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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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ISSN: 0961 – 6977

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WELCOME



Comedian Ian Moore will be appearing at the Welcome Celebration



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

A very Happy New Year to all our members, partners, supporters and friends.

2016 was both a successful and a difficult year. As an association, 2016 was positive with great successes in a number of areas, particularly with regard to the profile of BIGGA and its members in the wider golf industry.

But it was also a very difficult year for some members who suffered at the hands of a combination of the changing climate, declining revenues at their facilities and poor governance.

What is certain is that for us to support those members who are suffering, we need a strong profile and the ability to influence in key areas. Rest assured, all at BIGGA are resolute in our determination to support members who are on the receiving end of tough times this year.

As ever the year will begin on a high note with our annual pilgrimage to Harrogate for BTME. Our exhibition and

conference represent the most important few days in the turf management industry every year, but I now think we can go further. With over 7,000 hours of education about to be delivered, which equates to over 2 ½ hours per golf club in the UK, it is unquestionably the most influential event in the management of British golf.

I'm delighted the halls of the Harrogate International Centre are jam-packed with exhibitors who have secured just about every inch of space available. All the key brands are present, along with a number of newcomers who hope to gain momentum by engaging with you the end user. The Continue to Learn programme has been brilliantly received with many sessions completely full before Christmas and pre-registrations and hotel availability suggest we're in for a busy time.

As well as being an essential event for the industry, it is also a key time for the association, giving us the opportunity to recognise some outstanding achievements by our members. The BIGGA Welcome Celebration on Tuesday at 5.30pm in the beautiful Royal Hall is quite simply a must-attend event. This free event will be hosted by the BBC's Naga Munchetty and this year a top class comedian, Ian Moore, will round off the celebrations. I sincerely hope to see you there as we salute so many fine greenkeeping achievements and have a bit of fun along the way.

I'm really looking forward to our General Sessions which kickstart the first two exhibition days. Also held in the Royal Hall, the Olympic and Ryder Cup-themed sessions will give a detailed insight into these events that shape the golfing landscape and remind us of the essential part BIGGA members play in them.

More prosaically I shall also look forward to events like our AGM which act as keen reminders that we are a membership association dedicated to supporting you, as you support the sport of golf.

I look forward to seeing very many of you in Harrogate for BTME.

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

54 Around the Green

61 Greenkeepers Training Committee

62 Buyers' Guide

64 Recruitment

66 & Finally

CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR



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

Just a taste of what's in store

Roll up, roll up, it's time for the biggest show in town.

The wait is over, and turf professionals from all over the globe will be heading to Harrogate this month to rekindle old friendships, discover technological innovations, and develop their careers with the best education on offer.

Here in the magazine this month we've got a little taste of what you can expect if you are able to make it to Harrogate.

We've got articles produced by five experts who will be speaking at Continue to Learn. Lee Strutt MG, Paul Miller, Bob Taylor, Dr Andy Owen and Henry Bechelet are among the leading names in the turf management industry and this month they will give an insight into some of the topics they will discuss in Harrogate.

Over the week there will be around 90 expert speakers, and there's still chance to pick up a Continue to Learn Education Programme and get yourself on to one of the wide-ranging, excellent seminars which will be taking place.

BTME is held in such high regard by the turf management industry that many companies time product launches or important announcements to coincide with the exhibition, choosing to reveal their latest innovations in Harrogate. This month's magazine features a preview of just a selection of some of the industry-firsts that you can expect.

But once again, BTME is just too big to be contained within this magazine's pages.

BIGGA too is progressing, as the reputation and influence of the association continues to build and we are acknowledged as the leaders in greenkeeper development in Europe. This month I spoke to course managers in Ireland and New Zealand, and both were proud to speak of their membership of BIGGA. Let's keep this momentum going and continue to increase the reputation of greenkeepers and course managers within golf as a whole.

For one week the BIGGA team heads to Harrogate, where we look forward to chatting to as many of you as possible.

If, like me, this is your first BTME, here's a little checklist of things you should be doing to prepare:

- Double check the Continue to Learn programme – is there anything you've missed that you fancy attending?
- Download the BTME 2017 app and start filling up your calendar, check out the exhibition map, and take a look at some of the great offers you can take advantage of.
- Head to social media and start chatting about what you're excited to see.
- Practice your selfie skills so you can take advantage of our fun Snapchat geofilters, exclusive to BTME.
- Stick the BIGGA Welcome Celebration in your BTME 2017 app calendar and get ready for a relaxed and free evening of entertainment and celebration of greenkeeping achievement.

With all that sorted, I think we're ready for the show to begin!

IN THIS ISSUE

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

24 Lee Strutt MG

Lee is Course Manager at the Royal Automobile Club in Surrey, where he manages two exceptional downland courses. Together with Daniel Lightfoot, of Syngenta, he discusses the importance of creating a database of information to evaluate what turf management practices have worked effectively..



28 Paul Miller

In the final instalment of his trilogy discussing sustainable course management, Paul takes a look at a course that was saved from extinction by switching to a more economically-viable grass species. Paul is an experienced lecturer and will this month be contributing to Continue to Learn.



44 Bob Taylor

Bob set up the Ecology and Environment Department with STRI in 1989 and heads a team of ecologists that work almost exclusively within golf on all matters pertaining to landscape and ecology. In this feature he discusses the benefits of an effective programme of tree management.



48 Dr Andy Owen

A soil scientist and agronomist with a PhD from the University of Wales in Bangor, Andy has been International Technical Manager for ICL since May 2014. Working with fellow ICL technical manager Henry Bechelet, this month Andy discusses whether nitrogen inputs tailored on a week-by-week basis can improve efficiency and reduce costs.



FEATURED THIS MONTH

- 22** **BIGGA Delegation**
Which ten BIGGA members will be jetting off to Florida for the Golf Industry Show?
- 24** **Measured success**
An effective data recording system can track what works, and what doesn't
- 28** **Sustainability**
Paul Miller asks whether changing grass species can improve a course's fortunes-
- 32** **BTME 2017**
It's finally here, and we're taking a look at some of the exhibitor highlights
- 34** **BTME MAP**
Your complete list of exhibitors at BTME, included with a useful floor map
- 40** **Grinders**
The importance of keeping your mower blades sharp
- 44** **Woodlands & trees**
The STRI's Bob Taylor explains how UK courses are a vital source of woodland habitat
- 48** **Nitrogen usage**
Dr Andy Owen and Henry Bechelet of ICL discuss effective nitrogen practices
- 52** **Water recycling**
Golf clubs on the Yorkshire coast are embracing water recycling systems

ACROSS THE BOARD



Les Howkins Chairman

Well I managed to survive Christmas, the golfers continued to play through frost, rain and wind, and I managed to put on a few pounds!

BTME and Continue to Learn are before us and the annual greenkeeping pilgrimage to Harrogate is about to take place. With 240 hours of top class education on offer over four days, there will be something for everyone.

The workshop and seminar bookings through October and November were at an unprecedented rate, with many selling out before December even started. This is a great sign and it is really encouraging for the L&D team who spend so much time and effort planning and organising the event.

But the board and the HQ team never want to be complacent and we are already looking at ways of improving the offering for 2018.

After the 2016 event was spread over five halls, we took a long hard look at what was the best way to move forward.

2016 was the last year that some of the larger exhibitors attended on a biennial basis and they have instead agreed to attend every year, but on a slightly more modest scale. This gave us the opportunity to use Hall M each year and fit in many more exhibitors, making sure we have a super successful four hall show each year.

As we all descend on Harrogate, please remember to fill your Tuesday diary with the Golf in the Olympics general session at 8.30am in the Royal Hall, the BIGGA AGM at 1.15pm in the Queen's Suite and the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, also in the Royal Hall, at 5.30pm. The event is free to attend, there is no dress code, and once again the superb Naga Munchetty from the BBC will be on hand to entertain and guide us through proceedings.

The Welcome Celebration is sure to be a great evening and I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to all our events over the week.

Since my last piece in this magazine the attendees to three of our member participation initiatives have been announced. As ever, all the initiatives were well supported by applications and as always there are those that are delighted and those that are disappointed.

We can't take all the people every time and to those that didn't get good news for either TPC Sawgrass, FTMI or the BIGGA Delegation to the GIS, I would encourage you to ask for feedback and apply again next year using the knowledge you have acquired. I know for a fact that at least one of the successful 10 going to the GIS in Orlando next month had applied a number of times before being selected, which just goes to show perseverance can pay off.

Conversely, whinging about the result, taking to social media to make your displeasure public and not bothering again doesn't really have the same outcome.

I have an annoying saying at work that "every day is a school day". We should never stop learning and even the application process for these initiatives, such as the opportunity to gain confidence in an interview setting, is a learning

experience. This will help as you move through your career.

We held a board meeting in the closing days of November, where we welcomed two new members. At the AGM, to be held the week of BTME, Stuart Taylor of Glasgow Golf Club will be taking over from Stuart Greenwood, while Jaime Acton of Rushmore will be taking over from John Keenaghan.

Both JK and Stuart have dedicated many years to their roles on the board and have played an important part in moving the association forward. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their time and effort over the last few years.

The recent meeting was held at Wentworth at the invitation of Kenny Mackay, who will also be stepping down from the position of BIGGA Guardian at the AGM. After serving as Chairman in 2008, Kenny joined the board as Guardian in 2011. He will be missed around the table and we wish him well with all the work he has got going on at The Wentworth Club.

One of the key things to come out of the meeting was the finalising of our new code of conduct for members. The overriding ethos remains true to the principles laid down when BIGGA was formed, but the new code is more reflective of the industry today and the developments that affect it. The new code will be available on the website soon and in a booklet at BTME.

That's enough from me, I look forward to seeing you all in Harrogate.



Speaking at BTME last year

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



BIGGA AWARDS

THE FINALISTS

NEWSDESK

The association has revealed the finalists of the 3rd annual BIGGA Awards.

Presented during the Welcome Celebration at BTME, the awards celebrate the best in greenkeeping achievement during the previous year.

The Welcome Celebration will be held in the Royal Hall at the Harrogate International Centre on Tuesday 17 January from 5.30-6.30pm.

The finalists of the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year award sponsored by GBR Technology are:

Phil Chiverton and team, The Grove, for the British Masters Supported by Sky Sports on 13-16 October 2016

Lee Bishop and team, Burnham Beeches Golf Club, for the English Senior Women's Open Amateur Strokeplay, 14-16 June 2016

The finalists of the Young Greenkeeper of the Year award sponsored by Jacobsen are:

Dan Waring, Greenkeeper, Ashbourne Golf Club

David Stewart, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Walmley Golf Club

The finalists of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Achievement of the Year award sponsored by Rigby Taylor are:

David Langheim MG and team, Wimbledon Park Golf Club

Ben Kebby and team, Temple Golf Club

All visitors to BTME are invited to join BIGGA at the Welcome Celebration, hosted by BBC presenter Naga Munchetty and featuring entertainment from comedian Ian Moore.



The St Andrews Links team won the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year award in 2016

GI DOGS ON COURSE



Name: Billy
Owner: Neil Ballingall
Course: Fairmont St Andrews
Breed: Jack Russell
Favourite treat: Sausages and squeaky toys
Favourite spot on the course: In the gorse hunting rabbits



Naughtiest moment: Billy is permanently naughty: he rips the post from the postman's hand as it comes through the letterbox; he launches at any animal on the television – he especially hates polar bears and bison; and he's not keen on folks wearing hats, so staff have to take theirs off before entering my office. He also takes a few moments to assess reps when they come in to the office before allowing them to stay - but only if he can sit on them.

My dog is happiest when... Running free on the golf course, in and out of the rough and gorse, and having adventures to post on his Facebook page.

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

Snap and share at BTME

At BTME we're inviting BIGGA members to get out their phones and start snapping to share fun images from Europe's largest turf management exhibition.

Members who have the Snapchat app downloaded on their phone will be able to take a selfie and add an exclusive BTME filter to the image.

Whether it's wearing the hat and beard of Old Tom Morris, the most famous greenkeeper of them all, or becoming a 'Turf Topper' with a grassy

hairstyle, we're certain the filter will add a new level of fun to the whole BTME experience.

Snapchat is the third biggest social media platform in the world among millennials, so download your app, add @BIGGALtd as a friend, and get snapping!



Selfies at the ready at BTME

NEWSDESK

Walter Woods

Former St Andrews Links head greenkeeper Walter Woods BEM was presented with a BIGGA Scotland Recognition Award at the region's awards lunch.

A legend in the game of golf, Walter was presented with the award by BIGGA president Iain Macleod, in recognition of a career in the which he prepared the Old Course for four Open championships.

The Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire native said: "My best memories are Jack Nicklaus holding the trophy in

1978 or the excellence of Nick Faldo in 1990."

As head greenkeeper at St Andrews from 1974, Walter oversaw the beginning of the machinery and education revolution in greenkeeping. He became involved with Elmwood College, giving greenkeepers the chance to learn at the Home of Golf.



Walter Woods receives his award

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Trump tops bill



Allan Patterson, Course and Estate Manager at Trump Turnberry, will round out the 2017 BIGGA Scotland Golf Industry Conference on Tuesday 7 March.

Allan will discuss all things Turnberry, particularly the changes made to the Ailsa Championship Course.

Presentations will be delivered by Dr Steve Otto, Research Manager from The R & A; course architect Martin Ebert, and Alan Hogg, chief executive of Kingsbarns Golf Links.

Paul Miller will return in 2017 to chat with Graeme Davidson from Murrayfield about his experiences at TPC Sawgrass and volunteering. And the issue of sustainability for golf clubs will be discussed by Amanda Dorans of Dundonald Links, Guy Redford of Loch Lomond, and Bob Taylor of the STRI.

Held at Perth Concert Hall, the conference is sure to attract delegates from all parts of the country. As the highlight of the region's education calendar, delegates can claim 6 CPD credits for attending.

Further details can be found on the BIGGA and Scottish Region's websites, including the booking form.

Conferences

The East Coast and Borders areas enjoyed successful conferences during December.

Held at Carlisle Golf Club, the Borders event was sponsored by Indrigrów and Campey Turf Care and thanks were given to Anthony Naisbitt and the Carlisle team, as well as the speakers who spoke.

Similar thanks was given to Rob Clare and the team at Brough, where the East Coast conference was held, sponsored by FR Adamson & Son.

FTMI Delegation



Jacobsen and BIGGA have announced the successful applicants for 2017's Future Turf Managers Initiative.

The popular educational and networking initiative is in its fifth year and will once again be taking place at Jacobsen's European manufacturing facility in Ipswich.

Focusing on personal and professional development, rather than agronomy-based subjects, the FTMI programme utilises the expertise of industry experts to mentor and educate the next generation of industry leaders.

Karen Proctor, Marketing and Communications Manager at Jacobsen, said: FTMI 2017 is set to be another fantastic event. I would like to congratulate the successful candidates who have secured a place."

Former delegate Stuart Adams, of Haverford West, described FTMI as

"without doubt, the most important turning point of my career."

The delegates for FTMI 2017 are: Craig Betts, Aldwickbury Park; Andy Clark, Remedy Oak; Simon Dexter, Rutland County; Ryan Gall, Loch Lomond; Steven Hardy, The Warwickshire; Craig Harrison, Royal Lytham & St Anne's; Kevin Hensman, Rowlands Castle; Matthew Hicks, Huntercombe; Thomas Jacques, Ashton and Lea; Ricky Jakes, Welwyn Garden City; Mike Laheen, Cosby; Ian Lloyd, Parkstone; Adrian McCullough, JCB; Tom Pattison, Blyth; Jon-Jo Pitts, Royston; David Roberts, Saddleworth; David Thompson, Hexham; Ken Tilt, Trafalgar; Martin Turna, Fraserburgh; Jamie Wade, The Belfry; Paul Willoughby, Royal Automobile Club.

Association mourns

The association was saddened to hear of the passing of two well-known greenkeepers during December.

Chris Findlay, 37, was a greenkeeper at Portstewart, Northern Ireland and had been a member of the association since November 2013.

He was the son of Portstewart Course Manager Bernard Findlay.

John Byrne was First Assistant at The Wentworth Club and was familiar to many BIGGA members as he would work closely with the Support Team during the BMW PGA Championship.

The association would like to offer its condolences to the family of Chris and John and to the teams at Portstewart and Wentworth at this time.



Chris Findlay



John Byrne

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Chris Haspell,

Course Manager, Castle Stuart Golf Links

Scottish Open 2016

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GI/Eclipse2Test/01/2017

JACOBSEN

THIS MONTH @BIGGALtd



@jaywad13
Good old frost this morning!
@BIGGALtd 10th Brabazon #thebelfry



@GJRobertsTurf
Great day with Dad, Scott & Nick from @ctmTURF at the @BIGGALtd Surrey Section Turkey Trot. Lots of laughs and golf (sort of) played!



@IanReevo
More tree planting @BoundayLakes @TheAgeasBowl 26 of 110 since last Tuesday @richjmorts @weston2005 @StuarSimmonds99



@CentenaryHGK
Centenary greens getting a slit & roll this am following yesterday's dressing @SISIMachinery @ToroGolf @JacobsenTurf



@WhitleyGolfClub
3rd tee at @BurnhamBorrow @BIGGASouthwest Christmas comp – great day, thanks all #linksgolf



@GKdavid_s
Giving a bad bunker a makeover this week at @WalmleyGC @BIGGALtd



@pyecombe_greens
@BIGGALtd @ukgolfpics @PyecombeGC @sdnpa Out for the morning walk #golf #greenkeeping

GI AROUND THE GLOBE



CJ Kreuzscher
Course Superintendent
Tara-Iti Golf Club,
New Zealand

What is the most interesting thing you would tell other members about New Zealand?

It has some of the best topography in the world. From the mountains of the South Island to the North's beaches, it is some of the world's best, least developed country.

How would you describe the course you manage?

We are in fact a links course. I know the term is abused over and over again, but we are a coastal sand dune linking the inland agricultural land. We are 100% fescue. Our whole aim is to be firm and fast.

How does greenkeeping in New Zealand vary from the UK?

Yes the greenkeeping varies here, but at Tara-Iti I strive for UK-like conditions. Some of the best conditions I have ever seen have been on the links courses of the UK. Nobody does it better and more sustainably. New Zealand has a great deal of 'country courses' where there is only a staff of one or two. They do a great job with very little, but there is only so much one can do with limited resources.

What is the best part of living in New Zealand?

If you lived here you would understand - just about everything. Unpopulated, low crime, beautiful scenery.

What is their worst?

The options and resources are very limited. Many products you could find in America or the UK may take two months to arrive or are simply not available. Christmas also lasts for three months – slight sarcasm – here as well, which is our summer, so it is very difficult to get much done when we really need to accomplish the most.

How does the weather affect your work?

We are windy, as any coastal course is, but we have a great deal of open sand. Sand blow is something we deal with weekly.

What type of wildlife do you get on the course?

There are no native mammals to New Zealand so all you have is bird life. There is a fairy tern preserve which borders the golf course.

What is the public perception of golf in New Zealand?

Unrealised potential would be my guess, but it has been improving with additions in the last 20 years such as Cape Kidnappers, Kauri Cliffs, Jack's Point, Kinloch and now Tara-Iti.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

BIGGA is the international standard. GCSAA is great in the US, but for the rest of the world it is BIGGA.

What tip would you give British greenkeepers that you have learnt in New Zealand?

Do not try to reinvent the wheel. The best golf maintenance programs I have ever seen use minimalistic techniques that have been working for well over 100 years.



Tara-Iti Golf Club



YOUNG GREENKEEPERS' COMMITTEE

Representing the youth of the sports turf management industry

Bunker training together

YGC member Jack Hetherington is Course Manager at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland.

He attended the most recent edition of 'bunker camp', hosted by Stuart Imeson, head greenkeeper at Dunstanburgh Castle, and this month recalls the experience for GI.

Bunker Camp is an initiative hosted by Stuart, where he invites greenkeepers to his course to learn about retvetting in the traditional links style, by renovating one of Dunstanburgh's bunkers.

For the third year now I have attended bunker camp at Dunstanburgh Castle and once again I come away from the experience determined, better at my job, and with an extensive library of new jokes.

For me Dunstanburgh is very special. It is in a stunning location with a fantastic team, and what they offer those who attend the bunker camp is brilliant. Stuart, James, Dan and Alex all play a huge part in making the experience

what it is and should be commended for that.

Like many of us, Stuart is committed to the improvement of himself and his course. What he is also committed to is the improvement of others – firstly his team, secondly local greenkeepers and students, and finally anyone else within the industry who is eager to learn. That is why bunker camp started – it is an ideal open and relaxed environment for the transferral of knowledge.

I started to attend bunker camp with the same old question in my head: what can I gain from this? And yes, every year I do better myself.

This year I worked alongside Ben Williams, who went on the Ohio State Programme and has travelled the world through greenkeeping.

Last year we heard from Phillip Hind and Paul Armour about their method or retvetting bunkers.

And so I do not have the same question any more, I know I will benefit from attending.



The question now is: what will others gain from my attendance? It's clear to see that Dunstanburgh improves every year from hosting the bunker camp and when I speak to Stuart afterwards he is pleased at how the course is developing. But most of all, he has improved himself.

With the bunker camp growing each year and gaining more interest from sponsors, allowing for more participants, no doubt you will soon be seeing adverts and fliers for the 2017 event.

When you do ask yourself what can be gained from attending, or even hosting a bunker camp at your course, I offer you the following:

One morning before we started work on the course I popped into the local shop and asked if they sold helicopter-flavoured crisps. The shopkeeper replied: "No mate, we only sell plane."

Ah well, at least the bunker training is top notch.

GI Ecology

By James Hutchinson
BIGGA's
Sustainability
Executive



Adam Williams' stag and Pike Hills' stoat



Richard Mortimer's swans at Boundary Park



Redwing and Richard Johnstone's cygnet



There appears to be an influx of fauna-type visitors to our golf courses lately - such as this beautiful stag which showed up and posed for snaps at Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel and Country Club in the West Midlands. Thanks to Adam Williams for the photograph.

Also visiting golf courses this month was a cygnet, photo by Richard Johnstone, and a flight of swans at Boundary Park near Southampton, photo by Richard Mortimer.

Elsewhere, the fieldfare and redwings have shown up in great numbers and I'm sure the waxwings will have made an appearance on some of the UK's courses by now. Aston & Lea, near Preston, have a good number of redwings already due to the hawthorn bushes which have a plentiful booty of berries on them.

All the aforementioned birds have a penchant for hawthorn berries, so keep a look out if your course has these slow growing trees around them.

If you are around the St Anne's Links or Royal Lytham area of north west England, then I was recently made aware of a desert wheatear mooching around the dunes. This type of bird is extraordinarily rare, but guess what? Another showed up next to Thurlstone in Devon earlier in November - how good is that?

In other news, if you are undertaking tree management during this cold snap, please remember to either leave tree timber on the woodland floor or stack it as ecopiles. Decaying wood is imperative to the survival of a healthy woodland as saprophytes - fungi or small organisms - rely on this stuff to live. Take away the decaying wood and you take away a significant part of ecology from your golf course.

On a lighter note, BIGGA's remote camera caught this energetic stoat at Pike Hills, near York. The camera also captured a wren, redwing and tons of blackbirds, suggesting the site is in a superbly healthy condition.

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

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IN HALL M, STAND M22



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Full Members Personal Accident Helpline
0121 698 8046 / 43

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst

BIGGA AGM 2017

The BIGGA AGM will take place at 1.15pm on Tuesday 17 January 2017 in the Queen's Suite of the Harrogate International Centre. The dress code is smart casual, not jacket and tie as in previous years.

MEMBERSHIP

Latest news and information from the BIGGA Membership Team

TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme



TPC Sawgrass

The final line-up of BIGGA members who have successfully earned a place on the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme has been confirmed.

One member from each of BIGGA's five regions will be heading to The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass from 9-14 May 2017.

BIGGA Regional Administrator Tracey Walker was on the judging panel for the South West and South Wales Region and said: "We interviewed some excellent candidates for the opportunity to head to TPC Sawgrass next year, and as always it was a really tough decision to pick our preferred choice. Thank you to everyone who applied, and thank you to John Deere for providing this incredible opportunity for BIGGA's members."

On behalf of BIGGA Partner John Deere, the successful association members will receive travel, accommodation, food and uniform as they join the tournament preparation and support team for the event, considered by many as golf's 'fifth major'.

The successful candidates are:

Paul Walton, Greenkeeper at Sharpley Springs Golf Course, County Durham

Harry Jones, Head Greenkeeper at Wrekin Golf Club in Shropshire

Sam Evans, Head Greenkeeper at Fulwell Golf Club in Middlesex

Christopher Hale, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club in Devon

Richard Johnstone, Course Manager at Nairn Dunbar Golf Links in Scotland

The Players Championship is made possible due to a volunteer force of over 2,200 people. These are assigned to one of four divisions – player services, spectator services, volunteer services and facilities.

John Deere Limited Turf Division Manager Chris Meacock said: "The volunteer programme is now in its third year, and is attracting more interest than ever,"

"Greenkeepers across the UK and Ireland recognise the invaluable opportunity it presents for their career development. Overall the programme builds on the great relationship John Deere has with BIGGA, the GCSAI and TPC Sawgrass. The venue also appreciates the combination of knowledge, experience and ability shown by our successful team members, and this in turn reflects very well on the whole of the UK and Irish golf greenkeeping industry. We are looking forward to another highly successful event in 2017."

The 2018 John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme application process will be launch in July.

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the team at www.environmentalscience.bayer.co.uk



17 - 19 January 2017
Harrogate International Centre



L&D NEWS

Latest news and information from the BIGGA Learning and Development Team

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LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Ha-ha for Callanan after achieving top qualifications



David Callanan MG CGCS

The first Irishman to achieve both BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper certificate and the Certified Golf Course Superintendent designation said education is key if a greenkeeper is to stand out from the crowd.

David Callanan, 36, is superintendent at Beech Park, outside Dublin, and said he hopes other Irish greenkeepers work towards the Master Greenkeeper certificate in order to raise the professionalism of the industry in Ireland.

"I am at a good club," said David. "But I want to see myself at a larger course or a resort, and to do that I have to distinguish myself from the competition.

"When a job comes up you are against 20 other people and in the back of my mind I was asking, what would get me an interview for a job?"

David is the first Irish course manager to achieve the Master Greenkeeper certificate, while there are only two others with the CGCS, which is the highest qualification in Ireland available from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Having achieved both awards, David has on paper become Ireland's highest accredited greenkeeper.

He said: "I would certainly push some of my younger colleagues towards Master Greenkeeper as it is far more relevant for guys in Ireland than the CGCS."

David has been at Beech Park since 2000. He spent nine years as deputy course manager, before being appointed to the top role.

A parkland course, Beech Park was designed by Eddie Hackett, it includes its own version of Amen Corner. Opened in 1985, the course is constructed on the Johnstown Estate and has a number of historic features, such as a ha-ha, which stretches more than 1,000m across the centre of the course. This regency-period feature is being restored over three to five years, with 60% completed so far.

The ha-ha is a ditch, designed to keep grazing animals out of the more formal areas of the regency garden. It is being restored with the help of a stonemason,



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

Sam Evans, Fulwell; George Morley, The Dyke GC; Rob Welford, Waltham Windmill; Scott Reeves, Leyland; William Craig, Kirriemuir; Simon Olver, Whitley Bay; Craig Boath, Carnoustie Golf Links; Matthew Wharton MG CGCS, Carolina GC; Jaime Acton, Rushmore; Paul Brown, Ham Manor; Jason Brooks, Torquay; Jaey Goodchild, Bowood Golf & Country Club; Paul Healy, Worlebury; Matthew Plested, Stoneham; Steven Carmichael, Dumfries & Galloway; James Bledge, Royal Cinque Ports; David Langheim MG, Wimbledon Park; Iain Macleod, Tain; Joe Curtis, Gloucester.

The following members also achieved their milestone this month: Stuart Imeson, Dunstanburgh Castle; Martin Hickling, Rothley Park; Jack Hetherington, Alnwick Castle; Craig Boath, Carnoustie Golf Links; Matthew Wharton MG CGCS, Carolina GC; Iain Macleod, Tain, Hamish Campbell, Dundas Parks.

When a job comes up you are against 20 other people and in the back of my mind I was asking, what would get me an interview for a job? I see myself at a larger course and to do that I have to distinguish myself from the competition.

and that comes at a substantial cost. But regular communication from David and the greenkeeping team help to ensure the members are aware of the projects that are taking place.

"I'm fortunate because Beech Park is very modern in terms of the communication we give to our members," said David. "In the work I do I am not rooted in old processes, but I also don't believe in change for the sake of it.

"There are many processes in the industry that have been around for many years but that are sound and practical. I don't bog myself down in the science, instead it is about being practical and listening to the members."

David described Beech Park as a regular members' course, with no airs and graces. He added: "It's a three-star course with ambitions to become four star. We would be well-regarded within our peer clubs in the

area and our membership is very happy with what they get as they realise what they are getting is quite good value for money."

To complete stage one of the Master Greenkeeper certificate, candidates must earn a minimum of 200 CPD credits. They must also have spent 10 years working as a greenkeeper and three years working as a head greenkeeper, course manager or superintendent.

Stage two sees two existing Master Greenkeepers come out to the course to assess it first hand. Conducted during the growing season, the inspection comprises eight areas: staff organisation; financial management; record and stock control; management communication; course development programme; maintenance compound; machinery and irrigation and course preparation.

David said: "Having two guys come out to your course and evaluate your work, looking at it with a realistic picture of your budget, the resources and staff you have available, was a nerve-racking experience.

"When you have your peers judging you and telling you that you are doing a good job, a hundred members couldn't praise the course as good as they did that day. To get praise from them and to receive the certification is worth its weight in gold."

Once stage two is completed, the candidate can progress on to the case study and technical exam. These two, three-hour exams are marked by a panel of assessors. Differing from the CGSAA examination, which is multiple choice, the BIGGA exam is essay-based.

In completing all three stages, David became just the 71st Master Greenkeeper, since the certificate was introduced in 1991.



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

Jacobsen president departs



David Withers

Jacobsen president David Withers has departed the company in the wake of its amalgamation into Textron Specialized Vehicles.

Having joined Jacobsen as a regional sales manager, David became managing director of Ransomes Jacobsen, the UK-based subsidiary of Jacobsen, in 2004.

In 2011 he moved to the president's job in Charlotte, North Carolina.

David said: "My role would have moved to Augusta and I decided this was not something I wanted to do. I think the merger of the two brands will work better if it is truly integrated and this will be easier

without there being an incumbent president of Jacobsen in the mix.

"I have loved my 24 years with Jacobsen. It has all been an amazing experience and such a privilege to lead this iconic company for the last five years."

Under his leadership, the Jacobsen product range has been refreshed. David said he hopes the range will be leveraged with the EZGO brands to make the process of purchasing both easier for customers.

Parliamentary golf group

The All-Party Parliamentary Golf Group has expressed its "extreme" disappointment at both the closure of Beckenham Place Park, and the confirmation of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant which sealed the course's fate.

Beckenham Place Park was the first ever public golf course in England, and the only public course in central London. The historic layout was closed by Lewisham Council as part of proposed improvements to Beckenham Place Park.

The Parliamentary golf group visited the course in July to show its support for those campaigning to keep it open, and chairman Karl McCartney MP said: "Lewisham Council were clearly not as transparent or open as they could

have been throughout the process, and the consultation that was made was inadequate.

"Most disappointing were the council's attempts to explain the arguments of the group as misinformed and of a minority, when this clearly and demonstrably was not the case.

"It is saddening that the course has already been closed, preventing access to the sport to those who cannot afford to access golf at private or proprietary courses."



Ask Dr Mumford

With Colin Mumford, Bayer Turf Solutions

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

Question: How can I protect my turf from disease if snow is forecast?

Generally during the winter, disease risk is low, although greenkeepers should monitor daily for diseases, such as Microdochium patch – commonly known as fusarium. A covering of snow can stress the turf by preventing photosynthesis and weakening its natural defence system, leaving it susceptible to disease.

At the point where the snow meets the turf, a relatively warm and wet microclimate develops, which provides the ideal habitat for snow mould to thrive.

To combat this, it's important to avoid lush growth by applying too much fertiliser prior to snowfall. It's then recommended for greenkeepers to apply a broad spectrum preventative fungicide application ahead of forecasted snow.

The type of fungicide applied should be chosen carefully. If the turf is still growing, a fungicide with a systemic mode of action could be used, as this circulates throughout the plant and won't be cut off when mowing. If the grass isn't growing, a contact fungicide may be adequate, but ideally a product with a combination of these properties is best.

It's essential to check an accurate weather forecast, because if there's only light covering of snow that's due to melt away in under 24 hours, a fungicide application may not be necessary.

Essentially, there's no one-size-fits-all answer and every course and green is different. Look at historical data to see how the sward has held up in the past and use this to help to weigh up your options when deciding whether to apply a preventative fungicide or not.

Tweet us your turf questions @BIGGALtd using #AskDrMumford or email info@bigga.co.uk



Machinery releases

Innovation

Club Car Carryall 500

Club Car will be at BTME on stand M20.



Dashboard

An automotive style dashboard with all of the switches and gauges centrally located. Also includes large glove boxes for additional storage and a 12V power point for charging electronics

Warranty

Vehicle comes with a four-year battery warranty, a three-year powertrain warranty and a two-year total vehicle warranty

Cockpit

Cockpit-like interior, more space between the driver and steering wheel, and contoured seating with high back bench seat

Power

Powered by IQ Plus electric system with 500-amp controllers, the engine is built to deliver 21 horsepower, provide advanced diagnostics, customisable speed and regenerative braking

Tailgate

Patented single handed tailgate latch and Rhino lined bed floor is standard – reducing load shift, absorbing noise, and protecting the bed floor



Charging

Conveniently located, the industry's only standard on-board charger cord is 92-95% efficient and enables the vehicle to be charged at any 110 or 240 volt outlet

Body

Heavy duty rustproof aluminium body, frame, bed walls and bed floor built for durability

Towing

1,500lb towing capacity: up to 500lb advantage over some competitors

MACHINERY RELEASES

ORLANDO CALLING

The City Beautiful awaits the 10 successful BIGGA members who will form the BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard & Company.

BIGGA's course managers and greenkeepers will enjoy the trip of a lifetime to Orlando, Florida, to attend the Golf Industry Show, one of the major events in the industry calendar. America's equivalent of BTME, the GCSAA-sponsored educational conference takes place in Orlando, from 4-11 February.

A place on the Bernhard Delegation, as it is commonly known in the industry, gives access not only to the GIS, but the delegates will also meet industry experts and enjoy field trips to top US golf courses, building a global network of contacts.

In addition to visiting the exhibition, the delegates will act as ambassadors for BIGGA and Bernhard by manning the BIGGA booth at the show.

Each of the delegates completed an application form, before being invited to a second application stage, consisting of interviews with representatives from BIGGA and Bernhard.

Check out March's edition of Greenkeeper International to hear how the delegation got on, and then read the magazine in July for details on how to apply for the 2018 delegation. ■



THE BIGGA DELEGATION

SAM BETHELL

Position: Course Manager
Club: Chipstead Golf Club
Age: 32



Despite starting his career as a greenkeeper at Cuddington in 2002, when Chelsea came calling in 2007 Sam couldn't pass over the opportunity. He spent four years at the football club – longer than most managers – before returning to golf at The Richmond. Since 2015 he has been course manager at Chipstead and has joined BIGGA support teams at The Open and Wentworth.

LEWIS BIRCH

Position: Greenkeeper
Club: Sunningdale Golf Club
Age: 33



The runner-up for the 2007 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, Lewis has a wealth of championship experience, having worked at two Open venues, and joining the BIGGA support team for the 2011 Open at Royal St George's and the 2016 PGA Championship at Wentworth. Since 2011 he has plied his trade at Sunningdale.

NAME: JAMIE BLAKE

Position: Head Greenkeeper
Club: Broadway Golf Club
Age: 46



A one club man, Jamie has been at Broadway for 30 years. When not on the course, Jamie spends his time on his motorbike and has visited the Isle of Man TT. With ambitions to develop Broadway into the highest quality course possible, Jamie hopes a place on the BIGGA delegation will improve his own personal knowledge and expertise.

NAME: JASON BROOKS

Position: Course Manager
Club: Torquay Golf Club
Age: 44



A member of the winning team at this year's Golf Management Trophy, Jason began his career at Torquay and broadened his knowledge with spells in Germany and Arizona before returning to take up the course manager role. At Torquay there are major plans afoot, including the construction of a driving range, clubhouse and practice facilities.



Orlando

PAUL BROWN

Position: Course Manager
Club: Ham Manor Golf Club
Age: 49



When not tending the fairways at Ham Manor, Paul is either landscaping the garden of his second home in the Philippines, on his motorbike touring Europe or can be found surfing the waves in Cornwall. Paul started his career in 1985 at Datchet and has worked at a variety of courses, including helping with the grow-in of the Edinburgh course at Wentworth.

JON METHVEN

Position: Greenkeeper
Club: St Andrews Links Trust
Age: 37



Over a 15-year period, Jon worked his way up through the ranks at the Duke's Course in St Andrews. In 2012 he took a sabbatical and worked in New Zealand for five months, while tournament experience has also taken him to Switzerland, the USA and France. After a short break from the industry as a landscape manager, he joined the Old Course team as a greenkeeper in 2016.

JACK HETHERINGTON

Position: Course Manager
Club: Alnwick Castle Golf Club
Age: 29



Alnwick Castle's course manager is not a man to be messed with as he has a black belt in kickboxing and has competed in European competitions. Raised on the course at Ponteland, where his father was head greenkeeper, Jack spent 10 years at the club. Last year he joined Alnwick Castle to take up his first Course Manager role.

MATTHEW NUTTER

Position: Course Manager
Club: East Berkshire Golf Club
Age: 38



The chairman of BIGGA's Midland Region, and chair of the BB&O Section, Matthew joined the Ohio State Program aged 19 and worked at Pelican Marsh and Tiburon in Florida. Upon his return to the UK, he joined The Wisley before moving to East Berkshire as deputy course manager. He has held the course manager position for the past seven years.

BEN KEBBY

Position: Course Manager
Club: Temple Golf Club
Age: 33



A well-travelled greenkeeper, Ben has spent periods at Royal Melbourne in Australia and Golf de Joyenval in France since beginning his career at Sandford Springs in Basingstoke. While working as assistant golf course superintendent in France, Ben gained a degree in Turfgrass Science and subsequently secured his first Course Management role at Temple in Berkshire.

SCOTT ROBERTS

Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Club: Basingstoke Golf Club
Age: 26



A member of the FTMI class of 2015, Scott began his career working with his father at Hankley Common. He was a founding member of BIGGA's Young Greenkeepers Committee and has been on the Surrey Greenkeepers Committee for the last four years. With a dad and brother in the industry, Scott comes from a family of keen greenkeepers.

BERNHARD DELEGATION

Check out March's edition of Greenkeeper International to hear how the delegation got on, and then read the magazine in July for details on how to apply for the 2018 delegation.

MEASURED SUCCESS

WITH LEE STRUTT MG, ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB
AND DANIEL LIGHTFOOT, SYNGENTA

Can you manage turf by numbers? Almost certainly not. Years must be spent accumulating experience, building knowledge and having a natural feel for what's required.

But measuring turf quality by numbers is becoming increasingly important as greenkeepers realise a quantifiable gauge of playing surface performance is the best way to evaluate every action, and to learn what works best in any given situation.

Since taking over as course manager at The Royal Automobile Club in Surrey, Lee Strutt MG has instigated a plan to measure and record the effects of turf management actions. The intention is to build a database of information that can help evaluate what has worked effectively and, crucially, how that can help the team make better decisions in the future.

"Every other aspect of the RAC business is constantly measured and evaluated against performance targets, and there's no reason why course management should be any different," said Lee. "The food, shop and membership managers don't see measurement as a threat, but rather as a valued health check of business quality and the best way to ensure they are operating in the interests of customers and the overall business."

Some of the headline business performance measures for the courses include recording rounds played, society golf day fees and extensive player satisfaction evaluation. But Lee pointed out that many of those factors can be interrelated to measures on turf quality.

"Clearly turf quality and playability are inextricably linked to player satisfaction," he said. "There are things around the clubhouse and locker room or pathways, for example, that will affect player satisfaction to some extent, but fundamentally they come to play golf and it's the condition of the course that will have the greatest impact."

"Ultimately our actions have a huge influence on the financial performance of the club," highlighted Lee. "Our aim is to keep the course open and playable 365 days a year, which means the club should never have to lose income from a booking, or face a dissatisfied member who doesn't think they have had value for money."

And that's where measuring and recording elements of turf performance, such as speed, trueness, firmness and moisture, have given Lee an insight into the factors that influence playability and the impact his actions as course manager are having on both turf quality and player satisfaction.

One of the targets set for Lee and his greenkeeping team is to earn the club a place in the list of the UK's Top 100 courses, which he believes is entirely attainable.

Continued over



Lee Strutt MG and Daniel Lightfoot will be presenting a BTME Continue to Learn seminar on the use of turf measuring tools to develop a proactive fungicide strategy at RAC. The seminar will take place on Wednesday 18 January.

Limited spaces are available on the day

IN THE SHED

AT THE ROYAL
AUTOMOBILE CLUB



THE TEAM

Course Manager: Lee Strutt

Deputy Course Managers: Matthew Scobbie;
Simon Glover

1st Assistants: Scott Bright; David King

Senior Greenkeepers: Paul Willoughby;
Tim Brewster

Assistant Greenkeepers: Alex Brougham;
Shane Crook; Isaac McMillian; David Bruce; Chris
Clements

Junior Greenkeepers: Jon Fuller; Lubos
Hanskut; Michael Barnard; Harry Whitewood

Head Mechanic: Andrew Airlie

Assistant Mechanic: Kenneth Seager

IN THE SHED

Make	Model	Purpose
Toro	12x MDX	Light utility vehicle
	2x HDX	Heavy duty utility vehicle
	10x GR1000	Greens hand mower
	5x GR1600	Tees/surrounds hand mower
	2x GR3420	Greens/approach mower
	3x RM5410	Fairway mower
	2x 4700	Rough mower
	2x 3500	Trim mower
	2x RM3100	Semi-rough mower
	Greens pro	Greens iron
	1750	Greens sprayer
	5800	Fairway sprayer
	GM360	Utility mower
	2x 3400	Blowers
	2x Pro core 648	Pedestrian aeration
Sand pro 3020		Bunker rake
	TRX trencher	Trencher
	TRX grinder	Stump grinder
Komatsu	PL27	2.7t excavator
Landforce		Woodchipper
John Deere	4520	Compact tractor
	4066R	Compact tractor
Kubota	STA30	Compact tractor
Massey Ferguson	3635	Main tractor
Wiedenmann	GXi8	Greens aerator
Charterhouse	3800	Large area top dresser
	7610	Fairway aerator

MEASURED SUCCESS

At the same time, he is also working to restore some of the architects' original features and the downland identity of the courses.

Lee said: "Throughout the process the repeated mantra is high quality – which the whole club ethos strives to attain. But in golf course management there were no real benchmarks to set ourselves against, or to see how we could improve year-on-year."

In setting up a comprehensive and routine measuring and recording programme across The RAC's Old Course and Coronation Course, Lee believes they have established a set of key performance indicators with graded criteria and scores that, if progressed and enhanced, will work for both improved playability for members, and better decision making for the greenkeeping team.

"Our aim is to remove subjectivity from the assessment of surface performance, and to use objective turf measurement tools to produce comparable data," advised Lee. "Then we can look at every element of turf management and see how we can influence it."

He cited the example of soil moisture, which can be clearly linked to surface hardness and playability, but also has a significant effect on turf health and plant stress. Managing moisture with irrigation and watering from soil probe information is relatively straightforward, but much more complicated when interlaced with measurable data on weather, thatch, smoothness, trueness and plant vigour.

"No one element works in isolation," Lee added. "So we have to look at all the elements and decide which bit we can influence and how we can use an Integrated Turf Management approach to develop the most effective solution."

Regular soil analysis is another tactic which has allowed the fertility of the course to be assessed more carefully. Soil analysis allows the team to match inputs to the specific N, P & K requirements of the turf at any time of the season, in order to avoid wasteful over-application.

'No one element works in isolation,' Lee added. 'So we have to look at all the elements and decide which bit we can influence and how we can use an Integrated Turf Management approach to develop the most effective solution.'

As an additional benefit, the analysis has also identified the importance of micronutrients in the chalk-base downland soils – particularly magnesium and manganese – which the greens team has been able to redress.

"One of the allied benefits of all the reporting is that it supports the rationale for all the actions taken, which can help to protect the reputation of the club, and of the greenkeeping team," said Lee. Measuring results will also be integral to evaluating a new long-term fungicide strategy being implemented in a trial with Syngenta's UK turf business manager, Daniel Lightfoot. Historically, the club's approach had, like many courses, been to wait until disease had been seen affecting the greens, and then reacting to tackle the specific problems.

"One of the challenges of the reactive approach was that disease scars on the greens had a significant visual effect, and a subjective negative reaction from players, but we didn't have any facts about the





Clegg hammer measures firmness

“However, the advantage of being able to truly record the effects is that in the future we will be able to further refine application needs and timing to what we know works.” This year, for the first time, the greens team will also be taking turf health readings using a hand-held NDVI meter – which can demonstrate plants’ responses to nutrition, irrigation, disease infection or any number of stresses. Adopting new technology to increase the database of information will further aid the evaluation of treatments.

“We welcome the opportunity to work with Lee and The RAC on an exciting initiative that will guide the way to get the best out of the disease control programme and provide the turf quality that he is striving to deliver for the club.

“At the heart of continuous improvement is being able to objectively evaluate what has been done, and how that can help us to do it better in the future. Lee is at the forefront of this approach.”

effects on ball roll and playability,” said Lee. “Being able to actually quantify the impact of scars using the Parry Meter will put that in perspective.

“Furthermore, when disease hits in late autumn or early winter, the effects can last for months and take half a season to renovate and fully recover.

Recording regularly over the full season will evaluate the impacts on the far wider aspects of turf agronomy and management. It will also give us a direct comparison under our own conditions.”

This season, however, Lee is adopting a strategic preventative approach on the Old Course, which can be directly compared to techniques they have used to cure issues on the Coronation Course in the past.

Throughout the programme, the effects will be measured and recorded using a range of tools to assess surface playability and turf plant health.

Daniel explained how setting up the risk-based preventative strategy has included a comprehensive review of historic disease data from the GreenCast website, coupled with local knowledge of the courses, to identify where and when infection has hit in the past.

Together he and Lee have identified appropriate targeted treatments with risk assessments, based on weather conditions, grass species, nutrition, irrigation, historic disease records and other turf management influences. It will also use the GreenCast web disease forecasting system to identify risk and tailor application timing accordingly.

The winter programme underway at the Old Course is planned to include treatments using an initial Headway, while turf is still actively growing, followed by Instrata in late autumn for additional curative activity. The contact+ Medallion TL will target disease pathogens in the thatch and for long lasting protection when conditions cool down. Lee will also have the opportunity to try a new development Syngenta fungicide in the programme when conditions are appropriate. “This year we are probably going to be more risk averse and treat more comprehensively on the Old Course, to see how that works for us in terms of disease protection and turf quality,” said Lee.

Daniel said: “The eventual aim is to build the fungicide treatments into Lee’s ITM programme. The approach fits the Syngenta philosophy of ‘as little as possible, as much as necessary’, which will ensure any turf can be maintained at a standard the club considers appropriate.

Lee pointed out that one crucial element of the recording is having the computer capability to convert the numbers generated into a more visual format. Whether it is being discussed by the greenkeepers, or evaluated in meeting with the club management team, presentation in graphs and showing trends has proven far easier to interpret and assimilate than columns of figures. ■

Moisture meter reading



Daniel Lightfoot and Lee Strutt MG

MEASURED SUCCESS

CAN A CHANGE OF GRASS SAVE YOUR COURSE?

BY PAUL MILLER

SUSTAINABILITY

In the first of this series discussing sustainable course management I wrote about Askernish on South Uist, which delivers an unforgettable golfing experience even though the turf might not always meet our industry's conventional ideas of quality.

In the second article I described some of the work of STERF, an organisation of greenkeeper associations and national golf federations of the Nordic countries which exists to provide a forum for research and discussion of course management in northern latitudes. The issues under discussion fall within the context of sustainability, and STERF takes a bit of a 'crystal ball' approach in enabling golf to approach its future with good information and adaptive practices.

In this third article I plan to describe the approach and work of 'Team Zoysia', an affiliation of academics, practitioners and industry, as they prepare for the challenges ahead in climate zones different to those of the northern Europe – those of the warm season and transition zones.

On the face of it these climatic zones, and even the cultural and financial management of golf in the USA, might at first sight be alien to those of us in the UK, but having attended the Team Zoysia field day at the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio in 2015 I discovered that we are not so far apart after all.

In 2014 I had also attended the GIS, where I attended a half-day seminar on sustainability. This was centred on the adaptation of practices at a very exclusive club in an environmentally sensitive area of the north-eastern United States. The club demanded perfection in turf quality but due to restrictions on water and chemical use the superintendent was no longer able to rely on his accustomed methods. As an audience we were treated to a range of exotic solutions that had been found to produce the desired results in that particular circumstance.

This was a very different approach to sustainability than we had been considering at home, as there could be no compromise in the management of this course, other than in spending more to achieve the same result. There's nothing wrong with that if a club can find financial solutions to allow the maintenance of the turf quality status quo, but it did seem

a long way from other courses where sustainability had to be considered 'in the round' and, in all likelihood, require a compromise within the constraints of budget and legislation. That was certainly what I thought to be the case when considering Askernish as an example.

So with that experience still fresh in mind I set off for the Team Zoysia field day with no real expectations, other than learning something of warm-season turf management. What I experienced was one of the most surprising and profound days of CPD that I have enjoyed in almost 30 years in the industry.

The first surprise for me came in the realisation that golf in the United States was sensitive to the same pressures as the rest of us. What we commonly see in the media – courses prepared for professional tournament play – is no more typical in the USA than it is here in Europe.

The game is facing the same challenges in the USA, such as reduced participation due to economic factors, social considerations and the perception that golf is damaging to the environment – particularly in relation to chemical use and with



SUSTAINABILITY

the growing recognition that water is a finite and precious resource. Regardless of the causes, what is clear is golf in the USA will be functioning in a future with different social, economic and environmental contexts to today's, and it needs to find ways to present a marketable product within these new constraints.

In my previous article I described the situation in Scandinavia of one where the question is no longer, "what grass do we want to grow here?" but rather, "what grass can do a job for us in this new environment?" It seems this is exactly the question put by Team Zoysia, and of course they claim to have the answer.

The field day produced a compelling argument about why that is the case, through a visit to Bladerunner Farms at Poteet, Texas, and to The Golf Club of Texas at San Antonio. I am most grateful to retired professor Dr Milt Engelke and David Doguet of Bladerunner Farms for their assistance in helping me produce this article.

Zoysiagrass is a term capturing all 11 species of the genus *Zoysia*, although only three of those have significance in fine turf – *Zoysia matrella*, *Zoysia japonica* and *Zoysia pacifica*. As a genus, *Zoysia* is native to eastern Asia with a range "between the 45's" i.e. from 44° south in Tasmania to 43° north in Japan.

Zoysia is found from mountainous regions experiencing harsh winters to the edge of salt beds with their extreme salinity, meaning it possesses huge genetic variation, with an equally variable range of tolerances and adaptations. *Zoysia* grasses have long been known for lower input requirements, but was a bit of a 'Cinderella' grass until recently, as it hadn't received the same level of attention as other species such as Bermuda grass.

The course went brown, but crucially remained playable, and when water was reintroduced it recovered fully within a fortnight. The *Zoysia* performed how they need it to perform in order to retain sustainability of the course and of the business.

Continued over

Twenty years ago the constraints that are coming to bear on warm-season course management weren't as intense as they are now, so the incentive for Zoysia development was lacking.

Today that incentive is very real, and during the field day Dr Ambika Chandra and Dr Brian Schwarz (Texas A&M and the University of Georgia respectively) explained how breeding programmes have concentrated desirable genetic traits into new cultivars. Zoysiagrass has been developed which possesses superb fine texture, wear and shade tolerance, coupled with enhanced tolerances to drought, salt, heat and cold and resistance to fungal pathogens.

Having a cultivar with the right characteristics and being able to take it to market in a financially viable way can be two separate things, so with that in mind Bladerunner Farms, owned and managed by David Doguet and his family, carries out 'near market' research and produces sod for all fine turf uses.

David's interest in Zoysia was made 30 years ago when he assumed responsibility for developing cultivars originally produced by a USDA programme. Today Bladerunner produce and supply the new cultivars, as well as licencing turf producers around the globe, to ensure availability of these grasses to all relevant geographic areas.

Of course having a grass perform in breeding programmes and in trial plots is one thing, but the true test comes under the demands of high intensity daily play and maintenance of a functioning golf course, and to help us make this important link on the field day we were taken to The Golf Club of Texas.

The club first opened its doors in 2000 as a Bermuda grass course, in line with the thinking of the day. However, following a multi-year drought and the loss of their water supply for irrigation, the course deteriorated to such an extent that it was no longer commercially viable, closing in 2013.


A group of local businessmen realised the potential of this course on the outskirts of San Antonio, but the potential could only be realised if the business model was changed.



Of primary concern were the maintenance costs of Bermuda grass, but fortunately one of those businessmen was David Doguet.

For David the choice of grass was obvious – it had to be Zoysia. During our visit we were shown how the course had been re-grassed with Zoysia for all in-play areas, with Buffalo grass for the roughs. In brief, and taking into account the reduced costs associated with Zoysia, the business still has to generate at least 35,000 rounds per annum at \$50 per round to have a chance, as well as creating considerable off-course revenues from food and beverage, social events and retail.

To put this in context, the maintenance costs of Bermuda courses are estimated at 30% greater than Zoysia, like for like. This means the Golf Club of Texas would have had to generate an

 Installing the Zoysia turf at the Olympic Golf Course in Rio

Right: David Doguet with his delivery of Zoysia turf

All photos courtesy Marcelo Matte, Green Grass Brazil

extra 5,000 rounds per year to maintain the course and keep it afloat. Either that or increase green fees to \$65 minimum, which would have brought into question elasticity of demand against price for rounds of golf in San Antonio.

In summer 2016 the Zoysia received a huge stress test when the club lost its irrigation supply. The course suffered 21 successive days without water, although the 100 rounds a day continued.

Those 21 days might sound like a godsend to those of us in northern Europe, but with daily temperatures of over 38°C and in blistering sunshine, this is a severe test of any turf sward. The course went brown, but crucially remained playable, and when water was re-introduced it recovered fully within a fortnight. The Zoysia performed how they needed it to perform in order to retain sustainability of the course and of the business.



Aitkens make links at St Andrews - The Home of Golf

Outstanding customer service and a range of products has helped Aitkens keep a consistent link at the Home of Golf.

Products from the Aitkens range have been used across the St Andrews Links Trust's courses for 25 years, helping keep the world-renowned courses in peak condition, despite more than 230,000 rounds being played each year.

With 117 greens to maintain, Director of Greenkeeping Gordon Moir needs a versatile range of products he can depend on. He said: "We are delighted with the close relationship we've had with Aitkens over the years.

"Operating such a well-known site requires a lot of planning to ensure it's always in the condition golfers expect, be it The Open Championship, golf visitors coming from every corner of the world or a family bringing their children for a friendly round. This means we have to be able to rely on the companies we work with to meet deadlines and occasionally provide us with products at short notice, and Aitkens has always delivered.

"Many of the product lines have been successfully used on all of the courses and play a part in achieving the great condition they are all in, and we are looking forward to continuing that in the future."

By using Aitkens Gordon has 22 product lines available to him, including all 12 Aitkens own brand lines, such as the Award range of granular and liquid fertilisers.

For The Olympic Games in Rio a new course was to be created, which would have the eyes of the world focussed upon it, and within the context of a very strong sustainability message coming from the IOC, which identified energy, water and waste management as significant elements of their 'environmental management systems related to event planning and staging'.

This in addition to the sustainability agenda of the R&A, of the USGA and of the International Golf Federation meant there was real pressure to get it right – grass choice was a significant element of that.

The full story of course establishment and management for the Olympics isn't mine to tell but the happy ending is that Zoysia grass

was selected for all areas, with the exception of greens. The cultivars were supplied by Bladerunner farms and at BTME I look forward to hearing from Course Manager Neil Cleverly, who will discuss how the grass coped with the spotlight. And there we have it. In this series of three articles I've explored the ideas of sustainability in golf course management ranging from the most traditional at Askernish to the more contemporary of Scandinavia and Texas, and have discovered that production of good quality turf within a changing world is a universal, global theme challenging our received wisdom and accustomed practices.

Three features, and yet the story is just beginning. ■

AITKENS
THE GROWING COMPANY

How healthy is your turf

INTRODUCING OUR AWARD RANGE

AWARD **Cleanmax**
Fermos **IRONMAX** **Nutri-Pro**
Osprey **Surf-to-Turf** **ULTIMA**



enquiries@aitkens.co.uk
www.aitkens.co.uk

BTME IS BEYOND COMPARE



It's finally here, the largest turf management exhibition in Europe.

BTME began with the aim of providing a platform for BIGGA members to come together to build bonds of friendship, while engaging with the leading trade names to discuss the latest products and services.

Over the years the event has developed into a festival of turf management, with the industry's largest equipment manufacturer's heading to Harrogate to showcase the latest developments in the turf management industry.

With so many turf professionals and industry experts in one place, BTME offers unrivalled networking opportunities. From Ryder Cup superintendents to the man tasked with bringing golf back to the Olympics, an unprecedented level of turf management expertise will congregate in Harrogate.

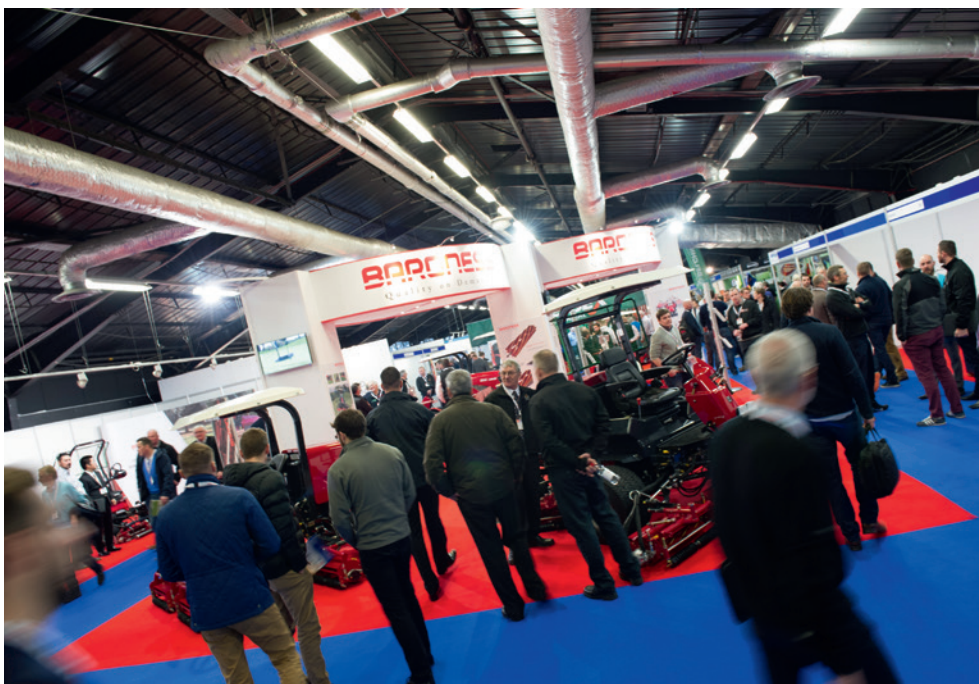
One of the highlights of the BTME calendar, and an event that is free of charge and open to any BIGGA member, is the Welcome Celebration. Held in the Royal Hall on Tuesday evening at 5.30pm, the event is a great opportunity to congregate in a relaxed setting, with proceedings to be conducted

by BBC presenter Naga Munchetty. During the event, the winners of the prestigious BIGGA Awards will be announced, while the winner of the BIGGA Photographic Competition will be honoured.

Over the following pages are just a sample of some of the product launches and attractions being provided by our partners throughout BTME. As always, it's an indicator of how important BTME has become to the turf management industry that these companies choose to support BIGGA members by exhibiting at the show.

But we have never forgotten our humble beginnings, staying true to those core values of friendship and education. So make sure you're registered, download your BTME app, and get ready...

It's going to be a heck of a show. ■



GET INVOLVED WITH BTME

With so much on offer at BTME, it's important to come prepared – and we've done all the hard work for you with the BTME 2017 smartphone app.

Featuring exhibition hall maps, a calendar of events, tailored alerts, and information about special offers, our BTME app is the must-have tool this January.



Bayer unveiling first new fungicide in a decade at BTME

Greenkeepers looking for the latest product advances to aid integrated pest and disease management shouldn't miss the new innovative product launches from Bayer at BTME.

Conscious of the need to find new solutions, Bayer will launch a new fungicide to the market at the event. This product will offer the first new chemistry to be developed in 10 years, giving greenkeepers more tools in their armoury and helping to mitigate the threat of disease resistance. New advances for golf courses are vital, as greenkeepers battle issues such as the threat of pesticide resistance, the continued pressure of loss of actives to the market and unpredictable weather patterns. And Bayer has found that greenkeepers would value a device that helps with best practice management, to help calculate applications accurately, according to the area being treated.

The latest update to the TurfXpert app helps users to calculate product requirements by mapping out a specific area, using GPS technology to accurately calculate the exact amount of product required to treat the chosen area. On top of this, any applications that have been made can be recorded in the sprayer log section with the option to forward on the details via email.

Bayer has also added a weather feature to the TurfXpert app, which not only provides the user with weather forecasts, but also advises on dew formation, frost incidence, and soil surface temperature.

The fungicide product and updated TurfXpert app will be officially launched at BTME on Bayer stand A46.

The current version of the TurfXpert app is available from the App Store and Google Play.



Re-engaging with the Trilo range

Blowers and vacuums manufacturer Trilo are returning to BTME with a bigger stand and a new location in Hall M. Visitors to stand M6 will be able to discuss products from their machinery range, such as the second generation S4 vacuum sweeper.

The Trilo S4 contains new features including an improved drive line, bigger wheels and a higher tip for convenient emptying of the hopper. One of the main changes is the switch from hydraulic to mechanical drive, meaning a flail scarifier attachment can be fitted.

Also on display will be the VCU 120 verticutter, while the growing Trilo UK team will be on hand to discuss the complete machinery range for grass and space management around the course.



ATT standing alone with 'simply advanced' equipment



Advanced Turf Technology will be coming to BTME to exhibit under their own name for the first time at BTME.

The company has become recognised for its agronomic-based designs that continue to push boundaries.

The TMSsystem unlocks the full potential of all mainstream makes of triplex greens mowers and lightweight fairway mowers. The range of SMART cassettes available offers a solution to managing fine turf surfaces - whatever type of grass is present, and at all times of the year. One such cassette, the SmartUltraGroomer, is worth particular mention with its design being able to reduce the onset of puffiness, grain issues and a reduction in organic matter accumulation.

Rapidly becoming the company's flagship product is the electric INFiNiCut. The maxim here is "simply advanced" because the design of this pedestrian machine combines simplicity with modern mechanical and electronic engineering.

The INFiNiCut range uses lithium power and is programmable - via a laptop or tablet - to change parameters to suit the needs of the greenkeeper. In addition, the INFiNiCut 21" and 22" models are compatible with the TMSsystem range of cassettes.



Kubota set wheels in motion



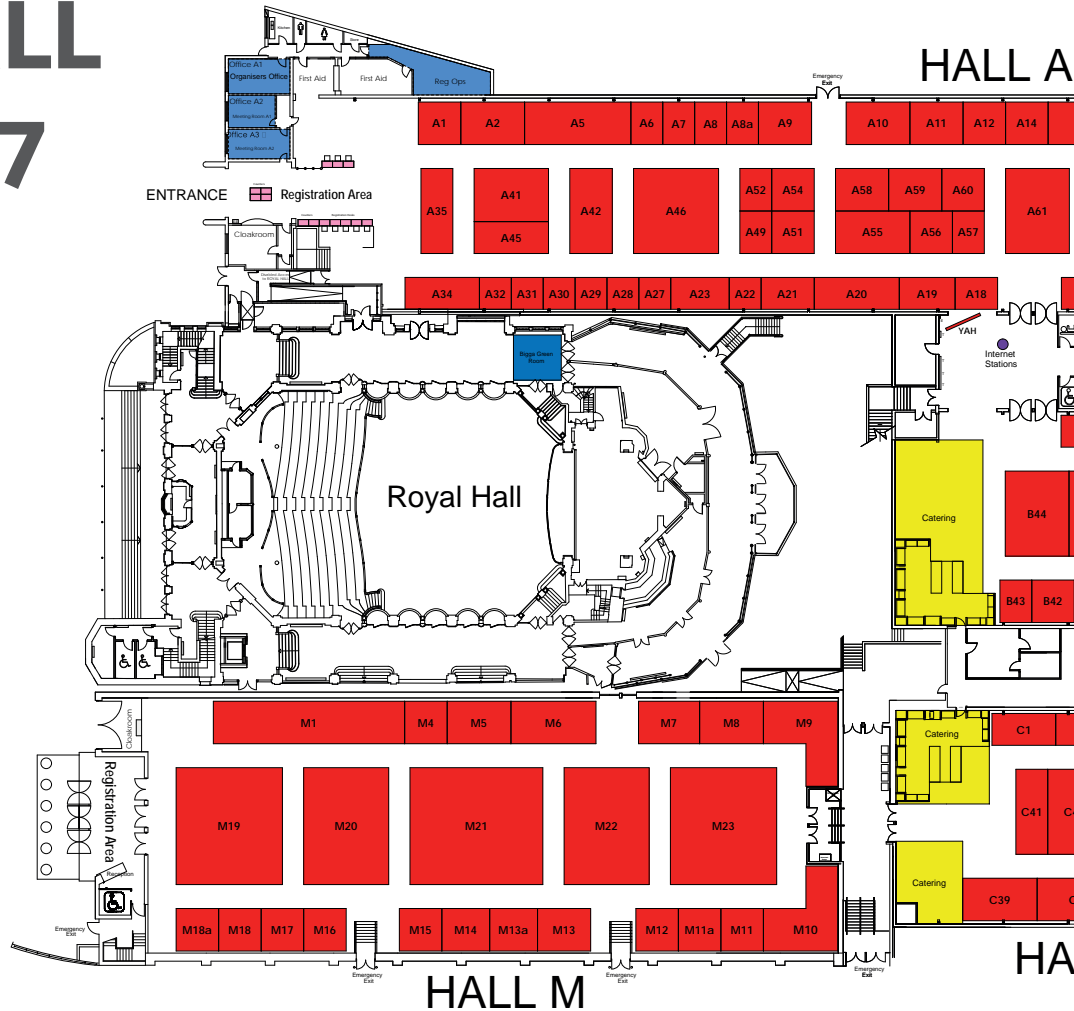
Kubota UK will be showcasing its extensive range of high performance groundcare solutions to the industry's leading turf professionals at BTME.

Visitors to stand M22 will have the opportunity to see a wide range of the company's market leading machinery and also find out about the aftersales service offered, including Kubota Finance and Kubota Care.

Kubota's expert dealer managers will also be on hand to give visitors advice on the right machines to meet groundcare needs.

Featured on the stand will be Kubota's popular GL40 Series of 35-59HP mid range tractors.

BTME HALL PLAN 2017



Comedian
Ian Moore
will be at the
Welcome
Celebration

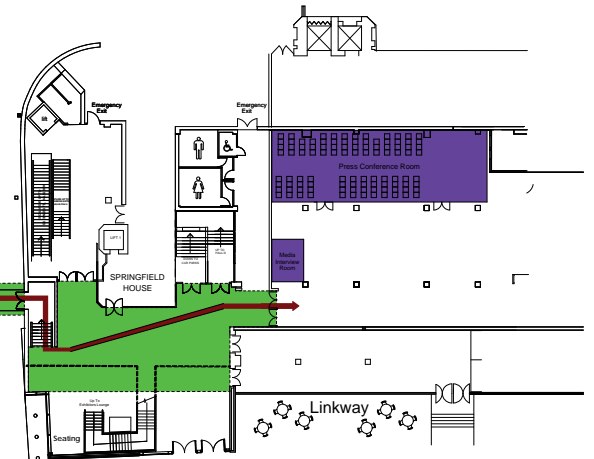
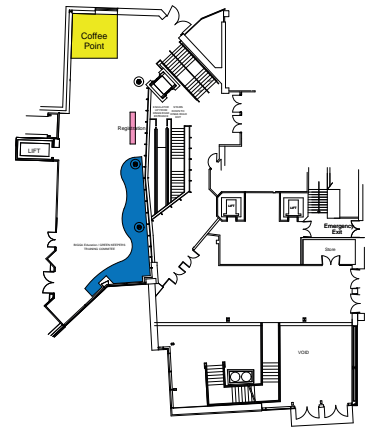
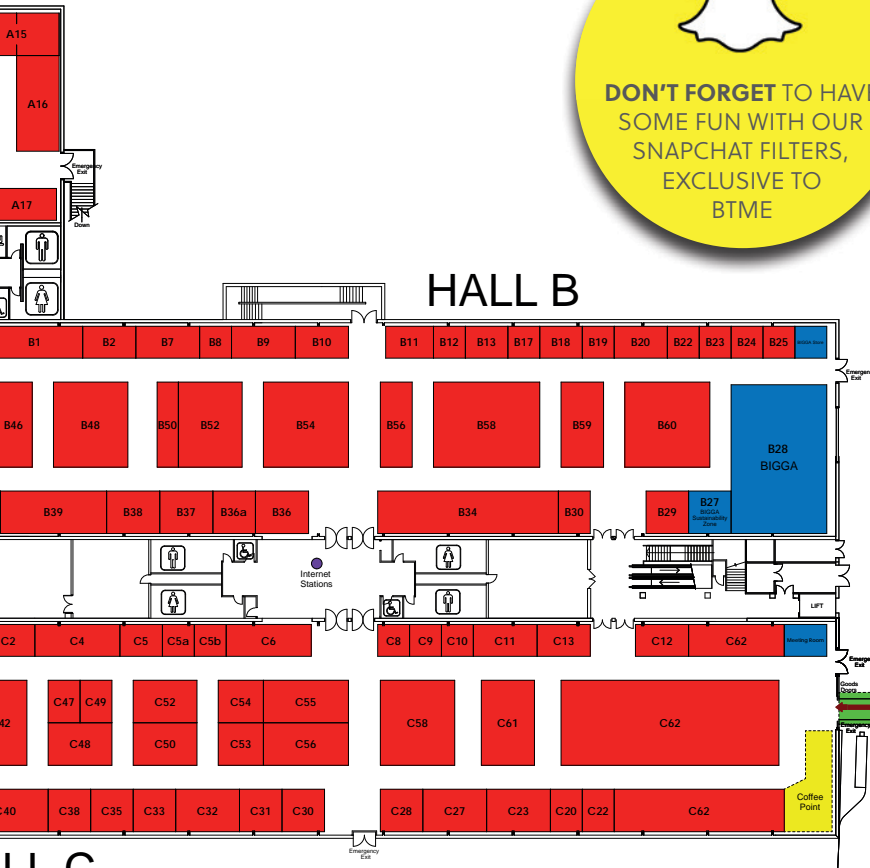
BTME

OUR EXHIBITORS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| A01 Redlynch Leisure | A32 Hurrells & McLean Seeds Ltd | B12 SRUC Elmwood |
| A02 Amtech Amenity Ltd | A34 Tarmac Topsport | B13 Myerscough College |
| A05 Dennis & SISIS | A35 The Grass Group | B17 Merrist Wood College |
| A06 Interflon UK Ltd | A41 Barenbrug UK | B18 Turfkeeper Ltd |
| A07 City Golf Europe AB | A42 Germinal | B19 Golf Club Managers Association |
| A08 Bespoke Posts Ltd | A45 CRL - Clive Richardson Ltd | B20 Richard Peel Groundscare |
| A08a Martin Lishman Ltd | A46 Bayer | B22 GCSAA |
| A09 Rain Bird Europe | A49 MJ Abbott Ltd | B23 Replay Golf |
| A10 Ecosol Turfcare | A51 Tillers Turf | B24 Askham Bryan College |
| A11 Turf Machinery Spares | A52 Durabunker Ltd | B25 On Course Foundation |
| A12 GKB Machines | A54 Spectrum Technologies | B28 British & International Golf
Greenkeepers Association |
| A14 County Turf Ltd | A55 Aitkens | B29 Better Billy Bunker |
| A15 SKCIN | A56 Groundsman Industries Ltd | B30 Delta-T Devices |
| A16 Blec Global Ltd | A57 Inturf | B34 Sherriff Amenity |
| A17 Greenacres Artificial Grass | A58 Compo Expert UK Ltd | B36 STRI |
| A18 Farmura Ltd | A59 Forthroots Ltd | B37 Aqua Aid Europe |
| A19 Aquatrols | A60 Countrywide Turf and Amenity | B38 Carrus |
| A20 Johnsons Sports Seed | A61 Gambetti UK Ltd | B39 Headland Amenity Ltd |
| A21 Agronomic Services | B36a Pogo Turf Pro | B42 Garfitts International |
| A22 European Turfgrass Laboratories | B01 Grillo Agrigarden Ltd | B43 Indigrow Ltd |
| A23 AFT Trenchers Ltd | B02 Maxstim | B44 Bernhard and Company |
| A27 Maxicrop UK | B07 Symbio | B46 Waste2Water Europe Ltd |
| A28 Institute of Groundsmanship | B08 Air-Seal Products Ltd | B48 Charterhouse |
| A29 Aquarille | B09 Lindum Turf | B50 Eagle |
| A30 Perennial | B10 Humber Palmer | B52 Syngenta |
| A31 Jac. Uittenbogaard & Zonen BV | B11 Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Ltd | |



**DON'T FORGET TO HAVE
SOME FUN WITH OUR
SNAPCHAT FILTERS,
EXCLUSIVE TO
BTME**



BTME

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| B54 ICL | C33 Soil Harmony | M10 Fineturf Machinery |
| B56 Lloyds / Hunters | C35 GBR Technology Limited | M11 Ecobunker Ltd |
| B58 Campey Turf Care Systems | C38 Koch Turf & Ornamental | M12 Vale Engineering (York) Ltd |
| B59 Trimax Mowing Systems | C39 Limagrain UK | M13 Price Turfcare |
| B60 Rigby Taylor Ltd | C40 GreenTek Solutions | M13a PENDING |
| C01 Huxley Golf | C41 True Surface by Turflin | M14 PENDING |
| C02 Perrot | C42 Global Turf Equipment UK Ltd | M15 M H Goals Ltd |
| C04 Border Sports Services Ltd | C47 XL Horticulture Ltd | M16 Wildflower Turf Ltd |
| C05 Verde Sports Ltd | C48 Complete Weed Control | M17 Srixon |
| C05-a Maredo BV | C49 Barcham Trees Plc | M18 PENDING |
| C05-b Zelup | C50 OTR Wheel Engineering | M18a Duncan Ross Ltd |
| C06 Yamaha Motor Europe | C52 Profusion Environmental | M19 Ransomes Jacobsen |
| C08 County Sport Surfaces | C53 A.G.A Group | M20 Club Car / Ingersollrand |
| C09 2CL Communications Ltd | C54 Bailoy Products | M21 Toro Irrigation on Reesink Turfcare stand |
| C10 Ultra Soil Solutions Ltd | C55 Lastec UK | M21a Toro Commercial on Reesink Turfcare stand |
| C11 Chikara / Katana | C56 Tru-Turf / Double A | M21b Otterbine on Reesink Turfcare stand |
| C12 Highspeed Group Ltd | C58 Wiedenmann UK Ltd | M21c TYM Tractors on Reesink Turfcare stand |
| C13 BMS | C61 BOP Europe Ltd (True Strike) | M22 Kubota |
| C20 Goosinator | C62 Baroness | M23 John Deere |
| C22 Terra Firma | M01 Kioti | |
| C23 Thorntrees Amenity Ltd | M04 MTS Group | |
| C27 Hunter Industries | M05 LS Systems | |
| C28 Talbot Sports Turf Installations | M06 Trilo | |
| C30 Sports Metals | M07 Advanced Turf Technology | |
| C31 TurfCare | M08 Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd | |
| C32 Fleet Line Markers | M09 PENDING | |

BTME launch for UK&Ireland distributor

A newly-established business founded by Ransomes Jacobsen former sales director Rupert Price has been awarded the UK and Ireland distribution rights for the Ventrac range of all-wheel-drive compact tractor and accessories.

The company will be officially launched at BTME and Rupert said: "I am delighted to be staying in the industry, utilising the relationships I have developed in over 20 years within the turfcare sector. This is an exciting time for me personally and I'm delighted with the trust and support Ventrac has shown in me and my team."

Supported by a group of former colleagues with over 100 years of experience, Price Turfcare has bespoke warehousing and distribution facilities near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk.

BTME



Superior line-up for Dennis and SISIS at BTME

Whether on the look out for a scarifier, slitter, aerator, top dresser or mower, Dennis and SISIS are bringing their range of solutions to stand A5 at BTME.

Appearing on a newly-designed stand, the British manufacturers will be showcasing an extensive range of leading turf maintenance equipment.

Headlining the range are the SISIS Javelin Aer-Aid 1500 and the Rotorake TM1000.

The Javelin Aer-Aid 1500 is a tractor mounted vertical action air injection aerator. The machine injects air directly into the root zone, speeding up the process and moving air uniformly throughout.

The Rotorake TM1000 is a tractor mounted heavy duty scarifier and linear aerator effective at removing and controlling thatch. It includes a collector box and floating unit to follow ground contours.

Other equipment on show will be the SISIS Rotorake 600HD, the SISIS Dart, the Dennis FT510 and the Dennis Razor Ultra 560.



Siskin chewings fescue helping Johnsons drive for the top spot in fine turf



DLF will launch Siskin, the top rated chewings fescue cultivar on the latest Turfgrass seed trial list, at BTME this year.

Siskin, along with a number of other cultivars, features in the latest line up of revised mixtures from Johnsons, which visitors to stand A20 will have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with.

Siskin has been developed to combine top visual merit, the highest level of disease resistance and shoot density, all of which correlate to improved turf quality and reduced maintenance budgets in terms of fertiliser, fungicides and poa control.



Duncan Ross' improved services

Stand M18a will feature an expanded list of services, being offered by Duncan Ross.

On offer will be fairway renovations, alongside their expertise in land drainage on sportsturf and greenspace.

During 2016 the company has carried out projects including fairway drainage at

Penrith, greens drainage at Lancaster and bunker remodelling at Astbury.

As part of the advice and solutions offered to ensure clients are able to offer their members the highest standards of golf course provision and maintenance, surface renovations have been added to the list of services offered.



Charterhouse bringing top dresser and verticutters to BTME

At BTME, visitors to stand B48 will come face to face with the latest developments from Charterhouse.

On show in the UK for the first time will be a new innovation in the turf iron market from Graden. The self-contained machine eliminates health and safety issues caused by the hitching, lifting and positioning of a traditional roller. Fitted with a 23hp v-twin engine and tapered rollers to minimise creasing, the machine features four wheels which are raised when the roller is in use, then lowered for easy movement between greens.

From the Graden range of verticutters will be the Contour Sand Injector unit. Often considered the flagship Graden product, the machine can scarify, while simultaneously backfilling the grooves with either sand or a combination of sand and seed.

Also on show will be the Redexim Rink DS800, which compliments the company's range of Verti-Drains. With a variable spread pattern of up to 12m, the dual spinners can apply precise amounts of material, even when wet.



Headland's latest innovations at BTME

Debuting at BTME will be TeMag Elite, a three-in-one, water soluble product from Headland Amenity.

To be unveiled on stand B39, TeMag Elite contains a full range of chelated micronutrients and Headland's Elevate Fe complexed iron, as well as the unique plant elicitor Herpin. The inclusion of Elevate Fe ensures the product is fully tank-mixable with liquid fertilisers, biostimulants and pesticides, including many available fungicides.

Harpin Protein, contained within TeMag Elite, is a plant elicitor that works by stimulating the plant to grow better while under the effects of stress, disease or nematode damage.

In addition, Headland will introduce a brand new product at BTME. Described as "exciting and innovative", the product is designed to maximise the effects of applied liquid treatments.



Sand the subject for GKB

At BTME, GKB Machines will show their Sandfiller and SP100 Sandspreader, two machines specifically designed for the maintenance and renovation of golf courses and sports pitches.

The SP100 has been developed on the back of the success of GKB's trailed versions and to meet customer needs with easy mounting onto turf trucks, such as the John Deere Gator and Toro Workman. The Sandspreader has a 1m³ hopper capacity for the machine that evenly distributes materials, such as sand and mulch on sports pitches, with variable spread widths and depths.

It is fitted with electro-hydraulic controls and runs directly off the hydraulics of the chosen turf truck.

The GKB Sandfiller is built to tackle the problems of surface drainage and aeration, especially on golf course greens. The Sandfiller simultaneously aerates and fills the topsoil with sand, creating the right conditions for excellent root growth.

The Sandfiller and SP100 Sandspreader can be seen at BTME on stand A12.



ICL introducing products and rewards at BTME

ICL is launching a number of products and showcasing an increased portfolio of products and rewards in the Turf Rewards loyalty scheme for 2017 on stand B54.

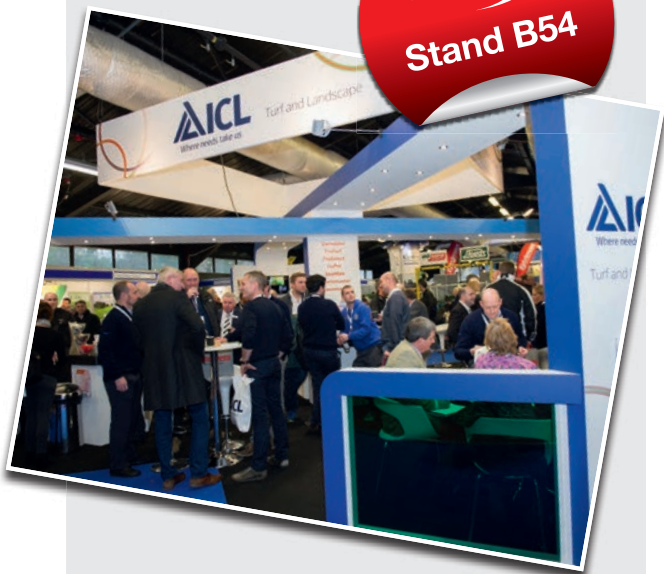
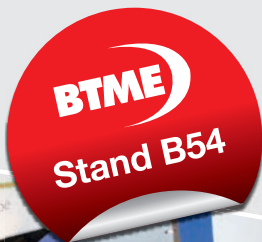
A range of wetting agents, designed specifically to meet the needs of the modern turf manager, will be of particular interest. Utilising advanced polymer and surfactant technology, the range of specialist wetting agents – TriSmart, FlowSmart and AquaSmart – have been carefully formulated and tested to achieve better control of moisture management. Supported by research and backed by end-user testimonials, the new range will be on view for the first time at BTME.

ICL is also showcasing the new Vitalnova range of biostimulants and turf conditioners.

2017 will be an exciting time for customers who make the most of the Turf Rewards loyalty scheme, following the addition of a number of products and rewards. The scheme, from ICL and Syngenta, provides the chance to earn points from purchases and convert them into a range of valuable agronomic or educational items.

ICL technical managers Henry Bechelet and Dr Andy Owen will be passing on their knowledge in a Continue to Learn seminar entitled 'Getting Greens Good in the Spring' on Tuesday 17 January at 3.45pm. Henry and Andy will be looking at the results of the 2016 ICL Spring Fertiliser Trial, which compared approaches to early spring nutrition and the influence of top dressing, plant growth regulation and wetting agent applications.

 @ICL_Turf

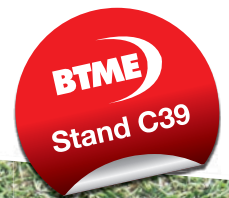


Limagrain launching mixtures at BTME

Limagrain UK will be launching a new range of products at BTME on stand C39.

Among the launches will be an addition to the MM range of grass seed, two mixtures to its wild flower portfolio and a new Colour Splash mixture.

The products have been created in response to greenkeepers' needs to produce a consistent playing surface which continually grows at a pace. Limagrain understands how seed quality, purity and vigour are the essential ingredients of a first class course, and the range of seed mixtures are intended to meet these needs.



Year of free education on offer from Sherriff Amenity

In addition to launching two products on stand B34 at BTME, Sherriff Amenity will also be offering 12 months' free education and be showcasing a live working demonstration.

The company will be launching two products in the Evolution fertiliser range – Xtra and Controlled.

An advocate of education within the turf and amenity industry, the Sherriff Academy online platform invites users to participate in courses to enhance their knowledge and learn about correct usage.

Visitors to the Sherriff Amenity stand will receive an exclusive offer of 12 months' free education with the Sherriff Academy.

Delegates will also have the opportunity of seeing a live working demonstration of the Bayer easyFlow, the first closed transfer system for crop protection products in canisters.



TOPSPORT BUNKER LINING. A BETTER CHOICE AT EVERY LEVEL.



Improved sand retention and reduced washout, for maintenance and sand replacement cost savings



Engineered, long life liner



Effective drainage capacity for improved playing performance all year round

Topsport Bunker Lining is the flexible engineered solution for better draining bunkers and lower overall maintenance costs. It's quick to install - about 3 hours for the average 100m² sand trap. Better still, it can be laid in nearly all weather conditions, all year round. For more information or to book a survey visit, call our Sales Team on **0345 600 7704** or email topsport@tarmacbp.co.uk

BETTER BLADES MEAN HAPPIER GREENS

Sharp mower blades are the simplest way to get the most out of your equipment, producing a better quality cut and smooth consistent greens. Yet modern greenkeeping practices such as top dressing and aeration have the side effect of dulling cutting edges.

GRINDERS

To get them surgically sharp again, access to grinders is required. Whether purchased or on hire, grinders are an essential means of saving money and improving the reputation of your course.

Then once sharpened, properly adjusted mowing equipment can help optimise the health of your grass plants.

As greenkeepers attempt to establish an ideal green speed for the course, the first things to be tried are lower heights of cut, rolling, low fertility and low irrigation. But a well-adjusted, sharp mower can make the world of difference.

The benefits of better mowing:

- ▶ Healthier, more attractive grass
- ▶ Significantly less tissue damage to grass blades
- ▶ Plants suffer less evapotranspiration
- ▶ Grass winters better with improved root zone
- ▶ Increased drought and heat tolerance
- ▶ Less risk of diseases
- ▶ Greater recovery from the impact of cutting
- ▶ Stronger, more rigid grass blade tissue
- ▶ Stronger tissue leads to a consistent putting surface at higher cut heights
- ▶ Higher quality cut
- ▶ Newly seeded grass establishes more quickly with good root growth and less damage to top growth

Despite Edwin Budding being well aware of the importance of set up when he designed the first lawn mower in the 1800s, greenkeepers have a bad habit of straying. The ideal 'scything' motion of no contact mowing is shunned in favour of a lapping action, whereby the cylinder and bottom blade act in a scissoring action.

When working with dull blades, this may seem like a solution, but the practice causes the grass to be torn or pulled apart, rather than the clean cut of a scythe, and reduces the health of the plant.

Cleanly cut grass is greener, there is better definition, and when torn with a scissor cut, grass has an exposed surface area of up to six times greater than when scythed. This means water lost through transpiration will be greatly higher and you will need to water more.

The ragged edges also create a larger surface area for spores to find a home, increasing the risk of disease.

A better cut, means happier course managers, happier golfers, and happier grass plants. So the message is clear – sharper blades and better mowing practices are a cost-effective and easy way to improve the appearance of your greens.



FAST TO GRIND EASY TO OPERATE

WITH THE **FEATURES** YOU NEED.

653 ACCU-Master—for Quick “touch-up” spin grinding or returning the reel to manufacturer specifications—no one does it better than Foley United.

For all enquiries contact:
Ian Robson, ProSport UK Ltd
Tel: 07779270501
www.prosportukltd.com

www.foleyunited.com

GRINDERS

Foley takes ‘great leap’ in grinder technology

Foley United has introduced a new range of models into the UK. The top of the range 653 fully automatic reel grinder and the 673 bed knife grinder, the first in the UK, were installed at The Grove in time for this year’s British Masters.

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Supplied through the importer for the UK, ProSport UK, Foley United has declared that this machine represents the biggest advance in grinder technology in two decades.

Jim Letourneau, president of Foley United, said: “These new machines were made possible through a collaborative effort with the manufacturers of the cutting units. They shared information that allowed us to develop such new and unique features. Now for the first time you can return a reel to manufactures specifications quickly, accurately, and easily”

Managing Director of ProSport Ian Robson said: “Foley presented their newest table-top spin, relief and ‘auto-index’ 653 AccuMaster and 633 AccuPro reel grinders and the all new 673 bed knife grinders at the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio this year and they have taken the American golf industry by storm.

“It’s the simplicity combined with the latest automation technology that is so innovative. These new units will automatically deliver a quick spin grind or return to the original equipment manufacturer specifications of full relief with more quality, efficiency, and productivity than ever before.”

For more information contact Ian Robson on 07779 270501 or visit www.prosportukltd.com



Bernhard's big year

Speed, ease of use and accuracy are key requirements for blade sharpening systems. At tournament time this is particularly important. Your course needs to be picture perfect and provide outstanding and entertaining play. Sharp blades provide a clean cut, meaning healthier turf, consistent playability and world class green speeds. All essential features to make play interesting and exciting for spectators and players alike.

2016 has been a major year for British sport and also for Bernhard grinders. Our sales team and our blade sharpening systems have provided tournament support at some of the biggest sporting events of the last 12 months. We were behind the scenes for Danny Willett's victory at Augusta in April, we worked day and night in Rio to prepare the greens and fairways which provided gold medal victory for Justin Rose, and we were there at the Ryder Cup, sharpening round the clock during a closely fought battle that was eventually won on the greens with some amazing putting. Fast turnaround is essential for these events. Bernhard's grinding system is unique in that it enables you to grind multiple units with minimum set-up, giving you an average floor to floor grinding speed of just 15 minutes, allowing you to get the mowers turned around and back onto the golf course in record time. Sharp blades are so important for plant health, establishing an effective grinding programme is the first step on the way to creating championship turf.

Creating Championship Turf



 BERNHARD

STIHL's impressive TSA 230 Cordless Cut-Off Saw

A cut-off saw is a familiar power tool in many greenkeepers' armouries – helping cut through bricks, tiles, stone, metal or clay pipes. But with the introduction of the STIHL TSA 230 cordless cut-off saw, the first 9" machine of its kind, the industry was revolutionised.

At just 3.9 kg (without the battery) and boasting a low-noise motor with zero emissions, the TSA 230 is an impressive piece of machinery.

The tool's high performance is the result of STIHL's advanced 36 volt lithium-ion battery technology in conjunction with its highly efficient EC motor. With its 230mm abrasive wheel (supplied as standard with this tool), the TSA 230 cuts neatly and swiftly through construction materials up to 70mm thick.

Dust suppression is a standard feature and as well as being used for dry cutting, the TSA 230 also has a standard water connection with

quick-release coupling, enabling it to be converted for wet cutting in next to no time.

What makes the TSA 230 a truly cost-effective machine is its interchangeable battery and charger that are compatible with STIHL's range of cordless power tools. Teamed with the recommended STIHL AP 300 battery and AL 500 charger, users will experience the

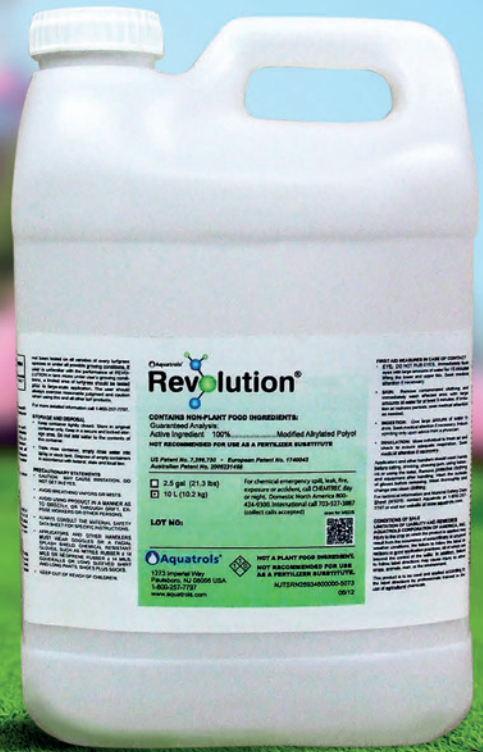
cut-off saw's high cutting performance from a single battery charge – sufficient to cut up to 48 clay tiles (with the diamond cutting wheel). The battery is re-charged in just 25 minutes using the STIHL AL 500 charger.

www.stihl.co.uk



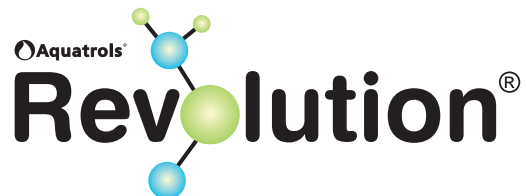


START STRONG FINISH STRONGER



Starting your Revolution program in early spring gives your turf coming out of dormancy a healthy start, encouraging uniform root growth and strengthening the plant's natural defenses in preparation for the season's coming challenges.

Revolution optimizes air to water ratios in the rootzone, and ensures that new roots have adequate access to water and nutrients. This in turn boosts the efficiency of photosynthesis and other cellular processes, allowing the plant to make and store greater levels of carbohydrates for use during periods of stress.



Revolution maximizes the potential of the growing environment, allowing the turf to function more efficiently and perform at consistently higher levels. This reduces the impact of daily stresses on turf health, and promotes quicker recovery when stresses do occur.

Revolution. Start strong, finish stronger.

Contact your local Farmura distributor and ask about starting a **Revolution program** this spring.

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WOODLANDS & TREES

BY BOB TAYLOR, STRI SENIOR CONSULTANT,
ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Our golf courses have retained a tremendous tree and woodland resource that supports significant historic, landscape, cultural and ecological assets. Playing within a tree and woodland environment can bring many benefits, some of which may be subliminal rather than conscious. On the flip side, trees can also create massive problems for the greenstaff with respect to maintaining and perfecting putting and playing surface conditions.

There are many considerations that need to be brought into play when considering tree and woodland removal, not least the legislative or emotional issues that will impact upon the success of a project.

Trees have always been a major feature of the British landscape, ever since the ice melted after the last ice age some 7,000 to 8,000 years ago and trees came to dominate. Birch and pine were the first colonisers that, over time, covered great swathes of the barren landscape. These trees effectively set the scene for others to follow. It wasn't until the climate warmed during the Atlantic period, 3,000 to 4,000 years ago, that more warm-loving, known as thermophilic, trees were able to colonise, including beech and lime. However, their overall distribution remained patchy.

Tree clearance would have been first practiced during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, when our hunter-gatherer ancestors made the shift towards the more sedate but nonetheless arduous farming lifestyle. Stone tools would have seriously limited the first settlers' abilities to remove trees. But tree removal picked up rapidly in line with improving tools, particularly marked through the Iron Age. A further significant shift in tree removal came during the two World Wars.

Tree clearance through human intervention over 4,000 years, and most significantly over the 20th and 21st Centuries has resulted in a patchwork of fragmented habitats, including woodland strips, copses and small-scale woodlands. Once strong, woodland connectivity has now been heavily destroyed as hedgerows have been removed to enable larger agricultural field systems.

Other habitats have developed as a result of tree removal and successive management thereafter. Heathlands and other grassland landscapes have been encouraged following tree removal and later through other relevant management practices.

Today the remaining trees throughout our countryside are incredibly important as the wildlife that depend upon them is becoming increasingly squeezed. Deep shade birds like woodcock depend upon patch size and a diverse mix of understorey to mid and high canopy trees.

Raptors like sparrowhawk depend upon tall canopy trees with a strong woodland edge or understorey for hunting. Buzzard need tall trees for seclusion, but increasingly these birds are having to adapt to more open conditions due to the lack of larger patches of woodland within the countryside.

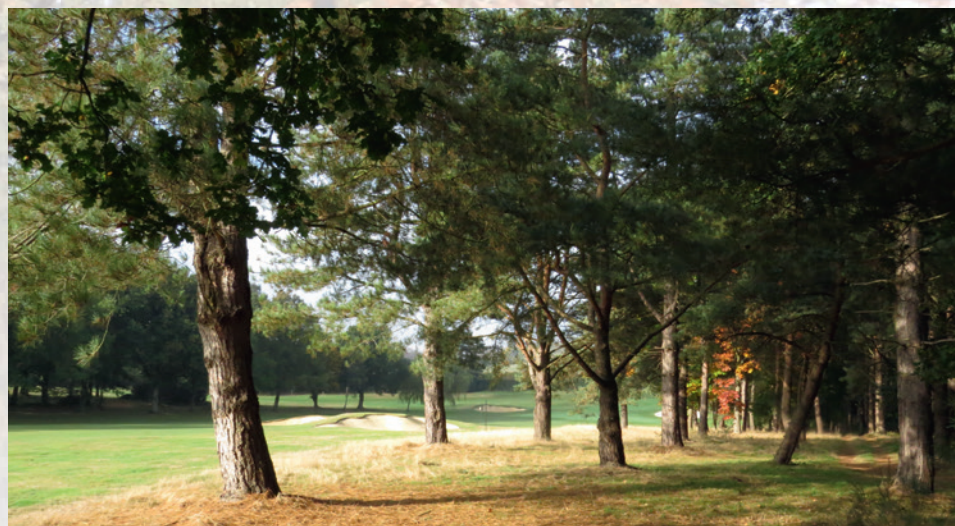



Trees on golf courses contribute massively to the overall extent of woodland cover within the countryside. This is important as we as a country are one of the weakest countries in Europe for total tree cover. The UK boasts just 9% cover while on average our European neighbours are averaging over 37%.

Trees are viewed as important on golf courses for a host of reasons. They provide strategic, visual and landscape interest. By their presence they also provide important habitat for a vast array of wildlife that can so easily be taken for granted, but which adds so immeasurably to the playing of the game. Trees are often planted as sentinels, or gateways to improve definition and shot taking, and they may also act as focal points and markers or as important doglegs or screens.

Problems with trees arise through indiscriminate planting, natural succession and lack of management intervention. Inappropriate trees are often provided by well meaning members and some take pride of place as memorial trees, which brings a self-placed preservation order.

Another significant problem that any greenkeeper will come up against when considering tree management will be the response of the players within the club.



 Open woodland margins allow ball location and shot taking while protecting the woodland centre

Trees are often viewed as the lungs of the planet and any tree loss can become emotionally tied to the demise of our rainforests.

Every greenkeeper is aware that trees can adversely affect turf condition. This may be as a result of shading, leaf drip, drought stress, leaf litter or a lack of air movement or sunlight penetration. Some trees can physically affect irrigation and drainage installations, resulting not only in poor surface quality but also in costly repairs.

The greenkeeper therefore has several problems to overcome before removing trees.

First it will be necessary to develop communication skills sufficient to convince the membership that

tree removal is necessary and is not just a whim or an emotional response from a non-passionate member of the team. As a member of staff at the club it is difficult to be impartial, and so an independent and objective response should be sought. This problem is often best overcome by using outside independent expertise, as is available through the STRI.

Consideration will need to be given to legislation as trees may be protected with local non-statutory designations, such as Tree Preservation Order, Site of Important Nature Conservation, or with national statutory protection such as SSSI or SAC.

Continued over



Trees may be important from a historic perspective and an ecologist will need to determine whether the trees are of recent or more ancient origin. Many of our remaining woodlands are considered to be ancient in origin and they may support remnants of ancient woodlands, often called Plantation Ancient Woodland, meaning more recent planting may have taken place but the woodlands are part of over 300 years of continuous cover.

The conservation values of any area must be considered and this may include how these areas link within the wider countryside, as trees provide important corridors for movement of wildlife.

Thought will also need to be given to the likely presence of internationally protected species of wildlife, often termed European Protected Species. Bats are a very relevant case in point. The majority of bat species will use trees for summer roosting and winter hibernation and given that they are protected under international legislation any tree removal must consider the likely potential for these species. Many trees, even though often seemingly unlikely for bats (beech for example), will contain fissures, loose bark, crevices and cracks that can and will support roost sites. Even the

forks where limbs branch out can provide important roosting opportunities for bats.

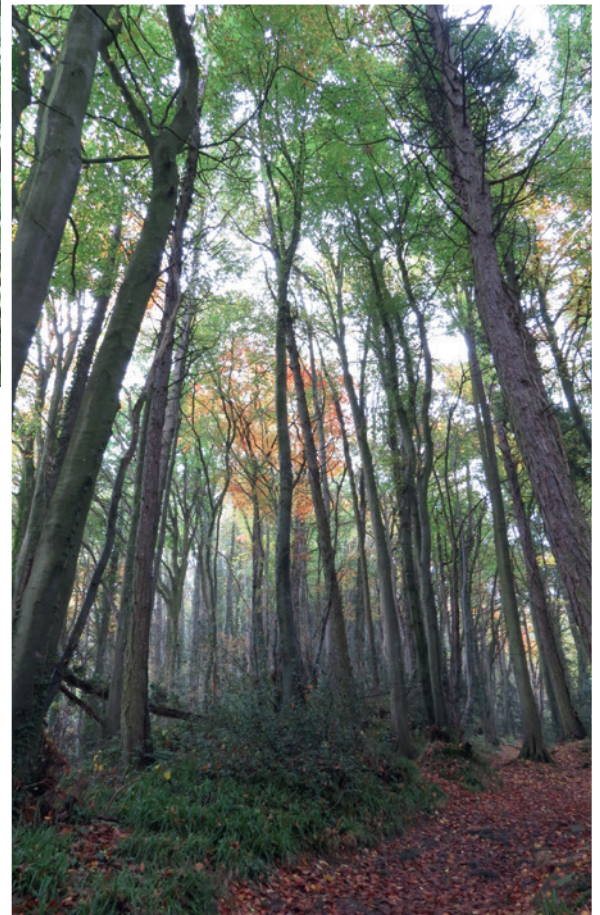
Anyone contemplating the removal of trees must give recognition to all of the above, but this will need to be considered in light of the negative impacts of the trees on putting and playing surface quality.


Given the complexities involved, the best way forward in most cases will be to work to an agreed, structured management plan. A management plan will provide the necessary background information, including the reasoning as to why tree removal is necessary – normally termed the rationale for management. The whole of the course will be viewed in a wider landscape context with specific areas being compartmentalised into management compartments.

Areas for management would normally be earmarked on a suitable scaled drawing, which could be viewed by the membership or provided to the contractor for tender.

One of the main advantages of a management plan is that work will be directed and phased over a set agreed time frame. This will prevent the greenstaff becoming overburdened and importantly it will allow the club to realise

Even the forks where limbs branch out can provide important roosting opportunities for bats.



 Top: Cracks, holes and crevices are of significance for bats

Above: Understanding woodland structure and value is key to knowing if and when or how to manage

the scale of any issues, enabling delegation between the greenstaff and reputable outside contractors.

An independent consultant would help the club realise the ecological and conservation benefits of any tree removal work. This too can be provided within the plan to further allay fears and concerns from members.

STRI recommend that any club considering tree removal contact the Ecology and Environment department to discuss further. All STRI consultants are fully independent and expert within this subject area. Any advice provided will be impartial and targeted. ■



TIME AND TIME WAIT FOR NO MAN

A technique as old as greenkeeping itself, yet many golfers don't understand it, aeration is about as unpopular a management practice as you can get.

So why do we do it? The benefits of aeration include:

- ▶ Improved turf quality through thatch removal
- ▶ Produces more upright grass for better mowing conditions
- ▶ Greater growth stimulation gives the grass better strength to combat disease
- ▶ Improves the drainage of water through the soil profile
- ▶ Encourages the exchange of carbon dioxide for oxygen in the soil

When should we aerate?

During winter the cycle of freezing and thawing of the soil allows gaps to open up naturally. This will be reduced if golfers are on the course during winter, compacting the soil. Manual aeration is therefore more frequent during warmer months, and to cause the least disruption and have the greatest impact, spring is most common. Why is compaction a problem? Compaction increases surface hardness, reduces pore spaces, limits root growth and slows the infiltration of air, water, fertilisers and pesticides.

Should you aerate early in spring, or hold off?

Golfers want to play throughout the year, and that means when your turf is just waking up from the long winter, it will already be under stress by players looking to get back on the course. But playing on soft, moist greens damages soil and root structures and causes compaction, shutting off the internal oxygen flow. Early aeration can combat this. So timing is vital.

Tips for springtime aeration

- ▶ Wait for temperatures to rise. For bentgrass, a soil temperature of 15-18°C is required.
- ▶ Get the plant actively growing by building up the nutrient supply 10-14 days ahead of time.

What method of aeration should you choose?

Hollow tines: Removing soil from the profile as cores reduces bulk density or compaction.

Solid tines or slicing & spiking: Enhanced gas exchange between rootzone and atmosphere. Causes less injury to the turf

Water injection cultivation: Leaves a clean surface when compared to hollow tine aeration.

Linear aeration: Uses machines with high revolution saw-like blades to cut grooves into turf up to 5cm deep.

The important thing is to go with what works



Terra Rake tines come with breakage guarantee

All spring tines for Wiedemann Terra Rake purchases now come with a five-year breakage guarantee. These long foraging steel tines, when driven across fairways and roughs, rip out thatch and are amazingly productive.

Wiedemann UK's Sales Manager, Chas Ayres said: "It is important to always fit genuine Wiedemann tines as their quality is assured. Copycat tines can be ill-fitting and potentially cause

long term damage to the tine holders and may lead to issues not covered by the manufacturer's warranty."

All tines for Wiedemann's Terra Spikes are available immediately and dispatched on a 24hr service. Made of toughened steel – coring tines have carbide tips – they are built to give maximum use. As a rule, solid tines outsell hollow tines by about 4:1 because of the emphasis on relieving compaction. Diameters offered are from

5 mm to 25 mm with depths from 200 mm to 400 mm. Each of the 11 different aerators comes with a full set as standard with most popular requested the 12 x 275 or 20 x 275. As the Terra Spike fleet grows so does the tine range. For example, the new super light Terra Spike SL for fine turf uses 8 x 200, 10 x 210 or 12 x 220.

Wiedemann spares are available via your local dealer or the Wiedemann order hot line is 0141 814 3366.

ANOTHER THINK COMING

ICL NITROGEN PROGRAMME

IS LOOKING AT YOUR NITROGEN USAGE ONCE A YEAR REALLY ENOUGH?

BY DR ANDY OWEN AND HENRY BECHELET,
TECHNICAL MANAGERS, ICL TURF AND LANDSCAPE

ICL are global nutrition specialists. We are specialists in the production and development of market leading fertiliser technologies and we also employ field-based specialists to advise our customers on how to get the best results.

ICL employ teams of highly experienced and professionally qualified turf nutrition specialists who work with turf managers to create nutritional programmes that enable their turf to perform to the very highest standard.

Our area managers all have an in-depth knowledge of fertiliser technologies and how best to create fully efficient and integrated programmes.

Our underlying philosophy comes from a desire to act responsibly and so we embrace best practice guidelines and we always consider the latest ways of thinking.

At ICL we invest in research to inform the advice we give. We believe it is necessary for our staff to be open-minded and provide up-to-date advice based on the latest research and thinking.

In the same way that our technologies have developed over the years, so have our beliefs and understandings.

We strive to be positively progressive industry partners.

One of our foundation beliefs is with the delivery of nitrogen (N), which we view as being by far the most crucial aspect of turf nutrition. Nitrogen is unlike any other turf nutrient because it is directly used to control growth.



In the UK we routinely deploy different forms or blends of N sources in varying amounts to achieve specific turf responses that suit the management requirement at the time.

But we still take quite a simplistic approach to the use of N and only tend to look at nitrogen inputs in terms of kg per hectare per year to make sure we are 'in the right area' for the turf type and situation. Is this really the best way of looking at things?

Looking at the annual nitrogen delivery doesn't provide any indication of how well the growth has been managed throughout the seasons. It is clear we should be looking more closely at nitrogen inputs and aiming to deliver it in more specific and targeted amounts to produce exacting responses that achieve a greater and more efficient level of control.

Rather than looking at N inputs per year, we think it is more helpful to look at N inputs per week. This could be extremely helpful, and might take you to a higher level of understanding and proficiency.

So, with this way of thinking we would still be working towards a general annual nitrogen target – say 100-120kg of N per year – but we would also be looking more closely at the weekly N inputs to apply specific amounts at particular times to create turf responses that sync exactly with the wider maintenance objectives.

For instance, we might want to stimulate an increased level of growth for a couple of weeks in the spring to help the turf quickly recover through a heavy top dressing, but without creating an overly prolonged and unwanted excessive growth pattern that might cause problems later on.

Or we might wish to manage a very precise level of growth during the summer that is able to produce surfaces that recover from the rigours of maintenance and play but without accumulating excessive organic matter at the turf base.

This is where knowledge of N inputs per week can really help you focus your fertiliser programme and get the balance exactly right.

Let's take a look at a simple example. Of course each situation

will be different based on grass types, climate and other environmental or management factors but for the sake of example let's imagine typical push-up Poa annua dominated greens.

In this case, if we apply 5-6kg of N per hectare per week during the early part of the growing season, we would achieve a very strong growth response that would stimulate the turf to recover very quickly, through a heavy top dressing event for instance. If we choose to apply 3-4kg of N per hectare per week during the summer we would provoke a moderate growth response that would be appropriate for good recovery from intensive maintenance or play. Lastly, if we apply 1-2kg of N per hectare we might achieve a very low turf response, but it may be sufficient to prevent the turf from deteriorating under lower levels of play.

The point is that at different points in the maintenance calendar we need to control the turf responses in different ways if we are to manage the turf properly. The exact figures would vary for each situation but we think that if you want to control the growth of your turf properly then knowledge of kg of N per hectare per week would be a great help.

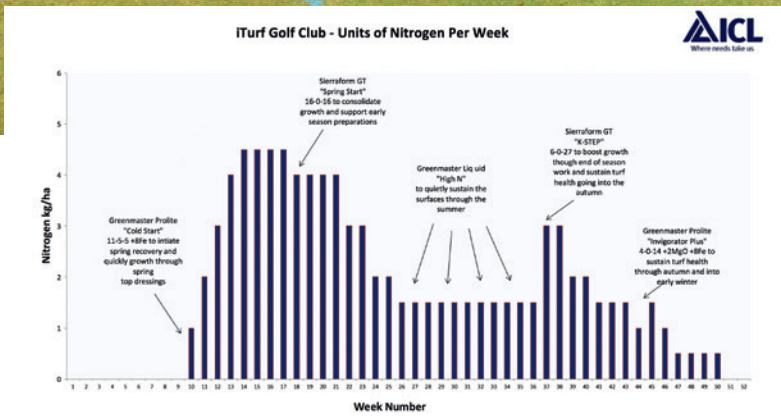
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ICL NITROGEN PROGRAMME





ICL trials underway

Altering nitrogen inputs week by week could prove effective

At this stage you might be thinking that this is all very interesting, but how do we calculate the levels of N per week in a quick and easy way? This is, of course, what the nutrition specialists are here for.

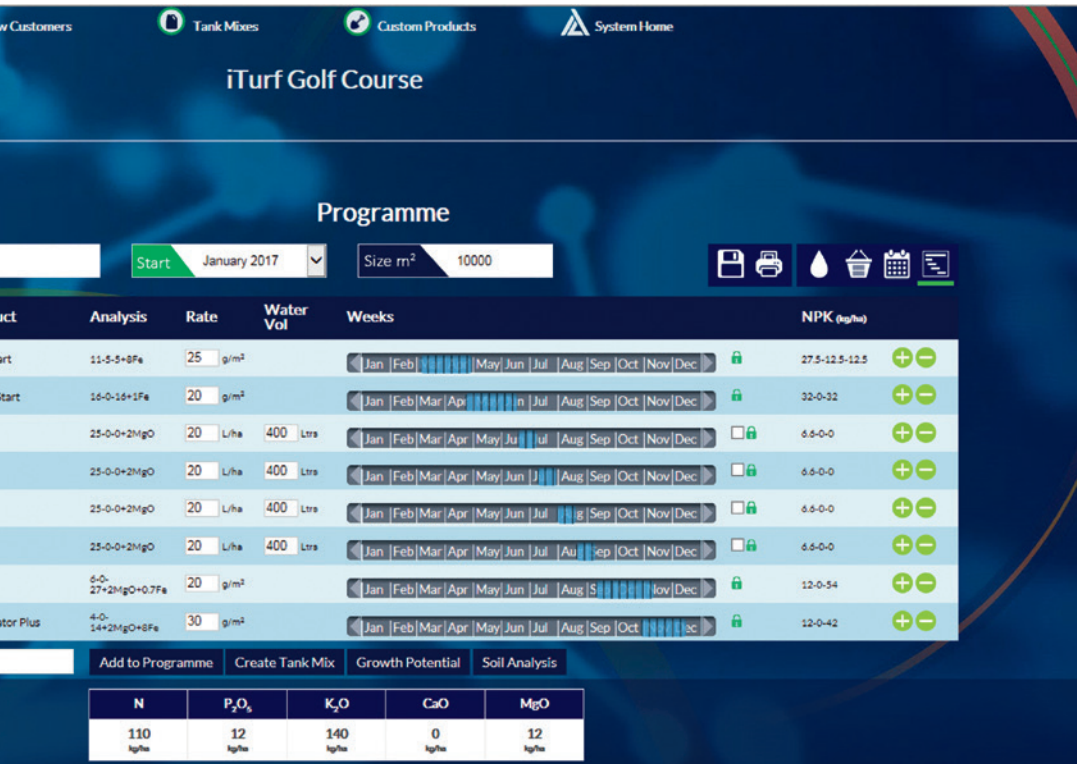
Our research over the years on nitrogen release patterns has given us a detailed understanding of how our products release over time. We also invest a great deal of time and effort to provide our team of field-based area managers with supporting technologies that help them build programmes and make all the necessary calculations.

We have just upgraded the ICL iTurf Program – the application

our teams use to compile nutrition programmes with their clients – to incorporate the weekly nitrogen inputs as well as the annual totals. With the iTurf Program we can overlay different release technologies and adjust the timings of applications, play with the application rates and fine-tune the longevities to achieve the desired nitrogen delivery patterns throughout the year.

With the ICL iTurf Program we aim to bring together all our skill, knowledge and experience to create fertiliser programmes that synchronise totally with the maintenance schedule and playing season.

We also invest a great deal of time and effort to provide our team of field-based area managers with supporting technologies that help them build programmes and make all the necessary calculations.



Our aim is never to apply excessive, unnecessary or wasteful levels of nitrogen, but by the same token we don't want to apply too little.

The iTurf Program is not a prescriptive approach, it is simply a planning tool that our team of nutrition specialists use in consultation with their clients to map out the nutrient inputs in an easy to understand way.

If you would like a demonstration of the programme to map out your fertiliser requirements for the year week-by-week then get in touch with a member of our team.

If you think that we are just here to sell you fertiliser then you already have another 'think' coming. ■

Our aim is never to apply excessive, unnecessary or wasteful levels of nitrogen, but by the same token we don't want to apply too little.

We simply want to be as precise as possible with our use of nitrogen and create fully effective turf responses. We think that by focusing in on kgs of N per hectare per week we will see a clearer way

to optimise nutrient inputs and create better turf. So, we now have the means to really get under the skin of your nutrition programme.

We think that by understanding your nitrogen delivery in a more detailed way, your fertiliser programmes will become more finely tuned and the surfaces will benefit as a result.



ICL NITROGEN PROGRAMME

EAGLE Maintenance Free - EaglePlex



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YORKSHIRE COAST CLUBS EMBRACING WATER RECYCLING SYSTEMS

BY DAVID MEARS, HIGHSPEED GROUP

ANOTHER THINK COMING



Yorkshire's coastal resorts have for centuries attracted tourists from all over Britain. Now, the region's courses are doing their bit to keep the beaches clean by installing the latest water recycling technology.

An increasing number of golf clubs are turning their attention to pollution prevention and legal compliance for their wash-off areas, and non more so than around the Yorkshire coast and the Humber.

Believe or not, causing pollution from wash pads has been illegal since 2009, with the introduction of The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations, The Water Environment (Groundwater and Priority Substances) (Scotland) Regulations and, of course, The EU Water Framework Directive.

Seven years have passed and yet a number of clubs have not addressed the matter.

Reasons for not complying differ, but funding is often the main factor. It's also been said that if forced to, then that will be the time for action. The Environment Agency bears the responsibility for policing this legislation and has an armoury of powers they can employ to ensure compliance. But what is astonishing is that inspection and compliance enforcement are seen as a lottery.

"Not every course will be inspected, the EA do not have the manpower," we hear greenkeepers say. And that may be the case, but the EA do inspect and your course could be the next one on their list.

Take the case of Filey Golf Club. The club management had considered upgrading their washpad and had even gone so far as to obtain pricing quotations, but that hadn't proceeded any further. All was brought into sharp focus, however, when in 2013 the EA paid a visit, following the loss of Blue Flag status for Filey beach. The EA was checking all streams in the area which flowed into the sea, and one of these ran through the course.

Top Left: Filey Golf Club

Bottom Left: Driffield Golf Club

Washings from the greenkeeping facility ended up in this stream, and while the club was found not to be polluting, it was strongly advised to take action before any problems developed.

Course Manager Andy Flemmings and his team carried out the work themselves, installing a ClearWater system. The finished job was a credit to them and the EA inspector reported back that he was impressed with their efforts.

Andy said: "The system has been a revelation and has made the job of cleaning our machinery so much easier. Pollution is prevented, all the washwater is recycled, water is saved and the wash facility is now fully compliant."

ClearWater systems are one example of effective washpad recycling. Water flows through various filters and into the system tank, where it is treated with purpose designed microorganisms. These turn contaminated water into clean water, which is fed to wash guns by submersible pumps for re-use on the washpad.

There are 15 clubs in the immediate area that have installed the same recycling system for their wash-off facility. These include Filey, Bridlington Links, Driffield, Cottingham Parks and Hornsea. The first being Forest Pines on Humberside, and the most recent being Hull Golf Club.

Faced with the chance of an environmental inspection, each of these clubs realised action was necessary.

In June this year, a company was fined over £10,000 and ordered to pay £7,019 in costs for polluting 2.5km of the River Dalch in Devon, so the punishment of failing to bring water standards up to scratch can be severe.

Some clubs have investigated other options, such as separators or reed beds, both of which have limitations. But whichever solution is selected, a dedicated washpad that is bunded and directs all washings to the system is also required.

An oil and water separator is only permissible if the water that flows out of it is directly connected to a

foul sewer – not something many greenkeeping facilities have.

If this is not possible, the water is discharged into a holding tank, which is then emptied at a cost to the club. A pressure washer would also need to be installed, and no water is saved.

Reed beds are suitable for organic sewage waste but have severe limitations when handling hydrocarbons such as oil, fuel or grease. A large reed area is required, with reed replacement ongoing and maintenance relatively high.

By recycling their water, clubs can potentially save half a million litres of water every year. Additionally, clubs that purchase a Water Technology List approved system can write off the cost of an installation against taxable profits under the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme.

Over £3,000 is a typical amount, although more than 60% of clubs that order a ClearWater system from the Highspeed Group save more money by choosing to install the system themselves. ■

ANOTHER THINK COMING

The Headland approach...

...not all plant health and nutrition companies are the same

The first step to solving any turfgrass problem is to identify the issues affecting it.

Next, it's essential to understand your needs and requirements before giving any advice and support.

Then, and only then, can a structured plan be built to improve plant health and turf quality.

But that's not the end.

Our support continues with weather information via 'weathercheck' - a forecasting package tailored for the turf industry and mapped to your specific location.

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Section News

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

AROUND THE GREEN SCOTLAND & N IRELAND



Prize winners at the BIGGA Scotland awards lunch

BIGGA Scotland awards lunch

The BIGGA Scotland awards lunch took place at Glenbervie on Wednesday 7 December, with each section providing a recipient of the 2016 Patrons Award.

This year's award winners are Neil McLoughlin (North), Robert Tosh (South West), Martin Turna (Central), Ryan McCulloch (East) and Ryan Brennan (West).

Central

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Now to get back to work and sweat some turkey out! A good few of you will be making the trip down to Harrogate, so will try and catch up with most of you down there.

Big events for courses in our section this year include the Ricoh Women's British Open at Kingsbarns and the Dunhill Links at St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns. There are also a few special events going on at Scotsraig as they celebrate their 200th year.

This year we are looking at different ways of providing varied educational events for all types of greenkeepers, from students to course managers. We would love to see any new faces come along.

Talking of education, the section had an evening's seminar at Elmwood with Simon Gough of Terrafirma at the start of December. Simon spoke about the future of pesticides and bio-pesticides. Good to see a healthy attendance from members.

Congratulations Gavin Neill, St Andrews, and his wife Ashleigh on the birth of their first child Oscar.

Congratulations also to Jon Methven, St Andrews Links Trust, who will jet off to Orlando to be part of the BIGGA Delegation in February. Well done Jon.

On the move is John Bateson, who is leaving St Andrews to take up the role of area sales manager for Fife and Clackmannanshire with Double A. All the best John.

Upcoming events

Spring meeting at Elie Golf on Tuesday 25 April.

Autumn meeting at Pitreavie on Wednesday 6 September.

SW Scotland

I hope Santa has been good to everyone and you are now feeling rested after the festive period. As I write this, my thoughts are wandering to BTME.

The education programme looks excellent, so thank you to Sami, Deb, and Stuart. And of course, Elaine, Tracey, Karl and the rest of the HQ team for all of the hard work that goes into putting together the action packed week.

On a similar note, I've just returned from the Spanish Greenkeepers Association Conference at Melia Villaitana Resort. The venue was without a doubt the best place I've ever been fortunate enough to attend. Thank you to everyone at AEdG and the Royal Spanish Golf Federation for their kind hospitality and fantastic education programme.

There has been a few changes on the board. Stephen McBlain has taken up the post as chairman and Rick Fulton as vice chairman - best of luck in your posts.

Thank you to Frank Clarkson for his time in the chair - it's been a great few years.

Congratulations to Scott Corrigan and his wife on the birth of their baby girl Harper.

Congratulations to Celia Roger (nae Fox) on her recent marriage. We wish you and your hubby the very best of luck for the future.



Celia Roger celebrates her marriage

On behalf of BIGGA Scotland, I'd like to thank Jim Paton for all of his hard work and effort that he has put in over the last two years as Scottish Chairman. On the same note, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Stuart Ferguson into the role and wish him a successful chairmanship.

Welcome to Stuart Brown who has taken the reigns at Western Gailes – Best of luck and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

Volunteers are needed for the Scottish Open 2017. If you are interested, can you please contact Frank Clarkson, Golf Course Superintendent on frank.clarkson@dundonaldlinks.com

Thank you to Graeme King who delivered his informative sand presentation to the guys in the Dumfries and Galloway area - the feedback has been great.

And finally, for all of you who will be "addressing the haggis" this month, I wish you a very pleasant evening with auld friends.

East

The inaugural Thomas Brannan Memorial Golf Day was set up to honour the memory of Thomas 'Tam' Brannan, of Greentech Sportsturf who sadly lost his battle against cancer in August last year, and to help raise money for charities such as Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Prior to this event being set up, both Tam's daughters completed the Cancer Research UK 10k Race for Life in May last year, raising over £2,000 for charity.

The event was held at Greenburn in Fauldhouse on Saturday 3 September. The format was Texas Scramble, with teams of four, and was followed by an evening of entertainment in the clubhouse and a charity auction.

The East section held a well-supported winter night out on Saturday 26 November.

Thanks to everyone who attended - onwards and upwards for next year.

Many thanks go to Richard Aitken for the recent financial support.

The East section now has an email address, please use this for all communications, info and queries. It is eastsection@bigga.co.uk

North

As I sit writing this month's article, the weather is very mild for this time of year. Only yesterday the temperature reached 15 degrees across some parts of the region, where three days earlier it had dropped to -12. That is a big swing, but if you are like me, perhaps you are not really fussed what the temperature is, as long as it is dry. This time last year we already had our first winter storm, where Storm Desmond dropped an awful lot of rain over the region. But this was nothing compared to the New Year storm, Frank, which delivered a Biblical amount of rain and caused some irreparable damage. So, by the time this month's GI lands on your door mat I hope we are not talking about storms and damage, but instead talking about how good Christmas and the Hogmanay parties were.

If anyone is wanting to start the new year in a fit and healthy way, Stephen Brown of Newmacher has organised football at Goals in Bridge of Don. This takes place late on a Friday afternoon and if you are interested, contact Stephen on 07722920116.

As a lot of you head down to BTME, I do hope you have a good and safe trip down, and take advantage of the many worthwhile and informative seminars.

Happy New Year to you all and I hope to see a lot of new faces at our spring outing at Cruden Bay on 21 April. Get that in your diaries.

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Ross Hunter	DCM - The Glen
Stephan Clark	GK - Beith
Simon Crawford	HGK - Sol Golf International
Angus Roberts	AGK - Roxburghe
Cameron Wylie	AGK - Machrihanish Dunes
Damian Hamilton	AGK - Drumpellier
Josh Fraser	AGK - Golspie
Kieran Henderson	AGK - Drumpellier
Scott McGrath	AGK - Massereene

Northern

Neil Gravener	CM - Huyton & Prescot
Ray Simms	DHGM - Hornsea
Tyler Holmes	GK - Pike Hills
Robert Coates	GK - Bentham
Simon Williams	GK - Llandudno (Maesdu)
Jonathan Catterall	Mechanic - Royal Lytham&Sta
Freddie Stocker	AGK - Lightcliffe
Colin Scolah	AGK - Howley Hall
Richard Hayden	Affiliate - Hayden Turfcare

Midland

Adam Sedgwick	Ed Supporter - GBR Technology
Andrew Stephen	GK - Flackwell Heath
Stephen Adams	GK - Wolstanton
Danny Oliphant	HGM - Staghill Landscapes Ltd
Sam Wood	AGK - Forest Hill
Andrew Edwards	AGK - Collingtree Park
James Green	AGK - Lingdale
Thomas Winter	AGK - Ladbrook Park

South West and South Wales

Conrad Cavill	GK - Hockley
Graham McGann	GK - Oake Manor
Joshua Martin	GK - Oake Manor
Lauris Dubouskis	GK - Parkstone
Llyr Davies	GK - Garnant Park
Steven Eccleston	GK - Hockley
Matthew Croker	AGK - Oake Manor
Ryan Moore	AGK - Hockley

South East

Harry Carter	Affiliate - Collier Turf Care Ltd
Siobhan Cusack	Affiliate - Hayden Turfcare
Alvin Huxen	DCM - Chigwell
Dave King	FA - The RAC
Billy Stagg	GK - Lingfield Park
Jonathan Harman	GK - St George's Hill
Luke Thompson	GK - St George's Hill
Nicholas Orchard	GK - Brocket Hall
Samuel Keaveney	GK - St George's Hill
Samuel Reid	GK - The Grove
Mark Chandler	GM - John Lyon School
Christopher Lynch	HGM - John Lyon School
Adam Pearse	AGK - St George's Hill
Andrew Sellars	AGK - Harewood Downs
Daniel Leighton	AGK - Blakes
Francis Lesser	AGK - South Essex
Ben Wise	AGK - Shooters Hill
Jack Wade	AGK - Shooters Hill
James Ottoway	AGK - Flackwell Heath
Robbie Lister	AGK - Fulwell
Ryan Ostler	AGK - Hintlesham Hall

International

Naill Kerr	Erlen
Marta Pujades	Student - SRUC (Elmwood)



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AROUND THE GREEN NORTHERN

Section News

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

North East

Congratulations to Whitley Bay, who are in the final of the STRI environmental competition, with the winners being announced during BTME.

Winter Bring a Bottle at Dunstanburgh. Results: 1st, James Thorpe, 43pts; 2nd, David Thompson; 3rd, Nick Armstrong. Thanks to Stu and the team as the course was in super condition.

Every month we will have a joke of the month, so please feel free to send them over - but keep them clean! This month's joke was sent from Paul Walton:

Stu Imeson has recently been to the doctors as strangely he had a piece of lettuce sticking out of his pants. The doctor said 'that looks bad Stu'. He replied 'Oh, that's just the tip of the iceberg'.

Cleveland

I would like to start by wishing all the greenkeepers out there a Happy New Year. Hopefully 2016 hasn't been too testing. A nice break and a few too many beers at Christmas should have us all ship shape and ready for another whirlwind year.

Some great news from around the section starts with Dinsdale an the birth of Phoebe Taylor. Congratulations James Taylor, from all of us.

Graham Egan has taken over as head greenkeeper at Catterick. And lastly, the annual TSL greenkeeper vs groundsman Christmas quiz saw the greenkeepers win for a third

successive year. Turns out we are better quizzers than we are golfers. Thank you again to Allan Morton of TSL for putting on such a lighthearted, fun night.

Northern

I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and no doubt are all looking forward to attending BTME and purchasing lots of nice new machinery.

As you read these notes, most of us will be on diets. Or having a dry January, perhaps? And all the other monthly fads that seem to be trending. As for me, no diet and certainly no dry January!

We should now be fairly certain of the dates and times for our 2017 golfing venues. Let's all make a little extra effort to attend arranged golf days and get the Northern section buzzing with excitement!

On to the Christmas golf and what a day we had. Twenty-one competitors, glorious sunshine, 17 degrees, a beautiful golf course and a format of a 3-man team Texas Scramble. Big thanks to Selby Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course. Thanks to the greenstaff for preparing a lovely course.

Results: 1st, Aaron Schnacke (+2), H Butterworth (5) and Thomas Day (28) with 60.9; 2nd, Paul Emmanuel, Andrew Slingsby, Rob Gee with 63.6 (bk 9); 3rd, G Potter, Kevin Moore, David Hales with 63.6. Thanks Again to Paul Emmanuel of Aitkens Sports Turf for sponsoring the event and for providing everyone with a prize.

Payment of golf days has been a much talked about topic this year. After much discussion, 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. The bank details are: sort code 40 35 33, account no 51389726.

Sheffield



Matthew Holden receives his prize from Neil Peters

The section enjoyed a rare dry and almost sunny day at Worksoop for the Christmas Golf Tournament and AGM. Thanks are extended to Rob Acheson and all the team for being fantastic hosts, to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day and to everyone who attended. Results: 1st, Matthew Holden, 39pts; 2nd, Andrew Unwin, 38pts; 3rd, Matt Bell, 37pts; 4th, Neil Bishop, 36pts; 5th, Stewart Pigott, 35pts. Trade prize, Tom Smith, Tacit, 41pts. Nearest the pin: 11th, Ollie Smith; 18th, Nick Miles. Longest drive, Matthew Holden.

The committee for 2017 was elected as follows: Section Secretary Neil Peters; Chairman Andy Unwin; Vice Chairman Nick Miles; Treasurer Mark Crawshaw; Education Matt Holden; GI and Facebook Wayne Lazenby; Trade representative Sharon Morris.

If members have any ideas or suggestions please do get in touch with a committee member. The first event for 2017 will be a seminar at Hallamshire with Gordon Brammah, Steve Nixon and Scott Purdy from 10.30am-2pm, lunch provided. Places are restricted so early booking is advised.



Cleveland Christmas quiz

AROUND THE GREEN SOUTHWEST & S WALES

South West

We had a fantastic end to 2016 with sell out attendance to Burnham and Berrow for the Christmas tournament. The event was so popular that the waiting list for attending was unfulfilled. A great effort from Richard and his team, as well as everyone off the course, for the hospitality extended to the section membership. Finally, a huge thanks to all that attended for their support.

Many thanks to Tracey Walker for organising the seminar on Employment Law, held on 29 November. The day was very informative and surely of a very high value to all attendees.

Congratulations to Chris Hale on his selection to join the BIGGA support team. Chris and his team mates will be assisting the Sawgrass crew in preparing the course for The Players Championship. Well done Chris.

Upcoming events

Events are being finalised for this year, so keep an eye on this column and email communications from both the South West section and SW&SW region from Tracey for the year ahead.

Sponsor thanks

Many thanks for the support for 2016 from our section patrons: Countrywide Amenity; Headland Amenity; T H White; H Curtis & Son; Irritech Ltd; Greensman and SGI. Our patrons' support offers a wealth of opportunities for South West section members.

South Coast

The Turkey Trot rounded off the section events for 2016 at Salisbury & South Wilts on Tuesday 6 December. Fifteen teams made up the field for this ever-popular South Coast event. The section and participants would like to thank Darren Lee and his team for providing such a well-presented course. Results: 1st, Team Rushmore,

Tony Crouch, Luke Elgie and Jaime Acton; 2nd, Team Hockley, Glenn Kirby, Peter Kirby and Paul Giles; 3rd, Team Wellow, Simon Justice, Ben Bright and Andy Stevens; nearest the pin, Jaime Acton; longest drive, Ben Bright.

Upcoming events

We are pleased to announce our section conference will be held at Salisbury & South Wilts on Wednesday 15 February. The change of location for this year's event has been chosen as it is an easily accessible destination, giving members previously restricted by travelling time the opportunity to get involved. We are finalising the speakers for the day but can confirm we have both Andy Ewence from The Buckinghamshire and Matt Plested from Stoneham making presentations. Both of the aforementioned speakers are managing extensive changes to their courses and will be able to give a detailed insight into their experiences, both good and bad, of the process involved.

Invites to this event will be circulated by email as usual. If you have not received yours and wish to attend, please contact southcoastsection@bigga.co.uk

Devon & Cornwall

We have recently had our section Christmas meeting at Trethorne. The course walk was led by course manager Justin Austin, ably assisted by Dominic Gibbard. Justin showed the group around the recent changes to take place, including re-construction of the second hole. Some of the members enjoyed the golf, with many thinking they were playing for second place. This was not to be the case, as Dave Daw and Pat Hobbs from Staddon Heights won on countback from Tristan Moon and Adrian West, from St Mellion, who both scored 40 points. Nearest the pin was won by Dave Daw, and the longest drive by Gordon Tambllyn from Mullion. We then retired to the bar for the customary Christmas dinner,

which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The entertainment was provided by comedian Jimmy Quinn, but none of the jokes are suitable for publication in GI! A raffle took place, where section president Billy Mitchell proved that money goes to money!

I must admit that last month I missed out an important part of my report. Gavin Moore has left Launceston to work with Ray and his team at Saunton. Gavin had worked at Launceston for 14 years and will be greatly missed by Greame and the staff.

Well done to our section chairman Jason Brookes who has been selected to be part of the Bernhards sponsored BIGGA delegation who are attending GCSAA in Florida in February. This is truly a case of 'if at first you don't succeed' for Jason!

Also from our section Chris Hale from Woodbury Park has been selected to take part in the John Deere sponsored Sawgrass volunteer programme to work at The Players Championship. Well done to them both.

If you intend to attend BTME, there is a free minibus driven by Jacko. If you wish to go on the bus, please contact a committee member who will point you in the right direction.

Sponsor thanks

We would like to thank all of our patrons for their continued support of the section.

South Wales

Happy New Year to all member and patrons from our section. Golf days and venues are still being finalised for this year and a list will be emailed to each member. This will include the date for this year's spring seminar. Please support as many events as you can throughout the year.

Results from our Christmas competition next month.

Please contact me with any news or information.



BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION

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AROUND THE GREEN MIDLAND

Section News

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by the 16th
of the month



The winners of the BB&O Turkey Trot

BB&O

Once again, Frilford Heath hosted the section's Turkey Trot event. This year 25 teams participated, playing Texas Scramble over the Red Course.

As usual, Sid Arrowsmith MG and his team provided an excellently-prepared course and a huge thank you must go to all involved. Winners on the day, by quite a margin, were Harewood Downs 2. Longest drive, as usual, was won by George Bell.

Sponsors for the day were T H White and Ransomes Jacobsen. As ever prizes on the day were truly outstanding and a massive thank you to Mark Zealander and everyone else involved. Once again Matt Textor provided refreshments at the halfway hut and we are all extremely grateful.

New for 2016 was the 'order of merit' trophy. This trophy is awarded to the person who has obtained the most points over the year in the section golf events. Best two scores from three events count and this year's winner was Adam King. This trophy has been sponsored by Banks Amenity and a huge thanks to Simon Banks for arranging this.

The section AGM followed the golf, where we were informed that Gareth Acteson and James Moore have left the committee. We thank them both for their hard work over the previous years. Joining for 2017 is Nick Paris.

Upcoming events

I would like to thank all sponsors who have supported the section in 2016 either for golf, social or educational events. Without this continued support, events would not happen and would not be as successful as they are.

Mid Anglia

The section would like to thank Dunstable Downs for hosting our Texas Scramble on 8 December where all 72 golfers had a great day battling the tough course and the tricky blustery conditions. Huge appreciation to Course Manager Frank Scullion and his greenkeeping team for getting the course in such great shape with very slick greens which, considering the recent severe frosts days before, was all the more admirable. All who played thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. The half way house was once again manned by Ernest Doe staff who kept the bedraggled golfers going with a fine range of drinks and snacks, which really hit the spot and was much needed, so

thanks to all concerned. Results: 1st, Team of G Simkin, S Moss, H Guile and L Rosewell, 57pts; 2nd, Team of L Thorne, K Beasley, D Thompson and K Easton, 57.2pts; 3rd, Team of M Scullion, C Betts, L Owen and M Fance, 58.9pts. Nearest the Pins: 9th, Simon Banks; 18th, Matthew Towler.

Lastly the Section Player of the Year Award for 2016 went to Nigel Broadwith

Upcoming events

We hope to have information on upcoming events for 2017 soon.

Sponsor thanks

Headland Amenity, Amtech Amenity, ICL, Countrywide, Banks Amenity, ALS, Avoncrop Amenity and Rigby Taylor. Your support, as ever, is appreciated.

Midland

Before I start, may I say have a great Harrogate and take in lots of education and networking.

East Midland have challenged us to a football match, to be played at a top training facility. If you are interested, please drop me an email or keep watching Facebook for dates and venues. It will be a rolling sub system for those of us with bad joints.

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

The committee would welcome any comments about the section and anything they would like us to look at for the coming year. The section can only grow with the support of all members.



Mid Anglia event winners with secretary Richard Saunders



Midland seminar

A big congratulations to Jamie Blake from Broadway, who is off to Orlando to the GIS with BIGGA and Bernhards. This is a great opportunity to learn and enjoy the networking.

Well done also to Harry Jones from Wrekin who is off to Sawgrass to work on The Players Championship sponsored by John Deere. He will be working with Dale Housedon, head greenkeeper from Hollywood who is also working on the same competition.

Congratulations to Simon Worrall of Redditch in passing his NVQ Level 2. Well done Simon.

What a fabulous seminar we had at Henley with Noel Mackenzie talking about drainage, David Greenshields from Barenbrug, Nick Martin from ICL, Steve Thompson doing a great piece on conservation, and William Murphy from Terralift. A massive thanks must go to Adam Moss for hosting the event, to Andy Moon from Avoncrop for sponsoring and to Jon Lewis of Reesink and BIGGA L&D for their input. Finally to Andy Laing for putting it all together. If there is anything you would like to see in the future, please contact us and we will pass on the request to Andy.



Nick Martin of ICL

Next year there are a few things in the pipeline, so keep an eye on your section notes and follow us on FB too.

Congratulations are also in order to Andy, for becoming vice chairman of the Midland region. Talking of the region, the regional meeting is on 15 March at Kings Norton. The cost is £25, contact Roger Butler for details.

Also a day sponsored by ALS is being held at Molineux, home of Wolverhampton Wanderers, on 8 March. Please contact ALS for more details.

Upcoming events

Spring competition, Broadway, 10 May 2017.

Autumn competition, South Staffs, 5 October 2017.

Winter competition, Trentham, 13 December 2017.

Sponsor thanks

Thanks to Kevin Pugh and Matt Gilks of Farols for their continued support with the calendar and the many events they attend, keeping us fed and watered.

On a final note, please if anyone is stressed out or suffering, don't do it alone, talk to one of us or call Roger Butler. Help is out there so please use it.

Have a great January and see you soon.

East Midlands

Happy New Year to all and I do hope everyone had a great break.

Bigga East Midlands 2017, following from the AGM: Chairman Asa English; Comms Matt Gilks; Treasurer, Secretary, and all other things related Martin Hickling. Massive thank you to Martin on all the effort that goes alongside his day to day

job organising and keeping the rest of us in check. Roger Butler will be helping out the section as always too. Following on from the committee meeting, the section has had another good year and there are already plans for 2017.

Footgolf at Cold Ashby, dates to be confirmed, please look out on Facebook.

Also, we are getting close to the big football show down between East v West Midland. We will be playing at Aston Villa's training ground as the first venue.



Matt Gilks, Peter Larter and Luke Hunt

The Christmas Golf Day at Greatham Valley was very well attended and there were some great scores on the day. Personally I had a very enjoyable day playing with a true gentleman, Peter Later, who was working for BIGGA prior to Roger and Sandra in the East Mids. A smashing gentleman with some great stories. Adi Porter and the team, thank you for providing a great course with fantastic surfaces and in top notch condition, well done team.

Please note - Christmas Golf Day means Christmas jumpers! Poor effort guys, next year I expect big things!



Adi Porter, John Sparks and Andrew Humble

Special thanks to Andrew Humble from Reesink Turf Care for the support and drinks, as well as the prizes. Thanks to the section for the mince pies and mulled wine, and to Collier Turf Care who also sponsored the day. Thank you to John Chamberlain at Tacit for sponsoring NP & LD, much appreciated.

Results: 1st, Adi Porter and John Sparks; 2nd, Asa English and Rob Holmes; 3rd, Paul French and Jordan Baker; Longest Drive, Scott Krokoszynski; Nearest The pin, Adi Porter (Members bounce, I heard)

From all on the East Midlands Committee we hope that you have a great 2017. Harrogate will be in full flow or close to and there will be lots to catch up on from 2016.

Welcome to the area to the new members.

Upcoming events

Spring Golf Day, Morley Hayes, 10 May

Footgolf, Cold Ashby, date tbc
Par 3 Competition, Beedles Lake, 24 August

Autumn Golf Day - tbc
Christmas Golf Day - Longcliffe, 7 December

Sponsor thanks

Thank you to all the sponsors that have helped support the section year this year



Christmas puddings on tour

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED





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AROUND THE GREEN SOUTH EAST

Section News

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

Annual golf and dinner day

The South East region's annual golf and dinner day will take place at Walton Heath on Friday 10 March 2017.

One of greenkeeping's longest running events, the day is always well supported, with a host of prizes up for grabs.

For more details contact RA's Clive Osgood or Kerry Phillips.

Surrey

The annual Turkey Trot was held at Guildford. Thank you to Matt Lawrence and his team for a wonderful course. First prize was taken by Stevie Richardson, Michael Mann, Danny Murray and Keith May.

Longest drive was won by Stephen Davey, Wisley, and Mike Kirkham won nearest the pin.

Guildford has been a fantastic host for us, but next year we are going to have a change and it will be hosted at Camberley Heath. It was great to see a full field of 18 teams, which shows the section is starting to grow again.

The evening was closed out with the AGM. Everyone on the board was voted back in with the exception of Tony Bremer, who after many years as treasurer is stepping down. We thank him for the support he has given.



Surrey Turkey Trot

Kent

It seems fitting my final report should be to say the Kent section had its highest turnout for at least 10 years for our annual Turkey



Kent Turkey Trot

Trot at Redlibbets.

Over 50 of us took to the fairways on a blustery day. Prizes on every hole, an overall individual contest and a Ryder Cup-style competition kept everyone's interests. Thanks very much to John Bignell and to Ernest Doe for their support. The course itself was superb. After a mammoth prize giving, which saw Mark Roach win the individual trophy with 38 points and Kev's "Lions" winning the team prize, the AGM started. As had been much publicised, Kev and I were standing down from our roles on the Kent section board and we would like to thank everyone for their kind words regarding how the section has progressed. Ben Adams, London Club, and Barry Bradshaw, Kings Hill, were elected in as new section officials and we wish them every success.

Thanks to everyone who has attended events we organised. We always enjoy getting together at great venues with friends from across the county.

So that's it from me, Rob Holland, signing off as Kent section secretary. Thanks everyone, it's been a blast.

London

The section gathered at South Herts for the annual Turkey Trot meeting. Credit to John Wells and his team for preparing an excellent course this late in the year. The Texas Scramble was won with an impressive 14 under par gross by a team representing Muswell Hill, consisting of Ed Clark, Adam Clark, Graeme Jones and Robin Toovey, playing off a

handicap of 2.9. New sponsors Ernest Doe provided a great prize table and new trophy so many thanks to Eddie and the team.

As the year draws to an end, the focus shifts to next year, with more education sessions planned and the Oaklands seminar for a romantic date on 14 February.

John Wells has stepped down from the section committee after many years' dedication. Thanks John for all your efforts, and welcome on to the committee Jason Shepherd and Barry Neville.

Hope everyone has a good break over the festive period and see you in the new year.

East Anglia

The "Big One" was held at Thorpeness. As usual the course was first class, as was the weather. The support was fantastic with 80+ playing and trade support first class - then came the golf! Results: 1st, 46, Scott Parnell, Ian Cambridge, Bob Costen & Ed Pickford; 2nd, 46.75, RAF Marham; 3rd, 47, Diss. Best gross 58 Rushmere Nearest the Pin: 2nd hole, Mike Virley; 7th, Steve Coonoah; 10th, Brian Lindores; 16th, Reg Claydon. Nearest white line on 5th, Brian Lindores. Nearest Pin in 2: 6th, Eddit Jack. Longest Drive: Ross Stanard; Michael Buck We are grateful to all the sponsors of the event, plus CMW who have been the main sponsors for this event for the last 20 years at least. Also Toro, Ben Burgess, Ernest Doe, Tacit, Headland.

Then came the AGM. The committee was re-elected for the last time - after 20 odd years at least, we feel it is time for a new regime. So that's a President, Secretary, Chairman, Treasurer and scribe to find next year.

Nearly forgot, The President's prize (Ernie's Port) for the up and coming greenkeeper went to Ian Cambridge, the new HGK at Saffron Walden - Well done mate.



GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

GTC AND L&D TEAM ON HAND TO HELP AT BTME

As we look forward to Continue to Learn and BTME, preparations are well underway for both the GTC and BIGGA.

For the new members of our team, a little apprehension as well as excitement is in the air.

Anyone who comes to see us will meet a new face at the GTC. Emma Willis has joined the team, and some of you may already have been in touch with her through Facebook and Twitter. Emma is the GTC administrator and will be your first point of contact here at the committee.

Come and meet Emma on the BIGGA Learning & Development and GTC stand at BTME, located in the Queen's Suite.

The GTC and BIGGA's L&D department are forging ahead and building on an already strong relationship within greenkeeper education.

In the Education Hub at BTME you can come and talk to the GTC about any questions you may have with regards formal education. We will be happy to discuss your education requirements, whether it is for you, or if you are an employer looking to train and educate your staff.

If you are looking for Continued Professional Development, Stuart Green, head of member learning, will be on hand to discuss your options of learning through BIGGA's CPD scheme.

See what your career path can be and how you can achieve your goals by blending your formal qualifications with the additional help and support through member learning workshops, seminars and short courses.



The GTC will be located in the Queen's Suite at BTME

As the new Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping was launched earlier in 2016, some of you may have questions about the new apprenticeship scheme in England, what the changes are and how these will impact on you as an employer and as a student. Join us on the stand and we can talk you through any queries you may have. You can see the new Training Manual and view the content of the qualification your apprentices will be working towards for their new Level 2.

Stuart will be hosting a one hour career development session in the Queen's Suite on Wednesday 16 January between 3-4pm.

Here he will highlight the new apprenticeships in England and discuss:

- ▶ how they are funded
- ▶ how they will affect you and your golf club
- ▶ your responsibilities
- ▶ and as employer, how you can get an apprentice.

Scotland and Wales continue to offer the Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping (Work Based Diploma) and again we will be happy to discuss these further, if you have any queries with these.

Working more closely with BIGGA, we will also be able to advise and guide on how the formal and informal education can compliment each other and enhance your training experience.

Don't forget, the GTC still produce the Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance booklet and the machinery health and safety wallchart. We will have some available to buy on the stand, but if you prefer, you can purchase them via our website - www.the-gtc.co.uk

The team are looking forward to seeing you all in January.



The GTC is funded by:



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Given the UK's varying weather conditions, finding a robust solution to bunker drainage is a major challenge for greenkeepers.

While a soakaway or adequate piped drainage system should be installed as part of any bunker construction, so too should bunker lining. A lining will improve sand retention, as well as both reduce face wash-downs and migration of sand towards the green. They can also combat stone, silt and clay contamination, and contribute to lower levels of maintenance.

However, many lining solutions have been tried and tested – from subsoils or inverted turf bases, to spray-on, rubber crumb, and material linings – and finding one which offers reliable drainage and long-lasting performance without detracting from the course's aesthetics has troubled greenkeepers for years.

'Spray-on' lining options often have a tendency to break-up after a number of years, and coupled with the fact installation can only take place during peak playing season means managers face a constant battle to manage bunker downtime with effective playability.

Other methods adopted include a simple system of a compacted subgrade overlaid with bunker sand. However, without regular maintenance the subgrade can quickly be raked to the surface, affecting playability and presenting a damage risk to players and their clubs. Physical liner sheets offer a physical barrier between the aggregate and the sand, but appearances can deteriorate around the edges of the bunker with the lining becoming visible if poor maintenance takes place.

However, with a view to tackling the varying problems, Tarmac's Topsport team worked closely with a number of the country's leading greenkeepers to create a unique modified porous asphalt-based lining. Given its simple structure, Topsport's bunker lining avoids the use of chemicals – unlike spray linings – meaning it can be laid in nearly all weather conditions, including quieter months or as part of winter course closures.

What's more, there is no need for a type-1 aggregate layer to be included in the profile, provided the course subgrade is suitable. Given the product's composition, it also presents no risk to either equipment or players as it will not degrade. If the correct depths of Topsport's bunker lining and bunker sand are adhered to, and appropriate drainage is in place to ensure water is moved away from the bunker, it will drain effectively and eradicate ponding.

Due to the improved drainage and subsequent reduction in standing water, a bunker's sand retention rate becomes much higher, even on steeper faces, as it is less likely to clump. Less replacement sand is therefore needed over the year, further contributing to reduced maintenance costs. One such club which has felt the benefit of the Topsport Bunker Lining is Chart Hills in Kent. Home to many bunkers, including The Anaconda – the longest in Europe – the course's greenkeepers faced a number of maintenance issues.

“We suffer significant wash through heavy rain here at Chart Hills and we are also situated on heavy clay,” said Course Manager Neil Lauder. “However, the new lining has just improved the bunkers no end.

In terms of maintenance, before the lining we were spending probably 60% of our resources on bunker maintenance. We are a high maintenance course, yet the bunkers that have Topsport Bunker Lining have proved to be absolutely remarkable, especially when it comes to holding sand on the high faces.”

In short, greenkeepers who have been troubled with poorly draining bunkers have an alternative lining which can keep bunkers in play virtually all-year-round.

Ultimately, golf can be played and enjoyed in most weather conditions, and being able to deliver a challenging course that is just as consistently playable in July as it is in November will go a long way to keeping both members and municipal customers happy.

For more information on Tarmac's Topsport Bunker Lining, please visit: www.topsport.co.uk.

Installing Tarmac's Topsport lining



Replacing the sand after installation



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



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BUYER'S GUIDE

HEAD GREENKEEPER NELSON GOLF CLUB

The successful applicant will be responsible for the management of our well established moorland course, practice facilities and Greens staff and report to the Greens Chairman. You must demonstrate, show and have a good knowledge of modern green keeping practices with relevant experience in the following areas:

- People management.
- Effective communication including IT literacy
- Budget management
- NVQ Level 3 / equivalent in Sports Turf Management.
- CS30 and 31 chainsaw certificates.
- PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates.
- Automated irrigation systems.
- Machinery maintenance.
- Health and Safety requirements.

Full time permanent position with annualised hours averaging 40 hours per week. Weekend working will be on a rota basis.

Please send CV and salary expectation to: secretary@nelsongolfclub.com by 15th January 2017.

ASSISTANT SENIOR GREENKEEPER



Cleckheaton & District Golf Club is currently looking to recruit an experienced and qualified Assistant Senior Greenkeeper. An individual looking to progress their career in green keeping.

Skills & Experience required:

- NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Turf Management (Working towards this qualification may also be acceptable)
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates
- 5 years' experience as a green keeper
- Knowledge and maintenance of modern green keeping machinery
- Knowledge and use of automated irrigation systems

Salary and benefits offered will be dependent upon qualifications, experience and suitability. Please e-mail or post your CV including references to Mr David Evans, Secretary Cleckheaton & District Golf Club, 483 Bradford Road, Cleckheaton, BD19 6BU
E-mail address: Secretary@cleckheatongolfclub.co.uk

SEASONAL GREEN STAFF REQUIRED:

MARCH - NOVEMBER 2017

Golf Course St Leon-Rot, Germany
Desired Experience / Skills



- NVQ level 2/3 or relevant greenkeeping experience
- Experience of maintaining or operating Toro irrigation systems a distinct advantage
- Experience of working in a large team with a focus on quality
- Full driving license
- A high degree of flexibility and willing to work extra hours if required.
- Highly motivated and ability to work with own initiative
- Active golf player would be an advantage

Please send your application with your earliest stating date preferably via e-mail to Ms. Cordula Humbert: Bewerbung@gc-slr.de. Golf Club St Leon-Rot, Opelstraße 30, 68789 St Leon-Rot The application process runs until January 31, 2017.

WATERTON PARK GOLF CLUB ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Waterton Park Golf Club are looking to recruit an assistant greenkeeper to join our professional team. The candidate will ideally have the following:

- Minimum NVQ 2 or equivalent
- 3 years experience working on a golf course
- Ability to work unsupervised and in a team
- Spraying licences for PA, PA2, PA6 preferred
- Chainsaw licence preferred
- Good communication skills

The salary will be dependant upon experience. Please apply by emailing your CV to: Alison Newton, Company Secretary secretary@watertonparkgc.mygbiz.com or post to Waterton Park Golf Club, The Balk, Walton, Wakefield, WF2 6QL

Closing date: 13th January 2017 | www.watertonpark.org.uk



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THE LAND IS OUR FIELD

HEAD GREENKEEPER

UPMINSTER GOLF AND BOWLING CLUB

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Head GreenKeeper to manage and lead a team of five existing greens staff at Uppminster Golf and Bowling Club. The successful candidate will have an excellent knowledge of modern greenkeeping and be able to demonstrate the following:

- Excellent management, motivation and communication skills
- Working within planned financial budgets
- Relevant IT skills
- NVQ Level 3 or equivalent
- PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates
- Automated irrigation systems
- CS30 and 31 chainsaw certificates
- Health and Safety legislation
- Strong playing knowledge of golf

Applications should be emailed to 'secretary@upminstergolfclub.co.uk' by 27 January 2017. Further details can be found on www.bigga.org.uk and www.upminstergolfclub.co.uk

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GI & FINALLY...

BARN OWL BREEDING GROUNDS IN WILTSHIRE

& FINALLY

Cumberwell Park is an outstanding location, not only for a round of golf but also as a fantastic area for wildlife. Head of Conservation Jon Keepen talked us through some of the projects taking place at the Wiltshire club.

We take a great deal of pride in facilitating wildlife breeding throughout the grounds, from the building of a nature pond on the new par three course to the installation and monitoring of bird boxes. This summer we had a fantastic outcome from both barn owls and kestrels breeding here, as a result of work that goes on all year round.

To ensure the boxes remain in a fit state for the birds, myself and course member Keith Wright check them throughout the year for repairs, changes of bedding, and possible evictions of unwanted guests - namely squirrels - ahead of the breeding season.

This year I joined Nigel Lewis and his raptor monitoring team in the Wylve Valley area of Wiltshire. Nigel has been monitoring barn owls for 30 years and was very pleased with our success rate here at the course. This year we have had two successful breeding pairs of barn owls, rearing six chicks, and a pair of kestrels that produced three young.

This success rate can be attributed to the diverse mosaic of habitats found on the course. The tall, tussock filled rough is the habitat of many small mammals, such as the field vole, which are the primary food source of the birds.

Barn owls are known as an 'indicator' species, which gives a clue to the health of the local food chain and environment. To have two breeding pairs in relatively close proximity alongside the kestrels illustrates that the long rough areas of the course are ecologically rich and likely support other species, such as insects, butterflies and bats.

We have also had little owls roosting and breeding here at Cumberwell last year, and red kites have been spotted.

Back in early July we were lucky to be joined for a morning by Emily Joáchim to ring our young chicks. Emily is a raptor ecologist and holds a licence to ring owls and kestrels. As part of the ringing process each of the young birds, and parents if present, have a small metal ring attached to their leg with a code on it. This will make the bird identifiable in future.

If a bird is found with a ring on, then the code can be checked to see where the bird was first ringed, or has been found before.



Jon with a barn owl chick

During the ringing process, the chicks are checked for their general health and condition, weighed, sexed if possible, and have their age established through wing measurement. I am pleased to say that all of the owl and kestrel chicks here at Cumberwell were very well fed and in excellent condition.

Barn owl chicks can be ringed between three to seven weeks old and usually fledge at 11 to 12 weeks. The kestrels are also ringed at three to six weeks old.

Barn owl and kestrel breeding has been a great success here at Cumberwell Park this year, and hopefully one that we can repeat next year. Keep your eyes peeled for our newest residents next time you're playing.



Weighing a kestrel chick with the assistance of club member Keith Wright and bird ringer Emily Joachim

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