³ per minute, making a significant impact to collecting and efficient work management. It offers two add-on features — firstly, an easily attached goose neck spout so the wind nozzle can be set parallel to the floor, the alternative position optimising the output. Secondly, it can have an electrical operation to the nozzle. This allows tractors with just one double spool valve to operate the "left to right" swivel action hydraulically and the "up and down" motion via an electric ram thus not requiring a second hydraulic service.

Wiedenmann's Super 600 three-in-one flail mower, collector and verticutter

instantly suits amenity managers who find by investing in just one machine they can cover off a multitude of tasks. For those whose tricky terrain hampers journeys back and forward to empty loads, the massive 4500 litre tank means that it takes a lot longer to fill and consequently takes less time to empty.

Two optional kits are available to the Super 500 and 600 both of which can be bolted on post purchase and both taking just 15 minutes to fit. The golf course kit is fitted to the front roller and replaces the two tyres and enables the customer to get the very best of the machine allowing the multi-function head to follow the contours more accurately. The super contour kit assists those with deep ridges and furrows. It comprises an additional back roller with additional anti scalp rollers which fits inside the rotor drum brings the anti-scalp wheels closer to the centre of the rotor drum so they better follow contours.

The seeds of change

Sandy Pentecost, Germinal

Germinal

During my time as an amenity seed sales rep, I have often been asked, during many spring seasons, where all the bentgrass plants which were overseeded during the previous autumn or as part of a summer maintenance routine, have gone.

It's a good question, and one which accurately portrays the frustrations of many greenkeepers trying to increase the number of more disease resistant plants in their putting surfaces.

More focus has recently been shifted to this practice with the number of pesticides becoming unavailable for disease control, the buzzword 'sustainability' is making a comeback!

The truth is that some plants will survive and some won't. However, with the number of available pesticides steadily diminishing, greater focus needs to be placed on making sure the majority of plants are able to survive and that recently seeded swards remain sustainable. In this respect, it's more a question of reducing mortality rates from the initial operation and taking overseeding out of the wholesale renovation

operation which, for many greenkeepers, traditionally takes place in August.

The downside of overseeding during renovation week is that the height of cut is often raised to provide a nursery for young seedlings to establish: when these young plants first come through it is satisfying to see many small lines of fledgling plants ready to take on the world. But this is the point at which things get tough: fixture pressure dictates the lowering of mowers again until late autumn — this alone is often enough to prevent the new plants from making it through the winter.

So, what's the answer? As I alluded to earlier, I feel overseeding needs to be considered as a single, one-off operation which should be timed to favour the survival of these fledgling plants. I suggest late October or late February simply

'The truth is that some plants will survive and some won't.'

because the cutting heights are far more favourable. I actually think late February (cold seeding) is the better of the two. You'll hopefully agree with me if you picture which plants look more prominent in the spring when poa is looking sick? Additionally, the UK weather trend of the last few years tends to serve up a good week or two of favourable weather in March, thereby giving recently sown seed and fledgling plants the perfect opportunity to establish and put down some vigorous early growth.

For those greenkeepers not currently using bentgrass cultivars on greens, it is worth bearing in mind that varieties such as AberRegal and AberRoyal are tough little fellows and have the longest shelf-life of any amenity seed.

 **Germinal**

The reason bentgrasses have such a long shelf life is because of their natural dormancy period which can stretch to one year from harvest. The best way to break seed dormancy is a cold period in the soil, thus adding more weight to the practice of cold seeding. In the USA, some turf managers employ the practice of dormant seeding; they seed in the autumn or into early winter in order for plants to emerge in spring. I've seen evidence of this practice being used in the UK with creeping bent, and while this strategy can work, I firmly believe that our mild, wet winters can significantly reduce success rates.

That said, there is no doubt that many greenkeepers achieve great results by overseeding later in the season. Afterall, every site, situation and season is different and what works for one, might not work for another. It is for that reason that I still maintain that seeding should be treated as a once-a-year (preferably spring) operation. Changing your annual over-seeding regime to reflect this advice might only make small improvements each year, but small percentage changes each year will soon turn into a significant difference in the long term.

Below: Aber Bentgrass established in Golf Green



Fine under pressure

CABRIO Ultra Fine Ryegrass

Maintains exceptional fineness of leaf scores even at close mown heights. Perfect for cricket wickets, tennis courts, golf tees and greens surrounds.

Table L1: Perennial ryegrass – lawns, landscaping, summer sports and turf trials (mown at 10-15mm)

Cultivar	Fineness of Leaf
Cabrio	8.8
Barolympic	8.3
Barsignum	8.1
Bargold	8.1
Escapade	8.2
Monroe	8.0
Clementine	7.9

Table G4: Perennial ryegrass – close mown trials (mown at 4-7mm)

Cultivar	Fineness of Leaf
Cabrio	8.3
Barsignum	7.3
Bargold	7.1
Monroe	7.1
Aiken (LA)	6.9
Clementine	6.9
Dickens 1	6.4

Germinal

 **Germinal**
germinal.com

Overseeding for species exchange

Paul Warner, Barenbrug

A basic definition of overseeding is the application of seed into an existing stand or crop.

What may seem like a simple process, however, is often more complicated than people think, particularly when the stand or crop is an intensively managed golf green. Undertaking overseeding without sufficient planning or thought will often lead to disappointing results at the expense of products, machinery, man-hours and disruption to golfers. This article hopes to address common pit-falls, as well as establishing reasonable expectations for course managers commencing an overseeding programme.

Establish goals

There are many reasons why a course manager may wish to overseed greens, from simply filling gaps in a weak sward to increasing disease or wear tolerance. In many cases, the objective of an overseeding programme is to replace *Poa annua* with desirable species. This process should be a high priority for most golf clubs, with a host of benefits on offer to those that succeed — improved green speed, trueness, firmness, colour, texture and consistency — not to mention the ticking time-bomb that a reliance on *Poa annua* greens represents in the face of future chemical legislation.

Assuming that species exchange is the goal of overseeding, how realistic is it to convert greens with, say, 80% *Poa annua* to greens with 80% of the finer grasses? How long will the process take, at what cost, and are compromises needed along the way? Well, I am here to tell you that it is very possible in most cases, and that the overseeding is usually the easy bit at the end of a longer process, which requires the support of the club and its golfers over the course of a few years. Advancements in both grass breeding and machinery is continually making the process easier and quicker however, and the long-term rewards should far outweigh short-term disruption for most establishments.

Preparation

Preparation of the greens and green sites on a golf course over a sustained period is vital to the success of an overseeding programme. The desirable grass species (bents and fescues) are unlikely to outcompete and replace *Poa annua* in either dark or wet places, so green sites must have good access to light and air flow and drain well. The most common issue preventing overseeding success is excessive thatch, so this must be dealt with,

along with sub-surface drainage and tree/scrub clearance before an overseeding programme commences. Getting these factors right may represent a large undertaking, but surely a case can be made for them all being crucial to the long-term sustainability of most golf clubs?

Seed application

If you have free-draining, light-accessing golf greens with little thatch, most of the hard work is done. Correct seed selection, application and timing over the course of a few seasons should be the final barriers in the quest for successful species exchange.

Ideally there should be multiple applications each year. Little and often is the best policy — that way perfect conditions for germination and establishment are more likely to occur at least once. Four or five applications of 4–6g/m² for bentgrass and 10–20g/m² for red fescue are realistic numbers for the desired result in a short to mid-term programme (2–5 years).

An independent Barenbrug trial with STRI has shown that just two applications of red fescue into maintained surfaces under play can result in a gain and retention the following year of 10%+ of the species (see Figure 1). In terms of seed selection, the trial shows the selection of high quality cultivars has a positive impact on the retention of the species even in the short term, so cost savings on grass



seed seem a false economy. A basic method (pedestrian dimple seeding) was just as effective as a precision drilling method, although dedicated overseeding equipment can be hugely beneficial in minimising disruption and man-hours.

Seed enhancement and maintenance

Grass seed needs water, oxygen and sufficient temperature to germinate. Coating seed with other material will not enhance germination rates unless one of these factors is influenced. To ensure long-term establishment, adequate balanced nutrition and supplements need to be provided of course. Independent data from STRI has recently shown positive results in a seed enhancement product containing a surfactant wetting agent, which obviously influences the availability of water to the seed and seedling (see Figure 2). This product is called "Yellow Jacket Water Manager" and is a collaboration between market leaders Barenbrug and Aquatrols. Early results from full-scale field trials in red fescue are looking very encouraging (see Figure 3).

When seedlings are present in the sward, additional consideration should be given to ensure their survival. The good news is that with advances in plant breeding, mowing heights need not be a primary concern; minimising verticutting is far more important. It is also helpful to reduce the movement of large volumes of abrasive sand dressing and to take care when applying herbicides and other chemicals.

Conclusion

Overseeding for species exchange is a process that requires planning, preparation and concerted effort over time. Success is attainable if care is taken to account for a broad range of parameters. The benefits of success are quality golf greens year-round and long-term sustainability for your golf course.

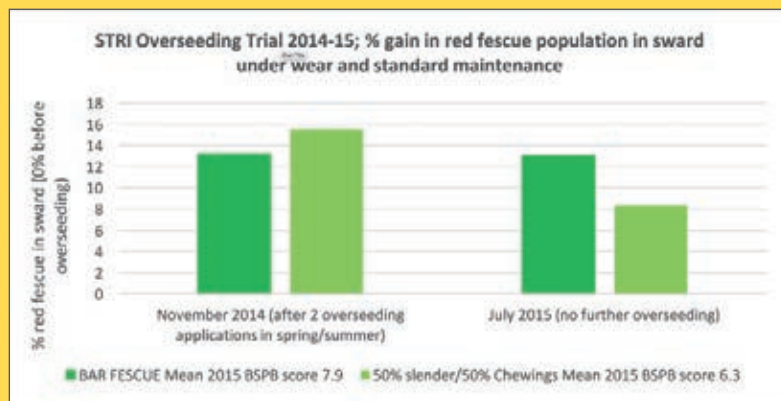


Figure 1. Data from Barenbrug/STRI overseeding trial. Two overseeding applications during 2014 resulted in significant gains in red fescue populations. Retention of red fescue in plots sown with higher quality cultivars was higher subsequently

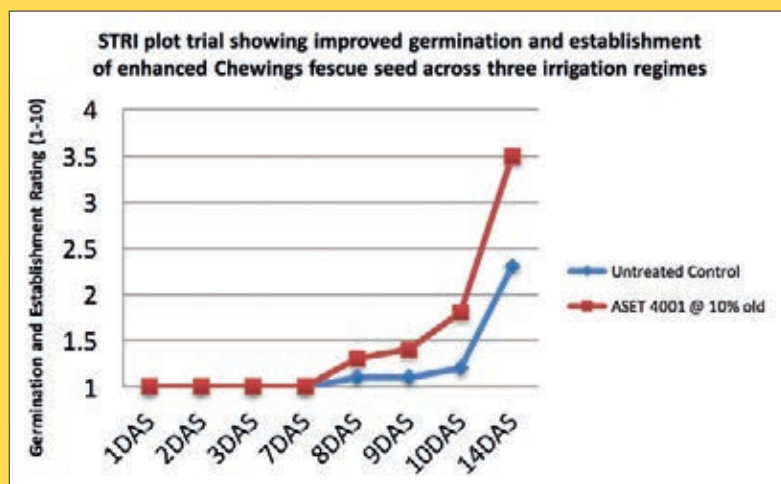


Figure 2. Germination and establishment of Yellow Jacket Water Manager (ASET 4001) enhanced Chewings red fescue versus untreated control. Seeds were sown in native Bingley soil in pots and irrigated under three different regimes (normal; deficit; severe deficit). Enhanced and untreated seed was sown at the same rate by weight i.e. approximately half the number of enhanced seeds produced improved rates of germination and establishment during the trial.



Figure 3. Germination and establishment of Yellow Jacket Water Manager enhanced red fescue versus untreated control via pot seeding on turf severely affected with dry patch.

Around the Green Scotland & N. Ireland



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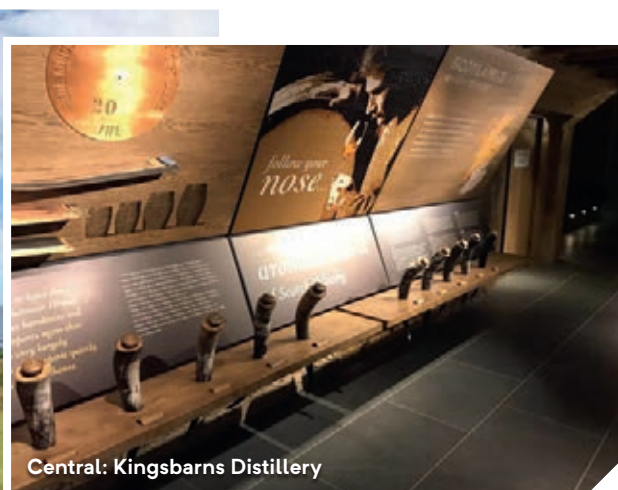


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Central: Kingsbarns Course



Central: Kingsbarns Distillery

Shaun Cunningham, Craig Hempseed and Stuart Tait. Enjoy guys, look forward to hearing from you.

Craig was lucky enough to experience the PGA at Wentworth. He told me to tell everyone who has thought about volunteering and hasn't yet to stop thinking and go for it. He's already looking to next year and has definitely got me thinking.

Any stories or information please get in touch.

Central



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A visit was organised at the start of the July to Kingsbarns. Innes Knight spoke to the group about the upcoming Women's Open, which will be held at the Links the first week in August. This was followed by a look around few holes and then a visit to the nearby Kingsbarns Distillery. Good luck to Innes and the team for the week.

Just a reminder of a date for the diary — Autumn Outing Wednesday 6 September at Pitreavie.

Following the final standings for the section pairs competition, here are the fixtures for the quarter finals:
Phil Hind & Euan Kay vs John Reid & Stephen Lawlor;
John Watson & David Cooper vs Richard Mackay & Kenny Niven;

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Charlie MacDonald & Archie Dunn vs David Gray & Colin Powrie;
Richard Jenkinson & Kevin Brunton vs Sandy Reid & Jim Grainger

East



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I would like to thank Alan Campbell for all his time and effort with this column. He has now passed the reigns over to myself and I look forward to hearing your stories to add to the monthly article. Sure there are light-hearted ones, plus informative ones.

It's a busy time for everyone, especially with the Scottish Open at Dundonald and The Open at Royal Birkdale. Sure there will be great things to hear from everyone involved.

Four of our guys from the East Section were at Royal Birkdale: Jamie Martin,

North



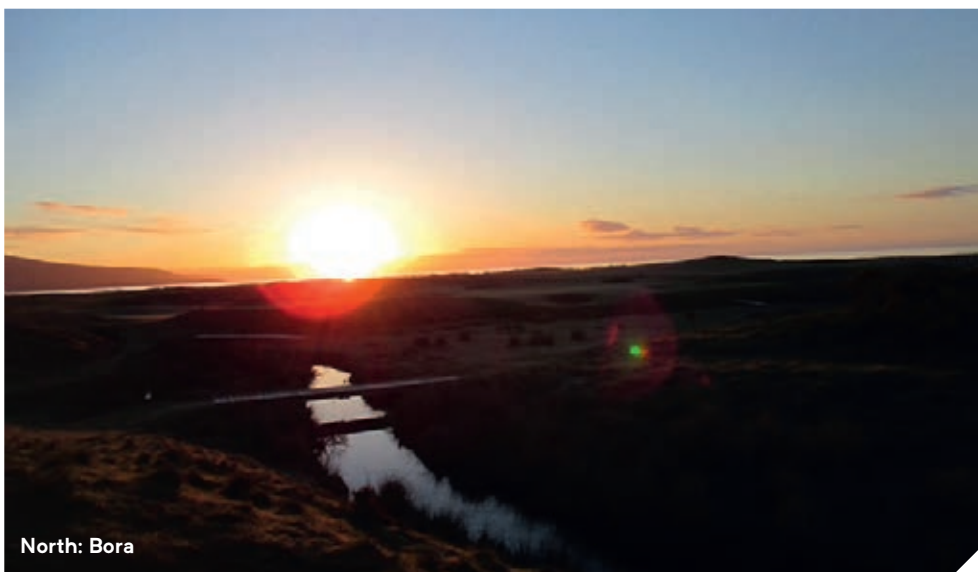
Neil Sadler
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As I am writing this article the sun is splitting the sky and here on the north east coast we are having one of the warmest days of the summer, but that really does not paint the picture of our summer. We had the unwanted record of it being the wettest June on record, with 180mm of rain at Portlethen. After speaking to some of my colleagues across the region they were all reporting roughly the same amounts!

As we are getting closer to our autumn outing I managed to catch up with James Macbeath at Brora. The course is a traditional links on the shores of the



Members from the East Section volunteered at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth



North: Bora



North: Bora

North Sea, It is very playable, very scenic and with a friendly welcome, so you would be daft to miss out on the opportunity to play it. One of the highest accolades paid to the course is from five-time Open champion Peter Thomson, who described Brora as "the most natural traditional links course in the world". With sheep and cattle roaming the land you can see why. So let's all make the trip north for this outing and see for ourselves what Peter Thomson means!

The outing is on 7 September.

Remember to make sure contact information is up to date so you don't miss out on news or upcoming events!

If you have any information for the magazine article, please email me on gkneil@sky.com. I can only report on section news if you inform me about it.

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West



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North West: A charity course walk was held at Royal Birkdale

North East



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Well what an interesting month on the weather front. We have had well over 100mm of rain and temperatures above average, ideal for that pesky fusarium. With all of this combined I'm sure everyone is working flat out, cutting and working on disease control.

Unfortunately the footgolf arranged at Knotty Hill was cancelled due to the Cleveland Section being scared of getting their perms wet. This will be rearranged, so please keep checking the North East and Cleveland Facebook pages. There will also be a text sent out with details of new date and time.

Well done to Ashley Marshall from Hexham who a number of weeks ago worked as a part of 170-strong greenkeepers in the US Open at Erin Hills, Wisconsin. Great experience Ashley and I bet you have plenty of great memories to bring back home.

Congratulations to Head Greenkeeper Jack Fryer who has just moved from Percy Wood to Burgham Park. Best of luck Jack, sure you will do a great job.

As we are approaching the British Masters in September all successful applicants should now know if they are

going. Congratulations to all the greenkeepers that are spending the week up at Close House.

Anthony McGeough from Richmond and Chloe Gallagher from Ramside Hall have recently been to The Open at Royal Birkdale with the Support Team. I'm sure it was tough work but a great experience, Well done!

Applications are now open for full BIGGA members to visit the GCSAA Education Conference at the Golf Industry Show in the USA courtesy of Bernhard and Company. GIS is the biggest single event in the industry and BIGGA members get the opportunity to sample the legendary educational conference and have the opportunity to network with the world's largest gathering of turf and facilities care specialists. This established trip will also feature course visits.

**What's
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you**

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happening in
your region**



North West: Section tournament

North West



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All the courses are looking well at present and hopefully there are plenty of members complimenting you on your efforts.

Thanks to Mike Crabtree and his wife, Rachel, for the concept and organisation of a charity course walk. Forty-four greenkeepers joined Chris Whittle and Rob Marchbank for what can only be described as a spectacular evening. On one of the hottest days of the year Chris and Rob took time to show everyone the work and preparation that goes into preparing an Open venue. With everyone making individual donations the group raised £400 to go towards Epilepsy Research UK, the Royal Birkdale Captain's Charity for 2017. Huge thanks must be extended to Chris, Rob, their team and to Royal Birkdale. It was a real treat for everyone who attended.

Our thanks go to Northenden for their hospitality at the recent section tournament, to Rob Cleisham and his team for preparing the course in extremely difficult circumstances, to Peter McGreevy of Cheshire Turf Machinery for sponsoring the day and to everyone who attended on what proved to be a very wet outing. Congratulations to the 11 that stayed out and played the full 18 holes. Many more retreated after nine to the rather splendid surroundings of the clubhouse. The winner with 37 points was Nick Pattison from The Mere, Runner Up with 36 on countback was Daniel Tyrrell of Gathurst Golf Club, Third and winner of the longest drive in 2 shots on the 18th was Tom Smith of Tacit and our new member on the day, Matthew Kay from Prestbury, won the nearest the pin on the 9th — congratulations and welcome Matthew.

I'm sure there will be plenty to talk about regarding The Open Support Team's efforts at Birkdale next month.

Congratulations to Tim Johnson, of Penn, on the birth of Harry Stuart Johnson, born on 19 July and weighing 6lbs 12oz.

Cleveland



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What a rollercoaster last month was! Higher than expected rainfall coupled with some very warm days mean only one thing to anyone working on a parkland course and that is the grass factory is open for business! Just as everything was starting to ease up, the seed heads were under control, greens were rolling nice (not too fast but a good 9.5/10, honest), and then boom!

I've been lead to believe you can hear bamboo growing and although I have been to China I cannot confirm this as true, but I swear I could hear my rough and fairways growing, or maybe laughing, at me. It's time to break out the emergency supply of Primo — other products are of course available.

If there was ever a case of famous last words, last Thursday, with all of the rough still left to cut, I instructed one of my new guys, Glen, to make a start on the rough and jokingly said do not to break it. D'oh! Within two hours I had to tow in a very sad looking rough mower with one of its three decks hanging off. Thankfully Glen was ok.

Unfortunately the first Cleveland v North East footgolf match had to be cancelled due to poor weather. There has been a lot of excitement in the build up to this match with a few guys from the victorious, all conquering five-a-side team of 2006 prepared to dust their boots off again in the name of the Cleveland Section, although some of us have made more comebacks than is good for us. A new date will be pencilled in for August. The standard is expected to be much like an El Casico, but in reality it may be closer to the Dog and Duck v the Royal Oak. There are still a few spaces left on the team so if you fancy a fun afternoon keep an eye on the Facebook page for details.

Congratulations to some of the guys and girls around the section for being selected for either The Open or the British Masters. They are Dan Egan, Chloe Gallagher and myself.



Northern: Howley Hall



Northern: Tacit Freshman Tournament at Malton & Norton

Northern



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The inaugural Tacit freshman tournament was played at Malton & Norton, with the winners and runners up earning places at The Belfry to take part in a national Tacit Tournament. Winners with a score of 44 points were Gary Burgess and Niger Molyneux from Grange Park. They will receive a set of logo flags and each received a Blacklader rain jacket. Second place with 43 points were Sam Holtby and Richard Jagger from Malton & Norton. They won Tacit divot boxes for the club and Blacklader rain jackets. Nearest the Pin was Danny Simpson of Rockcliffe Hall, while longest drive was Daniel Hinley of Gathurst. Both won a Blacklader t-shirt and a Tacit greenkeeper bucket for their clubs. Tom Smith thanked everyone who entered and supported the event. Many travelled long distances to play golf on probably the hottest day of the year. Thanks were extended to Richard Jagger, secretary manager at Malton & Norton for letting Tacit host the event and also to the catering team for the food and service provided. Special thanks to Richard Jaques and his greens team for having the course in such great condition after the weekend.

A really good day was had by everyone who attended the invitation day at Howley Hall. Thanks go to the club for hosting the event and to Steve McAdams and his team for preparing a great course. Thanks to all our region sponsors for making it possible to hold these events and to everyone who attended. The prizes went to Frank Stewart and A Nicholls in first place with 41 points, Richard Illsley and Alan Craven runners up with 39 on countback, third place went to Tom Wood and Bryan Schofield with 39 on countback, fourth place to Rob Gee and Jonny Barry with 39 on countback and fifth place to Stephen McAdams

and Ray Smith with 38 points. Nearest the pin on the 8th went to Richard Illsley, longest drive on the 11th went to John Rowbottom and nearest the pin on the 18th went to Alan Craven — congratulations to everyone.

Sheffield



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The section held its summer competition, the President's Cup, at Rotherham. The event was very well attended and things are looking good with numbers at these events. Ben Burrill and his team had the course in fantastic condition. Andy Unwin from Birley Park, who is a member at Rotherham, won the best gross with a impressive 75. Mick Dwyer of Hallamshire won the net prize with an equally impressive net 66. The trade and guest prize was won by Chris Allen, the chairman of Rotherham. Thank you to Mansfield Sands for their sponsorship of this event and to all other trade reps for their raffle prizes and continued support. We really appreciate this so thank you all.

On a sadder note the Sheffield Section would like to pass on our condolences to Dave and Andy Riley from Hillsborough on the sad passing of their father Keith. Keith also worked as a greenkeeper throughout his working life. Our thoughts are with them and their family at this sad time.

Our autumn competition will be held at Coxmoor on Friday 6 October. Contact Neil Peters to book your place.

North Wales



Can you become the face of BIGGA North Wales? Email sandra@bigga.co.uk @BIGGANorthWales

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on in your section

Email your news to Karl @bigga.co.uk

Around the Green Central England



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BB&O



Craig Earnshaw

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Well what a summer we are having, I call it a marmite summer as some love the dry and warm conditions and some hate it! However, I think everyone attending the BB&O golf day at Winter Hill was really pleased to see the sun pop its head out halfway through the day as it had started cold and blowy for our second golf day of the year, kindly sponsored by Lister Wilder.

The golf course was in fantastic condition and the buzz around the clubhouse when everyone came in was electric. So let's get down to the prize winners. We had four nearest the pin and long drives kindly sponsored by Lister Wilder. Michael Cox hit a massive drive up the 6th to take the prize there and Paul Hedger was closest on the par three 8th. Luke Collins stuck one close on the 15th while David Lions was closest in two on the 18th.

In the main event I managed to keep my same ball all the way around and scooped third place with 39 points. John Scoones pipped me with 42 points. All this while Paul Hedger was polishing his spurs after carding another outstanding round of golf with of 44 points.

Thanks to Sheriff Amenity and Headland for the halfway refreshments and a very special thanks again to Lister Wilder for sponsoring the day.

Mid Anglia



Darren Mugford

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On 4 July the Mid Anglia Section had their Summer Golf Day, where 22 players played twice round the par 3 course at The Bedfordshire.

The weather was very warm and everybody enjoyed the new summer format for 2017.

The winning pair on the day were Richard Saunders and Clive Parnell with a score of 52 points. In second place on count back was the pair of Gerald Bruce and Eddie Jack with 47 points and in third place also with 47 points was the team of Simon Banks and Steve Mason. Steve also won nearest the pin on the 3rd hole and Roger Butler won nearest the pin on the 7th hole.

A big thank you to The Bedfordshire for hosting the event and keeping us well fed and watered after the golf. A massive thanks to John Gubb, course manager, and his team for presenting a very challenging par 3 course in great condition. Also a big thank you to Ernest Doe and Sons who provided a drink and snack buggy that kept us going during our rounds, which was very much appreciated.

Date for your diary - autumn meeting at Woburn on 25 October will be strictly limited to 40 players. Please note golfers who have played in either the spring or summer meeting will get priority in securing a place over those that have not been able to play in either of this year's events.

Thanks to sponsors: Headland Amenity, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS, Avoncrop Amenity, Rigby Taylor, Banks Amenity. As ever, your support is really appreciated in supporting the Mid Anglia section

Midland



Dave Collins

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First I must say, what a contrast this summer. In the Midlands we are used to moaning about too much moisture during the summer, but this year has been so dry. I hope everyone is coping out there and to be fair when this mag has been delivered we'll probably have



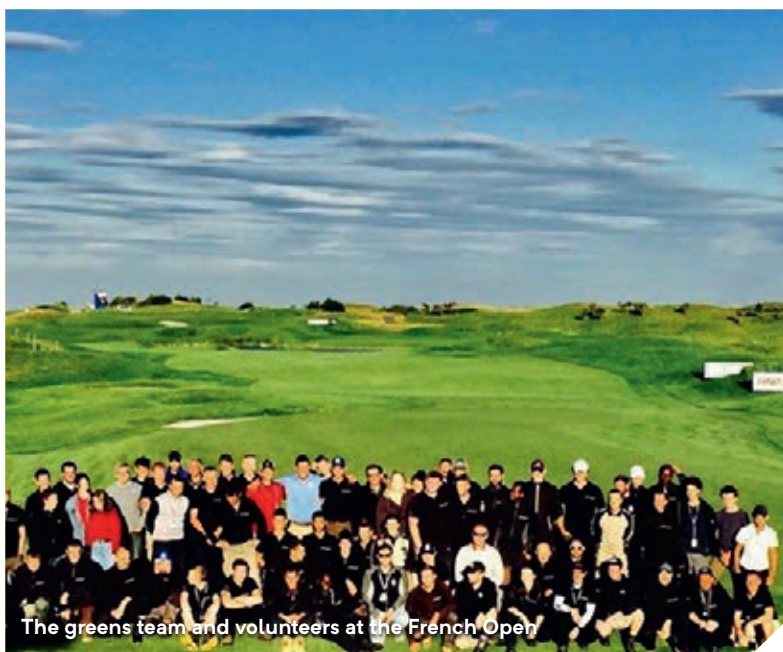
BB&O: Paul Hedger came first



BB&O: Luke Collins came second



BB&O: Craig Earnshaw came third



The greens team and volunteers at the French Open

had a shed load of rain. If I've jinxed us all with this article, I apologise, but if not, to all you budding David Dickinson look-a-likes, keep slapping on the sun lotion.

A massive day coming up at Patshull Park with a charity day on behalf of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund. We thank everyone who has donated prizes so far and if anyone would like to offer a 4 ball or any other prize you wish to donate, we would be massively appreciative. Also if you would like to enter the details are: Wednesday 30 August, £160 per team, closing date 23 August, team of 4 Stableford, best two to count.

A massive congratulations to Stephen Lacken, of Moor Hall who has lost an amazing 6st 9.5lbs in just over 13 months, going from 19st 3lb to 12st 7.5lb. He got on the Slimming World shortlist for their man of the year award. Thanks to Dave Healy from Moor Hall for giving Steve a mention

On another note, a massive congratulations to Tim Johnstone of Penn and his lovely wife Lisa on the new addition to their family. Well done guys, lots of sleepless nights ahead to think about the course.

Also a massive congratulations to Andy Laing and his team at Gaudet Lauce in hosting the Trilby Tour in July.

13 September — JCB course and factory visit, including ICL and Syngenta presentations/updates.

8 November — Autumn Seminar at the Chase Golf Club, sponsored by Countrywide Turf and Amenity

Contact Andrew Laing to book places either at andrew.laing@gaudet-luce.co.uk or on 07870 188619.

Autumn team event and AGM at South Staffs. Thursday 5 October, start 12pm, cost £25, closing date for entries 21 September, prize sponsor Rigby Taylor and Working Turf.

East of England



Ian Collett
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Colin Hopper, head greenkeeper at Elsham, has just returned from a week working at the French Open, held at the Golf National, which is also the venue for the Ryder Cup next year. Colin tells me he had a great time and experience meeting other greenkeepers from Holland, Denmark, USA, Italy and the UK, as well as a player or two. Colin mainly cut fairways all week, with shifts from 4.30am-1pm Monday to Wednesday then 5pm-9pm in the evenings. During the tournament, from Thursday to Sunday these hours were 4.30am-9.30am and 5pm—finish. There were eight staff constantly mowing fairways and two staff collecting clippings all week with a total of 30-35 greenkeeper volunteers from around the world helping out. The club itself is a three course complex employing 25 greenkeepers and has a seemingly unlimited budget. Last year over 2,000 tonnes of topdressing material was applied to the course, and during the competition the greens were stimped at 11.6. The greens were cut and rolled until this speed was achieved. Colin thoroughly enjoyed his experience and hopes to return to help out next year in the Ryder Cup and the 2019 Solheim Cup at Gleneagles.



Colin Hopper with the Ryder Cup

Finally please send any information, news, stories of interest or anything anyone would like to see in GI via my email or give me a call.

East Midlands



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I hope everyone's courses are growing well and not many of us are sun burnt.

Firstly I would like to say a massive well done to Joe Spadaccini on getting to the regional final of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Hopefully it's the start of a long career in the industry.

The Countrywide pairs are at the semi-final stages with four teams battling it out for a spot in the final. The four are Nigel Colley and Asa English of Rothley Park, Jamie McGrath and Geoff Fenn of Scraftoft and Countrywide, Rob Duval and Shannon Myring of Scraftoft and Paul French and Jordan Baker of Beedles Lake. The semis will be played at Luffenham Heath on 10 August with the draw taking place on the day. Good luck to all taking part and a big thank you to Geoff and Countrywide for sponsoring the event.

The next event on our calendar is the par 3 event at Beedles Lake on 24 August. This is always a well-supported event so book in early to avoid disappointment.

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on in your section

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk

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Thank you
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Surrey: John McPherson receives the McMillan Tankard from Rita McMillan

Surrey



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This month we had the very good fortune to play the McMillan Tankard at the gorgeous Sunningdale. The weather could not have been more perfect and the late afternoon start suited us all well. The club is hosting the 49th Seniors Amateur Championship in August and we certainly benefitted, playing a course in wonderful condition and well on its way to that event.

All the team for the New Course should be very proud of how it played. The trophy was first played at Laleham and for the last 38 years Sunningdale has hosted the event. It is with thanks that they keep hosting this tradition and long may it continue. Onto the golf and there were some sterling scores on a tough course, with 3rd place going to Marc Raisbeck from Cranleigh, 2nd place to Jack McMillan and 1st place with 39 points to John McPherson, head greenkeeper at Sandown Park. There were also longest drive and nearest the pin, won by Mark Davis and Jack McMillan respectively.

What's on near you

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Kent



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A belated thank you to Paul and his team at Sundridge Park for hosting our second golf event of the year. Again the weather was with us on a beautiful sunny day which only further complimented an exceptional golf course. Congratulations to Paul Boozer, winning on the day with 38 points, closely followed by Lee Austin with 37 points. Lee recently got married, so many congratulations to him.



Jack Sims, course manager at Oakland Park

Paul Boozer and the host himself, Paul Rudkin of Sundridge Park, won the blind pairing competition. It was a day for those named Lee I feel, where Lee Thorn and Lee Sayers, soon to be my new boss at The London, were winners of the nearest the pin. The longest drive of day come from Tom Sherrard, a boomer up the final hole! Trade winner of the day went to Steve Alabaster, so many congratulations to him.

Another thank you goes out to James Bledge, course manager of Royal Cinque Ports. He was very kind to invite us and join him in a course walk and share with us what is involved in preparing for a Final Open Qualifier. An interesting and enjoyable afternoon for those that attended.

A date for the diary is 28 September for the third golf event of the year at Sheerness. Details available soon.

Finally keep a look out on our Facebook page and await an email, as we are finalising some more education events early autumn time.

East Anglia



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As I write these notes preparations will be well under way at Royal Birkdale for The Open. Good luck to Chris Whittle and his staff and all the support team volunteers, including Wes Lenihan from Ealing.

Congratulations are in order to Jack Sims, course manager at Oakland Park on graduating from Myerscough College with a foundation degree in Sportsturf.

Our next golf event is the summer tournament to be held at The Buckinghamshire on Tuesday 29 August. Entry details are on the main BIGGA website & Facebook page - londonbigga. Thanks to Banks Amenity for sponsoring this event.

Sussex



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 turf-care.co.uk

On 29 June the section held its summer competition at the pretty Haywards Heath. The course looked stunning as always, so thanks to Peter and his team.

40 Sussex greenkeepers enjoyed a blow-out breakfast followed by 18 holes over the mid-Sussex parkland, good job there aren't many hills!

Nearest the pin were Phil Hughes, John Cole, Matt Hutchinson and Paul Oliver. Longest drive was James Briggs. The winning team was the Mitchells Groundcare team, second was the Team from Piltdown Golf Club and third was Pete Smith's team.

The next competition is the autumn one at Seaford Head on 13 September.

There is also another Turf Club scheduled on 10 August and Sussex members should have received more details by the time this goes to print.

If you have anything of interest please contact me on 07912 669457 or chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Andrew Crawford	CM — Kinross
Callum White	GK — Canmore
David McLauchlin	GK — Auchterarder
Robert Wallace	GK — Caird Park
Peter Smith	GK — Royal Burgess Golfing Society
Allan Fleet	GK — Cullen
Johnathon Dunn	AGK — Auchterarder
Rory Crosbie	GK — Royal Drottningholm
Jamie Osborne	GK — Malone
Phillip McKeown	GK — Malone

Northern

Samuel Pemberton	AGK — Wilton
John Clifford	GK — Dunstanburgh
Peter McVicar	CM — The Hesketh
David Williams	FA — The Hesketh
Hayden Telfair	GK — The Hesketh
Mark Dineley	GK — Childwall
Stephen Charles	GK — Delamere
Daniel Tyrrell	HGK — Gathurst
Jack Lindley-Cross	AGK — Blackley
Mark Rhodes-Murphy	AGK — Sutton Hall
Vinnie Iveson	AGK — The Hesketh
Ben Wood	AGK — Alwoodley
Harry Roe	AGK — Alwoodley
Stevie-Jon Hood	AGK — Forest of Galtres
Lee Johnson	AGK — Elsham
Mark Clarke	AGK — Drax
Zane Pexman	AGK — Elsham

Central England

James Stabler	Groundsman — Reading FC
Samuel Ampleford	Groundsman — Reading FC
Matthew Gesner	AGK — Goring & Streatley
Edward Washbourne	GK — Leamington & County
Louie Brant	AGK — Beedles Lake
Max Moncaster	AGK — Burghley Park
Alex Beesley	Affiliate — Midlands Grounds M'ery
Richard Beech	Affiliate — Lilleshall Hall
Mark Shakespeare	GK — Stoneleigh Deer Park
Steven Aston	GK — Stoneleigh Deer Park
Martin Townsend	AGK — Lea Marston

South East

Ben Gifford	AGK — Epping
Megan Yalland	GK — Stonelees
Iain Tong	GK — Roehampton
Ian Lord	GK — Aldenham
Nicholas Morris	GK — Roehampton
Steven Morgans	Groundsman — Harrow School GC
Andrew Buckingham	AGK — Bushey
Joseph Neate	AGK — Silvermere
Michael Holliday	AGK — Roehampton
William Simmonds	AGK — Roehampton
Aaron Buff	AGK — The Wisley
Michael Barnard	AGK — RAC

South West and South Wales

Neil Stephenson	GK — Hockley
David Gibbs	AGK — Salisbury & South Wilts
David Horspool	AGK — Waterloooville
Jordan Holt	AGK — Alresford
Richard Marchmont	AGK — Hockley
Scott Bellinger	GK — Bridgwater & Taunton
Aaron Hamer	AGK — Kingsdown

Around the Green

South West & S. Wales



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South West



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We had a great turnout for our Turf Club, held at my club Chippenham. It was great to see a mixture of a few new and some more familiar faces. The group were given a rundown of the new maintenance facility and washdown area, and were then given the chance to give some constructive feedback on an innovative new product from Sportsmetals, the Nordic Plow core collector. We also demonstrated the effectiveness of greens brushing prior to mowing.

We are busy planning our next Turf Club, so keep your eye out for the next one, it would be great to see you!

Looking further ahead, don't forget our section could sponsor you to attend Harrogate next year, it's never too early to start planning for it.

Next on the calendar is our summer tournament at Minchinhampton on August 15 at 12noon. We have what promises to be a very interesting presentation. And of course the winner can grab themselves a free entry to the BIGGA National Final!

South Coast



Mike Cartwright

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Well the last month has flown by in a haze of heat and hose pipes, as I'm sure it has for most of you as well. Most of our open events and club championships have been played for another year and our thoughts are now turning to autumn maintenance and winter projects.

Personally, after playing bad golf for 25 years, I have achieved something that I have never witnessed. With one almighty hooked tee shot I managed to not just strike one poor soul, but two! One broken finger and a badly bruised leg, oh how we laughed in the clubhouse.

With that in mind it's probably just as well I'm not able to join you all at Ferndown, so you should all be safe. I will post the results in next month's column. With nearly 60 entries it should be a fantastic day.

Well thats all for now, Happy Greenkeeping one and all!

South Wales



Andrew Hatcher

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msn.com

Dare I say anything about what weather we are currently having? British summer time is great when it's like this. Let's see how long it can last. Pictures on social media showing dry courses, mostly happy members and visitors, hope it continues.

There has been some movement within our section. Marc Anderton has moved to St Mellons as head greenkeeper after spending 10 years at Newport and Greg Williams has filled Marc's shoes at Newport. The section wishes you both the best for your future.

I'm sure you'll both gain valuable experience and face any new challenges that come with it.

Two new starters at Pyle & Kenfig in Joe Frampton & Steve Evans.

Ross on Wye will hold the Rigby Taylor Team Challenge, which is our annual match v the South West & Secretaries on 10 August. I'm sure our captain will choose the winning team.

This year's summer competition will play over the rugged links of Pennard on 24 August with fantastic views of Three Cliffs Bay and Oxwich Bay. This is to include a course walk at 2.30pm and presentation by Huw Morgan in the evening. The first tee booked from 1pm and the cost of the day is just £15 per person and includes coffee & bacon roll on arrival, golf and an evening meal, fantastic value for money. It would be great to see as many members as possible on the day..

Devon & Cornwall



Neil Rogers

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We held an Employment Law 'know your rights' workshop at Boringdon Park. Even though the day was only attended by four it was a very informative, useful and entertaining session with lots of questions being asked. I think those who attended all got something out of it and for only £5! It certainly made you stop and think! The section would like to thank Boringdon Park for their hospitality.

The section would like to welcome James Leitch to the area, he is taking over from Christy at Bude & North Cornwall. Although new to our section, he is not coming very far as he was previously course manager at Yeovil. We look forward to getting to know him at section meetings. We would like to thank all of our patrons for their continued support of the section.



What's on near you

See our events page for details of what's happening in your region



South West: Turf Club

Upcoming Events

Contact your section secretary to book a place

■ Scotland & Northern Ireland

Scotland: 23 August, Musselburgh, BIGGA Scotland Golf Championship

Central: 6 September, Pitreavie, autumn outing

North: 7 September, Brora, autumn outing

Northern Ireland: 24 October, CAFRE – Greenmount Campus, BIGGA Northern Ireland Launch Day

■ Northern

Sheffield: 6 October, Coxmoor, autumn competition

North East: 13–24 November, Dunstanburgh Castle, Bunker Camp, including YGC Education Day

North Wales: 23 November, North Wales GC, Christmas and AGM golf tournament

■ Central England

East Anglia: 16 August, RAF Lakenheath, section golf day

Midland: 13 September, JCB course and factory visit, including ICL and Syngenta presentations

Midland: 5 October, South Staffs, autumn team event and AGM, cost £25, closing date for entries 21 September

East Anglia: 11 October, Ufford Park, section golf day

Mid Anglia: 25 October, Woburn, autumn golf day

Midland: 8 November, The Chase, autumn seminar

■ South East

London: 29 August, The Buckinghamshire, summer golf day

Sussex: 13 September, Seaford Head, autumn competition

Kent: 28 September, Sheerness

South East: 16 November, Writtle University College, BIGGA South East Regional Conference

■ South West & South Wales

South West: 15 August, Minchinhampton, summer competition

South Wales: 24 August, Pennard, summer competition

South Wales: 3 November, Borth & Ynyslas, match v North Wales Section

South West & South Wales: 16 November, Somerset County Cricket Ground, SW&SW Regional Conference



For more information about events log in to the members area of the BIGGA website





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Bayer's new fungicide, 'Exteris Stressgard' to feature as part of Headland's disease control strategy

Bayer announced at BTME 2017 that Headland Amenity would become a key partner to help bring the newly launched fungicide 'Exteris Stressgard' to the UK market. Containing a brand new chemical group, the first in almost 10 years, Exteris Stressgard will feature prominently as part of Headland's disease control strategy from the summer.

This new SDHI formulation features the brand new active ingredient, Fluopyram, a succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor that interferes with cell respiration, alongside a proven QoI partner, Trifloxystrobin. Labelled for control of Microdochium Patch and Dollar Spot, Exteris Stressgard is effective when applied before, or at the very first signs of disease outbreak. "It is likely moving forward that there will not be any contact, curative chemistry available for turf managers to treat established disease, so more than ever the emphasis must be on prevention" said Andy Russell, Headland's sales and marketing director. "A well thought through, integrated approach to preventative disease management, will become even more important to ensure clean surfaces."

This integrated strategy should utilise different methods to manage disease pressure. Management of key factors such as nutrient inputs, canopy moisture levels and aeration

can have a significant effect on disease incidence, and rotation of approved fungicides will reduce the chances of resistance build-up and maintain the efficacy of product applications.

Alongside fungicide application, strategies to affect the environment around the grass plant can have a positive effect on disease reduction. Headland's 20/20/30 tank mix of plant protectants and elicitors has been shown over the last 10 years of STRI trials and field experience to minimise disease levels when applied as a preventative programme. Many Headland customers already use the non-pesticidal 20/20/30 programme as a strategy to limit disease alongside a preventative fungicide. As a completely new chemical group Exteris Stressgard will become an excellent partner to this approach, helping to manage turf disease more efficiently.



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



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HEAD GREENKEEPER BINGLEY ST IVES GOLF CLUB

Bingley St Ives Golf Club in West Yorkshire is seeking a new Head Greenkeeper due to impending retirement.

For full details please see our online advertisement at www.bigga.org.uk/careers



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Symbio is recruiting Technical Sales Managers to manage existing customers and develop new accounts in golf, football, rugby, bowling clubs, local authorities and schools in the Midlands, South West and Southern Counties.

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Closing Date 11th August 2017.

GREENKEEPER SEATON CAREW GOLF CLUB — HARTLEPOOL

We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated individual to become part of current team.

Skills and experience

- Minimum 2 Years Greenkeeping experience
- Qualified to NVQ Level 2/3
- Able to work within a team environment or lone work as required
- A good understanding of Greenkeeping practices
- Highly motivated with high standards of work and attention to detail

- A full clean driving licence
- Good communication and organisation skills
- PA1 PA2 PA6 spraying qualifications preferred
- Be flexible in working hours, weekend work will be required.

Applications & CV to secretary.seatoncarewclub@gmail.com
Closing date: 31st August 2017

EX PAT POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

There is a huge increase in Infrastructure, sports and landscaping projects in the build up to Expo 2020 in the UAE and the FIFA World Cup in 2022 in Qatar.

This position offers the regular ex pat benefits package of accommodation, annual leave tickets, company vehicle, performance related commission etc.

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TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER MIDLANDS AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated individual with great communication skills who wishes to develop their career as part of an established and respected team. BASIS or FACTS qualifications would be an advantage but not essential, as full training will be given. An excellent remuneration package subject to qualifications and expertise along with a company vehicle is offered.

Please send a resume and application letter to: Johanna McCloskey, Managing Director Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd, 2 Millside Park, Crouch Lane, Winkfield Berkshire SL4 4PX. Or alternatively send the same to: Johanna.mccloskey@avoncrop-amenity.com



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DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

LANSDOWN GOLF CLUB

Lansdown is a Harry Colt design, parkland course on the outskirts of Bath. We offer quality golf all year round and host many county events including the Gloucestershire Golf Union County Championships which we are preparing for in May 2018.



We are looking for an enthusiastic, ambitious and motivated Deputy Head Greenkeeper to join our team. Candidates must be good communicators and committed to working with us to help achieve our aims.

Our Ideal candidate will have management and team working experience and possess the following essential qualifications and skills:

NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management or equivalent.

Chainsaw certification and spraying certification to PA1, PA2 and PA6.

Experience in the use and maintenance of irrigation systems and golf course construction.

Use of IT systems for the preparation and management of budgets.

Proven experience and skills in the operation, maintenance and basic servicing of a wide range of greenkeeping machinery and equipment.

Salary to be based on skill level and experience and in line with GCM BIGGA recommendations.

To apply forward your CV and covering letter to Chairman, Lansdown Golf Club, BATH, BA1 9BT or admin@lansdowngolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for applications 14 August 2017

HEAD GREENKEEPER LINGFIELD PARK RESORT

We have a fantastic opportunity for a Head Greenkeeper to join our Greenkeeping Team. The successful candidate will have excellent leadership and communication skills and strong technical knowledge.

They will lead the team in presenting and maintaining our PGA Championship 18-hole Parkland Marriott Golf Course, of 6700 yards and par 72. Our Golf Course is a JAMEGA Pro-tour host for the second year running, and host for the first time of the Mizuno Golf Pairs Tour.

We are also hosting a Tacit Golf Regional qualifier this summer. For further information and to apply, please email hgrayshan@arenaracingcompany.co.uk



SEASONAL GREENKEEPERS (X3): SORRENTO GOLF CLUB (AUSTRALIA):

Sorrento Golf Club, located on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, are looking to employ 3 seasonal qualified greenkeepers to help maintain the course over the busy spring/summer period. The period of employment is for six months, starting from 2nd October, 2017 through to the 30th March, 2018.

Applicants must satisfy the requirements in obtaining an Australian Working Visa, particularly not being over the age of 30 years.

Previous applicants are most welcome to apply.

For more information, or to apply for these positions please send a detailed resume (including 3 referees) to Course Superintendent, Shane Greenhill: sgreenhill@sorrentogolf.com.au

HEAD GREENKEEPER INSCH GOLF CLUB

Insch Golf Club is a beautiful challenging parkland course, set at the foot of Bennachie. We are currently looking for an experienced Head Greenkeeper to manage and maintain our course. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

In the first instance call Captain,
Bryan Gerrard on 07899 723 054 or

Vice Captain, Colin Campbell on
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& Finally...

‘Tellytubbyland’ helping wildflowers at Hickleton

& Finally



Hickleton, South Yorkshire, is one of those courses that can actually take your breath away, not just for the sloping undulations but for the stunning views when you reach the higher holes.

Another reason for the breath-taking effect is the number of wildflower habitats which have been created by Hickleton's environment officer and BIGGA member, Carl Flavell.

While the course is maintained to the highest standard by Gary Marsh and the team of greenkeepers, Carl is responsible for the ecology and environmental management of the out-of-play areas. One such area is the former wasteland on the second hole. Scrubland and weeds dominated this section and while these have an importance to wildlife in their own right, they were not deemed

as acceptable on this scenic course. Carl decided to strip the area of undesirables and redesign it to his own specification, with the added bonus of a few discreet wildflower plantings.

Carl's method was to:

1. Strip away the unwanted vegetation
2. Contour the land so as to add character
3. Build an eco-wall out of recycled/ upcycled materials from around the course
4. Sow and then tread-in wildflower seeds
5. Wait patiently



Top: Carl Flavell and the Hickleton eco wall

Above left: Hickleton

Above centre: Hickleton wildflower zone

Above right: One of Hickleton's wildflowers

Eco walls are a great way to use up unwanted materials from around the site and are now used in some capacity at most environmentally minded golf courses.

Two more areas have been designed like this, with a grand total of 220 tons of spoil relocation. During the time of my visit in mid-May the area was just showing signs of life, although the south of Yorkshire was still getting frost but with very little rain — not a winning combination for any sort of golf course management! I don't think it will be too long before the area is awash with wildlife friendly flora and the members are talking superlatively about the eco area, or 'Tellytubby Land' as it has affectionately become known.

Great work Carl and we look forward to your photos on social media.

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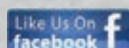
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