



# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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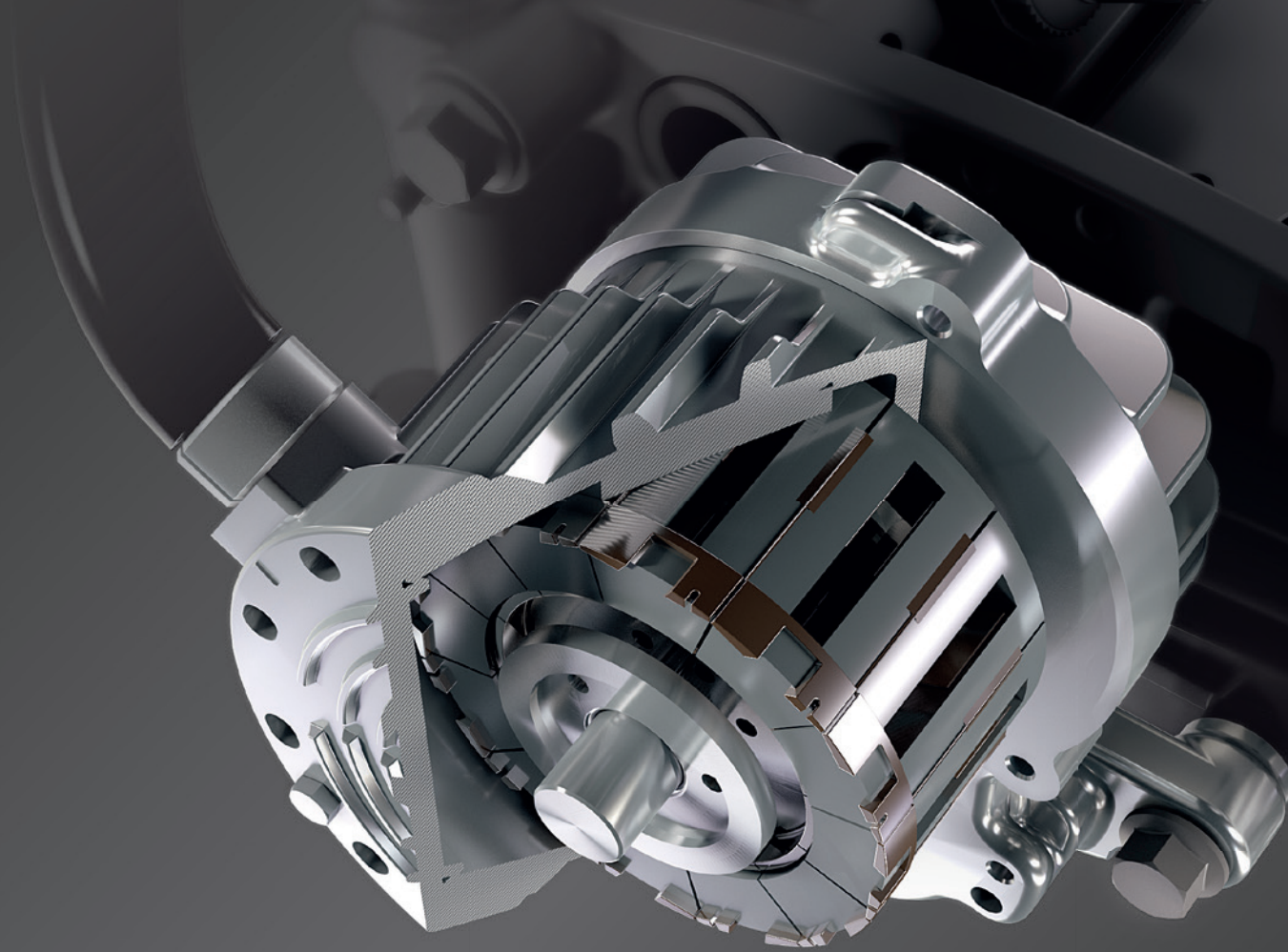
FEATURED INSIDE

# ALL THE BUZZ

## FROM BTME 2017



**ALSO THIS MONTH:** A look at the rhizosphere | Meet the President  
Wild Flowers at Gaudet Luce | Furniture Funnies



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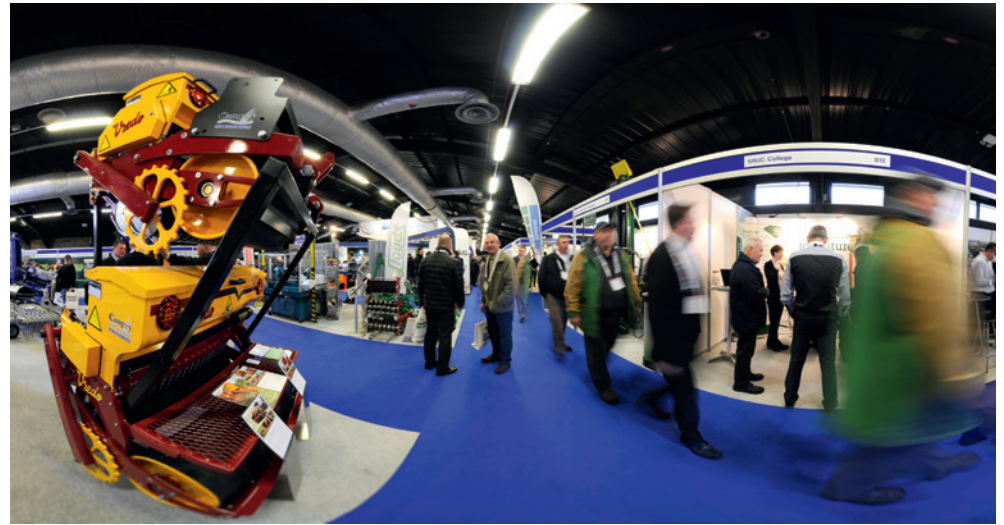
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# WELCOME



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

**I received a lovely email a few days after BTME saying “many greenkeepers come away from Harrogate with a spring in their step, freshly motivated for the season ahead”. I remember thinking, I wish I came away with a spring in my step!**

The few days in Harrogate take a huge amount of work and I'd like to start by paying tribute to the team of BIGGA staff who pulled together beautifully and delivered an outstanding exhibition, education programme and networking event. I was hugely proud of the job the team did and it is very much to their credit that on the Monday following the event we all sat down and after a few moments of satisfaction immediately set about looking at ways to improve it for 2018.

I would also like to put on record my thanks to all the 4,460 visitors, an increase of 10% on 2016, who chose to attend and to the 145 exhibitors without whom BTME would not be possible. As our lives become more digital by the day it is gratifying to see that so many

companies and end users place such value on good old-fashioned face-to-face communication.

As you would expect, a full review of BTME 2017 is included within these pages, but there were a few highlights that I really must mention. To witness the emotions of the three BIGGA Award winners as our amazing host, Naga Munchetty, announced their names was a real thrill.

There were other notable winners during the week too and I know for certain that nobody was more pleased or deserving than Eddie Ainsworth, who followed up his BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement award from 2014 with the STRI Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year award. Congratulations also to Greetham Valley (Environmental Golf Course of the Year), John O'Gaunt (Operation Pollinator) and Frilford Heath (Environmental Project of the Year) who were also winners.

As well as celebrating achievements, BTME now represents a superb opportunity to make a difference in the industry. I was delighted that a number of organisations took the opportunity to launch products and services; from Bayer announcing a new fungicide group for turf to the Golf Club Managers' Association formally launching their new journal. The concurrent golf club owners and operators' convention, GolfBIC, also presented us with the chance to make sure this key audience fully understand the challenges our membership face in preparing golf courses.

Sadly, during BTME we always say goodbye to people who have been heavily involved in BIGGA activity. At the AGM we paid tribute to Iain Macleod who fulfilled the role of BIGGA President last year with dignity and enthusiasm and also to Kenny Mackay who stepped down from his role as Guardian having been a hugely influential and supportive member of the Board of Management for most of the past 10 years. Our thanks to both of them.

Enjoy the read.

Jim Croxton

WELCOME



## REGULARS

3 Welcome from BIGGA

6 Across the Board

8 Newsdesk

13 Young Greenkeepers' Committee

14 Ecology

16 Membership News

18 L&D News

20 Industry Update

62 Around the Green

69 Greenkeepers Training Committee

70 Buyers' Guide

72 Recruitment

74 & Finally

CONTENTS

# FROM THE EDITOR



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

## What made BTME a success?

**Pun intended, there was a 'buzz' word that kept recurring throughout the conversations I had at BTME 2017.**

The Harrogate International Centre was alive with a vibrancy the likes of which I didn't quite anticipate, this being my first visit to BTME.

The cornerstone of any show is to energise people and between the Welcome Celebration and the General Sessions which kicked off Tuesday and Wednesday's programmes, I think that was achieved.

Recognising outstanding greenkeeper achievement reminded everyone why they were here. Work hard, invest in yourself, and it won't be long before you, too, are up on the stage collecting an accolade of one form or another.

Then there were the General Session. Weren't they fantastic? Insightful, controversial, thought-provoking, they were better than any early morning superfruit smoothie I've had.

Attendees streamed from those sessions into the exhibition halls, ready to soak it all in, and our exhibitors didn't disappoint. A bee colony, wild flowers and all the latest machinery and products from industry-leading companies. When the top names bring their big guns to our exhibition, it's clear we all must be doing something right.

And if it's enthusiasm you're after, you can't go wrong when a large contingent of Americans decide your exhibition is worth travelling thousands of miles to attend. Chris, Curtis, Matthew, Scott, Jon and the rest, you were all very welcome and we hope to see you again soon.

I guess what I'm saying is 'we' didn't do anything. You guys did. So thank you for making BTME 2017 such a huge success and let's make a pledge to keep this buzz going throughout the year.

But not everyone was able to make it to Harrogate, and this magazine reflects the fact. Not only is there a run-down of the exhibition, which discusses some of the fascinating things we learned, but we have also got a range of other features that are worth a read.

There's an introduction to Sid Arrowsmith MG, the association's president, on some of the sacrifices he had to make to get to the top of the profession. If you think career progression is down to pure luck, rather than making brave choices, Sid's story will make you think again.

We feature lots of science from our industry partners, and I'm delighted that this month we have some science produced by a BIGGA member. Derek Fullerton has produced a fascinating piece on the rhizosphere and its importance to plant life.

P.S. Unnoticed by many, down in the BTME Media Zone there were press conferences, launches, meetings and other gatherings which kept us incredibly busy. So thanks go to Karen, Libbie and Liam for your help. For three quarters of the team, it was our first time at BTME, and I can't thank the three of you enough for your hard work from start to finish.

# IN THIS ISSUE

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

### 24 Derek Fullerton

Derek is a greenkeeper at Murrayfield, and the 42-year-old has recently completed a degree in Sports Turf Science. Inspired by the success of grasses in parks and woodlands around Edinburgh, Derek embarked upon a study of the symbiotic relationships between turfgrass and the fungi that surrounds its roots.



### 28 Sid Arrowsmith

Frilford Heath is a 54-hole parkland golfing haven nestled within rural Oxfordshire. For the past two decades, Sid Arrowsmith has overseen the club's development, gaining a fantastic reputation as one of greenkeeping's true gentlemen in the process - not bad for the son of a textile worker from Wigan.



### 34 Liam Williams

We welcomed back Liam into the BIGGA team for the second time at BTME 2017, and he worked his socks off. Liam was out and about throughout the exhibition, using all his journalistic abilities to uncover some of the top stories. This month's BTME review is produced with his assistance.



### 56 Andy Laing

Andy has worked at Gaudet Luce since the club's construction and opening in 1995. Originally part time, and then full time from 1999, he took on the role of course manager in 2004. Gaudet Luce - the club takes its name from a coat of arms - has embraced sustainability, and Andy explained how wildflowers are at the forefront of that drive.



## FEATURED THIS MONTH

24

### Invisible Friends

What allows grasses in town parks to grow, while the turf on our courses needs help?

28

### Meet the President

An introduction to Sid Arrowsmith MG, BIGGA President 2017-18

32

### Mellow Yellow

A six-hole course at Frilford Heath utilises artificial turf for its tees and greens-

34

### BTME 2017 Review

The most comprehensive review of BTME that we have ever compiled

56

### Wildflowers bring Gaudet Luce to life

Embracing the importance of wildflowers at this 20-year-old course

60

### Golf Course Furniture

Odd, unusual, and downright weird course signage

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EXHIBITION**

**BTME  
SEE YOU  
AGAIN IN 2018**

# ACROSS THE BOARD



## Sidney Arrowsmith President

**Many years ago I spent my time playing golf at Haydock Park near Wigan. I would help the head greenkeeper mow greens and rake bunkers, but I never imagined I would one day be given the honour of representing my peers as president of this great association.**

And so it is with great pride that at various times over the next year I will step back from my duties as Course Manager at Frilford Heath to get involved with some of the great events BIGGA hosts and is involved in. From the Open Support Team to the BIGGA National Championship and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards, there is so much that I am looking forward to.

It was Jim Croxton who revealed to me that I had been nominated to become vice president for 2016 and then president for this coming year, until BTME 2018.

Jim came to visit me at Frilford Heath and after a bit of chit-chat he dropped the bombshell. For about 30 seconds I was pretty

much speechless - how do you respond to something like that?

I was overwhelmed that an ordinary working guy like me would be asked to front a wonderful association like BIGGA as a figurehead. I said yes, I would be overjoyed, and the management at Frilford Heath were unanimous in their support, adding they were honoured I had brought such recognition to the club.

I have received some wonderful congratulations cards, which I have found very touching, and so I would like to thank everyone for their kind words.

Presidency is going to shove me right out of my comfort zone and I was a little nervous at the prospect. But with the support of the club and my wife Catherine, I asked myself 'Can you do it Sid?' And yes, I sure can.

In preparation for taking up the position, I spoke to last year's president, Iain Macleod, and first of all I would like to thank him on behalf of the association for all the hard work and dedication he put into the role. Iain's home in Tain is a long way from many areas of the United Kingdom, but he conducted his duties with tireless enthusiasm, and made it look like a lot of fun in the process.

Iain gave me some advice - he told me to try and enjoy the trip. Iain is an experienced guy and we both recognise the magnitude of the role and the importance of us acting as role models at the head of the association. Iain also understands that I will put my mark on the position of president, as he did last year.

And so to the coming year - what do I hope to achieve?

My hopes for the next year are to continue waking up in the morning and to keep getting out of bed with the same passion I have had for greenkeeping throughout my career. I have got to the point in my life where I am a very contented sort of person, but I continue to be inquisitive and eager to take on new challenges.

My aim for Frilford Heath is to keep improving the course and develop the

product the board is expecting. Within BIGGA, I will try to get the message across to all greenkeepers, especially the practical younger generation, about the need to be the best you can possibly be.

I will also be encouraging BIGGA members of the necessity of getting themselves out of their comfort zones. When I began my career I moved from Wigan to Northern Ireland and then France as I sought to gain as wide a range of experiences as possible. I firmly believe it is important to challenge yourself and always make a net gain, no matter how small.

The industry is going to get so competitive that up-and-coming greenkeepers will need to get themselves highly educated. I can see in the fullness of time a situation where things move beyond Master Greenkeeper and we will have a minimum qualification for course managers. This may be degree level education, so the ones that want to progress in their career are going to have to be ambitious enough to keep improving and prove their worth.

I look forward to meeting many of you at national and regional events throughout the year.



Sid Arrowsmith MG at Frilford Heath

# Funding your future

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



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



# CLEAN SWEEP

**FOR BIGGA MEMBERS AT GOLF ENVIRONMENT AWARDS**



NEWSDESK



**B** **IGGA members claimed all four awards on offer at the Sports Turf Research Institute's Golf Environment Awards 2017.**



The STRI's Bob Taylor, Sophie Vukelic and Syngenta's Rod Burke present John O'Gaunt with the Operation Pollinator award

Held the week of BTME at Hotel du Vin in Harrogate, the awards recognise the outstanding work of greenkeepers and greenkeeping teams who work hard to improve wildlife habitats and the ecology on offer at their course.

Eddie Ainsworth, from Avro Golf Club in Cheshire, was named Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year for his extensive conservation efforts.

The STRI's Sophie Vukelic, who hosted the evening, explained how Eddie's passion for greenkeeping doesn't just apply to the 9-hole course he manages, but his interests also take him further afield to educate members of the local community and golfing industry.

"The response I have received since the awards were announced has been unbelievable," said Eddie. "It has made it all worthwhile."





The Frilford Heath team is presented with its award

Frilford Heath scooped the award for Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year with their fen restoration works, undertaken with help from Natural England and Abingdon Green Gym volunteers. Hours of back-breaking work was put into scrub removal to make way for previously unseen plants such as Grass-of-Parnassus, a heavily-declining fen species.

The Environmental Golf Course of the Year award went to Greetham Valley, described as a "golf and wildlife haven" in Rutland.

The team effort that goes into the day-to-day working of the resort impressed the judges, with everyone from the greenkeeping team, to marketing, to adjacent landowners getting involved in creating an environmentally-sustainable greenspace.

"The Golf Environment Awards were an event I will remember forever," said Course Manager Adrian Porter. "I will make it my business to inspire others as I have been inspired."

The Operation Pollinator award was handed to John O'Gaunt for its continuous efforts to make the two courses 'buzz' with bees, butterflies, moths and hoverflies. Greenkeeper Steve Thompson has made it his mission to create a mosaic of nectar and pollen-rich habitats.

Applications for the 2018 awards are now open, so be a #keenbean and enter today at [www.golfenvironmentawards.com](http://www.golfenvironmentawards.com)

'The Golf Environment Awards were an event that I will remember forever, I will make it my business to inspire others as I have been inspired.'

Adrian Porter, Course Manager



Avro's Eddie Ainsworth and Wayne Atkinson



## 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)

**Question: My members want to play when it's frosty. How can I help my greens recover quickly?**

Walking on frosted turf often leaves black footprints behind, as each footprint crushes the leaf when it has no flexibility and damages the cells, creating a dark bruise. Once active growth commences, the damage will grow out and be cut away when mowing.

There's no magic treatment for frost damage, but you can mask the effects and continue good cultural practices. Applying an iron supplement will help the turf 'green up' more quickly. Alternatively, you might choose to apply a pigment which can be used to disguise discoloration in the turf.

Ideally, in a hard frost, play should be minimalised wherever possible in order to limit frost damage, as prevention is better than cure.

One of the best ways to reduce frost damage is to use 'frost holes', if the membership is accepting. These are temporary playing areas only used during the winter while it is frozen. Once the main greens can be played on, the frost holes can be shut and allowed to recover during the warmer months. However, if your members still want to play on the finest greens, the best way to lessen frost damage is to restrict pin position to the front or side of the green. A greater footfall will be on the surround, which recovers faster than turf on the green.

Tweet us your turf questions @BIGGALtd using #AskDrMumford or email [info@bigga.co.uk](mailto:info@bigga.co.uk)

# Brickendon Grange



## Brickendon Grange in Hertfordshire has beaten nine other of Britain's most picturesque courses to be crowned the UK's Greatest Amateur Hole.

The winning club received the highest number of public votes and impressed an independent panel in the 'Grass Roots' national golf competition, organised by BusinessInsuranceFor.com

The initiative aims to shine the spotlight on lesser-known golf clubs across the country.

Under the stewardship of Head Greenkeeper Simon Woolley and his team, Brickendon Grange's 17th hole, known as the Ace of Hearts, was described as a "standout hole" by BusinessInsuranceFor's Kevin MacKenzie. He added: "Congratulations to Brickendon Grange for its standout hole and for epitomising the best qualities of amateur golf courses everywhere."

The judging panel comprised of Brendon Pyle, chief executive of The Golf Foundation and Michael Coffey, publisher at The Golf Club Secretary.

In addition to being crowned the UK's Greatest Amateur Hole 2016, the course will receive a commemorative plaque, while BusinessInsuranceFor will donate £500 on behalf of the club to The Golf Foundation charity, which is committed to helping encourage more youngsters to take up the game.

Also highly rated were: the 16th at Robin Hood GC, Solihull; the 10th at Murrayfield, Edinburgh; the 18th at Easingwold, York; the 10th at Langley Park, London.

# GI DOGS ON COURSE



**Name:** Ellie and Fern

**Owner:** Andy Scaman

**Course:** Woolley Park

**Favourite spot on the course:** The old quarry by the second hole

**Naughtiest moment:** Stealing my work colleagues' lunch

**My dog is happiest when...** Checking out all the rabbit holes in the woods or getting free chips from golfers at the clubhouse

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

**Breed:** Border terriers

**Age:** 6 and 3

**Favourite treat:** Sunday roast

## Johann van der Merwe

### The association was saddened to hear of the passing of Johann van der Merwe, general manager at Farnham Park in Surrey.

Johann passed away on 30 December after battling a long illness.

Farnham Park director Derek Ives said: "He will be sorely missed at Farnham Park, where he has been leading a consortium that has completely transformed the club.

The course and clubhouse are now renowned in the area and this is largely due to Johann's vision and hands on approach to the running of the club."

Johann had been present at a number of section events during 2016, including the South East Golf Day at Walton Heath.



# GI AROUND THE GLOBE



**Name:** Seamus Gaughan

**Position:** Course Superintendent

**Golf Course:** Golfpark Oberkirch, Switzerland

## How would you describe the course that you manage?

Golfpark Oberkirch is a parkland course located in an area called the VorAlpen, which means 'before the Alps'. We are near Lake Sempach and some of the higher holes offer scenic views of the lake. From every hole the Alps are visible, particularly Pilatus and Rigi, which are the dominant peaks in the Luzern area.

## How does managing a course in Switzerland vary from the UK?

One of the things I've seen here is the management of the roughs. Lake Sempach is an important bird sanctuary and has an organisation that controls how the farmers in the area control their grass, so as not to affect nesting birds. This applies to the golf course too, so we have one lap of cut rough around the fairways and the remaining grass is left to grow from the start of the season to the end of June.

This results in waist high rough bounding every hole, making golf difficult in the first half of the season. After this time the rough regrows and is cut a couple of more times during the remainder of the season.

Noise is also a well-known issue in Switzerland and we have to be careful with early morning starts. It is becoming a more serious issue here and may lead to the adoption of more electric machinery being used for golf course maintenance.

## What is the best part of living in Switzerland?

Switzerland as a country has a very high standard of living and this is definitely one of the most positive things about living here. The infrastructure is great and you don't need a car as the public transport is second to none.

## What is the worst?

The high standard of living comes at a cost and it is very expensive to live here. It also takes some time to get used to the Swiss mentality, which is very different to what I was used to in Ireland.

**Continued over**



# THIS MONTH @BIGGALtd



**@pyecombe\_greens**  
Picture perfect start to the week. Foggy, frosty #golf up on the #southdowns #photography @PyecombeGC



**@GKdavid\_s**  
What a week! I love what I do and the industry I'm in! @BIGGALtd @WalmleyGC #tothefuture



**@GavNeill**  
Just back from an excellent week @BIGGA\_BTME. Lots of positives to come out of the event. Already looking forward to next year



**@GreenkeepersKGC**  
Fantastic few days of seminars and networking at BTME. Thank you @BIGGALtd and all of our suppliers. @WilliamTerralif @andymoon74 in particular



**@JamesBledge**  
@BIGGALtd Harrogate was first class as ever. Thanks to all the staff at the show for making it so awesome for the team @RCPgolfclub



**@int\_turfc**  
#BTME2017 @BIGGALtd @BernardGrinder Delegates receiving their @GIS\_2017 tickets. 150 guys have been through the programme #remarkable



**@CentenaryHGK**  
Amazing to share the stage with these guys this morning @BBCNaga @ct\_turf @CTyrrellMedinah @jmckenziej @Reyes\_golf @BIGGALtd #smurfs



## How does the weather affect your work?

The weather directly affects our golf season as from November onwards we see the start of the snow, which lasts until late February. This means our golf season runs from April through to October. Through the season we have generally good weather, although we have had the occasional flash flooding which can cause some damage.

## What is your club management structure like?

Golfpark Oberkirch is owned by a large supermarket chain which owns a number of courses in Switzerland. The main idea behind the Golfparks is to bring golf to everyone so we operate on a mainly greenfee basis. However, there is an affiliated golf club who play here.

Another difference which comes with being owned by a major company is we have to adopt their hours and methodologies. We have a mandatory half hour 9am work break, which takes away our chances of getting everything cut ahead of the golf. We also have to work till 5pm during the week so its not unheard of for golfers to meet a greenkeeper cutting the first few fairways at 4.30pm.

## What is the public perception of golf in Switzerland?

Golf in Switzerland is still considered an elitist game only played by the old. This is one of the barriers that



Oberkirch has tried to break down with their "Golf for Everyone", but in my opinion it hasn't succeeded as our membership is getting steadily older as the younger members give up the game.

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

Getting the monthly issue of Greenkeeping International keeps me up to date with developments in the world of greenkeeping. Also, getting to volunteer at some of the major championships is great as you get to meet members from all the regions and get to build up good relationships.

## What one tip would you give to British greenkeepers have you have learnt in Switzerland?

Be patient.





# YOUNG GREENKEEPERS' COMMITTEE

Representing the youth of the sports turf management industry

## The YGC at BTME 2017

YOUNG GREENKEEPERS' COMMITTEE



**Sean Brocklehurst is head greenkeeper at Harpenden Common and this month he reflects on a successful visit to BTME for the Young Greenkeepers' Committee.**

As ever, BTME had a huge attendance, so it was great that the YGC once again had its own section on the BIGGA stand, where we were able to answer any questions.

We received many visitors and would like to thank everyone for stopping by and having a chat with us regarding their careers and experience of BTME.

I would also like to mention Dave Stewart, YGC member for the Midlands region, who

received the BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year award this year at BTME.

On Wednesday at Continue to Learn, myself and YGC member Tom Smith held a session that focused around how we as a committee could help younger BIGGA members reach their own personal goals. The presentation had an excellent attendance and a huge thanks must go to all those guys who took the time to come along.

It is always fantastic to see the diversity of subjects that are on the Continue to Learn schedule. There are some key seminars that we encourage young members to attend to help them recognise their potential within the industry. Our advice is to always visit seminars and focus on sessions when attending BTME. They get you involved and get you thinking about the next steps in your career.

It was fantastic to see so many apprentice greenkeepers at Harrogate, which means employers are getting the younger members of their teams involved with



such events in the industry. We as a committee cannot emphasise enough the importance of networking at events such as BTME. The people you meet and who you are introduced to can lead to opportunities and open doors which you may have felt were inaccessible to you.

At BTME the YGC also held its January meeting, where we discussed our plans for 2017. We have a large amount of opportunities this year for young members that we will be keeping you informed of. We are always working towards ways we can get young BIGGA members involved, and how we can help in being

positive mentors for the young greenkeepers within our industry. Please keep yourself updated through GI and social media for events offered by the YGC throughout 2017.

We would like to start building a larger network of younger greenkeepers within our industry and see a greater attendance from young members at BIGGA events.

Lastly, I would like to finish by reminding our readers that you are always able to contact us by email at [ygc@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ygc@bigga.co.uk).

Please do not hesitate in asking us for advice or sharing any feedback you may have.

# GI Ecology

By James  
Hutchinson  
BIGGA's  
Sustainability  
Executive



ECOLOGY



Muntjac at  
Gog Magog



Little Egret at  
Trentham Park



Stoneleigh Oak

## The waxwings are in!

A number of sightings of these beautiful birds have been reported along the eastern side of England and Scotland, so keep an eye out for them. Failing seeing them, try to listen to the sound they make, which is akin to a low trilling noise - it's smashing.

In terms of golf course sightings, two little egrets have been spotted - one at John O' Gaunt and the other at Trentham Park. It wasn't so long ago that these birds would have been a mega sighting as they only started breeding in the UK in 2006.

Wait until you see what turned up at Gog Magog - a small but powerfully built muntjac deer. Also known as the barking deer for their dog-like woofing call, these beauties can be found most places in England and Wales, with some reports of sightings north of Hadrian's Wall. I could be wrong, but they don't appear to damage golf courses so we'll tolerate them for now.

As you've probably guessed, I'm a bit of a tree hugger, so when I was made aware of Stoneleigh in Warwickshire and the fact they have an 800-year-old oak tree, I had to go and give it a fumble. Turns out they have not one, but quite a few ancients onsite. In fact, they have about 20 of these rarities ranging from oaks to sweet chestnuts to really old Scots pines. Take a look at these stunners.

Keep those ecology sightings coming in to @Ecology1BIGGA on Twitter or email [james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk](mailto:james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk)

GI Ecology sponsored by



Winter is a fragile time of year for Bumble Bee survival, they generally hibernate in burrows in the soil but on mild days they can sometimes be seen drowsily looking for nectar and pollen. A full stomach will give a Bumblebee about 40mins of flying time. Flowering winter shrubs help; Mahonia, Viburnum, Winter Honeysuckle and Willow as do early spring bulbs. You can also help Bumblebees survive by placing sugar solutions

(50/50 sugar and water) around where the bees are seen to emerge from hibernation. It is usually the Queens that emerge, if they die so does a next generation colony.

### For more information visit:

[bumblebeeconservation.org/news/anthony-s-blog/winter-active-bumblebees](http://bumblebeeconservation.org/news/anthony-s-blog/winter-active-bumblebees)

[www.bumblebee.org/helpbees.htm](http://www.bumblebee.org/helpbees.htm)



# SUPERB AROUND THE GREENS.



The Kubota RTV range features an independent suspension and ergonomic design, offering a smooth ride and excellent operator comfort. Capable of towing up to 1,000kg, these rugged and dependable off-road vehicles feature hydrostatic transmission to provide optimum safety and control on inclines and uneven ground. Wherever you want to go, whatever the terrain, trust the Kubota RTV range to rise to the challenge. For more information about Kubota's diverse range of world-class groundcare machines and aftersales support service, visit [www.kubota.co.uk](http://www.kubota.co.uk) or call **01844 873190**.



# MEMBERSHIP

Latest news and information from the BIGGA Membership Team

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@BIGGALtd

**Full Members Personal Accident Helpline**  
0121 698 8046 / 43

**Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**  
0808 181 9194

**Lifestyle Counselling Helpline**  
0333 000 2082

## Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund



Visitors to the BIGGA stand at BTME were able to discuss the Benevolent Fund

**Did you know you can use your membership renewal to make a donation to the charity which helps greenkeepers who may have fallen upon hard times?**

The Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund is committed to relieving poverty for the benefit of past and present members of BIGGA and their dependents.

During 2016, 45 members donated to the Benevolent Fund at the same time as renewing their membership.

However, donations have actually fallen towards the fund over recent years, and so we are encouraging members to think of those who may be in need when renewing their memberships.

Donations can be as little as just a few pounds, but every little helps.

One of the most recent donations to the fund was made by TurfNet, who opted to help out after visiting BTME this year.

TurfNet is a professional association of golf greenkeepers in the United States and a delegation spent 10 days in the UK, including attendance at BTME and a number of course visits around England and Scotland.

“We were overwhelmed by the courtesy and hospitality shown to us at BTME and our many course visits and were looking for a way to show our appreciation,” said TurfNet’s director of media and membership and BIGGA member Jon Kiger. “Financial hardship in our industry is a universal concern and we felt this was an appropriate way to support our fellow BIGGA members here as we returned home.”

Before leaving Harrogate, the group pooled their leftover English currency and added additional personal funds to make a significant contribution to the Benevolent Fund. The TurfNet delegation included Tony Girardi, Peter Braun, Matt Gourlay, Rodney Hine, Bryce Fischer and Jon Kiger.

It was a long ambition of the association to create a Benevolent Fund to support members in need. In 2012, a national charity had reported a 25 per cent increase in the number of people in the horticulture industry who were getting in touch due to financial difficulties, and a third of those were greenkeepers.

In January 2014 the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund was established.



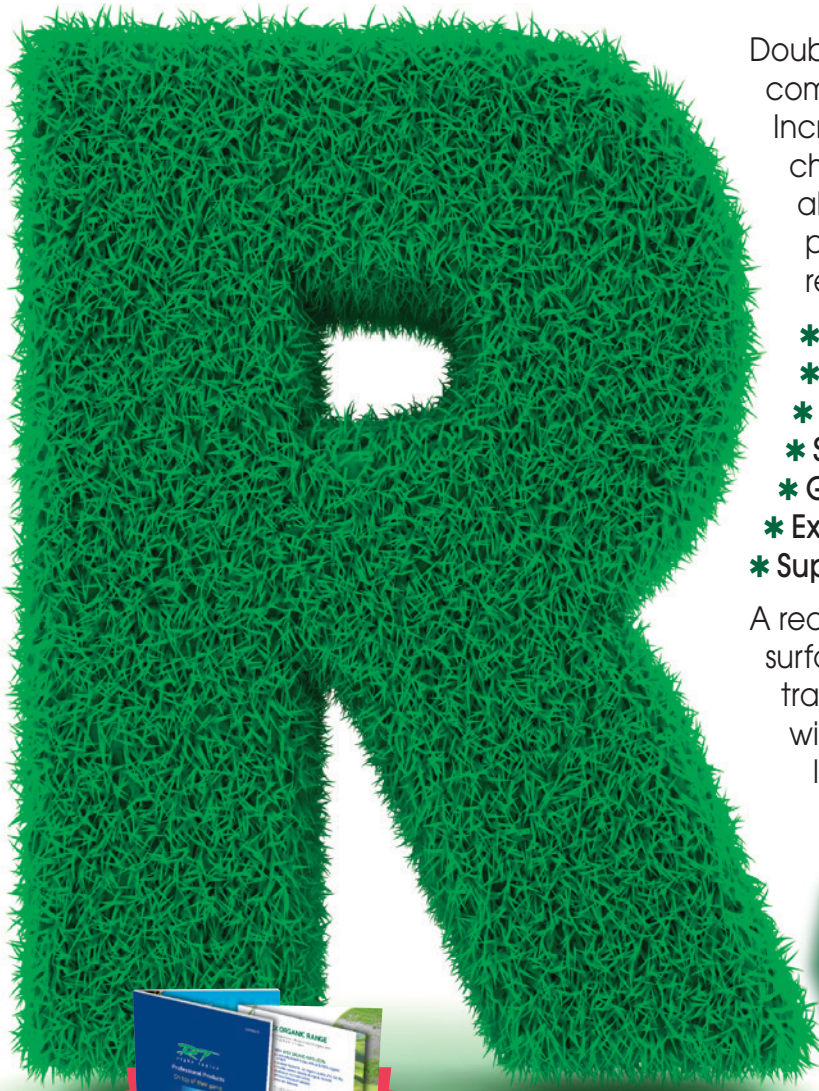
For more information or to apply for a grant, scan the QR code or visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)





# Perennial Ryegrass Blends

Eight superb grass seed mixtures featuring  
Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrasses,  
all with Germin-8 liquid seed treatment



Double the number of chromosomes compared to diploid perennial ryegrass. Increased cellular chloroplast boosts chlorophyll production for energy absorption. Provides a robust, healthier plant with improved stress and recovery capability.

- \* Fast germination from 4°C
- \* Superior winter wear
- \* Increased chlorophyll production
- \* Stronger, deeper, denser roots
- \* Great drought tolerance
- \* Excellent disease tolerance
- \* Superb colour

A recommended mixture for every grass surface for the construction, renovation, transitional seeding and repair across a wide range of sports, golf and landscape applications



2017 PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE





# L&D NEWS

Latest news and information from the BIGGA Learning and Development Team

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LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

## A Southern perspective on greenkeeping in the UK



Matthew Wharton MG receives his Master Greenkeeper certificate from Les Howkins MG

### I wonder if Matthew Wharton would begrudge being described as somewhat of an Anglophile?

During his visit to Harrogate for BTME he embraced the culture by sampling the food, seeing the sights and even purchasing a good old fashioned Yorkshire flat cap.

But Matthew has one more souvenir of his time in the United Kingdom that he was able to take back with him - the Master Greenkeeper certificate he was presented with during BTME's Welcome Celebration.

Matthew is course superintendent at Carolina Golf Club, a 1929 Donald Ross designed course in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He speaks with a slow, deliberate, Southern drawl that exudes warmth and suits the pace of life the 500 Carolina Golf Club members enjoy when playing their course.

"I have enjoyed every minute of my visit so far," Matthew remarked after spending a day conversing with his British counterparts during Continue to Learn. "I am excited to be here and to meet some people, such as the UK managers and greenkeepers that I follow on Twitter. It's great when you have a chance to meet face to face with someone you have conversed with online.

"I notice the size of the greenkeeper teams are vastly smaller in the UK. In America we have more resources available, more manpower and larger budgets, but I think it's safe to assume that we may be working with similar expectations from our club members."

Despite it being his first visit to the UK, what stood out to Matthew on his very first day was that British greenkeepers are expected to produce high quality courses, despite having a limited amount of resources to a level that would be extremely rare in America. Perhaps it is this factor that has turned UK greenkeepers into some of the most resourceful and inventive professionals in the industry, and as such elevates the Master Greenkeeper certificate to one that is respected worldwide.

The certificate first came to Matthew's attention when he met famed American superintendent Walter Montross in the early 2000s.



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

Steven Tierney MG - Golfpark Nuolen AG; Stephen Jack, Pitreavie; Simon Connah, St Andrews Links Trust; Jamie Blake, Broadway; Nicholas Roberts, Hendon; James Dudley, Warrington; Ian Nichols, Orsett; Thomas Kilby, Gainsborough; Les Howkins MG, The Richmond; Robert Patrick, Stoneham; Spencer Adams-Dunstan, Thorndon Park; Leigh Powell, Windlesham; James Evans, Woburn; Neil Rogers, Countrywide Farmers; Antony Kirwan, Aldeburgh; Ashley Allpress, Roehampton; Andrew Baker, Ely City; Luke Elgie, Rushmore.

The following members also achieved their milestone this month: Simon Connah, St Andrews Links Trust; Spencer Adams-Dunstan, Thorndon Park; Mark Fry, Worpleston; Andrew Baker, Ely City

'I notice the size of the greenkeeper teams are vastly smaller in the UK.

In America we have more resources available, more manpower and larger budgets, but I think it's safe to assume that we may be working with similar expectations from our club members.'

He explained: "Walter was the first Master Greenkeeper that I ever met and I think it was the fact he was the first superintendent to get the CGCS and MG that really caught my interest.

"Since then I have always read Greenkeeper International, so there was a knowledge of MG and it was something I had thought about doing for some time.

"Fast forward a decade and I met Sami Strutt in San Diego in 2010 on the BIGGA booth and we talked about Master Greenkeeper and we started the process of getting prepared for that.

"Last year I achieved my Certified Golf Course Superintendent accreditation, and I decided the time was right to go straight on and complete Master Greenkeeper.

"The thing I found fascinating about going through the process is that there are similarities and differences between the two."

One difference is that when the inspection of his course took place, Matthew wasn't able to accompany the visitors – as is the case for the CGCS. Instead he was required to wait in the office, while they took a look around.

"That was a little interesting, and quite nerve-racking," said Matthew. "To know they were out there on the course and I wasn't able to influence them. It was a true inspection based on their standards."

Life is different at the Carolina Golf Club, where on course wildlife includes red tail hawks, deer, blue heron and coyotes. Around 100 of the members have their own privately-owned golf carts, and with the average summer temperature easily achieving 30°C, you can see why they would come in handy.

Extremes of weather are something Matthew has gotten used to in Carolina. He said: "In the past seven days we have had snow and an ice storm and the course was closed for five days. Then by day six everything had thawed and the course was open. Then on the seventh day we set a course record with highs of 78°F (25°C) for that particular day based on 139 years of record keeping."

You can keep up to date with life at Carolina Golf Club by following Matthew on Twitter using @CGCGreenkeeper.



**INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS**

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

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

# GI Industry Update

The latest news

## OnCourse for a sustainable future

**BTME saw the unveiling of a collaboration among international and national golfing bodies that will support and promote the social and environmental value of golf facilities.**

Spanning all the key issues of golf's sustainability agenda, the OnCourse web app from the Golf Environment Organisation provides benefits to individual golf facilities and the wider industry.

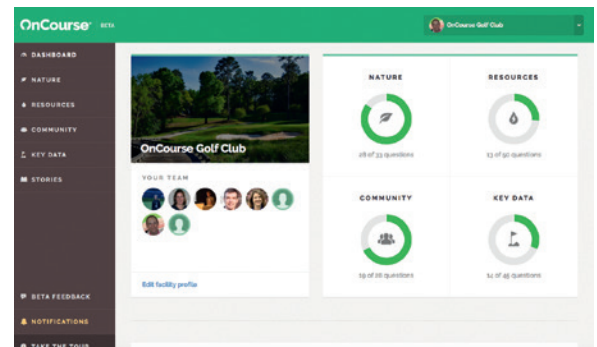
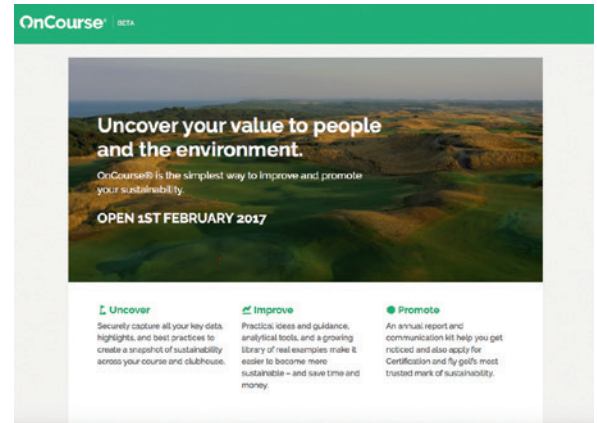
BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "A central system to record and evaluate the fantastic work that greenkeepers and golf clubs do to support the environment and golf is critical to our industry."

"BIGGA is fully supportive of OnCourse and is committed to working with GEO and the R&A, plus all the other partners in this project, to ensure golf can demonstrate its sustainability credentials."

"We're delighted that GEO have chosen our flagship event, BTME, to announce the upgraded system."

The upgraded OnCourse programme is managed by the not-for-profit GEO and is supported by partners including The European Tour, Jacobsen, Toro, John Deere, BIGGA and dozens of national golf federations, among others. Jonathan Smith, CEO of the GEO, said: "After a lot of input from across the golf industry and looking closely at the way other sectors are supporting and promoting sustainability, we are delighted to bring this new version of OnCourse forward to make sustainability easier to understand, act on, and communicate."

"This new platform gives golf the technological means to harness data and stories from across thousands of courses which, when promoted to the outside world, will leave nobody in any doubt as to the sport's commitment, progress and value to people and the environment."



INDUSTRY UPDATE

## St Andrews Links enters partnership with Toro

**A long-term agreement has been reached which ensures Toro equipment and irrigation will be used to maintain all seven courses of the St Andrews Links Trust.**

The contract is the culmination of an extensive 18-month review process in which greenkeepers tested a range of equipment from several competitive brands on all seven of the Links' public courses.

"To be selected as the official equipment and irrigation partner for the Home of Golf is more than a tremendous honour - it's a historic event for The Toro Company," said



Toro chief executive Richard Olson. "The people at St Andrews have done their due diligence and chosen Toro to help in their effort to deliver best-in-class course conditions. We are grateful for the opportunity and excited to support them as they embrace the changing landscape of golf."

Toro has been St Andrews Links' preferred provider for more than 15 years, and the contract reaffirms that relationship.

St Andrews Links Trust's Euan Loudon said: "St Andrews represents the very essence of the game of golf and we have a responsibility to provide players with an experience like no other."

# ICL Turf Rewards line-up

**Turf Rewards users will be spoilt for choice this year after ICL and Syngenta announced that a number of qualifying products and reward items have been added to the loyalty scheme's portfolio.**

The popular scheme for golf, sport and amenity turf managers offers the chance to earn points from purchases and convert them into a range of valuable agronomic or educational items.

There is an extensive range of items on offer, including workplace and agronomic tools plus workwear and educational vouchers. These can provide a great way to enhance education, improve operations and boost team morale.

Additional qualifying products include Heritage 500g fungicide and any product in the Vitalnova range of fertilisers.

To find out more, visit [www.turfrewards.com](http://www.turfrewards.com)



# Geolink precision at BTME

**Visitors to Reesink Turfcare's stand at BTME were able to witness the accuracy of the industry's first turf-based precision spray system in a realistic simulator.**

Complete with touchscreen and steering wheel, the GeoLink simulator allowed visitors to experience its by-the-nozzle application, coverage maps and area and volume data.

Neil Adams, training manager at Reesink Turfcare, said the efficiency of the GeoLink comes from the communication system,

which receives location data from multiple satellites to provide precise location information, while the simulator "provides a realistic operational experience of this fantastic and innovative technology."

Also featured on the Reesink Turfcare stand was the Stealth Kit. These can be installed on to any Infinity sprinkler and its patent-pending design means grass can grow directly on top of the sprinkler, eliminating not only turf disruption, but the hard surface bounce should a ball hit it.



The GeoLink touchscreen

# Trump Turnberry

**In the largest equipment deal John Deere has ever signed in the UK and Ireland, a maintenance fleet numbering 95 machines has been supplied to Trump Turnberry by dealer Nairn Brown.**

Ahead of unveiling the King Robert the Bruce, a second major course, this summer, President Trump has reaffirmed his commitment to developing the Open rota venue.

Golf Courses and Estates Manager Allan Patterson said: "President Trump is the first owner of Turnberry to really address the changes that have been made for some time. To allow the course to regain and maintain its top status, we have to push on and improve what's here.

"Over the last couple of years, Turnberry has probably experienced the biggest and most significant of all the changes to Trump courses, and this underlines our desire to return to the very top tier of golf in the UK."

The package was supplied on a John Deere Financial four-year lease arrangement and included walk-behind greens mowers, tees and surrounds mowers, E-Cut hybrid electric greens and fairway mowers, rough mowers, compact tractors and Gator utility vehicles.

Allan oversees a team of more than 40 greenkeeping, gardening and estate staff. All were involved in some way in the selection of the machinery fleet.

Workshop manager Jim Campbell said: "The staff were asked to fill in appraisal sheets, looking particularly at the things they were most comfortable with, which helped the selection and final decision-making process.

"We tend to cut the fairways twice a week, the greens every day, the tees and surrounds three times a week and the rough once a week. Generally we aim to hand cut as much as possible, for the visual results. Quality of cut on the John Deere walk-behinds and triles is very good and meets our expectations."



John Deere at Trump Turnberry

# Better Billy Bunker joins EIGCA

**Better Billy Bunker has become the European Institute of Golf Course Architect's latest Silver Partner, further strengthening relationships between course architects and the practical solutions they need to design courses.**

"Partnership with EIGCA provides opportunities to gain direct access to golf course architects and be part of the contracts they are working on," said Tom Mackenzie, president.

"These valued partnerships help our members take advantage of the latest methods and technologies and technologies to stay at the front of golf course design."

Todd Jenkins, vice president of Better Billy Bunker, said: "We are extremely excited to partner with the EIGCA."

"We look forward to supporting all EIGCA members in their projects and to working together for the betterment of the game of golf."

Members of the EIGCA have attended two days of seminars and workshops as part of their Continuing Professional Development activity.

Part of EIGCA's role is to elevate standards of golf course design.

Holding CPD events like this keeps members at the forefront of course design and helps them find solutions to design challenges they face.

This event focused on bunker liners and software solutions with sessions by some of EIGCA's industry partners, including Lee Strutt of the Royal Automobile Club; Charlie Greasley of John Greasley Ltd; Kerr Rowan from Capillary Concrete; John Aherne of Golfgraft; and Gavin Kelly from Profile Products. They also heard from public relations consultant Lindsey Collumbell.

"Being at the forefront of golf course design and awareness of the latest methods and technologies available takes constant attention," said EIGCA Executive Officer Julia Green. "These intensive CPD events enable EIGCA members to keep up-to-date and are an important part of what makes our members some of Europe's most qualified golf course architects."



Smithco XL

## Jacobsen unveil products

**Turf maintenance equipment manufacturer Jacobsen chose BTME 2017 to unveil three brand new pieces of machinery.**

The 16-foot HR800 is powered by a 74.3hp Kubota engine and sets a new efficiency and power-to-weight ratio standard. The machine also possesses a cutting capacity of more than 20 acres per hour.

Richard Comely, director of international product for Jacobsen, said: "The HR800 has a 30% greater power-to-weight ratio than its direct competitor, which allows the machine to utilise power incredibly efficiently."

The GA600 is the first in a range of aeration equipment from Jacobsen. The deep tine aerator can work up to 3.4m/h at a working depth of 30cm and a width of 1.8m.

Jacobsen Product Manager Lee Kristensen said:

"We are delighted to have introduced the first unit in our new line of aeration equipment at BTME."

"A lot of research and development has gone into creating the GA600, and this is evident in the feature of being able to achieve deep and shallow tine aeration in one pass."

The Smithco XL ride-on greens roller features the widest available rolling width of 70" and is powered by a 16hp Briggs Vanguard engine, allowing the roller to work at a ground speed of 10mph.

Richard Tyrrell, product manager at Jacobsen, said: "We are delighted to be distributors of the Smithco greens roller range."

"They are fantastic products with a great track record of being reliable and easy-to-use. With an impressive 70" rolling width, the XL 70 is going to be a staple machine in any greenkeeping facility."

# Syngenta launches website and turf regulator



Daniel Lightfoot MG

**The crop scientists at Syngenta chose BTME 2017 to launch a new-look website and turf growth regulator.**

The industry-leading Syngenta GreenCast website gives greenkeepers access to key information that helps them manage their turf more effectively.

Syngenta's Daniel Lightfoot MG said: "The drive for greenkeepers to deliver continuously better

turf quality throughout the season demands a more proactive approach to turf management. The new website's design presents relevant details quickly, clearly and is extremely intuitively to use with a smartphone, tablet or computer."

Syngenta has also launched an updated formulation of the turf growth regulator, Primo Maxx II. At a time of increased regulatory scrutiny, the new formulation meets tighter product evaluations.

## Baroness LM3210 5-unit Reelmower

# BARONESS

Quality on Demand

The LM3210 is a heavy-duty mower equipped with the most durable and sharpest cutting units. With a cutting width of 3.2 metres the LM3210 can cover vast fairway and rough areas as well as any 7-unit.



**Cutting Units**  
5-bladed cutting units for rough and semi-rough  
7-blade units for fairway mowing

**Engine**  
58.9 HP Tier 4/Stage 3B clean diesel engine

**Damper System**  
Lift-arm damper system (Patent pending)

Cutting units follow con-tours smoothly and are stable, even at the highest mowing speeds

MACHINERY RELEASES

## GCMA relaunches official journal



Bob Williams speaking at the magazine launch

**The first edition of the Golf Club Managers' Association's new official journal will be published in April.**

The Golf Club Manager will be published by Sports Publications, whose stable of titles includes National Club Golfer, the UK's highest-circulating golf title.

The monthly magazine will be distributed to each of the GCMA's 1,700 members.

GCMA chief executive Bob Williams said: "We're delighted to officially launch our new members' journal. I'm excited to see our staff

working so closely with Sports Publications and I'm confident that our media partnership will bring out the best in both organisations."

The magazine's title reflects a significant shift in emphasis and members will notice a fresh look, with content that is specifically relevant to them.

Sports Publications' Dan Murphy said: "We're delighted to be partnering with the GCMA because golf clubs are very much at the heart of our business too. We aim to make The Golf Club Manager essential reading each month."

# OUR INVISIBLE FRIENDS

OUR INVISIBLE FRIENDS

ONE GREENKEEPER INVESTIGATES HOW NATURE CAN LEND A HELPING HAND

BY DEREK FULLERTON, MURRAYFIELD, EDINBURGH



**A**s I approached the end of my second year studying towards my degree in Sports Turf Science, I came to the decision that many degree students fear the most: what topic would I spend the next year of my life reading, referencing and writing about for my dissertation?

After a number of aborted ideas I opted for a topic I had always found fascinating, soil biology. Over the following months, the research I conducted provided a fascinating insight into the influence of soil fungi and biostimulants on seedling shoot growth, and the impact this has on turf management.

While walking through local parks and woodland areas around the city of Edinburgh, I have often found myself contemplating the marvellous job that nature does in looking after its grasslands. Often on show will be a healthy dense sward with scarcely a sign of disease and, if we choose to delve beneath the surface, most likely a thriving, adventurous rooting system.

All of this with not a single piece of aeration or spraying equipment in sight.



---

'The question I found myself asking was, can we as turf managers manipulate this delicate ecosystem that surrounds roots, referred to as the rhizosphere, to maximise the nutrient capacity of soils and increase availability to the grass plant.

And if we can, what role could this play in shaping a more sustainable approach to turf management?'

---

Something must be happening down below our feet.

It has long been recognised that the relationship between the grass plant and a healthy soil ecosystem is a pivotal one. The microscopic world below our feet has a fundamental bearing on what is visible above the surface.

The biological activity that is essential for processes such as nutrient recycling and the conversion of dead organic material into soil nutrients requires a range of micro-organisms, with the major groups of bacteria and fungi recognised as being responsible for over 90% of all decomposed organic matter.

The question I found myself asking was, can we as turf managers manipulate this delicate ecosystem that surrounds roots – referred to as the rhizosphere – to maximise the nutrient capacity of soils and increase availability to the grass plant?

And if we can, what role could this play in shaping a more sustainable approach to turf management?

As roughly 70% of vascular plant species, including many grasses, are thought to form mutualistic associations with fungi that are members of the mycorrhizae family, I decided upon Arbuscular Mycorrhizae as my fungi of choice.

Previous research has shown biostimulants such as seaweed extract to have a positive influence on soil microbial activity, partly

due to providing a source of carbon that can be utilised by the soil microbes. So I incorporated a liquid seaweed product in to my experimental design, which allowed me to evaluate any interaction between the fungi and biostimulant.

One of the fundamental building blocks of a healthy soil ecosystem is the nitrogen cycle. This process converts dead organic matter in to plant-abstractable nitrogen nitrate form and involves numerous microorganisms and a number of stages of decomposition and oxidation. Initial decomposition of organic compounds by aerobic bacteria and lignin-eating fungi, among others, produces ammonia, which is then followed by a nitrification process. Oxidation by nitrosomonas bacteria then converts the ammonia to nitrite ions with further oxidation by nitrobacter resulting in the production of nitrate ions. These are accessible for plant uptake and 'hey presto' we have food for our grass. The relevance of this vital process in relation to my research will become clear.

To assess whether the mycorrhizae fungi and seaweed extract had any influence on the grass plants' efficiency to uptake available nutrients, I evaluated their influence on the establishment of bent grass seedlings.

**Continued over**



Growth tubes



Clippings were weighed to discover shoot growth

To enable this, data was collected over an 18-week period using a partially randomised experimental design model, involving four differing treatments and incorporating 32 growth tubes. This allowed for eight replicates for each treatment type.

The four treatments were: A, seaweed extract; B, mycorrhizae and seaweed extract; C, control; D, mycorrhizae.

I built growth tubes and placed them outside, in an open space.

These were designed to replicate the specification and performance of a USGA putting green with a creeping bent and browntop bent seed mix sown at a rate of 20g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Kerr Hunter of Symbio kindly provided me with a mycorrhizae seedcoat product, which was applied directly to the seed prior to sowing and also incorporated in to the top 30mm of the rootzone for the relevant mycorrhizae-treated growth tubes.

A liquid seaweed product, derived from *Ascophyllum Nodosum* alga, was applied fortnightly at a rate of 20L/500L to treatment groups A and B, while two applications of a standard liquid feed (8:1.5:5) were made during the trial to address seedling chlorosis issues.

One specific area I evaluated was shoot growth, with seven harvests being taken in total. Clippings were taken at a height of 10mm and were then left to dry at room temperature for 72 hours prior to being weighed. By the end of the trial period, 224 samples had been recorded and these provided a good sample size to allow statistical analysis to be carried out on the data.

Growth tubes were designed to replicate USGA standards

As the bar chart on page 27 shows, the yield values for each treatment type intimated that both the mycorrhizae and seaweed extract products, when used independently, had an influence on the shoot biomass of the seedlings. Respectively, their yields were 18% and 5.9% greater than the control seedlings.

However, by far the greatest increase was shown when both products were used in conjunction with each other, with a 45.3% increase being recorded compared to the control seedlings.

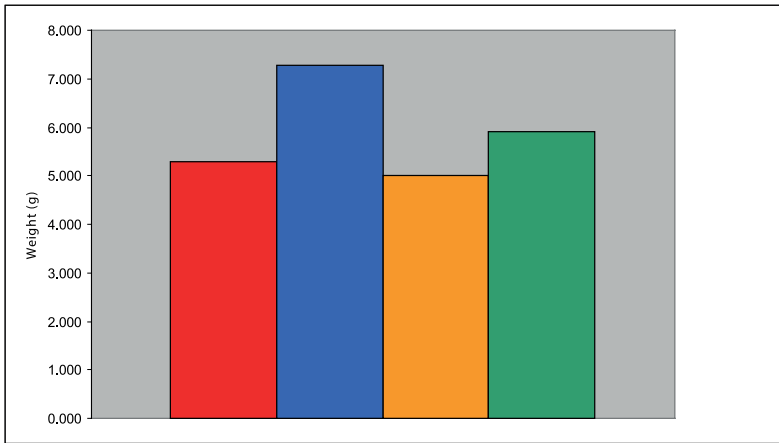
These figures indicate a mutual interaction between both parties, an observation supported by the results of statistical tests carried out on the data.

This showed that yield values for the seedlings treated with both mycorrhizae and seaweed extract were significantly different to the control seedlings on four of the seven harvests.

It was evident the analysis of the data was leaning heavily one way, but what was this telling us about the relationships being formed and how could we potentially utilise these when managing our turf?

The increased yield for the seedlings inoculated with mycorrhizae supports previous research in this area, which recognised the role these fungi play in enhancing the grass plants' ability to sequester nutrients from the soil, with the fungi's network of hyphae known to increase the absorption area available to roots.





## Key

■ Seaweed extract   
 ■ Mycorrhizae and seaweed extract   
 ■ Control   
 ■ Mycorrhizae

The fact yield levels increased significantly when the seaweed was incorporated in with the mycorrhizae may well point to the positive role biostimulants play in enhancing nutrient availability.

Biostimulants such as seaweed extract are known to increase soil microbial activity, which in turn have a crucial role to play in the conversion of dead organic matter. This brings us back to the nitrogen cycle. Put simply, the faster the microbes work, the

faster this cycle can function. This all leads to increased levels of accessible nitrogen being present in the soil solution, which the hyphae-extended rooting network of the mycorrhizae-inoculated seedlings can access.

If we could help maximise the amount of available nitrogen in the soil solution while providing the grass plant with additional mechanisms to uptake it, might this enable us to reduce frequency and levels of fertiliser application?

It would cost less, but could having the potential to unlock the nutrient potential of our rootzones, while reducing synthetic fertiliser inputs, help us to avoid inconsistent and undesirable 'flush' growth patterns?

As we know, these fluctuations can be conducive to many problems, including excessive thatch accumulation, increased susceptibility to disease and poor sward density. This type of growth pattern is therefore detrimental in achieving the consistent smooth and firm playing surfaces that are now in such high demand from our customers.

So to summarise, the hidden world beneath our feet is vast and its influence on all aspects of the flora and vegetation that is visible to us is endless. Nutrient recycling is only one area which enables our soils to function as growing mediums, but is of particular relevance to turf managers.

By recognising this ecosystem to be potentially our biggest asset and by prioritising and managing it in a responsible and sympathetic manner, the possibility exists for us to embrace a more economically and environmentally sustainable future in relation to our turf management practices.

If we can ensure there is life below the surface, you will often find that Mother Nature will give us a helping hand in creating life above. ■

OUR INVISIBLE FRIENDS

For aeration use Toro tines

# Recovery time

24 Hour Delivery\*

For a speedier return to play after aeration, genuine Toro tines deliver every time.

**Good aeration is vital to the health and presentation of your turf.** So don't compromise with inferior quality tines. Genuine Toro tines are designed for durability, lasting longer than 'will-fit' tines and maintain consistent aeration depths - reducing costly change outs. Plus, the optimised

core removes more thatch for maximum topdressing and produces a superior hole, improving turf recovery for a speedier return to play. **Toro tines - genuinely better for recovery time.**

\*We operate on a 24 hour basis where possible.

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# MEET THE PRESIDENT

BY KARL HANSELL

**B**IGGA President Sid Arrowsmith MG has a story any aspiring greenkeeper would be proud of. Through a passion for his career and a desire to constantly improve his own knowledge and experience, Sid has taken himself from Haydock Park, on the outskirts of Wigan, to one of the country's top golfing destinations.

I sat down with the Frilford Heath course manager, who took up his position as BIGGA president for 2017 at BTME, to discuss his career so far, and some of the sacrifices he made along the way.

The clubhouse at Frilford Heath was originally a country manor and possesses all the quirks you would expect from a centuries old building. It's instantly recognisable, and were it to grace an Open Championship venue, I'm sure it would rival the clubhouses at Royal Troon, Hoylake or Royal Birkdale.

For the past two years the 54-hole complex has hosted England Golf's championship week. In 2016 it also became a regional qualifying venue for the Open and such accolades pay credit to the hard work of Sid, who oversees the work of head greenkeepers Alex James, Norman Knox and Tim Brown, each assigned to the Red, Green and Blue courses respectively.

"As a 63-year-old, physically I'm not the guy that I was 23 years ago," said Sid, a slight, polite man who stops to thank the many members who come over to wish

him a happy new year. "My role is very different these days and although I don't get involved in the physical aspect of it, this is the strongest mentally I have ever been. The desire to be the best is still there and it is something I am very passionate about.

"I have absolute trust in my team, which is something that has developed over many years. I have three very competent head greenkeepers who understand what's expected from them and I see myself as the guy in the middle, sticking it all together."

Born in Golborne, near Wigan, Sid is the son of a textile worker. He had aspirations to become a professional golfer, and while spending the majority of his spare time at nearby Haydock Park, he began to help out around the course.

"I have now been a member at Haydock Park for 49 years," said Sid. "I couldn't let that membership go, it's a part of me.

"To be involved in golf was such a great thing for me. I had been a keen golfer, but once I saw what

was on the other side of the door, that was the start of my passion for greenkeeping.

Following spells at Southport, Hazel Grove and Shaw Hill, Sid moved to Royal Portrush in 1988. Taking his young family to Northern Ireland at a time when The Troubles continued to haunt the country could have been seen as a risk, but the move to Royal Portrush was a huge career step and gave him the opportunity to prepare the famous links during its centenary year.

“We were in an area where there were not a lot of problems,” Sid explained. “Once there was a big explosion in Coleraine. It was a large bomb that went off and there was quite a bit of devastation, but we were never intimidated by the problems that were going on around us. In fact, it was a wonderful place.

“The highlight of my career in a practical sense was being in charge of Royal Portrush for their centenary year. It was an incredible privilege to prepare such a famous venue during a momentous time for the club, and then I was able to experience that again for Frilford Heath’s centenary.”

After Portrush, Paris came calling, and a challenge that would become the most difficult of Sid’s career – but not for greenkeeping reasons.

He was invited to join the team constructing Golf D’Apremont, a course 40km north of Paris. The course was to be constructed using a new turfgrass species called creeping bent and Sid, always eager to learn, saw how important this grass would be to the future of the industry. He decided he couldn’t miss the opportunity.

Right: The Frilford Heath clubhouse



‘To be involved in golf was such a great thing for me. I had been a keen golfer, but once I saw what was on the other side of the door, that was the start of my passion for greenkeeping.’

But that would mean leaving his wife, Catherine, and young children, Robert and Christine, back in Northern Ireland.

“It was tough,” said Sid, who achieved Master Greenkeeper status in 1998. “They would come over to me for the summer holidays, and I would see them at Christmas, but to wave goodbye to my family at Belfast International Airport is one of the toughest things I have ever done.

“I would go through the security checks and Robert and Christine would be waving at me, unaware that they wouldn’t be seeing me for months, and I would be in floods of tears.

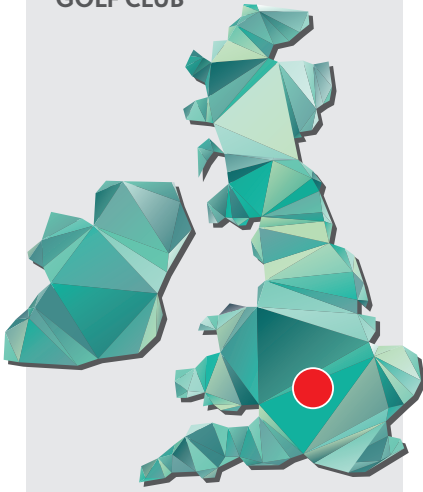
“But for my development and so my family could have a better future, it was a sacrifice that I had to make.”

Below: Norman Knox, Sid Arrowsmith MG, Alex James and Tim Brown



# IN THE SHED

AT FRILFORD HEATH, GOLF CLUB



MEET THE PRESIDENT

## THE RED COURSE TEAM

**Head Greenkeeper:**  
Alex James

**First Assistant:**  
Adam Floyd

**Greenkeeping Team:**  
Desmond Fletcher,  
Ian Wicks, Sean Rivers,  
Malcolm Williams, apprentice  
Nail Heffernan

## THE GREEN COURSE TEAM

**Head Greenkeeper:**  
Norman Knox

**First Assistant:**  
Rodger Jennings

**Greenkeeping Team:**  
David Brearley, Les Battell,  
Colin Vince, Alex McMurdo

## THE BLUE COURSE TEAM

**Head Greenkeeper:**  
Tim Brown

**First Assistant:**  
Jame Humes

**Greenkeeping Team:**  
Steven Whittaker,  
Kevin Horn, Mark Ratcliffe,  
Keith Edwards, apprentice  
Ben Rowlands

## COURSE MECHANICS

Mick Money, Mark Benstead



During that period, Catherine was the backbone of encouragement, and Sid added: “She never held me back and she always said ‘go for it’. So I am grateful for the support she always gave me.

“She is like me, very determined, and she believes in education with a passion. That desire to always be improving is one of the things that’s close to my heart and I think you have got to try and gain as much varied experience as you possibly can.”

The knowledge gained in France paid off and when Sid returned to the UK, he was appointed to the position at Frilford Heath.

With 54 holes – Sid calls it ‘the empire’ – Frilford Heath was by far the largest golfing estate he had been put in charge of. Yet again Sid was thrown out of his comfort zone, but rose to the challenge.

“Looking back, I knew it was a fantastic job, but I never thought I would be here 23 years,” said Sid. “When I joined I was inquisitive and thought ‘are you up to it, can you handle the challenge?’ And as the years have gone on and the empire has grown, I have found myself wanting to take Frilford Heath to the next level.

“There are three different courses here, each with their own identity. Not only from a golfing perspective, but they also have their own little idiosyncrasies. I hope my legacy will be the development of these three courses to a modern championship standard.”



The club is working hard to take itself to the next level, and new thought processes by the highly-educated greenkeepers are being supplemented by a high level of investment from the club management structure.

The equipment fleet is valued at over £1.6m, while the installation of a new six-hole course, complete with artificial tees and greens to allow year-round play has cost in the region of £170,000.



Top: Sid Arrowsmith with former BIGGA President Ian Macleod

Middle: Hosting England Golf’s Grand Medal Final, by Leaderboard Photography

Bottom: Hosting England Golf’s junior championship, by Leaderboard Photography

Sid said: "Frilford Heath is modern and forward thinking. We had the stigma for a long time of being quite exclusive, but these barriers are being eroded away as different thought processes are coming in.

"My priority will always be to the club, ahead of everything else. This is where it all starts and finishes, but in my head greenkeepers I have three great friends and I have full confidence in them. This will allow me, through my role as BIGGA president, to put a little back into the industry that has given me so much.

"Jack Nicklaus was once asked about the amount he had given to the game of golf, but he replied 'Yes, but I have also taken a lot out of it'. I want to try and put something back, no matter how big or small that is.

"And so if I can stimulate young people's minds to think, 'yes I would like to be like Sid one day', if I can do that it would repay some of the love I have for this industry." ■

Right: England Golf's Grand Medal Final by Leaderboard Photography

Far right: England Golf's Junior Champion Club 2016 by Leaderboard Photography

'My priority will always be to the club, ahead of everything else. This is where it all starts and finishes, but in my head greenkeepers I have three great friends and I have full confidence in them. This will allow me, through my role as BIGGA president, to put a little back into the industry that has given me so much.'



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# MELLOW YELLOW



ARTIFICIAL MATS

**A**n unkempt area of trees has been partially cleared in favour of the installation of an artificial course at Frilford Heath, one of Oxfordshire's most traditional parkland clubs.

Six artificial tees and greens have already been installed, while fairways will be planted to form a six-hole academy course. This accessible facility will follow tradition at Frilford Heath and will be named the Yellow Course.

One of the largest developments to take place at the 109-year-old club in its recent history, the installation of the all weather facility will enable golfers to practice or warm up before heading out on to the 18-hole courses.

"On a morning like this, when you are waiting for the frost to disperse, you could go round the Yellow Course a few times to warm up," said Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith MG, who enlisted the help of Huxley Golf to construct the academy course. "Artificial surfaces are really good these days.

"They have improved them so much that the greens will putt and take a ball like a proper green, so you can get backspin.

"It's real quality and will be a great addition to the company and a great asset for years to come."

The Yellow Course will also ease the pressure on the three larger courses as golfers looking for their fix in inclement weather conditions will be able to play on the short course and give the turf a rest. With the longest hole measuring just 65 yards, the Yellow Course will put to use a previously-unkempt space, and will provide golfers with the facilities to improve their short game play.

The Yellow Course's accessibility will also enable youngsters to take up the game, meaning this course, with such a long history, has an eye firmly on the future. ■





# HUXLEY GOLF'S ALL WEATHER SOLUTIONS

Huxley Premier Tee Turf provides a superb all-weather playing surface that will stay looking good all year round in almost any weather conditions, while requiring minimal maintenance.

Just as some natural grass varieties are much better than others in certain applications, the same holds true for artificial surfaces for golf. Huxley Golf's all-weather surfaces have been developed over 16 years through a continuing research and development programme and with specialist input from course managers, greenkeepers and selected manufacturers with whom they have a very close working relationship.

Huxley All-Weather tees have been selected by many of the world's top golf courses as a high quality, attractive and low maintenance alternative to natural turf and are suitable for use on the golf course, practice area or range as an extension, replacement or seasonal alternative to natural grass tees.

Huxley Premier Tee turf will help spread the wear and tear and reduce maintenance requirements, making a first class alternative tee.

Looking and feeling just like natural grass, Huxley Premier Tee Turf has exceptional pile density, removing the need to use a Turfill, sand or rubber crumb infill to pack the spaces between the fibres. The result is a very low maintenance surface which allows balls to be played directly off the pile or from a standard tee peg pushed into the fibres, just like natural turf. It looks, feels and plays just like the real thing.

Huxley Golf is the Sole PGA Official Supplier of synthetic turf and practice greens.



ARTIFICIAL MATS

# 30

## YEARS OF THE BIGGA NATIONAL

Entry opens in May 2017



# BTME 2017 IN NUMBERS

BTME 2017

## **F**or one week the eyes of the turf management fraternity descended upon Harrogate, as the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition took over the town.

Fast-paced and innovative, visitors to BTME at the Harrogate International Centre are sure of a warm welcome, and with a host of exciting new events taking place throughout the week, there was something for everyone. Held from 17-19 January, 4,460 individual visitors headed into the exhibition's four halls, an increase from 4,046 last year. Once inside they met 145 exhibitors who brought all the latest industry innovations in machinery and chemistry, as well as unusual items such as wildflowers, an amphibious 'dragon' and even a colony of bees.

There was so much going on that an interactive guide was a vital piece of kit, and the updated BTME smartphone app was downloaded by 679 people.

With almost half the delegates staying for more than one day, BTME's status as a multi-day occasion, where events held through the evening form as much a part of the experience as the exhibition itself.

And on top of that were the 6,096 combined hours of education enjoyed by those who attended Continue to Learn. That's more than two hours' education for every golf course in the UK.

Numbers you can't dispute.



# THINGS WE LEARNED AT BTME 2017



- 1 Why it might be wise to turn down a promotion in Brazil - **page 42**
- 2 Continue to Learn provides the equivalent of two hours' education for every UK golf club - **page 44**
- 3 There's a new name in fungicide - **page 46**
- 4 Geese don't like remote controlled 'dragons' - **page 46**
- 5 UK greenkeepers' favourite flower is the black tulip - **page 46**
- 6 Captains have a BIG input into course set up before the Ryder Cup - **page 48**
- 7 80% of skin cancer deaths are preventable - **page 50**
- 8 The meaning of Takumi - **page 52**
- 9 There is a golf course whose trees are listed in the Domesday Book - **page 54**
- 10 The Midland Region has a new name - **page 55**





# A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER




BTME 2017

**T**he Welcome Celebration was packed as BIGGA members got together for a fantastic night of entertainment and to celebrate outstanding greenkeeping achievement throughout 2016. Once again, television presenter Naga Munchetty hosted the event, while comedian Ian Moore provided the laughs.

 The Welcome Celebration was hosted in the HIC's Royal Hall

Neil Cleverly presenting Les Howkins MG with a souvenir of the Rio Olympics 

The two presidents: Sid Arrowsmith MG and Iain Macleod 





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'It's fantastic that we have been able to hand out so many awards this evening. Basically if you are in the greenkeeping business and you haven't won an award, you need to have a good look at yourself.'

Ian Moore, Comedian

# 2017 BIGGA AWARDS

## THE WINNERS

**A selection of the association's most talented members were honoured with the presentation of the third annual BIGGA Awards. Each year the awards recognise outstanding greenkeeping performances from association members, with entries being received from courses all over the country.**

The winner of the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year sponsored by GBR Technology was Lee Bishop and the team at Burnham Beeches Golf Club, for preparing and maintaining the course during the English Senior Women's Open Amateur Strokeplay from 14-16 June 2016.

Lee said: "I'm so proud of my team and I'm over the moon. It was a lot of hard work with such a small crew, but it was obviously worth it and I can't be more proud of them."

The winner of the BIGGA Young Greenkeeper of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen was David Stewart, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Walmley Golf Club in Warwickshire.

David said: "Going up on stage was so nerve wracking. I feel over the moon as there are so many up and coming good young greenkeepers. Just to be nominated was unbelievable and to actually win is incredible."

"To have this kind of recognition from your colleagues makes this a career defining moment."

The winner of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year sponsored by Rigby Taylor was David Langheim MG and the team at Wimbledon Park Golf Club.



Burnham Beeches' Robert Hogan, Lee Bishop and Paul Morris of GBR Technology



Jacobsen's Karen Proctor and David Stewart of Walmley Golf Club



The Wimbledon Park team with Chris Clark of Rigby Taylor

Each year Wimbledon Park must contend with thousands of cars parking on its fairways as the world's most famous tennis tournament takes place next door.

Led by Master Greenkeeper David Langheim, the team achieved outstanding results, which were acknowledged by the Sports Turf Research Institute.

David said: "This is fantastic, it's an amazing achievement by the team. The award goes to my team at Wimbledon Park for their hard work and their effort."

"I suppose I'm just the captain and it's them that should be acknowledged. This award is for their hard work and dedication for many years."

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'To have this kind of recognition from your colleagues makes this a career defining moment.'

---

David Stewart, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Walmley Golf Club



'I always enjoy coming to BTME as I have met a lot of old friends and it's always interesting to see what's new in golf. I was in golf a long time and it's unbelievable to meet these fellows and see the education they have. Greenkeepers are the most important people in the club as they look after a course's biggest asset. I think BIGGA are doing incredible work, and as long as these young greenkeepers remain active within the association they will do well in their careers. You can see the pride they have in winning these awards.'

Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, BIGGA Patron

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# BIGGA ACHIEVEMENTS

## Master Greenkeepers

Stuart Ferguson, Matthew Wharton, David Callanan



## Life Members

Kerran Daly, Tony Gadd,  
Dave Macavoy

## R&A Scholar Gold Badges

Gwynn Davies,  
Allan Macdonald



## CPD 2nd Milestones

Stefan Carter, Simon Dexter, Leigh Powell,  
Peter Newton MG

## CPD 3rd Milestones

Craig Boath, Les Howkins MG



## BIGGA Photography Competition

John Parry, Wrexham



"I genuinely enjoy coming to BTME as I learn so much about an industry that through the joy of golf I'm interested in. Last year I walked around and made loads of notes and I took what I learned back to my golf club and that in-depth knowledge really enhanced my enjoyment of the game."

"I have been lucky enough to be at Opens and squeegeed the greens, but then you hear these amazing tales of preparing the course, such as at Wimbledon Park where every year they have to put the course back together after the tennis, or there's the winner of the young greenkeeper award, who gives up so much of his free time to volunteer at tournaments."

"I think we all dream of being lucky enough to be passionate about our job, and I think there are a lot of lucky people here."

Broadcast journalist Naga Munchetty





# A NEW KIND OF BUZZ AT BTME

A challenge business owners face at BTME each year is how to stand out among more than 140 exhibitors who fill the Harrogate International Centre's halls.

But when you've got a giant case full of bumblebees, you tend not to have that problem - as Toby James from Wildflower Turf found out.

Toby said: "The bees demonstrate the need for the reintroduction of wildflowers into areas that are not producing food sources and habitats for them. So the whole reason for us being here is to promote the installation of wildflowers.

"The aesthetics of having a wildflower area on a course is very popular and in-demand from a lot of their members and customers. And it only requires one cut per season."



## WORCESTERSHIRE SCORES CLEARWATER SYSTEM

The Worcestershire will be the recipient of a ClearWater system after BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton pulled the club's name out of a prize draw at BTME.

Course Manager Steve Lloyd said: "Thanks to everyone at Highspeed for this great prize, I can't wait to get it installed at the club."

Highspeed Group MD David Mears added how BTME is always an excellent show for the water recycling system manufacturers, with 2017 proving no different. He added: "We were most impressed by the large number of enquiries taken from home and abroad. Many thanks must go to Jim Croxton for drawing the prize."



BTME 2017

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# BIGGA AT THE RIO OLYMPICS

BTME 2017

**When offered the opportunity to prepare the course for the 2016 Olympics in Rio, Neil Cleverly said it was an offer he couldn't refuse.**

**What he didn't realise was that by moving to Brazil, his life would be threatened more than once.**

On Tuesday morning at BTME, BIGGA member Neil sat down with the International Golf Federation's Antony Scanlon for a frank discussion on the difficulties of bringing golf to the Olympic stage.

With a potential worldwide audience of 3.8 billion, and just 22,000 golfers in a country of 204 million people, the Olympics was seen as the perfect opportunity to grow the game of golf.

But when a large number of Brazil's residents live in shanty towns and see golf as a pastime reserved only for the rich, it was always going to be a tall order.

Handed over to the city of Rio following the Olympics, the Barra di Tijuca course became the only publicly owned 18-holer in Brazil.

With such a paucity of golf in the country, there was no understanding of modern turf management practices, and during the construction of the course Neil had to train them all up from scratch.

"There's no turf school in Brazil," he said. "We are so lucky to be where we are, because of the contacts we have and the education we receive. In South America you learn by being taught on the job."

'There's no turf school in Brazil,' he said. 'We are so lucky to be where we are, because of the contacts we have and the education we receive. In South America you learn by being taught on the job.'

'Teaching them to walk behind a mower was one of the funniest things I have ever seen. Not one of those guys could mow in a straight line.'



“Teaching them to walk behind a mower was one of the funniest things I have ever seen. Not one of those guys could mow in a straight line.

“I don’t think the Olympics will ever go to another country that will be like Brazil. People were literally dumping cow manure on our doorstep, trying to sell it to us as fertiliser, there was so little understanding of turf management. Other countries will already have a course and the success of golf at the Rio Olympics is testament to what we achieved. I have never been to a patch of land that had so many issues, whether political, chemical, or anything else.”

Throughout its construction, around 120 people worked on the course, with a standing crew of around 30.

Two of those were killed, bringing home a sad fact of life in Brazil – one that means Neil doesn’t want to return to the country.

“The value of life is nothing over there, it’s meaningless,” he said. “There would be guys with 9mm pistols tapping on your window, asking for your wallet and the threat of kidnapping was a daily occurrence.”

Neil used a bulletproof truck at one point, while protestors were a constant presence around the course – due in part to an extremely-unpopular owner who “had made a lot of enemies”, according to Neil.

The culture in Brazil also meant promoting staff who did well was also not a good idea. He said: “I learnt very quickly that once you promote someone to supervisor, they won’t work. They could be lifelong friends, but if you make them supervisors, the other employees will beat them up.”

At the end of the games, the course was handed over to the city and became the only public 18-hole course in Brazil. Neil is still employed at the course, but is hoping not to have to return due to these dangerous living circumstances.

The course is the only Olympic venue still in use, but whether golf can prove the catalyst for social change in Brazil remains to be seen.





# CONTINUE TO LEARN AT BTME

**B**eginning on the Sunday prior to BTME 2017, the Continue to Learn education programme was the largest we have ever offered.

A wide range of topics were discussed, covering every possible aspect of managing a golf course – whether it be sustainability, turf management, people management, or career development.

The education programme was warmly received by BIGGA members, with **2,375** education tickets sold prior to the event.

BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt said: “Continue to Learn at BTME 2017 was superb. Attendance was up and the feedback for the entire programme has been extremely positive.

The Learning and Development team worked hard to deliver a smooth running event for members and visitors, and I’m glad to say I think we achieved just that.”

Taking place at the HIC’s Queen’s Suite and Royal Hall and at the Crown Hotel, Continue to Learn’s **83** seminars were delivered by more than **75** speakers and amounted to more than **3,084** individual education experiences.

Across Continue to Learn that added up to **6,096** combined hours of greenkeeper education – enough for more than two hours for every single golf course in the UK.

Sami added: “Unbelievably, thoughts have already turned to Continue to Learn at BTME 2018, with Proposal to Present for 2018 now open – there’s no rest when organizing the largest education programme for greenkeepers in the UK.”

**If you would like to get involved as a speaker at Continue to Learn at BTME 2018, send your proposal to present to [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2P2018](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2P2018)**



### Chris Sharp, Course Manager at Hampstead

Chris sat in on the Doctor and the Superintendent session with Hazeltine's Chris Tritabaugh and Dr Brian Horgan from the University of Minnesota.

"It was really good, really informative," said Chris. "I really liked the idea of finding out about a Ryder Cup in America as I wanted to know what the differences were compared to hosting an event here. It's quite interesting to know the amount of man hours that they put in. They brushed the greens with actual sweeping brushes and it took 12 guys about three hours six days a week.

"The great thing about greenkeeping and the Continue to Learn experience is that there's such a great commitment, from small clubs up to the biggest in the world. The great thing about the industry is people want to share information and pass on their experiences. Greenkeepers are always looking to learn, whether it's by helping themselves or someone else."

### Jonathan Catterall, Mechanic, Royal Lytham & St Annes

"I was on the hydraulic and electrical course as it comes hand in hand with my everyday job. What I have enjoyed most is how much the greenkeeping association and community work together. Everyone has a different story to tell and I am really enjoying things."



### Gregg Patterson, Tribal Magic!

Gregg Patterson is one of the world's most charismatic public speakers. Since becoming general manager of The Beach Club in Los Angeles in 1982, he has become a featured presenter at conferences around the world, but this was his first visit to Continue to Learn.

Gregg said: "This is my first time in Harrogate and I absolutely love the place. When you are up on the stage at the Royal Hall you feel a long way from the audience and that's why naturally what I did was jump in and walk around the crowd. The programmes here are great and I enjoy them enormously.

"People are everything for me. What I am looking for are conversational opportunities. My whole life is built around meeting interesting people who through great conversations enlarge and enrich my life."

### Wes Lenihan, Head Greenkeeper, Ealing

"It has been really good this year. The courses I have been on are awesome and one of the better sessions I have had for a while.

"But I think some guys come and don't really get the full advantage so I would say to anyone who's thinking of coming, take a look at your golf course, try and identify things you would like to improve and pick the Continue to Learn seminars you think are most appropriate. Get involved, don't be shy, and ask questions."



### Chris Tritabaugh, Hazeltine

Chris Tritabaugh had a career-defining 2016 as the golf course superintendent for the 41st Ryder Cup at Hazeltine. Without missing a beat he made his way to Harrogate to take part in Continue to Learn and BTME.

Chris said: "I was here two years ago and it was a great experience. To get to come back is very nice as we had a number of volunteers for the Ryder Cup from the UK so it's great to be able to meet them again.

"One thing that's really neat about the courses over here is the simple way in which they operate. In some ways the demands are less, but they take a more simple approach to the maintenance of their courses and there's something you can learn there. I can't imagine there are many industries where the tightness and communications between people in different courses, who are in many ways competitors, are as tight as they are in this industry. That aspect is as strong here as it is in America."



If you would like to get involved as a speaker at Continue to Learn at BTME 2018, send your proposal to present to [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2P2018](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2P2018)

'This is my first time in Harrogate and I absolutely love the place. When you are up on the stage at the Royal Hall you feel a long way from the audience and that's why naturally what I did was jump in and walk around the crowd. The programmes here are great and I enjoy them enormously.'

Gregg Patterson, Tribal Magic!

# BAYER ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP AS FUNGICIDE LAUNCHED

Leading turf disease solutions provider Bayer chose BTME to launch Exteris Stressgard, the first new fungicide group in turf for almost 10 years.

To bring a new product to market can take up to 10 years, the analysis of 100,000 potential active substances and about £300million to bring each new and innovative active ingredient to the market.

“A key benefit of launching a chemical group to the market is that it gives greenkeepers another tool in their diminishing armoury,” said Dr Colin Mumford of the Bayer Turf Solutions Team. “More options allow for more rotation between chemical groups, which helps prevent disease resistance,”

The product is the first ever combination SDHI fungicide to be launched for use in the UK and delivers a management tool for microdochium patch, which occurs on over 90% of courses in the UK during the year.

Exteris Stressgard halts the fungi moving up through the plant, delivering protective and some curative results.

Bayer National Account Manager Neil Pettican said: “There is a need to educate greenkeepers that the chemistry coming through is preventative rather than cure.”

“Over the last few years we have seen that active ingredients in fungicides are being withdrawn so education of new products will be a key part of the industry going forward.”

Forming a new partnership with Bayer, Headland Amenity will act as distributor for the fungicide, while Rigby Taylor’s extensive dealer network will be used to educate turf managers on the products’ benefits.

Headland Amenity’s Mark De’Ath said: “I think it’s really exciting and a great step for us and our customers. Going forward this is a chemistry that is going to set standards in disease management.”



## BILL GETS BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS MUM

**Bill Whybrow has been greenkeeping at Garon Park Golf Club for six years and has his sights set on the BMW at Wentworth this May - but he couldn't do any of it without mum Theresa.**

“It’s essentially a full-time job for me,” said Theresa.

“I take him to work, I pick him up. I then take him to play golf on an evening. And on top of that I help out with things in the background, such as furthering his greenkeeping education with BIGGA. But he’s doing something that he’s come such a long way in, which makes me enormously proud.”

BTME 2017

## BRITISH GREENKEEPERS ENJOY DARK DELIGHTS

Possibly the best smelling stand at BTME was hosted by Jub Holland, the modern bulb company, who brought a selection of their finest flowers to the exhibition.

The company sells 4,000 varieties of bulbs, half of which are tulips, but we were wondering – which is the favourite of the British greenkeeper?

The company’s Tony Lindhout said: “Greenkeepers are not looking for bright red, they prefer more natural colours. In England we tend to sell many more darker tulips and among greenkeepers our most popular variety is the black tulip.”

It seems greenkeepers have fine tastes. For many years the black tulip was a myth and the first true black tulip was only grown in 1986, making it a relatively rare flower.

Whichever the variety, Tony said he would like to see more flowers growing on Britain’s courses. He added: “I think golf course owners can score points if you are able to enhance biodiversity by planting more flowers and encouraging wildflowers around the course.”



## VAMOOSSE THAT GOOSE

If there’s something strange in your neighbourhood... who you gonna call? **Goosebusters!**



With the orange colour, yellow eyes and white teeth, Goosebusters’

Jeremy Margolin explained how their product is designed to look like a predator to scare geese. “The geese go from the grass into the lake where they’re safe and suddenly, because of the sea-plane floats the Goosinator has, it goes into the lake, chases them around and they fly away,” he said.

The radio controlled machine can move on land and water, with a rudder and propeller.

Jeremy added: “We’ve had three Ryder Cup courses, all of which have a goose problem and are asking us to help us. It was used at Medinah to help their goose problem, so it’s got some pedigree but to date it’s only ever been sold in the States.

“I brought it over from America to handle the goose problem at my own club. When we developed the course we built some additional lakes which created the problem. The test market was our own club and it worked astonishingly well. There was a lot of scepticism but it really works.”



# BIGGA'S 'MAGNIFICENT 10' PREPARE FOR ORLANDO

## EXCITEMENT BUILDS AS TPC SAWGRASS DELEGATES MEET

**A delegate on the TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme has described the opportunity to work at The Players' Championship in May as a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience.**

Five BIGGA members will head to Florida with John Deere later this year to help out at the 'fifth major', The Players' Championship.

Sam Evans from Fulwell in the South East Region and Paul Walton from Sharpley Springs in the Northern Region qualified after a rigorous application process.

For Sam it was the third time he had applied for the scheme, before finally getting his chance this year, and he feels the timing is perfect.

He said: "It was quite nice they were thinking about me for the two previous applications. I feel I've developed as a greenkeeper and a person and now's the right time.

"The previous people who've gone to Sawgrass wanted to go back so it's highlighted that it's a good thing to do."

Paul said previous volunteers are what inspired him to apply for the role, and he hopes to have the same influence on the next generation.

He said: "I spoke to one of the lads who went last year

and he's made me want to apply for it this year. I want to rub off on someone else by using social media to talk it up and hopefully they'll want to apply for it.

"I know it's going to be tough out there. I think it's one of those that'll come and go in a flash, then it's only once I get back that I'll realise what I've done. It is a privilege and it's one of those opportunities that's once-in-a-lifetime."

BIGGA's three other delegates are Harry Jones, Christopher Hale and Richard Johnstone, with Johnny Ryan joining from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland.

One of the volunteers from last year's programme confirmed the 2017 crop are in for a week they will never forget. Nick Roberts, from Hendon, said: "We all said when we came back that it's a trip like nothing we've ever been on. They'll be tired, but the whole week you live on adrenaline and you can't put it into words. The lads from the year before tried to tell us what it was like, but the scale is massive."



After 15 years and 150 greenkeepers, the Bernhard GIS alumni is a growing club.

Many previous members of the Golf Industry Show delegation attended Bernhard's BTME cocktail reception in honour of the 10 lucky individuals about to join the network.

Stephen Bernhard hosted the event and said: "I am totally committed to Bernhard supporting the BIGGA team for this annual event. This trip has forged many young peoples' careers and put them on the path to Master Greenkeeper status."

This year the delegates will be jetting off to the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, departing on 4 February. The process started in the summer months, then interviews were held in October, where selected applicants were interviewed by BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, BIGGA General Manager Tracey Maddison and Bernhard Director of Global Sales Steve Nixon.

The 2017 delegates are: Ben Kebby, Temple; Sam Bethell, Chipstead, Matthew Nutter, East Berkshire; Jack Hetherington, Alnwick Castle; Jamie Blake, Broadway; Jason Brooks, Torquay; Lewis Birch, Sunningdale; Scott Roberts, Basingstoke; Jon Methven, St Andrews Links Trust; Paul Brown, Ham Manor.

# FROM THE RYDER CUP TO YOUR COURSE...

## FIVE THINGS TO TAKE AWAY FROM BTME'S GENERAL SESSION

**T**he Ryder Cup is up there as one of the globe's biggest golfing events. The event is hosted on Europe and the USA's top courses, using crews of hundreds and machinery budgets numbering in the millions of pounds.

So what can greenkeepers at the UK's more modest courses learn from these events? The course managers and superintendents from every Ryder Cup this decade were present at the Wednesday morning general session, and each gave members something to think about when working to improve their own courses back home.

**Surround yourself with people you trust**  
Jim McKenzie, Celtic Manor, 2010

"One of the pieces of advice I have given to the guys after me is that on Ryder Cup week you need to surround yourself with the best support network you possibly can.

The thing about the Ryder Cup is that it's a one-off opportunity in your career and I felt that I was the main guy, which meant I didn't prepare my senior team to support me if things got out of control. It got to the point where I had 11 hours sleep over four days because I hadn't thought to build a team around me that I could delegate jobs to."

Pictured left to right:  
Naga Munchetty, Jim McKenzie, Curtis Tyrrell, Steve Chppell, Chris Tritabaugh and Alejandro Reyes



### Be prepared

Curtis Tyrrell, Medinah, 2012

“It’s so important to have the best team you can have, and a team you trust. The one thing my guys took with them was organisation and planning. We had every ‘i’ dotted and every ‘t’ crossed. The guys all came back to me and said being prepared to that level was something they will take with them the rest of their careers. It’s not just important about where you have worked, but who you have worked for – whether they have a good reputation for taking people under their wing and giving really good teaching.”

### Invest in yourself

Steve Chappell, Gleneagles, 2014

“I feel as though I have been very fortunate in many respects throughout my career. In my younger days I did some volunteer work and networked quite a lot. I made contacts and worked hard. There are so many opportunities in our industry for education and putting things on your CV that makes you stand out from the others. It’s a very competitive market. Invest in yourself and push yourself. We all know guys who bemoan the situation they are in, but at the same time they don’t invest in themselves and their course.

Never be disheartened. I thought this opportunity to manage at a high level course had passed and I was too old to make that final step, but luckily that was not the case.

### Take time to think before you react to ‘unreasonable’ demands

Chris Tritabaugh, Hazeltine, 2016

“I think I only talked to [Team USA Ryder Cup captain] Davis Love III twice. I went about my business and said I’m there if he wants to talk to me. I just knew he wanted excitement and a lot of birdies and the greens to be fast.

“Then on August 28th, it’s a Sunday, I’m at home and I get an email from Kerry Haigh [Chief Championships Officer of The PGA of America] and he said ‘Davis has decided what he wants from the rough. He said an inch and a half absolutely everywhere’.

I was not very happy as we had worked very hard to get to this point and now, 30 days out, we are going to make a big change?

“I went out, mowed my lawn – which is what I do when I want to think – and came up with a solution. 15-20 feet of intermediate rough all around the course. I’m amazed when I go back and watch the coverage and see how many times those guys were in the 15/20ft. It gave Davis exactly what he was looking for – tons and tons of birdies, lots of noise and lots of excitement, and the course ended up looking great.

### Don’t be afraid to ask for help

Alejandro Reyes, Le Golf National, 2018

“I love it. The other guys have said I can ask as many questions as I need. They are sending me so many documents for me. It’s a great support and I have told them I would love to have them close to my team. You never know what can happen at the time.

“With 18 months to go the course is pretty much ready. The challenge is now to smooth all the surfaces and we are pretty confident that it will be all right.”



# THE BTME STAND THAT IS WORKING TO SAVE LIVES

**Although not at the forefront of greenkeepers' mind during a rainy January week, one of BTME's first time visitors was working to raise awareness of the dangers of too much exposure to the sun.**

Greenkeepers are considered among the most at-risk from skin cancer, due to the amount of time spent outside, but by using an Observ 520 UV camera, the cancer charity Skcin was able to show delegates to BTME just how much long-term damage has been caused to their skin.


But Skcin's Steve Boothroyd said the really sad thing is that 80% of skin cancer cases are preventable.

He added: "Men are twice as likely to develop skin cancer due to the amount of time they spend outside working, and often they don't recognise the risks.

"People assume it won't happen to them. We talked to a lot of course managers this week and they say they have made sun cream available, but their team don't use it. We can't force people to do things, but we hope that through education and awareness people will protect themselves and reduce the risk."

The issue of damaged skin was brought into focus through the usage of the Observ 250, a 'box of tricks' that shows where you have skin damage using UV images and other forms of photography.



 Steve Boothroyd and the Observe 250 Scanner

When skin gets damaged it tries to protect itself by producing melanin, which is your natural skin protection. So if the image shows lots of melanin – which appear as dark spots – it is an indicator your skin is at risk.

For UK greenkeepers, an important factor is that it doesn't have to be a sunny day for skin damage to occur. Clouds may not block UV rays, and it is these that cause damage, so Steve recommended checking the UV index every day, and if the level is at three or above, sun protection should be used.

More information and online resources can be found at [www.sunsafeworkplaces.co.uk](http://www.sunsafeworkplaces.co.uk)



## ICL SCHOLARS BENEFIT FROM BTME EDUCATION

**A major feature of BTME is the invaluable educational programme on offer for BIGGA's members.**

Through Continue To Learn, greenkeepers from around the country can enhance their development with seminars on the likes of management and motivating to fertilisers and fungicides. And through ICL's generous scholarship, five greenkeepers got to do just that at BTME 2017.

One of the recipients of a 15-hour education bundle was Richard Sheldon, from Forest of Arden, for whom none of it would have been possible without the ICL scheme.

He said: "I've never been to BTME before and I've got other financial commitments so I wouldn't have been able to do it without the help of ICL. ICL covered my expenses for being here and provided 15 hours of seminars and I got to choose the package myself so I could tailor it to my needs.

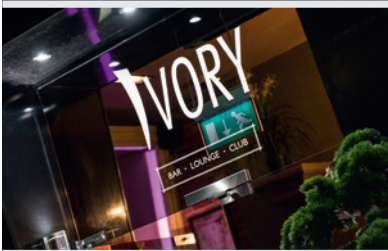
"The first day I did a whole day's course about dealing with stresses both inside and outside of work., and on the second day I did a day's course on putting together fertiliser programmes, which is something I'm just starting to do now so that was really beneficial.

The other four successful ICL Continue to Learn 2017 scholars are: Lyle Davidson, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at The Carrick; James Evans, Assistant Greenkeeper at Woburn Golf and Country Club; Darrell Crowley, Head Greenkeeper at Owston Hall; and James Sergeant, Head Greenkeeper at Sudbrook Moor.



# GOLFBIC RECEPTION

GolfBIC drinks reception, sponsored by Love.golf, at the Ivory Bar in Harrogate 4.45pm-6.15pm on Tuesday 17 January 2017.



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# BIGGA AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 17 January in the Harrogate International Centre's Queen's Suite.

The AGM is an opportunity for BIGGA members to have a say in how the association is run, with full members able to vote on matters arising.

At the AGM it was decided the Midland Region would be renamed the Central England Region. It is hoped the updated name will allow the region to form a better identity and increase participation.

Changes to the board were confirmed at the meeting, with Sid Arrowsmith MG being sworn in as president to succeed Iain Macleod.

Chris Kennedy was appointed Vice President, while Chris Sealey replaced Kenny Mackay as guardian.

There was a new Scottish director as Stuart Taylor replaced Stuart Greenwood, and the South West has a new director after Jaime Acton replaced John Keenaghan.

Top: BIGGA President Sid Arrowsmith MG

Bottom: Les Howkins MG presents Iain Macleod with a token of appreciation from the association



BTME 2017

# TURF MANAGERS GET THE BUZZ

The Royal Hall was buzzing for the Turf Managers Conference after the President of Tribal Magic!, Gregg Patterson entertained and enthused the audience in the traditional graveyard slot straight after lunch.

Speaking on 'forging the greenkeeping team' the renowned speaker and club management guru proved inspirational.

The day had opened with an insight into Emotional Wellbeing, a key topic currently in the greenkeeping world, before delegates received an update on the changing face of pesticide regulations from industry experts Peter Corbett and Mark De'Ath.

An in-depth look at compost tea research from Dr Mark Pawlett concluded the morning's agenda.

Following Gregg Patterson was a fascinating session on 'creative and critical thinking' led by Roy van den Brink-Budgen, including topics as diverse as global warming and Korean golf programmes.

Seed expert Leah Brilman Ph.D rounded off the day with a presentation on research into bentgrass cultivars and overseeding programmes.



## Dr Adrian Skinner at the Turf Managers Conference

As part of the programme of education aimed at providing greenkeepers with the skills to combat these pressures, clinical psychologist Dr Adrian Skinner discussed the importance of 'mindful' tactics when working.

Adrian said: "Stress, and poor responses to stress, can produce physical as well as mental health problems. And yet there are optimum levels of stress that will ensure the level of performance that you expect from yourself.

"Technical thinking can stress you. Say a machine breaks and you think 'there's the morning gone, there's what I wanted to do gone. I would say that's the time to accept it isn't your fault and there isn't anything you can do about it.

"There are times when work is going to be stressful, and it's a level of stress that you can't avoid. But you can work to minimise the harm caused."

A selection of images from the Turf Managers Conference



## What is Takumi?

Baroness introduced a touch of Oriental culture to BTME 2017 by introducing us to Takumi, the Japanese symbol that adorned t shirts and carrier bags at the event.

But what is this mysterious symbol?

Well, the phrase is still used in Japan and is the name given to a master craftsman who possesses superior talent and commitment, someone who has learned a traditional Japanese craft and elevated it to an art form.

So no wonder Baroness describe a number of their employees as Takumi.



# TURFNET GROUP FROM AMERICA EMBRACES BTME 2017

BY JON KIGER, TURFNET

**After being invited to 2016 BTME as a speaker, my biggest takeaway from the conference was that I felt our US TurfNet members would enjoy attending BTME. After a planning meeting with Sami Strutt and BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton in San Diego, the plans were laid for an education bundle and hotel room block close to Harrogate Convention Centre.**

Five TurfNet members signed up for a week of education and networking, a few course visits, and BIGGA membership. We arrived in St. Andrews on Wednesday 11 January and had some great course visits at St. Andrews Links, Carnoustie and the courses at the Fairmont Hotel. There was no expectation of playing golf given the weather – which turned out to include snow – and shorter days. January was an excellent time of year to visit these courses as we could see first hand work being done on the courses that would have been already completed had we visited in-season.

Our delegation was diverse as it related to age, experience and region. Tony Girardi was from the New York City area, Matt Gourlay was from Kansas, Peter Braun was from Minnesota, and Rodney Hine and his deputy, Bryce Fischer, were from Boston.

By my request our education bundle included membership in BIGGA for each of our participants. Upon arrival in Harrogate we were met by Sami Strutt and presented with our membership kits. We immediately felt we belonged to BIGGA and this feeling was reinforced when we attended our first educational sessions Sunday morning.

Peter Braun explained this feeling of belonging. He said: “Over here I see a closeness between everyone that makes the conference feel like a family. I saw how small the turf industry really is when I would meet a new person and we both knew someone in common or had

heard of each other. That kind of networking is huge for the industry.”

Tony Girardi deemed the two all day education sessions he attended as, “the best educational programming I’ve experienced in over 25 years as a course manager”.

In addition to attending four full days of education, highlights for the group included the General Sessions and Welcome Celebration.

Rodney Hine enjoyed reconnecting with Olympic Golf Course superintendent Neil Cleverly, whom he had known from his work with architect Gil Hanse.

Top left: The delegation congratulates fellow TurfNet member Matt Wharton on his Master Greenkeeper designation at the Welcome Reception

Top right: TurfNet’s Tony Girardi learned for two days from Lorna D Sheldon during Continue to Learn.

Bottom: Before getting to Harrogate for BTME TurfNet, made a course visit to snow covered Carnoustie. (L-R): Peter Braun, Sandy Reid (Carnoustie), Rodney Hine, Bryce Fischer, Matt Gourlay, Tony Girardi, Craig Boath (Carnoustie)



We were thrilled to share in TurfNet member Matt Wharton’s special moment when he received his MG certification at the Welcome Reception.

On Wednesday, TurfNet hosted a reception at the Crown Hotel where we could again build friendships with the many new people we had met during the week. Thanks to BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton for his kind words about our week together.

We determined that one way to show our appreciation for our time in the UK was with a group donation to BIGGA’s Benevolent Fund. Based on our experiences this year, we look forward to an even bigger TurfNet presence at 2018 BTME.



# FIRST-TIMERS CHOOSE BTME TO SHOW OFF THEIR LATEST PRODUCTS

A massive 4,460 visitors, walked through the doors in Harrogate for BTME this year, some for the very first time.

The wonderfully diverse crowd was made up with people flying in from all round the world, from continental Europe to the United States.

Visitors and exhibitors alike were treated to various special events and networking opportunities throughout the week, which several took advantage of for the first time.

Toby James from Wildflower Turf, who has been growing soilless turf since the 1980s, explained why they finally made the decision to come to Harrogate.

He said: "It's our first time in. We've got a site based in Basingstoke and a growing site in Yorkshire so we wanted to come to an exhibition where we could speak to businesses and landowners who'd perhaps not know about us in the south."

One of the more eye-catching stands this week came from Goosebusters, who are importing the Goosinator to the UK market from the United States.

One of the company's founding partners, Jeremy Margolin, said: "I've never been before. I've run a golf club for seven years as chairman but I've never visited.

"This show's been terrific. We've had a lot of tremendous interest from the UK and Europe. We've had a lot of golf courses. We've had sports pitch consultants, people from schools, stately homes. It's been excellent."

Rupert Price, a BTME veteran, made a maiden trip in his new capacity as MD of the newly founded Price Turfcare.

Speaking on the Wednesday, Rupert said: "We've literally launched five days ago.

"I've been to the show every year and this year has been brilliant. It's been really interesting and we're very pleased with the response so far. Harrogate's a great location for the show. It's a great networking event and it's nice to see some familiar faces and to meet some new people as well."

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'This show's been terrific. We've had a lot of tremendous interest from the UK and Europe. We've had a lot of golf courses. We've had sports pitch consultants, people from schools, stately homes. It's been excellent.'

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## BIGGA'S FIRST-EVER SUSTAINABILITY EXECUTIVE REFLECTS ON DEBUT YEAR

**On the anniversary of being appointed into the newly-created post of sustainability executive, James Hutchinson reflects on some of the things he has seen, and how he can help golf courses up and down the country.**

A former R&A scholar, James spent more than 25 years as an award-winning environmental officer, followed by a stint at St Andrews Links as ecology manager.

"My time, as a general rule, is split into three sections," said James. "I spend a third of my time away from the office writing plans, articles or research. A third of my time is on the road and the other third is doing the actual physical part of the job, being on the golf course, talking to managers, and presenting.

"Essentially, my role is to enhance and promote wildlife and biodiversity on golf courses in the UK. "We offer a number of services, so I can go to a golf club and give a presentation, then head out onto the course and look at ways of managing it.

"We also write environmental management plans for golf courses. There is a cost involved, but the proceeds are reinvested into further member services."

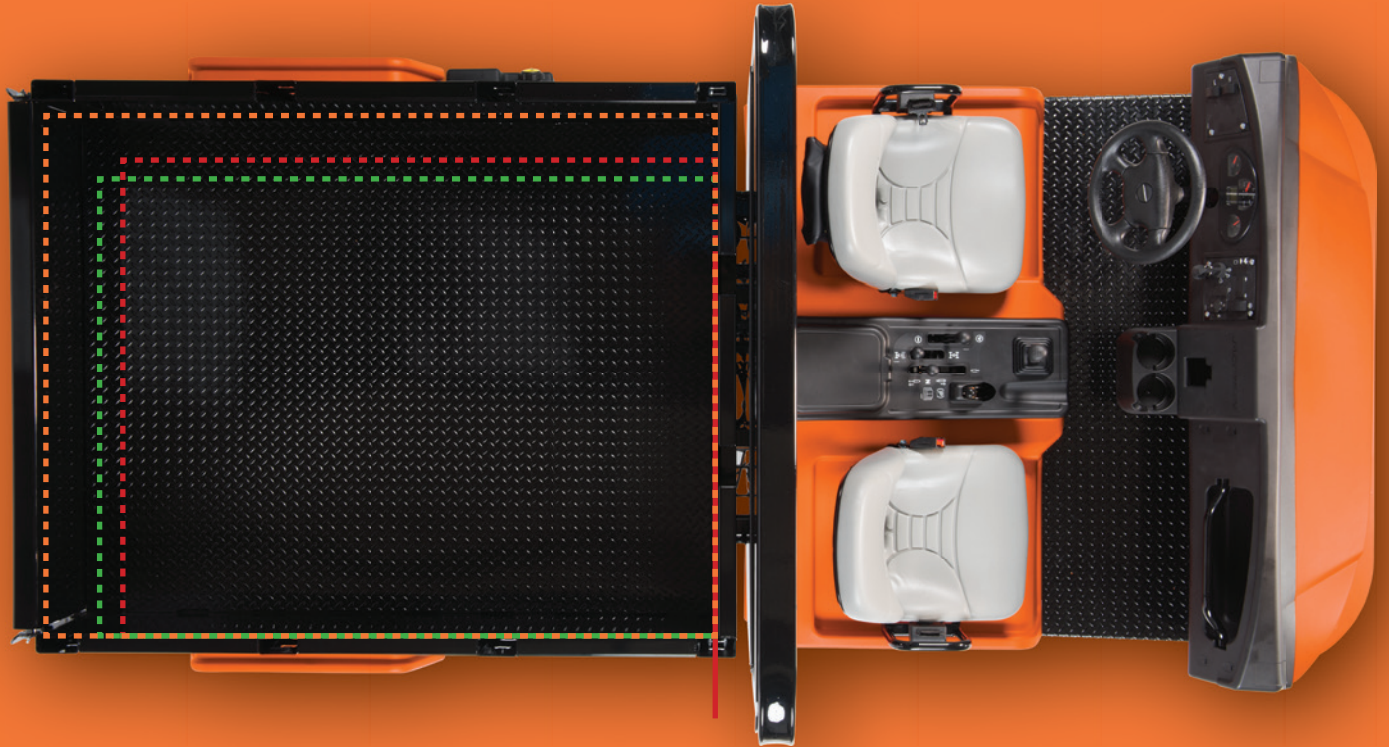
This year's BTME offered James a fresh perspective on the event, with him attending as an exhibitor for the first time. James added: "I started working for BIGGA just before BTME last year, so this is the first time I've been on this side of the stand. It's been very busy, mainly for making appointments for the future and giving advice to those who've asked.

"There have also been plenty of golf course managers looking for a little bit of advice on how to look after their grasslands and wildlife.

"I had a couple of guys this morning looking into ancient trees. They claim to have a couple of trees that are about 1,000 years old that I believe are registered in the Domesday Book, so it's all very exciting stuff, and I am really looking forward to the year ahead."



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# WILDFLOWERS BRING GAUDET LUCE TO LIFE

GAUDET LUCE

## About Operation Pollinator

Syngenta's Operation Pollinator gives greenkeepers and course managers the tools and techniques to successfully and cost effectively establish and manage attractive wildflower resources.

"Environmental enhancement of relatively undisturbed out of play areas can provide the perfect location for immensely valuable ecological habitats," said Caroline Carrol,

Syngenta Operation Pollinator manager. "With the right management, designated areas can provide ideal habitat for a vast array of vital pollinating insects, as well as enhancing the visual appeal and overall enjoyment for players."



**OperationPollinator**  
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## Biannual seed mix composition favoured at Gaudet Luce:

White Yarrow; Large Green Basil; Mixed California Poppy; Mixed Double Barbeau Cornflower; Red Flax; Perennial Blue Flax; Pixie Delight Dwarf Lupine; Mixed Simple Sweet Williams

**G**audet Luce is alive and thriving – not only with the many golfers and other visitors to its facilities, but also with the wildlife it has been actively managing to attract to the course.

Located near Droitwich in the West Midlands, there are plenty of courses competing for prospective players, but the welcoming ethos for both its visitors and its ecology are making a real difference at Gaudet Luce.

“We are always looking for something else that gives Gaudet Luce an edge, and a reason for golfers to keep coming back,” said Course Manager Andy Laing.

The course has a very healthy membership of around 1,000 players - utilising the various flexible options on offer - and has diversified buildings and facilities to develop an attractive business community, but is still keen to build-up society days and visiting golfers to maintain the economic viability.

Andy said: “Greens quality and course condition remain our number one priority, followed by tees and approaches that keep the focus on getting things right for golf. Environmental areas may be third on the list, but they are still an important part of creating an attractive place to come and play.”

Constructed just 21 years ago, Andy’s environmental habitat creation has been instrumental in making a far more mature impression. Extensive tree planting, involving some 50,000 trees, has already produced a framework that both surrounds the course to shield it from its urban and M5 motorway neighbours, as well as defining the internal flow of fairways and holes.

While the tree planting canopy helps shape the course, it’s the use of environmental rough that comes into its own to separate holes and give a greater feeling of space and isolation.

Andy said: “We are fortunate to have the space to develop areas that are effectively out of play to all but the most wayward shots, but can still have a real visual and ecological impact.”

The course has a dozen areas planted up with a mix of wildflowers that adds interest and colour for players, as well as a vital ecological resource for pollinating insects and an increasing variety of wildlife.



GAUDET LUCE

“We are always looking for something else that gives Gaudet Luce an edge, and a reason for golfers to keep coming back,”

Continued over Andy Laing, Course Manager (Above)




It has not been all plain sailing for Andy's ecological initiatives at Gaudet Luce. Initial efforts to establish perennial wildflower habitats proved largely unsuccessful, with most of the sown species slow to establish and swamped beneath coarse grasses – which can still predominate as a legacy of the former agricultural fields.

“It was early in the days of wildflower habitat creation, and while we did cut and remove the grasses for a couple of seasons, we didn't have the experience or tools to manage it effectively,” recalled Andy. But, even after several years, close inspection shows that some of the original plantings have survived and there may be the chance to revive the habitats by spraying off a trial patch off the coarse grasses with Rescue in the spring, and possibly supplementing the sward with fresh wildflower seed.

After the disappointment with the expensive perennial mixes, Andy decided to try an annual wildflower mix that promised to be easier to establish and quicker to generate a visible effect.



 Gaudet Luce biannual mix around the course

 Gaudet Luce effect of Rescue treatment - with untreated strip overgrown by grasses

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The result was indeed incredibly colourful, but with limited species traditionally used as garden wildflowers.

“It was very encouraging that we could get a result, and that we could reliably repeat it each year,” said Andy. “However, we really wanted something that was more naturalistic and in keeping with parkland golf surroundings.

“After trying a couple of different commercially available pure annual wildflower mixes, we began to find the areas were becoming quickly overtaken by undesirable weeds and not delivering the desirable flower flush. Furthermore, the flowering was short duration and not providing the prolonged source of pollen and nectar so important to bees and other pollinating species.”

To resolve that, Andy moved to a biannual mix, which provides a greater diversity of predominantly naturalistic flowers and gives a summer-long flowering that extends into autumn and beyond. He added: “As we reliably get two years of flowering from each sowing, we have effectively halved the time and cost of establishment,

and yet still deliver a really attractive result.”

However, Andy emphasised that care and attention is essential to achieve early flowering in the first year, and for the mix to successfully work through to the second season. The schedule that has worked for them has been to spray off the areas with glyphosate in March or April, leave for two to three weeks to die back and then rotovate a good seedbed. The area has then been left for a further two weeks to trigger a flush of weeds, which were then sprayed with glyphosate and the seed onto a fine surface.

The fine seed is mixed with sand to bulk up for sowing, with the seed spun onto the fine surface. In some instances a drag harrow has been used and, depending on the conditions, the area rolled to improve seed to soil surface contact and retain moisture.

“We do find that it’s important to wait for the soils to warm up, so that germination is rapid and the seedlings can get quickly established,” said Andy.

“For us the spring seeding fits in better with the workload, compared to autumn when we would be busy with renovation and course maintenance.”

To look after the biannual mix, Andy has found that a light topping in the late autumn, after flowering has finished, can be beneficial. Last year he also found that when one area was being overshadowed by coarse grasses going into its second season, an application of Rescue suppressed the grasses and allowed the wildflowers to proliferate. One pass left unsprayed demonstrated the effect - with virtually no flowers visible, while the treated area was full of colour and life.

Andy said: “Using Rescue is another tool that can help us to manage ecological rough more effectively and consistently get the best effect for our site, and clearly. We are also looking at how it might fulfill another primary objective to enhance course appearance and playability, by removing selective patches of invasive coarse ryegrass on some of the fairways and tiger rough.” ■

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COURSE FURNITURE

**G**olf course furniture comes in many different shapes and sizes. We took a look at some of the world's more unusual course notices...

It isn't too difficult to follow these instructions at Koerber Pedy in Australia



Butter Valley in Pennsylvania has some local rules you'll want to obey



We can't disagree with this 'beware of lions' sign from Skukuza in South Africa



'Greenkeeper's revenge' in force at Tot Hill Farm in North Carolina



The locals at Estes Park in Colorado don't always follow the rules



A begrudging memorial

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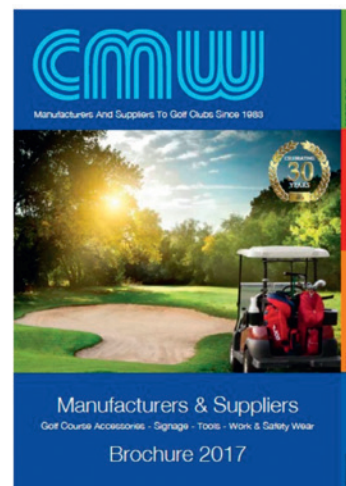
The company's most famous product is perhaps the Big Dewie Dew Brush, invented in collaboration with a greenkeeper in the 1990s. Launched at BTME in Harrogate, the Big Dewie received critical acclaim and has stood the test of time, as has CMW.

Wayne Wilson took the helm six years ago and made his mark on the company with a new high quality brochure, innovative products made from modern materials, and an easy-to-use e-commerce website. Under his guidance, CMW has gone from strength to strength, while maintaining its core value of excellent customer service.

CMW has released their latest brochure, which has been sent out to golf clubs up and down the country. For those who haven't received a copy but would like to do so, the company can be contacted on 01376 562 569 or by emailing [info@cmwequipment.co.uk](mailto:info@cmwequipment.co.uk).

To celebrate the launch of the 2017 brochure, CMW is offering 20% off 18 pins, flags & plastic hole cups during February. The promotion code for this is CMW017.

Also, to mark the one-year anniversary of the introduction of the Easicut Depth Master Holecutter, CMW is offering readers a free set of replacement blades with any purchase of this quality holecutter. This is a saving of £72 and is exclusive to GI Magazine readers. Mention code GI001 and order before 28 February.



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# AROUND THE GREEN SPECIAL: SCOTTISH PATRONS' AWARDS

**T**he Patrons Award is unique to BIGGA Scotland and is a reward for one member from each of the sections for commitment to advancing their education and knowledge in the greenkeeping and golf industry each year.

The 2016 winners come from a variety of backgrounds and styles of golf courses around the country. However, there is one common theme: they are determined to improve their professionalism as a greenkeeper. This month's Around the Greens is dedicated to the five section winners to recognise their achievements providing details of their experiences during BTME week. Turn the page for the rest of your local news.

## CENTRAL SECTION - Martin Turna



Martin Turna has been working in the industry for over 16 years, following a change of career path from a ski-lift operator in his native Slovakia. The company that owned the ski operation built a golf course, Gray Bear, and he moved to take up his first role as a greenkeeper.

Martin studied with Elmwood and managed to secure seasonal work at St Andrews before taking up a permanent position with the links.

In April 2016 he took on the role of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Fraserburgh.

Martin said "This year I am going to attend one technical, one career development and two golf course management style workshops.

Martin said: "All knowledge and information which I have gained from seminars and workshops, has helped me a lot in my profession as a greenkeeper.

"To meet different people from different courses also helps me understand my role on the golf course. It's a great week.

"I would like to thank all of the Patrons that are involved in the Awards and to the Central Section Committee for choosing me this year"

## EAST SECTION - Ryan McCulloch



Ryan McCulloch has been in the greenkeeping industry for 19 years. He is course manager at Goswick, taking over from George Thompson.

Ryan attended BTME and said: "I had a great few days in Harrogate. I've been going to BTME for many years now but never took advantage of the education side of it. Being given the Patrons Award this year

gave me that opportunity and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Being in my first year as course manager, I wanted to gain experience of this side of the job so I attended courses on report writing and budgets. I also attended one of the free seminars and the BIGGA Welcome Celebration which was very good. There were others that I would have liked to attend but couldn't fit them in. There's always next year.

"I would encourage others to attend BTME and the Continue to learn programme if they can. I thought this year's BTME was the best I've been to and look forward to next year.

"I also had a great day attending the patrons awards with our club captain, he was very impressed".

## SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND - Rob Tosh



Robert Tosh started his career with South Ayrshire Council, working on the Troon Municipal golf courses. Robert moved on to a seasonal position at Dundonald Links then Kilmarnock Barassie.

Robert has attended many of the section events over the last couple of years and is keen to participate further in the section.

Robert said "I wanted to say a big thank you to BIGGA and the South West Section for allowing

me, through the Patrons Award, to attend this year's BTME."

Robert attended seminars on soil analysis, the identification of grasses, budgeting, and course management policies..

He added: "These I found very informative and interesting and they have expanded my knowledge further in these areas.

"I also enjoyed attending the trade show and getting the opportunity to meet and network with other greenkeepers and course managers, which has been another bonus of attending BTME.

"I would recommend to any greenkeeper to attend BTME as it is a great experience to learn more about the industry, to further your education and network with your peers."

## NORTH SECTION - Neil McLoughlin



Neil McLoughlin has worked in the greenkeeping industry for 20 years, travelling from his native England to Germany and the USA, before taking on the course role at Deeside in 2007.

Neil was a popular selection for the award considering the arduous recovery work undertaken by his team at Deeside following the significant damage caused by Storm Frank. The River Dee could not cope with rain of biblical proportions and turned the course into a natural disaster zone.

Neil was nominated for this award after Storm Frank struck at the end of December 2015. Biblical amounts of rain fell in the mountains, combined with a rapid thaw, and the River Dee couldn't cope. The speed and the strength of the water was immense, ripping down trees, bridges and even uplifting mobile homes.

The problem for Neil and his team at Deeside was that the floodwater was carrying a lot of silt and debris, much of which was deposited on the course at Deeside. So when the storm water receded, the full extent of the damage was revealed.

The course was covered in a blanket of silt, up to 6 inches deep. This silt was suffocating the grass plant so the arduous task of scraping the silt began. This was done by any method possible, from snow shovels to 8 tonne diggers. The team were at this for about four months!

In some places the grass plant survived, but in other areas there was a total loss.

Neil and his team worked tirelessly for months to get the course playable and the reopening of the course in June was testament to their hard work.

Neil chose to participate in seminars discussing woodland, course policy documents, hydraulic and electric systems, and how to get greens looking good in spring.

He said: "The programme was fantastic and I would like to thank the section for the honour of receiving the Patron's Award."

## WEST SECTION - Ryan Brennan



Ryan Brennan has been in the industry for 9 years having started as a seasonal worker at Douglas Park in Bearsden before moving to Glasgow Golf Club.

Ryan regularly attends section events and was the unanimous choice of the West Section committee for the Patron Award.

Ryan said "I was very honoured to receive the Patron Award.

"My trip to BTME 2017 was full and varied, seminars on NPK and fertilisers, understanding

ecology of IPDM, presentation skills and what is in a soil analysis. They were all delivered to the highest standard and very interesting.

"I would thoroughly recommend Continue To learn to anyone.

"My week at BTME was busy but enjoyable with first class accommodation provided as part of the prize It's also a great opportunity to network with other guys in the industry and was great to catch up with guys from past years and to meet new colleagues".

"I would like to thank Stuart Taylor for putting me forward for the award and the West Section for the opportunity to further enhance my knowledge and education."

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Charles Allison	Affiliate - Thorntrees Amenity
Brian Finlayson	CM - Kilmarnock (Barassie)
James Turner	FA - Kilmarnock (Barassie)
Archie McCrindle	GK - Kilmarnock (Barassie)
Barry Reid	GK - Kilmarnock (Barassie)
Craig Gibson	GK - Kilmarnock (Barassie)
Fraser Reid	GK - Kilmarnock (Barassie)
Gary Finlayson	GK - Kilmarnock (Barassie)
Scott Henderson	GK - Dalbeattie
Jack Purdie	AGK - Largs
Fabienne Oberli	AGK - Castle Stuart

### Northern

James Dennett	Affiliate
Martyn Bebbington	GK - Cookridge Hall
Matthew Bell	GK - Hallamshire
Nicolas Armstrong	GK - Ponteland
Simon Oliver	GK - Cookridge Hall
William Cumming	GK - Ringway
Jack Leeming	Mechanic - Stockport
George Catterall	AGK - Catterick
Sam Wilkinson	AGK - Ponteland
Andrew Jemmett	AGK - Ganton
Andy Carnall	AGK - Barlborough Links
Luke Ogle	AGK - Bedlingtonshire
Matt Hampson	AGK - Stockport
Ryan Poultney	AGK - Ganton

### Midland

Daniel Haynes	GK - Staverton Park (De Vere)
David East	GK - Staverton Park (De Vere)
James Brindley	GK - Staverton Park (De Vere)
Paul Andrews	GK - Lickey Hills
Richard Warlow	GK - Elton Furze
Thomas Andrews	AGK - Hollywood
Richard Knight	AGK - Dudley
Stephen Green	AGK - mytimeactive

### South West and South Wales

Elliot Wellman	Affiliate - Devon Garden M'ery
Bradley Boon	GK - Stinchcombe Hill
Ceri Fearnley	GK - Lansdown
Neil Henderson	GK - Skylark
Joao Martins	AGK - Royal Jersey
Paul Newman	AGK - Staddon Heights

### South East

Peter Leeves	Affiliate - Southeast Irrigation
Thomas Keller	GK - Windlesham
Anthony Tufnell	GK - Brocket Hall
Gareth Furtado	GK - Windlesham
Nicholas Orchard	GK - Brocket Hall
Henry Aggar	AGK - Windlesham
Lewis Turner	AGK - The Dyke
Bradley Dimmock	AGK - Brocket Hall
Charlie Wippich	AGK - Royal St George's
David Grand	AGK - Sheringham

### International

Aidan Lennon	Sennelager
Alexander Efimenko	Pestova Golf & Yachting Club
Evgeny Rodinin	Pestova Golf & Yachting Club
Robert Hardy	Sennelager
Sean Gilmour	The PGA of Sweden National
Tyrone Cochran	Sennelager
Borja Anibarro	SRUC (Elmwood)
Diana Bango	SRUC (Elmwood)



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# AROUND THE GREEN SCOTLAND & N IRELAND



Lewis Valentine will be leaving Moray to join the team at Wentworth's East Course (pictured)

## Central

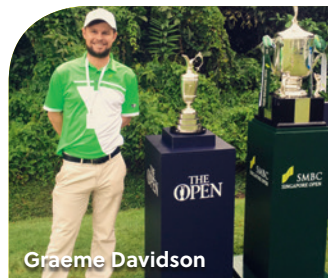
The spring golf outing will be held at Golf House Elie on Tuesday 25 April, while the autumn outing will be on 6 September at Pitreavie. Look out for further details on the BIGGA, Scottish websites and Facebook pages.

## SW Scotland

There are lots of education plans in the area, keep checking the magazine and Facebook pages for further details. The spring outing will be held at Glasgow Gailes on 11 May and the autumn outing will be at Prestwick St Nicholas on 7 September.

## East

Graeme Davidson, Murrayfield, has received an R&A Scholarship to help with his education expenses. Part of this award involved opportunities to be part of the support squad at various tournaments around the world. One tournament was the Singapore Open in January, which offers four spots in the Open Championship. Graeme provided a Twitter feed from Singapore, with plenty of pictures.



Graeme Davidson

The details of the spring outing are being finalised, however you should note the new date for the Willie Woods Competition on 16 May and will be held at Peebles. The autumn outing will be at Baberton on 19 September.



Singapore Open

## North

In last month's edition I said the spring outing was going to be on 21 April when actually it will be Tuesday 25 April. I hope this has

not caused any confusion and we will still see lots of you there. Cruden Bay is a top course so it is very worthwhile getting your entry in early. We have the tee booked from 10.30am-12.30pm.

Two of our section members are on the move. Lewis Valentine is leaving Moray to take up the position of assistant greenkeeper on the East course at Wentworth. Lewis has been at Moray since he left school four and a half years ago.

Also on the move is Chris Lamb, who has been at Newmacher for two years. Chris is moving to Trump International at Balmedie. We wish them the very best in their moves.

## West

The golf outings are in the planning stage for the year ahead and details will be provided soon.

Scott Davidson, Vice Chairman, has agreed to take on the role of communications officer for the section and will take on Around the Green correspondent duties.



# AROUND THE GREEN NORTHERN

## Section News

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



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[f BiggaNorthEast](https://www.facebook.com/BiggaNorthEast)

## North West

### Upcoming events

The Campey Turf Care Pro-Am will be taking place on Tuesday 23 May at Hart Common, Bolton.

The event will begin with coffee and bacon rolls from 9am, and then a shotgun start at 10am. There will be the opportunity to play with a leading PGA Pro, Campey Turf Care Systems demonstrations and various prizes on offer. Email

[julia.campey@campeyturfcare.com](mailto:julia.campey@campeyturfcare.com) or [jonathan.paine@pga.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.paine@pga.org.uk) for more information or to sign up.

Book quickly for our education day at Northop Coleg Cambria, where we are holding both a seminar and an irrigation workshop. Full details will have been emailed to you and are listed under events at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



## Cleveland

I received some sad news this week that Phil Graham from Bishop Auckland is moving on to pastures new.

After 26 years of dedicated service, Phil is going it alone and setting up his own business. Good luck and stay in touch Phil.



Cleveland GC's  
pimped' mower

The Baby Stork has been busy circling over the Cleveland section, with the happy news of Sebastian arriving at Ashley Littlefair of Bedale's doorstep. Congratulations Ash.

I'd also like to announce the birth of my first child, Zephyr, who was born on 10 January. To say I am over the moon is as big an understatement you will ever get. Plenty of sleepless nights in the post for us.

## Northern

Hi everyone, I hope you all had an educational BTME. Perhaps future seminars should be held in Harrogate as the venue was packed with greenkeepers, full of enthusiasm. I must contact Wildcats and find out more.

### Upcoming events

Here is the eagerly awaited fixture list for 2017:

20 April, Sandburn Hall, 1.30 tee

13 July, Howley Hall, 1pm tee

14 September, Pontefract, 1pm tee

16 November, Bracken Ghyll,

10.30am tee

All events will be £20 with bacon butty/coffee on arrival, meal afterwards.

Let's have a good turnout this year! Plan your days, make arrangements, come and meet fellow greenkeepers and enjoy the day!

Afternoon times have been requested to give us hardworking greenkeepers the chance to prepare our courses then leave a little earlier to attend BIGGA events. It's now up to you.

Golf day payments have been a much talked about topic this year. After discussion about payment – whether it be cash on the day or in advance – the decision is payment must be made prior to the day.

There is no valid argument for not paying prior to the golf days and with more clubs wanting a deposit, the section cannot afford to lose money.

Bank Details: Sort code 40 35 33;

Account no 51389726.

### Sponsor thanks

We are now looking for 2017 sponsors.

Thanks again to 2016 sponsors Aitkens Sports Turf, Rigby Taylor, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Balmers GM Ltd, Greensman Ltd and ICL.

Thank you again to any sponsors who have supported the Northern Section.

## Sheffield

I would like to send my congratulations to Dave Madden, of Sickleholme, on 40 years' service to the club. Dave started at the club aged 16, way back in 1977, and worked his way up from apprentice to Matt Holden's deputy.

Dave's knowledge of the course is second to none and has seen many changes at the club. Matt and the rest of the team wish Dave many more years' service at the club.

### Upcoming events

On Thursday 23 March there is a seminar on the importance of the correct settings of machine units.

This will be held at Hallamshire and speakers include Gordon Brammah MG, Steve Nixon and Scott Prudy. Contact Sandra to book your place as there's a lot of interest in this seminar.



Dave Madden



BIGGA SOUTH EAST REGION

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# AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH EAST



The Kent section got creative at their Turkey Trot by designing a BIGGA-inspired target

## Kent

What a beginning to the year – I am now the proud father to my beautiful baby girl Ella, and am also pleased to announce that I am now your new chairman of the Kent section. I am also very pleased that Barry Broadshaw, course manager of Kingshill, will be our section secretary and treasurer. On behalf of myself, Barry and the section we owe great thanks and appreciation to Kevin Morris and Rob Holland for their hard work over many years.

Fortunately before the passing of the baton Kevin and Rob had made things a little easier for Barry and myself and have organised the venues for the four golf events this year. The first is on 16 March at Littlestone and the others include 24 May at Sundridge Park, 28 September at Sheerness and 23 November at Redlibetts for the Turkey Trot.

We have two education events planned so far for the year at Hadlow College. The first is on Thursday 2 February, covering 'the developments in grass seed production and selection for performance and sowing for future success' and also 'machinery performance'. The second is Thursday 2 March covering 'maintaining irrigation systems and how to get the best out of your system' and 'chemistry and technology for better water use and management'.

We will be looking to organise more education events through the year, so watch this space. If you have any questions or would like to attend either of these, please let myself or Anthony Stockwell (Anthony.Stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk) know.

We are organising our Facebook and Twitter accounts, along with constructing a new Kent section website so we can keep you updated with news and events and give everyone the opportunity to get involved and communicate with each other in the section. In the mean time if you have anything you wish to share with myself, Barry, and the section, please get in touch and we look forward to hearing from you.

## London

The recent spell of relatively good weather has led many golfers to comment on 'how lucky we have been'. It will be interesting to see what is said when the weather turns - will we suddenly be unlucky? Just a thought.

On to section matters and the short seminars are almost booked in, see the Facebook page for the latest updates and email communication, which will be sent out once the programme is confirmed. One for the diary is the BIGGA London & Oaklands seminar on 14 February.

Further events are planned, so keep checking the Facebook page.

## Essex

The Christmas Texas Scramble was hosted by The Essex G&CC and preceded by the AGM. Thanks to Mick Fance for his work in promoting the day, which was well supported with a 60 strong field. A glorious winter's day helped everyone appreciate the fine effort put in by Martin Forrester and his team in presenting the course.

Results: 1st, Darren Stuttle, Dominic Nea, James Taggart, Peter Taggart; 2nd, Ian Wood, Rob Galley, George Grimes, Liam Springett; 3rd, Cassidy Steffans, Mike Bartlett, Ian Nichols, Aaron Allibon; 4th, Tom Smart, Simon Barber, Colin White, Michael Fance; 5th, Andy Toomey, Richard Shepherd, Mark Stones, Ross Surridge; Guest team prize, Mark Boundy, Chris Lumm, Mathew Lumm; Nearest the pins, George Grimes, Simon Barber, Darren Stuttle; Straightest drive, Darren Stuttle; Longest drive, Ross Surridge.

Andy Toomey walked off with the special 'Trousers of the Day' prize. Season end prizes went to Callum Smith, Golfer of the Year, and Rob Galley, Trade Golfer of the Year.

### Upcoming events

Ian Nicholls has put together a wide and varied educational programme for the coming months. There will be a trip to Bernhard to start the year and a machinery demo day in the planning stages. Mick has some excellent golf days lined up, kicking off with a final chance to enjoy Channels in March.

### Sponsor thanks

Thanks go to our sponsors for their support over the past year and to those renewing for the coming year. The banner promoting our sponsors will be on display at all events.

## Sussex

An excellent turnout of 76 attended the Sussex section's Turkey Trot at the renowned Worthing Golf Club.

## Section News

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

It was a cool, clear winter day and the course was in immaculate condition - dry, with fast greens. The section's thanks go to George and his team for presenting the course so well for the competition. Results: 1st, 63 points, The Dyke team comprising of Rob Hudson, George Morley, Lewis Turner and Brad Harris; 2nd, 61 points, Peter Smith, Ryan Hyder, James Briggs and Andrew Norman; 3rd, 59 points, Andy Naismith, Adam McColl, Ben Harwood; Longest drive, James Briggs; Nearest the pins, Jason Partridge, Kieran Myers, Gary Ogilvie, Ben Coulbourne. Many thanks go to all the section's annual sponsors for their support and also to George Barr and Pete Smith for organising the event.

The AGM was held at The Dyke, and the election of officers is as follows: Chairman, Mike Poole; Secretary, George Morley; Treasurer, Pete Smith; Committee Member, Andy Naismith; Education, Joe Dormer; Trade Representative, Chris Humphrey. Thanks were given to last year's committee for all their work over the past year.

The section would like to congratulate Matt Webb on his new position as trainer and assessor for Sports Turf Management at Plumpton College. Matt, previously from East Brighton GC, will be teaching many of the young greenkeepers from across Sussex. We wish Matt every success.



Matt Webb of Plumpton College

# AROUND THE GREEN SW & SW

## South West

Hi there. I'm Seb Cavilla, deputy course manager at Chippenham, and I will be writing this section going forwards. Many thanks to Jaey for writing this column for the last few years.

I will start by sending an enormous thank you to every member of staff at Burnham & Berrow. Shortly before Christmas, the South West Section and a sprinkling of other section members were fortunate enough to grace the links of Burnham for our Christmas tournament. Huge congratulations to John Bachelor of Long Ashton for winning the event with 41 points. Personally, it was my first experience of links golf, and it won't be my last - every single playing surface was exemplary - from tee to green we were thoroughly impressed.

For those who didn't fancy taking on the dunes, Richard Whyman delivered a fascinating course walk, explaining their recent marram grass project. The group were also talked through the recent construction of some new tees, as well as the benefits of working on a links site.

I am hoping to showcase some interesting stories from around the section in future, so please let me know about any interesting projects you have.

## South Wales

We had a great attendance for our Christmas competition at Pyle & Kenfig. Good to be back after some time away with many new faces. Thanks to Tracey for helping with the refreshments at the halfway house. The course was in great condition as usual thanks to Paul and his staff.

Results: 1st, Craig (sorry I don't have your surname), St Athans, 35 points on countback; 2nd Craig Cambell, Millennium Stadium (not sure he knew what to do with a round ball), 35 points; 3rd, Steve Higgins, Cradoc, 34 points; Longest drive, 9th hole, Steve Higgins; Nearest the pins, D.



Burnham & Berrow

McCormick, E.Nickels; Best trade, Rhys Norville, 34 points.

Most would have heard by now of the retirement of the gentle giant Tony Horne after more than 40 years in the groundsman and greenkeeping sectors. Everyone within the section and many others wish you all the best in your retirement, what a gentleman.

The section can grow with your help if you have any ideas - please email either Steve Lloyd or Mark Tucker with your suggestions. Please support as many events as you can this year.



Burnham & Berrow



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by the 16th  
of the month

# AROUND THE GREEN CENTRAL ENGLAND



David Stewart, Young Greenkeeper of the Year 2017

## Midland

I hope you had a great Harrogate and took in lots of education and networking. Congratulations to our own Dave Stewart, who collected the Young Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

East Midland have challenged us to a football match to be played at a top training facility. Anyone interested please drop me an email at greendave2004@hotmail.co.uk or keep watching FB for dates and venue. It will be a rolling sub system for those of us with bad joints.

We are also looking at a fishing competition later in the year if we get enough interest.

Welcome to new members Paul Andrews and Steve Green who joined the section from Lickey

Hills. Watch out for both at events. Any other new members please let us know.

The committee would welcome any comments that can help us grow the section.

### Upcoming events

The regional meet is on 15 March at Kings Norton, £25. Contact Roger Butler for details.

A day sponsored by ALS at Molineux, Wolverhampton Wanderers, on 8 March. Please contact ALS for more details.

Spring Competition, Broadway, 10 May 2017

Autumn Competition, South Staffs, 5 October 2017

Winter competition, Trentham, 13 December

### Sponsor thanks

Thanks to TH Whites for supporting the calendar

## East Midlands

Been a busy 2016 and 2017 is looking that way too. Congratulations to Hollinwell for runners up prize in the Midland Golfer Best Course in the Midlands, missing out to The Forest Of Arden. Congratulations to all the entries.

BTME will have been and gone by the publication of this but writing this a week before the show, the pilgrimage has started and I hope you all had a great catch up, some good education and a few beers with old friends! Also some new and exciting products being launched at the show including the 8900A John Deere Fairway Mower.

Congratulations to Asa and Martin on collecting their CPD points.

Please keep up to date with events through social media BIGGA East Mids

### Upcoming events

Campey Demo Day at Hinckley Golf Club on 15 March. We will be using the Koro to strip and relevel a tee then using the Vredo disc seeder to drill the tee, more information and invites to follow.



Members from around the country received their CPD Milestone certificates at BTME

## REFLECTING ON A SUCCESSFUL BTME

**Last month we looked forward to BTME and Continue to Learn. Seemingly just a short instance later and we are reflecting on yet another highly successful week in the greenkeeping calendar.**

It all started for the GTC and BIGGA L&D teams on the Saturday as we began to set up for Continue to Learn. Registration opened on Sunday for the education and what a busy week that was.

Over 3,000 of you took part in the education programme over the four days – whether it was full day workshops, half day workshops or seminars.

The variation of topics covered was fantastic and there was certainly something for everyone. I would like to congratulate everyone involved – from those who put the programme together, right through to those who ensured the smooth running of every workshop and seminar.

The feedback we all received from those of you who visited us in the Queen’s Suite was fantastic. As the focus and interest in the new Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping is growing in momentum, it is so good to speak to potential apprentices, head greenkeepers, course managers and employers and hear their comments on how they are embracing the new qualification.

Yes, the Government’s two reforms of standards and funding have proved challenging, not just to us but also to employers and colleges. But the enthusiasm from you all is confirmation that this and the work still to be carried out with Level 3 and Level 5, are what employers, apprentices, training providers and the industry really want.



The GTC’s Emma Willis at Continue to Learn

The emphasis is not just on England – the passion and commitment we hear from all our colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is fantastic. Everyone is striving towards a more educated, more professional industry and that is happening with the partnerships between GTC, BIGGA, the Home Unions, colleges, training providers and you.

Speaking with our colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and we appreciate how the devolved governments have set us challenges in the delivery and funding of education. But we are all still working to the new standards – albeit the new certificate in England may be seen as a little more robust, and we will be aiming to bring the Work Based Diploma and SVQ Level 2 into line with the revised standards.

Having a number of colleges exhibiting at BTME was also great to see. It gives you the opportunity to discuss the various qualifications available and how the different

colleges deliver them, which can then help you make informed decisions as to what will best suit your learner and the club.

And then there are the networking opportunities at BTME. From the moment you arrive, to the minute you leave Harrogate, the only thing everyone talks about is greenkeeping. I don’t think there is another industry where the delegates are still passionately talking about their job after a workshop or seminar, walking through the exhibition halls and over a meal while enjoying a few drinks into the very early hours of the morning.

The Welcome Celebration, which was free to attend and open to everyone, was such a great success and to see the accomplishments of so many greenkeepers being recognised is fantastic. Even David Golding, former GTC education director, was recognised by the association for his services to greenkeeper education – something he did not expect but will treasure.



The GTC is funded by:



### Contact Details

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fiona@the-gtc.co.uk

Emma Willis  
GTC Administrator  
emma@the-gtc.co.uk

### GTC

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### What is the biggest piece of machinery a golf course owns? The irrigation system!

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Upgrading, replacing and procuring an irrigation system can be a straightforward, simple and phased process, brought in on time and budget to meet the requirements of the course and the turf manager.

So let's start at the beginning and talk you through to the end. We start with a phased process with a known result, designed by professionals, procured by a tender process, and installed to a contract.

#### STEP 1 – THE APPRAISAL

An audit will include the appraisal of all the items that make up the irrigation system. These include health & safety, water supply and storage, pump station, mainline, control system, and sprinklers. This process culminates in a written report, which should identify areas of weakness and improvement, allowing the client to concentrate on these areas.

In addition to identifying areas of potential weakness, the audit can also be used to specify or adjust practices to ensure further efficiencies in operation are undertaken.

#### STEP 2 – THE DESIGN

Undertaking future irrigation requirements, current requirements, and ensuring the 'blueprint' produced is fit for purpose are all part of the design process using BS kitemarked pipes, configured in a way to allow longevity and uniform application. The key is to use irrigation product manufacturers with a proven design process and an independent consultancy carrying Professional Indemnity insurance. The culmination of the design process includes a specification document, layout plans, and a bill of materials, all set out in a form of contract which protects the process from events such as weather days and provides extended warranties, guarantees, and retention periods. This ensures both the client and the contractor are working together.

#### STEP 3 – THE TENDER

Send the approved design out to the market place and have contractors name their price on a like-for-like basis, based upon your irrigation system requirements. Returned tenders can be compared and evaluated, and then contracts awarded based upon an agreed contract of works.

#### STEP 4 – INSTALLATION

Working to a known program, a known phase of works, and a fixed price with contractual documents in place, the project will go in as

per specification and as per design intent c/w retentions and warranty terms, all agreed and accepted (start dates, completion dates, liquidated damaged, and hole closure programmes) with a snagging meeting, agreed handover date and warranty period.

During the process of design all aspects should be discussed and considered, from water sourcing to product arrangement. This can include surround sprinklers and approach irrigation, allowed for with requisite hydraulic pipe sizing. Such a process provides the club with a defined line of due diligence, where the club can demonstrate each aspect of the process has been reviewed and discussed.

The design document also provides a blueprint for the future, ensuring the upgrade process is part of the big picture and each phase is a known step forward. This ensures the final requirements of the course are met, even if the project is phased over a five to seven year period, as each phase of the works will be a step in the right direction.

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This in turn allows the Club to proceed on a known basis, understanding the current arrangement, and moving forward with confidence.

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BUYER'S GUIDE

## Amenity Specialist

Sherriff Amenity is the specialist division of Agrovista UK Ltd, we are currently looking to expand our team to cover Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and surrounding areas, we would like to hear from experienced Amenity Specialists who are interested in joining the leading supplier of turf care and amenity products in the UK.

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Knowledge of the fine turf and amenity industry, along with industry recognised qualifications, would be advantageous.

This role offers an excellent package including company car, contributory pension scheme and 25 days holiday plus Bank Holidays per annum.

To apply, please forward your curriculum vitae and covering letter to [lisa.pitt@agrovista.co.uk](mailto:lisa.pitt@agrovista.co.uk) alternatively call our HR department on 0115 921 8427 for more information.



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RECRUITMENT

## ALDEBURGH GOLF CLUB FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Aldeburgh Golf Club, founded in 1884 has 27 holes; the course is one of the finest in East Anglia and is situated on heathland with fescue dominated turf. The job represents an excellent opportunity for further training and professional development.

This is a supervisory role, working under the Course Manager and Deputy Course Manager.

Applicants should possess the following attributes:

- An enthusiastic and positive attitude
- A proven record of continuing professional development

- Excellent practical skills and technical knowledge
- NVQ level 2, preferably Level 3 and with PA 1, 2 and 6a spraying certificates.

Please apply by email with CV and covering letter to: Mark Broughton, Course Manager [greenkeepers@aldeburghgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:greenkeepers@aldeburghgolfclub.co.uk)

Closing date for - 6 March 2017

## HEAD GREENKEEPER RICHMOND PARK GOLF COURSE

Location: SE London

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Glendale Golf is recruiting a full-time Head Greenkeeper for its flagship venue Richmond Park Golf Course.

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Please apply by email with a covering letter and CV to [jon.dummett@glendalegolf.co.uk](mailto:jon.dummett@glendalegolf.co.uk). Closing date for applications is **28 February 2017**. Glendale Golf is an Equal Opportunities Employer. [www.glendale-services.co.uk](http://www.glendale-services.co.uk)

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## ASSISTANT AND SEASONAL GREENKEEPERS

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 and Seasonal 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)

## Lecturer in Sportsturf (Higher Education)

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Sportsturf Team at Myerscough College. The successful candidate will be required to provide effective and inspirational delivery of Sportsturf subject matter. A Degree or equivalent qualification in Sportsturf or related discipline, Industry experience in Sportsturf and a teaching Qualification or willing to undertake teacher training within agreed time period are essential requirements for the post.

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Please either visit our website or contact the HR team on 01995 642289/email [hr@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:hr@myerscough.ac.uk) for more information and an application pack

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**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

North Middlesex Golf Club are looking to recruit an Assistant Greenkeeper to join our team early in 2017.

The applicant will ideally have the following:

- NVQ2 or Equivalent
- Minimum 3 years' experience in golf
- PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spraying Certificates preferred
- Ability to work to the highest standard with a keen attention to detail
- Work effectively unsupervised or as part of a team
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Apply in writing or via email together with your CV to:

The General Manager  
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**PADESWOOD & BUCKLEY GOLF CLUB ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

We are looking for an ambitious individual to join our Greenkeeping team. The successful candidate will be motivated to work to the highest standard

The candidate must hold a full driving license and be a car driver with their own transport. The successful candidate will demonstrate high standards of presentation, an eye for detail, will be good communicators and a team player.

Applicants should be qualified to NVQ Level II. Spraying certificates along with chainsaw qualification would be desirable.

Please apply either by email to secretary@padeswoodgolfclub.co.uk or in writing together with a full CV to: Secretary, Padeswood & Buckley Golf Club, The Caia, Station Lane, Padeswood, Mold, CH7 4JD

**DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER SANDY LODGE**

Sandy Lodge is a unique golf course on the outskirts of London that is renowned for its 'inland links' characteristics. It has hosted numerous championship events over the years and currently is a regional open qualifying course.

- NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping or equivalent
- PA1, 2 and 6a spraying certificates
- Irrigation experience including repair and maintenance
- CS 30 and 31 chainsaw certificates
- Construction experience

We are looking for an ambitious deputy head greenkeeper to join our maintenance team. Candidates must show ambition, desire and have the necessary skills to help us achieve our aims.

Remuneration will be based on skill level and experience. To apply, forward your covering letter and C.V. to Richard Elderfield at: CourseManager@sandyldodge.co.uk

**HEAD GREENKEEPER DOWNS COURSE**



We are looking to recruit a Head Greenkeeper for the Downs Course at Golf At Goodwood. The role will be responsible for the overall management of The Downs Course and it's dedicated team. The ideal candidate will have a passion for attention to detail, planning, preparation and execution. They will have managed large teams previously and excel at people management with a proven track record of developing individuals.

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<http://goodwood.allchichesterjobs.com/job-details.cfm?job=280652>

The closing date is: Friday 17 February 2017

**DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER FOYLE GOLF CENTRE**

Foyle Golf Centre is a 27 hole parkland golf complex located just 5 minutes from the city of Derry/Londonderry. We are currently looking for an ambitious member to join our team as Deputy Head Greenkeeper, acting as temporary Head Greenkeeper.

Applicants should have 5 years experience, full driving licence, spray certificates and a Level 3 or above qualification.

To apply, please send your CV and Cover letter to [mail@foylegolfcentre.co.uk](mailto:mail@foylegolfcentre.co.uk)

Closing date 27 February 2017

Duties will include responsibility for the 130 acre estate, taking in all day to day operations associated with a parkland golf course and associated driving range and amenity areas.

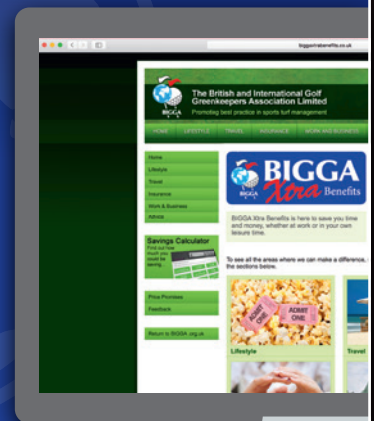


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## GROWING WILD AT THE BELFRY

The Belfry in Warwickshire has long been known for the outstanding presentation of its three golf courses, and of course will forever be known for witnessing some of the most iconic moments in European Ryder Cup history.

Who could ever forget Sam Torrance's match winning putt across the 18th green in 1985 and, of course, the late Christy O'Connor Jnr's majestic two iron to see off Freddie Couples in 1989? Moments to be cherished indeed.

However, did you know The Belfry has recently undergone further development to its first class accommodation? Not for the many visiting golfers or business travellers, but to create a safe haven for the many creatures great and small that reside on site.

Led by Director of Golf Courses Angus Macleod, the team have embarked on the creation of a superb outdoor woodland education area, providing a diverse range of homes for everything from minibeasts to hedgehogs.

Several bird boxes have also been put up, with some species, including Great Spotted Woodpeckers, taking advantage of some of the opportunities already on site.

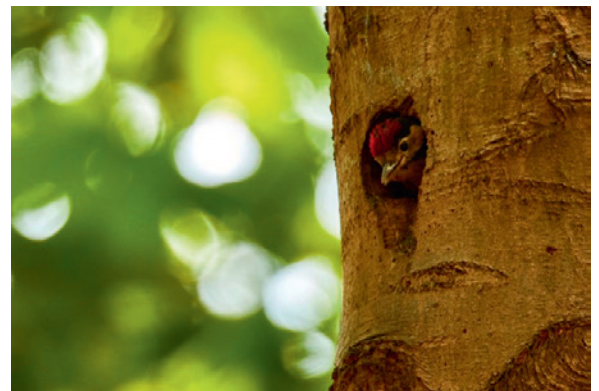
PGA National greenkeeper Matt Whittock has been involved with the project from the beginning and is always looking for new opportunities to develop the area.

Matt said: "It's been a real privilege for me to be involved in such a worthwhile project. Everything we have created has been done using on site materials, whether it be seating, shelters, or wildlife homes.

"Child friendly signage has been added to explain the benefits of the homes and the wildlife we hope to attract. We're all very proud of what we have created."

Angus added: "It's really important that we educate our children about nature and the environment, but equally important that they have fun doing it.

"Hopefully what we have created here at The Belfry provides that very opportunity among the day to day commercial operations."



Top: Matt Whittock poses with one of the numerous Bug Hotels (photo Richard Owen)

Middle: Habitats in the nature area are child-friendly

Bottom: Great Spotted woodpeckers nest in the woodland area

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