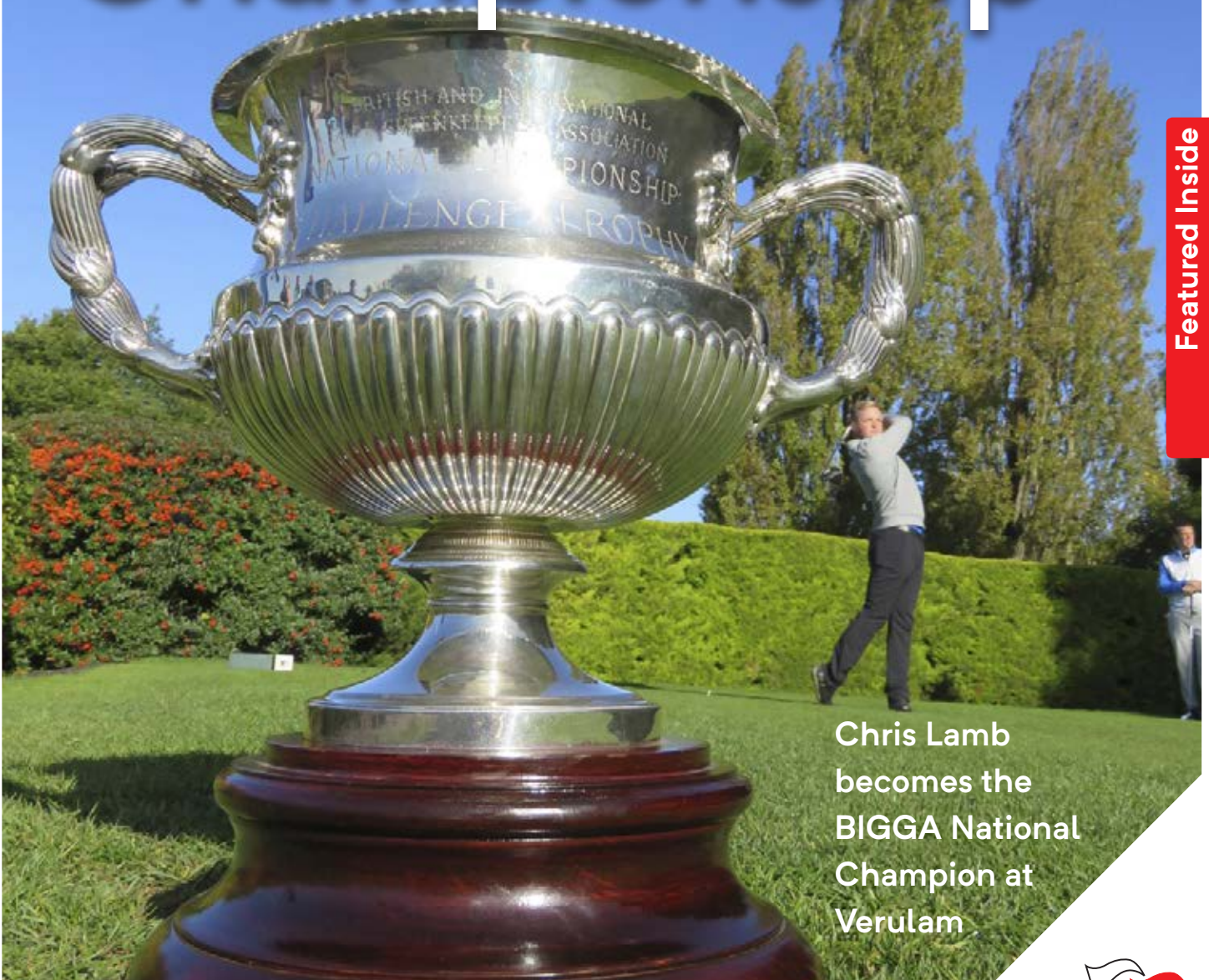




GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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BIGGA National Championship



Featured Inside

Chris Lamb
becomes the
BIGGA National
Champion at
Verulam

Preparing Greens for Winter | Sri Lanka
Tyneside | Pesticide Update | Fleet Maintenance



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Alejandro Reyes

Golf and Courses and Estate Manager,
Le Golf National



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Welcome



BIGGA National Trophy on the first tee at Verulam Golf Club as Darren Abbs of Royal Norwich Golf Club tees off



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

Each year we host a tournament to find BIGGA's best golfer, and in this year's champion, Chris Lamb of Trump International Golf Scotland, I think we can safely say we identified the right man.

Chris is a supremely talented golfer, with a mindboggling handicap of +4 and I'd like to congratulate him on becoming the 30th winner of the BIGGA National Championship. As you would expect at our flagship event, the course was presented beautifully, big thanks to Verulam's Chris Carpenter MG and his team.

Congratulations are also due to the team at Thornbury Golf Centre for their victory in the final of the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy.

The championship provides an opportunity for BIGGA members to spend quality time with club officials and managers, in a neutral setting. The team format means you are all working together for the same goal — wouldn't it be nice if every club was run in a similar manner?

While the National Championship is all about individual glory within the association, in many ways the Golf Management Trophy is a more important event in terms of contributing to our aim of improving the recognition and appreciation of greenkeepers.

Communication has proven itself to be among the most important tools we have when it comes to modern course maintenance, and I'm pleased that once again the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy was not only a tightly-contested affair, but was also able to provide a congenial platform on which club matters could be discussed.

The venue for the final was the superb Red course at Frilford Heath and I took the opportunity to invite representatives of the GCMA and England Golf to participate, demonstrating the sort of collaboration at industry level we need to see in clubs. During my conversations with them it was clear there is an understanding in the upper echelons of the industry of the important roles played by greenkeepers in the success of the game, and the problems they face.

The challenge now is to ensure that knowledge is disseminated down to the everyday golfer who has little awareness of what goes into the maintenance of a course. It's going to take time, but I'm certain we'll get there. The response to our recent poster and fact sheet regarding earthworm control has been heartening, all of the industry bodies have agreed to help distribute the information and we plan to produce further material to assist in other areas.

This month's magazine, as usual, contains many examples of members displaying determination and innovation to overcome challenges. They are two qualities that typically define the greenkeeping industry. And with leaves dropping on to saturated ground nationwide and regulators seemingly targeting turf management with recent decisions on chemicals, they are important qualities to possess.



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From the Editor



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

Celebrating success and diversity

Take a glance over at the contributors who we have spoken to for this month's magazine.

From Dublin to Newcastle via Sri Lanka, and then our 9 hole hero this month operates a small caravan site in East Sussex — what a fantastic example of the variety and breadth not just of our industry, but also of the reach of the Association.

None of these courses have more than five full-time members of staff, and the methods the greenkeeping teams use to overcome the challenges they face are as varied and as innovative as the courses they manage.

Sure, our features focus upon the people — this is a members' magazine after all — but I would wager that there isn't something you could learn from each and every conversation. David Callanan, a Master Greenkeeper who operates on a course near Dublin, has been dealing with the loss of Carbenazim for almost a decade.

Meanwhile, David Simpson up in Tyneside has a very limited budget, and so when the club wanted to open up a new practice facility, they explored the possibility of obtaining grant funding from Sport England.

They're fascinating stories, and whether you work on a parkland, links, heathland, municipal, Open host or any other venue, there's always something to be gained.

It has been a fascinating month within the Association. We've had the grand finals of both the BIGGA National Championship and the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, and

both were a huge success. Congratulations to all the winners, and you can read all about these events in this edition.

There's been the loss of even more products from the greenkeepers' toolbox, and in this edition you'll find the latest updates regarding the loss of Iprodione and the uncertainty relating to Glyphosate.

This month we also published the first in a new series of golfer education literature, this one relating to the loss of Carbenazim. We've sent a poster and a leaflet out to every head greenkeeper and course manager within the Association and these are also available to download directly from our website.

As an aside, check out our new YouTube channel for a range of golfer education videos we've produced with the help of Golfshake. (There's some other projects underway too — details to follow soon.)

You guys have called out to us to help with the ongoing task of educating golfers, and I hope that through these efforts we're able to make your working life a little easier.

This month we're also delighted to reveal the BIGGA members who have been invited to take part in the TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme 2018.

If you're looking to get involved with some of the great member-exclusive opportunities available, be sure to check out our Support Team launches, featured this month.

In this Issue

Our contributors

28 David Callanan MG

When you meet David, there's no doubt about it – he looks like a police officer. And at Beech Park, nothing gets past the course superintendent. He invited Greenkeeper International for a tour of the Dublin club, where we discovered the different challenges faced by golf courses on the other side of the Irish Sea.



34 David Simpson

David has been head greenkeeper at Tyneside, just outside of Newcastle, since 1990. The club has recently installed a practice facility and academy course, but it was the sense of community and close relationship with greenkeepers who had come before that makes this club a special place to be.



54 Paul Jansen

Paul is widely regarded as one of golf's most well-travelled golf course architects. He began his career in the USA before relocating to Europe, where he became lead golf architect for Nick Faldo Design. In 2011 Paul established Jansen Golf Design and Construction, creating highly sustainable and memorable courses.



78 Andy Wight

Andy is a tutor at Oaklands College, and he got in touch with us to talk about a great idea he'd had for the magazine. He thought it would be useful to have a regular page intended to help out those greenkeepers right at the start of their career. We agreed, and that's why this month we're introducing Apprentice Corner into our Career Development section.



Featured this month

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Frilford Heath hosted the grand final of this national team competition

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This Irish course has restored a historic feature to provide an unusual challenge for golfers

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It has been a busy month in the chemicals industry, with the loss of more products

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In conversation with two generations of head greenkeeper

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Warren Bevan of Turfcare takes a look at modern methods of winter preparation

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Verulam produced a brilliant setting for the 30th BIGGA National Championship

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How do you prepare a golf course in one of the world's poorest countries?

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How preventative action has protected the club from disease pressures

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Kubota speaks to Head Greenkeeper Jim Fancey about his maintenance regime

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Keeping equipment in top condition is important all year round – but especially as winter sets in

62 **Product test – Toro**
James de Havilland puts the Toro Greensmaster eFlex 2120 through its paces

Educating golfers

Following the withdrawal of Carbendazim at the end of August 2017, greenkeepers across the UK are coming to terms with the loss of the product, with no clear resolution in place.

As your association, we are working to raise awareness of this situation among golfers, and we have received support from many of the golf industry governing bodies and golf media.

Working with experts within the turf management industry, we have produced a poster and an information leaflet, which we would encourage you to display on your club noticeboard, as a means of highlighting this situation to members of your golf club.

The leaflet provides more in-depth advice, background information and an authoritative voice in your discussions with your employers, committees and golfers.

You can download them in the Members' Area of the website by heading to Education>Resources>Earthworms or by scanning this QR code.



Printed versions of these resources have been distributed to every BIGGA member who is in a management role at a golf club.

BIGGA continues to lobby with the Amenity Forum and other major industry bodies to try and ensure golf's voice is heard by regulators.



Newsdesk

Northern Ireland education day



The presentation in Northern Ireland

More than 75 greenkeepers attended a BIGGA education day in Belfast, intended to increase the association's engagement in Northern Ireland.

The event was hosted by CAFRE at Greenmount College on 24 October and was an opportunity for existing members to connect with BIGGA, as well as inviting other greenkeepers to explore what the association has to offer.

Phillip Snellin, of Donaghadee, said: "It felt like this event was a really good start. I think there were a number of people who didn't know much about what BIGGA was all about, but by the end of the day the room was full of enthusiasm and I'm really looking forward to future meetings."

Accompanying around 20 BIGGA members were a number of other turf professionals who were interested to hear more about the opportunities for

career development and support that BIGGA is able to offer.

Speaking on behalf of the association were CEO Jim Croxton, sustainability executive James Hutchinson, and regional administrator John Young. They were joined by CAFRE's Paul Campbell.

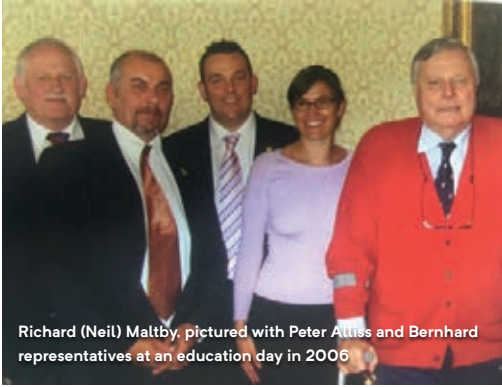
Jim said: "We were delighted by the turn out for the event and the enthusiasm by everyone involved was great to see."

"It was good to meet so many new faces and I'm looking forward to supporting all our members in Northern Ireland, however we are able at what is an exciting time for golf in the country."



There was a great turnout for the event

Richard Maltby



Richard (Neil) Maltby, pictured with Peter Alliss and Bernhard representatives at an education day in 2006

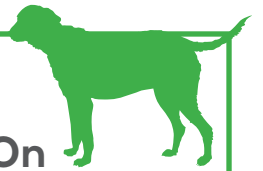
BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of Richard Maltby, a former chairman and president of the Sheffield Section.

Richard, 78, was known as Neil to all within the section and close friend Gordon Brammah MG, course manager at Hallamshire, described him as a "Lively character with an infectious laugh and a great sense of fun".

Richard, pictured above alongside Peter Alliss and representatives of Bernhard at an education day in 2006, was a loyal servant to the Sheffield Section, serving as a committee member, chairman and president. Gordon added: "I was extremely grateful to Neil for his help and guidance throughout my career."



Dogs On Course



Name: Fudge

Age: 9

Owner: Jeremy Harris

Course: Bath

Breed: Capheaton Terrier

Favourite treat: Yoghurt

Favourite spot: Driving range

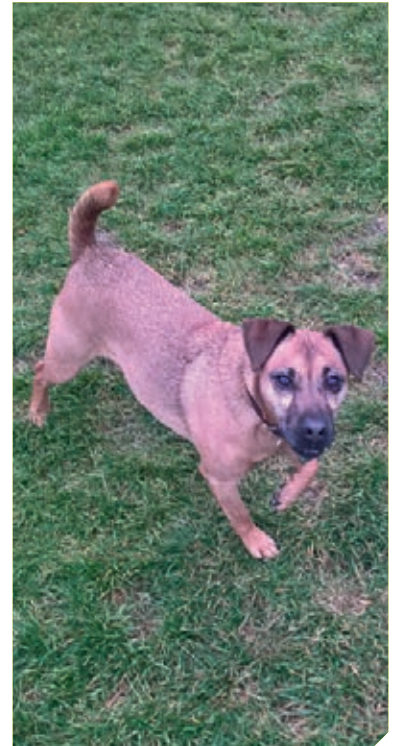
Naughtiest moment: Picking up a ball while one of the members was playing!

Funniest moment: After heavy snowfall while chasing a ball, disappeared into a bunker full of snow

My dog is happiest when...

Helping to collect all the balls on the driving range.

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



Newsdesk

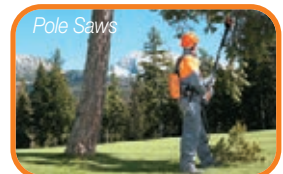
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This month @BIGGALtd



@johnllewellyn84

At work at Beaconsfield Golf Course in 1922 #golfuk



@boshaughnessy

Great turnout & interesting day at the @BIGGALtd event in Greenmount College (NI) today



@coburnsamenity

Won't be able to photograph this one by next October. Another tool gone from the toolbox @BayerTurfUK @BIGGALtd @GCSAI15 #chipco



@stufergusonmg

Young Greenkeepers of Scotland headed to Perthshire meet up for a chat & course walk!! Good day enjoyed by all!! @BIGGALtd @BIGGA_YGC #GoYGS



@robreeves042000

Prep work for PC drainage commencing next week. 1 down, 4 to go #greenkeeping #construction



@LeeGrevo

The dream team #golf #greenkeeper @BIGGALtd - at Beaconsfield Golf Club



@aldeburghcourse

@BIGGALtd @BIGGAEastAnglia Stripping turf ready for the new 13th bunker location #progress #newposition

Greenkeeper salary guidelines

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries has recommended an increase of 2.5% over the 2017 figures.

This figure is based upon the overall average of RPI/CPI and wage inflation percentages.

The CGCS recommended rates of pay packages are guidelines only and, as in many industries, some staff will earn substantially more, while others will earn less, depending on the standing of the golf club.

The CGCS is keen to emphasize that these scales are for 'packages' and should be treated as such, while taking into account individual

and team performance and any increase in responsibility and qualification.

Clubs must also be aware of any changes to pension or employment legislation.

Regional variations will shortly be published and downloadable from the BIGGA and GCMA websites.

Following a periodic review, there have been changes to the structure of the CGCS.

The committee intends to build on its heritage and increase its profile within the golf industry.

A spokesperson for the CGCS said: "The Committee firmly believes that valued professional staff members are critical for golf clubs to perform. Our emphasis will be on the long term and we feel that a different approach needs to be adopted to allow CGCS to have a significant influence on the future standards and professionalism of the industry."

South East regional match

The Heritage course at the London Golf Club saw the first ever South East Region match bring together members from all across the region.

Previous incarnations of the competition had only seen three teams play in the region match. However, a change of format allowed all six sections to enter.

Six players from each section formed a team for the competition, intended to find the region's best golfers. The best five scores counted towards a total.

Regional Chairman Peter Smith, course manager at Birch Grove, said: "The region would like to thank its partners for the day: Ernest Doe, Farmura and Tacit. And without question, thanks to all at London Golf Club for a fantastic day, with the

biggest praise of all to Lee Sayers MG and the team on the Heritage course."

Some great golf was played during the day, with Surrey finishing third, Kent second, and Sussex in first place with a winning score of 182 points. The winning team comprised of Pete Smith, Danny Burchill, David Allen, Anthony Duffield, Matt Hutchinson and Andy Norman.

London Golf Club has recently announced the appointment of Lee Sayers MG as golf courses and estate manager. Lee returned to the club from Mid Kent GC, having previously worked as assistant course manager in 1994, then later as head greenkeeper.

"It's an honour to be coming back to London Golf Club as the golf courses and estate manager," said Lee.



The London Club



The winning team alongside the event sponsors

John Hewson retirement

A large gathering took place at Market Rasen to mark the retirement of long serving head greenkeeper John Hewson.

Family, friends, workmates and members attended to wish John a long, healthy and happy retirement after almost 50 years maintaining and improving the course.

Club President Richard Holmes thanked John for his lifetime of dedicated service. He said: "John has played a massive part in the success of the club.



John Hewson and club president Richard Holmes

"The course is recognised as one of the finest in the county and much of the credit for our reputation should go to John and the team he has left. Without a course of such quality there would not be a club."

John joined the greenkeeping team as an apprentice in 1968 and rose through the ranks to become head greenkeeper in 1978.

In recognition of his many years of hard work and loyalty, John has been granted honorary life membership of the club. He was also presented with an inscribed glass bowl and monies donated by the club and its members.

On behalf of the club, Richard also expressed his gratitude to John's wife Shirley, children Nicola and Simon, and his wider family for the support they have provided over the years.

New head greenkeeper Ben Lowery, formerly of Elsham, began working at the club in early September and John has been generous with his time helping Ben to settle into the role.

Sprayer awards

Ely City head greenkeeper Andy Baker is celebrating after coming runner-up for an award at the Amenity Forum's annual Sprayer Awards.

The winners of the 2017 Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year Awards were announced at the Amenity Forum annual conference.

Andy came runner-up in the Sportsturf category to Chris Phillips, who works for Complete Weed Control.

The other award winners were Nathan Hume of SH Goss and Lee Harrison of Complete Weed Control. All three will attend an awards event hosted by ICL and Syngenta, to be held during BTME in January.



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Across the Board

Sid Arrowsmith MG | Frilford Heath | BIGGA President

Throughout my career in the greenkeeping industry and the 24 years that I have spent at Frilford Heath Golf Club I have been extremely blessed.

I have learned so much as a greenkeeper and have developed so much as a person that it would be impossible to express into words, but suffice to say, it has been a fantastic journey.

BIGGA has members from all walks of life, working on vastly different courses, and all with varying resources. These courses range from the most modest up to the most famous courses in the world.

Their needs vary so much and it is up to the course manager and the greenkeeping staff to have the skills and understanding so that the end product can be delivered.

This diversity is worth celebrating, and during my year as President I have met so many of you at various functions where we have exchanged views and discussed methods, during which I have learned more than I could ever have imagined about the unique challenges that each of you face as you go about your daily working lives, congratulations to you all!

As the old saying goes, behind every successful man there is a woman that needs a new frock! And the lady in question is my wife Catherine. Her endless support and patience while I have been representing the Association both at home and abroad has been very much appreciated.

She has been by my side throughout my career, encouraging me and pushing me

along to be the best that I could be. She was the cornerstone during the period when I was working in Northern Ireland, and the keeper of the castle when I moved to France on a solo adventure. I can never thank her enough for her endless support and inspiration.

I have been very fortunate over the past 24 years to have worked at Frilford Heath. It is a great club, totally supportive and understanding to the needs and requirements of the modern greenkeeper. I would like to thank our Chairman Alistair Booth and his Board for their support during my term as President, they were as overwhelmed with my position as I was.

Thank you to Frilford Heath's three head greenkeepers, who have supported me over the past year. Norman Knox, Alex James and Tim Brown have ensured that the courses have remained in fine condition while I have been otherwise engaged.

This year, as with other years, we have had many tournaments staged on our courses, and during mid-October we saw the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy final bring down the curtain. Congratulations to Thornbury Golf Centre on their victory, it is so encouraging to see club officials working closely together. A successful club will employ good teamwork where the senior management will work as one. Many clubs are achieving this, while perhaps others are not. This is another challenge that faces our industry and mutual respect and collaboration are essential if a club is to prosper.

It has been a great pleasure to represent our incredible Association as President, and I hope that I have done you all proud.

May I wish you all a fine end to the season, an enjoyable festive period and I will see you all at BTME and the other splendours that Harrogate has to offer!



Golf Management Trophy host Frilford Heath also qualified for the final, with Jake Humes, Steve Baxter, Roger Jennings and Maurice Alphandary taking part

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BARONNESS



BATHGATE
SILICA SAND



BERNHARD

RAIN BIRD



Germinal



Mansfield Sand

Wiedemann



TOPSPORT

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



Ecology Roundup



James Hutchinson | BIGGA Sustainability Executive

The current STRI Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year is at it again - Avro Course Manager Eddie Ainsworth is in the process of developing a collection of Solitary Bee boxes.

Around 90% of bees are solitary and do not live in a colony (hence the name, solitary), but these bees are marvellous pollinators, with the Wildlife Trust suggesting they are far more effective at the job than honey bees. It appears to have been a good year for solitaries as most courses I visit have a healthy collection of them in their bunker faces. The South Coast Turf Club was observing solitaries prior to the included photo being taken. Excellent stuff and we look forward to your talk at BTME - keep inspiring us Eddie Ainsworth!

The rough grassland management season is in full swing with many of you nibbling away at the fog, meadow and other such grasses to encourage finer and more desirable types for our friend, the golfer. Take a peek at the superb work carried out by La Moye and Gog Magog.

The team up at Nairn has some exciting news for us: they've found a selection of extremely rare goodies on the course, including Baltic Rush and the massively elusive Salt Marsh Goldenrod.

It wouldn't be an autumn blog without a fungi photo, so here you go! Leyland has an assortment of these bad boys growing on the course, but can you identify them for us? If so, send your answer to me and I'll pass it on. The greenkeeping industry has one or two mycologists milling around and I'm sure one of you can help us out.

In terms of new sightings around our venues, there's been a hatful. A Short-toed Treecreeper is creeping around in Kent, whereas a Two-barred Greenish Warbler is doing its thing in Dorset. There's a Rough-legged Buzzard in Essex (where else) and a Lesser Yellowlegs in Tacumshin, Ireland - I promise that these are all real names. Still on the subject of birdies, here's Northenden's beautiful Sparrowhawk with an afternoon treat.

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



Background:
Rough
management at
Gog Magog

Top to bottom:
Eddie's bee boxes

La Moye
Leyland's fungi

Southwick's
Turf Club

Northenden's
Sparrowhawk

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Around the Globe

Warren Clements | Ingelsta Golfklubb, Sweden

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

Sweden's landscapes are breathtaking, consisting of pine forests, lakes and mountains with many traditional towns that are home to fantastic architecture and castles. The weather changes quickly from below freezing, snow covered dark days in winter to a Mediterranean climate in summer. The most unusual thing is the near 24 hours of daylight around midsummer. I can't get used to going to bed when the sun is still shining.

How would you describe the style of course that you manage?

Ingelsta is a 12-hole 3,600m parkland course with 1.1 hectares of USGA spec greens and excellent practice facilities. Most holes are very tricky with narrow fairways surrounded by unmanaged thick rough consisting of fine fescues, foxtail, quackgrass and wildflowers. What makes our course slightly unusual in Sweden is that we are one of the very few courses that is open all year round. When there is no snow in winter we are open on normal greens that we continue to maintain at 3mm to attract off season revenue. Maintaining greens to a summer standard during winter and going against all the traditional practices to protect the grass is certainly a challenge.

How does greenkeeping in Sweden differ from the UK?

Unlike most of the UK who will see their mowers out at Christmas, almost all courses are closed or play on winter courses or

temporary greens. Four months of winter could potentially be under snow. The season mainly begins in May and ends in September. Like many Scandinavian courses it is a lottery on what winter damage you may face every season. You must be able to accept this, and face up to the challenges to get the playing surfaces back to shape.

What is the best part of living in Sweden?

The Swedish are very friendly, laid-back people known for their high standard of living. They are very forward, outgoing and patriotic and enjoy every moment in life, getting involved in celebrating their long annual traditions.

You also don't have to worry about language at first; almost everybody speaks English as a second language, which is a bonus if you're a little behind on Swedish like me.

What is the worst?

The challenge of re-establishing good grass cover throughout the course every spring after winter damage, especially when we are hit with cold springs.

The long hours of darkness throughout the winter can be a drag. However, this is soon made up for with just less than 24 hours of day light in the summer months.

How does the weather affect your work?

Our main focus is to prepare and carry out the best possible practices to ensure our playing surfaces face the long winter as strong and healthy as possible. We aim



Above left and right:
Ingelsta Golfklubb,
Sweden

to minimise the threat of winter diseases such as snow mould and disorders like crown hydration, desiccation and other winter damage that may occur. Spring consists of repairing any winter damage that may have occurred.

From the challenge of winter, I then usually face a very dry summer. We are situated very close to the sea and constantly get bombarded with drying winds from the coast, keeping the wet weather away from us. The course becomes very much like a links course and suffers burn out and dry patch fairly quickly, so irrigation management is crucial.

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

With the vast areas of natural grasslands we are rich in wildflower that attracts numerous pollinating insects and butterflies as well as a haven for many common adders, even lizards. From a bigger scale we have hare, badger, deer and wild boar roaming the course. The occasional elk sometimes finds its way in from the surrounding woodland and trust me you don't want that 500kg of meat walking on your putting surface.

What is your club management structure like?

The club is privately owned by Stadium, one of Sweden's biggest sports clothes and equipment retailers who also have two other golf courses in the country. There is no board of directors and the members committee does not get involved in the politics of the



club. I am very fortunate be able to make decisions for all changes and improvements. I only need to propose this to my general manager who passes it on to the owner, who so far has granted me permission on all projects and improvements I have requested.

What is the public perception of golf in Sweden?

It seems popular for many during the summer as Sweden's most popular sports are only played

throughout the winter. With a better economy and with Henrik Stenson and Alex Noren hitting the headlines, the public's interest in golf is reviving again.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

It is good to keep in touch with the industry from a networking and educational aspect. I also enjoy the many seminars on offer especially at BTME.

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

Go for it! Life is too short and it's a great opportunity to experience a whole new adventure in culture and lifestyle. Working in this part of the world will challenge your skills in a harsh climate.

Continue to Learn at BTME 2018

With over 240 hours of education all at one unmissable event, Continue to Learn at BTME is your one stop education shop.

Booking is now live, contact the Learning and Development team to find out more.

BIGGA Golf Management Trophy 2017

The team from Thornbury Golf Centre was crowned winners of the 2017 BIGGA Golf Management Trophy after a fine performance of 87 points at Frilford Heath.

The team was comprised of Course Manager Robin Cheney, General Manager Tim Good, Junior Captain Jake Harvey and Vice Captain Dave Lewis.

Robin said: "We had come second in the qualifier to The Kendleshire, who had beaten us by five points, so we weren't massively confident.

"Luckily we dovetailed together really well so I thought we had a chance. Then when second place is read out with 85 points and you know you've scored 87, that was absolutely brilliant, especially for the guys who come to play with me.

"They have been invited into a greenkeeping event and I think they were surprised at how professional it was. I'm happy that

those guys had a little insight into what BIGGA does and what the industry is all about. They will have seen that it is a professional organisation and having the GCMA and England Golf there, again that shows the importance of BIGGA in the wider golf industry, and I think they were really taken aback by that.

"I didn't know about the prize, I was just happy to have won a hamper and so the rest was amazing. Even if we had bombed out in the qualifiers, just the fact that they came and were amazed at how professional it all was will help us back at the club.

"Walking around with them on the course, I was able to explain different things to them, such as the removal of Carbendazim and how it affected the course. There was also badger damage and I was able to explain how even the largest courses don't have any tools to combat that. Even if I was only able to educate three people by wandering the course with them, they will disseminate that to their friends back at the club."

The club received a 33-hour Continue to Learn education bundle at BTME 2018 including eight nights' accommodation to be shared by the winning team, as well as two GolfBIC passes for the club manager or owner which is worth over £500.

L-R: The winning Thornbury team of Jake Harvey, Robin Cheney, Dave Lewis and Tim Good



On a wonderful autumnal day, the Red course at Frilford Heath provided a stern test of golf and was a pleasure to play for all the competitors. Thanks went to all at the club for hosting a fabulous final.

Runner up was the team from Highcliffe Castle, comprised of Head Greenkeeper Mike Cartwright, Mike Allen, Peter Bricknell and Paul Sadler.

Prizes were presented by BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton and England Golf CEO Nick Pink.

Jim said: "Having spent some time with Nick and Mike Hyde, of the GCMA, we were all in agreement that golf clubs that have the most success from a management aspect are the ones

where everyone works closely together and has a fantastic relationship. This is what makes the Golf Management Trophy so special, as it provides a neutral venue for teams to engage in conversation and come to a better understanding of the challenges faced.

"Congratulations to the team from Thornbury, and to everyone who qualified for the finals. Thanks also to everyone who took part in the regional qualifying events, and I hope that through the time they were able to spend together out on the course, better relationships have been built between management teams, and these can translate to more success across the entire golf club."

Top left: Tiverton team of George Stephens, Mike Holder, David Bodger and Andy Bolt

Bottom left: St Michael's team of Don Simpson, Ewan McGregor, Adam Turner, Shaun McLaren

Top right: Halifax West End team of Rob Turner, Chris Gilling, Les Carmen and Derek Turton

Middle right: Runners-up were the team from Highcliffe Castle, comprising of Mike Allen, Peter Brickwell, Paul Sadler and Mike Cartwright

Bottom right: The Kendleshire team of Craig Fudge, Paul Shurety, Dave Gover and Mike Hart

Prize list

1st: Thornbury Golf Centre, Tim Good, Jake Harvey, Robin Cheney, Dave Lewis, 87pts

2nd: Highcliffe Castle, Mike Allen, Peter Brickwell, Paul Sadler, Mike Cartwright, 85pts

Nearest the pin: Dave Gover, The Kendleshire

Longest drive: Don Simpson, St Michael's





YGGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Sami Strutt | Head of Member Development | BIGGA

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Introducing the Young Greenkeepers' Conference, supported by Baroness.

Working closely with the Young Greenkeepers Committee, BIGGA has developed the Young Greenkeepers' Conference to take place during Continue to Learn at BTME 2018.

Hosted by the Young Greenkeepers' Committee, the programme has been specifically designed with young greenkeepers, or those new to the greenkeeping industry, in mind. The conference will provide education specifically selected to benefit all attendees as well as providing valuable networking opportunities.

The conference will feature four sessions:

Getting from A to B: Tips to help you identify and achieve your career goals.

Presented by Sam Evans, head greenkeeper at Fulwell GC

Social Media — Do's and Don't's: Harness the power of social media to enhance your career prospects.

Presented by David Standing, Accordant Partners

Future Proofing Greens Management: Understand how steps taken now can help towards a future with less fungicides.

Presented by Mark Hunt, technical director at Headland Amenity

Greenkeeping is a Great Career! A first hand story of achieving career goals, the highs and lows, the sacrifices and the successes.

Presented by James Bledge, course manager at Royal Cinque Ports GC

Attendees will also get the chance to discuss opportunities for funding, scholarships, internships, what's available from BIGGA and more!

We look forward to welcoming you.

The Young Greenkeepers Conference is open to both BIGGA members and non members and costs only £20+VAT to attend (including lunch and refreshments). Senior colleagues are also welcome to attend.

The Young Greenkeepers Conference will take place on Wednesday 24 January from 10.30am to 2pm at The Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate, HG1 2HU.

To book visit:



www.btme.org.uk/education/young-greenkeepers-conference/

Or scan the QR code above.



Pictured right top to bottom:
David Standing
James Bledge
Mark Hunt
Sam Evans





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EcoBunker appoints MG

One of the longest serving and most highly qualified BIGGA members, Huw Morgan MG, is taking up a new challenge with bunker construction specialists, EcoBunker Ltd.

Huw said: "I've been in the industry for over 32 years now, including challenging and enjoyable times at Southerndown, Wildernesse, Ashburnham and most recently Pennard. It is an industry that I have always been passionate about and golf runs deep through my family.

"Sustainability and innovation have always been key drivers

for me, and I share EcoBunker's philosophy, which is to deliver innovative, low maintenance solutions without any compromise on aesthetics or playing performance."

EcoBunker's Richard Allen said he was delighted with Huw's appointment given his long relationship with the product.



Kubota launch

Machinery manufacturer Kubota UK offered groundcare professionals an exclusive insight into the industry's most innovative machinery at this year's SALTEX exhibition, with the launch of its latest compact tractors and ride-on mowers.

Debuted machines included the B1 and B2 Series compact tractors, the BX231 compact tractor and the ZD1211 zero turn mower. Kubota's latest B1 machines include standard spec compact tractors ranging from 12hp to 24hp, while the B2 line up features premium spec machines between 20hp and 31hp.

Adrian Langmead, business development manager for Kubota UK's Groundcare Division, said: "Visitors received an exclusive preview of a number of new machines that will be introduced into our industry leading range throughout 2018. These models have all been designed to exceed the ever-changing needs of the market and are being launched as part of our ongoing commitment to provide the best in the sector.

"Our products have earned a fantastic reputation for innovation, reliability and quality. The latest machines being launched continue to build on this, with a number of key features to maximise productivity, power and comfort. In addition, we have introduced our latest Kubota Care on our L Series tractors, offering unique extended warranty to provide customers with complete peace of mind."

Adrian continued: "As always, SALTEX is a great platform to showcase new solutions to groundsmen, greenkeepers, estate managers and turf professionals. We had a fantastic time meeting with everyone to discuss our current and latest product ranges."



Kubota ZD1211



Kubota B2311

Beith closure

One of the oldest clubs in Ayrshire is due to close.

Beith Golf Club was founded in 1896, but at the most recent EGM, members decided to wind up the club, effective in just two months.

The club had suffered a decline in membership, to the point where

the membership were not in a position to guarantee future losses.

Beith councillor Donald Reid said: "It is obviously regrettable that an organisation with such a long and distinguished history is winding up.

"Because there are sufficient funds for the club to meet their debts, this is the time to act."

Rod Feltham passing

The association was saddened to hear of the passing of Avoncrop Amenity Products founder Rod Feltham.

A spokesperson for the turf management product supplier announced the passing of its founder and chairman, adding that Rod passed away peacefully on Friday 20 October.

He leaves behind his wife Jennifer, children Johanna and Jonathan and grandson Oliver.



golfindustria.es

Do you want to expand your business in the Spanish market?

Spain has one of the most dynamic golf industries in Europe, and is a favourite destination of British, Nordic and Central European golfers. Spain has almost 400 golf courses, many of them world-class resorts continually looking for the best suppliers, innovative products and services that allow them to stand out from their competitors.

If you want to expand your business in Spain and to participate successfully in the Spanish golf industry, the best way is golfindustria.es. We are the preferred website for a large number of professionals in the golf industry (decision makers include owners, directors, greenkeepers, etc.) Our publications are always in Spanish and reach practically all the golf courses in the country.

You can visit our site, plus join our suppliers directory for free!



Ask Dr Mumford

With Colin Mumford, Bayer Turf Solutions

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

Question: I've heard pesticide labels are legal documents, is that true?

Yes, pesticide labels are heavily regulated by the Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) and contain important legal guidelines that must be adhered to.

Each pesticide product label contains information that includes: what you can treat, when you can apply, where you can apply, number of applications allowed, how you can apply, rate to use, volume of water to use, what PPE you should wear, and how to dispose of the container

It's imperative that all instructions on the label are followed, but there are a few key points to highlight.

There's a restriction on the number of times a product can be applied. This helps to ensure active ingredients aren't excessively applied, and therefore minimises the risk of resistance, and limits effects on the environment.

Greenkeepers should ensure products are applied as per the label rate, because this is the minimum amount that will achieve control. Using any less than the label rate is unlikely to be successful and can lead to resistance.

Another key point to take note of is the buffer zone. This dictates the area that must be allowed between the point of application and a water body, to prevent contamination.

However, some products have a LERAP code on the label. This enables the user to reduce the buffer zone if it is safe to do so and certain criteria are met.

Finally, greenkeepers shouldn't forget that label text is updated year on year, due to the ever-changing regulatory environment. Each time you buy a new pack, check the label in case changes have been made.

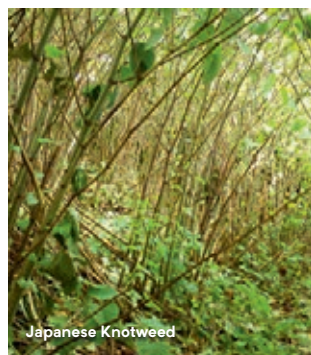
Tweet us your turf questions @BIGGALtd using #AskDrMumford for your chance to win a hamper!

Japanese knotweed

An updated code of practice has been launched for the management of Japanese knotweed.

The code of practice contains the most up-to-date advice for those who encounter, or need to manage, land that is susceptible to or infested with the invasive plant.

David Layland, joint manager at Japanese Knotweed Control, said: "Last year's campaign, Gone But Not Forgotten, proved incredibly helpful in debunking the many myths and misconceptions surrounding Japanese knotweed. The new code of practice will prove just as useful; helping readers to navigate complex legislation such as that of waste and biodiversity, while outlining management options to control



infestations in a way that reduces risk and saves time and money."

The INNSA code of practice foreword has been written by Trevor Renals of the Environment Agency and the code has been co-authored by the Invasive Non-Native Specialists Association alongside Japanese Knotweed Control.



New machinery releases

Innovation

STIHL AR 1000

STIHL's battery range continues to expand with the introduction of the new AR 1000 lithium-ion backpack battery, the lightest of those featured in its PRO cordless range.



Detachable rain cover means use is not dictated by weather conditions.



Harness with waist and chest strap comes as standard.

Slim ergonomic design allows 5.5kg weight to be carried closer to the operator's back, increasing comfort during operation.



When used in conjunction with the AL 500 charger, the AR 1000 backback batter can be charged in as little as two hours.

USB port allows the user to charge devices such as mobile phones.



Battery backpack enables extended use of STIHL cordless products such as hedge trimmers, blowers and brush cutters.

Potential runtime on a single charge:
HSA 94 R and T hedge trimmers: 380 minutes
FSA 130 and 130 R brush cutters: 230 minutes
BGA 100 blower: 225 minutes.

Industry Update

Germinal to establish research station

Amenity grass seed specialist Germinal is to establish its own research station to spearhead a new programme of trials and development work.

The 11-acre facility, located near Melksham in Wiltshire, will be managed by grass trials specialist Dr Joanna Matthews.

Germinal GB Managing Director Paul Billings said he believes the development will create a knowledge hub that will enable professional sports turf and amenity grass

specialists to improve the performance and aesthetics of their green spaces.

He said: "In a competitive market where only the best cultivars and seed mixtures will suffice, having a bespoke R&D facility will allow Germinal to showcase market-leading varieties, test innovative ideas in UK conditions, and demonstrate at a local level alternative grass seed species or turf management systems that we are bringing in from around the world."



Dr Joanna Matthews

Brand new Turf Chemistry...
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Membership

BIGGA's Largest-ever THE PLAYERS Sawgrass team

BIGGA has revealed the six members who have been invited to join the course preparation team at THE PLAYERS Championship in May.

Held each year at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, THE PLAYERS Championship is considered by many to be golf's 'fifth' major and as such it presents an incredible opportunity for BIGGA members to gain a huge amount of experience, in a once-in-a-lifetime setting.

And for the first time this year, John Deere has expanded the programme, allowing an international member to join in.

The successful BIGGA members who have been selected to join the programme are:

Scottish Region — Paul Armour, course manager at Dunbar Golf Club

Northern Region — Joe Barnes, greenkeeper at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club

Central England Region — Nicholas Thorley, greenkeeper at Little Aston Golf Club.

South West and South Wales Region — Jamie Blake, head greenkeeper at Broadway Golf Club.

South East Region — Antony Kirwan, deputy course manager at Aldeburgh Golf Club

International — Craig Cameron, Golf Club St Leon Rot in Germany.

From the iconic Island Green on the 17th hole to its recent renovation, TPC Sawgrass is home to THE PLAYERS Championship each spring, and next year will take place from 8-13 May 2018.

The six BIGGA members will receive travel, accommodation, food and uniform as they join the team at the legendary venue for the





JOHN DEERE

BMW PGA Wentworth Support Team

The European Tour has once again requested the assistance of BIGGA members in preparing the course for its flagship event, the BMW PGA Championship.

Taking place on the iconic West Course at The Wentworth Club, the BIGGA Support Team will assist Director of Courses and Grounds Kenny Mackay in ensuring the course is in top condition.

It's a fantastic week to gain tournament experience at one of the largest tournaments held in the United Kingdom as during the week of the championship, BIGGA members will be fully integrated into the Wentworth greenkeeping team.

Vincent DeMarzo, of Wildernesse, volunteered for the 2017 event and said: "Being part of the BIGGA Support Team for Wentworth was a fantastic experience I would recommend to anyone. Not only do you gain great experience through it in terms of how high the standards are set, but you also gain a great chance to network. Both within the BIGGA Support Team and the resident greenkeepers at Wentworth, there was a great atmosphere, which made the whole week even more enjoyable."

The BIGGA
Support Team at
Wentworth 2017



Continued over

PC selected

entire duration of the competition, courtesy of BIGGA Partner John Deere.

THE PLAYERS Championship is made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of a volunteer course preparation force of over 90 volunteers from 14 different countries, who join the home greenkeeping team in getting the course in shape for this major event.

Following the final day's play, before heading home, the greenkeepers will even get the opportunity to attempt to hit the 17th hole's famous island green. In 2017 Richard Johnstone, course manager at Nairn Dunbar, was successful in his attempt and won the actual flag used during the tournament as a prize.

A spokesperson for TPC Sawgrass said: "At the end of the day, the volunteers make all the hard work of our tremendous staff really shine. They also get invaluable experience in preparing a course in exacting, television close-up standards, as well as the opportunity to network and learn."

Michael Burgin, of Normanby Golf Club in Scunthorpe, was a delegate in 2015 and said: "The easiest way to describe my whole TPC Sawgrass experience would be to say 'truly amazing'. This was golf at its very best and I feel privileged to have been part of it. It was great to see so many people from all over the world, working together for one special event."

In 2017, South Korean Si Woo Kim became the youngest winner in PLAYERS Championship history at the age of 21.



Membership News

BMW PGA Wentworth Support Team

Members of the support team will be on site from the Sunday prior to the event until the following week, when the event reaches its thrilling conclusion. Responsibilities vary and include early morning and course preparation after play has concluded each day.

And you never know just what duties will arise — just ask Tony Bartram, who was enlisted as championship beekeeper when he removed a swarm of bees that had taken up residence on the 18th hole prior to the start of the final day's play.

Support team members who are interested in taking on extra responsibilities will also have the opportunity to join matches on the Saturday and Sunday of the event to undertake bunker raking duties.

In terms of hands-on experience of producing a course at the highest level, there are few opportunities to compare.

Additionally, the championship will once again be a part of the Rolex Series, with an increased prize fund that last year attracted some of the biggest names in the sport.

Full BIGGA Members can apply for a place on the support team, by completing the application form included within their Greenkeeper International pack this month or download it from the website.

'Being part of the BIGGA Support Team for Wentworth was a fantastic experience I would recommend to anyone.'

Vincent DeMarzo
Wilderness



Be a part

Golf has been played at Carnoustie since the early 16th Century, and the historic venue's Championship Course is considered among one of the toughest links layouts in the world.

As BIGGA patron Sir Michael Bonallack put it: "When the wind is blowing, it is the toughest course in Britain. And when it's not blowing, it's probably still the toughest."

Once again, the R&A has requested the help of BIGGA members to assist course manager Sandy Reid and his excellent team throughout the tournament, which takes place from 15–22 July 2018.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: The Open is considered to be the greatest golf tournament in the world — it's certainly the most historic of the four majors — and as such the host venue must be prepared in the finest condition. I'm certain that Sandy, Craig and all the Carnoustie team will have the famous venue in perfect condition for the world's best players.

The BIGGA Open Support Team is a fantastic opportunity for our members to play a small part in the world's greatest golf tournament."

Probably the most famous of all the Open memories to have taken place at Carnoustie was in 1999. Rather than a scene of golfing brilliance, it was an epic meltdown that has entered into championship folklore. Jean Van de Velde, hoping to become France's second Open Champion, led by three strokes on the 72nd tee, but his second shot took a bounce off a grandstand railing and finished in thick



t of history

Don't forget...

You can also download the application forms from the members area of the website



rough. From there he chipped into the Barry Burn, from which he was forced to take a penalty drop, despite rolling up his trousers and considering playing. His next shot landed in a bunker and he finished with a triple-bogey 7. This meant a play-off with Justin Leonard and Scottish hero Paul Lawrie, who won with birdies at the 17th and 18th holes.

Support Team members may be called upon at short notice to help out with early morning preparation work and divoting duties. With early tee times and golf being played



Jean Van de Velde's infamous meltdown in 1999
Ross Kinnaird/Getty Images

until nightfall, the week is intense and demanding for each member of the team. But it's also incredibly rewarding and from inside the ropes you will get a view of The Open unlike any other.

From 'Hogan's Open of 1953 via Tom Watson's victory in 1975 to Pdraig Harrington narrowly avoiding 'doing a Van de Velde' after twice landing in the Barry Burn in 2007, Carnoustie has been the scene of some of the greatest moments in Open history.

Carnoustie by David Cannon/Getty Images



In 2018 more great memories will be made, and as a BIGGA member you have the opportunity to be a part of the action, watching from a money-can't-buy viewpoint while helping to ensure the tournament goes off without a hitch.

Full BIGGA Members can apply for a place on the support team, by completing the application form included within their Greenkeeper International pack this month or download it from the website.

Padraig Harrington won The Open the last time it was held at Carnoustie
David Cannon/Getty Images.



In conversation with David Callanan CGCS MG

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Beech Park

Beech Park has been located on a part of the famous Johnstown Estate, outside of Dublin, since 1983.

As such it is a parkland setting with a number of historic features, the most impressive of which is a ha-ha, a sunken stone wall that runs the entire length of the course, splitting it in two.

A major project is underway to restore the ha-ha, which will take a number of years to complete. But in doing so it will provide a unique selling point to make Beech Park stand out from its competitors.

Course Superintendent David Callanan CGCS MG has been at the club for more than a decade.

He sat down with Karl Hansell to discuss how UK greenkeepers can learn from the challenges faced by greenkeepers across the Irish Sea.

How did the economic crash in Ireland hit your course?

I was lucky and unlucky when I took over. We were in the middle of a programme for irrigation installation, putting in a totally new system. Tees, greens and approaches for €320,000 and

a new maintenance facility for €650,000. Had it been a few years later, we would never have got that money. That's the debt on the course, but the course wouldn't be in the condition it is without that investment.

Over in Ireland you're a few years ahead of the UK in terms of banned chemicals, but behind in terms of new products coming on to the market.

"Product availability is a big problem. We got a sense over the last 10 years of a lot of products being taken off the market, and not a lot of new ones coming in.

"We have definitely been hurt by the amount of fungicides that have been lost. Then, if they are bringing something into the UK, it is going to land here a year or so after.

"Greenkeeping has to become more holistic, where you are looking to do the simple things right, like sanding, irrigation or verticutting.

"You have to be on top of all your organic matter control because the fungicides that were there in the past are not there to save you.

"If you are doing a good aeration programme then I believe this means doing a little and often. You are not doing major work and destroying the greens for six weeks, rather you are doing small, little verticutting that you do on a Monday, and by Friday nobody knows you have done anything."

Carbendazim was banned in Ireland in 2010. This is an issue that UK greenkeepers are only beginning to face. What have you learned in the past seven years that could help them out?

"In 11 years I have only sprayed pesticides five times. I don't really have a pest issue out here. We have been topdressing our fairways for about 20 years and we find that keeps the worms down. Continuing that is important, because we don't have carbendazim.

"Some may feel tempted to spray illegal products, but they shouldn't. It's your reputation on the line and your reputation is everything."

Background:
The ha-ha that splits the course in two

Right: David Callanan CGCS MG

Continued over

‘Greenkeeping has to become more holistic, where you are looking to do the simple things right...’

Beech Park



Beech Park Golf Club

Greens staff

David Callanan CGCS MG,
course manager

Denis Doherty, mechanic

Joe Kennedy, greenkeeper

Gary Duffy, greenkeeper

Rory Sweeney, greenkeeper

Shane O'Neill, seasonal
greenkeeper

Rody Kilbride, intern

Alan McGuire, intern

Machinery

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Toro 5610 | Charterhouse brush |
| John Deere 2500 A | topdresser |
| Toro 3420 | Ultra Plant spinner |
| Toro 3250 | topdresser |
| Toro 3500 D | Green Tech brush |
| Jacobsen HR 500 | Green Tech vibrating |
| 2x Toro 1600 | pedestrian rollers |
| 3x John Deere 220A | Smithco Super Star 1000 |
| Pedestrian greens mowers | 2x Knapsack sprayers |
| New Holland TN 60 | Debris blowers/ collection |
| John Deere 4310 | Buffalo vacuum |
| 3x John Deere HPX | Buffalo blower |
| John Deere Pro Gator 2030 | 2x backpack blowers |
| Toro Procore 648 | |



Greenkeepers in Ireland have come to terms with problems that UK guys are only just now uncovering. In your experience has overcoming hardships made them better in the long run?

"I've worked with English guys who are good, but I think Irish guys are better. We are damn good at what we do in Ireland. It's not fair to say we work harder, but I think we produce a lot with what we have. The difficulties we have faced have made us better greenkeepers in the end."

Growing a poa course with limited options for chemical input seems like it could have the potential for disaster. How do you overcome this?

"Our greens are made up of 95% annual meadowgrass, but the turf is really fine due to the cultural practices we have in place. Other than seeing the seedheads, most people wouldn't realise its meadowgrass. Then, once you stay on top of your disease issues you are in good order."

"We've had a changing mindset in terms of fertility. We are down to a situation where we are liquid feeding a lot more. Of the 135kgs we use on the course each year, 80% is liquid and just 20% is granular. The granulars are kept even lower in the spring because I don't want to push on seedhead development. Not feeding the grass too much is a trend that has been tried and has had some success here. Some guys are using colourants and painting the greens to mask the fact they have



In the maintenance
facility at Beech Park

seedheads. Once the ball is rolling well, the golfer is happy."

Have you ever been tempted to attempt a species interchange to alleviate these problems?

"There's a trend of trying to convert poa to fescue and I don't believe that's a good idea for here right now because there's stuff out there at the moment to help you. Why bring the hassle on yourself to try and convert the grass if you don't need to?"

"You are putting yourself in line for criticism for very little benefit."

"Get an agronomist to advise you if the club are leaning that way. But in the end, I think you are giving a club a stick to beat you with."

You have gained both the Certified Golf Course Superintendent and the Master Greenkeeper certificates. Why do you think education is so important, and how do you pass this message on to your team?

"Education is huge. You can't just fall along like you did in the past. Products have changed and the continuous education is huge. There are less than 30 people in the world with both the Master Greenkeeper and Certified Golf Course Superintendent accreditation. But just because I've achieved that it doesn't mean I can stop. The guy who sits still is going to be left behind."

"I started at the K Club in 2000, before going on the Ohio State Program. That was the best 18 months of my life and I would



encourage any young guy in the industry to get out on the programme. It opens your eyes to what can be done when you have budgets so big you think they are unlimited.

"It opens your eyes to a different culture, gets you away from the comforts of home and you have to find your own feet and develop as a person. What I learned in 18 months in America would have taken me five years in Ireland."

In your experience, how have you overcome resistance in your club management structure?

"As a superintendent, I need to portray a professional image. I meet with the committee once a month for about an hour. I listen to them, they listen to me, we work off the same hymn sheet and I send out a message to them.

"I take it away from just cutting grass by talking about fertilisers and restrictions on fungicides. We sit down together and work out the calendar of events for the year that works for my work schedule and their golfing enjoyment."

You're also a member of the club's finance committee, which is quite unusual. How did that come about?

"I fought hard for it when I first came as I wasn't happy with them saying 'That's the budget you are given'. In 2012 the club captain asked whether there was anything I needed, and I said I needed to be on the finance committee because it allows me to understand the finances of the club so I can make realistic requests. Then when we make requests of each other, we know why and I can fight my own corner better."

You've talked about the close relationship you've built with your committee, and how regular contact with the general manager and professional help you achieve your goals. But what about golfers in general, how important is communicating with your regular, casual golfer?

"I have found that if it's green, it rolls well and they are sinking their putts, that's all they care about."

"They need to know why you aerate, but they don't need to know that there's 20 different ways to do it. They just need to know this is the system you have in place based on your calendar and based on your resources and what your problems are.

"Golfers also need to know that the guy down the road is doing it his way because that's what's right for his course. It may not be the same for your course."

You're suggesting that communicating with other greenkeepers is just as important as communicating with golfers?

"Guys in the locality should be chatting so they know what everyone is doing. If one guy is hollowtining, the other guys in the area should know that, so when golfers say 'the guy down the road has great greens' you can explain why that's the case.

"Eighty per cent of the golfers that come to your course will have played another in the locality and that's who they will judge you against."

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Pesticide Updates

The latest course updates on chemicals

A lot has been happening in terms of registrations since the last update. The non-inclusion of Iprodione on Annex 1 has the largest impact for greenkeepers.

The process from now onwards is that the revocation process for fully approved Iprodione based products which include Chipco Green, Mascot Rayzor and Surpass plus all the parallel brands registered on the back of Chipco Green plus the co-formulated product Interface will begin.

Once EU publishes the results of their findings, which is likely to be mid-November, the member states

will have 20 days to publish their revocation time lines for:

1. Last sales date for approval holders
2. Last sales date for distributors
3. Use by date for end users

No guidelines have been issued to date.

The reason for non-inclusion on Annex 1 is predominately

the toxicity and potential environmental damage the active ingredient could produce. Registration experts are expecting a short revocation period of three months for approval holders and distributors, this is likely to be end of March 2018. End users may only have an additional three months to use up product purchased. If these dates are confirmed by the UK registration authorities it will be illegal to store any products containing Iprodione. These products will have to be collected by certificated waste contractor and destroyed in a suitable manner.

For resistance management, the loss of Iprodione will remove one

UK – Fungicide FRAC mode of action periodic table

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| M multisite | 2 dicarboximides | 3 sterol biosynthesis inhibitors | 7 carboxamides (SDHIs) | 11 Qols | 12 phenylpyrroles | 33 phosphates |
| protein-protein bonds | os-2 histidine kinase in osmotic regulation pathways | sterol integration in cell membranes DMI | mitochondrial respiration in complex II SDHI | mitochondrial respiration in complex III (cyt b) Strobs | as-1 histidine kinase in osmotic regulation pathways | unknown |
| Ch chlorathalonill | Ip iprodione | Pr prepiconazol | Fr fluopyram | Tf trifloxystrobin | Fd fluidioxonil | |
| | | Tb tebuconazole | | Py pyraclostrobin | | |
| | | Di difenoconazole | | Az Azoxystrobin | | |

of the seven modes of action available to end users — see periodic table.

The table lists the mode of action and active ingredients registered in the UK.

Going forward, greenkeepers will need to understand how best to use the range of active ingredients which make up the formulated product available for fungicide spray programmes.

This will require an integrated approach to all aspects of managing the fungicide element as the remaining modes of action will need to be used earlier in the disease life cycle.

2,4D

The inclusion of 2,4D on Annex 1 has now been completed — the recommendation to member states is to reduce the ai level per ha to 750 g/ha. The UK authorities will soon be publishing the label changes to match this reduced level of active ingredient. This change will have no impact on the remaining Managed Amenity Turf herbicides containing 2,4D because the registered product do not exceed the 750g/ha maximum application dose.

Hormone based herbicides

In the new year, we will see a number of changes to hormone based herbicides in terms of the maximum grams of individual active ingredient that can be applied per calendar year to turf.

Herbicides at a glance

Rescue Graminicide

Rescue Graminicide is now in the revocation process with last sales in June 2018 and a use by date of June 2019.

Glyphosate

The Glyphosate debate continues. The likely decision date will now be delayed until December. To obtain a qualified majority at the SCoPAFF, either Germany or Italy need to vote in favour.

If a qualified majority cannot be obtained, the decision moves to the commission. They have already indicated they will not force a decision either way. This means the decision will enter the same appeals that occurred prior to the extension 18 months ago. The farming and amenity sectors are lobbying hard to obtain a minimum 10-year extension for Glyphosate.

Iprodione removal



Dollar Spot

One of the most widely-used active ingredients in turf and agriculture is to be outlawed following the latest meeting of an EU committee.

The Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) has ruled for the non-inclusion of iprodione, used in a range of products including offerings from Bayer and Headland Amenity.

Bayer produces Interface and Chipco Green, the UK's top selling contact fungicide, and the chemical company's professional product manager Steve Bishop said: "Unfortunately the loss of iprodione will reduce the available turf fungicide groups back to five, meaning that rotation strategy remains a critical element of integrated disease management.

"With other chemicals also due for assessment, a further reduction in the number of products on the market, and therefore the number of available groups for rotation, for turf disease control is not out of the question."

Iprodione is a contact or locally systemic fungicide used to control a range of diseases.

In agriculture it protected crops including grapes, potatoes, rice and onions, while in turfgrass it has been recommended for the treatment of a wide range of diseases, including anthracnose, dollar spot, fusarium patch, leaf spot, red thread and rust.

Introduced in 1997, other products that include iprodione include Headland Amenity's Surpass Pro and Rigby Taylor's Mascot Rayzor.

However, the ingredient has been found to be a possible cause of pulmonary problems and to be a probable human carcinogen.

Due to the impact on human health, the withdrawal of the product is likely to be across a short time scale, with forecasts suggesting the usage period could expire as soon as autumn next year.

Listening to your elders

Tyneside Golf Club

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Tyneside Golf Club

As hordes of fans followed Rory McIlroy around Close House and Paul Dunne chipped in to claim his first-ever European Tour victory at the British Masters, across the Tyne Valley the members of Tyneside Golf Club looked on, with not entirely envious eyes.

Steve Pope and
David Simpson





With its huge resources, Close House is the golfing superpower in these parts. But with a history dating back to 1879 and a loyal membership and staff, Tyneside is a close-knit club. There's a paid greenkeeping team of just five, but the sense of community is so strong that during our visit a former head greenkeeper popped in to say hello, while another former greenkeeper helps maintain the club's new practice facilities.

Huge amounts of money or a close-knit community: how do you define a successful club?

Head Greenkeeper David Simpson has been in charge of maintaining the parkland course since 1990, when he took over from Steve Pope.

Continued over

Help applying for a Sport England grant

Sport England is focused on helping people and communities across England create a sporting habit for life. It supports sporting good causes with funding from the National Lottery and central Government.

Sport England provides funding for projects that help people aged 14 and above to play sport, develop individuals and groups who show sporting talent, and fund the creation and redevelopment of community sports facilities across the country.

Grants awarded by Sport England range in size from a few hundred pounds to buy new sporting equipment, to a few million pounds to build a new sports centre.

Since 2009 Sport England has provided funding for 138 different projects aimed at developing the game of golf, providing grants ranging from £850 to aid with emergency flood relief at Maryport, up to £150,000 to redevelop the clubhouse at Farnham Park Golf Course.

Tyneside Golf Club received a total of £67,150 through the Inspired Facilities grant, which is just one of a range of funding sources available.

The Inspired Facilities programme will refurbish and upgrade club facilities and convert existing buildings into venues suitable for community sport.

Improvements are grouped into five areas:

- Building modernisation
- Outdoor sports lighting
- Outdoor sports surfaces
- Community club buildings
- Sports equipment — as long as the project contains building work

For more information about applying for grants, head to www.sportengland.org



LOTTERY FUNDED



BIGGA life member Steve, retired for 27 years, still talks to Dave on a regular basis and although greenkeeping has moved on a long way in the past few decades, that doesn't mean the wisdom of previous generations should be ignored.

Dave explained: "Steve spent years dedicating his life to maintaining the course. Despite all the hardships and the lack of equipment, they still produced a fine course with a fantastic reputation. Now the next generation have moved in and it's changed again. Then when I am gone, someone else will come in, putting right what I got wrong, moving forward.

"Over the years I have picked Steve's brains so much. Anybody with any sense takes advantage of the experience from people who know. There aren't many problems that come up that he hasn't encountered. I will have a problem and Steve will say 'we had that in 1978 and this is what we did', or something similar."

When Steve joined the club in 1952, greenkeepers weren't allowed to go up the front step of the clubhouse. If they needed to enter, they would have to go around to the back door.

Now, aged 86, he recalls what greenkeeping was like at Tyneside, when the club was half the age it is today.

"When I first started there was only a greenkeeper, a professional and a bar manager. We had to fill the shelves in the bar with beer before we could go out and start cutting grass.


"There were three hand mowers and a knackered old Massey Ferguson tractor. The rough was only cut twice a year and there was a bunker for nearly every day of the year. But I would say to myself, I have the best job in the world.

"I used to work in the pit and I would walk into work down the lane beside the course with my backpack on. I would see the old gadjies walking down the fairway and I thought, that's it, I'm not going back. I quit my job and got one here at the club."

Equipment has moved on in leaps and bounds since then, and the team is slightly larger. What is it, then, that keeps Steve coming back to visit his old stomping ground?

Dave said he believes it's something in the local culture, that sees knowledge passed on from generation to generation. He added: "There's a lot of industry within the north east, where you get groups of people that have a common passion. The style of the north-eastern person is built on community. Even when you don't know somebody from another course, if you are doing something



 Above left: Looking towards the 10th tee

Above right: Historic photo of the 8th green

they are thinking of doing, the first thing you want to do is help. If you can find a course that's had a similar problem, it's not an issue to call up and ask for advice, and that's what's great about this industry. Knowledge is there to be shared and although I know there are some who are guarded, the vast majority believe in passing it on.

"We have a good staff, it feels solid and secure and there's a future at Tyneside. My last job, I couldn't get around the fact they didn't care. There's a passion for the job and I enjoy sitting with the lads and talking. Sometimes there are heated discussions, but at other times it's great and you just see pride. As much as you come to work for money, you come to work for job satisfaction, which makes this a really good job to have."

Tyneside sits just eight miles outside of Newcastle city centre, and by an odd quirk the club isn't actually beside the river, rather it's in the village of Ryton. Instead, Ryton Golf Club is below Tyneside, sitting on the bank of the Tyne. It's the kind of logic that would only make sense to a Geordie.

Laid out on former farmland, the present course was designed by Harry Colt in 1911. Built on sand and gravel, it remains relatively dry throughout the winter — unless one of the hundreds of old stone drainage cundies installed by farmers centuries ago "chooses to make itself known", said David.

With limited resources, it has taken 15 years to work on many of the drainage issues, and Dave explained: "After heavy rains we would have rivers flowing along the 17th and 18th holes and that just doesn't happen now. We connected a large catchment pipe to the 17th green and bunkers, which takes it down through the ravine on the 15th, which has solved that problem."

The 17th green had been a problem due to a band of clay below the surface. The green is very flat, and when rain got on to the surface it had nowhere to go.

"The cure for that is a close-knit drainage system, which we will do one day," said David. "It is the total opposite of the other greens.

Everything you are not supposed to do, if you do it on the 17th green you will be able to play on it throughout the winter."

This far north, the winters are longer and spring arrives a little later than it does in more southern counties. As you head north during early spring, you find trees lose their leaves. The cooler temperatures can lead to challenges with regards early growth, and recovering from the damage caused by year-round golf.

"Sometimes it can be a challenge," said David. "The last thing we want to do is force growth, but sometimes we find in spring that nothing you want to move is moving. We know from experience that there's technology such as ColdStart, but if we do that it's like a switch that changes from no growth to 'here we go' and the course just explodes.

"When I started in greenkeeping, at the end of October everything was put away for winter. But now we host a spring and autumn open, which we have never had before. A hundred people play, making it a good earner for the club and not something we want to lose.

"These days we are wanting to get things started in spring and the temptation to push things is just huge. What we have done to keep the turf healthier is introduce a winter-based feed, which is better than binge-feeding the turf when it comes out of its hibernation period in spring."

With the assistance of Frank Pont, who specialises in restoring classic era golf courses, the Tyneside team has steadily developed the site and introduced modern techniques of maintenance while restoring the original feel of the layout. Hundreds of trees have been taken out, including at the 10th tee, where the new vistas make for an impressive setting from which to play golf.

From that viewpoint, across the valley you can clearly see the bunkers and fairways of Close House, where racehorse owner Graham Wylie has invested

'Over the years I have picked Steve's brains so much. Anybody with any sense takes advantage of the experience from people who know.'

Continued over



Tyneside Golf Club

Greens staff

David Simpson, head greenkeeper

Michael Gunn, deputy head greenkeeper

Steve Richardson, mechanic

Jeff Cullen, greenkeeper

Gregg Lee, greenkeeper

Jimmy Richardson, volunteer greenkeeper

Machinery

Grass cutting equipment

John Deere 2500A

Jacobsen GP400

Jacobsen TR3

Toro3100-D Sidewinder

John Deere 2653A

Jacobsen LF3800

Toro 6700-D

Toro 4100-D

Iseki SXG 19

Kubota 5740 c/w front loader

John Deere 5300

John Deere 2027 R

Kawasaki mule

Toro workman

Greentek units

Thatch away sarel rollers

Rotary brushes

True surface vibrating rollers

Rink DS800 mounted top-dresser

Smithco bunker raker

Bargam sprayer

John Deere aercore 800

Huxley soil relievier

Grinders

Bernhard express dual 3000mc

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Hunter Juno

millions of pounds in the development of the club.

But such resources aren't available at Tyneside, and so when the club decided to transform a vacant field into a six-hole academy and practice facility, it required hours of work to apply for a grant.

Costing £80,000, a cost kept low due to the majority of the work taking place in house, the par-3 course, short game area and driving range have opened up Tyneside to a wider number of potential players. Families can play together, while pupils at local schools could soon be introduced to golf at the academy, should plans go ahead.

Established golfers are able to warm up before a big competition, while those new to the game, or the elderly who are unable to play 18 holes any longer, are able to get their fix.

The Sport England grant that made the development possible was successfully applied for by Ron Stewart, a club member.

"He put in two and a half years' work," said David. "To the extent that he had to lie to his wife that he was coming in to play golf, when really he was doing the paperwork for the grant.

"Clubs can't just sit back and rest on the past, even ones that have had a good reputation in the past need to provide a unique sales point, and the practice facility has been able to open us up to the wider community. For example, the school next door could literally

walk on to the facility, and that's going to help develop the game."

Once again, the success of the facility is down to the dedication of a former member of staff. With the usual greenkeeping team committed to maintaining the 18-hole course, former greenkeeper Jimmy Richardson has offered to volunteer his time, such his love for Tyneside.

"Working with him has been great," said David. "He's steady away and he's old school because he cares. If you have someone who actually cares, it's half the job."

The entrance to the facility is also close to the maintenance shed, bringing added attention to the efforts, and the working conditions, of the club's greenkeepers.

This has helped encourage interaction between golfers and the staff, and David said: "I have spoken to people that I wouldn't normally have, because they are using the par-3 and are curious about what goes into making a course.

"It's part and parcel of being a greenkeeper. Things change and you need to move on and adapt. If something is going to have a positive impact then give it a go. If we can keep membership going, anything we can do to make this place successful is beneficial to all of us.

"For me, Tyneside is somewhere I feel comfortable working. It's not a place where you can rest on your laurels because it's not that sort of job. If you do well one year, you have to keep getting better the next."

Steve Pope (left) and Jimmy Richardson (right) with the Tyneside greenkeeping team



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Preparing greens for winter

Warren Bevan, Turfcare

Remember the days when autumn arrived, the course was cut for the final time and the fleet was then sent away for a winter overhaul? We knew winter would bring snow, frosts and very little growth and the team could get on with construction projects.

This trend changed as the seasons didn't follow typical weather patterns and turf managers responded to growth extending into the winter months.

Clubs started to service machinery "in-house" so cutting equipment stayed on site, to be used when conditions allowed. With the purchase of cylinder grinders, blades are kept sharp all year round, not just the once during the winter.

The same could be said for the greens. A final aeration and topdressing followed by the traditional autumn/winter fertiliser generally "put the greens to bed" for the year. With growth continuing later into the year, adjustment to nutrition programmes is now required the same way fleet servicing was adjusted to the changing conditions. So, what can you consider as you prepare your greens for winter?

Aeration is vital to the health of soils or a growing medium, and we know that has a direct impact to how the turf and surface performs. During periods of wet weather, improved infiltration will mean surfaces stay drier and firmer and, equally importantly, open for play quicker to the members. The benefits of a drier surface around the crown of a plant means reduced disease susceptibility and increased microbial populations when soil temperatures are adequate. Furthermore, a plant going into winter that is drier will winterise more successfully, meaning it can withstand cooler temperatures.

Since we are constantly managing turf under some stress, timed applications of nutrients are required because either the soil has limited nutrient availability or higher levels of certain nutrients are impacting the plant's ability to take up other essential nutrients.

There are nutrients that have been proven through research to improve plant health through foliar applications such as calcium (Ca) and potassium (K) plus the addition of phosphites ($H_2PO_3^-$), which is not a nutrient but upregulates the plant's natural defence mechanisms. And while not an essential plant nutrient, elicitors such as silicon (Si) can have an added benefit to turf during the autumn months, along with carbohydrate applications.

Calcium

Calcium is one of the six macro-nutrients required by turfgrass. The highest distribution of calcium within the plant is in the cell walls, and building strong cell walls can help in the resistance to many plant pathogens. Putting green root-zones can fall below adequate levels of exchangeable calcium due to low cation exchange capacity (CEC). The best way to determine if plants are taking up calcium is through leaf tissue testing and the ideal range is 0.5% - 1.5%. 1% would be a good level to maintain on a golf green, so when root growth is slow to none, we may have to supplement the plant.

Many types of calcium sources are available today, a secure way to apply calcium in autumn/winter is with a blend of organic facilitators, chelates formulated to keep calcium in solution and 'plant available'. This 'uptake' technology ensures a highly efficient rate of absorption into the leaf, getting the calcium exactly to where the plant requires it and fast.

Phosphite

The management of turf diseases, especially Fusarium, is becoming more of an issue as our winters have changed and fungal pressure can be extremely high in the autumn and early winter. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an important strategy to manage turf surfaces and managers are also looking at alternatives to control disease.

Phosphite (H_2PO_3) is one oxygen molecule short of phosphate (PO_4) and due to its molecular shape, can't be used by the plant as a source of phosphorous nutrition. The raw material of phosphite, phosphorous acid, has a very low pH so can't be applied directly to turf without burn. To be used on turf, it must be blended with neutralising substances such as potassium hydroxide to make potassium phosphite.

However, research into the role of phosphite in disease suppression has taken place at Rutgers, Virginia Tech and Bristol University. The research showed that phosphite applied to infected samples of *Microdochium nivale* directly inhibits the mycelial growth, conidial germination and causes disruption of hyphal morphology. Additionally, inside the plant, phosphite slows the growth of the pathogen. It causes a release of stress metabolites, allowing for increased time for the plant to initiate defence responses.

Elicitors - silicon

What are elicitors?

Elicitors are specific compounds that work at very low concentrations to induce plant defence responses. Silicon, while not essential for plants to survive, accumulates in the cell walls — strengthening them and improving turgidity. In addition, new trial work is being conducted to find out if turf supplied with silicon has a greater resistance to fungal attack.



Carbohydrates are utilised throughout the winter and deplete faster in spring the following year; especially as mowing heights are reduced and nitrogen applications are made. If turf goes into spring with depleted reserves of carbohydrates, it can go into the summer in a weakened state.

To manage this during winter, foliar applications of the plant food, including potassium and minor nutrients, can be applied to the turf. Research has shown that winter hardiness is largely a function of carbohydrate storage in the plant.

Carbohydrates

Plants use carbohydrate as a substrate for growth and respiration. Through photosynthesis plants make their own food — carbohydrates — and adequate reserves of these are essential for winter survival and early spring growth.

Storage is greatest in the autumn, so increasing the height of cut and leaf surface area is essential to improve photosynthesis.

In conclusion, consider a soil drench application of a good penetrant to improve soil infiltration rates and keep the turf surfaces drier. With carefully selected and timed foliar applications of calcium, phosphites and carbohydrates, managers can take some stress out of the winter months and deliver a healthy grass plant going into the following season.

PREPARE FOR WINTER STRESS WITH TURFCARES PROVEN FOLIAR NUTRIENTS FROM GRIGG

GRIGG has conducted numerous research studies on the use of foliar nutrients to prepare turfgrass for winter stress and improve its chances of survivability. From this research, GRIGG developed a winter stress nutrition program to help maintain key nutrients and turfgrass quality throughout the winter, and to help reduce the incidence of fusarium and other winter conditions.

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Lamb scores historic double at Verulam

After 30 years of euphoria, drama, wind, rain, sunshine, three-putts, four-putts, scuffed tee shots, holes-in-one, eagles and excitement, the BIGGA National Championship returned home to Verulam Golf Club.

Course Manager Chris Carpenter MG had played in the first national championship which took place after the formation of BIGGA in 1987, and he invited the association back to Verulam for its 30th anniversary celebrations.

After two days of fierce competition, it was reigning BIGGA Scotland champion Chris Lamb who fought off the challenge of the other competitors, including six former winners of the tournament, to be crowned BIGGA National Champion 2017.

During the event, once again made possible thanks to the generous support of Kubota and Charterhouse, the historic St Albans course of Verulam proved a spectacular and challenging venue. Famous as the 'Home of the Ryder Cup' due to it being home course of Samuel Ryder, Verulam's tight fairways and rapid, undulating greens proved an enthralling challenge.

Not to mention the unusual 17th hole, that saw tee shots played over a high fence, a road, and then a hedge, to a small, guarded green!

In a finish to compare with the epic duel between Jordan Spieth and Matt Kuchar at this year's Open, Chris Lamb and second-placed Tom Workman swapped the lead down the closing stretch, until two birdies in the final three holes propelled Chris to victory.

The 23-year-old, who just six weeks before had won the BIGGA Scottish Golf Championship at Musselburgh, said: "It was one of the best duels I have been involved in. The fact we both played pretty good helped. Then when I went one behind I said to myself 'Come on, let's do this' and I was lucky enough to be able to pull it back.

"It's very special to have won the event, especially on its 30th anniversary, and I'm looking forward to defending my title next year."

Chris, who works at Trump International Golf Scotland, was the overnight leader of the tournament and shot a 4-under par total, matching his achievement in the Scottish championship, to claim the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.



Chris Lamb



Charterhouse
TURF MACHINERY

Kubota



Chris Carpenter MG, Course Manager at Verulam

“I wasn't too nervous because I knew the course would provide an excellent challenge for BIGGA's best golfers. I wanted people to come and enjoy Verulam, and I'm pleased that the weather was kind enough for this to be the case. I'm glad everyone could be here for the 30th anniversary of this fantastic event.”



David Fellows and Nigel Broadwith



Matthew Strudwick, Tracey Maddison and Louis Dunn-Allen



Verulam Golf Club Course Manager Chris Carpenter MG is presented with a gift by BIGGA President Sid Arrowsmith MG

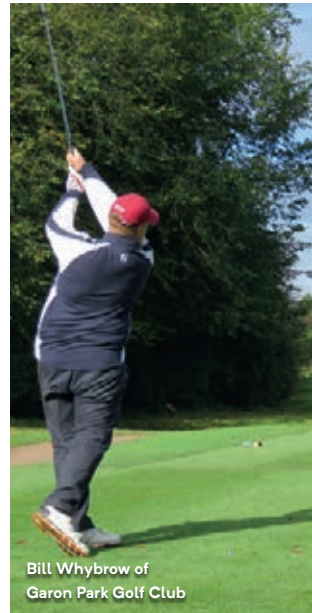
BIGGA National Championship



Derek McJannet, Chris Lamb and Danny Murray



BIGGA National Trophy on the first tee at Verulam Golf Club as Darren Abbs of Royal Norwich Golf Club tees off



Bill Whybrow of Garon Park Golf Club



Mark Thompson, Derek Cunliffe and David Fellows



Tony Thacker, Andrew Ramsay and Steven Jones



George Bell, Oliver Browning and Gordon Sangster



Nearest the pin winner Nick Roberts of Hendon Golf Club receives his prize from BIGGA President Sid Arrowsmith MG



Andrew Cornes of Thorntrees Amenity Ltd



BIGGA National prize table



David Fellows of Cocks Moors Woods Golf Club



BIGGA National starters Brian Hope (12th tee) and John Wells (1st tee)



Terry Carver of RAF Marham Golf Club

BIGGA National Championship

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton

“I would like to thank Chris and all the Verulam team for their efforts and for allowing BIGGA to write our own chapter in the history of this prestigious venue. Congratulations also to Christopher Lamb for showing us all how it’s done with some incredible golf. He fought off some tough competition to become BIGGA National Champion 2017.”



Team prize runners up, South West & South Wales team of Steven Jones, Leigh Mordy, Nathaniel Riddett and Tom Workman presented with their prize by BIGGA President Sid Arrowsmith MG



Carl Sharp of Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club with caddy and brother Matt Sharp



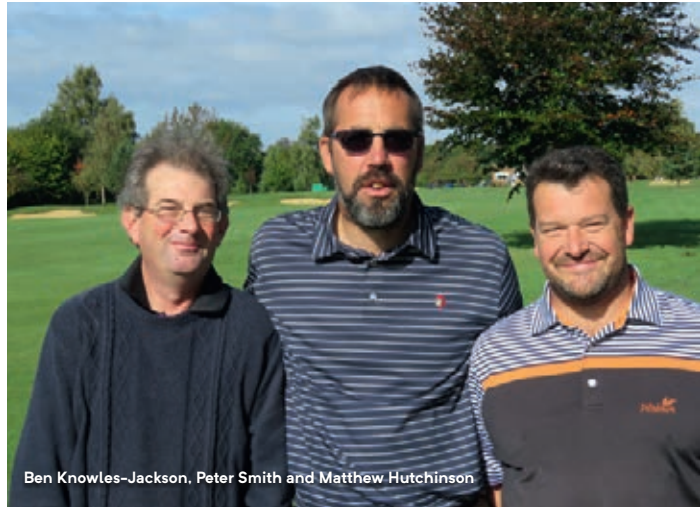
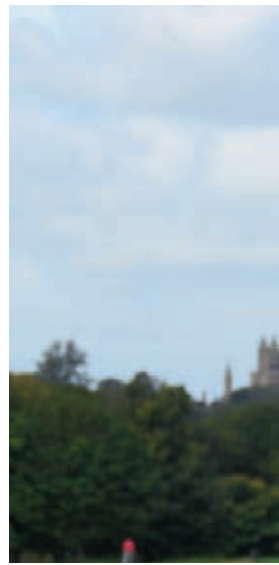
Sid Arrowsmith MG of Frilford Heath Golf Club

Former winner Gary Burgess, Grange Park, hit the tournament's opening tee shot

"I was really nervous as it's a big deal opening the tournament. But I managed to get it straight down the middle, so I was happy with that. BIGGA National is a great couple of days because you get to meet all the lads from different regions, who you wouldn't normally. Over the years I have been coming to this event, there's a lot of familiar faces and it's great to spend a bit of time with them."



Derek Cunliffe of Rigby Taylor putting on the 10th hole at Verulam Golf Club



Ben Knowles-Jackson, Peter Smith and Matthew Hutchinson



Gary Burgess of Grange Park Golf Club got his name on the trophy in 2016

BIGGA National Championship



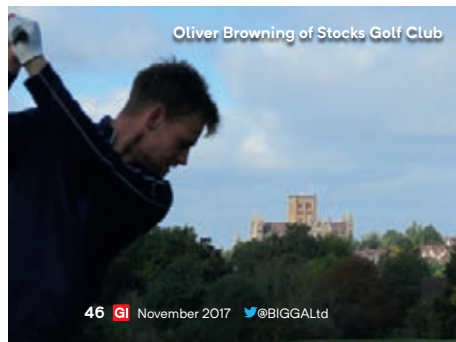
Team prize winners from the South East Region, Ross McCarthy, CassidySteffens, George Grimes and Derek Cunliffe



Playing the 11th hole



BIGGA Challenge Plate winner Steve Jones of Stoneham Golf Club with Sid Arrowsmith MG and Nick Darking of Charterhouse



Oliver Browning of Stocks Golf Club



BIGGA National Challenge Cup winner Adam Clark of Muswell Hill Golf Club



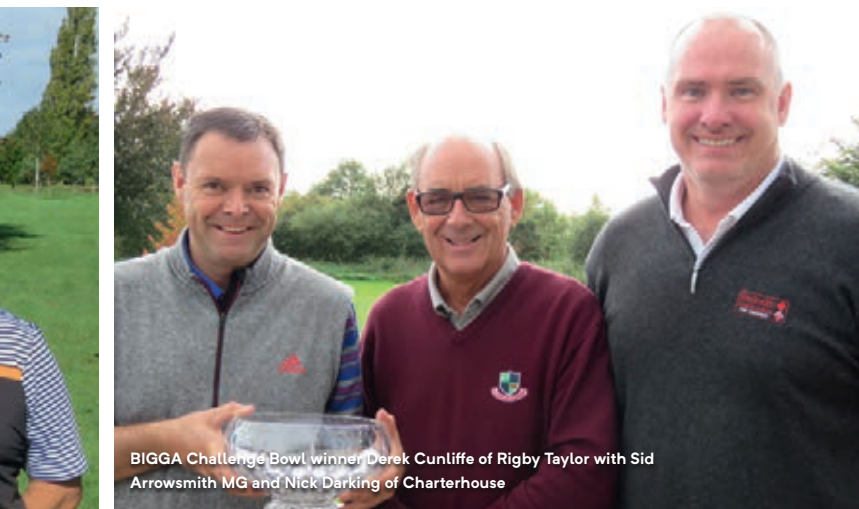
BIGGA National 13-24 category winner Asa English of Rothley Park with Sid Arrowsmith MG and Nick Darking of Charterhouse



Louis Dunn-Allen of Beaverbrook Golf Club



Scott Krokoszynski of Rufford Park Golf & Country Club



BIGGA Challenge Bowl winner Derek Cunliffe of Rigby Taylor with Sid Arrowsmith MG and Nick Darking of Charterhouse



John McLoughlin of Warrington Golf Club tees off

Nick Darking, Charterhouse

“We are delighted to be part of the 30th anniversary celebrations at Verulam. Congratulations to Chris and the team for presenting the course so well, and here’s to the next 30 years of the tournament.”

Prize list

Day two

BIGGA Challenge Trophy (Best gross over 36 holes)

1st: Chris Lamb, Trump International Golf Scotland

2nd: Tom Workman, Minchinhampton

3rd: Cassidy Steffens, Orsett

4th: Ross McCarthy, Crews Hill

5th: Oly Browning, Stocks

BIGGA Challenge Plate (Stableford over 18 holes)

1st: Steve Jones, Stoneham, 36 points

BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Affiliate prize)

1st: Derek Cunliffe, Rigby Taylor

Nearest the pin: Chris Lamb, Trump International Golf Scotland

Longest drive: Ross McCarthy, Crews Hill

+4-5 category

1st: Derek McJannet, Matlock

6-12 category

1st: Dave Allen, Pyecombe

13-24 category

1st: Asa English, Rothley Park

BIGGA Challenge Cup (Stableford over 36 holes)

1st: Adam Clark, Muswell Hill, 68 points (on countback)

2nd: Danny Burchell, Piltown, 68 points

3rd: George Grimes, Garon Park, 67 points

Day one

Team

1st: South East, Derek Cunliffe, Cassidy Steffens, Ross McCarthy; George Grimes

2nd: South West & South Wales, Tom Workman, Leigh Mordy, Nathaniel Riddett, Steven Jones

+4-5 category

1st: Cassidy Steffens, Orsett

6-12 category

1st: Derek Cunliffe, Rigby Taylor

13-24 category

1st: Terry Carver, RAF Marham

Nearest the pin: Nick Roberts, Hendon

Longest drive:

Mark Thompson, The Richmond (London)

The BIGGA National Championship 2018 will be held at Gullane Golf Club, East Lothian on 8-9 October 2017.

Unconventional maintenance in Sri Lanka

Paul Jansen, course architect

Unconventional maintenance

As a golf course architect, I've had the opportunity to visit many parts of the globe for work. I have visited places where golf is developed - like in Japan - and other places where golf is still developing.





Having worked extensively throughout Asia the last 10 years, I recently took the opportunity to tour some of the region's most distinct and characterful courses, spread across Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia.

As a golf course architect, I am most inspired by courses that have a strong bond with their environment. Moreover, the travel to these courses gives me the opportunity to spend time talking with the people maintaining the facilities. I am always fascinated to learn about maintenance practices in different parts of the world, particularly where this practice is innovative and where limited input can still equate to good playing conditions. I feel it is important as an architect that I have a good understanding of maintenance so that in my own work I can design courses that will give golfers the greatest pleasure, yet remain cost effective to maintain.

In my own experience the most naturally distinct courses are also the most sustainable because they are fun to play and because they are typically designed around existing features, rather than man made features which can cost a lot to build and then maintain.

All too often I see courses built at a formidable cost. These are often over designed, over specified, over built and need to be maintained at a high cost.

The reality is that the majority of the best courses built in the last 25 years – according to any ranking system – were built for the least amount of money and generally require minimal input to sustain themselves.

Golf was established in Sri Lanka at the end of the 19th Century. The Royal Colombo GC was the first course, founded in 1880. Not long after this, in 1888, Nuwara Eliya GC was established in the hillside town of Nuwara Eliya. Both of these are worth studying from a design and maintenance perspective.



Nuwara Eliya GC –
Since there is no built in irrigation the golf course is watered manually. Vehicles are used to transport the water from pumping station along some of the river bodies

The Royal Colombo is very distinct because of the active railway line that divides many of the holes on the front nine. The rail line is the essence of the course and it's something you won't quickly forget. As a feature, it requires very minimal maintenance and surely that can't be a bad thing.

Royal Colombo is a low maintenance golf course. One of the reasons for this is the use of Broadleaf Carpetgrass on the tees, fairways and in the rough. This grass is native to the region and requires very minimal input for it to thrive. In addition to this, carpetgrass grows well in shaded area, which is paramount at Royal Colombo given the width of some of the tree canopies. As you will know, the choice of grasses on a golf course – particularly in Southern Asia – can add considerably to the cost of maintenance. Thankfully carpet grass requires very minimal input to create an adequate play surface.

The Nuwara Eliya GC does not have an irrigation system. Instead, water is trucked in or pumped from the numerous streams that cross the course. The tees, fairways and rough areas – which amount to approx 92 acres – are all broadleaf carpetgrass, often referred to as buffalo grass in that region of the world, and the greens are a mix of local grasses including a native

'All too often I see courses built at a formidable cost. These are often over designed, over specified, over built and need to be maintained at a high cost.'

Local machinery used at the Royal Colombo Golf Course

Continued over

bluegrass. Given the mild climate, the fairway and rough areas only require to be mowed every few days and up to five times a month during the wet season. Also the golf club does not apply any input, such as water or fertilizers, to the tee, fairway and rough areas, only at the greens. The greens and tees get mowed every two to three days.

It is interesting to note that Nuwara Eliya only possesses a gang mower and two walk behind green mowers which is somewhat remarkable given the condition of the course.

All of the above indicate that with the right grass type, conditions and maintenance regime you can achieve great results. Unfortunately, all too often I visit clubs that are led into believing you need to spend copious amounts of money on the latest high tech machinery and products to achieve stardom, when often keeping things simple is the answer. Nuwara Eliya is a good example of this.

While still in Sri Lanka I must mention the new Shangri La Hambanota Golf Course. It's important to note that this part of Sri Lanka is the driest with very high evaporation rates. To reduce the maintenance scope – including the amount of water input – the team has done away with large areas of non-native grass that was initially planted during the construction of the golf course over a year ago. In its place they have planted pineapple groves – pineapples are the national fruit of Sri Lanka. I believe this is a brilliant initiative as maintenance is reduced because these areas don't need regular care and they are using much less water. The crop is harvested and used at the resort, while the groves also create a very identifiable course. One should note that most of the best courses on the globe tend to have a strong sense of place and identity. In this case golfers tend to enjoy the experience much more because they feel part of the environment.

'All of the above indicate that with the right grass type, conditions and maintenance regime you can achieve great results.'

My travels to Sri Lanka and Myanmar have highlighted that the quality of the golf experience is not necessarily a product of the quality of the playing fields, but rather the uniqueness and originality of the golf holes and the beauty of the surrounds. Of course a well maintained golf course is paramount but often this is achievable with less inputs (and sometimes inventive equipment). I am certain that as our planet becomes more globalised, discerning golfers will increasingly seek to explore those parts of the world that give them a special sense of place and belonging.

Nuwara Eliya GC –
A very accessible golf course in the middle of the city with a public walkway through parts of the golf course



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Prevention is better than cure

How preventative action has protected Southwold from disease pressures

As cases of Microdochium Patch are reported across the country, Sam Nunn, head greenkeeper at Southwold in Suffolk, explained how he has had success in transitioning to a preventative disease control programme, and why it is important for other greenkeepers to consider making the switch.

Sam has worked at the historic course for over 10 years. During this time he has focused on creating the perfect disease management strategy. However, with recent news that contact, curative fungicides will soon be a thing of the past, he has changed tack.

He explained that Southwold is a little different to many courses, and it requires some 'out of the box' thinking when it comes to management, adding: "The course has just nine holes, but 18 different tees, so each green is played twice.

"It's also all on common land, owned by the council, with footpaths throughout. "These factors cause more wear

and tear to the turf, which can lead to stress, making the grass plant more susceptible to disease."

In addition to this, the North Sea is just a stone's throw away from the club, so there's rarely a wind-free day. Sam said: "This helps to dry the turf rapidly, however the humid climate does mean that we have very heavy dews in the morning, that without management, can encourage diseases such as Microdochium Patch.


"Being in such close vicinity to the sea also means that fog can move in quickly, sometimes stopping play. If a nearby water tower isn't visible from our clubhouse, then we'll sound a horn and ask all the golfers

to come in from the course, before it becomes dangerous for both players and members of the public."

So, in order to keep on top of disease pressure and minimise disease stress factors, a carefully thought out plan is required, and when Sam was given the opportunity to test out a new preventative fungicide, he jumped at the chance.

Dr Colin Mumford, Bayer technical manager, explained that the company provided Sam with five litres of Exteris Stressgard last autumn for an 'on-course' trial, to test its preventative qualities against Microdochium Patch throughout the winter disease season.

"Sam put down an application of the new fungicide, as part of a

 Above: Images of Southwold



preventative programme including Chipco Green and Interface, in accordance with the label guidelines,” said Colin.

Sam added: “We regularly monitored the greens for signs of disease, however we didn’t have any problems with Microdochium Patch — the results were excellent.”

The trials were so successful that Sam now manages disease in a preventative way, with Exteris Stressgard a key part of his fungicide rotation.

“I’ll apply a fungicide every four to five weeks between August and December, and by the time we reach Christmas, it’s normally cold enough to hold any disease development off,” he explained.

In addition to fungicide use, Sam stressed the importance of considering the use of cultural prevention measures, to reduce

the need for excess chemical applications and minimise the likelihood of resistance.

“I always try to keep thatch build up to a minimum by scarifying the greens and keeping them dry as possible,” he said. “Enhancing turf health is also key, so we use iron products to help harden-up the grass to make it less susceptible to disease.”

This preventative disease management strategy has not only given Sam a new tool to tackle Microdochium Patch, but with product withdrawals on the horizon, has allowed him to fine-tune and futureproof his programme, before anticipated regulation changes come into force for curative products.

Southwold course facts

- The club was founded in 1884, making it one of the oldest in East Anglia
- Southwold is a nine-hole course, with 18 tees, so each green is played twice during a round of golf
- The club employs two full-time greenkeeping staff, and an additional two seasonal workers during the summer
- The course is based on common land, so permission must be granted from the council before any non-routine maintenance is carried out
- The sea is in close vicinity — this brings heavy dews, high winds and thick fogs
- This May, a suspected arson attack severely burned the first tee, and much of the gorse around it, as well as causing smoke damage to the clubhouse
- There is an old wives’ tale about a telegraph pole on the seventh fairway — some say that the coastguard used to use it as a target for harpoon practice, and others say it was used by the fire brigade

Southwick Park back on par with Kubota

Southwick Park – Kubota

The success of any golf course hinges on the effectiveness of greenkeepers in preparing courses, and the care and upkeep practices they put in place to maintain them.

We spoke to Jim Fancey, the head greenkeeper at Southwick Park in South Hampshire, about how the utilisation of Kubota equipment has enhanced his maintenance regime and the year-round condition of the golf course.

Jim, who has over 20 years' experience as a greenkeeper, explained how he has put Kubota's L5040 to good use in order to get the golf course in the superb condition it is in today.

He said: "One of the biggest issues we face here at Southwick Park is that the entire course is surrounded by Southwick Lake. The ground can become very wet very quickly if the relevant aeration measures are not in place.

"After contacting my local Lister Wilder dealer for advice, it was recommended that we use a Kubota L5040 compact tractor. Its powerful performance, as well as its transmission and PTO systems, would be capable of effectively handling the large scale aeration work that needed to be carried out."

Hired for an initial six-week period, the Southwick Park team put the Kubota L5040 straight to work by carrying out much needed verti-draining, verti-quaking and multicore work across the entire course. Although it's a relatively small tractor with 50hp, Jim explained how it was more than capable of handling the aeration implements, which allowed the team to complete the necessary jobs quickly and efficiently.

He added: "Due to the impressive performance of the tractor and its PTO system, we were able to utilise different maintenance implements, such as a rotovator to till the soil, where previously our equipment was unsuccessful at handling the implements. In addition, the use of the L5040 tractor made topdressing a far simpler job to complete. We use approximately 100 tonnes per annum of local sand to regularly top dress the greens and fairways!"

The Kubota L5040 made such an impact that the golf course bought the tractor to help ensure a high-quality course throughout the year.

Jim concluded: "Now we have the use of the Kubota L5040 all year round, this has allowed us to take the condition of the course to the next level, by preparing and implementing heavy spring and autumn maintenance schedules far ahead of time, keeping the course in the best possible condition 365 days a year."

For more information on Kubota and its market-leading range of groundcare solutions visit www.kubota.co.uk or call 01844 268000.

Alternatively, follow Kubota on Twitter (@KubotaUK) and Facebook (f/KubotaUK).

Working together with our partners





Southwick Park - Kubota

Head Greenkeeper Jim Fancy with a Kubota L5040

Fleet Maintenance: Protecting your investment

Purchasing a new fleet of utility vehicles is a considerable investment for any golf club.

As with any complex vehicle, carrying out regular maintenance — especially during the winter months — is vitally important to ensure the vehicles look and perform their best throughout the year.

As one of the most respected brands in the golf industry for more than 50 years, Club Car, the official supplier to the European Tour, provides a few simple maintenance tips that will ensure you protect your investment, not just this winter, but throughout the year.



Daily inspection

Each morning, before the fleet heads out onto the golf course, you should undertake a daily inspection, which helps to significantly reduce the downtime of the vehicles.

The daily inspection includes asking yourself the following questions:

- ✓ Are the electric utility vehicles fully charged?
- ✓ Is the steering responding properly?
- ✓ Are the brakes activating properly, without excessive free play?
- ✓ Is the accelerator pedal free from obstruction? Does it return to its upright position?
- ✓ Are all visible nuts, bolts and screws tight?
- ✓ Do the tyres have the proper pressure?
- ✓ Have the batteries been filled to the proper level?
- ✓ Are the wires tightly connected to the battery post and free of corrosion?
- ✓ Does any of the wiring show cracks or fraying?
- ✓ Have you checked for leaks in the fuel tank, fuel line, cap, pump, filters and carburettor?

Front end alignment

There are several reasons that the front ends on your utility vehicles can lose alignment, with the most common being an impact with a curb or from use over rough terrain.

Alignment problems can lead to uneven tyre wear, which will require you to purchase replacements sooner than planned. Vehicles that operate with improper alignment also require more energy to move — around 10 to 20% more than those with correct alignments — which will have a detrimental effect on your overall fuel costs.

Alignment should be one of the elements that you're checking at least twice a year.



Tyre pressure

Maintaining proper tyre pressure throughout your fleet is as important as it is with your own car. If tyre pressure is too low, your car will use more fuel or electrical energy and the same applies to your fleet of vehicles as well.

It is important to check your tyre pressure monthly, because dramatic fluctuations in day and night time temperatures can cause tyre pressure to fluctuate. This becomes even more pronounced during the winter months.

Tyre pressure varies from one model to another. For most Club Car utility vehicles, the specified tyre pressure is between 28-32psi (193-221 kPa).

Top Tip

Club Car recommends that tyre pressure is maintained to within 1-2 psi of the recommended pressure at all times.



Batteries

Lead-acid batteries are the lifeblood of today's sophisticated electric utility vehicles and they're also the most expensive component to replace.

Like most things, batteries need clean water to survive, while improper fluid levels can cause batteries to fail prematurely. In addition, insufficient water can adversely affect battery life and performance, while overfilling can be just as harmful.

To maintain proper fluid levels in the battery, a single-point watering system is essential and it is a standard feature on new Club Car electric vehicles. These systems eliminate the time-consuming process of removing battery caps to add water and after the proper amount of water is dispensed through a valve system, the flow of water to individual cells shuts off automatically.

It is also important that you ensure you use a deionizer water purifier and that you test the filter once a week — which is done by pushing the test button — and replace it when required to ensure your batteries are getting the best quality water.

On a monthly basis, you should have a trained technician wash the vehicles' battery tops and clean any terminals with a baking soda/water solution and apply authorised battery terminal protector spray to battery terminals.



Top Tip

Proper battery watering must always be done after the batteries are charged, not before the charging.

Continued over

Charging

Properly charged batteries are one of the most important factors in the performance of your utility vehicles. By the same token, improperly charged batteries can shorten the lifespan and adversely affect your fleet's performance.

Batteries should be fully charged before a new vehicle is first used, after they have been stored and before they are released for use each day.

To charge the vehicles' batteries, you simply have to insert the charger's DC plug into the vehicle receptacle. However, before your staff charge any vehicles, be sure to adhere to important precautions:

- Since lead-acid batteries contain explosive gases, always keep sparks and flames away from vehicles and the service area.
- Never allow staff to smoke while batteries are charging.
- Everyone who works around batteries should wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves, safety glasses, and a face shield.

You may not realise it, but new batteries require a break-in period. They must be significantly recharged at least 50 times before they can deliver their full capabilities. To be discharged, batteries must have been used significantly and not merely unplugged and plugged back in to perform one cycle.



Top Tip

All vehicles should be plugged into chargers overnight for storage, even if the car has only been used for a short time during the day.

Rotation

Proper fleet rotation starts with a storage facility that has adequate space for each vehicle in the fleet to enter, park, and exit the building without causing any damage.

Club Car recommends a dedicated space for each vehicle in the fleet that measures at least five feet by eight feet with a one-foot clearance around the vehicle's perimeter.

We've found that if you can make it easy for the staff to manoeuvre the vehicles in and out of the facility, you will prevent a lot of the scrapes and dings that can lead to costly repairs.

As part of the initial consultation with a venue, Club Car will provide complimentary standard fleet golf car storage facility plans to assist courses that are building or revising golf car storage facilities. The company can also provide rotation recommendations as well, which are based on the fleet size and amount of expected use.



Cleaning

The most visible sign to customers that your fleet is well maintained, and to ensure the vehicles make a positive statement about the entire venue, is to make sure that they are clean.

When you clean the utility vehicles, make sure that you use the products recommended in the owner's manual.

Although a pressure washer is the fastest way to remove dirt and debris from the vehicles, it can sometimes do as much harm as good. We find a garden hose at normal pressure is adequate for most clean-up jobs, which will also stop short of damaging the car's paint and clear coat.

If your staff do use a pressure washer to clean the vehicles, remind them to keep the fan spray six inches from the surface they're spraying and keep the pressure under 1,000 psi.



Top Tip

Refrain from using silicone-based cleaning products on floor mats, pedals, and seats as they can leave surfaces slippery and lead to accidents.

Overnight and long-term storage

Before you or your staff leave for the night, it is important that the fleet will be ready for use the following day, so in addition to charging vehicles where required, these three simple steps should be followed:

- Make sure the fleet key switches are in the OFF position and the **FORWARD/REVERSE** switch is in the **NEUTRAL** position.
- Make sure the park brake is set.
- Ensure all accessories are powered off to prevent energy draw from the batteries.

For longer-term storage of the vehicles during the winter, ensure the following:

- The fleet key switches are in the **OFF** position, the **FORWARD/REVERSE** switch is in the **NEUTRAL** position and the **TOW/RUN** switch is in the **TOW** position.
- All accessories should be powered off to prevent energy draw from the batteries.
- Chock the wheels. Do not set the park brake.
- Ensure vehicles are connected to their chargers, and verify the charger amp meter is greater than "0" to confirm the charger is operating.



Club Car

Club Car's historic association with the game of golf dates back to 1962, when an Augusta-based businessman named Bill Stevens purchased Landreath Machine, and, with only a small number of employees, began producing the nation's first golf cars.

During the 1970s, golf car production continued to increase and in 1978 the company extended its product line, introducing its first mass produced turf utility vehicles, which were initially golf cars that had a utility box fitted on the back.

As Club Car continued to grow, the company quickly established itself as a market leader. Then, in 1985, Club Car introduced the first of its modern-day turf utility vehicles, the Carryall II, which gave Club Car a presence in the turf maintenance market — a sector it has continued to grow over the years.

The company is an Official Supplier to the European Tour and The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA), as well as acting as Official Supplier at every Ryder Cup staged on European soil since 1997.



Being Official Supplier to many of the game's leading associations and tournaments, as well as to some of the most iconic destinations such as St Andrews Links Trust, has enabled Club Car to fully understand the specific needs of golf venues and greenkeepers around the world.

Today, Club Car is one of the most respected names in the golf industry, with the company's dependable and efficient golf cars and turf utility vehicles integral to the successful running of thousands of businesses around the world.



John Deere expands Gator range

Offering the company's quietest ever cab, more room for both driver and passengers and an extremely efficient heating system, John Deere's new full-size Gator utility vehicles are designed to maximise year-round productivity and comfort.



Available from UK and Irish dealers in early 2018, the brand new petrol XUV 835M and diesel XUV 865M models are being preceded this autumn by the restyled HPX 815E, XUV 560E and XUV 590M Gators, which feature new model numbers and several specification updates.

The 54hp XUV 835M and 23hp 865M offer power steering, a CVT transmission and a top speed of 37 or 31mph (60 or 50kph) respectively, plus a tight turning circle and optimal weight distribution for superior off-road performance. For extra versatility, these Gators can be fitted with a wide range of over 90 attachments from snow blades to winches, and feature a large 42-litre fuel tank to keep the vehicle running longer between fill-ups.

The spacious, pressurised cab can accommodate three people, for off-road use only. This new cab incorporates noise isolation and sound dampening components, making

it the quietest yet available on the Gator range. It also offers year-round weather protection and the heating system includes a windscreen defrost feature.

Both these new, sleekly styled XUV Gator models feature ample legroom and a tiltable steering wheel to help reduce driver fatigue during long working days. The versatile and durable cargo box has a load capacity of 454kg, while towing capacity has been increased by a third to 907kg and total payload capacity is 680kg.



The new John Deere diesel XUV 865M utility vehicle



GKB

GKB has developed a range of innovative machines for the maintenance and renovation of golf courses, applying experience, quality and durability to meet your needs.

Time to think about winter tees: the GKB Rotobrush

It's the time of year when golfers encounter hard, compact surfaces and moan they can't get a tee peg in. Typically, an area can take half a day to renovate. Using a GKB Rotobrush took an hour on this surface and to a much higher standard than previous methods allowed. The Rotobrush will enable you to brush deeper and more effectively where necessary. The rotating brush disc is provided with extra rigid bristles and where the functioning of normal brushing and cleaning stops, the Rotobrush will continue! You can also change the brush disc for an axially rotating brush with a collection container. Brushing the edges of synthetic turf is important as well. In general, the most persistent contamination is around the edges, primarily in the form of moss and algae settlements. All this contamination can generate dangerous, slippery situations. You don't want to give moss and algae a chance to take hold. The GKB Rotobrush takes care of it.



GKB Sandfillers and Sandspreaders on the golf course

The new GKB Sandfiller and SP100 Sandspreader are part of the GKB range of equipment 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. Mounting is straightforward with a simple bolt-on system and stand legs allow the SP100 to be quickly set up or removed. With its 1m³ hopper capacity the machine suits a variety of purposes, evenly distributing materials, such as sand and mulch, with variable spread widths and depths. It's easily 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. To allow the machine to properly follow the contours of the ground, three adjustable depth rollers are used while a slitting rotor, situated between conveyor rollers, operates the aerating and slitting actions. Two conveyor rollers are pivoted to distribute weight efficiently and material removed from the top layer by verticutting is immediately collected in a sideways tipping container. The sand flow is controlled hydraulically by means of an adjustable valve situated on the side of the machine. The slitting rotor is provided with carbide scarifying blades and an attachment to the blades that create wind in order to lift the removed material. The blades are available in a thickness of 2, 3 and 4mm and can be positioned on a centre-to-centre distance of 2, 4, 6 and 8cm. The scarifying blades remove thatch up to a depth of 4cm and with the 3mm blades you lose 7.5% of surface material while 4mm takes off 10%.

In areas on the golf course where surface water and moss formation are a problem, the Sandfiller offers a fast solution for drainage and intensive aeration. Aeration of the top layer is economically and environmentally friendly, being cost-effective through the all-in-one combination of aeration and sand filling. Intensive aeration of the grass leads to quicker recovery, greater green longevity and faster drainage of surface water, without the need for complete renovation. www.gkbmachines.com 07495 883617



Textron Golf

Textron Golf is a 'one-stop shop' for all golf course maintenance needs. Comprised of three powerful brands (Jacobsen, E-Z-GO and Cushman), Textron Golf has one of the most comprehensive, reputable product portfolios in the industry. From golf course maintenance equipment from Jacobsen to golf cars and utility vehicles from E-Z-GO and Cushman, Textron Golf offers a solution to all your on-course requirements.

Jacobsen has a long heritage of quality fine turf maintenance equipment for the golf, sports turf, municipal and professional lawn care markets. From prestigious golf courses and well-known sports venues to local parks and recreation facilities, for more than a century, the most important turf in the world has been manicured by Jacobsen cutting equipment.

E-Z-GO has a 60-year history of producing some of the most innovative and industry-leading golf cars and shuttles. Since the first E-Z-GO vehicle was built, there is still that single belief — that E-Z-GO exists to build vehicles and

services that exceed the expectations of the customer, better than any other offering on the market. It is the drive to sustain and improve that position — to offer an unparalleled combination of world-class products, advanced technology, manufacturing expertise, and extraordinary service — that leads E-Z-GO to cover new ground.

Cushman brand commercial and utility vehicles are known around the world for versatility, durability and dependability. Cushman offers a complete range of heavy-duty, industrial material-handling vehicles, comfortable personnel transport and food and beverage vehicles. Gasoline and electric-powered models plus an extensive list of options and accessories make Cushman the most versatile choice in utility vehicles.

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Toro's eFlex 2120 retains the heart of eFlex 2100

James de Havilland puts the Toro Greensmaster eFlex 2120 through its paces

eFlex 2100 & eFlex 2120 - Toro

Although obviously keen to show off its latest products, Toro retains a six-season-old eFlex 2100 on its demo fleet.

While this model has now been superseded by the eFlex 2120, Toro is keen to prove its faith in battery power. As the eFlex 2100 and current eFlex 2120 share the same driveline, why not prove this faith by continuing to run the previous model as a well-used demonstration model?

It does take a little while to familiarize yourself to working a mower that is battery powered. The gentle 'putter' of a petrol engine is replaced by a whirr, the ambient sounds you miss when using a 'conventional' mower all being restored when walking behind an eFlex. So why is Toro still employing a six-year old eFlex 2100 to show off these charms when this version has been superseded by the new eFlex 2120?

Simple really. With the eFlex, the primary task is to demonstrate the efficiency of lithium-ion battery power, and what better way to do so than running a well-used demonstrator. Not only does this help prove the system's longevity it also shows Toro has absolute faith in lithium-ion battery power.

The downside, of course, is that a machine that is now in its sixth season will not benefit from the developments made to its newer siblings. But in terms of the actual 'electric' bit, an eFlex 2100 will give little away to its eFlex 2120 successor. That is not to say Toro has rested upon its laurels as developments in battery technology have been made but, rather than make new claims for the latest system, Toro simply

sticks to what it promised at the outset. An eFlex 2120 should deliver enough charge to mow up to nine greens, just as it promised for the original eFlex 2100.

Operation between the original eFlex 2100 and the latest eFlex 2120 has not changed. Insert the key and turn the mower "on". After a brief delay, the InfoCenter display comes alive, showing the state of the battery's charge and speed setting in the default start up menu. Unlike a petrol Flex walk-behind mower, the InfoCenter bar chart showing the 'throttle setting' is repeatedly accurate in that the bar chart level of power selected by the operator will be the same each time it is set.

Next up, you engage drive the DPA cutting units, select drive and off you go. Take up is best described as manageably instant. With no mechanical clutch to divert power to the drive roller, the eFlex just seamlessly surges ahead, a whirr from the cutting unit and a flurry of clippings appearing in the collector reinforcing the message that it is all systems go.

When it comes to the turn, the accepted practice of raising the unit on its roller and swinging the mower around operates just as it does with a petrol Flex model. The difference here is that Toro fit the eFlex with an EZ-Turn feature. In flat conditions, many may not really see a need for this feature but, when you are mowing a green with an awkward approach or slope, EZ-Turn is really handy as it enables the speed of the mower to be adjusted the instant weight is taken off the cutting unit for a turn.

By simply adjusting the turn-speed down (it will also go the other way to speed the turn if wanted) it is possible to bring the speed down to what you want. During the demo, this was handy as the putting green we were cutting had a pronounced down slope on its extreme eastern flank. Getting the turn speed right for this element of the mow was made simpler with EZ-Turn, with no need to throttle the revs and rebuild them as you want to do with a petrol Flex model. Slowing the turn speed by around 10 percent made

Working together with our partners

TORO



4



1



2



3

flipping between bouts easier and, more importantly, helped ensure the return pass was exactly in line with where you left off, with no speed induced in over-or under-compensation.

A mower with a few hundred hours under its cylinders is always going to show a few signs of wear and tear. But with the eFlex 2100, the lack of a petrol power unit really masked the unit's age and hours. As you would expect with a demonstration machine, the mower was well-prepared, but few suppliers would have the confidence to offer up a machine now entering its sixth season as a frontline demo model.

That this eFlex felt pretty much 'factory fresh' is a sure indicator that battery power is not just a short-term fancy. It is a tech with staying power.

- 1 The chassis and DPA cutting unit is shared between eFlex and Flex, electric and petrol models.
- 2 eFlex models use the same floating DPA units as their petrol siblings, but the 2017 eFlex 2120 boasts new EdgeSeries cylinders and a revised mount for the clippings box.
- 3 A slight delay between switching on to setting off allows the electronics to fault test the system and ensure actual battery capacity is shown on the InfoCenter screen.
- 4 EZ-Turn allows the operator to slow the turn speed to match conditions.

Around the Green Scotland & N. Ireland



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BIGGA Scotland's Patron Winners and the STRI's Richard Windows

Craig Hempseed from Mortonhall has been selected for the Patrons Award. Sure he is looking forward to his first trip to Harrogate.

Congratulations to Angus Roberts on winning the prestigious Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year award.

Also, Paul Armour will be jetting off to TPC Sawgrass next year. What an experience, I'm not jealous at all Paul. Looking forward to hearing all about it.

Good luck to Tom Hobbis in his new role at Thomas Sheriff and Co.

North



Neil Sadler
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Firstly, we as a section must congratulate Chris Lamb on his magnificent performances in the Scottish and the BIGGA National Championship. Chris is a greenkeeper at Trump International on the outskirts of Aberdeen, but he plays golf out of Newmachar. He has a handicap of +4. Chris won the Scottish Championship at Musselburgh and he travelled down to Verulam, St Albans, Hertfordshire, where he pulled off a great win. So we have a Scottish and a National champion in our section. Massive congratulations Chris. I am not sure if this has been achieved before, but if anyone knows please let me know. Thank you.

There has been a few personnel changes in the area. Chris Haspell has left his role at Castle Stewart and handed over the reins to James Hutchison who was previously Chris's deputy. The very best of luck to both men in their new roles.

Also on the move, Patrick Wood has left Newmachar. We wish him well for the future.

Next month I will be reporting how the AGM went. If you do have any news for me please contact me on

BIGGA Scotland attends Bingley

This year's Patron Award winners were invited to attend the STRI Research Day on 21 September, courtesy of the region's patrons and the STRI.

The live show included a tour of the STRI facilities and campus in addition to a sneak peek at what's hot and what's not in the industry. A full day's education programme covered a diverse range of topics.

First-time attendee Ryan McCulloch from Goswick said: "I was impressed with the facilities at STRI and the presentations were of a high quality and extremely interesting."

Robert Tosh from Barassie said: "This was a great end to the Patrons Award package. I have enjoyed the whole experience as Patrons Award winner. After today I have a few ideas to take back to my home course." The BIGGA Scotland Region would like to thank its patrons and the STRI for supporting this investment in Scotland's turf managers of the future.

Congratulations to BIGGA Life Member Walter Woods and his wife Caroline, who celebrated 60 years of marriage on 26 October.

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East



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We held our final competition of the year at Baberton. Big thanks to Gary and his team. The course was in wonderful condition, and thanks also to everyone else at the club for their hospitality. Results
Scratch, S. Corrigan, Greenburn;
1st Class, P. Avent, Torwoodlee;
2nd Class, A. Hogg, Goswick;
Trade, R. Beck; Longest drive,
big-hitting Keith Burgeon; Nearest the pin, K. Craig.
Also big thanks to Blair Young from Forth Roots on his talk and demonstration.



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



Northern Ireland: Work underway on the Ladies tee on the 5th hole of the Dunluce course at Royal Portrush



Northern Ireland: Hollow coring of pathways at Royal Portrush



Northern Ireland: Mowing rough areas at Royal Portrush

Gkneil@sky.com. This section is to help keep you the greenkeepers in the loop with what is happening and I can only do that if you let me know what is happening out there, so please help keep this article fresh and interesting.

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Northern Ireland



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As the golf season starts to slow down due to the darker mornings and shorter evenings, it could only mean one thing for the greenkeepers within the golf industry — it's time to start the winter projects.

At Royal Portrush, Course Manager Graeme Beatt has had the pleasure to sit down and review the golf course during its busy season, planning and organising a strategy of when to begin the winter projects.

Our first project has seen all of the tee boxes within the Dunluce and the Valley courses being hollow cored, overseeded and top dressed. This was a slow process as the greenkeepers have to work out routes each morning to try and avoid interfering with golfers. Alongside the hollow coring, the greens staff were able to solid tine the greens within the Dunluce course and overseed the greens. They too were brushed and topdressed. Hopefully we will see germination taking place with the next few weeks.

While the aeration was just finishing, the rough management was beginning. It started within the Valley course, and hopefully by the end of this month will see the Dunluce course completed as well, if everything goes to plan.

Aeration of pathways has taken place to relieve compaction due to golfers, golf carts and maintenance vehicles.

Within the last week the rough at the 18th in the Dunluce course was mowed

and hollow cored to allow for new seed to be introduced as this fairway is being realigned in preparation for The Open.

As the month of October appeared, so did the first construction job on the course, which has seen the lady's tee box on the 5th hole in Dunluce being lifted and reconstructed. This will allow a greater surface to spread out the wear of the tee box as the tee was uneven and falling off at the perimeter.

This is just the beginning of the winter projects, there is still a lot more to accomplish within the winter months to get ready for the next season ahead of us. Hope all course managers and their greens team have a good winter.

Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



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Northern Ireland: Ladies tee on the 5th hole on the Dunluce at Royal Portrush after being lifted

Around the Green

Central England



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Another fantastic golf event in the BB&O section last month. The sun came out to play and everyone was in good spirits.

Thanks to Dan Jones from Turfcare Solutions for the fantastic BBQ at the halfway house, providing some lovely food and entertainment. Simon Freshwater, Harewood Downs, won the day with Andrew Ramsey, Mill Ride, second and Sean Haynes, Bearwood Lakes, third. A special thanks to Course Manager Matt Aplin and his team for preparing such a fantastic track for us all to play on. The course was in great shape, the food was lovely and the hospitality was spot on.

On to education. We have a treat coming up on 14 November and have some great speakers on some interesting topics. The day will be at the new Farol depot which is only a stone's throw away from The Oxfordshire GC.

The day will cost £10 each and is worth every penny. There will be a talk on GPS mapping and machine innovations within the industry.

Sam Evans will talk about his time at TPC Sawgrass.

There will be a tour of Farol's new facility, there will be a talk about stress management within the industry and we have a gentleman called David Jones PhD who is a biologist at The Natural History Museum. He will be speaking about worm control in amenity turf.

We will also have the BB&O AGM on the day. Everyone will be fed and watered throughout the day. It really is going to be a good one.



East of England: Winners of the autumn golf day

Mid Anglia



Darren Mugford

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With the BIGGA National Championship being held in our section at Verulam in St Albans, the Mid Anglia Section would like to give our congratulations to Chris Carpenter MG and his team for producing a superb challenging course which was blessed with great golfing weather, making the whole event a huge success. Mid Anglia's Oly Browning from Stocks (a former champion) made another strong challenge, finishing fifth, so well done from all at the section.

Upcoming Events

Date for your diaries — fresh off the back of the autumn golf day and AGM at Woburn, we have an educational seminar being hosted at John O'Gaunt on 7 November. As last year, there will be a great selection of speakers with a course walk option to view recent course improvement work carried out. There will be a £5 charge per member and please look out for more information in the coming weeks on social media and through email invitation.

Christmas Texas Scramble

Another ever-popular event is the Xmas Turkey Trot which is being hosted this season at Ashridge on Wednesday 20 December, so please look out for entry forms coming our way soon at what is always a very well attended and fun final event of the season.

Thanks to Sponsors

Rigby Taylor Ltd, Headland Amenity, Banks Amenity, ALS, Avoncrop Amenity, Banks Amenity. As ever, your support is really appreciated.

Midland



Glen Howard

howie8447@sky.com

Congratulations to James Moverley from Shirley GC and his partner Jemma on the birth of their first baby. I'm sure Georgia will keep them on their toes over the next few months.

While we are on the baby front, congratulations also go out to Ryan Neale from Droitwich and partner Kirsty on the birth of their son Ewan Allen.

We have the section seminar being held at The Chase on 8 November.

What's on near you

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

kindly sponsored by Advance Grass Solutions. Speakers on the day are: Geoff Fenn and Kelly-Marie Clack from AGS; a presentation from the Young Greenkeepers Committee; George Wale from R&A; Peter Lacey of Farmura; Phil Chiverton from The Grove; and machinery demonstrations by TH White. To book in please contact Andy Laing on 07870 188619 or email andrew.laing@gaudet-luce.co.uk

Team Event at South Staffs GC
We would like to thank Sue Lebeau and Colin Wooley from the club for allowing us to use their course.
Results

1st place with 98pts: Team Redditch, K Williams, H Brook, J Harrison, S Bower;
2nd place with 95pts: Team Droitwich, G Watkins, R Neale, C Jones, P Lacey;
3rd place with 93pts: Team Patshull, M Mitchell, M Ecclestone, P Small, J Evans;

Nearest the Pin: Mal Mitchell, 2nd hole: Mike Hughes, 6th hole: Glen Howard, 11th hole: Karl Williams, 15th hole. Big thanks go out to sponsors Working Turf and Rigby Taylor and also Craig Parry and his team from South Staffs for preparing the course to great standards.

Welcome to apprentice greenkeeper Jacob Dolphin who has joined South Staffs. Also, congratulations to Paul Whilton and Carl Morgan from South Staffs who have achieved 25 years' service with the club.

Congratulations to Elliot Walters from Robin Hood GC who has finished his apprenticeship and is now a qualified greenkeeper.

Committee vacancies. We require a member to take on the role of competitions and handicap secretary for the golf days. For more information contact Rhys Thomas on 07774 164173.

We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to the running of the Midland section over the last few years: Karl Williams, Redditch; Harvey Brook, Redditch; Mal Mitchell, Patshull Park; Kim Blake, Fulford; and Dave Collins, Lickey Hills.

East of England



On 12 October we held our autumn golf event, seminar and section AGM at Pottergate. Firstly our thanks go to Pottergate and its owner Dale Copper for allowing us to use the club for the day's activities and the great lunch provided by Theresa. Also our thanks to Head Greenkeeper Kevin Gray and his assistant Miles Lynch for setting up the course for the day. Everyone I spoke to really enjoyed the nine holes in the afternoon.

The seminar was interesting and educational and our thanks go to Andrew Turnbull and Gary Cooper from Amenity Technology for the talk on Bio Stimulants and also for sponsoring the day's golf, and to Scott Purdy from Bernhards for a very interesting insight into how we all cut grass! After lunch, the AGM was held and further information and details are to follow shortly.

Results
1st, Chris Scott, Ashby Decoy; 2nd, Neil Pridgeon, Kenwick Park; 3rd, Luke Gray, Pottergate; 4th, Ian Batty, Sleaford; Trade, Carl Chamberlain, Rigby Taylor; Nearest the pin, Fred Moiser, Waltham Windmill; Longest drive, Carl Chamberlain, Rigby Taylor; Straightest drive, Neil Pridgeon, Kenwick Park.

Our next event is the very popular Christmas Texas Scramble sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sand, to be held at Torksey (Lincoln) on 15 December. Teams of four with a minimum of two greenkeepers per team. If you would like to take part please contact any committee member to book your place. Finally, if you have a story or information or anything you want to see in the section news please give me a call on 07764629932 or contact me via email i.collett@rigbytaylor.com.

East Midlands



Autumn is here and I hope everyone is well. Upon writing this, our autumn Texas scramble and AGM will have taken place and I am sure it went well. Thanks to all involved in sponsoring and taking part.

The next event on our calendar is the winter tournament at Longcliffe. This is always a popular event so get your name down early when the information is released.

We have an educational day on 16 November at Greetham Valley. All details will be sent out and I hope to see many of you there for what I am sure will be a great and informative day.

I would like to thank Asa English, Derek McJannet, Mark Blacknell and Scott Krokoszynski for representing our section at the BIGGA National Championship. Congratulations to Asa for winning the 13-24 category and to Derek for winning the +4-5 category.



Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



Midlands: Elliot Walters



Midlands: Winners of the team event

Around the Green South East



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Surrey: The two captains sharing the trophy alongside members of both teams



Surrey: The new trophy will be kept at Worplesdon until next year

Surrey



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What a sunny day for some of Surrey's finest to play the Greenkeepers Vs Reps match at the beautifully prepared Worplesdon! With some pre-night jitters and some last-minute scrambling for extra players the night before, we were all treated to bacon rolls and coffee before the fun and games began. Due to a couple of drop outs myself and Mark Fry (captains for the day) decided to put out a singles match first, followed by four groups of pairs. I had the good fortune to get the Reps in front with a very entertaining game against our chairman Les Howkins. There was some stellar golf and some not-so-much but the game was played in the right spirit and I just managed to scrape a win. That was followed by a half from the pairing of Zealander and Lightfoot vs Kyle and Langheim. A loss from Hyder and Cunliffe to McPheason and Sexton was followed by a win from Dave Timms and Gary Ogilvie against Thompson and Tydeman.

So, it all came down to the final game. The Reps were up 2 ½ to 1 ½ with Mark the opposing captain to bring home the bacon, winning his game with his partner Leigh Powell against Mick France and Andrew Cornes. So, we ended with a halved match for what we think is the third year running!

Afterwards we were treated to a marvellous lunch by the catering staff of Worplesdon before a quick speech and a trophy photo. The section would like to thank Chris Lomas and Paul Robinson for hosting the event. To be able to play this competition on such a great course is a real treat and one we don't take lightly so we are all very pleased to be invited back again next year, also this means we have our trophy safely stored in a cabinet! That leads me nicely on to thanking Dan Lightfoot from Syngenta for sponsoring the trophy. As ever all those who won in my team can play again next year and those who didn't you're now fighting for your spot!

The next competition we have as a section will be the England V Scotland Match in November. Expect a full write up to come.

Kent



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Well another enjoyable golf event was held at Sheerness. Many thanks to Paul Boozer and his team for hosting a great day, the course was in great condition and complimented by some very welcoming sunny weather. Matthew Bowles of Kings Hill was again in the limelight and striving for success. He was a deserved winner, with Danny Dalton finishing second and third place went to me, the man without the suit, a trend setter perhaps! Paul Boozer had local course knowledge in his favour, taking the longest drive prize.

For those wanting to attend the BIGGA South East Region Conference 2017, I am happy to announce that if you are a Kent Section BIGGA member we will pay for you to attend. All we require is for you to email kentsection@bigga.co.uk giving your name, golf club and BIGGA membership number.

**What's
on near
you**

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



Surrey: Worplesdon Golf Course

Our final golf event of the year is on 23 November at Redlibbets. Emails and Facebook notifications will be sent with details in due course. The AGM will follow the event, so if you cannot attend the golf day, please feel free to join us for the AGM. Hope to see many of you there!

East Anglia



Mick Lathrope
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On Wednesday 11 October the section met for the autumn golf day at Ufford Park in the heart of Norfolk. The weather was kind to us and stayed dry until most groups had finished their rounds, however the wind challenged all the golfers. This reflected the scores that came in.

The winners were:

0-9 handicap: 1st, Mike Virley, 33pts (on countback); 2nd, Graham Hurren, 33pts.
 10-18 handicap: 1st, Chris Gurton, 35pts; 2nd, Nick Howes, 32 pts.
 19-28 handicap: 1st, Terry Carver, 33pts, 2nd, Andy Baker, 31pts
 Trade and Guest: 1st, Taff O'Connell, 34pts, 2nd, George Butters, 33pts.
 Longest Drive: Tony Thacker.
 Nearest the Pin: Nick Staff.
 The Autumn Shield went to Chris Gurton from Newton Green.

We would like to thank all our sponsors who have supported us this year. The sponsors on the day were: Bartram Mowers/Jacobsen, Aitkins, Ben Burgess, DLF and Tacit.

A big thank you to Adrian Hollins and his team for a well maintained and challenging course set up. It is great to see the improvements since our last visit. Also to all the team at the hotel for the looking after us.

The next event will be the Turkey Trot at Thorpeness on Wednesday 13 December.

Essex



Ian Wood
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The Essex Section is proud to be hosting the South East Conference again this year. The event is to be held at Writtle University College. This is a great central location and a great line-up of speakers makes this a must-attend event. Better news still, the Essex Committee have agreed to pay the entrance fee for Full BIGGA members affiliated to our section. Please see the Essex BIGGA Facebook page for full details of guest speakers. To book your place, please contact Ian Nichols on 07974 924141 or email essexsection@bigga.co.uk.

On 5 October (while I was enjoying my wedding anniversary in Dubrovnik) the great and the good of Essex greenkeeping gathered for a relaxed but competitive afternoon on the Badgers Par 3 course. A good time was had by all in excellent conditions and this differing format allowed everyone the chance to get their name on the roll of honour. The results are:
 Best Aggregate Scores
 First: Andy Cracknell, Ian Nichols, Rob Galley, 206
 Second: Sam Cool, Jack Lawrence, Paul Selbie, 223
 Third (on c/b): Kevin Meyers, Paul Matthams, Dominic Nea, 238
 Best Ball Scores
 First: Adam Mottram, Callum Smith, Danny Kench, 56
 Second: Steve Hargis, Steve Crosdale, 58
 Third: Chris Cobbing, Darren Stuttle, Matt Wise, 60
 Nearest the Pins (long list it was a par 3 day): 1st/10th, Chris Cobbing; 2nd/11th, Paul Selbie; 3rd/12th, Callum Smith; 4th/13th, Sam Cook; 5th/14th, Andy Cracknell; 6th/15th, Steve Crosdale; 7th/16th, Michael Fance; 8th/17th, Adam Mottram; 9th/18th, Andy Toomey.

Our next golf day will be the team event at Top Meadow on Thursday 7 December.

The Essex Section AGM will also be held on this day prior to the start of the golf. The committee would like to ask members to give prior notice of any matters they wish to be discussed at the meeting. The committee would also like to advise that there are three vacancies for the coming year.

London



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As we move into autumn, winter projects are in full swing around the section. New greens constructions, tees, bunkers and drainage works are all being undertaken, so good luck to all the greenkeeping teams with these project's. One man who's slightly ahead of the game is Lee Cox, course manager at Mill Hill, who has already completed the rebuild of his 16th green. Working with Swan architects & Steve Thompson, Lee and his team completely rebuilt the green to offer more pin positions and improve strategy. Drainage was also added & greenside bunkers remodelled. Lee said: "There have been huge improvements with how the hole will play and a very enjoyable challenge."

Date for the diary

Thurs 14 December, Turkey Trot at Porters Park, sponsored by Ernest Does.

Sussex



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Section News
 We want to hear what's been going on in your section
 Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



London: Mill Hill Golf Club renovation works

Around the Green

South West & S. Wales



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South West: Presentation at Cumberwell Park

Thornbury, to keep you informed of all that's going on in our section, as the secretary role is going to keep me busy!

I hope you've enjoyed reading ATG over the last year as much as I have enjoyed writing it. Hope to see you all soon!

South Coast



Mike Cartwright

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mikecartwright1

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Bramshaw has honoured its long-serving course manager, Jason Buckmaster, by presenting him with a special award in recognition of his 30 years' work at the New Forest club.

Starting in 1987, Jason began his career at Bramshaw as a young apprentice, quickly acquiring all the necessary greenkeeping qualifications, and, on acquisition of its second club, Dunwood Manor, he progressed to the position of head greenkeeper.

He was promoted to course manager at both venues in 2006, until Dunwood Manor's closure in 2012. Since then he has dedicated his time to Bramshaw, where he manages a team of nine greenkeepers across its two 18-hole courses — the Manor, and Hampshire's oldest golf course, the Forest.

Sellick will take up the baton as Chariman, with myself taking over as secretary. Darren Moxham signaled his intention to step down as treasurer. I would like to thank him on behalf of all of us for all his hard work over the years.

As this arrives on your doorstep there will still be time to register for your place at the regional conference if you haven't already done so – Somerset Cricket Ground on 16 November. As always there is a great line up of speakers on what promises to be a great day.

I have really enjoyed my time writing this article for the magazine, but I am handing over to the very capable Dave Taylor, deputy course manager at

South West



Seb Cavilla

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googlemail.com

What a day! The South West Section has just enjoyed two great presentations from course manager Matt James and Head of Conservation John Keppen at Cumberwell Park.

This was followed by our AGM, a light lunch and then a round of golf on the recently opened par 3 course. Congratulations to Gian Povey for winning nearest the pin on the iconic-looking 8th hole.

A huge thank you to all the clubhouse and greenkeeping staff for making a fantastic day for us all.

While at the AGM we had the pleasure of announcing the winners of the sponsored places to BTME. Congratulations to Nick Gardener who wins the regional place, and to Kevin Chambers who wins the section place. Two worthy winners selected from a large pool of entrants, and who I'm sure will make the most of their opportunity.

We also announced a slight reshuffle of roles within the committee. Lucy



What's on near you

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



South West: Presentation at Cumberwell Park

New Members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Richard Wing | Affiliate – STRI |
| Scott Patrick | DHGK – Prestwick St Cuthbert |
| Gordon Rees | GK – Kilrea |
| Caroline Munro | HGK – Bonar Bridge/Ardgay |
| Bengt Ericson | Student – SRUC (Elmwood) |

Northern

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Steven Stringer | CM – Boysnope Park |
| Stephen Skachill | GK – Ramside Hall |
| Dylan Waterfield | AGK – Fulford |
| Matthew Kay | AGK – Prestbury |
| Jason Norwood | AGK – Rudding Park |
| Michael Cowan | AGK – The Wynyard |
| Steven Fletcher | AGK – Tinsley Park |

Central England

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bobby Newton | GK – Windmill Village |
| Tom Bromfield | AGK – Trentham |
| Jack Brent | AGK – West Hill |
| Matthew Purcell | AGK – Marriott Forest of Arden |
| Will Smith | AGK – Woburn |
| Phil Billinghamurst | AGK – Woburn |

South East

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Connor Lang | GK – The London |
| David Briffaut | GK – Boyce Hill |
| John Hockley | GK – Royal Ascot |
| Sam Dark | Mechanic – Woking |
| Harry Misselbrook | AGK – Harewood Downs |
| Bruce Wade | AGK – St Clements |
| Jonathon Reece | AGK – Ellesborough |
| Joshua Cramp | AGK – Garon Park |

South West and South Wales

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Lewis Walton | GK – Remedy Oak |
| Matt Broughton | AGK – Langland Bay |
| Samuel Lovell | AGK – Whitley |
| Tim Brown | AGK – Hockley |

International

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| David Andrews | Krefeld |
| Tobias Bareiss | Golfanlage Schloss Nippenburg |



South West: A misty day at Cumberwell Park as Course Manager Matt James tees off

Stuart James, Bramshaw's general manager, said: "I am absolutely delighted to not only recognise and congratulate Jason on his milestone achievement, but to also offer my sincerest thanks for his unwavering support. It's been an absolute pleasure working with him. His positive and professional demeanour, living and breathing his job, is a credit to him."

After being presented with his award, Jason said: "I thoroughly enjoy working at Bramshaw. The family owners have been a pleasure to work for, and have also continually invested in both courses, enabling me to grow and expand my knowledge and experience. I'm fortunate to work with a great team. With the relaunch of the Forest Course next year, Bramshaw continues to be an exciting place to work."

South Wales



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 andrewhatcher1@msn.com

Devon & Cornwall



Neil Rogers
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 nrogers@country-widefarmers.co.uk

We recently held our first fixture of the season at Teignmouth. The course was in magnificent condition, although it proved a little tricky for some! The golf was won by Sam Dunn who scored an impressive 34 points in the conditions. 2nd was Pat Hobbs and 3rd was Richard Simmons. Nearest the pin was won by David Timms and the longest drive was again won by Sam Dunn.

The non-golfing members were led on a course walk by Course Manager Justin Manester who talked about the changes

being made in his management practices on the course. Once back at the clubhouse a putting competition was held and won by Tracey! Despite the claim afterwards of "I never win anything", there were rumours of a lot of practicing on her travels!

After the meal in the clubhouse the section AGM was held. Chairman Jason Brookes thanked all the committee for their efforts over the past 12 months. Jason was re-elected as chairman, James Williams was elected secretary and Gary Tuckett was elected as treasurer. Or was Mrs Tuckett elected?

Our Christmas meeting is at Trevoise on 14 December. If you are interested in attending please let Jason know.

Colin Webber will again be organising the section away trip in March. This will be in the Liverpool area. We are looking for an idea of numbers at this stage so could you please let Jason or Colin know if you are interested.

On a personal note, as I'm sure you are now all aware I have moved companies. Countrywide Turf and Amenity will no longer be trading and have been part of a management buyout to form Advance Grass Solutions. If you wish to contact me please email me with anything you wish to be included in Around the Green please use my new email address. neil@advancegrass.com



South Coast: Jason Buckmaster

Around the Green Northern



Chairman

Chris Sheehan
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Regional Administrator

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North East



Paul Walton

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Best of luck to Malcolm Lathan who is leaving Hexham GC after 26 years. Malcolm is moving to Eden GC in Cumbria as estates manager.

Congratulations to Brian Clarke and his team at Close House on a very successful British Masters. Brian's team has been working tirelessly over the last few months in preparation for the European Tour event. Standards were very high and the course was looking spectacular. The week of the tournament the greenkeepers were helped out with a 20-strong team of BIGGA members. Well done and thanks to everyone who helped out. The spectator attendance for the whole week was 68,000, so I'm sure the clean-up operation will be keep the guys busy until 2020.

The annual "bring a bottle" tournament will take place at Dunstanburgh Castle on 14 December, tee times yet to be announced. Keep checking Facebook and a text will be sent out to BIGGA members once finalised

Cleveland



Anthony McGeough

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The autumn tournament was held at Richmond GC on 11 October after the original date was cancelled due to low numbers. September seems to be a very busy month, so it might be worth moving the autumn tournament to October to allow all the guys to get their renovations completed. Twelve players took part, with the weather making for some below par

scoring (well that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it!). The course was even described as the longest short course you'll play! I think that was a compliment. There were a few new faces and some old ones returning to their old stomping grounds — the place has changed a little since you worked here Ollie.

Results
1st, Conner Taylor, 31pts; 2nd, Ollie Shepherd, 27pts countback; 3rd, Ian Pemberton, 27pts countback; 4th, Iain Leversuch, 27pts; 5th, Sam Pemberton, 26pts; 6th, Ben McGrattan, 25pts; Longest drive, Sam Pemberton; Nearest the pin, Glen Hunt.
Thank you to sponsors Rigby Taylor, TSL and Nik Blesic BSU.

I was due to help out with the support team at Close House, along with Dan Egan from Castle Eden. Unfortunately work commitments meant I was unable to attend as planned. However, I did manage to make it as a spectator on the Friday in the typically northern weather and I would like to congratulate all the staff and helpers at Close House as the course looked amazing despite the conditions.

North West



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Northern



Rob Gee

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No doubt everyone is totally fed up with the constant deluge of rain! Take the positives out of it, at least dry patch hasn't been an issue this season!

Mike Sillito was presented with a gift in recognition of his 30 years' service at Wakefield by Club Captain Eddie Taylor. Congratulations Mike.



Northern: Mike Sillito receiving recognition for 30 years' service

Autumn/Christmas golf at Bracken Ghyll, 16 November. Hopefully there will be a good turnout.

Sheffield



Richard Bee

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beeboy0138@
hotmail.com

North Wales



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

Congratulations to Sian and Rhys on the safe arrival of Llewelyn on 7 September. Our section members wish you all well.

Caldy continues with its maintenance and construction project. Here is a photo of the rebuilt 18th green. The work includes a short game facility and there are two more greens to rebuild.

Our next event is the golf day and AGM at North Wales GC, Llandudno, on 23 November. Teams of four and early tee times. We hope to see you there.

Thank you
to our section
sponsors

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

Upcoming Events

Contact your section secretary to book a place

Scotland & Northern Ireland

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

Northern Ireland: 8 March, CAFRE – Greenmount Campus, education day

Northern

Northern: 13 November, Wynyard, Chainsaw course

North East: 13 November, Dunstanburgh Castle, YGC Bunker Camp

Northern: 16 November, Bracken Ghyll, Autumn/Christmas golf day

Northern: 22 November, Wynyard, IOSH Tree Inspection Course

North Wales: 23 November, North Wales GC (Llandudno), Golf day and AGM

North East: 23 November, Dunstanburgh Castle, YGC Education Day

Cleveland: 27 November, Middlesbrough GC (Brass Castle), Chainsaw course

North West: 4 December, Leyland, Turf Club Christmas Quiz

Sheffield: 6 December, Worksop GC, Christmas golf tournament and AGM

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

Central England

Mid Anglia: 7 November, John O'Gaunt, education seminar

BB&O: 14 November, Farol Depot, education day

East Midlands: 16 November, Greetham Valley, education day

East Midlands: 7 December, Longcliffe, Christmas golf tournament

Midland: 13 December, Trentham, Christmas golf day



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

Mid Anglia: 20 December, Ashridge, Christmas golf day

South East

South East Regional Conference: 16 November, Writtle University College

Kent: 23 November, Redlibbets, Golf event and AGM

Essex: 7 December, Thorpeness, Turkey Trot

London: 14 December, Porters Park, Turkey Trot

South West & South Wales

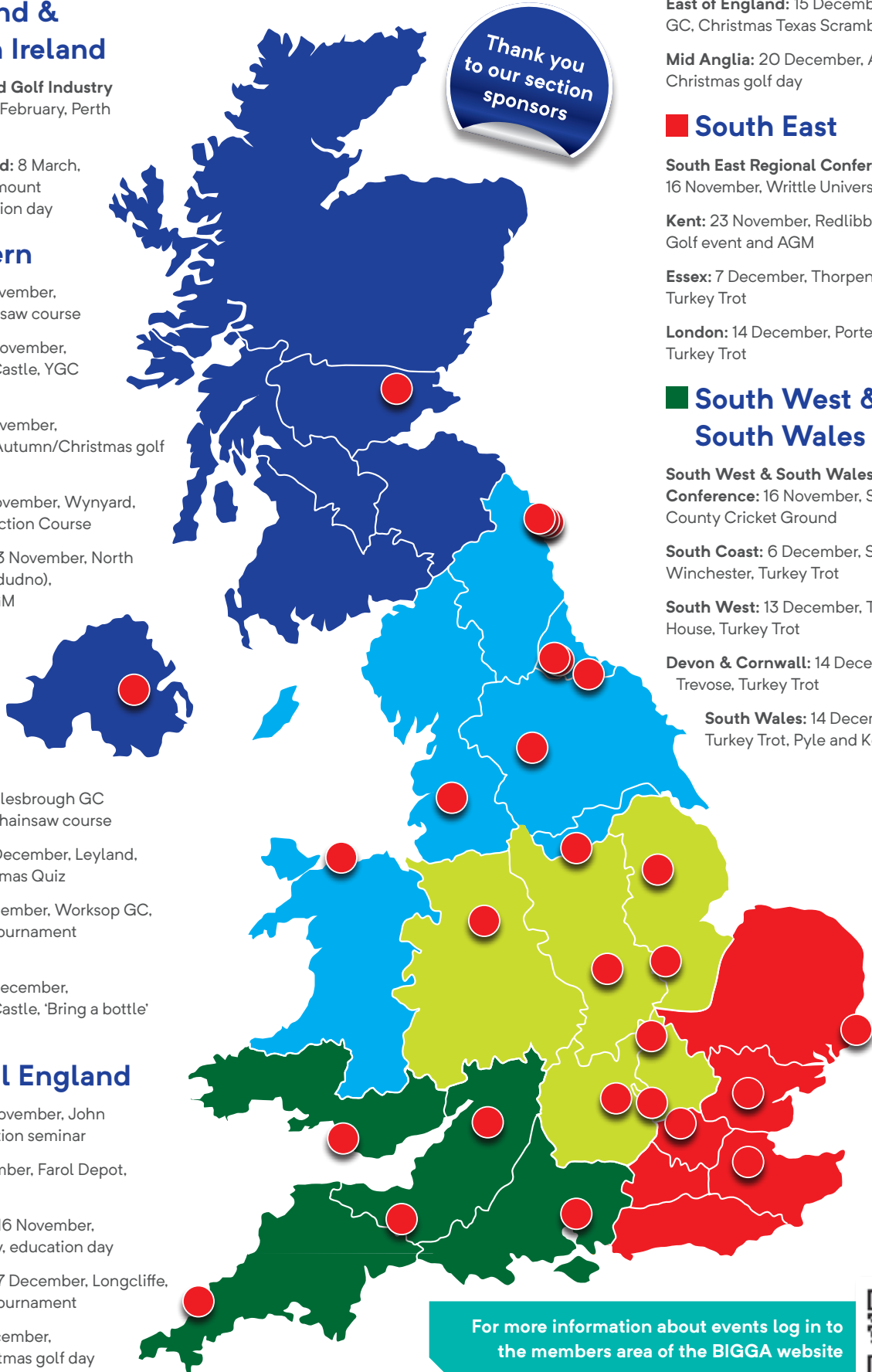
South West & South Wales Regional Conference: 16 November, Somerset County Cricket Ground

South Coast: 6 December, South Winchester, Turkey Trot

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

Devon & Cornwall: 14 December, Trevose, Turkey Trot

South Wales: 14 December, Turkey Trot, Pyle and Kenfig



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





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Lauren Frazer
Business Development Executive
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Buyer's Guide

Multi-tasking taken to the max

From now until next season's start, one machine that will potentially be in use every day, regardless of weather, is Wiedenmann UK's Super 500/Super 600.

Come rain, shine or even low temperatures, it can be found hard at work. Billed as a three-in-one mower, collector and scarifier, you actually need the fingers of both hands to count the multitude of tasks where it gets involved. So whether it is cutting long rough, scarifying fairways, lifting leaves, picking up cores or even fraise mowing, course managers delight in the versatility this one machine offers.

Perfect for courses with undulations, or traditional 'ridge and furrow', the Super 500/Super 600 follows contours easily and produces a consistent height of cut, whether scarifying or flail mowing. Indeed, along with the Wiedenmann Terra Rake, the Super 500 is integral to literally dozens of rough management programmes countrywide.

Richard Johnstone, course manager at Nairn Dunbar Golf Links said: "The Super 500 met our brief because it completes three essential processes in one operation, flail mowing,

scarifying and collecting the arisings. It really is versatile. In the summer when we hosted the Boys' Amateur Championships we had it clearing the range of divots. It's an all-rounder."

In full agreement is Tony Grayson, course manager at Chorley GC said: "You are always confident with the Super 500. In the right conditions it doesn't drop debris. When it's damp anything dropped is minimal but that's expected and acceptable. Either way it will always do a good job."

A 2.1m high dump facility makes for easy tipping into bins and trailers. The container lifts via a parallel system, with the hopper rotating, allowing the hopper to completely discharge collected material. The Super 500 has a 2.5m³ tank while the Super 600 a 4.5m³ tank.

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Learning & Development

The evolution of Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn at BTME is the largest
education programme, specifically designed for
golf greenkeepers, in Europe.

From humble beginnings around 20 years ago, the programme has grown exponentially. In just the last 10 years the hours of education available has more than doubled, resulting in nearly 1,000 delegates enjoying over 3,000 hours of career development opportunities.

Since 2008 the number of workshops has increased by 92% and the number of seminars by 150%. In that time, we have also added five new streams to the programme:

- Turf Managers' Conference
- Focus On Sessions
- Career Development Sessions
- GolfBIC — Golf Business and Industry Convention
- Young Greenkeepers Conference

the education to industry need and provide a clear illustration of the range of subjects required in the programme.

The programme reflects the needs of the modern golf greenkeeper, with a blend of agronomic, technical and management subjects.

We are very excited to be introducing 22 new educational events to the programme as well as a new conference. Additionally we are welcoming an array of new presenters.

Key:
(W) = Workshop,
(F) = Focus On Session
(S) = Seminar

**Micah Woods, chief scientist,
Asian Turfgrass Center:**

- Turf Managers' Conference — Green Speed is More Than a Number
- Turf Conditions and Optimal Efficiency (W)
- Principles of Turfgrass Nutrition: Why Some Nutrients are Required as Fertiliser and Others Aren't (W)
- Using and Understanding MLSN Guidelines for Nutrient Recommendations (F)

More than 1/3 of the Continue to Learn at BTME 2018 programme is free of charge to BIGGA members. In 2008 this was only 8%.

As the programme has grown we have been able to adapt the way it is put together, particularly by engaging closely with our members, through the introduction of the Proposal to Present and Members Choice initiatives. This has helped to better target



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

Steven Tierney MG, Golfpark Nuolen AG; Stephen Okula MG CGCS, Golf de Joyenval; Daniel Tyrell, Gathurst; Jonathan Roberts, Ellesmere; Leigh Powell, Windlesham; Michael Mead, Littlehampton; Paul Selbie, Hainaut; Andrew Baker, Ely.

**Congratulations to the following members who achieved their CPD Milestone
this month:** Steven Tierney MG, Golfpark Nuolen AG; Tom Pattison, Blyth.

Mike Fidanza, professor of plant and soil sciences, Pennsylvania State University

- Turf Managers' Conference — Managing Water for Improved Turf Disease Control
- Fungicides and Physiology (F)
- Fairy Rings (F)

Tim Lobb & James Edwards, EIGCA members and golf course architects

- Renovating Your Golf Course (W)

Adam Moeller, director, Green Section Education, United States Golf Association

- Managing Organic Matter in Putting Greens (S)
- Developing a Comprehensive Golf Course Master Plan (S)

We will also see the return of some firm favourites including:

Adrian Mortram, design consultant and managing director, Robin Hume Associates Ltd

- Irrigation Design and Auditing (W)

Paul Miller, lecturer in golf course management

- Fertiliser programs from first principles (W)

Michael Astrop, principal, Coach the Mind

- How to Think Differently for Improved Performance (W)
- Report Writing (W)
- Dealing with Difficult People and Situations (W)
- Assertiveness (F)
- Crucial Conversations (F)
- Disciplinary Interviewing Skills (F)

Frank Newberry, trainer and consultant, Frank Newberry Seminars

- Stop Telling Your Team – Start Transforming Your Team! (F)
- Appraising Your Mates at Work (F)
- Criticising and Correcting People at Work (F)

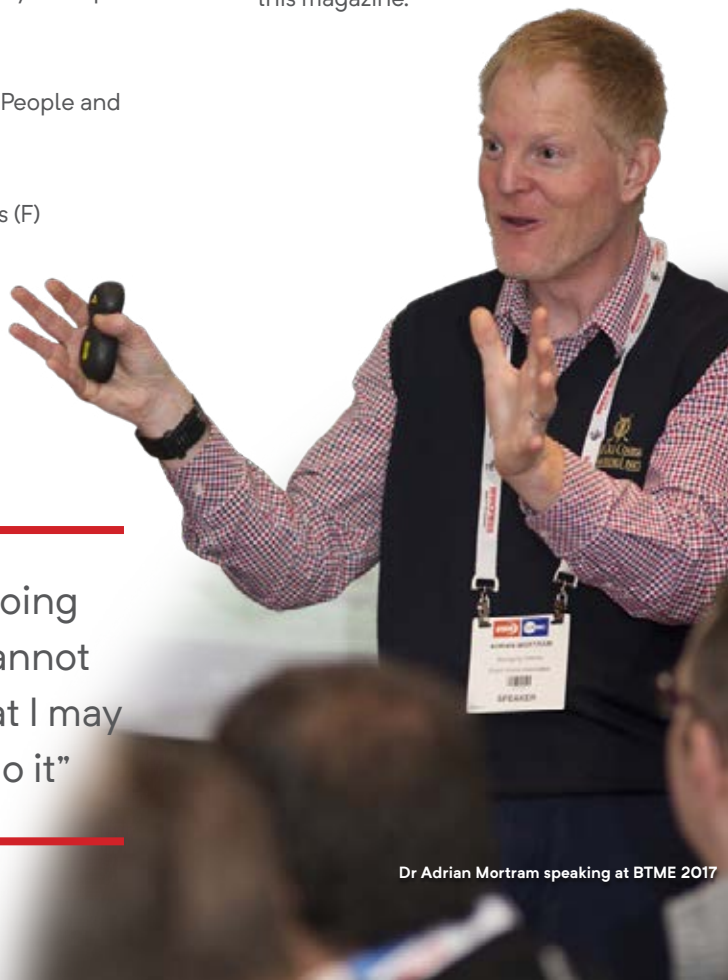
To get the very best from the Continue to Learn programme, select courses that push you out of your comfort zone. This way you will always be learning something new.

BTME 2018 sees the return of GolfBIC — the Golf Business and Industry Convention. Brought to you by the UKGCOA, OGRO and BIGGA, it will once again be hosted by Naga Munchetty and will feature sessions on:

- Leadership and Management Challenges
- The Impact of Understanding Your Market
- The Power of Social Media to Drive Business to Your Golf Club
- How Reframing the Driving Range Experience Allowed Us to Charge More!
- Changing the Face of Golf
- What Golf Can Learn from the Wider Leisure Industry

Brand-new for 2018 is the Young Greenkeepers Conference hosted by BIGGA's Young Greenkeepers Committee.

Further details about this new conference, specifically designed for young greenkeepers, can be found on page 18 of this magazine.



“I am always doing that which I cannot do in order that I may learn how to do it”

Pablo Picasso

Dr Adrian Mortram speaking at BTME 2017

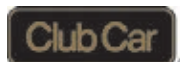


JOHN DEERE

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INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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



Apprentice Corner

Andy Wight | Oaklands College



Apprentice Corner

To progress in the world of work today you need maths and English. No one job today can be considered a job for life as changes in technology constantly alter the way work is done.

Also, just to progress in a career we have to stay ahead of the competition in terms of technical skills and knowledge. Employers are increasingly looking at how potential new employees have been active in maintaining skills and knowledge and are looking for evidence of continuing professional development (CPD) as well as ability in English and maths.

The aim of this area in the magazine is to enhance the knowledge and abilities of apprentices and new entrants to the industry. This month I would like to look at one area that many people tend to be weak in i.e. the use of metric in maths. When dealing with tasks such as calibration or construction, a good understanding of this subject is vital for greenkeepers. Often, calculations are incorrectly applied due to a lack of knowledge of the metric system.

Below are some of the most commonly used metric measurements

| Length | Weight | Volume | Area |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1km = 1000m | 1 metric tonne = 1000kg | 1L = 1000ml | 10000m ² = 1 hectare |
| 1m = 100cm | 1000g = 1kg | 1L = 1000cc | |
| 1cm = 10mm | 1g = 1000mg | | |

Abbreviations

km = kilometre, m = metre, cm = centimetre and mm = millimetre
 kg = kilogram, a measure of weight (or strictly speaking mass), g = gram, L = litre, ml = millilitre and cc = cubic centimetre

Basic errors often made by students are:

- Adding units together without converting them to the same value, for example adding 156cm to 1m rather than correctly adding 156cm to 100cm or 1.56m to 1m.
- Not understanding place value e.g. a calculation is put into a calculator during the calibration of a sprayer and gives the answer of 0.56789. How many millilitres is this? This is easy if you consider that are 1000ml in a litre and so you need only look at the first 4 figures i.e. 0.567

or 567ml (or 568 rounded to the nearest ml, the 89 after the 7 is 0.89 of a ml so we could round up to 1ml)

To understand place value we need to look at a measurements and the number of digits in the measurement.

| Unit | 10000 | 1000 | 100 | 10 | 1 |
|---------|-------|------|-----|----|---|
| Hectare | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Metre | | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Litre | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

For example if we take a measurement, such as 0.234m and apply place value (the 0 before the decimal place shows us the measure is less than 1 full metre) in the table below.

| Unit | 10000 | 1000 | 100 | 10 | 1 | <unit |
|-------|-------|------|-----|----|---|-------|
| Metre | | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

We see the answer in centimetres is 23.4cm (23cm and 4mm.) Note the decimal place is used between the 3 and the 4 to show the 4 is less than one centimetre i.e. it is 4mm.

When you understand this, you can work much more efficiently in operations such as calibration. Indeed, you can check calculations for errors:

Example

A pesticide is going to be applied at 9L per hectare. This is 9000ml over 10000m² (metres squared). This would mean there are 0.9ml of pesticide per m². So, if you have calibrated to spray 3000m² you will require 2.7L or 2700ml of pesticide.

Questions

Now try testing yourself to see if you are a metric expert

- What is 550m³ expressed as a hectare?
- How many kilograms would you need to treat 500m² at 35 gram per m³?
- Add 0.555 kilograms to 2555 grams and give answer in kg.

Answers

550m³ is 0.055 hectares

Amount of kg needed to treat 500m² at 35g per m² is 17.5kg. (500 x 35 = 17500 divided by 1000) = 17.5kg

0.555 kg + 2555g is 555 + 2555 = 3110 divided by 1000 = 3.11kg.

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All Season

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(18-2.6-14.9 +1.2Mg +TE)



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(19-0-15.8 1.2Mg +TE)



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Territory Manager (North England)

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As **Territory Manager**, you will be responsible for demonstrating our grinders, helping grow our existing customer base and develop new business across your area.

You will need to have a very good technical background.

Knowledge of grinders operation would be preferable although training will be given.

This is a brilliant opportunity for the right person to come in and make a real positive impact, and develop your own career with the business.

We will offer a competitive benefits package. Salary will be negotiable dependent on experience.

To apply for the position or find out more, please email a covering letter and CV to: recruitment@bernhard.co.uk

Closing date: 1st December 2017

Bernhard and Company Limited www.bernhard.co.uk

Recruitment

ARE YOU LOOKING TO RECRUIT A NEW TEAM MEMBER?

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Contact **Karen Hughes** on 01347 833800 or karen@bigga.co.uk to book your space.

MECHANIC AT BRADFIELD COLLEGE

Full time role, all year round post | Required as soon as possible

We are looking to recruit a person who has experience maintaining horticultural machinery within a multi-disciplined environment. Through the maintenance and servicing of our fleet of machinery you will support the Estates team in the development of the sports pitches and facilities.

All candidates are required to complete an application form in full.

To apply, please visit www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk/vacancies or email the HR Department at hr@bradfieldcollege.org.uk

Closing date: Noon, Friday 10th November 2017

Bradfield College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening as part of their application. This includes submitting an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)



KEILIR GOLF CLUB

Keilir Golf Club is Iceland's top ranked golf course and considered one of the best courses in the Nordic countries (ranked at 15th Golf Digest Sweden). The course is located in Hafnarfjörður, a suburb of Reykjavík. An opportunity has opened for a mechanic to join the team of 4 full time staff and 14 seasonal workers.

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Schedule and perform appropriate preventative maintenance work.
- Keep all mowing equipment operational and properly sharpened.
- Perform routine servicing and repairs to a variety of turf machinery including tractors, riding mowers and the club's vehicles.
- Sharpen mower equipment for external golf clubs as part of our contractor business
- Keep service records on all equipment on a computerised maintenance management system (CMMS).
- Maintain workshop area in a neat orderly fashion and in accordance with health and safety legislation.
- With the guidance of the Course Manager. Maintain appropriate inventory of stock.
- Willingness to keep up to date with current industry trends and training opportunities.
- Carry out general greenkeeping duties as outlined by the Course Manager.

Qualifications:

- Have experience with the maintenance and operation of golf or amenity horticultural machinery.
- Excellent diagnostic skills and experience of working with hydraulics and electrics are required for this position
- Experience of reel grinding and mower setup
- Welding skills and ability to design and build from steel
- A flexible approach to working hours is essential
- Fluent English speaker
- Experience of record keeping on a CMMS software

A competitive package awaits the successful candidate including a salary of up to £45k, pension according to Icelandic law, up to paid 30 days holiday.

Please apply with covering letter and CV to the bjarni@keilir.is

Closing Date: 01/12/2017

Location: Keilir Golf Club, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

Website: www.keilir.is/english

MID OCEAN CLUB

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

Mid Ocean Club is a private members Club in Bermuda that is home to a Charles Blair Macdonald designed 18-hole golf course that consistently features in the world top 100.

We seek an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent to direct and participate in the maintenance and turf management of the golf course; supervise maintenance of mechanical equipment; and deputise for the Course Superintendent.

Responsibilities include:

- Planning and supervising golf course maintenance projects
- Supervising the Agronomy team and equipment use
- Overseeing pesticide applications
- Maintaining pumps, irrigation and drainage systems
- Scheduling and staff management assistance

Minimum requirements:

- Associate's degree – Turf Management or similar discipline
- 10 years golf course maintenance
- Five years' supervisory experience

CV and cover letter: rtucker@moc.bm

Closing: 24 November 2017



Course Manager Saltsjöbaden Golf Club

Saltsjöbaden Golf Club, a 27-hole facility is located only 15 minutes from central Stockholm. We are looking for a Course Manager to take on the daily operation and management our facility. Responsible for the greenkeeping team, and creating a positive overall experience, the Course manager will focus on a high quality finish of the course and surrounding areas, for both our members and guests. You will be an important and driving part of the golf club's development and together we shall create Stockholm's best member's golf club.

Applications to be submitted to klubbchef@saltsjobadengk.se. For further information please contact Mats Candinger, CEO / Club Manager, +46 708-58 40 26.



Estate Manager/ Head Greenkeeper

Set in 440 acres of stunning Oxfordshire countryside and part of Heythrop Park Resort lays the 18-hole Bainbridge Championship Course.

Heythrop Park is offering an opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced Estate Manager/ Head Greenkeeper to lead the team of greens staff and gardeners. Candidates need to be energetic and have a positive approach to changes to improve the golf course and deliver the best possible golf experience for the club's members, guest and visitors.

You will have all of the qualifications and skills stated below and at least 5 years' experience in a Head Greenkeeper role at a resort.

For full details of this role please go to www.bigga.org.uk/careers

Applicants should submit a written application, including CV and details of current remuneration package by e-mail to Gundula Seifert at gseifert@heythropark.co.uk

Closing date for this application is 15th November 2017.



DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER CHART HILLS GOLF CLUB

Chart Hills is an award winning course designed by Sir Nick Faldo situated in the high weald of Kent. Due recent investment and extensive course refurbishment we are now recruiting a Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

All applicants must have previous relevant experience. We offer a competitive salary dependant on qualifications and experience. To apply send your cv to work@charthills.co.uk



Seasonal Assistant Greenkeeper

Tyrifford Golf Klubb is situated approx. 35km west of Oslo. Our 18 hole private members club was constructed in 1994 and the course is located on a beautiful Island on Lake Tyrifford.

You will be qualified in producing a high standard of presentation and be proficient with the use of modern maintenance equipment, having the ability to work on your own initiative but within a team role.

Desired experience/Skills

- NVQ level 2 or relevant greenkeeping experience (minimum 3 years)
- Experience in automated irrigation systems preferred but not essential.
- Flexible working hours

Employment to commence April/May 2018

Accommodation can be discussed.

An attractive package will be offered to the successful applicant.

If you are interested in the above position then please apply via e mail to ian@tyrifford-golfklubb.no by 15th Nov 2017, attaching your C.V/covering letter.

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9 hole heroes

Celebrating BIGGA's nine-hole greenkeepers

Clive Winter | Bay View Golf Course

1. What is your job title?

I'm attached to a caravan park and I do both, so I am course manager and caravan park manager.

2. How long have you worked in the industry?

I've been in the golf industry for 11 years, including building this course. A friend of mine bought the caravan park and he said 'I think someone has started to build a golf course here'. My next door neighbour was managing director of Cooden Park and he sent the boys up and we started to build the course together. I initially wanted it as a par-3 course as many major tournaments start with a par-3 competition, but the holes were too long and so we have six par-4s.

3. I like working on a nine-hole course because...

I joined a course in Bexhill and my youngest son is a very good golfer. We played one evening and afterwards we went into the bar and he tried to order some food but they refused to serve him because he wasn't a member. Likewise, the owner of this caravan site is a multi-millionaire and we stopped off at another course on another occasion and they again refused to serve us because we weren't members. I don't understand how golfers can afford to do that, and it isn't what I want from golf. If you turn up to play at our club and you are in a pair of jeans, you can still play. We are a lot more relaxed than the average course.

Also, a number of my members are elderly or have physical disabilities and I enjoy the fact they are still able to play the game because we

are so relaxed and can help them out on the course. It is so important in their life and I am glad we can do that for them.

4. What is the most difficult part of your job?

Probably the education. The hardest thing is educating the golfers on how to play things like Stableford, and other rules.

5. How many staff do you have?

We have two full time greenkeepers and a temporary groundsman we share with the caravan site. The head greenkeeper is Aaron Fitt and the other greenkeeper is Tommy Spender, and both are BIGGA members. We have to be careful because money is very tight.

6. What machinery do you use?

We have just bought a tractor for £4,000 and we are coming up to hollow tining, topdressing and overseeding, which will cost another £2,000.

All of our equipment is Toro, except for a John Deere rough mower we share with the caravan

Do you know a greens team you think deserves recognition on 9 Hole Heroes?

Email karl@bigga.co.uk

site. We have two greens mowers, one fairway mower, a zero turn and some hand mowers.

7. What chemicals do you use?

We get our chemicals from Grassroots Trading but we try and use as little as possible. The best chemical we used is the warm suppressant, but we are not allowed to use that any more.

8. What is the strangest comment a golfer has ever said to you?

We built a new tee on the 9th and raised it up about 10 feet. We opened it up so from the road you can see the tee. We have a suggestions box in the clubhouse and one of the members asked if I could do anything about the fact that at certain times of the day when he is teeing off, the sun shines in his eyes. He asked is there anything we can do about it? I bought him some sunglasses!

9. What is the best tip you have received?

Probably to pack up when I am 75. And to prevent me from ruining a good walk by leaving my clubs in the car.

Below: Jake Coefield, Derek Smith, Simon Chatterton, Stuart Hudson



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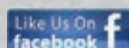
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New stainless steel rollers with overlapping heads achieve uniformly smooth, fast greens in just one sitting while reducing the risk of scuffing during turns. Turf is left pristine thanks to the hydraulic drive system that reduces leak risks and maintenance is easy with only one grease point. Designed with comfort in mind, the 1260 features a bi-directional seat adjustment lever, armrests and an isolated engine for reduced vibrations, resulting in the smoothest ride ever. Add it all up and you have a world-class greens roller that's easy to use.

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