



# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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Featured Inside

## GREENKEEPING IN THE FUTURE

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the UK's greenkeepers?

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Turf of the future | Royal Norwich | Clacton-on-Sea



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# Welcome



GolfBIC 2017



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

**One year ago, I spoke to you within this column about BIGGA's attendance at the R&A Golf Forum in St Andrews.**

At that meeting, I was convinced of the commitment of all the major associations within golf to support BIGGA members in their efforts to overcome the challenges faced by our industry, such as the impact of a varying climate and reduction of pesticides. There was a real sense that heaping more and more stress upon an increasingly fraught greenkeeping team was unsustainable.

A year later and I returned to the Forum, where I was delighted to hear that such commitment is maintained among the upper echelons of the game.

Our more pressing challenge now is to ensure that collaboration and support exists within golf clubs themselves.

I'm reminded of a recent experience, when I was able to bring all my years of experience in a management capacity to bear upon the somewhat singular

challenge of coaching my son's under-12 football team! It's a familiar tale on football pitches the length of the country as, during a friendly on the Saturday, the boys coped poorly with pressure. They went down a few goals and turned on each other — even bringing some to tears — rather than playing as a team. We went on to lose the game quite heavily.

The following day we faced the top team in the league. In advance, I spoke to them about the importance of teamwork and of supporting each other, especially when under pressure and even when mistakes have been made. I'm delighted to say the boys responded and we won handsomely.

So where am I going with this?

This month I've spent quite a bit of time talking to club managers about the importance of working closely with the greenkeeping team. When greenkeepers undertake their duties in the very early hours, working out of facilities that are so often hidden from view, away from the hub of the clubhouse, this can be difficult, and it is too easy for a professional, as well as physical, distance to emerge. It is vital, therefore, that the manager or secretary makes the effort to work with the greenkeepers, to build a bond and a team, all working towards the same goal with mutual respect.

Speaking of teams, and I'm excited about the one that has been assembled to represent BIGGA in San Antonio for the Delegation to the Golf Industry Show. May I take this opportunity to thank Bernhard and Company for the 15 years of support they have given our members, providing career-defining opportunities.

I will conclude with a request. We hold GolfBIC during BTME and the more owners and operators of clubs we have present, the better our chance to really positively influence the golf club industry. If your owner or boss isn't going, please urge them to. It's a brilliant conference, alongside a world class exhibition.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members and friends a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.



## Regulars

- 3 Welcome

---

- 6 Newsdesk

---

- 10 Across the Board

---

- 12 Ecology

---

- 14 Around the Globe

---

- 16 Talking Heads

---

- 18 Young Greenkeepers' Committee

---

- 20 Industry Update

---

- 24 Membership

---

- 62 Around the Green

---

- 72 Buyer's Guide

---

- 74 Learning & Development

---

- 76 Apprentice Corner

---

- 78 Recruitment

---

- 82 9 Hole Heroes

Contents

# From the Editor



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

## What does the future hold?

At the South West & South Wales Region conference, I had the pleasure of listening to a number of excellent speakers, providing insight into many various facets of this great industry.

As an aside, I'd like to put this in the context that only once have I listened to speakers at a conference intended for journalists. Other industries simply don't have the regular access to education that you guys do, so I would urge you never to take it for granted — especially in BTME season!

Among the speakers at the conference in Somerset was Chris Lomas, who has successfully transitioned from a greenkeeping role to the position of general manager at Worpleston.

Chris was formerly a head greenkeeper, even attaining his Master Greenkeeper certificate, before switching "from poacher to gamekeeper", as he so eloquently put it.

At present, Chris' journey is rare among the greenkeeping fraternity, but we think it will become increasingly common.

Chief among the tools to aid those who want to make this transition is the ASQ L5 Diploma in Golf Club Management, which we launched last year alongside the GCMA and the PGA. You'll recall us talking about this new qualification earlier in the year, and I would urge anyone who is interested in pursuing that career path to head to the GCMA website for more details, or get in contact with our Learning and Development

team. More greenkeepers in positions of authority at golf clubs will only help to raise the reputation of the greenkeeping profession.

It's a profession that continues to take huge strides forwards, and as the curtain comes down on BIGGA's 31<sup>st</sup> year, we are taking the opportunity to ask what the future holds for greenkeeping.

How can drone technology improve your course? What will the turf of the future look like? Will robotic mowers lead to reduction in staffing levels, or will it allow greenkeepers to concentrate on other, oft-neglected tasks?

The world's becoming a larger, more complicated place, and we're all running just to keep up. Those who ignore the changes, hoping they simply go away, will get left behind. Those who embrace the future and partake in the incredible education and networking opportunities made available through BTME, Continue to Learn and the other education opportunities available, will form the future of this fantastic industry and will be successful in attaining their own professional and personal goals.

Merry Christmas everyone. I hope you have a great festive period and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, where we will continue to strive to make Greenkeeper International the best and most comprehensive publication within the entire turf management industry.

# In this Issue

## Our contributors

### 26 Alan Smith

For 40 years Alan and his deputy, Graham Hipkin, have called Clacton-on-Sea, on the Essex coast, home. They've both seen a huge amount of change within the greenkeeping industry, and we spoke to them about where they see the industry going and the challenges to be faced in the near future.



### 34 Peter Todd

The relocation of Royal Norwich Golf Club to a new site at Weston Park caused waves across the golf industry for its ambition and scale. At the centre of it all stands estates manager Peter, who previously oversaw the development of the Nicklaus Ryder Cup PGA Centenary course at Gleneagles and the London Club.



### 42 Craig Cameron

When Craig made the move from Suffolk to St Leon-Rot in Germany, he took with him an eagerness to utilise drone cameras to get an aerial view of the world. He explained how this technology has proved incredibly useful when assessing the state of the course and other important tasks.



### 48 Maurice Hammond

New technologies and challenges mean that health and safety is changing. Maurice is managing director of BIGGA partner Xact, which provides members with advice on health and safety obligations. In this month's edition he discusses whether Brexit will have an impact upon current legislation.



## Featured this month

**26 Times have changed**  
Greenkeeping has come a long way in 40 years, but what does the future hold?

**30 The dawn of the robot**  
Remote controlled and robotic mowers could soon be standard on every course

**34 Building the future**  
How a greenkeeper is at the centre of one of golf's largest construction projects

**38 The evolution of a turfgrass**  
In the face of changing practices, what will the turf of the future look like?

**42 Eyes in the sky**  
Cameras attached to aerial drones are quickly becoming a vital tool out on the course

**48 A safe and healthy Brexit**  
When the UK leaves the European Union, how will health & safety be affected?

**50 BTME 2018 Preview**  
A look at some of the partners who will be heading to BTME next month

**56 Bringing the heath back to Frilford**  
A closer look at this Golf Environment Award winner

**58 A golfing great forged from ice - John Deere**  
How Gleneagles was sculpted by glaciers and man

**60 Can you avoid your 'phate? - Indigrow**  
Phosphate or phosphite? The conversation about these plant stimulants heats up



The latest greenkeeping news

# Newsdesk

## BIGGA photographic competition 2017:

# The winner

Newsdesk

## The 11 other calendar images





# An image of two deer, playing in heather and basking in early morning sunshine

## beside the 6th green at Stoneham Golf Club in Hampshire, has been selected as the winner of the BIGGA Photographic Competition 2017.

Golf courses are spectacularly beautiful places, where the natural world so often comes into close proximity with greenkeepers as they go about their daily duties.

And if you're lucky, you may just have a camera handy to snap that precious moment.

Such was the case with Mike Ray (above), a greenkeeper at

Stoneham, who spotted these two deer one quiet morning this summer.

Mike, 20, quickly snapped the deer with his smartphone camera, and submitted the image to the annual BIGGA Photographic Competition, where it was this month proclaimed as the winner, from more than 300 separate entries.

"I've never entered anything like this before, so to win is absolutely awesome," said Mike. "I'd got a good reaction to the picture when I put it on Twitter, so I thought I might have a chance, but I never actually thought I would win."

The deer are often seen around the heathland course at Stoneham, but are rarely caught on camera. So when Mike was preparing to mow the 7th tee at around 7am and he spotted the deer, he sneaked up on them and was able to snap this image before they darted away.

Mike's photograph was so popular that of the 20 finalists selected to go before members, it received more than 23% of the votes.

Eleven other photographs were also selected from 20

finalists, narrowed down by a panel at BIGGA House, and these images will comprise the BIGGA Calendar 2018.

You will have received the calendar as part of your Greenkeeper International pack this month, complete with Mike's winning image for August and on the front.

The prize for winning is a GoPro Hero5 action camera and Mike will also receive a framed print of his photograph, to be presented during the Welcome Celebration at BTME 2018.

The other entries that have been selected for the BIGGA calendar are featured below.



July



Darren Chisholm, Castle Stuart Golf Links

September



Paul Connolly, Ralston Golf Club

October



Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar Golf Links

November



Jake Austin, Hankley Common Golf Club

December



Dale Housden, Hollywood Golf Club

# This month @BIGGALtd



**@ethicalin**  
An excellent day working with @BIGGALtd today. #workplacewellbeing



**@Kitsonn**  
Bunkers getting a trim and sand being redistributed @rmsgc\_course @RoyalMSGC



**@BWhybrow**  
@garonparkgolf @AusOpenGolf @dhardmanturf 2nd practice day courses looking fantastic 🇺🇸🇦🇺



**@jonwood1978**  
#Irrigationupgrade well under way, nice to see #turf going back down #attentiontodetail only another 630 odd to go #Infinitysprinklers #future #CastleCourse @TheHomeofGolf



**@chloe\_gall**  
First week at work was a good one 🇺🇸🇦🇺🇳🇵 #Greenkeeping #NewZealand #GulfHarbour CountryClub



**@avrogreenkeeper**  
@BIGGALtd If only all golf clubs did Green Chairman's like ours. Victor Tarr carrying on for another year. Working in all weather conditions giving us a helping hand



**@rpgcgreens**  
Thanks to the senior section @RothleyPark, great to receive a letter of appreciation for the work the greenstaff do #golf @BIGGALtd

# At the cutting edge

**BIGGA's phenomenally-successful general session returns to BTME next year, with a stellar announcement of leading names within the turf management industry confirmed to take part.**

Sitting in conversation with returning host Naga Munchetty will be:

Kenny Mackay, Director of Courses and Grounds at The Wentworth Club;

Darren Baldwin, Head of Playing Surfaces at Tottenham Hotspur FC;

Stuart Kerrison, Head Groundsman at Essex County Cricket Club;

Keith Kent, RFU Head Groundsman, based at Twickenham.

For Kenny, 2017 marked an especially exciting time in his career as Wentworth unveiled comprehensive changes to the West Course in time for the BMW PGA Championship. All 18 greens were stripped of the old turf and fitted with a sub-air system, while nine greens were rebuilt. Every

bunker was also redesigned and reconstructed, with 29 removed completely.

Likewise, Darren is undertaking a massive project as construction of the brand new Tottenham Hotspur stadium takes place. May saw the final match played at White Hart Lane as Spurs hosted Manchester United, and former Premier League Groundsman of the Year Darren will discuss how the new pitch will be just as state-of-the-art as the stadium itself.

Entitled 'Cutting Edge Turf Management', the session will be held within Harrogate Convention Centre's Royal Hall at 8.30am on Wednesday 24 January.

The event is free to attend and all are welcome, with no need to book tickets for what is certain to be a fascinating morning of conversation.



## Surrey Bowl

**The 2017 Surrey Bowl final was played at Foxhills for the second year running.**

Derek Cunliffe and Charlie Simpson faced Ian Morrison and Keith May in the finals of this annual competition.

A fantastic match was played over the Longcross Course, which was in very fine condition.

Stephen Alabaster, Around the Green correspondent for Surrey, said: "In an exciting encounter, Derek and Charlie did not want to relinquish their title very easily. In fact, they wanted to retain the

trophy so badly it took Ian and Keith three extra holes to finally win the competition."

The Surrey section would like to give its thanks to Foxhills for hosting the finals again and to Dave Wyborne and his team for setting the course up so well. Thanks also went to Roger Tydeman and Lewis Birch who again organised and ran a superb event through the year.



The Surrey Bowl finalists

# The Burstead fire



**The Burstead Course Manager Philip Allibon has thanked those who came to the aid of his team after the club's maintenance facility was destroyed in a fire during November.**

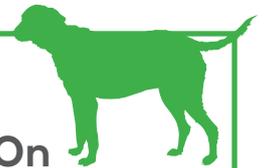
"I got a call saying the sheds were on fire, and by the time I got there at 1am, there were eight fire engines trying to put it out. Most of my working career was in that building and to lose it all, I was quite emotional."

Following the fire, Neil Peachy from Tuckwells and the greenkeeping team from Orsett offered a helping hand, loaning the Burstead team machinery to ensure they could continue maintaining the course.



# Dogs

On Course



**Name:** Sid

**Age:** 2

**Owner:** Jon Gamble

**Course:** Welshpool

**Breed:** Border collie

**Favourite treat:** Sausages and chicken

**Favourite spot:** In the passenger seat of our John Deere gator

**Naughtiest moment:** Putting his mucky paws on a lot of golfers

**My dog is happiest when...**

He loves nothing more than running and would beat Forrest Gump hands down!

**If you know a dog we should feature, email [karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk)**



Newsdesk

## From knowledge to networking

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23-25 January 2018 | Harrogate Convention Centre

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[btme.org.uk](http://btme.org.uk)





# Across the Board

George Barr | Worthing | Course Manager

**Winter is here, and at Worthing we have a really big project going on, reconstructing all our bunkers. We are really proud of the 36-hole facility we have at Worthing, with one course built for Harry Varden, the other for Harry Colt.**

Tom Mackenzie is helping us redesign the original Harry Colt course, bringing back some of the old features, while also bringing it up to date.

Those old designers, such as Varden and Colt, their work is timeless, and I think greenkeepers are the same. The fundamentals of what goes into creating a good course will never change. Do the basics right and you will get a good course. There are always new ideas, but these seem to go in cycles, and we always come around to the need to have sound fundamentals.

As a course manager, I'm only as good as the guys and girls who work for me, and I'm only able to be on the BIGGA Board of Directors because I have a team who I can leave and trust to do the job.

I first came on the board in 1991, having always been one of those guys that got involved in committees my whole career. I'd been on the West of Scotland committee, and when I came south I got involved with the Sussex section. But I guess that's just who I am, as I'm still running the five-a-side football team at 60 years of age. Then one of the board members stood down and I got proposed as a replacement.

I was lucky enough to be on the board when we built BIGGA's

headquarters. To get everyone working together to get the funding for that was fantastic and I believe that's one of our biggest achievements in the last 30 years. You felt we had taken a huge step from being a small organisation to one that had a functioning, professional headquarters.

Another of my favourite memories was The Open in 1999, when we got to take a picture with Paul Lawrie and the Claret Jug after he won. I've volunteered at more than 20 Opens, and I can't wait to go back next year.

I also think having a massively successful BTME and a stable business has made a huge difference to the association.

I have attended every single BTME from the start, and I've seen it grow. I've made some great friends who I otherwise wouldn't see. I go to the Turf Managers'

Conference every year, which is something I still really appreciate. I have been all over the world to other conferences, and nothing even touches BTME in terms of camaraderie and exchanging ideas. It's a great thing.

One of the good things about the sections and regional structure is it keeps everybody communicating. Guys are constantly organising things, and committees are working together, and it is the association that provides that opportunity. When I started, almost all our events were golfing trips, but that's changed and these days it's more about education and mutual networking.

These events all make a difference and stop people from becoming isolated. I'm thankful that through my time on the board I've been able to give something back to the industry that's been so kind to me.



Bunker renovation at Worthing

# 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





# Ecology Roundup

GI Ecology sponsored by Rigby Taylor



James Hutchinson | BIGGA Sustainability Executive

Ecology



Background:  
A red kite at  
Frilford Heath

Top to bottom:

Golf Les Iles

Ecopile at  
Eastham Lodge

Ecopile at  
Scotsraig

Montrose a  
year ago

Montrose today

Tussock Moth at  
Westerham

## First off - the Golf Environment Awards finalists have been named!

Massive congratulations to the final 12 as it really is a special place to be and I wish the best of luck to you all. There appears to be some smashing eco projects on the go and we are looking forward to seeing the hard work the greenkeepers have been undertaking at the awards ceremony, to be held in Harrogate the week of BTME in January.

Right, let's crack on - Golf Les Iles, Brissogne, over in north west Italy, is thinking of its critters onsite, as this snap shows. The team is leaving decaying timber close to wetlands for overwintering amphibians and anything else which wants to use it - great work guys!

Still with ecopiles, take a look at this fizzer from Scotsraig; I'd hazard a guess there are hedgehogs galore in there.

Or what about Eastham Lodge's night-time corker?

Westerham sent us this beautiful pale tussock moth caterpillar they found - ain't it a beauty?

Do you remember the Montrose feature a few years back, entitled 'Short ears and a vanishing golf course'? They spoke about their constant fight with the wind and waves and the erosion of the course. I had the honour of being shown around recently by Montrose's very own nature guru, Les Rae, and I have some sad news to report - nature appears to be winning the battle. The sea is nibbling away at the course and another few metres has disappeared into the water. If anyone has a spare 5 million quid, can it be sent to one of the oldest courses in Scotland to help with sea defence?

A happy note to end with, and during a visit to Frilford Heath, Sid Arrowsmith MG and I were honoured enough to see a red kite milling over the course. It wasn't so long ago that there were only a few breeding pairs left in Wales, with none in the rest of the UK. But guess what? Because of great effort by conservationists and the RSPB, there are now 1,600 breeding pairs - how ace is that?

Send your sightings to @Ecology1BIGGA or james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk

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# Around the Globe

Dean Baker CGCS | Burlington Golf and Country Club, Canada

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

It's big! Canada is the country with the second largest land mass in the world. It is very diverse from east to west, north to south. I could write a book on Canada. Some may think getting across Canada by vehicle would take hours; it actually takes six long days, from east to west.

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

Historic in our terms, in that Burlington is a 1922 Stanley Thompson design. It is a great walker's course at 6,500 yards, obviously no carts back then. With a minimal amount of equipment and technology, Stanley used what he had for topography and did a fine job. Very similar to old European courses.

## How does greenkeeping in your country vary from the UK?

In North America, there is a tendency to maintain from fence line to fence line. It became very excessive through the 1970-80s and then the golf recession hit. This initiated, what I believe to be a necessary reality check on what really should be maintained.

Canadian regulations for chemicals have restrictions similar to Europe. This is a good thing as it makes us think more agronomically, in terms of growing and maintaining healthy turf.

## What is the best part of living in your country?

Canada is vast! The landscape changes with every province. Canadian people are a strong part of why we are such a wonderful country. We are very patriotic but in a quieter way. Let's enjoy life and not complain too much. There is good healthcare too.

## What is the worst?

The climate can get crazy. In Southern Ontario (Toronto area), we can see summers in the high 30°C, with winters -20°C. This means people and turf need pretty thick skin.

## How does the weather affect your work?

As mentioned, turf has pretty thick skin when it comes to the weather. The evolution of grasses at BGCC is close to 100 years. Some



Clubhouse Bay View

modifications have been made, such as greens sodded to bentgrass. Most of the course has been able to adapt. Cultural practices have us trying to grow more bent than native Poa, but with Mother Nature that doesn't always work. The key is whatever wants to grow naturally, keep it healthy and keep it consistent. Grass is a wonderful thing; varieties often do mix and still give you great surfaces. Our classic example, Poa and bent.

In Ontario during the summer heat, we keep a steady pace and drink lots of water. In the winter cold, we bundle up!

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

In most cases, probably the same. On land we see coyote, fox, squirrels, rabbits, big healthy skunks and raccoons. In the air we

Clubhouse on Canada Day





have redtail hawks, eagles, herons, robins, blue jays, cardinals, orioles, cormorants, woodpeckers and the not so lovable Canada goose, who leave their mark everywhere!

**What is your club management structure like?**

Burlington is a private shareholder membership. Our chief operating officer reports directly to a club represented board. The team consists of a head golf professional, course superintendent, food & beverage manager and controller of administration. The 1,540 members consist of golfers (755), curlers (595) and clubhouse members (190).

**What is the public perception of golf in your country?**

It would be considered a game for all ages. Golf is actually the #1 participated sport in Canada. Over 5.7 million Canadians play golf, with over 2,400 golf courses. Everyone thinks it would be hockey.

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

I have always been interested in looking outside my back yard. I was also intrigued with Europe's own diversity, from country to country.

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

Communication! It's key to building a good team and also essential in maintaining the relationship between turf managers and membership.



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Kirk Richmond, Course Manager, Tiburón GC

# GI Talking Heads

Each month we ask BIGGA members the question that's on everyone's mind

## How are you dealing with casting earthworms?

Talking Heads



**Anthony McGeough**

Head Greenkeeper

Richmond (Yorks)

Northern

**A massive question, and in all honesty I don't think I am.**

**Firstly, I have been altering the cultural practices on my tees and greens for the last two years. We knew the changes were coming, and I wanted to try and get ahead of the game by trying out some alternative methods of maintaining surface quality.**

I have also changed my summer fertiliser programme to soluble straights, mainly ammonium sulphate. The reason behind the switch was to increase the acidity of the surface. I also use ferrous sulphate through the autumn and winter months.

I now topdress with straight sand, which will hopefully aggravate the casting worms. Regular grooming, verticutting and brushing removes the organic matter food source, and these seem to have had a positive effect on castings. The greens have remained clear in the main, with just the odd cast on each

green, which will be switched off each morning.

But — and this is a big but — my surrounds, fairways and tees are a different story. In the picture above you can see a clear line where my sprayer overlaps onto a surround. It is my intention to start treating my surrounds and tees the same as my greens.

My maintenance budget is tight and my staffing levels are slim, which doesn't allow for me to extend the programme to these areas and they are a bit of a mess. I use iron but only in the most concentrated areas. We brush regularly and cut when it's dry — which isn't very often in the north of England!

But most importantly, I have been making the membership aware of the problem and hopefully educating them enough to understand the situation and that there is no quick fix.



**Christopher Stilgoe**

Head Greenkeeper

Great Barr

Central England

**We have always tried to avoid chemical controls for earthworms wherever possible as I have always been conscious of what else has been affected by the active ingredient in the products I am applying.**

Our tees are more susceptible to casting worms than other areas, so in the past if there was an abundance of worm casts we would use Carbendazim.

But as this is no longer available, our options are severely restricted.

We aim to box off clippings on greens, tees, collars and approaches and have found this

does help, but we still do get some worm casts on tees and approaches.

We aim to remove all casts with canes or brushing before mowing tees and greens to minimise smearing and damage to cylinders.

I am aware of products that, although not sold as worm controls, may have the side effect of controlling or suppressing worm activity, but we are reluctant to use these products at Great Barr as they are not authorised for that purpose.



### Dominic Lewis

Course Manager  
Hadley Wood  
South East

Having only started in my current position in April this year, I cannot compare the current amount of worm activity to previous years.

What I do know is that there is a lot of worm activity on areas such as irrigation lines across fairways. This, I assume, is from when the irrigation was put in. It must have been dug out and some different soil used to back fill.

I am also seeing a lot of casts on the fronts and edges of the tees. These are the parts of the teeing ground that are rarely used and have a lot higher levels of organic matter in them. Knowing this doesn't help me now, but will ensure we go a bit more aggressive in future years on the reduction in organic matter.

What this means at the moment is that we do a lot more swishing than we would like. We have to swish tees on a daily basis and before mowing. Luckily, we have been able to afford some very good out-front brushes for the tees, approaches and fairway mowers, which help greatly.

We have also tried a brush to go behind the tractor, which was stiff enough to brush worm casts off. It takes about 2.5 hours to do 11 hectares of fairways and approaches. This was a great help for presentation as well as it takes the dew away, so that could be a benefit.

As we are unable to control worms the 'old fashioned way', our approach is to make the surface and the top of the soil profile a little more unfavourable for the worms. We are doing this by using iron mixed with wetting agent and we have also been trialling some high sulphur products, from which we have seen some improvement. How long these measures will be effective for is hard to tell.

I think ongoing the key is to be the control of organic matter, which could be a great benefit to the quality of the surfaces at many clubs.

Could the loss of Carbendazim be positive for the industry?



### Jim Fancey

Head Greenkeeper  
Southwick Park  
South West & South Wales

Casting earthworms are a big problem for us at Southwick Park. Tees and fairways are the main areas of concern, with heavy casting causing many issues such as smearing and loss of grass coverage, weed infestation and extra downtime cleaning and sharpening cutting units.

I always brush tees before a cut during the winter months to disperse any castings and to help protect the cutting units.

I don't have the resources and time at the moment to box off when cutting fairways, but I always dry cut them this time of year.

With the withdrawal of Carbendazim, I will be turning my attention to more aeration and topdressing on the tees using an angular specification.

We have a lot of shady fairways and tees around the course that can become very

damp causing areas of heavy casting. I have embarked on an intense tree management programme over the last two years to improve sunlight and air movement to some of these areas, with the added hope that this will reduce castings.

In terms of chemical control, I use soluble iron on the fairways in the spring and autumn as a turf hardener. I believe this also has an impact on worm activity in terms of an agitation, but it is only short term.

Time will tell in the next few years on how much the withdrawal of Carbendazim will impact on golf course presentation, playability and management.

What's important now as an industry is that we communicate with our members, management and committees regarding the potential impact and the cultural practices needed going forward.

# Are you looking for more information?



Download a copy of the Earthworms leaflet and poster from the BIGGA website or scan the QR code to find out more





# YGGC

## Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Jack Hetherington | Course Manager | Alnwick Castle

### During September, Close House hosted The British Masters.

Assisting the home greenkeeping team of staff, volunteers were brought in to help with course maintenance for the week of the competition. The Young Greenkeepers' Committee's chairman Jack Hetherington was one of those volunteers.

Having The British Masters in the North East and on my doorstep was fantastic, I knew from the announcement that it was something I wanted to be involved in. During the weeks leading up to the event, the build-up was great. Experiencing that and then arriving onsite to soak in the atmosphere made for my best experience of tournament support to date.

The volunteers arrived on the Sunday evening to meet with Course Manager Brian Clark for a tour of the site. From the moment we set foot on the course it was obvious everyone was blown away by its condition, layout and the surrounding views. The home team had done an amazing job.

The first morning set up was a trial run for the shotgun ProAm start on the Wednesday and the second morning set up was a trial run for the first morning of competition golf on the Thursday. Both mornings were relaxed, which is good for getting used to your equipment and working on the course in the dark.

The volunteers were involved in all aspects of course set up, from hole changing in the morning to divotting in the evening. My role for the week was hand-cutting greens.

The first morning of competition golf, I was expecting an increase in pressure and urgency but it didn't come and the same relaxed environment was maintained. Morning set up was complete, greens performance was dialled in and breakfast was waiting back in the maintenance facility.

Providing tournament support for a club is definitely something

I would recommend for others, especially young greenkeepers. During my week at Close House I experienced many things that I wouldn't normally, and I am now a better asset to my club because of that. I have networked with over 50 greenkeepers, seen and used the latest machinery on offer, discussed methods and techniques used to maintain many different courses, but most importantly helped out a club local to me during a major event.

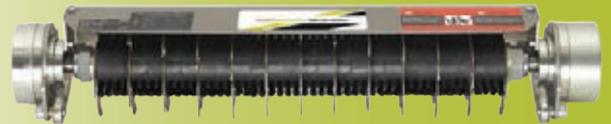
Volunteering work doesn't have to only be for a big event such as this. Every golf course has a competition that it works towards and every volunteering opportunity will provide you with a different learning experience.

The Young Greenkeepers' Committee will host the Young Greenkeepers' Conference on Wednesday 24 January from 10.30am-2pm at the Majestic Hotel. The Young Greenkeepers' Committee will also be presenting the seminar 'Different routes through the industry' on Tuesday 23 January at Continue To Learn.



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## Environment awards finalists revealed

**The Sports Turf Research Institute has revealed the finalists for the 2018 Golf Environment Awards (GEA), with BIGGA members comprising all but one of the nominees.**

The GEA provides the platform from which the golf industry can demonstrate environmental excellence in all its forms. This has been demonstrated by past finalists and can range from relatively simple but effective projects, to grand scale schemes.

Set up over 20 years ago, the Golf Environment Awards are highly regarded in the industry and for 2018 have been joined by The R&A as lead partner.

Golf Environment Awards judge, Sophie Vukelic, said: "This is my third year of judging the awards

and it is not getting any easier choosing the finalists. We had an outstanding array of applications this year, with familiar faces and exciting newcomers to the awards. I hope you agree that we have some magnificent finalists, who showcase the highest environmental stewardship in golf.

"I'd also like to congratulate and commend those clubs and individuals who didn't quite make it to the final, you shouldn't be disheartened. Keep on shining a good light on golf and thank you for allowing me to visit your courses."

Over 25 longlisted clubs were visited earlier in the year by STRI ecology consultant and GEA judge, Sophie Vukelic, and whittled down to 12 finalists.



The finalists will attend the awards night in January, held during the week of BTME 2018, where they will be vying for the honours of Environmental Golf Course of the Year, Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year, Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year or the Operation Pollinator award.

This year, for the first time, all finalists will receive entry into the Foundation Award in Amenity Horticulture course, recognised by BASIS, and the winners will enjoy a European golf and environment trip to Portugal.

**The Golf Environment Awards 2018 finalists are:**

### **Operation Pollinator**

Jaey Goodchild, Bowood  
Tom Freeman, Kingsdown  
Michael Halliday, Ufford Park  
John McLoughlin, Warrington

### **Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year**

Jon Keepen, Cumberwell Park  
Stephen Thompson, John O'Gaunt  
Les Rae, Montrose Links  
Phil Stain, Notts

### **Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year**

Abergele  
Minchinhampton  
Ipswich  
La Moye

The winners will be announced at the GEA ceremony on Wednesday 24 January 2018 at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate.

## Alex James, 2017 award winner

"It is clear to see all the hard work that goes into these awards and the dedication in ensuring we recognise we all have a responsibility to protect the environments that we are lucky enough to manage. I was guilty of thinking the awards are mainly about bird boxes and bug hotels, but it is much more than that.

"As the awards continue to grow, I look forward to reading about this year's entries and the amazing work that is happening. Good luck everyone!"



Read more on page 56

John Keepen,  
Cumberwell Park



# Advance Grass Solutions

Following the announcement that Countrywide Farmers is exiting the turf and amenity market, the company has transferred its T&A division to an alternative provider.

Advance Grass Solutions will take over management of the T&A division from its base in Reading, Berkshire.

Sam Honeyborne, managing director at AGS, said: "We are excited by the opportunity that this new business presents and confident of a seamless transition from Countrywide, as we continue our growth plan in the UK amenity sector.

"The T&A team has made excellent progress in the past five years and has adapted to suit the evolution of the market, with the increased customer appetite for long term agronomic support.

"I would like to thank Countrywide for the help and guidance through this transition and assure our loyal customers and suppliers of service continuity throughout."

AGS will provide a UK-exclusive range of high quality turf maintenance products to include Sustane, Growth Products and Polyon in addition to established brands such as DLF Seeds, Farmura, Aquatrols and Bathgates.

Sam added: "Haulage and delivery has been problematic in recent years in the industry and most of our competitors presently outsource this requirement. Initially we are committed to delivering directly to our customers in the south but are aiming for national coverage by 2020.

"This will incur extra costs but will greatly improve our customer service and that is our number one priority"



Growth Products has confirmed AGS as its UK exclusive distributor for amenity turf, horticulture and speciality agriculture.

CEO Clare Reinbergen was confident about the future and said: "We are extremely impressed with the AGS business plan and look forward to supporting Sam and the company's key objectives.

"AGS's field based technical team is undoubtedly one of the most comprehensively qualified and experienced units in the UK and will continue its reputation for sound advice and product recommendation."

Sam Honeyborne was also pleased to announce that Sustane Natural Fertiliser's market share in the UK continues to grow and has prompted the recent appointment of Russell Riley as Sustane's UK Business Development Manager.

AGS is presently developing a high quality website and this, in addition to the AGS 2018 Product Guide, will be available in the near future.



## Ask Dr Mumford

With Colin Mumford, Bayer Turf Solutions

Do you need advice with your turf problems?  
Email [info@bigga.co.uk](mailto:info@bigga.co.uk)

### Why do products get removed from the market?

There are two main factors contributing to the withdrawal of products from the market. One is that the demand for a product has declined and it may no longer be commercially viable, but this is rare. The most common basis for removal is the revocation of an active ingredient (AI), because it is imposed by the regulatory authorities.

Without approval from the appropriate regulatory body, which in this case is the Chemical Regulations Division, products can't legally be used.

If the authorisation for an AI is removed, it could be because traces of it are found in the environment which are higher than the 'Maximum Residue Limit' (MRL), which is the greatest amount of AI that's permitted to be found in areas such as soil and ground water.

This is why best practice in product use is important, because overuse or misuse of pesticides can result in thresholds set by regulators being exceeded.

The decision to revoke an active ingredient isn't taken lightly, and the authorities rely heavily on science-based analysis, where trials are conducted, and samples are extensively tested to ensure that the results are reliable.

The manufacturer is informed of the news as soon as it's put in the public realm by the regulators, and the manufacturer will then notify its customers and offer advice and guidance.

Revocations can happen at any time, and notice periods can vary, this is why it's crucial to develop products that will surpass regulatory requirements to ensure their longevity in the turf management industry.

The real safeguards for effective chemistry are greenkeepers, and therefore it's vital to employ best practice on golf courses, to manage turf disease preventatively, rather than curatively, using chemistry responsibly, and as a last resort.

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



New machinery releases

# Innovation

## E-Z-GO ELiTE

The E-Z-GO ELiTE Series is the next generation of golf cars. In collaboration with Samsung, the new range features SDI lithium technology. With high-efficiency, zero-maintenance battery power and an unprecedented five-year, unlimited-amp-hour warranty, ELiTE Series vehicles give you the lowest operating costs the industry has ever seen.

# ELiTE

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### Zero-maintenance batteries

Samsung SDI lithium batteries do not require any upkeep, meaning no more watering, terminal post check-ups and cleaning. Zero-maintenance means more time spent out on the course.

### Cost-saving efficiency

Samsung lithium cells are loaded into a single battery pack. This means they use less energy, charge in half the time and require less out-of-wall power.

An ELiTE golf car is 56% more efficient than lead acid competitors, saving considerable amount of time and money.

### Lightweight

With batteries half the size and a fraction of the weight of lead acid, ELiTE vehicles weigh hundreds of pounds less, which protects the turf that you work hard to maintain by preventing unnecessary damage.

### Consistent Performance

Lithium technology is a reliable power source that doesn't fade over time. ELiTE vehicles will give you all the acceleration and hill-climbing power needed for a superior customer experience on your golf course.

### Eco-friendly

Achieve your club's environmental goals with ELiTE golf cars. Driven by zero-emissions and greener battery technology, ELiTE vehicles use less energy which will save your club money, whilst protecting the environment.



Industry Update

## Turf contractor in administration

Souters Sports, which has completed projects at venues such as Musselburgh Links and North Wales GC, entered administration on 3 November, with the loss of jobs across sites at Cumbernauld in Scotland and Knutsford in Cheshire.

The business provides turf for sporting venues across the UK, with services including construction, reconstruction, drainage, aeration and maintenance.

Paul Dounis of RSM Restructuring Advisory said: "Following a difficult trading position,

measures have been taken to protect assets and maximise realisations for creditors.

"Regrettably due to viability and the seasonality of work, we have had to make the majority of the workforce redundant and we are assisting all employees with their claims.

"We have however retained a small number of employees to complete certain high-profile contracts and to assist the administrators in their duties."





3

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\* Externally endorsed testing. Results determined comparing the RXV vs. the Precedent and Drive AC models. Results vary according to course terrain and conditions.

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0121 698 8046 / 43

Greenkeepers  
Legal Assistance  
0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling  
Helpline  
0333 000 2082

## Membership

# THE MAGNIFICENT TEN ANNOUNCED

**They say everything's bigger in Texas, and that even stands true for the 2018 BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show, sponsored by Bernhard & Co.**

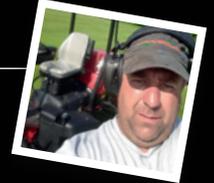
The 2018 Golf Industry Show will feature the theme "Connect. Discover. Elevate." and more than 550 exhibitors are expected to fill the trade show floor of San Antonio's Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, which has undergone a \$325m expansion since the last time the GIS was on site, in 2015.

The BIGGA Delegation will travel together to Texas for the GIS, where they will enjoy fantastic networking opportunities and hands-on access to the latest developments and technology in course management.

## THE BIGGA DELEGATION 2018

### Stuart Adams

**Position:** Head greenkeeper  
**Club:** Cardigan Golf Club



A member of the FTMI class of 2016, Stuart has been in the greenkeeping industry for 23 years, with 16 of those as a BIGGA member. He was a runner up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award in 1996 and this year took up his first head greenkeeper role at Cardigan Golf Club.

### Craig Berry

**Position:** Course supervisor  
**Club:** St Andrews Links Trust  
**Age:** 31



Beginning his career at Lundin Golf Club, where he would spend nine years, Craig joined the St Andrews Links Trust in June 2014 on the Old Course. He was a vital part of the greens team during The Open 2015, when he slept in a tent beside the course for nine days straight. In June 2016 he was appointed course supervisor on the Eden, Strathtyrum and Balgove.



## James Bonfield

**Position:** Course manager  
**Club:** The Hertfordshire Golf Club  
**Age:** 39



James is actually course manager at two clubs, The Hertfordshire and Mill Green, in addition to acting as regional manager for five other courses within the Crown Golf stable. Through his hard work, his combined team at both clubs won the Crown Greenkeeping Team of the Year award in 2016.

## Thomas Jacques

**Position:** Greenkeeper  
**Club:** Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club  
**Age:** 33



A varied career has taken Thomas from Limerick in Ireland, to Scioto in Ohio, to the STRI as a research analyst, and finally back into greenkeeping at Royal Lytham & St Annes. A talented cricketer, he was chosen for the R&A scholarship volunteer programme for The Open 2016 at Royal Troon.

## Richard Johnstone

**Position:** Course manager  
**Club:** Nairn Dunbar Golf Links  
**Age:** 35



Richard is returning to America a year after gaining a place on the TPC Sawgrass volunteer programme, during which he won the hole flag used at the championship by chipping on to the course's famous 17th hole. He has spent his entire career at Nairn Dunbar, being appointed to course manager in 2016.

## Jamie Martin

**Position:** Head greenkeeper  
**Club:** Gifford Golf Club  
**Age:** 40



A member of the Open Support Team for the past three years, Jamie is an active member of the association and is involved on section and regional committees, including holding the post of chairman. He started his career at Gifford, returning there as head greenkeeper after a 10-year stint at Royal Musselburgh.

## Tom Smith

**Position:** Head greenkeeper  
**Club:** Wickham Park Golf Club  
**Age:** 29



The 2018 chairman of the Young Greenkeepers Committee, Tom was formerly a mechanic with Hampshire Constabulary police force. He joined the greenkeeping industry in 2011 and is a two-time member of the BIGGA Open Support Team, at St Andrews in 2015 and Royal Birkdale in 2017.

## Timothy Lewis Sethi

**Position:** International member  
**Club:** Golfpark Zurichsee  
**Age:** 28



An R&A Scholar, Timothy was educated in Cornwall, before moving to Switzerland five years ago. He quickly settled in to life in the Alps, including taking up snowboarding, and is eager to use his experience within BIGGA to develop the greenkeeping industry within Switzerland.

## David Warner

**Position:** Assistant course manager  
**Club:** Woking Golf Club  
**Age:** 42



With 25 years' experience within the industry, David has worked in France, Australia, and the Surrey heathland belt. He volunteered at the British Masters at Close House this year, having been able to refocus his attention upon his career after helping raise his three girls.

## Andy Whyman

**Position:** Head greenkeeper  
**Club:** Pryors Hayes Golf Club  
**Age:** 31



Andy started working as a greenkeeper at a young age, helping his father Richard change holes and move markers at Bude and North Cornwall. In 2010 he volunteered at the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor, and secured his first head greenkeeper role in 2013, where he is now in charge of a 27-hole complex.





Graham Hipkin (left)  
and Alan Smith (right)

# 'Times have CHANGED'

Clacton-on-Sea's greenkeeping veterans look to the future

Karl Hansell, BIGGA



**A**lan Smith and Graham Hipkin are as close as you'll come in greenkeeping circles to soul mates.

In the sleepy Essex retirement community of Clacton, both have plied their trade on the town's course for 40 years, with Alan preceding Graham by just a few months.

Clacton-on-Sea is your regular golf club, with its own 125-year history, of which it is extremely proud.

Alan and Graham were both youngsters when they were hired as trainee greenkeepers, and they're now old timers.

Over the decades, they've seen an incredible amount of change, such as the loss of the old Butlins holiday camp, where a housing estate now stands. The course used to flood regularly during winter storms, but the construction of the housing estate necessitated the building of a sea wall, and these floods are a thing of the past.

Other fond memories include sliding 150 yards down the fairway when the 1st hole froze over one particularly harsh winter, almost 30 years ago.

Another time, the club was hosting a day of celebrations to mark Battle of Britain day when a plane from the nearby airfield crashed on to the club's practice ground.

They are the memories of a lifetime spent maintaining a course.

These are regular guys who have dedicated their lives to greenkeeping.

Greenkeeping has come a long way in that time, and we sat down to ask them what they believe the future holds for their industry.

"The job used to be a lot more physical back then," said Graham. "Over the past 40 years, without a doubt, the biggest change has been the improvements in machinery. We used to have the Ransomes Horn Triple, gang mowers pulled by an old Massey Ferguson tractor, an Allen Scythe to cut the long grass, and a petrol mower called an Antelope.

Continued over

"We'd been here four years before the first strimmer showed up, and I remember thinking 'wow'.

"But we now have a lease deal in place with Reesink and we have just got a turf iron from them. I can honestly say I believe it's the best thing I have ever seen on a golf course. We interchange between cutting and rolling and that not only keeps the speed high, it also allows the turf to be healthier. It won't be long before every club has one."

Alan added: "Without the machines, you can honestly say that we wouldn't be able to do the job. The course is so busy, and machinery allows us to get jobs done a lot quicker.

"I'm all for improvements in machinery, and the development of things like robot mowers is really interesting, as long as they don't take a job away from a greenkeeper."

In joining the industry, Alan was following in his father's footsteps — he had been head greenkeeper at Malden.

Now his son, Matt, also works at Clacton-on-Sea as a greenkeeper. But Alan doesn't strike you as the type of person that would allow his offspring to engage in a career if he didn't see a future in it.

"In the 1970s we had less staff, but numbers increased in the '80s and '90s, when we also got paid overtime," said Alan. "Today we have a small team and no paid overtime, but education has improved for greenkeepers, and that has helped.



The housing estate where the old Butlins Holiday camp once stood

"More respect is needed in these changing times for greenkeepers who work very hard for very little recognition. We take a lot of criticism from those that have no idea how a course is managed and it can be very stressful.

"I believe the future of greenkeeping will be bleak if we can't stop so many qualified greenkeepers from leaving the profession, and we need to encourage young people to look at greenkeeping as an excellent opportunity.

"Things such as the loss of chemicals, which we must accept we aren't going to get back, will make the job harder and harder. We will be putting less and less water on to the grass and will be aerating more and more.

"I think the time will soon come when I dig out my dad's old papers to see if there's anything in what he was doing that could help.

We may have to go back to the old practices, but it's going to be hard.

"Perhaps we have made a rod for our own back as expectations are high these days. We have set certain standards and golfers don't want to accept that these may not be achievable any more with the tools we have."

The machinery lease deal with Reesink Turfcare and a turf health programme with Farmura have helped, but as the resources available to greenkeepers continues to shrink, educating golfers will become increasingly important.

"Communication is a huge thing, and that's something we are so much better at these days," said Graham. "Let people know a month before you start some major work and they seem to appreciate it, rather than springing something upon them. It's like roadworks, if you know they're coming, it doesn't come as so much of a shock."

BIGGA will have an important role to play in this process, using the association's partnerships and authority to help members as they seek to educate golfers.

Alan said: "The recent posters that came out looking at the problem of earthworms are fantastic. We can explain everything to golfers, but sometimes they don't believe you. Whereas if it comes from an organisation like BIGGA, they tend to believe it more."

## Terry McConnell, general manager

"The boys have been here an amazing amount of time and you can look at the course and think they must be doing something right.

"Primarily we want to see a good course, but it doesn't just happen. I think it's dangerous sometimes as I'm interested in what's going on, but I have to be careful where interest becomes invasion. I shouldn't be out there telling the guys what to do, I haven't got a clue.

"If the green looks like it's been cut and it looks like it should, then I should be happy.

"People don't appreciate all the work that goes in under the ground. We look and want things to be nice and tidy, manicured and suchlike, but they have got to balance what I, with my non-horticultural head on, want to keep me happy. But I have also got to understand what they are trying to do."

One thing the turf industry will have no say in, however, is the weather, and that's going to cause its own difficulties as we face uncertain climate changes.

"When we first started there were winters when the ditches would be filled with beautiful snow, and the entire course would be covered in an amazing blanket. But that's a thing of the past and we haven't had snow like that for 25 years. The winters have significantly warmed up, and that's a fact."

Alan and Graham have had to come to terms with warmer winters, meaning the course remains open all year round. And the opening up of golf to all levels of society, not just the elite, means members want to get their money's worth — and that means playing golf 12 months a year.

Alan added: "I do think things could get a lot worse for greenkeepers."

"The pressure some of the greenkeepers get from members and committees, is it a surprise that

a lot of greenkeepers just chuck the towel in and go do a job that's less pressure for the same money?

"What clubs need to realise is that they have got to look after the good greenkeepers and encourage youngsters to get involved."

After 40 years in the industry, he also has some advice for the next generation of head greenkeepers.

He said: "You have got to be thick skinned in this trade, and you need the ability to take criticism from people who don't know as much as you do about the job. It's tough not to take it to heart, but as you get older you will become thicker skinned. Normally, talking and having a chat with the person is better, and we would much rather they came up to us and asked us the question, so we can explain what's going on."

"One thing that will never change is that a course manager needs to be hands on. You need to be out on the course, knowing what's going on."



### Clacton-on-Sea

#### Greens staff

Alan Smith — HGK

Graham Hipkin — DHGK

Matthew Smith — GK

Dorian Ansell — GK

Daniel Frost — GK

David Green — Part time

Clacton-on-Sea

# Golf BIC

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[btme.org.uk/golfbic](http://btme.org.uk/golfbic)

## As autonomous technology from the motor and agricultural industries filters down into the grounds care sector, remote controlled and robotic mowers will become more commonplace on golf courses.

Being such a small industry sector, grounds care will have to wait for these other major industries to produce the technology at an affordable cost, before adopting it.

And cost will be an issue. In today's climate, with many golf courses fighting against falling membership and local authorities under increasing financial constraints due to reduced government funding, where is the money coming from to pay the inevitable increased cost of these machines?

The most obvious examples of robotic mowers are the machines available that maintain household lawns. They require a wire to be placed around the boundary of the lawn and they mow in a totally random pattern within the wire boundary. Every time they sense the wire they reverse and drive in a different direction. The clippings are not collected, but mulched to provide additional nutrients to the soil. Brands include such

well-known names as John Deere, Bosch, Flymo, Robomow, Husqvarna and Honda.

Honda is a well-known presence in the robotics field, especially with Asimo, their humanoid robot, but their Miimo robotic lawnmower is probably the pick of this group. Sensors scan the environment at 360 degrees to detect obstacles and if they detect any solid object, the mower turns around. When the battery power falls to 30%, it's intelligent enough to navigate back to the recharging station.

Golf courses are ideally suited for autonomous mowing. They have defined areas and there are many hours in the day when there is no human traffic in the vicinity. Mapping these areas with GPS is relatively easy and the mapping tends not to change, unless a new feature is added to the course, such as a bunker.

All the major mowing machinery manufacturers are experimenting with autonomous mowers and, indeed, there are already fairway mowers that can start themselves, drive from the maintenance facility to the course, mow the fairway and return to the shed. They can be programmed to cut various patterns. Yet to be released on the market, we suspect that cost is a major limiting factor at present.

Cub Cadet is the only manufacturer that has released an autonomous mower specifically designed for golf course greens, the RG3 mower. On their website they claim that since its introduction in 2015, the RG3 has been operated, demonstrated and tested at over 24 courses in the USA, mowing more than 4.2 million square metres of greens in a variety of shapes, sizes, contours and grass types.

 Spider ILD02

 Honda Miimo



# THE DAWN OF THE ROBOT

Lubor Hladik, Dvorak

During that time, the RG3 has been proven to make the golf course maintenance staff at least 50% more productive during the critical course preparation hours, while providing unparalleled consistency across all greens.

With the advent of autonomous mowers, what is the future for the greenkeeper? The most obvious fear is redundancy, but here at Spider, we don't think that will be an issue. Most golf clubs run lean teams anyway, and there's never enough time to get everything done around the course. Autonomous mowers will free-up greenkeeping time and allow these other tasks to be accomplished.

When it comes to maintaining other areas on golf courses, such as steep banks and sloping areas of rough or around the edges of lakes and ponds, these are not really conducive to autonomous mowing. We have already experimented with GPS guided Spider mowers, but due to the nature of the terrain they work on, we have pulled back from using it.

Autonomous mowing is only as good as the mapping used to control the machine and the mapping is only as reliable as on the day that it took place. Areas that are not maintained regularly could have obstacles that were



not there on the day of mapping, such as badger setts, rabbit holes and fallen trees. It is vital in these situations that there's an operator close at hand to observe the terrain and operate the machine in the appropriate manner.

These areas have always been labour intensive and not particularly pleasant for the people doing the work. With health and safety becoming more important in the management of golf courses, the course manager and, indeed, the club management, are under more pressure than ever to look after the welfare of their team.

The industry has quite rightly outlawed the mower-on-a-rope solution and until recently the only alternative is to use brushcutters, which can be dangerous and uncomfortable for the operator in some situations.



Left: Spider in action  
Right: RG3 Mower

So, what can be done to help alleviate these issues?

The answer, we believe, is the use of remote-controlled mowers, where the operator controls the machine from a safe distance. Introduced in Europe in 2004, the Spider is a remotely operated, dedicated mower for maintaining steep slopes, and it created a new sector in the turf maintenance industry, almost overnight. Its primary role was to mow slopes and banks in safety, following a toughening of health and safety regulations across the industry.

Continued over

Remote controlled mowers

### Case Study: Old Head Golf Links

One of the golf courses to recognise the benefits of remote mowers is Old Head Golf Links, in the south west of Ireland.

Course Superintendent Neil Deasy said there were three main reasons why the club chose the Spider for this application.

“Productivity, playability and health and safety were the prime drivers behind the purchase of the Spider,” he said. “The 2nd fairway is a typical example of what we have to contend with in terms of slopes. The semi-rough areas to the sides of the fairway are over 40 degrees in some places with rescue areas below for wayward drives. This sloping semi-rough used to take two of the team a day and a half to trim with brush cutters; with the Spider it takes just 1½ hours!

“By mowing regularly, we can manage the grass, keeping it at 50mm, to ensure wayward balls can be found more easily and the speed of play kept to a sensible level.

“Finally, from a health and safety standpoint and operator comfort perspective, the Spider is in a class of its own. The operator can stand on level ground above the machine, so that means no stress on hip and knee joints. He’s not in contact with the mower, so there’s no vibration issues and

because he can operate it from as much as 50 metres away, there’s much reduced noise levels. Without a doubt it has been remarkable; we’ve definitely reduced the time devoted to maintaining these areas from a week to a single day of man hours.”



### Spider

The Spider 2 has four rotary blades which give a cutting width of 1.23 metres and has four-wheel drive and steering as standard, making it highly manoeuvrable. It also features a winch, meaning the machine can be ground anchored and, with the winch assisting, can tackle slopes up to 60 degrees.

In fact, this drive system is probably the most important feature of the mower in terms of productivity. Known as the ‘dancing step’, it allows mowing in any direction without complicated manoeuvring. With this travel system, the Spider mowers can move easily on a hillside or on waterlogged terrains. The dancing step makes the mowers very stable, manoeuvrable and gentle to terrain, since the Spider is not required to turn like tracked machines. Standard ride on mowers lose traction when turning on slopes of over 15 degrees and can become unstable, while the tracked mowers can cause severe damage to the turf, especially in wet or unstable conditions.

The ability to control the mower remotely is essential for safe mowing on steep hillsides and in dangerous areas. To use a brush cutter on steep slopes the operator has to stand in extremely awkward positions, putting strain on knee and ankle joints, twisting to move the implement in an arc while subject to noise and vibration. All this physically

demanding work and movement is eliminated, noise is dramatically reduced and there are no vibrations to worry about, because the operator is not in physical contact with the machine.

All the functions are at the operator’s fingertips. The controller can remotely start and stop the engine; set the desired speed; engage and disengage the mowing blades; adjust the cutting height; change direction and speed; select alternative operating frequency (on the controller); activate the winch and shut down the machine in an emergency.

Looking at the attributes of the Spider range, European course managers could now have a cost-effective solution to mowing difficult areas.



## Automated Managed Services: BigMow

**BigMow is the most powerful robotic mower in the world. It is a lightweight, quiet, cost and environmentally friendly automated alternative to conventional mowers.**

The BelRobotics BigMow can cover up to 2.5 hectares, so it can handle very large grass areas such as sports fields, golf courses and public areas, or private parks. Its low power consumption means that it beats all records for energy savings.

The BigMow's dimensions are 1.5m<sup>2</sup>. Weighing only 51kg, the robot emits only 58dB of sound. It has a minimum cutting height of 22mm to a maximum of 80mm. It travels at 3.6km/h and can easily navigate slopes up to a 45 per cent angle. It utilises a LiFePo4 rechargeable battery and has charging time of roughly 75 minutes. It has built in anti-theft technology and a track & trace system via SMS.

The robot mower has a 1,050mm cutting width and a total of 15 cutting blades that pulverises the grass into very fine particles. Allowing for a perfect cut every time and healthier greener grass areas. BigMow utilises an underground perimeter wire and GPS for navigating the designated area; the wire sends an electromagnetic signal recognised by a sensor on the robot.

The BigMow only requires five minutes' minimum daily maintenance, great for large areas and professional applications. It improves the quality of the grass and lets you make significant cost savings.

For more information, call 01462 676 222 or visit [www.automatedmanagementservices.com](http://www.automatedmanagementservices.com)



## John Deere's TANGO E5 Series II robotic mower

**John Deere's ultra-quiet TANGO E5 Series II robotic mower is designed to make life easier by maintaining lawns and amenity grass areas automatically, in sunshine or rain, and at any time of the day.**

TANGO mows in a random pattern within a boundary wire that's easy to install and is virtually invisible. It's also easy to move if the layout needs changing. As the mower moves around, smart technology means its navigation sensors detect the boundary wire, as well as any obstacles, and it changes direction completely automatically.

TANGO uses a lithium-ion battery that delivers enough power to cover grass areas up to 2200m<sup>2</sup> (about half an acre). When it's time to recharge, the mower also automatically heads for its electric docking station.

A large display screen and intuitive controls make it simple to programme the mower and to change the cutting schedule whenever required. A PIN-protected display ensures that the mower is tamper proof, and safety during operation is guaranteed — the blade stops automatically when the mower is tilted or lifted up.

A robotic mower cuts more frequently than a conventional mower, and the grass clippings go straight back into the lawn as a valuable fertiliser. The height of cut is adjustable from

19 to 102mm (¾ to 4in), and is easily changed by rotating the mower's blade protection shield. Slopes and inclines are also no problem for the TANGO, and an optional traction kit enables it to cope with gradients up to 36 per cent.





## Imagine being able to build a golf course from scratch.

Your old course has been sold off to property developers, so money isn't tight.

What would be on your wish list?

When Peter Todd joined Royal Norwich earlier this year, he did so first as a consultant, offering his 25 years' golf course management experience to the club.

It wasn't long before the club decided they needed a grow in and construction manager on a full-time basis during the construction phase, and Peter was enlisted.

Peter accepted the role as estates manager, coupled with a place on the club's management board, something that is rarely seen, but which could soon become more widespread across the country.

Royal Norwich is undertaking one of the most ambitious projects seen in the UK since the recession hit, as the 124-year-old club completed the £17m sale of its Hellesdon site in favour of a move to Weston Park.

In doing so, Peter is shaping the future of this course, and perhaps even laying down a blueprint for how greenkeepers will be treated in future.

First up was the maintenance facility, which has been designed by Peter with the assistance of an architect, and will cost £800,000 to complete.

Built using a reclaimed steel structure, the facility is in a prominent position at the entrance to the site. It will be shaded from view, but it puts the greenkeeping team front and centre.

The entrance to the facility is a glass double height lobby, allowing natural light to filter into the building.

There is a dedicated training room at the facility, where all the club's staff will come for education days and courses, breaking down the barriers between the staff who work inside, and those who are out on the course.



Left: Peter Todd, chatting with club members

Right: The plans for the new look Royal Norwich golf course

Importantly, the separate staff room also looks out over the 18th hole, allowing them to keep a close eye on the course.

It's a course which, despite being constructed on the site of the former Weston Park Golf Club, will be a completely new golfing layout on completion.

"When Royal Norwich was first built in 1893, golfers escaped the city to play in the countryside," explained Peter. "But as Norwich expanded, it became less and less peaceful and a road dividing the course that once carried just horses and carts when the course was built, now has artic lorries driving along it."

Royal Norwich greenkeeping team



# BUILDING THE FUTURE

How one greenkeeper is at the centre of one of the UK's largest golf course construction projects

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Royal Norwich Golf Club

"The members always knew this was a pretty good site for golf, and initial discussions about a move took place 11 years ago. But the recession brought that to a close, and it wasn't until the sale of the course went through earlier this year that the move was finally able to take place."

Having the estates manager on site at the earliest stage of construction has allowed Peter to interact with the designer, Ross McMurray of European Golf Design, to ensure the needs of the greenkeepers are met, as well as the needs of the golfers.

"Once I was on site, I have had discussions with Ross and we have amended some aspects of the design based on my recommendation to take into account things like shade patterns and changed selected sand bunkers to grassy hollows.

"Our plan for the turf is to have traditional browntop bent and fescue greens. Our sandy soils will naturally support fescues, which suits this East Anglian region as it records some of the country's lowest rainfall. When it's dry, it's very dry and so if you get a

drought, fescue is going to survive. We are working with nature, rather than against it.

"We're not only thinking about aesthetics during the build, but about the overall cost of running the club in the long term. I didn't want to saddle the club with a course that's too expensive to maintain, and in the process, we'll be giving the club a financial stability that they didn't have at the old site."

At an individual cost of between £50-£60,000, the construction of each green represents a formidable investment.

A relatively cheap smartphone app named Sun Seeker has allowed the team to chart the course of the sun across the sky throughout the year, ensuring the design maximises exposure to sunlight for the greens.

The greens will be the first in the UK to be constructed using Profile Porous Ceramic in the USGA root zone mix. Used widely in the United States, this inorganic amendment replaces the most commonly used peat component of sand-based root zones. It facilitates drainage in wet when greens are saturated, while during

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'If you look at the age of some of our members, they are not thinking about themselves... they are thinking beyond their own lifetime and I think that's admirable'

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droughts it improves water holding capacity to retain moisture and release it to the plant as needed.

It could be the root zone of the future, and such innovations have got the Royal Norwich membership excited for what their club has in store for them.

Greenkeeper International joined Peter and Ross during a member engagement visit, when they took golfers for a tour around what will become their new course. It was a way to keep them excited, while also reassuring them that this golf course is going to be worth the wait.

Continued over



"We came up with the idea to get everyone along, because we thought how many times does a golfer get the opportunity to meet a golf course architect? It's very rare," said Peter. "A project as large-scaled as this needs people who are passionate. Inviting the members along to see how things are going gives a sense of belonging, a sense of pride, and a sense that this project is all our baby."

"If you look at the age of some of our members, they are not thinking about themselves, they are thinking about what they want for the future. Our chairman says he is thinking of sustaining the club way beyond his own lifetime and I think that's admirable, members thinking beyond their own self-interest."



Left: Royal Norwich head pro Neil Lythgoe gets member's imaginations going by 'playing' a hole

Right: A reservoir will provide all the water required at the club

"How often do we see clubs that are struggling to find a way forward with unsustainable business models to suit their needs?"

Peter has pledged his future to Royal Norwich. Aged 54, he sees it as his final big project after a career



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from a turf maintenance side of things, what's best for the club. And it is Peter's hope that going forward, more clubs will follow Royal Norwich in recognising this, by putting the course manager in a position of greater standing within the club structure.

He said: "I definitely think utilising the expertise of the course manager within the senior management team of the golf club should be integral.

"I would encourage clubs to listen to their course manager and use his expertise. Clubs who don't are missing out on an asset they could be utilising.

"Having said that, the head greenkeeper needs to get on board and fully appreciate the demands of balancing income and expenditure at their club and how they can improve this. The right person as a course manager is the one that has those skills, someone who has an understanding of running a course as a business as well as a greenkeeping challenge.

that has seen him work on the construction of the PGA Centenary course at Gleneagles before joining the London Club in 1992.

Like most senior greenkeepers, he has gained a huge amount of experience and expertise throughout his career so he knows,

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'More than ever before, you need good communication skills because you are going to have to communicate at all levels of the club structure'

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"More than ever before, you need good communication skills because you are going to have to communicate at all levels of the club structure.

"The world's moved on and the greenstaff are now seen as a major asset.

"Without them you don't have a great golf course and members seem to understand that, but you do need to maintain that communication with members, nothing is more important."

The redeveloped site is scheduled to open in early 2019.

# Medallion TL

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WHAT DOES THE

# SEED OF THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

**O**pen up a bag of seed. Reach in and let the grains flow through your fingers. Did you know that within each seed is at least 15 years' worth of technology?

At the Top Green breeding and research station in Les Alleuds, France, sits the partnership development centre for Rigby Taylor's grass seed mixtures.

At this site, research is underway, with the singular aim of creating the next generation of turfgrass species.

**Did you know it takes 12-15 years to develop a new amenity grass cultivar?**

This means the work being undertaken at Les Alleuds is hugely valuable for the future of golf course management. Not only that, but it could also all be for nothing.

Breeding, selection, experimentation, development, seed production and official GEVES CTPS (Le Comité Technique Permanent de la Sélection des plantes cultivées) trials all take place on this 30-hectare site.

There are 60,000 plants, 4,000 breeding lines, 8,000 turf plots and 8,000m<sup>2</sup> of turf performance plots including Rigby Taylor mixture trials. Seed yield trials are all continually assessed, maintained and managed and every year the plant breeder walks an amazing 300km. The research team walks a further 1,000km, assessing every single plot.

## STAGE 1. THE DATING GAME

The primary breeding objectives are stress tolerance (wear, disease, cold, heat, drought, mowing height, rooting), appearance (leaf width, growth habit, shoot density, colour) and seed yield.

The natural breeding process begins with basic genetic material, crossing ecotypes (wild plants) with registered cultivars selected for a specific characteristic from the thousands of cultivars stored in the breeders' genetic seed bank.

Cultivars date from the most recent introductions, to those bred over 50 years ago. Stored at a constant temperature of 7.5°C and 38-39% humidity, the tiny handfuls of each cultivar are maintained in perfect viable condition.

For each species, seedlings of ecotypes and cultivars with similar heading dates (flowering time) are grouped together and cross pollinated in isolation in glasshouses. The heading date is critical, as only simultaneous flowering will produce fertile seed. The resultant seeds are harvested and sown into trays, then pricked out and grown as individual plug plants in pots, in readiness for field selection trials.

The evolution of a turfgrass



## STAGE 2. PROGENY SELECTION

Every year 15,000 plug plants are planted into the field nurseries.

Meticulous weekly observations of every single plant are digitally recorded throughout the seasons to assess characteristics including disease, heat, cold and drought tolerance, leaf width, shoot density, growth habit, winter and summer colour and genetic leaf colour. Only 5-10% of plants make it through to the next stage and the successful 750 survivors remain in the field for further observations, including heading date, disease and leaf colour. Finally, they are subjected to seed yield trials and the most productive 400 are harvested by mini-combine for parent turf trials.

## STAGE 3. PARENT TURF TRIALS

Harvested seed is sown out in individual 1m<sup>2</sup> replicated plots. The 4,000 seeded plots are scrutinised for appearance and performance qualities including leaf width, sward density, disease tolerance, winter colour, drought tolerance, simulated wear and close mowing.

## STAGE 4. POLY-CROSS CREATION

Following 2-3 years of rigorous performance testing, the best 80 clones are selected and grouped together by heading date, colour and purpose for polycross (clone crossing) creation.

The clonal groups are planted together in small blocks. A total of 4,000 grouped plants are grown in isolation to avoid cross-pollination, with the plots typically surrounded by taller growing forage and cereal crops for protection. The first seed harvest is collected by hand then sown in rows to produce 60-80kg of breeder's seed, some of which is destined for the elite turf trialling stage.



The evolution of a turfgrass



Grass seed laboratory research

A field of test plots in Les Alleuds, France



Continued over



# THE SEED OF

## STAGE 5. GLOBAL ELITE

The elite performance trials are linked to a global network of trial sites in distinct climatic regions throughout Europe and the USA, testing the polycross clones to the limit.

During the trials, the numbers are whittled down from 80, to 20 and finally 10 parent plants. At the end of the three-year trials only the top 10 clones make it through for seed multiplication, during which time the plants are all assessed for homogeneity.



## STAGE 6. TESTING TIMES

Official registration and national list trials will determine the ultimate success or failure of 15 years of hard work and investment. Just one new cultivar from the original 15,000 progeny will likely make it through to commercial production.

All grass seed cultivars marketed within the European Union must attain registration on the European Commission Plant Variety Database. The proposed cultivars are officially scrutinised over a 2–3 year period to prove they are:

- Distinct** must display identifying physiological or morphological characteristics that are completely distinct from existing registered cultivars
- Uniform** every offspring from every seed must be absolutely identical e.g. growth habit, colour, heading date
- Stable** there must be no reversion to parent plant type.
- Official** registration enables the new cultivar to be named and placed on the Common Catalogue, making it eligible for sale and marketing in the UK.

Simultaneously or immediately following registration, national listing trials finally determine the destiny of the new cultivar. Lasting 2–5 years depending on protocols, climate and use, it's at this stage potential new cultivars are integrated in Rigby Taylor mixture trials.

## Disease prevention

A great deal of research, seed breeding and development efforts have been directed to the turf's ability to tolerate more effectively against turf diseases. This has always been a focus for seed breeders but is brought more into focus with the ever-increasing revocation of fungicides. The most recent of those being based on iprodione, an active ingredient that has for many years been the 'standard' against a wide range of common turf diseases.

Additionally, diseases have developed which are new to our industry, such as brown patch and gray leaf spot in Europe. It is considered that going forward, greater emphasis will be given to disease tolerance and plant resistance.

During the past two years, the introduction of Tetraploid perennial ryegrass seed mixtures by Rigby Taylor and their seed breeding partner Top Green, has demonstrated better disease tolerance than the diploids.

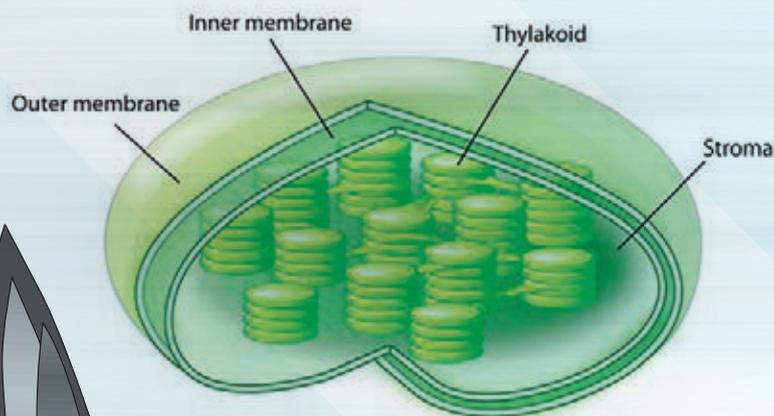
## Low inputs

The future will also see an increasing demand for low input species and the use of hard and sheeps fescue will increase going forward in phase with future demands from the market.

## Less nitrogen

Drought tolerance and using less applied nitrogen will also be factors that will become more and more important. Taking this into account, breeders will still be selecting for the current performance characteristics such as fineness of leaf, density, wear and shade tolerance.

# THE FUTURE



Chloroplast

## Tetraploids

A tetraploid plant has four sets of chromosomes per cell, while diploids have only two. This has been found to induce in tetraploids such positive characteristic as high vigour and stress tolerance and they germinate and establish faster than diploid ryes in cooler conditions, from just 4°C.

This allows for superior winter wear and robust re-growth that helps surfaces to remain in play throughout this intense period.

Each tetraploid cell has double the chloroplast of a diploid and this provides robust plants with high stress tolerance. Thylakoids inside the chloroplast contain the light harvesting complex, including pigments such as chlorophyll

## STAGE 7. COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

Pre-basic seed from the polycross multiplications is harvested to produce basic seed for the first commercial crop production. Basic seed is used by experienced growers to produce certified seed. Each step of field seed production process is carefully monitored by licensed crop inspectors.

Production competition from fodder crops, cereal crops and bio fuels has led to a significant global reduction in grass seed production. The generational loss of experienced growers, chemical restrictions and climatic pressures affecting yields all contribute to making grass seed a challenging crop to grow. Denmark remains a key production area for grass seed, at around 40% of the market, with the remainder grown in Eastern Europe, the USA, New Zealand and a minor percentage in the UK. Danish production is generally under-sown as a companion crop with cereals or legumes, good cultural practice to naturally support clean crop production.

Following combine harvesting the crop is immediately dried down to around 12% moisture, then cleaned and sampled for purity and germination testing. In order to be officially certified, seed must reach European Union minimum standards.

In the UK market, the Fodder Plant Seed Regulations defines a Higher Voluntary Standard, delivering still higher levels of purity. These regulations provide a legal framework for the production, certification and marketing of grass seed, further ensuring varietal purity, freedom from noxious weeds and minimum quality standards. Finally, the new cultivar is ready for R Range grass seed mixtures.

15 years, 15,000 potential parents, one new cultivar. Quite remarkable!

## Seed Treatments

Seeds, coated with different products, have in the past provided very variable results and much research and development work has been devoted to liquid seed treatments as there is no risk of broken particles or dust. With such a small increase in bag weight (less than 2%), there is no requirement to increase the recommended sowing rates.

Liquid seed coating has a surfactant, which will allow moisture to penetrate the seed more rapidly and stimulate earlier germination

The future for liquid seed treatments looks very positive, with one particular commercially available treatment showing excellent results in stimulating and supporting accelerated germination and emergence. This has been

achieved by incorporating speciality surfactants with penetrant properties that allow moisture to enter into the seed, carrying target nutrients for early root mass development and to aid faster establishment.

Additional research has been carried out, looking at the addition of trichoderma, which will add additional benefits for disease tolerance.

# ELVES IN THE SKY

Drones

Craig Cameron, Golf Club St Leon-Rot

## I started out using drones while working at Aldeburgh in Suffolk.

At the time, I was involved with the RNLI and saw a TV programme where a group of scientists crashed a commercial airliner in the desert to measure what happened to crash test dummies on the plane. When they had downed the plane, there was a danger in trying to approach the wreck as the engines were still running, so they used a portable drone to survey the site from a safe distance. I thought that would be brilliant for the lifeboat! Drones could provide portable and instant search and rescue visibility from the air.

I bought my first drone from Parrot. It was portable, but had limitations as the control range was very short

and it had a fixed camera so when the drone moved the video image moved too. I upgraded this for the Bebop drone, again from Parrot. The Bebop has a fish eye lens so it videos a full 180 degrees and uses electronics to vary the viewing portal to keep the image steady. The Bebop was very portable, great image quality and had a better control range. I used the Bebop to film the Wentworth BMW behind the scenes greenkeeper video, which was used on the BIGGA stand at Harrogate. The Bebop also had limitations the battery life was very short and it was prone to flying off on its own!

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Aerial photography is used to plot new fairway contours and then mow out new contours safe in knowledge we will know how it looks when it is finished

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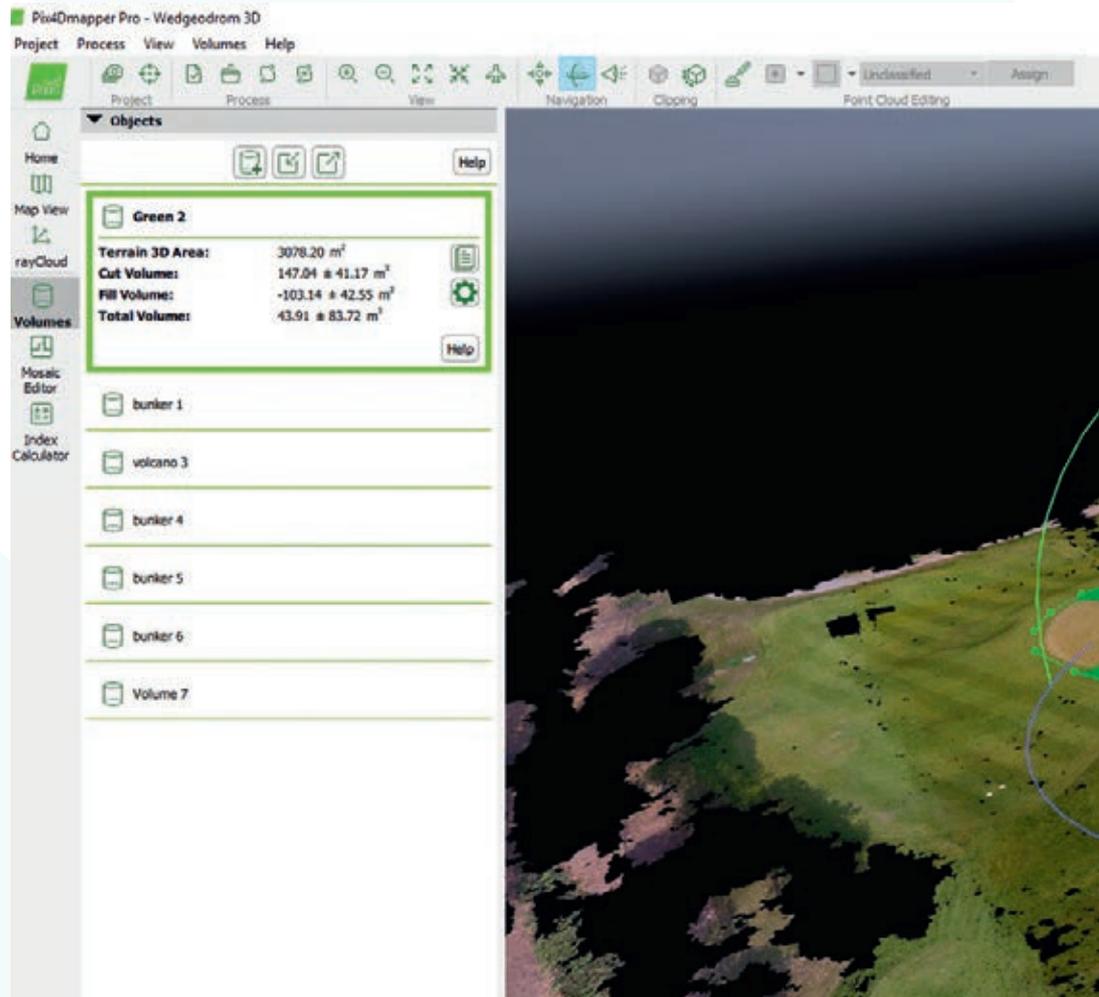
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It was time to look for another upgrade. After some more research I opted for the DJI Phantom 2 Vision plus. This was a fantastic piece of kit and I still have it now three years later. It was very portable, had a long range, the picture quality was very good and the camera is mounted on a gimbal so no matter how the drone moves, the image is always level and you can move the camera to point straight down. The DJI works with GPS so if you let go the controller it will stay in place like a flying tripod. I used this drone to film the greenkeeper behind-the-scenes video that you may have seen for the Solheim Cup 2015 at St Leon-Rot, Germany.

St Leon-Rot was my new posting as superintendent, so I was very keen to use my drone to showcase my new course. The general manager was also very happy with my use of the drone and it has very quickly become a very useful tool for marketing. Last year my general manager visited the Golf Industry Show and found out several superintendents were using drones on a daily basis, so he decided we should invest in a drone fleet. I was instructed to buy a cheap crash drone for staff to practice, a daily use drone one for greenkeeping, one for housekeeping and the best drone on the market!

We opted for a cheap €40 drone for practice, the Phantom 3 professional at €900 for daily use and the DJI inspire 2 at €3,200, which had just been launched.



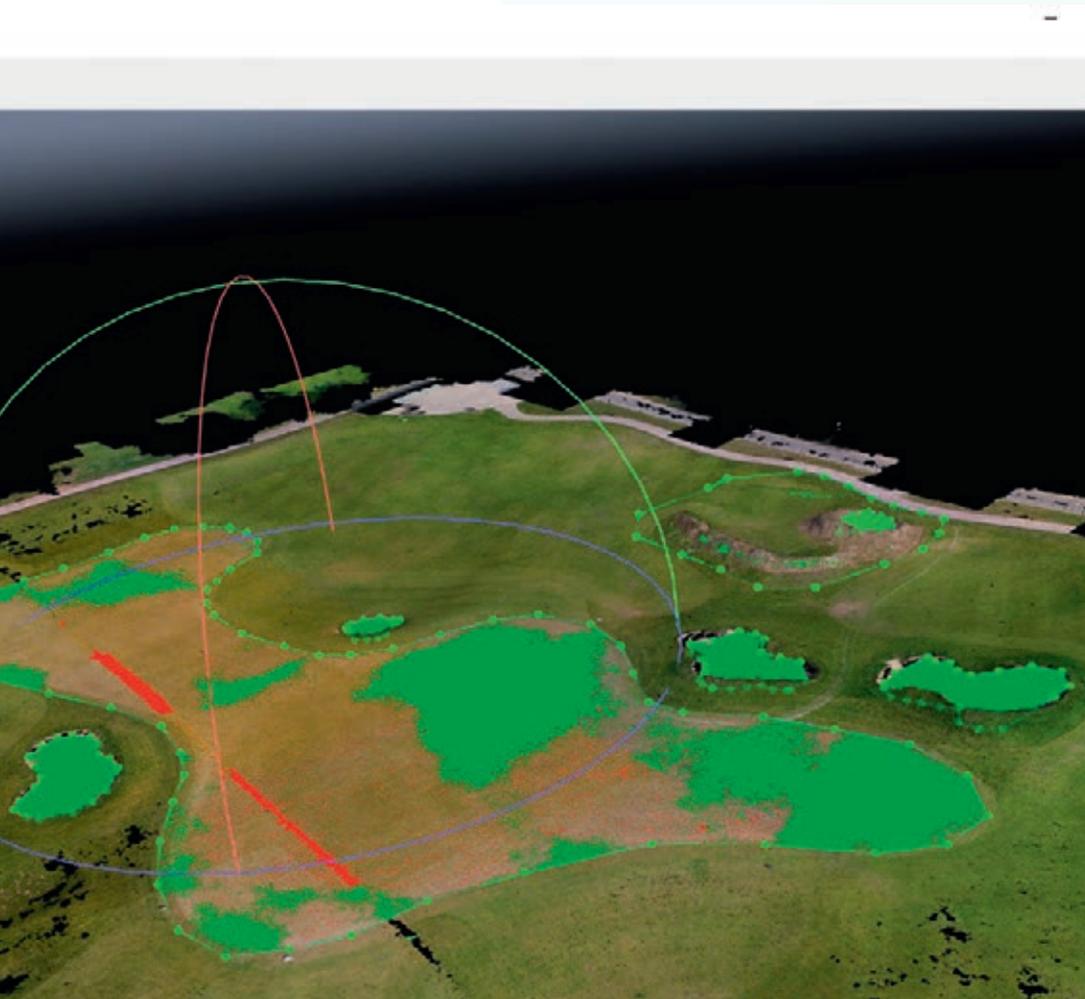
PIX4D mapping



Aerial view of the club house

A drone's eye view of Craig and Daniel Luttger





## 'The drone code'

Produced by the Government and the Civil Aviation Authority

- always keep your drone in sight
- stay below 400 feet (120 metres)
- every time you fly your drone you must follow the manufacturer's instructions
- keep the right distance from people and property
- you are responsible for each flight
- stay well away from aircraft, airports and airfields



## What do we use them for?

Marketing is a big part of their usefulness. Last spring, I filmed a series of one-minute videos showing the development of our new practice facilities as they were being built. The Inspire 2 we use for high quality video of larger events on the course, as well as aerial photography.

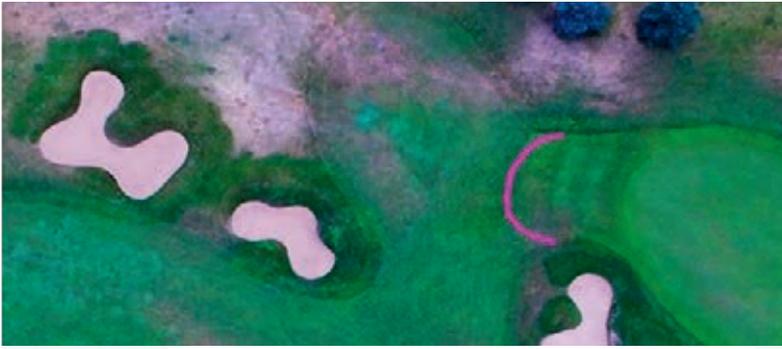
- We produce short videos to provide information to members about winter renovation programmes and what the greenkeeping team has been up to while the members are away on winter holidays. These videos are also used at member presentation nights, where we can speak directly with groups.
- We digitally record work happening around the course, including irrigation installations, drainage installations and bunker renovations.
- Aerial photography is used to plot new fairway contours and then mow out new contours safe in the knowledge we know how it will look when we are finished.
- Housekeeping use their drone for solar panel, rooftop and gutter surveying from the safety of the ground.
- We also use our drone for irrigation auditing. The drone can be programmed to fly a set path autonomously and then we review the footage to check for dry areas. From the air, dry areas show up long before they become visible at ground level. We also plan to video key areas, greens as an example, from top down and then loop the footage in time laps so we can check irrigation coverage and if the heads are running at the same speed.
- We are now performing drone surveying using the program PIX4D to plot the entire course. You can then use the program to measure any surface on the course bunkers, greens, approaches etc. and you can also calculate volumes so if you need to move a hill or fill a hole you can work out how much muck needs to be moved.

Digital drainage record



Aerial photo of the course in winter





### How have they made the job easier?

Calculating quantities is much easier when you have the information at your fingertips. With PIX4D software you can discover how much bunker sand you have to order, plan fertiliser programmes, and get details of seeding quantities.

Selling ideas to the owner or members is much easier when you have photographic evidence to back up your sales pitch. An example of this would be the new fairway contours. It wasn't just one fairway, but all 45 and it only took an hour to photograph all of them, followed by a meeting with my general manager, both my head greenkeepers and myself to discuss what we wanted to change and justifications for the changes.

It's also easier to justify felling trees if you can show the shadows caused or if you want to open up a view by removing the trees. You can show people the view from above the tree line of what they will see once the trees are removed.

Another example of use of drone videos is their interest factor as it's a different angle to view something. Our winter programme video last winter was only two minutes long, but we covered the whole course in that time. Once uploaded to Facebook, it was viewed over 8,000 times over the weekend. That's a lot of interest and provides a big motivation for the staff to know their work is being appreciated.

### Features to look for in a drone:

- **Battery life** — Most flight times average 30 minutes, so if you are looking to undertake longer flying sessions, it may be worth investing in spare batteries
- **Brushless motors** — Useful on golf courses, they offer quieter operation and a longer lifespan, but are more expensive.
- **Camera** — Go with the best you can afford, as the more functions and better quality you can get, the more useful you're going to find the tool.
- **Integrated GPS** — These improve general stability and navigation, they can even help the drone find its way home. When taking images or video they are especially useful as GPS enables the drone to hover in one place.
- **Gimbal** — Keeps the camera steady while it's moving around
- **Safety sensors** — Stop you parking in trees and hitting things
- **Range** — Tells you how far the drone can move before you lose control of it.

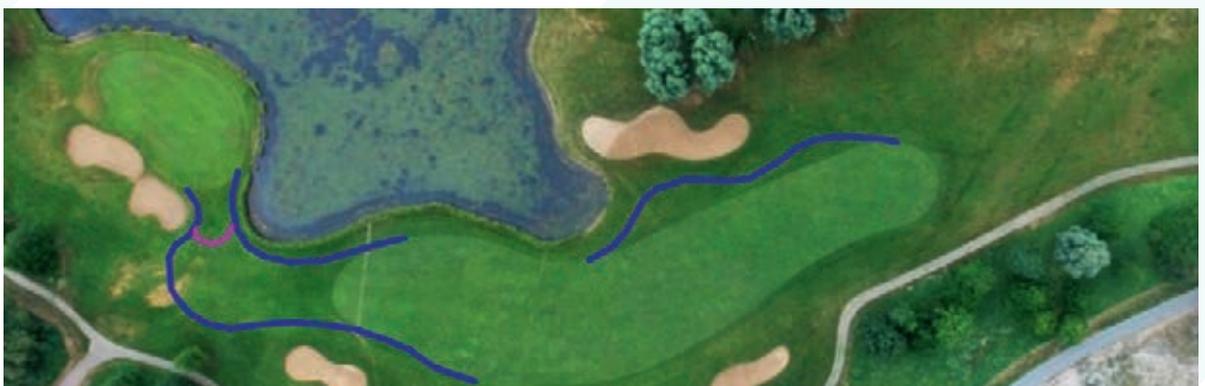
### Legislation

If the drone is being used to take images of the course, for use with management or marketing, then the pilot will need a commercial drone licence. While there is no exchange of money involved, the drone is being used for commercial purposes and therefore public liability requires the licence and suitable insurance. Most training courses give the user the ability to apply for a Permission for Commercial Operations (PfCO) from the Civil Aviation Authority. CAP 722 is the piece of legislation which specifically relates to UAV's.

**Top:** Identifying the causes of irrigation problems

**Above:** The same location, highlighting the success of improvement works

**Right:** Drones allow accurate contour planning on holes



# A safe and healthy Brexit

**B**y the end of March 2019 the UK will no longer be part of the European Union, that much is clear. Beyond that, much remains little more than speculation.

Unravelling the UK's membership of the EU will not be an end to the matter, of course.

**Perhaps more significant will be the negotiations to agree new trading relationships, customs controls, immigration etc.**

**What effect, if any, could these negotiations have on health and safety law in the UK?**

The foundation of the current health and safety regulatory system was established totally independently of the EU by the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) 1974. The legislation has at its heart a simple but enduring principle — those who create risks are best placed to control them.

The system has stood the test of time and has resulted in the UK having one of the best combined health and safety records in Europe and the world. When the EU's Health and Safety Directive was introduced in 1989, the UK had few alterations to make to its national laws to bring it in

line. The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007, another cornerstone of our system, is also wholly derived from the UK.

Since achieving membership of the EU, a series of individual directives focusing on specific aspects of safety and health at work have been issued at European level and transposed into UK law. Until repealed or otherwise amended, such legislation (as with other legislation emanating from the UK Parliament) will remain unaffected after withdrawal. **Insofar as laws derive from directly applicable EU regulations, the UK government has promised a Great Repeal Bill designed to ensure the status quo post exit.**

On the whole, the UK is seen as the 'gold standard' in health and safety matters. As a result, UK workers and their representatives

BIGGA Members can access the Xact health and safety website by logging in to [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



XACT



have come to expect certain standards and, more importantly, that these standards will be maintained and indeed improved. Over time, of course, certain laws may well be looked at afresh but wholesale change is dependent on political will and is likely to prove unpopular. Nor is there credible evidence to support contentions that there is material over-regulation in this area.

While in the future there may be some divergence in the laws applicable in the UK and EU, the UK will be keen to maintain its profile as the standard bearer for health and safety matters. In its white paper 'The United Kingdom's exit from, and new partnership with, the European Union', the UK Government has set out its guiding priorities as it conducts the negotiations to exit the EU. Key among them is the commitment to protect workers' rights.

However, to what extent will the detail of the hard won, evidence-based standards of health and safety come under pressure as the Government seeks out new trade deals with other countries around the globe — especially with those that do not share the UK's commitment to such high standards? Will we have to accept lower safety standards for plant and equipment? Will there be requests for relaxations of standards like those controlling noise, vibration or airborne dusts like silica or asbestos? Inside the EU there is always a political (but

attenuated) tussle over these kinds of issues. When we are eventually outside the EU framework, there may be pressure for us to trim back.

However, if we do agree to trim back on health and safety, how will our EU partners, with whom we still want to have an open trading relationship, react? Will they accept a return to 'social dumping' in relation to matters like health and safety when they themselves as member states are all still bound to observe higher common EU norms?

Viewed from a global perspective, any attempt to wind the health and safety standards clock backwards could be a big mistake. The International Labour Organisation estimates that globally 2.3 million workers die from unsafe working conditions every year. Approximately 350,000 people die from injuries at work and another two million die from easily preventable diseases, like silicosis, cancer, circulatory and other diseases caused or made worse by working conditions.

**The drive to raise standards globally does not just reflect a humanitarian agenda but enhances business efficiency. Organisations that manage well and deliver good health and safety outcomes know they will prosper in the future.**

While, no alarm bells seem to be ringing yet, interested parties & stakeholders need to remain alert and study the small print. With our values and expertise in this key area, it is vital that the UK insists that our trading partners come up to our standards of health and safety, not the other way round.

**Good health and safety is now global. There is no going back.**

---

'On the whole, the UK is seen as the 'gold standard' in health and safety matters. As a result, UK workers and their representatives have come to expect certain standards'

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# BTME 2018

## Preview

Get the BTME  
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everything at BTME



The New Year's almost here, and that means the eyes of the greenkeeping world are preparing to turn to Harrogate, where BTME 2018 will once again bring together the great and the good of the turf management industry.

BTME 2018 was a sell-out in record time, and there's absolutely no way we could fit everything that will be on offer within the pages of Greenkeeper International.

So here's just a small selection of some of the things you'll discover at the Harrogate Convention Centre from 23-25 January 2018.



### See who's at BTME 2018

Acumen ClearWater	C12
AFT Trenchers Ltd	A23
Agronomic Services Ltd	A21
Aitkens	A55
Amazona Ltd	M18a
Apex Tool Solutions Ltd	A6
Aqua Aid Europe	B37
Aquatrols	A19
Askham Bryan College	A29
Automated Managed Services Ltd.	C39a
B. A. Hydro Solutions Ltd	C9
Bailoy Products	C54
Barham Trees Plc	C49
Barenbrug UK	A41
Baroness	C62
Bayer	A46
Bernhard and Company	B44
Better Billy Bunker	B29
Blec Global Ltd	B38
BMS	C13
Border Sports Services Ltd	C4
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association	B28
British Sugar TOPSOIL	B22
Campey Turf Care Systems	B58
Carrus	M18
Charterhouse	B48
Chikara / Katana	C11
Club Car / Ingersollrand	M20
Compo Expert UK Ltd	A58
County Sport Surfaces	C8
County Turf Ltd	A12
CRL - Clive Richardson Ltd	A45
Dalton Cooper	C50
Delta-T Devices	B30
Dennis & Sisis	A5
Duncan Ross Ltd	A60
Durabunker Ltd	C47
Eagle	B50
Ecobunker Ltd	C53
Ecosol Turfcare	A10
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	M5
European Turfgrass Laboratories	A22
Farmura Ltd	A18
Fineturf Machinery	M10
Forthroths Ltd	A59
Gambetti UK Ltd	A61
Garfitts International	B42
GBR Technology Limited	C35
GCSAA	B23a
Germinal	A42
GKB Machines	M14a
Global Turf Equipment UK Ltd	C48
Golf Club Managers Association	B23
Greenacres Artificial Grass	A17
Greentech Sportsturf Ltd	B36a
GreenTek Solutions	C40
Grillo Agrigarden Ltd	B1
Groundsman Industries Ltd	A56
Headland Amenity Ltd	B39
Humber Palmer	B10
Hunter Industries	C27
Hurrells & McLean Seeds Ltd	A32
Husqvarna	M9
Huxley Golf	C1
ICL	B54
Indigrow Ltd	B43
Institute of Groundsmanship	A28
Inturf	A57
Jac. Uittenbogaard & Zonen BV	A31
John Deere	M23
Johnsons Sports Seed	A20

## Acumen - ClearWater New initiatives for BTME 2018



Acumen Waste Services, with ClearWater and other Highspeed Group brands under their belt, is investing in the development of these important facets of their expanding organisation, with BTME 2018 being a major priority.

BTME is important to Acumen's aspirations, especially as those operating in turf management are key customers. Visitors will not be disappointed when they visit Acumen - ClearWater at Stand C12 as staff will be on hand to help and advise and a mini ClearWater display unit will demonstrate features and benefits.

**Enabling customers to act swiftly to meet legal requirements, ClearWater is offered with:**

- A competitively priced water recycling system.
- A cost saving "self-install" option with ClearWater carrying out commissioning, which can save £3,000 on total costs.

- The opportunity to write off 100% of total investment against taxable profits in the year of purchase under the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme.
- New finance options.

The annual prize draw returns and will see a ClearWater system awarded to one lucky winner.

Ongoing expansion at Acumen meant the addition of another vehicle to the servicing fleet, necessitated by demand for servicing of ClearWater systems, fuel and oil tanks and separators. Annual servicing is essential and most insurance companies insist this is carried out to maintain cover.





## DISCOVER YELLOW JACKET WATER MANAGER AT BTME

[www.barenbrug.co.uk/golf](http://www.barenbrug.co.uk/golf)



BTME 2018 Preview

# The Headland approach...

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[www.headlandamenity.com](http://www.headlandamenity.com)



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BTME 2018  
**Stand  
B39**

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## Visit Barenbrug to discover Yellow Jacket Water Manager — A game-changer for golf courses



Yellow Jacket Water Manager is a game-changing seed enhancement product that improves germination and seedling survival in tough environments. The patented technology is the result of a research project by Barenbrug and Aquatrols and has been independently tested by the STRI.

The product was successfully trialled by four Open Championship venues in 2017. Craig Boath, from Carnoustie's Championship course, home to The Open in 2018, said: "Barenbrug Yellow Jacket Water Manager has taken the sting out of overwatering landing areas on the fairways and par 3 tees. It is clear it does not require as much water for germination due to the coating, which seems to hold on to moisture and trigger a quicker germination."

BTME will see the official product launch of Yellow Jacket Water Manager which—at time of press—undergoes final trial work. Visit the Barenbrug stand to interrogate the team on this highly anticipated innovation and find out what it can do for you.



## New John Deere Gator debuts at BTME 2018

John Deere's new HPX 815E Gator utility vehicle makes its public show debut in Harrogate.

The HPX 815E is ruggedly designed for a wide range of transporting and general materials handling duties. Powered by an 18hp 854cc diesel engine working through a two-speed high-low continuously variable transmission, this two-seater vehicle is available with true on-demand four-wheel drive and is capable of travelling at speeds of up to 25mph.

Based on a heavy-duty steel frame for increased durability, the HPX 815E provides an increased payload of 635kg and a towing capacity of 590kg, while the updated cargo box has a load capacity of 454kg. Both the sides and the tailgate, which has a pick-up style one-handed latch, can be easily removed to provide a flatbed style load bay.

The composite construction of this industry leading cargo box makes it dent, rattle and rust resistant.

Additional changes for 2018 include a new digital dashboard, powerful LED headlights and a restyled front bumper, to improve handling and operation, particularly in challenging terrain. Optional attachments for the new John Deere HPX 815E Gator utility vehicle include a road homologation kit, rear hitch, front and rear blades, a winch and a heavy-duty front suspension kit.



Contact: T: 0800 085 2522  
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W: www.JohnDeere.co.uk

Kioti .....	M1
Koch Turf & Ornamental .....	C38
Kubota .....	M22
Lastec UK .....	C55
Limagrain UK .....	C39
Lindum Turf .....	B9
Lloyds / Hunters .....	B56
LS Systems .....	M4
M H Goals Ltd .....	M15
Martin Lishman Ltd .....	A52
Maxicrop UK .....	B19
Maxstim .....	B2
Merrist Wood College .....	B17
MIXTO UK .....	A16
MJ Abbott Ltd .....	A49
Mosquito Magnet .....	A2
MTD Speciality Turf Products .....	M7
Myerscough College .....	B13
One Ash Training Ltd .....	B8
Otterbine on Reesink .....	M21
Turfcare stand .....	
Parnells .....	M11
Perennial .....	A30
Perrot .....	C2
Pinseeker Ltd .....	B45
Plastech Limited .....	M8
Price Turfcare .....	M13
Profusion Environmental .....	C52
Rain Bird Europe .....	A9
Redlynch Leisure .....	C20
Richard Peel Groundscare .....	B20
Rigby Taylor Ltd .....	B60
Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Ltd .....	B11
Sherriff Amenity .....	B34
Sibelco .....	C42
SISGrass .....	A7
Soil Biology Ltd .....	C14
Spectrum Technologies .....	A54
Sports Metals .....	C30
SRC Group .....	A8a
Srixon .....	M17
SRUC Elmwood .....	B12
St Andrews Management Centre .....	B27
STRI .....	B36
Sustane Natural Fertiliser .....	A14
Symbio .....	B7
Syngenta .....	B52
Tacit .....	C61
Talbot Sports Turf Installations .....	C28
Tarmac Topsport .....	A34
Team Sprayers .....	M14
Textron Golf .....	M19
The Grass Group .....	A35
Thorntrees Amenity Ltd .....	C23
Tillers Turf .....	A51
Toro Commercial on .....	M21
Reesink Turfcare stand .....	
Toro Irrigation on .....	M21
ReesinkTurfcare stand .....	
Trimax Mowing Systems .....	B59
Triton Golf Ltd .....	C18
True Surface by Turfline .....	C41
Tru-Turf / Double A .....	C56
Turf Machinery Spares .....	A11
TurfCare .....	C31
Turfkeeper Ltd .....	B18
TYM Tractors .....	C32
Ultra Soil Solutions Ltd .....	C10
Union Press Ltd .....	B24
Vale Engineering (York) Ltd .....	M12
Vanmac (Trilo) .....	M6
Velvit Ltd .....	A1
Verde Sports Ltd .....	C5
Vinylguard Golf .....	A27
W. L. Gore & Associates (UK) Ltd .....	M12a
Waste2Water Europe Ltd .....	B46
Wiedenmann UK Ltd .....	C58
Wildflower Turf Ltd .....	M16
XL Horticulture Ltd .....	C5a
Yamaha Motor Europe .....	C6

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# Two years interest free at Waste2Water

"We've never been busier with, record numbers installing our Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off Systems in 2017," said Waste2Water managing director, Tim Earley.

If you've not already done so, upgrading your wash facility should now be an urgent priority to ensure compliance with the environmental legislation.

Waste2Water has re-opened its two-year interest free deal, which proved popular during 2015.

We finance your extended payment terms ourselves so there's no paperwork and nothing to sign, just eight quarterly payments.

Tim added: "We are delighted to invite you to stand B46 to view our system on show and work out a deal."

The Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System ensures full compliance with the new environmental legislation and reduces water usage by around 90%. The Above-Ground System allows easy maintenance and the innovative design enables the system to be installed outside and used all year-round without the risk of freezing. There is no need to install the systems in a building or a container and there are no underground tanks to empty and maintain either. The system may also be retro-fitted into an existing area to minimise the budget.

The Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System is approved on the Water Technology List (WTL), which allows a 100% first year Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) to be claimed.

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NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

# Bringing the Heath back to Frilford

James Hutchinson, BIGGA

**C**are to take a guess which type of golf course is the most in decline?

**Links, downland, chalk?**

It's actually heathland. Heathland courses used to be numerous in the UK, but since the 'plant a tree in 73' then 'plant some more in 74' schemes came into force, our beautiful heather-dominated golfing venues have declined significantly, slowly turning into parkland types.

But why have trees overtaken heather? Heather is a full-sun loving plant and one which will tolerate only a small amount of shading, that's why. It goes without saying that trees cast shade, and as a result we lose our attractive native heather plants. Other factors should be taken into account, such as increasingly-acidic rain and air quality.

This has a knock-on effect as other organisms rely on heather and its properties to survive, which we will look at later.

There are plenty of gentlemen in our brilliant industry, but let me just turn our attention to a true grandee, Sid Arrowsmith MG, and his way of managing some of the world's top golfing courses.

I think the majority of us are aware of Sid's pedigree within the greenkeeping industry, with the likes of Haydock Park; Hillside; Hazel Grove; Shaw Hill; Royal Portrush and Golf D'Apront

under his belt. But did you know about Sid and Frilford's environmental work and their first class win in the Sports Turf Research Institute's Environment Awards last year?

I thought I did, until I was honoured enough to see at first hand the almost unbelievable amount of good stuff which has been going on.

An example of this is the fen management which the team have on the go. For now, however, let me also introduce you to another gentleman, Alex James.

Alex is course manager of Frilford Heath's Red Course, where a good amount of eco work is being undertaken. He said: "The Golf Environment Awards offer more than you can imagine. The award is more than a nomination or a ceremony, it's more than a beautiful trophy or a trip to Portugal. Through the awards, the STRI and the sponsors are enriching someone's career and in-turn their life."

On browsing through the club's website, it mentions that the site is one of the best in the south of England. I can't comment on that, but the guys from the STRI deemed it as the best in England, Scotland and Wales in terms of environmental projects, and

who can argue with that? Frilford earned the title of Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year Award in 2017 for their fen restoration work and along with this wonderful title came the trip of a lifetime to Portugal, with representatives of the STRI.

Frilford Heath is one of those scarcities which appears to have knitted a first-class golfing facility together with the wildlife which lives on its environs. This is not always easy to do as something, usually the wildlife, has to give.

Take the vast areas of sand scrapes that have been created to help with adders, sand lizards, and other such cold-blooded critters which need areas like this to survive. Sid and the team, with the guidance of the ecology department at the STRI and Natural England, have created massive sections within the out-of-play areas of the course so our scaly friends have always got somewhere to warm-up on cooler mornings. Who thinks of this kind of thing? Sid Arrowsmith and his team, that's who. It was pleasing to see that this area was laden with offcuts of corrugated metals for snakes to slide under for the same reason, and not to mention the amount of nest boxes the team have erected.

Right, onto the good stuff: fen management. There is now a really important habitat at Frilford Heath, but there wasn't one a few years back as trees and other such woody plants took a foothold and dried the wetland out. As a result of this, numerous invertebrates disappeared, possibly never to return again, until hard land management was undertaken that is.

Frilford's ecopile habitat



Firstly though, the trees had to go. Ash, willow, birch and pine all succumbed to the chainsaw, along with smaller amounts of elm, white poplar and holly. Now I know what you're thinking, you're thinking I bang on about how good trees are for wildlife and how valuable they are to the environment. This is correct, I do, but trees far outnumber the number of lowland fens we have in terms of metres squared, so there's no problem removing the aforesaid trees. This is simple mitigation, as the team is agreeably damaging a habitat, but as a consequence is developing a more suitable and important one along the way.

Secondly, the team cut the dominant reeds and rushes down, to remove competition for the smaller, more valuable plants and wildflowers to thrive. The final procedure was to create small ponds, which would not dry out during periods of dry weather. All these, when put together, add up to a large difference to the environment, and one which should be applauded by the greenkeeping industry.

Let's have an example of fenland critters, shall we? Dragonflies have been hunting above wetlands for about 320 million years but are now in decline, with many types under threat of extinction. This won't do at all and it is places such as Frilford who are reinvigorating fens and bogs for not only wildflowers, but these magnificent creatures too.

Another beautiful critter which relies on fens, bogs and other reedy wetlands is the corn bunting. Unfortunately, the RSPB states there has been "an 89% drop in corn bunting numbers since 1970, with virtually none being recorded in Wales". This will not do either but who's helping out? You got it, Frilford are. And don't get me started on the benefits to Frilford's amphibians either.

In terms of rare fen wildflowers, sedges and rushes, the great work the team has done has resulted in a selection of real snorters appearing, including lesser pond sedge, water fleawort, bog pimpernel, skullcap and hemp agrimony.



 Top: Frilford's fen inlet

Left: Strimming Frilford's fen

Right: Frilford's heather

According to the club's ecologist, Dr Judith Webb, patches of rare flea sedge, greater tussock sedge and long-stalked yellow sedge have increased since work has begun — is it any wonder the team are ranked among the best around?

Sid and the team's heather management is second to none, with a fantastic amount of small plants showing within the areas where turf has been stripped away. Heather seeds remain viable for about 50 years in the upper soil horizon, so exposing them to sunlight will encourage germination. I won't dwell for too long on Sid's heather management as I wanted this feature to lean towards their fenland management, but it is safe to say that Frilford is becoming dominated with heather

plants and, as a result, a true heathland course.

Almost all the heathland and fenland course managers, greenkeepers and members of the committee I visit say the same thing, which is "we used to have heather and fens onsite, but now we have trees". With a good amount of forward planning, physical hard work and a lot of understanding members (good luck with the latter), we can restore our beautiful heathland and fenland courses back to their former glory. Who knows, it may even gain you a spot in the STRI's environment awards!

By the way, the best of luck to the final 12 in January and, as always, I'm here if you need help becoming more environmentally minded.

# A golfing great *forged from ice*

Steve Mitchell, John Deere

**O**ne of the greatest players in professional golf history, Lee Trevino, famously said of Gleneagles: “If heaven is as good as this, I sure hope they have some tee times left.”

When The Gleneagles Hotel first opened its doors in 1924, this countryside estate in the heart of Scotland was described as a ‘Riviera in the Highlands’. Today, Gleneagles is one of the world’s most prestigious golfing venues, with three championship golf courses — The King’s, Queen’s and PGA Centenary — set in 850 acres with views of the beautiful Ochil hills.

The Perthshire estate was voted Best Golf Resort in the World for an unprecedented sixth successive year in 2017 by readers of Ultratravel, the Telegraph’s luxury travel magazine. It was also named Scotland’s Best Hotel/Resort in the Today’s Golfer Travel Awards 2017, retaining this title for the fourth consecutive year.

The Gleneagles golf courses, although not by the sea, resemble the older links golf courses in Scotland in that they are built on sand and gravel, which were deposited when the last ice sheet finally melted some 15,000 years ago, leaving long ridges, flat-topped mounds and enclosed hollows. James Braid, one of the golfing greats, turned this dramatic landscape into the King’s and Queen’s Courses.

The Jack Nicklaus designed PGA Centenary Course — he famously called it “the finest parcel of land in the world I have ever been given to work with” — was the venue for The 2014 Ryder Cup. It will also host the world’s first ever joint men’s and women’s competition, the European Golf Team Championships, in 2018, followed by the largest event in women’s golf, The Solheim Cup, in 2019.

With nearly 1,000 people employed across the estate, training and development is key to ensuring that all the staff understand the responsibility they have in continuing the Gleneagles legacy. This is reflected in a new Greenkeeping Scholarship programme, offering nine lucky individuals the chance to become fully qualified greenkeepers, and ensure the knowledge held by the senior greenkeepers is passed on to the next generation.



Gleneagles’ Golf Courses and Estate Manager Scott Fenwick (centre) with dealer principal Sandy Armit of Double A and John Deere Limited strategic account manager Brian D’Arcy

Working together with our partners



Golf Courses and Estate Manager Scott Fenwick, who is Gleneagles' longest-serving member of staff, joined in July 1980 as a 16-year-old apprentice greenkeeper. Scott, whose first tasks in those early days were raking bunkers and learning how to operate the mowers, now leads Gleneagles' 57-strong greenkeeping and gardening team.

"I had a dream of becoming a professional golfer, but that was never going to happen, and I realised a career in greenkeeping was a superb way to still be involved in the sport," he said. "Over the years, greenkeeping has given me the chance to travel all over the world, because it's a profession that provides so many different opportunities.

"Greenkeeping is not just about cutting grass — it's a complex science and a serious art. Presenting championship courses demands great skill, knowledge and tremendous attention to detail, to create the firm and fast

conditions the modern day golfer expects. It's hard work, but it's also rewarding to be part of a big team to deliver courses that are respected all over the world.

"Gleneagles is proud of its leadership position in golf and is always seeking innovations, best practice and first class customer service, to provide our guests and members with an outstanding experience that is second to none. A key part of this is in finding the right balance between traditional greenkeeping methods, using the knowledge and experience we have built up over many years, and developing the most efficient ways of working using reliable, cutting edge technology.

"The adoption of hybrid electric mowers, satellite guidance and telematics fleet management systems dedicated to turfcare, such as those now being provided by John Deere, means we can look forward to keeping Gleneagles at the forefront of European and world golf."

The Gleneagles greenkeeping team pictured at the 2014 Ryder Cup.

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'Greenkeeping is not just about cutting grass — it's a complex science and a serious art. Presenting championship courses demands great skill, knowledge and tremendous attention to detail'

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# Can you avoid your 'phate?

Geoff Lloyd, Technical Director, Indigrow

Can you avoid your 'phate? — Inigrow

**T**he subject of phosphite has become a hot topic in the world of greenkeeping of late. As more scientific studies are carried out on the effect using phosphite, rather than phosphate, can have on turf grass, the more interest is generated.

Normally, P is supplied to the plant as Phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4$ ) as it is manufactured from Phosphoric acid. By contrast Phosphite ( $\text{PO}_3$ ) is made from Phosphorous acid. During the manufacturing process the acid is often neutralised by a base (usually Potassium Hydroxide).

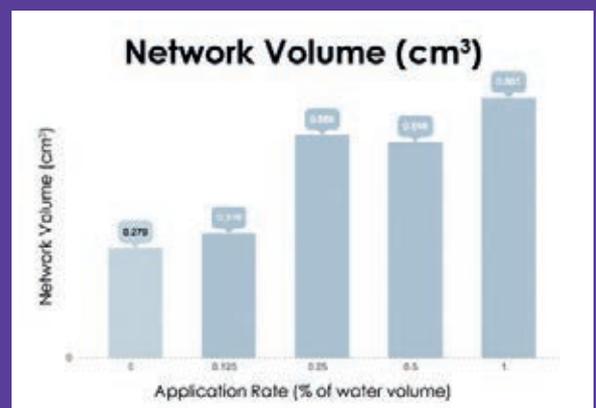
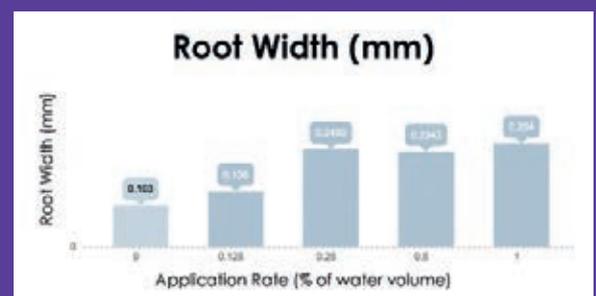
It is now widely known that phosphite has the positive effect of root growth and development, and this effect is enhanced when foliar applications are used.

Based on this demand, Indigrow developed Solar Pro-Active OneShot. This foliar biostimulant, which is high in phosphite, significantly aids early root growth and establishment, at the same time promoting the plant's natural resistance to disease. It is

rapidly absorbed by the leaf and translocated to all parts of the plant, stimulating natural plant auxin production. It increases the plants' natural defence mechanism towards some pathogens.

At Indigrow, we commissioned our own study, based on our unique sachet formulation (Solar Pro-Active OneShot) with the team at Levity Crop Science.

Tests were carried out using turf grass species *Lolium perenne* L. Bocelli germinated in an inert medium. The germinated seeds are supplied with Solar Pro-Active OneShot at the recommended application rate, and transferred to an incubator, where they were allowed to grow for 14 days, 14 hours a day at 20 degrees.



Results from the Indigrow trials

In comparison with the control seeds, the germinated seeds supplied with Solar Pro-Active OneShot were thicker, with more than double the thickness of the control roots. Levity Crop Science confirmed that applications of Solar Pro-Active OneShot increased the capacity of the plant to scavenge the soil surface for water, oxygen and nutrients, leading to the significantly increased root volume, when using the recommended application rate.

Working together with our partners



The main conclusions from the work conducted at Levity Crop Science were that Solar Pro-Active OneShot increases root volume within the first two weeks after germination, and that it increases the growth of tillers when used at the recommended application rate of 2-4 sachets/ha in 300-600l water.

This high concentration, and the relatively low application rates recommended when used as a biostimulant, means it is the ideal candidate for inclusion into the One Shot range. This unique packaging system has many benefits to the end user, particularly savings in transport, packaging materials and disposal of empty containers.

The independent trials reaffirmed our belief that Solar Pro-Active OneShot is a truly foliar feed, high in phosphite, designed to help dramatically reduce plant stress during the summer months. Solar Pro-Active OneShot is fully systemic, and is available in a fast acting, stable, tank mixable formulation which can be used in a tank mix with all of the other OneShot products for maximum efficiency.

Spring and summer applications boost plant growth, particularly in low temperatures, while late summer and autumn applications promote turf hardness, boosts plant health and improve disease resistance.

**For further information on the research carried out, contact [growth@indigrow.com](mailto:growth@indigrow.com)**



# Around the Green Scotland & N. Ireland



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**Regional Administrator**

**John Young**

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Central: The Turfnet delegation with the Claret Jug

The first of three Bunker Camps was held at Carnoustie. Over two weeks, four students from Elmwood College helped rebuild an impressive 33 bunkers out of the 73 required this winter. Dunstanburgh Castle and Royal Cinque Ports are the other two courses hosting this event.

Another great turn out for the last seminar of the year before our AGM at Auchterarder.

Thanks to all our speakers: John Philp MBE; Rick Bond, St Andrews Management Centre; Les Rae, Montrose Golf Links; Kellie Jerome, GEO and Claire Hargan, R&A Rules.

Our AGM was held and Richard Jenkinson will now take over the chairmanship from Shaun Anderson, with Craig Boath taking over the vice chairman role.

All the best to Steve Chappell, of Gleneagles, who is undertaking a new venture in Slovenia.

One last well done to Craig Berry of St Andrews Links on making "The Magnificent 10" trip to the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio.

Scott Thompson, Strathmore, has left to join the family grounds care business.

Wishing all fellow greenkeepers and patrons a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

## East



**Grant Moran**

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With the ban of chemicals coming into effect, how does this affect greenkeepers? What does the future hold? One of the things I will be explaining to my committee is how greenkeeping will be changing in future. We have to be looking at our practices in 10 years and beyond as more chemicals that we use will be off the market. What other chemicals will

## Central



**Craig Boath**

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We shall start off with great news that our out-going Chairman Shaun Anderson is now cancer free after not only going through a major operation but also fighting off the cancer. Shaun, from all at the Central Section we wish you all the best in your recovery to full strength.

Congratulations to Bob Meikle on 25 years' service at Crail Golfing Society.

Congratulations to Archie Dunn and Charlie McDonald, who fought off a tough duo of John Watson and Davy Cooper to take the 2017 Pairs Championship at Elie. That winter golf camp abroad really paid off for Archie and Charlie!

At the end of October, we had a seminar arranged through the TurfNet guys with Kevin Frank of Michigan State University giving an informative talk entitled, "Enlisting technology to

manage your course". He talked about what different course managers are doing with new technology, how using technology can help you provide better information to your members and what is all available to help improve your job.

Jon Kiger also spoke briefly on the benefits of being a member of TurfNet.

Speaking of TurfNet, and a visit to Carnoustie during the week for a game of golf was on the cards for the travelling delegation. Jon Kiger suggested that each person donates to BIGGA's Benevolent Fund as a requirement to get their photo taken with the Claret Jug. The Claret Jug was filled with £150 and plenty of photos were taken. Well done guys.

A Young Greenkeepers Education Day was held at Auchterarder and Gleneagles in October. The speakers for the day included Wendy Cole (R&A), who spoke about The R&A Scholarship scheme. Steve Chappell, Gleneagles, spoke about volunteering at events. Stuart Ferguson, Scottish chairman, spoke about BIGGA in Scotland and the day was rounded off by Mikey Doris, Gleneagles, who took the delegates on a walk around the Queens Course.

Thank you  
to our section  
sponsors

**What's  
on near  
you**

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

be banned and what do we have to do and spend to accommodate this? It's already happened in Europe, and it really is back to basics in the future.

## North



**Neil Sadler**  
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The section AGM was held at Murcar Links on 26 October. There was 20 of us in total. We had nine holes of golf around Murcar's second course, Strabathie. We played a stableford over nine holes, won by Billy Craig with 23 points, which is a fantastic score that even included a no score at one of the holes! After the golf, we had a quick bite to eat and then we held our AGM. George Mitchell, our chairman, gave us a summary on the year gone by. He thanked both Brora and Cruden Bay for allowing the use of their course and facilities for our outings. He also thanked Deeside for holding a very informative education day. George announced our patron winner, who is Scott Aitchison from Royal Dornoch. Scott was nominated by Eoin Riddell, his boss.

A special mention was given to Chris Lamb for winning both the Scottish and the BIGGA National championships.

George gave thanks Paul Sharp and Ali Mathieson who have decided to come off the committee. Their work has been priceless over the years and the help they have given him as chairman was most appreciated.

Moving forward and as a committee there has been a little bit of a re-shuffle. George Mitchell is still the chairman, with myself, Neil Sadler, becoming George's vice. Neil McLoughlin is the secretary, Richard Johnstone is the new education convenor. Billy Craig will continue to run the 200 Club and Martin Turna will be responsible for running the communication side of things. John Young is going to look after the accounts. Neil Mitchell has been co-opted on to the committee to provide an additional view on committee matters and also speak on behalf of the trade section. Neil was asked to join us because the help he gives us at the outings is fantastic and he is also a well-respected sales manager in the turf industry. There is still room on the committee for anyone who is wanting to get involved in running the section.

We discussed our outings and how to combat the dwindling numbers. Paul Sharp put to the floor that we should run a Texas scramble for one of the

outings. This was put to a vote and everybody at the AGM voted in favour. We also discussed the dates of the outings and we have decided to have our autumn event slightly later in the month. The reason behind this was to allow more people to attend, as hopefully the growth will have tailed off slightly and our workloads won't be so hectic! Our spring outing will be at Nairn Dunbar on Thursday 3 May and our autumn outing will be a Texas scramble at Banchory on Thursday 27 September. The scramble will consist of a team of four, which can be from your club or it can be a mix from several clubs and can include a patron.

After the disappointing amount of no shows at the outings this year, we have decided that anyone playing in the outings must pre-pay. The weather did play a big part this year, but the section had to take a financial hit on the no shows as we had already told the host club how many people were going to be turning up. So, payment will be accepted by cheque and by the preferred method BACS. Also, we would encourage you to pay for your 200 Club tickets by the same method. This will cut down the amount of cash being handled at outings.

It was also brought up at the AGM that some people are still not receiving emails from the section. This is generally down to the fact that email addresses have not been updated, so it is very important to keep your information up to date.

I am handing this news section over to Martin Turna, who can be contacted on martin.turna@googlemail.com. Please help to keep this section fresh and interesting and send him some news.

## SW Scotland



**Steven Carmichael**  
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It's with great sadness that I write of the passing of Norman Ferguson. Norman was born in the cottage at Royal Troon and began his career before World War Two, and was a greenkeeper until his retirement. Norman will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

The Golf Environment Awards dinner has changed venues to The Crown Hotel. Tickets can be purchased for the first time. £28 per person or four for £100. Ticket includes reception drink, three course meal and wine. Contact helen.waite@strigroup.com to reserve a seat. Good luck to all the finalists.

Best of luck to Jim Mcmurdo, who is leaving Prestwick for pastures new.

## West



**Scott Davidson**  
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## Northern Ireland



**Andy Barr**  
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In August the Northern Ireland Open Challenge Tour Event was held at Galgorm Castle. This event brings together golfers from all over the world. The team of eight greenkeepers and four volunteers worked tirelessly all week to have the course in fantastic condition, considering on the Monday morning of tournament week, all the bunkers had washed down due to torrential rain overnight. The NI Open is going from strength to strength and is a great opportunity for the team to showcase its greenkeeping skills.

## Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



**Phillip Snellin**  
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Thank you to everyone at BIGGA and may I wish all the golf clubs in Northern Ireland a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from Andy and myself. We're looking forward to a great 2018.



Northern Ireland: Greenkeeping teams at the Northern Ireland Open Challenge Tour Event, held at Galgorm Castle.

# Around the Green

# Central England



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**Regional Administrator**

**Roger Butler**

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## BB&O



**Craig Earnshaw**

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A very Merry Christmas to all BB&O greenkeepers.

A little update for you from north Berkshire. Matt Short, of Sand Martins, is making that jump from course manager to general manager. Matt has been greenkeeping for the best part of 20 years, starting his career at Milford in Surrey and quickly moving through the ranks of Crown Golf to course manager at Sherfield Oaks, near Basingstoke. After three years of course management at Sherfield, he took the job at Sand Martins, gaining more valuable experience on the way. Matt has always been very passionate about golf greenkeeping and really does love this industry.

Matt will be taking over as general manager in May 2018. He is looking forward to helping educate golfers and members about the restrictions we are facing as greenkeepers. He said he will miss elements of greenkeeping and will probably work on the course in tournament build up, to keep his finger on the pulse.

We all wish Matt every success for the future (and Matt, if it's too wet for buggies, that means it's too wet!)

Congratulations to Ben Kebby for taking on the role of regional vice chairman. Good luck Ben!

It was with much regret that due to lower than expected attendance, it was decided to cancel the winter education day. The committee apologises for those who had booked to attend. The committee has spoken about a change in direction for the 2018 programme with respect to education, which we hope will offer wider opportunities to attend, useful given our pressures and work schedules.



Midland: autumn seminar machinery demonstrations with TH White

Please everyone, if you have anything interesting to be written in the column get in touch. I'm all ears.

That's it from me for 2017 and here's to 2018. Happy New Year!

## Mid Anglia



**Darren Mugford**

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The Mid Anglia autumn golf day was held at Woburn at the wonderful Duchess course and we were very lucky to play on such a stunning day with hardly any wind and a touch of autumn sunshine. Our thanks go to Courses Manager John Clarke and his team for preparing the course to such a wonderful standard. I know everybody thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the Duchess, making placement critical on such a tight tree-lined course. We also appreciated the lovely meal afterwards and would like to thank Woburn for their hospitality and for making us feel welcome. Results: 1st, Owen Crouch, 36pts; 2nd, Gerald Bruce, 36pts; 3rd, Alex Blanchard, 33pts; nearest the pin on 7th, Alex Blanchard; nearest the pin on 17th, John Chamberlain; trade, Simon Banks.

Our final event of the season will be the Texas scramble on 20 December at Ashridge. Usual format of teams of four with a minimum of two greenkeepers per team. This always proves to be a very popular event, so please get your entries in quickly to avoid missing out. Look out for further information on our Facebook page nearer the date.

Thanks to Sponsors: Rigby Taylor; Headland Amenity; Banks Amenity; ALS; Avoncrop Amenity; Banks Amenity. Your support is, as ever, really appreciated.

Wishing everybody in the Mid Anglia section a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and see you all in 2018 for more upcoming events.

## Midland



**Glen Howard**

howie8447@sky.com

Congratulations to Andy Brougham from Wolstanton, who has moved to Astbury in Cheshire. Best of luck in your new role Andy.

Adrian Henshaw from The Welcombe in Stratford has moved out of the area to start a role with First Call. Best of luck in your new role Adrian and we hope everything went OK with your move to Nottingham.

**What's on near you**

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

The section's autumn seminar was held at The Chase in Staffordshire. It was a full day of seminars and machinery demonstrations, with great success.

Kelly Marie Clack and Geoff Fenn from Advance Grass Solutions kicked things off with an insight into organic fertilisers, and the impact they have on the microbe levels in the rootzone.

Sean Brocklehurst gave a really good insight into the YGC and the role they play within BIGGA.

George Wale was next up with an insight into course setup for tournaments and how far in advance they work with the hosting clubs. Michael Fance from Farmura gave a very informative talk on getting micro nutrients and bio stimulants.

Machinery demonstrations were held outside with T H White. New product lines from Iseki tractors. Ransomes/Jacobsen had their new tees mower and dedicated sprayer in operation. We finished with a talk on nematodes for use against chafer grubs and leatherjackets with trial work by Phil Chiverton of The Grove.

Big thanks go to Simon White from The Chase and Andy Laing for organising such a great event and also to all who attended for taking the time out of your schedule to support the event.

The ICL Doubles has been won by Ed Stand, Trentham, and Adam Jones, Handsworth. The pair finished 1up on the 18th. I am told Dave Fellows and Nick Bird missed out on the 18th when Dave missed the easiest 3ft putt to allow Ed and Adam to take the win. Thanks go to Emma Kilby from ICL for sponsoring the event.

We have the winter tournament being held at Trentham on 13 December, kindly sponsored by Banks Amenity. The format is pairs, which will be drawn on the day. Cost is £28 and we will be teeing off at 10am. Please contact Glen Howard on 07795 250761 or email howie8447@sky.com to book in. There is a Christmas drink after the event for anyone who would like to attend. Please keep an eye out on Facebook and the website, [www.biggamidlands.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlands.co.uk), for more info. Bring your wellies — these greenkeepers can drink!

The Midlands website has been down for a few weeks but is back up and running with a different address. Please add it to your favourites, [www.biggamidlands.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlands.co.uk).

The Midland calendar and fixture cards will be ready in December you can either collect from the golf day or they will be distributed by the local trade representatives.

All that's left now is to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and great New Year and hopefully we will see you at BTME in Harrogate!

## East of England



Following on from the Section AGM at Pottergate recently, a committee meeting was held at Waltham Windmill on Thursday 9 November to discuss various matters, the committee and their rolls are now listed below:

Committee roles for 2018: Bruce Hicks, treasurer; Graham Ives, secretary, education officer and regional representative; Gary Poole, assistant education officer; Graham Macdonald, chairman, deputy regional representative; Adrian Kitchinson, vice chairman; Ian Collett, communications; Rob Welford, golf officer.

There was a massive thanks to Bruce Hicks from all the committee and section regarding his time spent in both the secretary and treasurer roles, and a big thanks also goes to all the section's sponsors and supporters for 2017. I would also like to thank our sponsors for the 2018 season.

The section is hoping to run four golf events in May, July, October (AGM) and December next year and these venues and dates will be confirmed. A fixture card sponsored by FG Adamson & Son (John Deere) will be sent out in January 2018, with an invite to the very successful and popular seminar and education event, again to be held at Woodhall Spa on 28 February. The speakers are from Turfkeeper, Toro Irrigation, Bernhard, and Redexim Charterhouse. In the afternoon, there will be a course walk by Sam Rhodes, course manager at Woodhall Spa.

Finally, the Christmas Golf Team Event is now fully booked at Lincoln (Torksey) and this should be an enjoyable day.

As always if you have a story, information or a club project you would like featured in GI, please contact me.

On behalf of the committee, may I wish everyone involved with the section a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous, New Year.

## East Midlands



Hi all, I hope you are all well and the winter has started OK for you. In October we had our autumn Texas scramble and AGM at Rufford Park, which was a great day, apart from the weather. The winners were the team of D McJannet, L McJannet, M Robinson and R Tyson who scored a net 58.7. Well done to them. The longest drive was won by P French and unbelievably the nearest the pin was won by P Fowkes. Thanks to all the sponsors and everyone for coming and taking part.

We also had the final of the AGS pairs at Beau Desert with the team of Nigel Colley and Asa English winning 4&2. We would like to thank AGS and all the pairs who took part.

The AGM was a brief affair, with only Martin Hickling stepping down from his role as secretary and treasurer. The committee would like to thank Martin for all his hard work.

The education day at Greatham Valley was a great success, with 35 plus members attending. I would like to thank Adi Porter and his team for hosting us and for the course walk. Thanks also to Jonathan Tucker from the STRI and Kevin Scarce from Turfkeeper for their presentations, which were very informative.

The next golf event will be our Christmas event at Longcliffe on 7 December. The details should have been sent out and I am sure bookings will be coming in.



East Midlands: Education day at Greatham Valley



East Midlands: Autumn Texas Scramble winners



**Section News**  
We want to hear what's been going on in your section  
Email your news to [Karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:Karl@bigga.co.uk)

Around the Green

# Around the Green Northern



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**Regional Administrator**

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## North East



**Paul Walton**

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As this is the last edition before Christmas and New Year (I know, how fast has this year gone?) I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018.

Ian Fletcher ran a LANTRA four-day chainsaw course at Morpeth and Wynyard. A group of four people attended each session and the course was a great success, thanks Ian. Anyone else that may be interested in doing this course, please contact me at paul\_walton14@hotmail.co.uk.

The annual Bunker Camp was held at Dunstanburgh Castle. Stuart Imeson and his team had over 30 volunteers helping them over the course of two weeks. The education day and course walk was also a great success, with about 50 people throughout the region attending. Many thanks to speakers James Bledge, Alan Patterson, Adam Newton and James Hutchinson. Stuart would like to thank all who attended and helped out.

A great chance to check out the work from the Bunker Camp will be to play the 'bring a bottle' tournament on 14 December, first tee time is 10am. Check out the BIGGA Facebook page for confirmed prices. A text will also be sent out near the time.

## Cleveland



**Anthony McGeough**

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Hopefully all the leaves have gone by now and we can pack away the blowers for another day. As you might be aware, some months it's difficult to write the



**Derek Thomson,**  
head greenkeeper at Wynyard

section for Around the Green, so I put out a little appeal on Facebook for some more information to make this a bit more interesting than reading about the goings on at Richmond. Thankfully Ian Stewart from Seaton Carew was generous enough to share some of the amazing bunker work they have been doing. And of course, the most interesting thing about these bunkers is that they are constructed using artificial turf. The work took two guys two weeks to complete and looks like the effort was worth it. I believe they are planning on doing some more if they have time.

Don't mess with Derek! In January, Derek Thomson, head greenkeeper at Wynyard, and his daughter Iona fought in the WKC English Open Kickboxing Championships in Manchester. Both of them got medals, with Iona winning silver and Derek winning bronze. This meant they qualified to represent England at the WKC World Championships, held between 27-29 October in Albufeira, Portugal.

At that event Iona got a bronze and silver medal and Derek got a bronze. Derek said: "The biggest hardship was the ribbing the lads gave me representing England, being Scottish." Derek is now an honorary Englishman and at least he will be able to support someone at the World Cup!

Out with the old and in with the new at Richmond, with the departure of two much-loved, overworked tractors, with a

combined service of 37 years. I did have a little tear in my eye when they were trailered away, but that soon dried up when the new one arrived. Happy days!

Don't forget about the 'bring a bottle', which is on Tuesday 12 December at Cleveland Golf Club, 10.45am kick off with bacon/coffee on arrival and two course meal, all for £16. Book early to guarantee a spot. This event is always well attended and no one goes home empty handed.

## North West



**Steve Hemsley**

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A great day was had by all who came to the Bert Cross Trophy competition held at the excellent West Lancs GC in November. The course was in excellent condition and is a credit to Stuart Hogg and all his team. Everyone commented on how nice it was to walk down the fairways that were dry and firm, an experience many of us have not had for quite a while.

Congratulations must go to Paul Davies from FMW who won with a fantastic 34 points in very windy conditions. Paul took the win away from Stephan Barrat on a back six countback. Tracey Maddison came third with 32 points, a score which included an excellent 20 points on the front nine. Nick Pattison won the longest drive up the 18th fairway with Andrew Cornes winning the nearest the pin on 17. Thanks to Bathgate and Campeys for their sponsor support of the event and to all the other companies for their support.

The AGM also took place before the meal and the committee was set for next year, where they will continue to work hard to bring you as many different events as possible. Credit also to West Lancs clubhouse team for their excellent hosting of the after-golf activities.



**What's  
on near  
you**  
See our  
events page  
for details  
of what's  
happening in  
your region

## Northern



Hope everyone is enjoying the recent autumnal good weather spell we have been encountering. With temperatures still warm, most of us are probably all busy cutting, as well as the never-ending job of leaf collecting!

The Christmas golf at Bracken Ghyll went really well. Twenty-seven players played in a 3-man Texas scramble, with six drives each to count. The format was tough, with each player having to carefully monitor exactly how many drives each player had taken! The weather was perfect with autumn sunshine. The course was in fantastic condition. Thanks to Rob Walker and his staff. The bacon butty and Christmas dinner was also perfect! (Anyone who parked in the top car park, how dark was it?)

Results: 1st, T Smith, T Hastings, T Hayes; 2nd, T Wood, R Gee, R Walker; 3rd, P Davis, T Day, S Oliver.

Thanks to Adrian of Balmers Turfcare, who was kind enough to sponsor the event, making sure everyone went home with a prize!

Good luck to S Rothwell, a.k.a. La La, on his new job at the RAC club. I'd say machinery and working conditions may be a little different to the well-equipped sheds we encounter in West Yorkshire!

I hope everyone has a good Christmas and New Year!

## Sheffield



October saw the Sheffield Section autumn competition at Coxmoor, with the course being a credit to Ben and his team. Many thanks go to Russ Latham and Premier Pitches for sponsoring the event and also the Midlands section who we invited to play.

Once again, the honours were taken by serial contender Paul Bracey with a fine 40 points and Tom 'Tacit' Smith taking the trade honours.

Results: 1st, Paul Bracey, 40pts; 2nd, Simon Brown, 39pts; 3rd, Nigel Colley, 36pts; Trade, Tom Smith, 35pts;

Nearest pin on 8th, J. Smith; Nearest pin on 10th, S. Brown.

After 51 years of greenkeeping, Chris Colton, Sitwell Park, has decided to retire (sort of). Having started as a junior at Lindrick, Chris progressed to Retford, where he joined as head greenkeeper. He moved to Sitwell in March 1980, where he has been ever since. Over his 37 years in charge, Chris has maintained the course to a high standard, while overseeing Sitwell as it hosted Sheffield Union events. The Yorkshire Union also paid regular visits to host tournaments.

On his life at Sitwell, Chris said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working here, I have had a great team behind me and made lots of friends for life." Chris won't be fully distancing himself from greenkeeping, as he plans to return to Sitwell in the summer to work part-time.

On a sadder note, we recently lost one of the stalwarts of the Sheffield Section in Neil Maltby, who in his time did a lot for the section as well as his 33-year tenure at Wheatley. I knew Neil personally and he will be greatly missed by both family and friends.

## North Wales



Upgrading the irrigation control has been made a whole lot easier for Simon Ashford and the team at Upton-by-Chester thanks to the Flailbot from 360 Degree Groundscare.

Apologies for the reference to the photo in last month's article that didn't include the photo.

The section would like to wish Huw Morgan well on his move from greenkeeping to work for Ecobunker.

The results from the Christmas golf competition at North Wales will be in January's GI due to deadline dates, but thanks are extended North Wales GC for hosting the event.



# New Members

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Stuart Pearson	DH GK - Aberdour
Christopher Gilchrist	GK - Aberdour
Mark Laing	HGK - Aberdour
Sean Menzies	AGK - Pitlochry
Mark Gowan	FA - Ardminnan
Samuel Gibson	AGK - Edenmore
Andrew Clark	DH GK - Loudoun
Ronnie Montgomery	HGK - Loudoun
Luke Murdoch	AGK - Loudoun
Jonathan Torrance	AGK - Drumpellier

### Northern

Michael Thomas	GK - The Wynyard
Luke Denny	AGK - Alnmouth
Alan Williams	AGK - Aberdovey
David Mycock	HGK - Disley
Adam Frost	AGK - Castle Hawk
David Crampton	HGK - Normanton

### Central England

Stephen Nicholson	CM - Oxford GC
Charley Walker McAll	AGK - Lambourne
Adam Jones	AGK - Radley
Jamie Hayes	AGK - Oxford GC
Joshua Cox	AGK - Oxford GC
Malcolm Wheat	HGK - Ormonde Fields
Glynis Thacker	AGK - RAF Marham
Maximillian Dewey	AGK - The Bedfordshire
Tom Ellis	AGK - Llanymynech

### South East

Nick Staff	GK - Aldeburgh
James Harrison	AGK - St Clements
Mark Bettell	GK - The Rayleigh Club
Troy Mayo	AGK - Royston

# Around the Green

# South West & S. Wales



**Chairman**

**Steve Lloyd**

07578 276082 | [@GreensMalvern](#)  
coursemanager@theworcestershire  
golfclub.co.uk



**Regional Administrator**

**Tracey Walker**

07841 948110 | [@biggaswsw](#)  
tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk



with the reduction in club ripping on the turf on the par 3 tee, and how well it has dealt with the trafficking on the tee from the amount of golf played.

At this stage, they are only in the trialling period and there will have to be more data collected in order to make a decision on whether this is a process they may commit more to in the future.

If you or your club are carrying out any events, construction, trials or anything you would be willing to share, I would love to report on it, no matter how big or small. Please contact me on dt\_taylor101@hotmail.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

## South Coast



**Mike Cartwright**

[@mikehg](#)  
mikecartwright1  
@hotmail.co.uk

Winter seems to have really taken hold as I write this. I had two woolly hats on today and found myself saying "Brrrr" quite a lot! We have also finally started some winter work at Highcliffe as the grass seems to have stopped growing at last.

The final of the BIGGA Management Trophy was played last month at a very nice Frilford Heath. The South Coast was represented by The Army GC, and my own club Highcliffe Castle. We both fared pretty well, and Highcliffe finished a very respectable second (I played like God!)

The South Coast AGM was held at Bramshaw. Course Manager Jason Buckmaster gave us all a very informative talk and course walk around the Forest Course. Ponies, cows, fences and Quangos (yes, they still exist) were all talked about. The Forest Course at Bramshaw is my favourite golf course and well worth a visit if you enjoy golf as it should be. If you ever fancy a game, give me a shout because I'm always up for a round there.

## South West



**Dave Taylor**

[@BiggaSouthwest](#)  
dt\_taylor@  
hotmail.co.uk

Hi everyone. Firstly, let me introduce myself. Dave Taylor, as the new writer of Around the Green for the South West Section. I'm really looking forward to putting together articles about what is going on in our section.

I would like to thank my predecessor Seb Cavilla for doing such a great job over the last year, writing for this column, and wish him luck with his role as section secretary.

Over the past year there has been quite a substantial change in how our committee looks. This is due to previous members stepping down. Myself and the rest of the committee would like to express our thanks to former chairman James Braithwaite, John Keenaghan and our trade representative Ian Barnett for their time and devotion while being on the committee. Being on the committee is carried out voluntarily and we thank them for giving up their time to help promote and progress our section.



**What's on near you**  
See our events page for details of what's happening in your region

So here we go with my first article and I think it's a very interesting development in our industry: artificial grass stitching.

This may not be new to the groundsman up and down the country who over the last few years have been using this technology on football or rugby pitches, but in regards to practical usage on golf courses, it is relatively new.

Recently, James Braithwaite, course manager of Long Ashton, embarked on a trial using this technology, supplied by SIS pitches, on his tees. In speaking to James, he told me he was only one of five clubs that were trialling this process and was very honoured to be part of it.

He then gave me a lowdown on some of the specifications of the process that were carried out. The twine used for stitching was a new technology and not the same that is used on Deso pitches. They trialled at two different depths, 90mm and 180mm.

There were 12 strands on each exit point of the ground, giving 5% coverage at 20mm<sup>3</sup> spacing. The area covered was 72m<sup>3</sup> which took approximately four hours.

The stand height will sit at 2mm below the 10mm cutting height. James said that since the trial had taken place, he was very impressed

The AGM went smoothly, and was attended by around 30 members. Glen Kirby gave his chairman's report. In it he mentioned that all the events over the year had a total attendance of over half of the South Coast membership. This is fantastic, but if you're in the half that didn't make any events, try and make one next year, you won't regret it.

The final event of the year will be held soon. This year's Turkey Trot will be held at South Winchester. The results will be in next month's report.

I'm pretty sure that this the last report of 2017, so on behalf of the committee I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

## South Wales



**Andrew Hatcher**  
 @BIGGASouthWales  
 andrewhatcher1@msn.com

I'm hoping this year's Christmas Turkey Trot is fully booked by now. Just in case, we play at Pyle & Kenfig on 19 December, cost £15, first tee from 9.50am. Coffee & bacon roll on arrival and two-course meal. AGM after golf.

The section wishes Lloyd Martinson all the best with relocating to Florida and getting married.

The two nominees going to BTME 2018 are Rhys Mcdonagh and Clive Jones.

Stuart Adams has moved to Cardigan GC. Can't keep up with you Stuart, good luck!

Let's hope the weather will be on our side for our golf fixtures next year. Very poor this season, thanks to the players that turned up at Aberdare GC, even though the golf was called off.

Just wishing everyone in the section and especially the patrons who continue to support us, a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I hope 2018 is full of happy golfers. We have lots planned for the section in 2018. Please keep up the support and enjoy the Christmas break.

## Devon & Cornwall



**Neil Rogers**  
 @buckaroo14  
 nrogers@advancegrass.com

On 8 November we held a meeting at Saunton GC. We all met at 8am for a well-deserved cooked breakfast, which

went down very well! We then had a very informative educational talk by Bjarni Hannesson on the greenkeeping challenges faced in Iceland and the theory behind MLSN, which Bjarni follows. The section would like to thank Bjarni for travelling over to us and sharing his vast knowledge.

The non-golfers then took a course walk, led by Course Manager Ray Day. Ray showed the group around the 36-hole links talking about the constant improvements that he and his team are continually making.

The golfers took part in a 4ball better ball format competition over the stunning East course. The Parker brothers, Richard and Andy, took the honours with a very credible 41 points in near perfect conditions. 2nd was Jason Brooks and Bjarni Hannesson and 3rd was Rob Cook and Neil Ivamy. Jason Brooks won nearest the pin with a great shot that was "well close"! And longest drive was won by Neil Ivamy.

On 16 November we had the Regional Conference at Somerset CCC in Taunton. There was full day of education with talks from Phil Helmn of Goodwood, who spoke about the variety of tasks he faces and management techniques. Next was Dave Edmondson of the Island GC near Dublin, who spoke about the challenges faced when looking after a links golf course. The next talk was named Poacher turned Gamekeeper by Worplesdon secretary Chris Lomas. Chris spoke about his career that has taken him from greenkeeping to being a secretary, he also spoke with recent experience about the misuse of social media! Tom Smith gave an update from the Young Greenkeepers' Committee. After lunch Roger Davey from Irritech gave an insight into some of the 'good, the bad and the ugly' things that he sees on a weekly basis in his role as an irrigation consultant. The day was rounded off by Sid Arrowsmith MG who spoke about his long and varied career. The section would like to thank Tracey for organising the day and the sponsors for their continued support.

For those of you who are unaware, Darren Ellis, who was head greenkeeper at Bovey Castle, has resigned his post, I'm sure that all of the section will join me in wishing Darren all the success in the future.

The section would like to thank our patrons for their continued support.

# New Members

## South East

Paul Adams	Affiliate - Soil Biology Ltd
Benton Abott	FA - The London
Harry Topping	AGK - Harpenden Common
Andrew Wicks	GK - Old Thorns Manor
Craig Forester	GK - Purley Downs
James Bentley	AGK - Epsom
Tobias Martin	GK - Pyecombe

## South West and South Wales

Abi Crosswood	Affiliate
Robert Sillence	FA - Wickham Park
Gemma St John	GK - Brokenhurst Manor
Matthew Blundell	AGK - Upavon
Liam Oak	AGK - Glyn Abbey
David Gilbert	Groundsman - Clifton College
Jeffrey Lewis	Groundsman - Clifton College
Ryan Tate	AGK - Worlebury
Trevor Ford	AGK - Gloucester

## International

Frank Czarnietzki	Maria Bildhausen eV
Pawel Lusiak	Losby

# Around the Green South East



**Chairman**  
**Peter Smith**  
Pds1@btinternet.com.



**Regional Administrator**  
**Clive Osgood**  
07841 948410  
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



**Regional Administrator**  
**Kerry Phillips**  
07715 672568  
@BiggaKerry  
kerry@bigga.co.uk

## Surrey



**Stephen Alabaster**  
@JacUKEast  
salabaster@tip.textron.com

Monday 6 November saw the clash of the giants in the annual England vs. Scotland match, kindly held this year at West Hill. As befitting the competition, ringers and old pros were drafted in and questions were duly asked about the lineage of some of the players present! Scotland decided to put out their strength first and early doors it was 1.5 points each after the first three matches. It was then up to the last three groups to show their metal! This happened in a straight sweep, leading England to a 4.5 to 1.5 victory (I have been asked to mention that one of the points won by Scotland was due to the fact they had an Englishman playing for them...). Afterwards we retired to the clubhouse, where Sam Bethell accepted the trophy from Danny Murray, the Scotland captain. We would like to thank all the staff at West Hill for letting us play this event.

For this year's Turkey Trot we are very pleased to be going to back to Cuddington Golf Club. Please email your entries to Lewis as normal. We are limited to 60 places this year so first come first served! A full write up will be available in next month's magazine.

## Kent



**Ben Adams**  
@BIGGAKent  
ben.adams@talktalk.net

This will be my final blog, as I am stepping down as chairman of the Kent section. I would like to thank all those that have supported me in the role and for all members who have attended events the section has organised. I would also like to thank all of the

sponsors for their support and hope you can again sponsor the section next year. I am sure the committee will keep up the good work!

I have really enjoyed the role and being part of something meaningful. I hope to keep in contact with everyone and am always here if anyone needs anything!

## East Anglia



**Mick Lathrope**  
@BIGGAEastAnglia  
lil.lathrope@ntlworld.com

After 53 years of greenkeeping I shall finally hang up my rake at the end of the year. I started as a 16-year-old apprentice at Maylands in 1964 and went to Eaton Norwich as head greenkeeper in 1972. As you can imagine, things have changed. Even our patron Sir Michael Bonallack OBE used to be Michael Bonallack, golf pro at Thorpe Hall. I started being the scribe for the East Anglia Section when we were BGGGA. Sadly, I have not been able to attend as many golf days as I would have liked of late. I should, however, be at our Turkey Trot in December, and will be sending the information one last time. I have enjoyed working on Eaton golf course for over 45 years and am very proud to have a lasting legacy in trees that I and my old team have planted. Over 6,000 in all, 95% of the trees in the semi rough. I have made many friends through greenkeeping, but I am sorry to say I've never been to Harrogate. I might just go next year and have a drink or two with some old friends. As you can probably imagine, I could write a book on my greenkeeping experiences. But now is not the time, maybe one day.

*Our thanks go to Mick Lathrope for his dedication over the years and we wish him well with his retirement.*



## London



**Kevin O'Neill**  
@kevodale76  
londonsection@bigga.co.uk

Events reminder — Turkey Trot on 14 December at Porters Park. 9am shotgun start. We will also be holding the AGM, so any potential committee members or points to raise, please contact member of the committee.

Irrigation workshop at Stanmore GC on Wednesday 6 December.

If you would like to attend any of the events please contact londonsection@bigga.co.uk.

## Sussex



**Chris Humphrey**  
@CTCChrisH  
chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk

We are fast approaching Christmas (as my wife keeps reminding me!) The section will have already held its Turkey Trot by the time you read this. A full report will be in the January edition.

We also have an education day planned on 19 December at West Sussex GC. The day will include speakers on cutting unit maintenance, tank mixing, heathland ecology, a talk from James Bledge of Royal Cinque Ports and Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Nick Machin, as well as a couple of other topics to be decided by the attendees on arrival. For more details email sussexsection@bigga.co.uk or give me a call.

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

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

**What's on near you**

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

# Upcoming Events

Contact your section secretary to book a place

## Scotland & Northern Ireland

**BIGGA Scotland Golf Industry Conference:** 27 February, Perth Concert Hall

**Northern Ireland:** 8 March, CAFRE - Greenmount Campus, education day

**Central:** 25 April, Leven Links, spring outing

**North:** 3 May, Nairn Dunbar, spring outing

**South West:** 10 May, Troon Portland, spring outing

## Northern

**North East:** 14 December, Dunstanburgh Castle, 'Bring a bottle' tournament

**Cleveland:** 14 December, Cleveland Golf Club, 'Bring a bottle' tournament

**North West:** 27 February, Garstang, BIGGA North West Conference

**Sheffield:** 11 April, Abbeydale, Rainbird Irrigation Day

**North West:** 19 April, Prestbury, spring tournament

## Central England

**Midland:** 13 December, Trentham, Christmas golf day

**East of England:** 15 December, Lincoln GC, Christmas Texas Scramble

**Mid Anglia:** 20 December, Ashridge, Christmas golf day

**East of England:** 28 February, Woodhall Spa, seminar and education day

## South East

**London:** 14 December, Porters Park, Turkey Trot

**Sussex:** 19 December, West Sussex, education day

**London:** 14 February, Oaklands College - St Albans Campus, education day

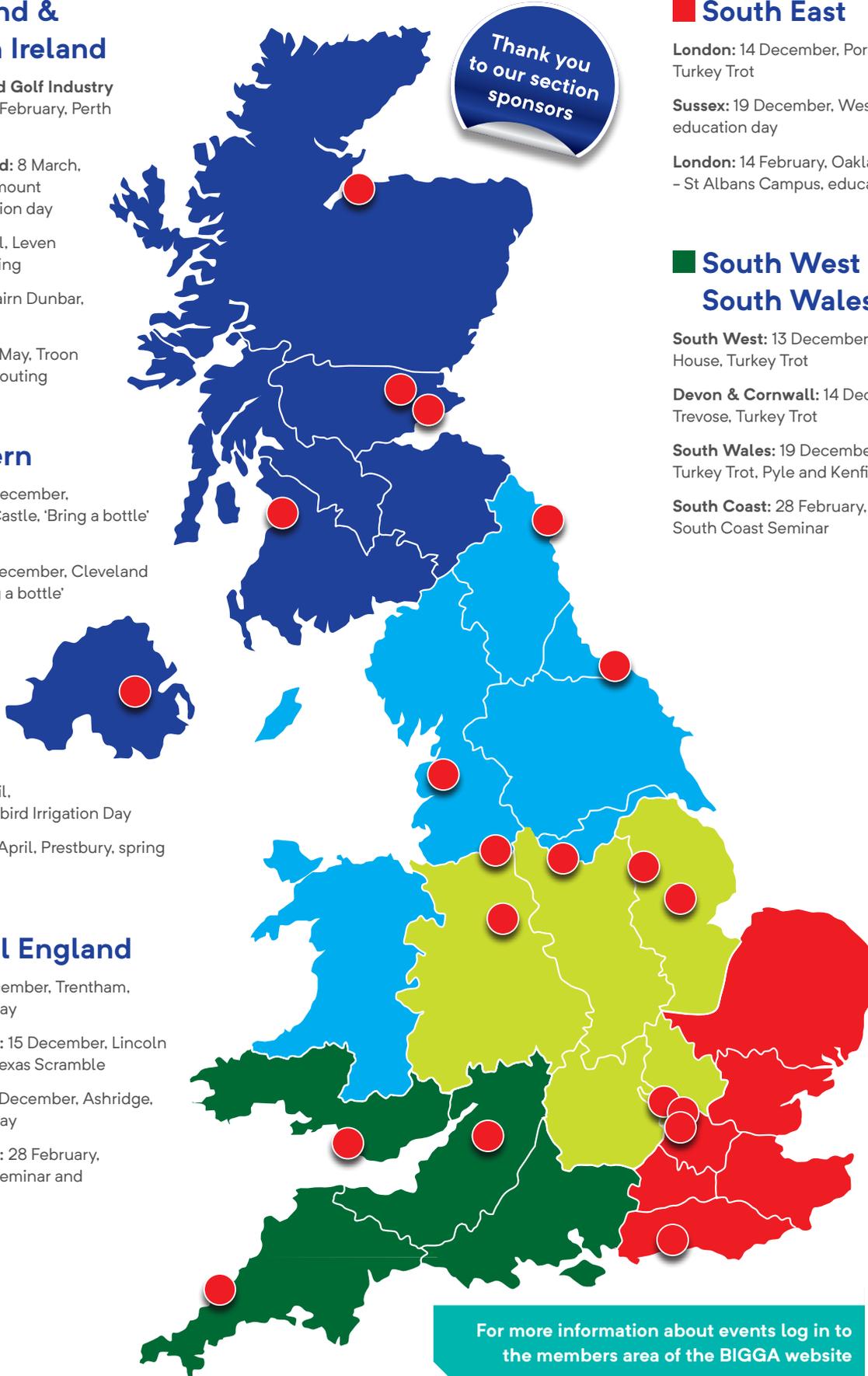
## South West & South Wales

**South West:** 13 December, The Manor House, Turkey Trot

**Devon & Cornwall:** 14 December, Trevoze, Turkey Trot

**South Wales:** 19 December, Turkey Trot, Pyle and Kenfig

**South Coast:** 28 February, TBC, BIGGA South Coast Seminar



Upcoming Regional Events

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





To advertise in the Buyer's Guide please contact:



**Lauren Frazer**  
Business Development Executive  
01347 833832  
lauren@bigga.co.uk

# Buyer's Guide

## Keeping feet warm, dry and protected is essential

**We** have been basking in the delights of an Indian summer recently, but the days are shortening and there is a definite chill in the air.

If you work outside in all weathers, you know how important it is to keep yourself warm, dry and comfortable. We don't want to be sweating in hot weather or freezing in the winter. This is common sense, but it is also based on scientific research about the negative effects of wearing the wrong kind of occupational clothing or footwear.

Footwear is especially important because unlike garments which can easily be added or removed as required, footwear is worn throughout an entire day. So, if boots are uncomfortable, they may be rejected.

During an average working day a foot can produce perspiration up to the equivalent of half a cup of liquid. In cold weather, the core temperature of feet can drop, leading to lack of concentration.

**So, highly breathable, waterproof footwear is a necessity, not a luxury.**

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Recent wearer trials by greenkeepers at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, Leicester City F.C. and Ground Control, confirmed 100% satisfaction with waterproofing, with over 90% saying boots were comfortable, re-dried easily and stayed warm in cold weather. So, get sorted and your feet will be ready for winter.

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## Learning & Development

# Make sure that next big opportunity doesn't pass you by

**E**ach year the Continue to Learn programme provides BIGGA members with incredible opportunities for career progression, and this year we're taking things one step further.

For the first time, we're introducing mock interview sessions and a careers clinic, which will help you grasp the next big opportunity that comes your way.

BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt said: "Each year the Continue to Learn education programme provides incredible turf management knowledge.

"But we wanted to get back to basics, and in response to the requests of BIGGA members, we have added these

development opportunities. BIGGA members are among the most highly educated within the industry, with incredible knowledge and abilities.

"However, conveying these abilities in a high pressure situation, such as a job interview can be challenging for many. That's why we have introduced these mock interviews and career clinics, to help BIGGA members achieve their career goals."

### Mock interviews

## Are you getting the interview, but not getting the job?

## Do you want to take your career skills one step further?

**We are offering BIGGA members the chance to practice their interview techniques by attending a 'mock' interview.**

Attendees will be put themselves in front of an interview panel comprising a course manager and golf club manager or chair of greens. There will be the opportunity to practice their skills and receive feedback on how to improve their chances of success at their next interview.

Members can select the position that they wish to be interviewed for and download a copy of the job specification from the website.

Feedback will be provided by the interview panel.

All mock interviews will take place in The Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 2HU.

Tips and techniques for preparing for the interview can be downloaded from the BTME website, where you can also book your interview slot.



*Scan here*

## Careers Clinic

Tony Martin, managing director of Golf Recruit will be hosting a Careers Clinic, where he will offer advice on:

- Writing or updating your CV
- How to read and understand a job advert and tailor your CV to suit
- Write a cover letter that makes an impact
- Applying for jobs overseas
- Advice on Personal Development Planning

The Careers Clinic will be located in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate Convention Centre on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 January 2018.

You can book an appointment at on the BTME website. Head to [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk) or scan this QR code.



Scan here



## Quick tips on body language

DO:

### 1 Walk in confidently

Look as professional as you can from the outset.

### 2 Deliver a firm handshake

Keep it firm so you don't seem weak, but don't crush their fingers.

### 3 Sit up straight

Keep the small of your back against the chair and keep your legs straight and as still as possible.

### 4 Keep eye contact

This shows the interviewer that you're not intimidated, and that you're taking everything in. Around 10 seconds of eye contact at a time is a good guideline.

### 5 Smile

This will make you look more relaxed, comfortable and personable.

DON'T

### 1 Be overconfident

Arrogance is not good.

### 2 Offer a weak handshake

This may indicate a lack of confidence and can be awkward. Mirror your interviewer's handshake if you can.

### 3 Slouch

Bad posture makes you look bored and uninterested.

### 4 Stare

There's a fine line between being attentive and being frightening, so always remember to blink.

### 5 Play with your pen/hair

Be aware of any bad habits you have and keep in the back of your mind, so you don't accidentally do them during the interview.

Source: [www.reed.co.uk](http://www.reed.co.uk)

Don't Forget:

Closing date for bookings is Friday 12 January 2018



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

Ian Nichols, Orsett; Steven Hardy, The Warwickshire; Andrew Laing, Gaudet Luce; Graham Hastie, Stoneham; Adam Moss, The Henley.



Bayer CropScience



BERNHARD



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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



# Apprentice Corner

Andy Wight | Oaklands College

Are you a college tutor, industry expert or greenkeeper who would like to contribute to Apprentice Corner? Get in touch by emailing [karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk)

## Know your weeds?

One of the new tasks all Level 2 Apprentice Greenkeepers will have to do is identify 15 weeds on their course.

In law a club may have a duty to prevent invasive non-native plants on their land from spreading into the wild and causing a nuisance. Indeed, in some cases the law states the person responsible could be fined up to £5,000 or face two years in prison if they allow contaminated soil or plant material from any waste they transfer to spread into the wild.

Native weeds that must not be allowed to spread to agricultural land include the common ragwort, spear thistle, broad leaved dock, curled dock and creeping thistle. Therefore it is important to be able

to identify weeds to check if any harmful ones are present. In order to deal with weeds by physical, cultural or chemical means, you will need to know what they are so you can research control methods.

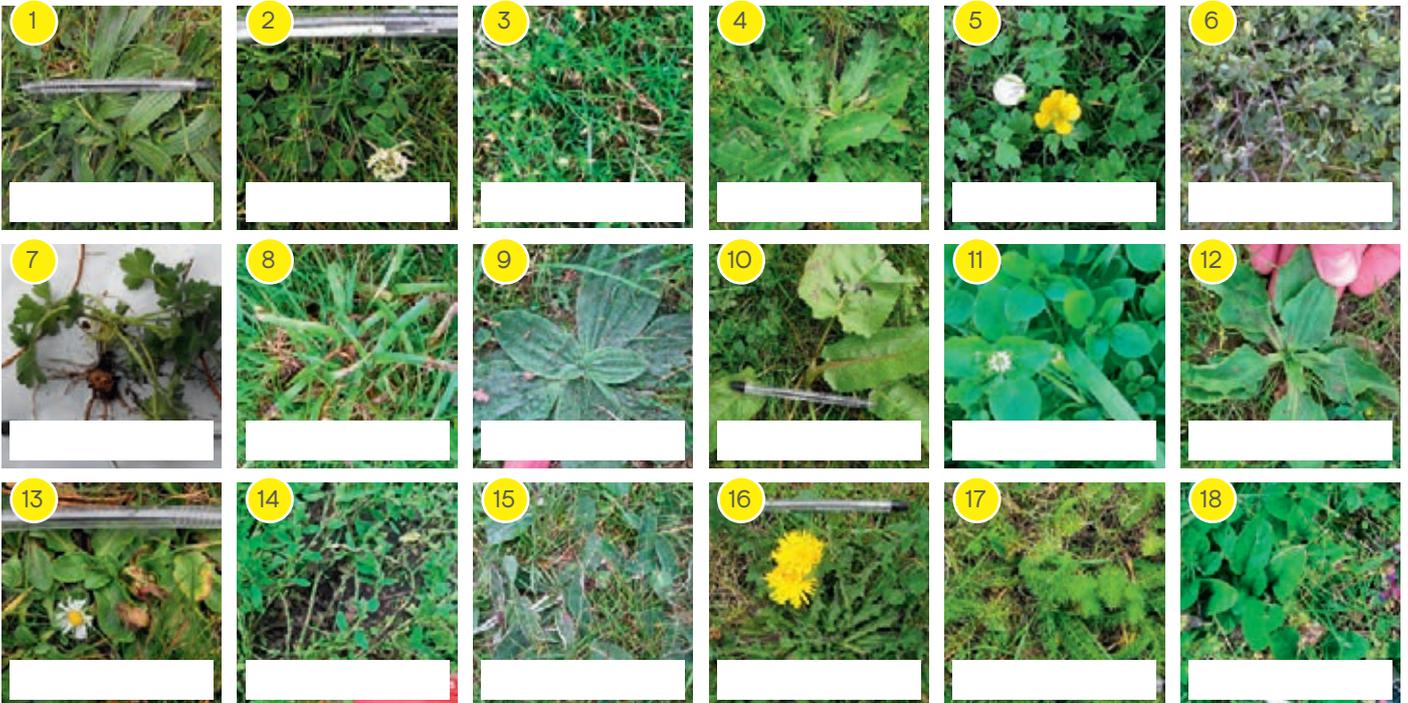
There is also the fact that you may need to identify 15 weeds in your End Point Assessment. To get the best grades an apprentice will need to use botanical names. These are a way of classifying plants which is understood internationally. For the purpose of the EPA the botanical name will consist of genus and species only — no need for family etc.

Identifying weeds correctly can only come from constant practice. The best way is to ask yourself what weeds

you already know and then learn their botanical names. If you already know five, you need only learn another 10.

Next, with the help of your manager (or a wise colleague), make a list of weeds on your course that you do not know and take a photo or make a sketch of them and learn their names. The next step is to constantly be on the lookout for them as you work on the course and mentally remind yourself of their names every time you see them. This way you will soon become familiar with all the weeds on your golf course and know their names.

See how many of the weeds below you can identify by their common and botanical names.



- 13. Daisy Bellis Perennis
- 14. Knot weed Polygonum aviculare
- 15. Mouse-ear hawkweed Pilosella officinarum
- 16. Dandelion Taraxacum officinale
- 17. Yarrow Achillea Millefolium
- 18. Sethead Prunella vulgaris

- 7. Bulbous Buttercup Ranunculus repens
- 8. Field woodrush Luzula campestris
- 9. Hoary plantain Plantago media
- 10. Broad leaved Dock Rumex obtusifolius
- 11. Chick weed Stellaria media
- 12. Greater leaved plantain Plantago major

- 1. Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata
- 2. White clover Trifolium repens
- 3. Pearlwort Sagina Frocumbens
- 4. Cats ear Hypochaeris radicata
- 5. Creeping Buttercup Ranunculus bulbosus
- 6. Yellow sucking clover Trifolium dubium

Weed identification answers



Capel Manor College,  
Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4RQ  
Contact: Martin Stanton, Sports Turf Academy Manager  
T: 03030 031 234 | E: [Martin.stanton@capel.ac.uk](mailto:Martin.stanton@capel.ac.uk) | W: [www.capel.ac.uk](http://www.capel.ac.uk)

Industry-endorsed Academy established to deliver the new Golf Greenkeeper and Sports Turf Operative Apprenticeship Standards. Part of the Capel Manor College offering which includes apprenticeships for Horticulture Operatives/Supervisors and Arborists plus the full range of NPTC and Lantra-accredited professional short courses (Pesticides spraying, First Aid, Pedestrian/Ride-on Mowers, Safe use of Chainsaws etc.).



Berkshire College of Agriculture  
Hall Place, Burchetts Green  
Maidenhead SL6 6QR  
Contact Emma Robinson:  
T: 01628 827438  
E: [erobinson@bca.ac.uk](mailto:erobinson@bca.ac.uk)

BCA offers a wide range of courses using industry trained assessors in, Apprenticeships in Sports Turf and Landscaping at Level 2 and 3 as well as NPTC courses including Pa1, Pa6 and Pa2, chainsaw, Brushcutting, Hedge trimming, Tractor Driving. Courses such as Bee Keeping, Mechanics and more.



Scotland's Rural College Cupar,  
Fife KY15 4JB  
Contact: Mike Clark  
T: 01334 658969  
E: [michael.clark@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:michael.clark@sruc.ac.uk)  
W: [www.sruc.ac.uk/elmwood](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/elmwood)

Full-time National Certificate Greenkeeping, block release or fast track and work-based learning options for SVQ Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf, HNC/D Golf Course Management (full time and distance learning), HNC/D Golf Facility Management (full time and distance learning), Short course in Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Plant Operations, Pesticide Spraying and NRoSO certification/courses.



Anthony Stockwell  
Sport Turf Assessor, Apprenticeships,  
Business and Community, Court Lane

Hadlow College  
Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL  
Contact: Anthony Stockwell E: [Anthony.stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk](mailto:Anthony.stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk) or  
Paul Copsey E: [Paul.Copsey@hadlow.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Copsey@hadlow.ac.uk)  
T: 01732 85316  
W: [www.hadlow.ac.uk](http://www.hadlow.ac.uk)

Hadlow College are proud to be the first approved centre in the UK to be able to deliver the new Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping. We offer Level 3 Greenkeeping, our traditional land based courses and industry short courses. Hadlow is also looking to offer the new Level 5 Course Manager qualification in the future. If you want to study at an Ofsted rated "outstanding" college then please contact us for more information.



Merrist Wood College  
Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE  
T: 01483 88 40 40 | E: [mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk)  
W: [www.merristwood.ac.uk](http://www.merristwood.ac.uk)

Merrist Wood College offers a wide range of part-time, full-time and online distance learning qualifications in Sports Turf, Horticulture, Landscaping and Golf Management. Choose from Diplomas, Apprenticeships, Degree level programmes and short courses at Levels 2 to 6. Funding is available for Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeships, qualifications for 16 – 18 year olds (fully funded), and qualifications for 19+ applicants (partially funded) subject to eligibility.



Myerscough College  
Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY  
Contact: Course Enquiries team | T: 0800 652 5592  
E: [enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk) | W: [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk)

Myerscough College is the pioneering centre for Sportsturf and Golf Course Management education in Europe. Courses are available at all levels - from introductory practical skills training to our postgraduate Masters Degree in Sustainable Golf Course Management.

There are options for full-time or part-time online study. Our Foundation Degree, Honours Degree and MA programmes are uniquely available ONLINE and have students enrolled from across the globe. R&A bursaries are available to many students. Our Work Based Training team also provide nationwide Apprenticeship opportunities in Greenkeeper training.



East Durham College, Houghall Campus, Durham,  
Co. Durham DH1 3SG | Contact: Emma Norbury  
T: 0191 518 5587 | E: [emma.norbury@eastdurham.ac.uk](mailto:emma.norbury@eastdurham.ac.uk)

Situated in the heart of North East England, and only five minutes' drive from Durham station, East Durham College has an excellent reputation for providing high quality horticulture-related training. The college also recently underwent an exciting £13.25m redevelopment. Houghall provides Level 2 and 3 apprenticeships in Greenkeeping, Sports Turf Management, Horticulture and Groundsmanship. We can tailor apprenticeships to match your exact business and training needs. Houghall also offers a range of NPTC, RHS and College Certificates as part time and short courses including the likes of Brushcutter/Strimmer, Pesticide Application, Chainsaw operation, Pedestrian Mowers, Chippers. Full time Level 2 & 3 Technical Certificates in Horticulture with turf modules. Full-cost bespoke courses in amenity horticulture and turf management are also available.



Smallford Campus,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 0JA  
Contact: Andrew Wight  
T: 01727 737735 | E: [andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk](mailto:andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk)  
W: [www.oaklands.ac.uk](http://www.oaklands.ac.uk)

Oaklands College offers on-line work-based learning in Apprenticeships and the City and Guilds Work-based Diplomas at Levels 2 and 3 throughout the South East.

We also offer monthly PA1/2 and 6 courses in the Safe use of Pesticides. The college also offers full time provision in Horticulture from Entry to Level 3.

In addition we offer Monthly PA1/2 and 6 Certificate of Competence courses. Full time horticultural courses on offer include Entry 3 to Level 3.



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**For more details contact:**  
Mike O'keeffe at the Ohio Programme  
telephone: 001-614-688-5653  
E-mail C.V to: okeeffe.1@osu.edu  
www.ohioprogam.org/applynow/ia.php

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## Greenkeepers | Wylihof Golf Club

Wylihof Golf Club is situated in Solothurn, central Switzerland and is a 27 hole Championship Course with training academy. Highly motivated, qualified and experienced greenkeepers required with:

- Experience in construction projects and/or knowledge of German would be advantageous although not essential.
- A minimum 2 years Greenkeeping experience.
- Spraying certificates and knowledge of maintenance equipment.
- Able to work on your own and as part of a team
- A keen eye for detail and the will to achieve only the highest of standards.

From March until November 2018, you will experience work in another country and learn German. Shared accommodation forms part of an attractive package to the successful candidates.

Please reply with your CV and covering letter via email to Ryun Holden, Course Manager. Email: holden@golclub.ch by latest 11th December 2017. Interviews at BTME in Harrogate in January 2018 or via video messaging. Only successful candidates will be contacted.

Recruitment

The **Golf Kyburg** facilities belong to the "Leading Golf Courses" European Quality Association. With its 18 hole championship course, Golf Kyburg is located in Zurich, Switzerland. To strengthen our team, we wish to recruit a:

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

**You have** experience as head or deputy greenkeeper with appropriate training & professional certificates, able to work under stress, tenacious, hard-working and physically fit, you have a good spoken & written knowledge of German

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anita.brunner@golf-kyburg.ch  
Tel +41 52 355 06 06 | www.golf-kyburg.ch



## TECHNICAL MANAGER - SYNGENTA

### About Syngenta

Syngenta is a leading agrochemical company the market leader in chemical solutions for the Turfgrass Industry. Through world class science and innovative products, our 28,000 people in over 90 countries are working to transform how Turf is maintained are grown. We are committed to supporting the Turfgrass industry with market leading products, digital solutions and global turf initiatives.

An exciting opportunity for a Technical Manager to support and develop the Syngenta UK Turf, Landscape and Ornamental portfolios.

To build strong, in-market relationships and raise the profile of Syngenta with key industry personnel, particularly with influencers, end users, channel partners and researchers across UK and Ireland and ensure that they experience an excellent level of technical support and advice from Syngenta.

- Design the technical strategy, implementation of development plans and projects to implement the strategy.
- Work with the UK Business Manager to develop the 5 year strategy for Syngenta UK
- Build strong relationships with key industry personnel.
- Deliver the technical elements which support current products/offers and future product/technology launches.
- Technical training of influencers, distributors and end users.
- Support distributors and advisors in the in-market use of Syngenta's products.

**Experience:**

- BASIS or equivalent would be preferable.
- High level of knowledge of the agronomy of Turf, Amenity, Vegetation Management.
- Thorough understanding of the technical characteristics and use of control products.
- Detailed knowledge of Turf & Vegetation Management industries within UK.
- Good network of industry contacts.
- Ability to work at all levels.

Please see the Careers section at [www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com) to apply and find more information:



## Greenkeeper Brickendon Grange

Brickendon Grange Golf Club, an 18 hole, member's club founded in 1960's, needs a self-motivated Greenkeeper to join our experienced team. The ideal candidate will need to possess the following qualifications, experience and skills.

- Minimum 2 - 5 years' Greenkeeping experience required
  - NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf Management is essential, NVQ Level 3 is desirable
  - PA1, 2 and 6 Spraying Certificates desirable
  - CS30 CS31 and CS32 Chainsaw Qualifications desirable
  - A passion to learn and exceed Member expectations
  - A Flexible, Can-Do Attitude with a positive outlook
  - Full valid Driving Licence required
- Salary will be based on experience and qualifications.
- Interested applicants should send a covering letter and CV via e-mail to [james@bggc.org.uk](mailto:james@bggc.org.uk)
- Closing date for applications is 15th Dec 2017

## Greenkeeper | Hallamshire Golf Club, Sheffield

Hallamshire Golf Club, a wonderful heathland course founded in 1897 is currently seeking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic Greenkeeper to join our experienced team.

The successful candidate will be involved in the daily presentation of the course, project work and all other aspects of turf maintenance. Ideally, we are looking for someone with the following credentials:

- 2 years greenkeeping experience.
- Qualified to NVQ level 2 in Amenity Sportsturf or equivalent.

- A flexible approach to work as early starts and weekend work is required.
- Reliable and hardworking with excellent presentation skills and attention to detail.
- A positive attitude with good time management and communication skills.

Salary will be based on experience and qualifications. Interested applicants should send a covering letter and CV, by email to [coursemanager@hallamshiregolfclub.co.uk](mailto:coursemanager@hallamshiregolfclub.co.uk)



## Head Greenkeeper Warrenpoint Golf Club

**Knowledge and Experience:**

- A minimum of 5 years experience at either Superintendent or assistant Superintendent level
- HND or equivalent in Greenkeeping is preferred; PA1, 2 and 6 Spraying certificates or an equivalent Fetac qualification
- Proven ability to be able to draft and track annual budgets
- Must have an excellent working knowledge of Health and Safety, machinery and irrigation

**Personal Attributes:**

A highly motivated, passionate individual with a keen eye for detail, presentation and aesthetics and ability to work on their own initiative

**How to apply:**

Interested applicants should send a covering letter and C.V. by email to [office@warrenpointgolf.com](mailto:office@warrenpointgolf.com)

**Closing date:**  
5th January 2018



## Assistant Greenkeepers Wentworth Golf Club

Wentworth Club, home to the BMW PGA Championship, is one of the world's finest private members' golf and country clubs and currently under-going a multi-million pound refurbishment programme. We are searching for Assistant Greenkeepers to join our dedicated team to help maintain the highest presentation standards of one of our three outstanding championship 18-hole golf courses.

What we are searching for:

- Minimum 2 – 5 years' Greenkeeping experience required

- NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf Management is essential. NVQ Level 3 is desirable
- Spraying and Chainsaw Qualifications desirable
- A passion to learn and exceed Member expectations
- Full valid Driving Licence required

If you are interested in either of our Greenkeeper positions, please send your CV and covering letter to: [personnel@wentworthclub.com](mailto:personnel@wentworthclub.com)



## Greenkeepers Wylihof Golf Club

Wylihof Golf Club is situated in Solothurn, central Switzerland and is a 27 hole Championship Course with training academy.

Highly motivated, qualified and experienced greenkeepers required with:

- Experience in construction projects and/or knowledge of German would be advantageous although not essential.
- A minimum 2 years Greenkeeping experience.
- Spraying certificates and knowledge of maintenance equipment.

- Able to work on your own and as part of a team
- A keen eye for detail and the will to achieve only the highest of standards.

From March until November 2018, you will experience work in another country and learn German. Shared accommodation forms part of an attractive package to the successful candidates.

Please reply with your CV and covering letter via email to Ryun Holden, Course Manager. Email: [holden@golflclub.ch](mailto:holden@golflclub.ch) by latest 11th December 2017. Interviews at BTME in Harrogate in January 2018 or via video messaging. Only successful candidates will be contacted.

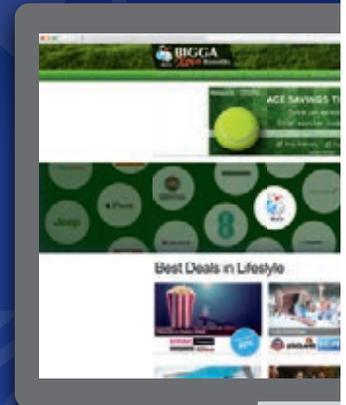
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## Technical Sales Representative North / North East of England



Due to the continued growth of our business, we are looking for a high-calibre individual to join our turf and landscape team, primarily covering the North East of England, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

### About you

The ideal candidate will relish the opportunity to deliver first-class sales and technical support to end-users and distributors of our range of fertilizers, plant protection products and grass seeds.

You will be a highly-motivated and social character with excellent interpersonal skills, engaging confidently and professionally with people in a range of environments.

With a background in technical product sales within the turf and landscape sectors or a proven track record as a successful and dynamic turf manager, the ideal candidates will demonstrate a knowledge of turf management practices and hold an industry-recognised qualification in a relevant discipline. Full product training will be provided on an ongoing basis.

There will be a requirement for flexible working and spending time away from home on occasion to represent the company at industry events.

Is this you?

### About us

You will know our brands, but you might not realise the strength of the business behind them. ICL group employs more than 12,000 people globally. We are world-leaders in the production and distribution of professional horticulture, turf and landscape, and speciality agricultural products.

Our market-leading brands – including Sierrablend, Greenmaster, SierraformGT and Sportsmaster are used and trusted by turf professionals around the world.

Our team is passionate about optimising plant and turf performance. We are a customer-orientated organisation and take great pride in the integrity and precision of our world-class product portfolios, and our commitment to research and development has resulted in the development of unique technologies which have transformed the way turf is managed.

### If you're the person we're looking for:

We offer a substantial benefits package including:

- Competitive salary plus bonus
- Company car
- 26 days annual leave
- Contributory pension scheme
- Subsidised private medical and dental insurance
- Excellent development and career opportunities that come with being part of a global business

To apply, please send a résumé and application letter to:

**Emma Marsay, HR Manager, Everris Ltd, Boulby Mine, Loftus, Saltburn, Cleveland, TS13 4UZ or email the same to [emma.marsay@icl-group.com](mailto:emma.marsay@icl-group.com)**

Closing date: 22nd December 2017

## Mechanic / 2nd Assistant Head-Greenkeeper

Golf Club Schloss Nippenburg, only 14 km away from Stuttgart city center, designed by Golf legend Bernhard Langer is one of the most attractive destinations in Germany. We are looking for a well trained Mechanic, with the possibility to work as 2nd Assistant Head Greenkeeper

**Responsibilities:**

- Service and Maintenance of entire equipment fleet
- Hold service and repair records on CMMS
- Help the crew with course setup
- Assist the CM in crew management

**Your profile:**

- Experience in maintenance of golf machinery.
- Committed, innovative and independent.
- German is beneficial, but not necessary;
- Ideally a completed training in Greenkeeping

If you want to be part of our team please apply with your full CV (preferably by Email) to: Tobias Bareiß Course Manager: t.bareiss@schlossnippenburg.de

## Course Manager Beeston Fields

Beeston Fields is one of Nottingham's oldest and best golf courses. The superb Par 71 parkland course is a challenging test for all levels of golfer. Designed in 1923 by Tom Williamson, it measures 6,430 yards from the medal tees.

This is a great opportunity for an experienced Course Manager to raise the standards of our beautiful parkland golf course. Reporting to the General Manager you will be a key member of the senior management team.

**Essential:**

- A minimum of NVQ level 3 but preferably NVQ level 4, foundation degree or higher
- Spraying qualifications — PA1, PA2, PA6
- A full driving licence

**How to apply**

Interested applicants should send a covering letter and CV by email to:  
George.conrad@beestonfields.co.uk  
Closing date — 11th December 2017

## Seasonal Assistant Greenkeepers Golf Club Grand Ducal — Luxembourg

Grand Ducal Golf Club is situated 8km from the town of Luxembourg. The airport is 5 minutes' walk from the club. Our 18 hole private members club, (plus a 6 hole par 3 course) was constructed in 1936.

We are currently seeking two highly motivated individuals to join our maintenance team in the following position: You will be qualified in producing a high standard of presentation and be proficient with the use of modern maintenance equipment, having the ability to work on your own initiative but within a team role.

**Desired experience/ skills**

- NVQ level 2 or relevant greenkeeping experience (minimum 3 years)
- Flexible working hours.
- Employment to commence April 2018 until October/ November 2018

An attractive package will be offered including accommodation to the successful applicants.

If you are interested in the above position then please apply via e-mail to [leslie.cain1@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.cain1@gmail.com) by January 31 2018. Attaching your C.V / covering letter. [www.gcgd.lu](http://www.gcgd.lu)

## Seasonal green staff required: Golf Course St Leon-Rot, Germany March - November 2018

**Desired Experience / Skills**

- NVQ Level 2/3 or relevant greenkeeping experience
- Experience of maintaining or operating Toro irrigation systems a distinct advantage
- Experience of working in a large team with a focus on quality
- Full driving license
- A high degree of flexibility and willing to work extra hours if required.
- Highly motivated and ability to work with own initiative
- Active golf player would be an advantage

Please send your application with your earliest stating date preferably via e-mail to Ms. Cordula Humbert: [Bewerbung@gc-sl.r.de](mailto:Bewerbung@gc-sl.r.de).



Recruitment

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# 9hole heroes

## Celebrating BIGGA's nine-hole greenkeepers

Matthew Harness | South Bradford Golf Club

### What is your job title?

Head greenkeeper

### How long have you worked in the industry?

16 years. I started out at Dewsbury & District Golf Club as a greenkeeper/mechanic.

From there I moved to Bradley Park, where I furthered my education and learned the skills needed to run an efficient golf course.

I was then accepted for the position of head greenkeeper at South Bradford, where I am coming to the end of my third season in charge.

I like working on a nine-hole course because you can concentrate more on each individual part of the course than you can on an 18-holer, especially with such a small team.

### What is the most difficult part of my job?

Finding the time to take time off during the school holidays as I have a young family. Also having to work most weekends as we don't have the staff to rotate.

### How many staff do you have?

Just myself and Peter Furness, who has worked at SBGC for 30 years. We also have a number of members who volunteer, who we make use of and are a great help.

### What is your machinery budget and what do you use?

Our machinery budget is around £6,000, which covers repairs, servicing and small machinery purchases. I save money by doing the day to day maintenance

myself. I am currently working on a machinery replacement plan to run alongside the maintenance and service plan to keep our fleet up to date.

Our fleet consists of: Toro Greensmaster 3250D; Toro Reelmaster 3100D; Toro Groundsmaster 3500D; Toro Hover Pro 550 series; John Deere 220A & 220C; John Deere Aercore 1000; Ford/New Holland 2120; Massey Ferguson 1519; Goosen Versa Vac; Baroness LM180C; Stihl chainsaws, blowers and strimmers

### What is your input budget and what do you use?

Its roughly £7,000. I am trying to use the least amount of chemicals as possible, so am trying to use products that are organic and improve the health of the microflora in the soil. Therefore I mainly use Terralift products. Since doing so I have needed fewer fungicides and am seeing

**Do you know a greens team you think deserves recognition on 9 Hole Heroes?**  
Email [karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk)

the sward of the greens turning in favour of the Bents rather than Poa.

### What is the strangest comment a golfer has ever said to you?

The strangest was not from a golfer, it was from a police man, but it was on the golf course. He asked me "Have you seen a naked man run past here?"

They'd chased him down to the river where he had jumped in and swam across to escape. They'd then watch him strip off his wet clothes and run off in the direction of Bradley Park GC.

It was January with snow on the ground. Luckily I hadn't seen him!

### What is the best tip you have received?

That the most important aspect of greenkeeping is aeration, and when you think you've done enough, do some more.

Below: South Bradford Golf Club



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