



# GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.50 | JUNE 2018



Featured Inside

# The Open

What does it take to prepare your course  
for the greatest tournament in golf?

Cumberwell Park | Suicide prevention | Tee levelling  
Irrigation | Ryder Cup Q&A's with Jacobsen and Syngenta



# Vitalnova®

## Stressbuster



New blended liquid formulation designed to maintain turf health through periods of stress.

- Helps condition the turf against stress
- Supports turf health and provides a boost at any time of year
- Immediate colour-up response
- For greens, tees, fairways, sports pitches and outfields
- Available in 10L and 200L packs

### The Vitalnova® range



**Stressbuster**  
7-0-0 + 2Fe + sugars  
+ wetting agent +  
amino + TE



**AminoBoost**  
8-0-7 + 10%  
amino acids



**SILK**  
0-7-12 + 6% Si



**Blade**  
5-6.5-3.5 +  
carbohydrates  
+ seaweed + TE



**SeaMax**  
4-0-11 + 10%  
concentrated  
seaweed

[www.icl-sf.co.uk](http://www.icl-sf.co.uk)  
[www.icl-sf.ie](http://www.icl-sf.ie)

Tel: 01473 237116 Email: [prof.sales@icl-group.com](mailto:prof.sales@icl-group.com)

Contact your local distributor or ICL Technical  
Area Sales Manager for more information.

**ICL**  
Where needs take us

© Registered Trademark of ICL Limited





**BIGGA Patron**  
Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE

**BIGGA President**  
Chris Kennedy

**BIGGA Chairman**  
Les Howkins MG

**BIGGA Vice President**  
Chris Sheehan

**BIGGA Board Members**  
Rob Welford, Stuart Taylor, Scott Reeves, Tom Smith, Jaime Acton, George Barr, Chris Sealey

**BIGGA Chief Executive Officer**  
Jim Croxton | jim.croxton@bigga.co.uk

**BIGGA General Manager**  
Tracey Maddison | traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

**BIGGA Finance & Procurement Manager**  
Steve Wragg | steve@bigga.co.uk

**Contact Us**  
BIGGA House, Aldwark, AIne, York, YO61 1UF  
info@bigga.co.uk | www.bigga.org.uk  
Tel — 01347 833800 | Fax — 01347 833801

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



## Editorial

**Editor**  
Karl Hansell  
Tel — 01347 833829  
karl@bigga.co.uk  
@karlhansell



## Production

**Design & Artwork Production**  
Libbie Waddleton  
libbie@bigga.co.uk  
Tel — 01347 833817



## Advertising

**Business Development Manager**  
Lauren Frazer  
Tel — 01347 833832  
lauren@bigga.co.uk



## Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane,  
Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH  
Tel — 01778 391000 | Fax — 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that June appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961— 6977  
© 2018 British and International Golf  
Greenkeepers Association Limited

# Welcome



Early morning preparations at the 2018 BMW PGA Championship



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

**I don't think I'm alone in the fact that I chose to work in the golf industry because I love the game and the courses it is played on, yet over time I find myself playing less and less.**

Every year I vow to play more and then things get in the way, and so far 2018 is no different.

Happily, just recently I managed to get out and play a couple of games, my first times on a course in the UK this year. Of course, my game was terrible.

My first outing was in a BIGGA Section event. This was a fabulous day on a great course which, as I've come to expect, was presented beautifully.

It is a great privilege to spend the best part of four hours on a course with three excellent BIGGA members. When I'm not cursing my own golfing failings, it is a brilliant opportunity to find out what you need and want from BIGGA. But I am just as interested in hearing about the course itself.

I love hearing about the innovations our membership has implemented,

the challenges they have faced and those to come. I'm also fascinated to see how the greenkeeping team is treated in their workplace, how strong or otherwise the relationships with their employers and members are and, while this is often positive, I know we have such a long way to go in this area.

I'm heartened therefore by the excellent response to our salary and benefits survey that is underway. A big thank you to all those that have completed it, and to anyone who hasn't yet filled it out, please take a few minutes to do so. The results will be put to really good use in promoting the welfare of greenkeepers.

I'd like to offer congratulations to all the team at Wentworth and the many BIGGA volunteers who joined them for an outstanding edition of the BMW PGA Championship. The West Course was resplendent in sunshine and produced a thrilling tournament contested by some world class players.

It was great to hear lots of positive feedback from the competitors and also to see the volunteers and staff clearly enjoying being such an important part of a top sporting event.

Our focus now turns to The Open at Carnoustie, when another BIGGA volunteer team will assemble to support a world-class venue managed by a fantastic team. The interview in this magazine with Sandy Reid and Craig Boath provides a fascinating insight into preparations for the championship.

Perhaps the most impactful piece within this edition, though, is the one you can find on page 34. I was sat in the audience at the BIGGA Scotland industry conference earlier this year and was blown away by some of the statistics thrown out by Alex McClintock and Adam Allison regarding suicide among men.

The topic of mental health has been close to our hearts for a number of years. It is a significant issue in our industry and one that we have dedicated a lot of time and resource to addressing. We're committed to supporting members as much as we can, and I hope you find the feature as informative as I did.



## Regulars

- 3 Welcome
- 6 Newsdesk
- 10 Across the Board
- 12 Ecology
- 16 YGC
- 18 9 Hole Heroes
- 20 Industry News
- 24 Membership
- 60 Insight
- 66 Around the Green
- 74 Buyer's Guide
- 76 **Careers:**  
Learning & Development
- 78 **Careers:**  
Apprentice Corner
- 80 **Careers:**  
Recruitment
- 82 Around the Globe

# From the Editor



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

## A conversation can be a healing tool

Summer has arrived, and greenkeepers are working flat out around the country to keep their courses shipshape. Here at BIGGA House things are just as busy, whether it be Rachael working hard with the BMW PGA Support Team and preparing for The Open, Sami and the Learning and Development guys putting together the Continue to Learn programme, or Lauren and the team taking in the huge number of bookings that are coming in for BTME.

I've been out and about over the last few weeks visiting courses all over the country, and you can read about two such journeys in this month's magazine as we present a close look at this year's Open venue, Carnoustie, and a venue that's enjoying a huge degree of success down in the south west, Cumberwell Park.

Like you, when you get praise from golfers due to the standard of your course, you feel that the hard work has been worthwhile. That's why I'm delighted to say that once again Greenkeeper International was recognised at the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association's award ceremony in the International section (it's an American-based organisation).

At the same event we also received the Gardner Award, the equivalent of a 'best in show', for the Greenkeeping in the Future edition we put together in December last year. I'm delighted for Libbie, BIGGA's talented designer, as she puts a huge amount of effort into everything she does for the association, and I'd also like to thank everyone who's contributed towards Greenkeeper International over the past year.

On a more serious note, sometimes things don't go your way and things can seem to spiral out of control. Where do you turn for help? This month we've put together a really important feature with the help of Andy's Man Club, an organisation that encourages grown men to break the taboo surrounding men talking to each other about their problems. I first met Alex and Adam at the BIGGA Scotland Conference in February and was blown away by some of the figures they gave. Did you know suicide is the biggest killer among men under 45, or that 76% of all suicides are by men?

There's a generation of men being lost, and it isn't because of war, but something far more preventable. Remember, as the guys say, 'it's good to talk'.

Scan the QR code and log in to the resources section of [bigga.org.uk](http://bigga.org.uk) to download your copy of the Chafer Grub and Leatherjacket poster and leaflet





# In this Issue

## Our contributors

### 28 Matt James

When your family actually owns the golf course that you are tasked with maintaining, you are faced with a very different set of pressures. Under Matt's stewardship Cumberwell Park has grown into a 45-hole host of EuroPro events, so he must be doing something right. Karl went along to find out more.



### 34 Alex McClintock

Alex and his partner in crime, Adam Allison, are both prison officers working at HMP Perth. Both have had their encounters with mental health issues and now dedicate their free time to encouraging men to open up about their problems at Andy's Man Club. We spoke about how 4,200 men under 45 take their own lives each year and what can be done to resolve this.



### 42 Sandy Reid

Sandy is links superintendent at Carnoustie, where preparations are well underway for this year's Open. We sat down with Sandy and Championship Course Head Greenkeeper Craig Boath for a conversation about how this year's event is the culmination of an 11-year journey for the club.



### 52 Adrian Mortram

The de facto expert when it comes to irrigation, Adrian's seminars are always hugely popular at Continue to Learn and other education events throughout the year. In this month's GI he explained the need for good everyday working practices in the battle against more extreme weather conditions.



## Featured this month

24

### John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme

This is greenkeeping at its most "extreme" and BIGGA members found out first hand

28

### Cumberwell Park

How teamwork transformed a former dairy farm into a 45-hole championship venue

34

### Andy's Man Club

These suicide statistics will make you think twice about mental health issues

36

### RYDER CUP SPECIAL

Three months to go...

BIGGA partners Syngenta and Jacobsen catch up with Alejandro Reyes to learn more about the man responsible for preparing Le Golf National for the Ryder Cup.

SPECIAL  
FEATURE

42

### The 147th Open

For the first time, The Open venue will also be the reigning Environmental Golf Course of the Year

48

### How to level a tee

Mark Silk of Working Turf discusses ways of ensuring your teeing grounds are level

52

### Irrigation

The importance of daily management to ensure your irrigation system works well

58

### Irrigation: Rainbird

Taking a look at Bush Hill Park's irrigation system

60

### Insight: Syngenta

Turf needs light to grow healthily, but can too much cause undue stress?

# Golf Management Trophy



2017's winning team of Jake Harvey, Robin Cheney, Dave Lewis and Tim Good

**One of the most enjoyable national events in the BIGGA calendar is returning for 2018, offering the opportunity to build bonds with other members of your club management team.**

The BIGGA Golf Management Trophy began in the South West & South Wales Section and has expanded into a national competition. The team event brings together the various management elements of golf clubs in the spirit of competition.

BIGGA Regional Administrator Roger Butler said: "The opportunity to spend time with the members of your club management structure is rare, especially in these times when we are all rushed off our feet. So the chance to get away from the workplace into a neutral setting, where you can enjoy time in each other's company and build some great bonds, and also meet staff from other golf clubs, makes the

Golf Management Trophy a fantastic occasion for everyone involved."

Regional qualifiers will take place throughout the summer, with the grand final being held on Monday 1 October 2018 at Frilford Heath in Oxfordshire.

The winning team in 2017 hailed from Thornbury Golf Centre and speaking at the time, the victorious course manager, Robin Cheney, said: "I think the rest of the team were surprised at how professional the hosting of the qualifiers and the final were, considering it was a greenkeeping event. I'm happy that those guys had a little insight into what BIGGA does and what the industry is all about."

## The teams

Each team of four golfers must comprise:

1. Course manager, head greenkeeper or a member of green staff. These must be BIGGA members with a maximum of two per team.
2. Golf club secretary, manager, director of golf or similar role.
3. Chairman of green or a member of the green committee or main board.
4. Club captain or vice-captain
5. Owner, if proprietary club

## Regional qualifiers

Scotland: Thursday 26 July, Dunfermline GC

Northern: Tuesday 21 August, Brampton GC

Central England: Wednesday 4 Jul, St Neots GC

SW&SW: Tuesday 7 August, Burnham & Berrow GC

SW&SW: Friday 7 September, The Worcestershire GC

SW&SW: Tuesday 11 September, High Post GC

## Grand Final

Monday 1 October, Frilford Heath, Red Course

## Membership survey

**BIGGA members who have not yet taken part in a major member survey, are being encouraged to get involved before it's too late.**

By now you should have received an email featuring a link that enables you to complete the survey. It's vital that every BIGGA member gets involved because the more who take part, the more useful the results will be when it comes to shaping BIGGA's priorities over the coming period.

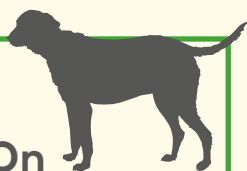
The results of the survey will enable us to build a database of information relating to greenkeeper salaries, employment packages and benefits, the number of people working in the industry and the prevalence of the various educational qualifications.

If you haven't received your survey link, email [info@bigga.co.uk](mailto:info@bigga.co.uk) and we'll get one sent over to you.





# Dogs On Course



**Name:** Bruno

**Age:** 5

**Owner:** Dave Gibbons

**Course:** Little Aston

**Breed:** Dachshund

**Favourite treat:** Lots!

**Favourite spot on the course:**

Running into bunkers and chasing birds, even though he has no chance of catching them.

**Naughtiest moment:** He jumped

on the table at home and ate someone's breakfast.

**My dog is happiest when...** He's

going for a walk or sitting on someone's lap.

**If you know a dog we should**

**feature, email** [karl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:karl@bigga.co.uk)



## Tim Needham



Tim Needham was a keen fisherman

**The association was saddened to hear of the passing of Tim Needham of Beedles Lake during May.**

Tim was head greenkeeper at the Leicestershire Golf Club and was well respected by his peers.

He passed away aged 46 at home on Saturday 12 May following a battle with stomach cancer.

A keen fisherman in his spare time, Tim is survived by his partner Sally and son Colby.

Tim's funeral took place at Gilroes Crematorium on 29 May, with donations being made to LOROS, the Leicester Hospice Charity.

# TPC Sawgrass 2019

## *Be part of it*



JOHN DEERE

Now is your chance to join the maintenance team preparing the course for the Championship at TPC Sawgrass 2019. Once again we've teamed up with John Deere to offer one full member from each of BIGGA's five regions and one international member the chance to be involved with golf's 'Fifth Major'.

To find out more and apply visit [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TPCSawgrass2019](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TPCSawgrass2019)

The deadline for registering your interest is Tuesday 31 July 2018 and all videos must be received by Monday 3 September 2018





# BIGGA Scotland Patron Awards return for 2018

## Nominations are being invited for the 2018 Scotland Patron Award.

If you have a member of your team or know a fellow greenkeeper that would fit the award's criteria, complete the nomination form that is available on the BIGGA Scotland website.

Scott Aitchison of Royal Dornoch was a section winner in 2017. He said: "I take my job seriously and I work hard everyday. For someone to notice that and recommend me for an award meant a great deal to me.

"There are probably loads of guys working away under the radar who don't necessarily covet any attention, but you never know who is watching and this award can be inspiring because of that."

Each section will provide one winner, who will receive three nights' accommodation in Harrogate during BTME, travel expenses and £250 towards education in the Continue to Learn programme.

Craig Hempseed, a greenkeeper at Mortonhall, also won an award in 2017 and said: "I was delighted and proud to have won the Patron Award for the Scottish East Section last year. It wasn't something I was aware of before I started working at Mortonhall, but was soon interested after finding out that a couple of my colleagues had won it in previous years.

"The awards mean a lot as they aren't something that just gets handed out for no reason. They go to the person who has made the effort to further themselves and have shown to make the effort for their section."

Craig explained how members can impress the judges with their eagerness to get involved with education at college or going to an organised section event, such as course walks or golf days, or even by volunteering at major tournaments and through BIGGA initiatives.

He added: "I'm fortunate enough to have volunteered at two European Tour and one PGA Tour event and I guess that went a long



BIGGA Scotland Patron Award winner 2017 Scott Aitchison with Stuart Ferguson MG and George Mitchell

way to me being given the award, for which I was humbled to receive."

The deadline for completed application forms is 30 June 2018.

To achieve the award, the BIGGA member will need to meet three out of the six criteria below, as well as being active in the CPD system:

- The nominee must be a member of the association for at least two-years.
- The nominee must not have been a recipient of the award in the last 10 years.
- The nominee must be actively participating in education, either through industry events, college attendance or other external pursuits.
- The nominee must have undertaken education courses at Continue to Learn.
- The nominee has volunteered with The Open Support Team, BMW PGA Support Team, or another golf championship event.

- The nominee is active in environmental or ecological projects on their course.
- The nominee is active in section or regional board activities.
- It is deemed a nominee would benefit from attending BTME but is unable to do so due to financial constraints at their club.

Thanks go to the BIGGA Scotland patrons for making this award possible.

These are: Aitkens; Barenbrug UK; BAYER; Campey Turf Care Systems; Charterhouse; Dennis SISIS; Double A; Fairways; Farmura; Fraser Robb; Germinal Seeds; Golf Finance; Greentech; Hamilton Bros; Headland Amenity; Hendersons; Hugh King; Indigrow; Inex Works; McNab Sports; MacGregors; Reesink Turfcare; Rigby Taylor; Symbio; Tacit UK; Terra Firma; Thomas Sheriff; Thorntrees; Turf Irrigation Services; Turf & Amenity Solutions; Turfitt Ltd.

## Data protection guidance

**To comply with new data protection regulations, we're inviting BIGGA members to log in to the members' area of the BIGGA website, where you can adjust your personal privacy settings to ensure you're only contacted about things that you would like to receive.**

To update your preferences, head to 'My Account' in the members' area of the BIGGA website and click on Update details.

The General Data Protection Regulation came into force on 25 May 2018.

# Mac McDonnell



Mac McDonnell has spent 40 years at Royal Cinque Ports

**Forty years is a long time to spend in a single job, but at Royal Cinque Ports, Michael McDonnell is still going strong at the club he joined in 1978.**

Michael, known affectionately as Mac, has worked at the Kent club ever since he left school aged 16.

Royal Cinque Ports Course Manager James Bledge said: "Ever since I joined Royal Cinque Ports in 2013, it was clear that Mac loved the place and to this day he is one of the hardest workers I've ever come across.

"Quite often he has most of the greens hand watered before the rest of the team arrives in the morning!"

With 40 years of experience in preparing the greens at the historic links venue, James said Mac has a wealth of historical agronomic knowledge about the course, making him key to the preparation of the putting surfaces.

He is also an angler who can often be found camping all night in an effort to catch a record catch and James added: "The most amazing thing about Mac is his spirit and drive, having never owned a phone or been online! He's a complete technophobe, but we love that!"

"He never loses pace and would do anything for the club, and for that we are truly grateful.

"He mentioned the 'R' word a while back, but I told him he has got at least another 20 years left here. Forty years' service in any industry is an achievement, let alone at the same place, and this is made even more of an achievement by the fact he gives it his all every single day.

"For that everyone at the club, the greenstaff and myself are unbelievably grateful. Well done Mac, you are an absolute legend."

Mac is married to his wife Nicki, has a son, Ben, and recently became a grandfather for the first time.

## DON'T COMPROMISE ON QUALITY

**SPECIAL OFFERS\* ON  
MID-SEASON  
ESSENTIALS!**



Contact your local dealer for details:  
[www.ransomesjacobsen.com/dealer-locator](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com/dealer-locator)

**ORDER TODAY -  
PARTS  
TOMORROW!**

We stock over 34,000  
**Genuine Ransomes  
Jacobsen Parts**,  
which can be delivered to  
your local dealer in 24 hours!



\*Selected products only. Offers valid until 31st July 2018.





# Across the Board

**Chris Kennedy** | BIGGA President

**Since I last spoke in these pages following BTME, it has been an extremely busy year, starting with the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, Texas.**

The show was really great, as it always is, and BIGGA was well represented, both by the staff who were on hand to help and the members of the BIGGA delegation sponsored by Bernhard and Company. Everyone flew the flag for the association at the show and the evening functions, and it was great to see the high esteem in which the association is held within the United States.

Away from the Texas heat, and back home in Scotland, the Scottish Region Conference was well-attended, even though the weather was shocking.

Chairman Stuart Ferguson MG and Regional Administrator John Young had put together a range of interesting subjects. It was fascinating to hear guest speakers such as Martin Slumbers, chief executive of The R&A, speak to members, and I was given the opportunity to speak about a topic close to my heart, the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

The BIGGA staff were all very busy, looking after members and trade in the reception area and were then faced after packing up with a hell of a drive back to York in the increasingly-poor weather, so thanks to the team for their efforts.

Following this, duty took me down to Surrey for the South East Region's Annual Golf and Dinner Day at Walton Heath. This was a huge success and ably run by

Regional Administrator Kerry Phillips and Chairman Peter Smith. Unfortunately Clive Osgood was not well enough to attend and we all sent our good wishes.

The golf was of a very high standard, as was the presentation of the course by Michael Mann and his staff under difficult weather conditions. Michael and his crew were doing some lovely bunker renovation work for the club, which will be on show at the British Masters in October. We wish Michael, Stuart Christie and everyone at Walton Heath good luck for the event.

When I was down south I also took the opportunity to stay with Ian Morrison at the Berkshire. Ian showed me the work he has been doing on his tree clearance programme. Alongside his new tees and heather work around bunkers, the whole place looks great.

While in the area, Ian and I popped into Wentworth to see Kenny Mackay, who was kind enough to show us the changes and tree clearance work taking place on the estate and all three courses.

The whole place was looking brilliant and the new creeping bent grass greens were in superb shape and should be fantastic for the BMW PGA Championship.

Soon after, I went from my home in Troon down to Turnberry and met Allan Patterson as I was playing the King Robert the Bruce Course. This is the remodelled Kintyre and what a great layout it is. My old mate George Brown would have loved the course and using the old lighthouse as the halfway hut, with its tea room

and terrace on the rocks, has got to be a one-off. It is a fantastic idea and the views from both of Turnberry's courses are very special.

The weather has made a very late start to the season, and I hear that on average we are around three weeks behind. There's been slow growth on fine turf and not many leaves on large trees, although the recent fine weather is correcting this. In the early season, this slow start has made it very difficult to prepare putting surfaces and so golfers will have to be patient.

A message to both golfers and greenkeepers: it will get better, and it always has in the past.

**Good luck for the season and remember there is no app for patience.**

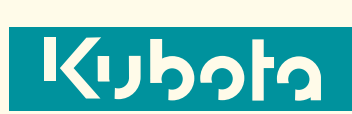
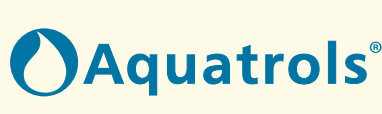


Wentworth, 2017



# Funding your future

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



JOHN DEERE

BARONESS



BERNHARD



Wiedenmann™



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





# Ecology Roundup

GI Ecology  
sponsored by  
Rigby Taylor



James Hutchinson | BIGGA Sustainability Executive

**Your sustainability executive has been out and about visiting BIGGA members this past month.**

And wait until you get a load of what I have witnessed within the greenkeeping world... horses.

Yep, you read right, horses.

It has long been known that grazing sheep works wonders in thinning out grasslands and subsequently attracting fine wildflowers to a golf course's rough. Royston jumps out on that one, as does Hockley. But did you know that horses do a similar job? Neither did I, until I had the pleasure of visiting Bramshaw and Appleby golf clubs.

Bramshaw sits within the New Forest's pony territory and as a consequence has many of these beautiful creatures simply milling around, cutting the course's grass. This may be a course manager's dream but there is a downside to this, and that's horse manure. This isn't particularly conducive to golf play, believe it or not, and I'd probably not play the ball where it lies here.

Appleby has all sorts of grazers knocking around too, including many types of sheep. But it was the horse which caught me off guard when I visited. It turns out there's quite a few mowing the roughs. Is this the way forward? Maybe.

A massive amount of snaps and sightings have zoomed our way lately, so here's a few snorters to be going on with. Tom Coulson found this slow worm (actually a lizard) at his place of work, whereas Kevin Hensman's bluebells look pretty darned nice to me. Eddie Junior from Avro is keeping a close eye on proceedings and Matt and Graham from Stoneham are posing like professional models next to their 800-year-old oak. Smashing!

Send your sightings to @Ecology1BIGGA or [james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk](mailto:james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk)



Top to bottom: Appleby's horses, Bramshaw's ponies, Eddie Junior at Avro, Tom Coulson's slowworm and Matt & Graham at Stoneham GC. Background: Kevin Hensman's bluebells.



*My favourite Jacobsen mower is the Eclipse 2. We use 15-blade cutting units, and the quality of cut is fantastic. We are able to easily adjust the frequency of cut with just one button; it's the perfect greens mower for the Ryder Cup.*

*Alejandro Reyes, Golf and  
Courses and Estate Manager,  
**Le Golf National***



# WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO.



**OFFICIAL SUPPLIER**  
**2018 RYDER CUP**



To arrange a demo on your course, please contact your local dealer.

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

© 2018 Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc.



# Master Greenkeeper

**From County Antrim to Connecticut, two more course managers are celebrating after achieving their Master Greenkeeper certificates, marking them out as leading lights within the turf management industry.**

Recognised as a prestigious and highly-sought after greenkeeping industry award, Master Greenkeeper certificates are achieved through a three-stage process. To be eligible, BIGGA members must have been working in the industry for 10 years, with three spent in a head greenkeeper, course manager or superintendent role.

There are two Master Greenkeeper final examination sessions each year and Tony and Andrew were successful in the exams held on 19–20 April this year. The next set of Master Greenkeeper examinations will take place on 25–26 October.

For more information about the Master Greenkeeper certificate, visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and click on Master Greenkeeper Certificate in the Education tab.

# 73

**Andrew Kerr | Course Manager  
Surbiton Golf Club, London**



Raised in County Antrim, Ireland, Andrew hails from an agriculture background. Spending most weekends during his youth on his grandfather's farm, Andrew credits this with instilling in him a love of the land and machinery.

He got into the greenkeeping industry after achieving a qualification in Amenity Horticulture, spending the next 20 years working on golf courses in Northern Ireland and England before settling in to the head greenkeeper role at Surbiton in Surrey.

"I feel the Master Greenkeeper qualification is important for the industry as it highlights great work, knowledge and abilities in a small industry within a global

scale," explained Andrew. "Each of the stages helped me push my own knowledge and developed excellent standards from a course and administration point of view, which I hope to continue to do now and in the future."

The process of getting the qualification came at a tricky period for Andrew as he switched jobs, leaving West Malling and taking up his role at Surbiton.

"The process was quite long as it was split between my time at the two courses, and I would have to do the additional work on top of a busy day on the course," he added. "But all the time I felt that it would be worth the extra effort."

## Introducing the latest members to achieve the Master Greenkeeper Certificate

# Keepers

# 74

**Anthony Girardi**  
**Golf Course Superintendent**  
**Rockrimmon Country Club, Connecticut**



Tony has been in the golf business for 29 years, beginning his career as an intern while attending the University of Rhode Island. He graduated in 1992 with a degree in Environmental Science and earned a role as assistant golf course superintendent at Woodway Country Club in Connecticut.

After three years he became golf course superintendent at Rockrimmon Country Club, a position he has held for the past 24 years.

"I have always heard of the Master Greenkeeper programme through the years," said Tony. "But it wasn't until I attended BTME in 2016 that I became more aware of the certificate and what it entailed. You are never too old to learn, and in a very short two-year period, I can safely say that I have learned a great deal about course management from the course managers and greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland. And attending

BTME the past two years has simply been an amazing experience learning, meeting new people and seeing all the camaraderie that exists within BIGGA."

Tony explained how, rather than just being an assessment, gaining the Master Greenkeeper certificate was an education in itself.

He added: "The stage two assessment of golf course operations was a fantastic exercise in getting my overall running of my club up to speed. There are many things that we had already been doing, but this part of the Master Greenkeeper process really allowed me to fine tune areas that I was a bit weak on. So overall, the Master Greenkeeper process is an invaluable process that allows you to grow both personally and professionally.





# YGC

## Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Stuart Green | Head of Member Learning

### Baroness Scholarship – need help with your Level 3?

In 2013 Baroness approached BIGGA with the offer to provide a scholarship for members to help them with the costs of their education.

At this time, funding was changing for the Level 3 Work-Based Diploma (Greenkeeper)/SVQ Sports Turf Management and it was felt that the scholarship would be of great benefit for those undertaking the qualification.

The Level 3 Work-Based Diploma (Greenkeeper)/ SVQ Sports Turf Management are an important stepping stone in a greenkeeper's career path, offering more advanced opportunities to develop specialist skills in project management, communication, drainage and irrigation and supervising staff. For a greenkeeper to gain a position of deputy head greenkeeper or course manager, it is a necessity. And with job adverts on the BIGGA website asking for it as a minimum requirement, the scholarship is a great member benefit.

#### The Scholarship

The fund may award scholarships of up to 50% of the cost of the course. However, it will be typically capped at £1,000. Therefore, if the course costs £1,000, the fund may award up to £500.

#### Applying

To claim the scholarship, there are criteria a member has to meet:

1. All Full members of BIGGA, who hold a Level 2 qualification (or equivalent) can apply for a Level 3 scholarship.
3. You must have been a BIGGA Member for a minimum of two years
4. You must be employed as a full-time greenkeeper

5. You must hold a Level 2 or equivalent qualification in sports turf
6. You must not already be funded through the Apprenticeship scheme
7. You must provide confirmation from the training provider that you have been accepted on the course and provide information showing the total cost of the qualification

**If you are awarded a Baroness Level 3 Scholarship your name will be included:**

- On the BIGGA website
- In a news item on the website
- In Greenkeeper International

Your details will also be shared with Baroness, who may contact you regarding the scholarship.

If you would like some help with funding your Level 3 please give us a call in Learning & Development on 01347 833800 Option 3, and we will be more than happy to help!



Sponsored by

**BARONESS**  
Quality on Demand



# The driving force for improved playability



**No.1** TO MEET PLAYERS DEMANDS

**18%** BETTER FAIRWAY LIE

**12%** IMPROVED BALL ROLL

**FOR IMPROVED  
TURF QUALITY AND  
CONSISTENCY  
FROM TEE  
TO GREEN**

 **PrimoMaxx<sup>®</sup> II**

**syngenta.**

**Turf**  
REWARDS

Syngenta UK Ltd. Registered in England No. 849037. CPC4, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE  
Email: [customer.services@syngenta.com](mailto:customer.services@syngenta.com) Web: [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk) / [www.greencast.ie](http://www.greencast.ie)  
Primo Maxx<sup>®</sup> II is a Registered Trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. Primo Maxx II (MAPP 17509, PCS 05401) contains trinexapac-ethyl. All other brand names used are trademarks of other manufacturers in which proprietary rights may exist. **Always read the label and product information before use. For more information including warning phrases and symbols refer to [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk)** © Syngenta May 2018. GQ 07827.  
Distributed in the UK and Ireland by ICL Ltd. Tel: 01473 201100 Email: [prof.sales@icl-group.com](mailto:prof.sales@icl-group.com) Web: [www.icl-sf.co.uk](http://www.icl-sf.co.uk) [www.turfrewards.com](http://www.turfrewards.com)



# 9hole heroes

**Celebrating BIGGA's nine-hole greenkeepers**

Jason Kirk | Milnathort Golf Club

## 1. What is your job title?

Head greenkeeper

## 2. How long have you worked in the industry?

I have been employed by Milnathort as the head greenkeeper for the past 16 years. Prior to that I was the assistant for six years, with one year of mentoring.

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

Working on a 9-hole course offers its challenges as much as an 18-hole course. We have 11 greens and 14 tees and my main goal is to bring our 9-hole course to the same recognised standard as any 18-holer, with the same challenges and enjoyment to the golfer.

## 4. What is the most difficult part of your job?

The most difficult part of my job is the management of daily jobs due to the high volume of golfers, while working on a smaller and tighter area and also setting the course

up in a shorter time scale, to avoid disruption to the golfer and staff, but still allowing the pace of play to continue smoothly.

## 5. How many staff do you have?

I have two members of staff, including a full time and a seasonal worker.

## 6. What is your machinery budget and what do you use?

I have no structured budget, although I monitor the market and suppliers for the appropriate machines on a regular basis and seek out financially viable options to make improvements to the club.

## 7. What is your chemicals budget and what do you use?

I work hand-in-hand with a reputable company on a structured programme which varies year on year depending on climatic influences. I would like to stress, I use chemicals only in a limited capacity, leaning towards more cultural methods.

## 8. What is the strangest comment a golfer has ever said to you?

The strangest request I had came from a member, requesting a bunker to be moved two metres by the following week, so he could avoid it.

## 9. What is the best tip you have received?

During my entire career the best advice I was given was "have patience". This has been invaluable to me as working in the Scottish climate with four seasons in one day, you must be patient. The weather is uncontrollable and the grass will flourish when it is ready and conditions are right.

**Short  
on time,  
play nine**

**Milnathort will be hosting  
the final of the inaugural  
Scottish Golf R&A 9-Hole  
Championship  
on 14-15 June**

Milnathort Golf  
Club's machinery  
line up





# On top of your turf?

## Turf REWARDS

NEW AND IMPROVED  
FOR 2018

### Join the club

Sign up to Turf Rewards and collect points to put towards rewards when you purchase ICL and Syngenta products.

Use the best technologies on your turf and get the best rewards for your club.

It's simple, it's rewarding,  
and it's all at no extra cost.

Join today at [turfrewards.com](http://turfrewards.com)



£350 Workwear Express Vouchers

50  
POINTS

£250 Machine Mart Vouchers

Machine Mart

SR-2000 Spreader

35  
POINTS

45  
POINTS

Beepol Hive and Villa

25  
POINTS

See all rewards at [turfrewards.com](http://turfrewards.com)

Benefit from better turf

ICL

syngenta

## Bernhard becomes BIGGA Partner



**Bernhard and Company has become the latest turf industry organisation to formalise its support of BIGGA members by becoming an official Partner of the association.**

Bernhard has been a BIGGA supporter since 1998 and since 2002 has sponsored the annual BIGGA Delegation to America. Ten members are flown to the United States, where they undertake a range of course visits and educational opportunities, before representing both Bernhard and BIGGA at the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show. Over the years some 160 BIGGA members have benefitted from this incredible opportunity.

Bernhard and Company Director Steven Nixon said: "We are very proud to have been involved with BIGGA for the last 20 years. As an education partner and sponsor of the delegation for the last 16 years, we believe we have provided some fantastic opportunities to greenkeepers.

"We firmly believe in education, and with our approach to turf

health, we are very keen to support BIGGA and the industry and help develop skills and knowledge on turf health solutions."

A specialist in sports turf technology, Bernhard is committed to providing innovative turf care solutions to golf courses and sports turf facilities worldwide. From blade sharpening systems to sports surface air movement and moisture control solutions to supplementary lighting solutions, the Bernhard product portfolio is focused on providing its global customer base with championship turf and world class playability.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: "Bernhard and Company are magnificent supporters of BIGGA members, not just through the BIGGA Delegation each year, but also their commitment to education and innovation. We are hugely proud of our relationship with all of our Partners and grateful for the extraordinary support they provide for our membership. I'm delighted to welcome Bernhard into the fold."

## Dr James Beard

**One of the most pioneering minds in the sports turf industry passed away on 14 May.**

Dr James Beard spent his career committed to the advancement of turfgrass science and authored nine books, plus hundreds of peer-reviewed research papers, earning him the nickname, 'the pope of turfgrass'.



Dr James Beard

BIGGA President Chris Kennedy became acquainted with Dr Beard after he spoke at BTME on a number occasions.

"He was a fantastic man for the industry," said Chris. "His books were a bible for many in the industry before the age of the internet. He was very much ahead of his time."

Chris explained how Dr Beard had visited St Andrews to analyse the sand on the links. He took the results of his research back to the United States, where it contributed towards the development of USGA greens and other improvements in golf course agronomy.

A native of Bradford, Ohio, he developed the Michigan State programme into one of the USA's top turf colleges and then spent almost 20 years working at Texas A&M University. It was during his time there that he founded the International Sports Turf Institute, serving both as director and chief scientist.

Among Dr Beard's legacy is the Turgrass Information Center, an online resource that is available to every BIGGA member.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr Beard's dedication to advancing turfgrass research has influenced generations of course managers and the thoughts of the association are with his family and friends at this time.



## Solheim Cup and John Deere

John Deere has been confirmed as the latest partner to commit to The Solheim Cup at Gleneagles from 9-15 September 2019.

John Deere will be the official golf course and turf maintenance machinery event partner at Gleneagles for the 16th edition of the biennial match. The brand has a long association with professional golf, having been a title sponsor and official supplier to the PGA and Ladies European Tours for a number of years.

Carlos Aragones, John Deere European turf sales and marketing manager, said: "The Solheim Cup is one of the biggest events on the 2019 sporting calendar and we are delighted to be a part of it.

"We are very proud of our history of collaborating with major golf events and our association with both The Solheim Cup and Gleneagles is important to our brand. The countdown is now on and we are very much looking forward to next year's event."

## Iseki UK

Iseki UK & Ireland has announced that Ian Bridges is joining the team as regional sales manager for Scotland and the north of England.

Ian, an industry stalwart who has worked for various manufacturers in the industry over the years, is perhaps best known for the 30 years he spent with Jacobsen

and then Ransomes Jacobsen, ending with his retirement from the Ipswich-based manufacturer earlier this year.

Iseki UK Managing Director David Withers said: "Ian has a real depth of knowledge of the product line and is probably the best-known figure in the industry in Scotland."

## Dougie Johnstone

**Hinckley Golf Club has been convicted of health and safety failures following the death of a course manager just a few days after Christmas in 2013.**

The Hinckley Times reported how Dougie Johnstone, 56, suffered a fatal injury when the branch of a tree struck him on the head while he was using a chainsaw, without a safety helmet.

Hinckley Golf Club denied the allegations brought against it, however a jury at Leicester Crown Court found the golf club failed to: ensure the health and safety of employees regarding a safe system of work for the management of trees; provide a sufficient risk assessment; and provide adequate training in equipment, namely chainsaws.

Timothy Raggatt QC, prosecuting, said: "An employer has a duty to ensure the safety of employees at work. Hinckley Golf Club ultimately failed Mr Johnstone in that duty."

The jury was told that the club was being prosecuted as a limited company, as it was legally responsible.

For the  
*love*  
of links

**This year the BIGGA National Championship takes place at Gullane, Scotland.**

Don't miss your chance to be part of this prestigious competition.

Complete and return the entry form before **21 September 2018.**





New machinery releases

# Innovation

Innovation

**STIHL®**



## STIHL MS 500i

### Launch date

Available to purchase from beginning of 2019

### Acceleration

0-100km in 0.25 seconds

### Power to weight ratio

1.24 kilograms per kilowatt

### Size

80cm<sup>3</sup>

### Bumper spike

Raised plunge bar makes directional control and tool guidance easier

### Fuel mixing

Sensor-controlled fuel mixing optimises use for oxygen content in the air

## Key Points

The STIHL MS 500i is the first chainsaw with electronic fuel injection and a never before achieved power-to-weight ratio.

Intelligent lightweight design and an extremely high engine power gives a low power-to-weight ratio of 1.24kg/kW.

A reduction of gyroscopic forces is possible due to a reduced flywheel installation height and lower weight.

This is the first ever series-manufactured chainsaw with an

electronically controlled fuel injection system.

Easy to start in all operation conditions, the machine automatically adapts to different locations of use.

Sensor-controlled fuel mixing ensures the mixture is adjusted optimally for the oxygen content in the air from the first ignition.

Raised plunge bar on the fan housing - parallel to axis of symmetry on the guide bar - makes directional control and guidance easier.

## RAIN BIRD

Rain Bird Golf has introduced two IC Connect products designed to make its IC System more functional and convenient for course managers.

Rain Bird claim the IC-In Integrated Control Sensor Input Device makes it possible to monitor and respond to on-site sensor information in real time, using the system's Maxi wire path. The IC-Out integrated Control Output Device enables activation of remotely located equipment from the central control.

Scott Rottler, senior product manager, said: "Both the IC-In and IC-Out take the IC System to the next level by providing course managers with additional functionality that can reduce water use, save time and reduce labour costs.



Wessex CRX-320

## WESSEX

British mower manufacturers Wessex has launched the CRX-320.

With full width rollers front and rear, Wessex claims the machine's rollers closely hug ground contours and has excellent floating capabilities.

The CRX-320 features swing tip Golf Cut blades, with a wide-angle PTO giving tight turn capabilities when fitted to a 35hp tractor.

The cutting height is adjustable from 10mm to 100mm and with a width of 3.2m, the machine is well-suited for covering large areas of the golf course in less time.



# How are you improving the health of your greens and tees?



Traditional cold pressed seaweed product, containing 75% waste.

[ OR ]



Goemar oligosaccharide extract seaweed concentrate, containing 100% Biostimulants.

**GOËMAR Turf**  
GA142 Seaweed Filtrate



**Goemar Turf** is a high performance liquid seaweed spray. By using a unique process unwanted materials that make up the bulk of raw seaweed, such as alginates and cellulose, are removed. The remaining filtrate consists of high concentrations of physio activator molecules. These molecules are the key minerals and trace elements responsible for stimulating plant nutrition, faster recovery after wear, increased tillering, greater root mass and higher vigour of turfgrass.



For further information please visit: [www.arystallifescience.co.uk](http://www.arystallifescience.co.uk)

Use plant growth products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Pay attention to risk indications and follow the safety precautions on the label. Goemar contains GA142 Seaweed Filtrate. Goemar are registered Trade Marks of Arysta LifeScience. ©Arysta LifeScience Limited 2018



Membership Team  
01347 833800 (option 1)



**Tracey Maddison**  
General Manager

traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk



**Elaine Jones**  
Membership Executive

elaine@bigga.co.uk



**Rachael Duffy**  
Events & Membership Executive

rachael@bigga.co.uk



**Gil Mason**  
Membership Administrator

gil@bigga.co.uk

Membership

Full Members Personal  
Accident Helpline  
0121 698 8046 / 43

Greenkeepers  
Legal Assistance  
0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling  
Helpline  
0333 000 2082

## Membership



# Brits abroad

with the John Deere  
TPC Sawgrass volunteers



**TPC Sawgrass is a pretty special venue. With the capacity to host 36,000 fans each day of The PLAYERS Championship and home to one of the most famous holes in golf, the pressure is on for the greenkeeping team to perform.**

### John Deere TPC Sawgrass delegates

**Paul Armour**, Dunbar

**Joe Barnes**,  
Royal Lytham & St Anne's

**Nicholas Thorley**,  
Little Aston

**Jamie Blake**, Broadway

**Antony Kirwan**, Romford

**Craig Cameron**,  
St Leon Rot, Germany

The BIGGA members were joined by GCSAI member **Jonathan Kelly** of Ballyhaunis

Standards are incredibly high, so the six BIGGA members who took part in the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme knew that a lot of hard work was expected of them.

"It was a real eye opener," explained Joe Barnes of Royal Lytham & St Annes. "It's a completely different way of thinking compared to how we approach things in the United Kingdom. Here, we are all about sustainability, whereas somewhere like TPC Sawgrass it's about how good they can make the course, regardless of your input and man hours. My background is on links courses, working with nature, so that was strange to see."



**Clockwise from centre:**  
The BIGGA volunteers alongside Tommy Fleetwood; sunrise over TPC Sawgrass' Island Green; early morning clubhouse; focus on the fairway; meeting former world number one Jason Day





BIGGA Partner John Deere flew six members out to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where they joined a team of around 114, including 68 volunteers, for the PGA Tour's flagship event.

With volunteers flying in from the Bahamas, New Zealand, and a number from the United Kingdom, the all-expenses paid volunteer programme is a special opportunity.

"It was absolutely amazing and I still can't believe that I was accepted on to the volunteer programme," said Nicholas Thorley. "I learned a huge amount and made some great friends and hopefully I can bring some of that experience back to Little Aston.

"My favourite point was actually seeing the course for the first time. I have seen it on television so many times, that to actually be there and see it live was incredible, especially the 17th, with the

excitement and buzz during the tournament. There were around 20,000 people there each day and 30,000 on the Sunday. You felt like a bit of a superstar when you were out there and everyone is watching you do your job!"

But with 4am starts each morning, the trip isn't a free holiday for BIGGA members, rather they are expected to completely integrate with the course maintenance team. The volunteers receive an insight into the preparation of TPC Sawgrass's Stadium Course, where more of the world's top players compete in a single event than at any other venue during the year.

Antony Kirwan of Romford said: "It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip that any greenkeeper or golfing fan should definitely aspire to. It's not just about working and preparing a course, The PLAYERS features the best playing field in the world and that means everything must go up a level. The Open is the

nearest you can get in the UK, but this is done differently and the logistics of running an event with 114 staff, including volunteers from all over the world, was absolutely incredible to see."

An example of the high standards expected by the PGA Tour is seen in the bunkers, where Nicholas soon found out what was required. He explained: "The bunkers at TPC Sawgrass are so big that they use double headed rakes to help you get around the course quicker! The lines had to be perfectly straight, with no ridges, footprints or marks. The PGA Tour official would bring you back in to the bunker if it wasn't perfect. The double rakes were difficult as you couldn't put enough pressure on them and they bounced around a bit, but we were warned on the first day that if our lines weren't laser straight, we would be taken off bunkers and have to do the clean up around

**Continued over**





them instead! They wanted the highest standards possible for their event and we all contributed towards that."

Craig Cameron benefited from being the first international member of BIGGA to be invited on the trip as John Deere expanded the scheme to six for the first time. He took on a role assisting with irrigation during the tournament, and that allowed him to be on the front line when major course preparation decisions were made.

He said: "We were the last people on the green before play began, working with the moisture levels. This meant that I was in the thick of things, making decisions, which was really enjoyable. To be part of that process was amazing, even though it usually meant we missed breakfast!"

Craig shot an incredible video that brings to life what goes in to the preparation of the course for the championship, and you can find a link to it on the BIGGA Twitter feed.

"To see 114 people working on a single golf course is just extreme," he added. "Some of the video I shot, where it is the entire team on the first hole, it was just an amazing experience to see so many people working on one hole. They were there literally five minutes and it was on to the next one."

Working shifts were split into two, allowing the greenkeepers some much needed rest in the early afternoon. For the greenkeepers heading out in the evening to repair the course and get it ready for the next day's play, it meant VIP service was required.

"Receiving a police escort was great," said Joe. "From the maintenance facility, the shortest route back to the course is over the 8th hole, which means during the tournament there are still crowds watching golf and it isn't possible to go that way. So we had to go through the Dyes Valley Course. It's quite a convoy and I was on the back nine all week, so we did the extended run which took us on to the main highway. Having police motorbikes escorting us and seeing all the cars stopping for us is something you wouldn't see in this country. It also meant we got to drive through the main entrance to Sawgrass, which was special."

The respect received by the greenkeeping team didn't just stop there, explained Joe, and he said that in general the American public appears to view their course superintendents with a greater respect than we enjoy in the United Kingdom.

**Left to right:** Getting to grips with TPC Sawgrass's double-headed rakes; a tour of the maintenance shed; the BIGGA volunteers meet Martin Kaymer; receiving a police escort at the start of the night shift.

He explained: "It's seen as a more professional role. Maybe that's because they are aware that most superintendents have been to college, whereas here golfers perhaps don't realise just how qualified modern greenkeepers are."

In the United States it's standard practice for greenkeepers to gain a college degree and go straight into a course management role. This means that at the higher end of the profession, staff are extremely well-trained, but regular greenkeepers often don't have many formal qualifications and can even be nothing more than casual labour. It's a completely different career pathway to the UK, and one that Joe said he believes contributes to the differences in working practices.

He explained: "I spoke to the course supervisors about why they were mowing areas of the course

**'I was in the thick of things, making decisions, which was really enjoyable. To be part of that process was amazing...'**

Craig Cameron





‘...most superintendents have been to college, whereas here golfers perhaps don’t realise just how qualified modern greenkeepers are...’

that personally I would have left well alone, for reasons such as sustainability and a desire to save man hours and fuel costs. But it was like I was speaking a foreign language to them. In the UK we’re trained very differently and where we seem to work our way up through the ranks, over there you go to college and you graduate and become a superintendent. Because of that they don’t seem to have an appreciation of the practical side of things. What I would deem as impractical, they say ‘let’s get it done’ because they haven’t been the one who’s sat on a mower for years, gaining that knowledge.”

Away from the hard work, and there was the opportunity for relaxation and a bit of light relief. All the delegates described a place on the volunteer programme as a lot of fun, with Antony getting drafted in as a ‘mock’ armed forces veteran, holding up Old Glory while stood on the 17th green with fighter jets overhead.

“The whole 12 days I just had a smile on my face, and it hasn’t gone yet,” he added.

There was also the opportunity to take part in a long drive competition, an 80-foot putting challenge — made trickier thanks to TPC Sawgrass’s incredibly slick greens — and a final day nearest the pin challenge on The PLAYERS’s iconic Island Green.

However, unlike Richard Johnstone who in 2017 won the nearest the pin, 2018’s delegates fared a little worse, with both Antony Kirwan and Jamie Blake, of Broadway, sticking both their efforts into the lake.

“In my defence it was six in the morning, it was still dark and I couldn’t see the flag!” said Antony. “And besides, I’m used to running my ball up to the hole, not aiming for a little green surrounded by water — I don’t play water sports! But you can’t go to Sawgrass and not have a shot at the 17th.”

Joe Barnes

They may have failed at the golfing challenges, but on the greenkeeping side of things the members of the volunteer programme did the association proud, and all six took away incredible memories and experiences that will live with them for a long time.

Craig said: “Everything you do, whether it’s attending BTME or volunteering for events and schemes such as the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme, it’s all education, and the more you do, the more people you meet and the more knowledge you get.”

Nicholas added: “It was hard work, but I would tell anyone to apply for it if they can. The preparations and stress that go into things are all worth it because in the end the product is an amazing golf course. The group of BIGGA members that went out there were all great company and it’s fantastic to meet so many new people. All it takes to apply is a two-minute video — I did mine in my bedroom! — and you could earn a trip to one of the greatest events in golf. Thank you to BIGGA and John Deere for everything you did to make this such a special experience.”



# A family

**Cumberwell Park** | Karl Hansell BIGGA

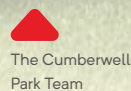
**When Chris and Adrian James sold their cows and made the decision to convert their dairy farm into a golf course, the brothers knew that one way or another, they had changed the fortunes of their family for generations to come.**

For young Matt, his sibling and cousins, it was an incredible experience. The farm was transformed into a huge playground, with lakes being constructed for them to swim in and trees for them to climb.

Twenty-five years later and Matt is still at the club, only now he is course manager, responsible for the maintenance of Cumberwell Park's 45 holes.

With the EuroPro Tour hosting events at Cumberwell Park each year, and the fortunes of his entire family invested in the venue, there's quite a lot of pressure for him to succeed.

"Because it's a family business and the golf course is the main part of that, it rests on me to make sure the course is kept to the right standard to keep the business running successfully," said Matt.



"If we have a poor course, business is going to suffer.

"And then I know that anything we do out on the course, if we cut corners now, I'll probably be the one that has to pick it up in five or 10 years' time."

Perhaps that's why Matt has worked so hard to invest in his team.

He was appointed course manager in 2009 aged just 29, but able to lean on the expertise of his two deputies, who had been at the course since it opened in 1993.

"The job was offered to them and they both had a lot of experience here but they turned it down," said Matt. "At first it was quite





# yaffair

a team effort as I was relatively inexperienced, but we got through that quite well and it's developed from there.

"When we're recruiting, the first place I look is from within. I believe that before advertising you should look around you and see what qualities and skills the team around you have.

"Who are the people that I could work with in a position of greater responsibility, and do they want to be here? And if they do, I've always been able to give them that opportunity."

Although they can work their way up, the staff are aware that, unless

something drastic happens, Matt has no plans of vacating the course management role. As his parents age, he will begin to take on more club management responsibilities, but he is keen to retain his duties out on the course.

This makes building a team ethos and ensuring staff are

given the opportunity to develop increasingly important, so there is a continual sense of progression.

Matt said: "Working with me are guys who have evolved into those positions and have been given the chance to develop. In the nine years that I've been in charge of recruiting, all the positions I've brought new people in to fill have been assistant roles, while the senior roles have been taken on by existing staff who have been here and developed.

"Dave Lacey is the classic example, in that he's been here 10 years and worked his way up from a summer worker up to deputy."

---

'When we're recruiting, the first place I look is from within. I believe that before advertising you should look around you...'

---

Continued over





## Cumberwell Park

### Greens staff

Matthew James, Course Manager

Dave Lacey, Deputy Course Manager

Jon Keepen, First Assistant & Head of Conservation

Sam McQueen, Senior Assistant

Adam Tucker, Senior Assistant

Laurie Vines, Assistant Greenkeeper

Pawel Laskowski, Assistant Greenkeeper

Joe Smith, Assistant Greenkeeper

Harry White, Assistant Greenkeeper

Larry Davis, Summer Assistant Greenkeeper

Stephen Walley, Summer Assistant Greenkeeper

Chris Keepen, Summer Assistant Greenkeeper

Chris Rawlinson, Summer Assistant Greenkeeper

George Wrigglesworth, Summer Assistant Greenkeeper

Andre Korynevsky, Summer Assistant Greenkeeper

Chris Wood, Gardener

Mark Fowler, Projects Manager

Matt Devereux, Projects & Irrigation Technician

Alan Swain, Head Mechanic

Barry Overton, Assistant Mechanic

Continued over



 Matt James at Cumberwell Park's island green

The expansion from 18 holes to 45 in less than 25 years has had a major impact upon the 900-acre estate, with more than 400 acres now dedicated to golf. So much is taking place that two staff are dedicated purely to the completion of projects and renovation of features.

Adrian Stiff, owner of The Kendleshire and The Players Club, near Bristol, designed the first 36 holes, while James Edwards was brought on board to design the latest nine-hole, par-3 layout.

This features a striking island green, and when it's your own family's money that's financing such ambitious projects, there's an added element of risk.

"I've only worked here, so I couldn't say what it's like to work in a 'normal' business, but it's certainly different," said Matt. "Thankfully we haven't had any major errors, but there's plenty to learn. The fact we do our project work in-house means the guys that are doing the work are greenkeepers, so they can see how something should function. For example, if they're doing a bunker, they've raked enough to know how it should perform. From a drainage point of view, they know where there's wet areas on the course.

"Because it's privately owned, it's a little easier to go and do things. Speaking to colleagues at member clubs, they have committees and a procedure of doing things which is

obviously quite frustrating for them, because they can't just go and do things. If it's something major here I run it past my father, but at the end of the day we can make changes and improvements without having to consult our membership."

Reinvesting, not just out on the course but also in the facilities and infrastructure, has enabled Cumberwell Park's ambitious owners to reach out to the hosts of professional events, such as the HotelPlanner.com PGA EuroPro Tour, which will return to the venue in June for The Grenke Championship. This will be fifth time the tour has hosted an event at Cumberwell Park, which is a huge achievement for a family-owned club constructed on a former dairy farm.

 Jon Keepen with Sophie Olejnik during an ecology visit in 2017

 Jon and Matt at the Bath Life Awards 2018





"We had talked about it for a few years," said Matt. "The event is televised and they do a two-hour highlights show and we wondered whether we were ready for it. But hosting the event actually felt comfortable and all the different parts of the business stepped up.

"The first was the biggest event we'd ever held and it brought everyone in to help, even the members. The tour had asked for volunteers to get involved with tasks such as scoring, stewarding and carrying scoreboards and we fulfilled their need for that.

"The week afterwards, when they broadcast the programme, we brought all the volunteers into the clubhouse and showed it on the big screen. To see it on television for the first time was amazing and I would reckon that most people won't get to see their course like that. It was a bit surreal and it does look different on TV as they pick the rights shots and use drones, so you are seeing things from a different angle.

"I was a little bit nervous as it was the biggest event we'd ever held. Because it's going to be on TV you're always worried about those little bits

that you didn't want them to film. But the fact they're coming back for a fifth year gives you confidence that they're happy with what we've done in the past."

Other successes achieved by the club have included receiving four stars in Golf World's Top Courses in Britain, becoming an accredited Golf Mark and Club Mark facility and, specific to the greenkeeping team, being finalists in the 2018 Golf Environment Awards and winning a Bath Life award in the conservation category.

When evaluating where to invest their budgets, golf clubs have been accused of neglecting their biggest asset, the course itself. But when your family's entire livelihood is tied in with the wealth of the club, it seems there is an understanding across the entire business of the importance of keeping the course at the forefront of your thoughts. For Matt, being in a secure position hasn't led to complacency, rather it has instilled a constant desire to improve and progress, and a part of that is ensuring his team is brought along for the ride.

**Continued over**



**Amino-Form LX** is a unique Amino Acid based supplement that when absorbed through the leaves and roots provides maximum plant resistance to, and enhanced recovery from stress-induced growing conditions. Its application during or following periods of stress allows considerable savings in plant energy, allowing it to be better channelled towards building a stronger root system and new surface growth.

- Resistance and recovery from  
Cold, wear, shade, water-logging, salinity, drought, heat
- Enhances germination and establishment
- Stimulates root growth of stressed turf
- Increases photosynthesis and chlorophyll production
- Chelating properties increases nutrient absorption

Contains L-form Amino Acids

LIQUID FORMULATION

COLOUR ENHANCER

STRESS RELIEF

AMINO ACIDS

PLANT SEED ESTABLISHMENT

**RT** EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE  
rigby taylor

Freephone 0800 424919 [www.rigbytaylor.com](http://www.rigbytaylor.com) [sales@rigbytaylor.com](mailto:sales@rigbytaylor.com)



## Machinery

<b>Greens</b>	2 x Baroness LM56
2 x Toro Triflex 3400	
<b>Tractors</b>	
5 x Jacobsen Greens King IV	7x Kubota tractors
<b>Sprayers</b>	
Jacobsen G-Plex with Greentek greens rollers	Toro Multi Pro 5800-D
<b>Other mowers</b>	Team 600L tractor mounted
8 x Jacobsen Triplings	PSP70 walk over sprayer
Toro 5510 Reel Master	
<b>Tractor mounted equipment</b>	
2 x Toro 4000D rough mower	Imants Rotoknife
Jacobsen HR5111 rough mower	2 x Wiedenmann GXi8 aerators
2 x Kesmac PTO powered 9 unit gang mowers	Charterhouse Verti-seed
Kubota G26-11	Ryan Core Harvester

# The team

The success of any course depends upon the hard work of an enthusiastic and talented team. Although Matt's family owns the club and he is course manager, it would be unfair to only focus on his efforts, when so many others have contributed to Cumberwell Park's rapid growth. Here's a spotlight on some of the team, who make the club what it is.

## The veteran | Mark Fowler, Projects Manager

"I've just celebrated my 20th anniversary at Cumberwell Park and I remember that when I joined there were only 18 holes. Because the club is so up and coming, it has always been quite interesting and there's so many things going on.

"It's also nice when the professional events are here and it's nice to hear that they appreciate what's being built and that gives you a lot of pride in what you're doing.

"I have always pushed Matt to see that your team is

your most valuable asset. If they're not out there, doing what you want them to do because they want to do it, you end up with a deficit of not getting where you want to be. He has really taken that on board and I think we've got a great team, which shows because of the success we've had."



Mark Fowler

## The ecologist | Jon Keepen, First Assistant and Head of Conservation

### How did you get into conservation?

"I did a degree at Bath Spa University in Environmental Science and Matt could tell that's where my interest was."

### Where do you get your ideas from?

"A lot of it is building on what people have done already. We have a member here, Keith Wright, who established the small bird boxes. I started helping him out, checking bird boxes and that kind of thing, so that's how it started. We developed that and started introducing other things, such as hedgerow planting on the new par 3. The project is ongoing and a lot of what we do is looking at what other courses are doing and stealing their ideas when they work."

### Is there anything you've wanted to do where Matt's said 'that's a bit too much'?

"We tend to be on the same page most of the time. I found out about Operation Pollinator, which seemed to be a really good project, trying to encourage more bees to golf courses. We have quite a few nice meadows and wildflower areas already so we are looking to develop those to encourage more wildlife. And

we're getting out to the members and telling them what we're doing because a lot of members are quite keen and interested in what we're doing."

### Why is conservation on a golf course so important?

"A lot of people see them just as golf clubs, just worried about the playing side of it. But golf courses are such a great resource for wildlife. You go into a city centre and you may only have the odd bit of park where everything's similar. Golf courses you have such a range of grasses, of different heights, which provides diverse habitats. Here we also have ancient woodland, lakes, ponds and water courses. Golf courses are fantastic resources for attracting quite an array of animals."

### Did it surprise you when you came into the sport, how environmentally conscious golf is?

"It did. Coming into golf I didn't play or know much about it. I had this image, that perhaps most people do, of your fairways and greens and not much else to it. But when you start working here and realise it's not just the bits in play, but it's also

the bits out of play, that the golfers don't perhaps see. There's such a wide scope for things to do."

You were a finalist at the Golf Environment Awards and you won a Bath Life award in the Environmental category, which is the first year they've run that category. What do you take from those experiences?

"It's great that we are being recognised for what we are doing here. But it's just about getting the message out there. We often tweet about our projects and what we're doing and hopefully people will see that and think they can do it in their own garden. We are also running a conservation evening this year."



Jon Keepen



## The rugby player

Sam McQueen, Senior Assistant

**You've returned to Cumberwell Park after having surgery to remove a tumour on your brain. What happened?**

"I got knocked out playing rugby and had blood come out of my ear, so they thought I had internal bleeding on the brain. They took me in for a CT scan which came back all clear, but by pure accident — or luck, really — they found a blip on the scan, got me in for an MRI the next day and found out I had a brain tumour."

**At 27 to find out you had a tumour, that's terrifying. How did you react?**

"I was out in Australia working and travelling and I then I stayed for two years. I had to come home to have the operation. I had the brain tumour removed and I was healing up all right, but then I had a fluid leak on the brain. After being in hospital for four weeks, I had to have a shunt put in so I have a valve into my brain and a tube that when it gets to a certain pressure will open and the tube runs all the way down to my stomach so it drains away."

**When you're out in Australia and someone tells you that you've got a brain tumour, what goes through your head?**

You panic a little bit and the first thing I wanted to do was ring my parents, because you want that little bit of reassurance. I was getting all this news myself and couldn't turn to anyone.

"My mum was like 'get on the first plane home', but I stayed out there for another six months because I had to wait to have a second MRI to see whether the tumour was growing and so they could do some tests to find out what it was. After six months it was growing and I decided to come home and I had the operation on 3 January this year."

**How did you get back involved in the job here, given you can't work to full strength yet?**

"The whole time I was away I was in contact with Matt. I explained



Sam McQueen

the situation and he offered me a job before the operation. I then had the operation and Matt's been brilliant around the whole thing.

"I'm still on lighter duties now and whenever he gives me a job he checks first that I can physically do it because I've got to slowly work back up to where I was. I'm nowhere near full strength. If I try and do something strenuous, because of the shunt and the pressure change, it throws my balance in my head all off. It makes me light headed and I feel a pain shoot up to my brain. It's a long road now and it could be a year or so. I have to do things until I can't any more, and then gradually increasing the tolerance."

**You could get a desk job, but what makes you want to keep doing greenkeeping?**

"I enjoy doing this job, especially after doing it in Australia where the weather's nice all the time. When I've fully recovered I'd love to go back to Australia, but I enjoy working here and Matt's been good to me, even when I've gone away."

The scar from Matt's surgery



## The prodigal son | Matt Devereux, Projects and Irrigation Technician

"This is my second stint at Cumberwell Park. I joined from school at first, but spent some time working for Abbots, doing construction and irrigation. But I struggled with the amount of time I had to spend away from home, and luckily there was an opportunity back here at Cumberwell Park."

"With the amount of development that's taking place here, they need a few guys just to do things such as the irrigation system on the new course or renewing all the bunkers. It's an ongoing job and so it's better to have people doing it full time. Myself and Mark will liaise with Matt and get an insight into what he wants, but basically we use our own initiative."

Matt Devereux



## The deputy | Dave Lacey, Deputy Course Manager

"I started doing summer work as part of my work experience while at school. I played golf at the time and thought this was a pretty cool industry to get into. I really enjoyed it and as soon as I left school I couldn't wait to get into it full time and thankfully they offered me a position here. In the early stages I wasn't aiming for management, but the more I've learnt the more I have fallen in love with it and decided I wanted to do it as a career."

"I have only been deputy course manager for four months, and I was really keen to take that step forward. The biggest difference I've found is in terms of looking after a team and making sure everyone's happy, while also making sure things are done the way we want them to be. I want to become more of a leader, so you muck in with everybody, there's mutual respect, and we all have a valued input."

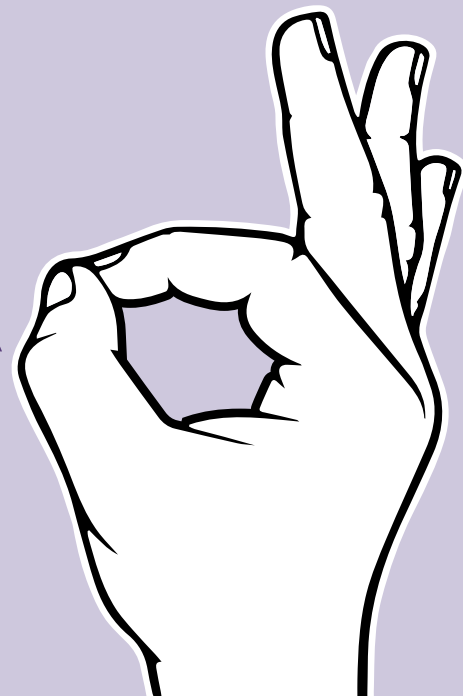
"I still have a lot of greenkeeping duties, but now I have more input on the agronomic side, in terms of how the greens are performing and what mechanical processes we can do to improve them."

"Management on a golf course is a lot more in-depth than I initially thought. A lot of it is trying to make golfers aware of how much we do to get the course to where it is. It's not just about cutting grass, there's a lot more to it. Presentation's a big thing and it's quite satisfying seeing your work done, and getting feedback from golfers is always nice."

Dave Lacey



# It's OK to talk



By Karl Hansell and Alex McClintock, prison officer at HMP Perth

## Tell-tale signs of mental health issues:

Excessive worrying or fear

**Feeling excessively sad or low**

Confused thinking or problems concentrating

**Extreme mood changes**

Prolonged periods of irritability or anger

**Avoiding friends or social activities**

Feeling tired and low energy, poor sleep

**Lack of appetite**

Abuse of substances, alcohol and drugs

**Physical ailments without obvious causes**

Thinking about suicide

**Struggling with daily activities**

**Mental illness is an increasing problem, with a staggering 42% of men aged 18-45 having considered suicide as an option. Statistics show suicide is the single biggest killer of men under 45.**

Around 4,200 men each year, that's one every two hours, are taken from this world and their families by suicide, and it's quite unbelievable that there isn't more awareness of this tragic fact.

A big underlying problem for men is the inability to speak out about what is bothering them. That isn't an opinion but a fact and of the men who confessed to considering suicide, most said they believed it was sign of weakness for men to talk about their feelings.

Highlighting some of the causes of depression is huge as everyone is different. For Alex it was when he was made redundant. However,

mental illness is a chemical imbalance in your brain, which is within your DNA make up. It just happened to be the redundancy that triggered Alex's.

Some of the signs that someone may be struggling can be them going from quite outgoing and always dressed smart, to suddenly turning up for work unshaven and not wanting to talk. They may begin to isolate themselves from friends and family.

If this sounds like someone you know, something as simple as saying good morning and asking them if they're OK could be enough to disrupt the person's





thoughts, especially if they're contemplating suicide.

But occasionally the problems run deeper and they need more assistance, and that's where a group like Andy's Man Club can help out.

Andy's Man Club is a talking group, a place for men to come together in a safe environment to talk about their issues and anything they have faced or are currently facing. The benefit is there are other men who have been in similar situations and can help you with advice on how they dealt with the situation.

"Andy Roberts was a loving and doting father, son, brother and friend," explained Alex. "He was a great footballer and loved playing with his friends on a weekend. He was an all-round top guy, one of the nicest people I have had the pleasure of meeting. As a youngster he was known to have frequent run-ins with the law but as an adult this had changed. He had become a polite, caring, funny young man with his whole life ahead of him. The way he had turned his life around was staggering to see. His love for his daughter was inspirational and the way he looked at her and idolised her was a blessing. Sadly, and tragically, without any warning, Andrew was taken away from all his family and friends by suicide.

Andy's Man Club is real life and we hope that we can help men to open up and come through the other side.

In an ideal world there would be no need for Andy's Man Club and until we can make it the norm for guys to open up and express freely then we will encourage men to come to our group and share.

Alex and Adam Allison are physical education instructors at HMP Perth and are passionate about raising awareness and challenging the stigmas of mental health and promoting suicide prevention, both in the workplace and in the community, hoping to spread #AMC across Scotland.

Alex said: "We have both experienced our own storms and discovering #AMC has given us the strength not only to deal with our own mental health but it continues to improve us as human beings and to help spread what we do, including going into our local community to talk to different organisations.

"Having suffered from mental illness for 20 years, I know how hard it is to open up and talk to someone. There is something special about #AMC that when you get the ball and it's your turn to talk, you just open up. #AMC has made me a better man and the journey has only just begun."

Andy's Man Club is run by volunteers who all share the same passion. With 16 clubs across the UK, each has guys as passionate as Alex and Adam, who continue to work tirelessly, to grow the brotherhood that is #AMC.

Alex added: "We all do this in memory of Andy and all those we have lost through suicide and to help whoever we can, to reduce these damaging statistics. We are real and relentless and we won't stop challenging the perception that big boys don't cry, or that we need to "man up". It takes more strength and courage to share with other men what you are going through and to help each other.

"We have to keep challenging the three pillars of #AMC, which are that you're not a burden, you shouldn't be embarrassed and it's not a sign of weakness to open up and show emotion. We have to teach the next generation that it's okay to show emotion and encourage them to share what's going on in their heads.

"Just because you can't see it doesn't mean that mental illness isn't real. We can still change how we perceive it and deal with it as a society. If we break our arm or leg, we go to A&E and get it fixed, and people are sympathetic. With mental illness, they just tell you to "give yourself a shake" or "cheer up". We need to change how we think about mental health and mental illness and encourage people to open up and express what's going on in their head."

Remember it's okay not to be okay and #itsokaytotalk.

Pictured left:  
Actor Dougray  
Scott supports  
#AndysManClub

## #AndysManClub

# 76%

of suicides are by men and it is the **biggest cause of death** for men under **45**.

# Q & A

**with Alejandro Reyes.**  
Golf Courses and  
Estate Manager, Le Golf  
National, venue of the  
2018 Ryder Cup.

Ryder Cup - Jacobsen

Working together with our partners





## Golf Courses and Estate Manager, Le Golf National, venue of the 2018 Ryder Cup.

### What is the biggest compliment you have had about the venue?

I don't know if it is the biggest compliment, but I remember one during the 2014 French Open. Sky Sports were talking about long putting on the first green, and the commentator said, "these greens are as pure as they can be." I saw this and took a video of it with my mobile phone, which I still have to this day. I was very proud of that comment!

### What will be the most rewarding thing for you regarding hosting the Ryder Cup?

I'm looking forward to Sunday afternoon of the Ryder Cup, once the last putt has been made. Everyone will be happy with the set-up and hopefully we will have had a good week. The main thing is that our staff, the organisation and the players are all happy and proud of the job that we have done; that will be the most rewarding thing.

### How do you cope with the pressures of hosting such a prestigious event?

At this point in time, I don't have too much pressure. As I always say, I sleep very well; I don't get under pressure easily. Any pressure I do have is usually not to do with the tournament, so I just try to enjoy every moment here with the team.

### What helped you make the decision to pick Jacobsen over the other big names?

Service, tournament support and the security that we already had with Jacobsen. This course was Jacobsen since 2011, and when we were doing the bidding process for the Ryder Cup in 2015, security and trust were the biggest factors. We receive fantastic tournament support from Jacobsen every year for the French Open, and that's what we wanted for the Ryder Cup. We were just delighted with the quality of the mowers, and we trust in them to produce top quality surfaces. For us, it was an easy choice.

### What is your favourite Jacobsen machine and why?

My personal favourite is the Eclipse 2 greens mower, the 122 model. We use 15-blade cutting units, and I really like the groomer attachment. We are also able to easily adjust the frequency of cut with just one button, and the reliability is fantastic – it's a great mower.

I am also a big fan of the Jacobsen fairway mowers. We are going to have the new SLF530 Fairway mower for the Ryder Cup. I am impressed with what I have seen so far and the team is looking forward to mowing with them this summer.

### Are you keeping the blanket cut or going back to the diamond cut on the fairways for the Ryder Cup?

We are going to cut the fairways all one way. It will probably be tee to green.

### What has been your career's biggest challenge before you came to Le Golf National?

Without a doubt, it was when I was 25 years old. I got my first golf course superintendent position at a Jack Nicklaus signature course in the south of Spain. I had a lot of education, but it was a huge challenge. It's hard when you are so young and you have to make your own decisions for the first time, that was a lot of pressure!

Managing a team for the first time was difficult as well, it's very easy to make mistakes when you lack experience of management, but it was a great learning curve and it made me a better person for it.

**Ryder Cup 2018**

28 September to 30 September

# 10 Quick-fire Questions

## 1. What's your golfing handicap?

I'm not a great golfer. It's 21. I wish I could play at that standard, but I don't practice enough. It's officially 21, though!

## 2. What annoys you most?

Unprofessional people.

## 3. If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would you be?

At Le Golf National! With a few months to go until the Ryder Cup, why would I want to be anywhere else?

## 4. If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?

I would love to complete the certification programme of the GCSAA. It's something that is on my to-do list. I told myself I would do it one year before the Ryder Cup, in 2017, but I just didn't have time. I'd also like to re-read all my turf books, there are plenty of them!

## 5. Do you have any hidden talents?

I don't think so! But who knows, maybe we'll find out soon...

## 6. What job would you be terrible at?

Working with kids. When they are running around and screaming... it's not for me. I am somebody that needs to keep control and that's difficult with kids.

## 7. What skill would you like to master?

I would love to be a pro-golfer. To even have a handicap of a single number would be amazing.

## 8. What motivates you?

I use my role as a leader of a team to motivate myself. Sometimes during tournaments, you are very tired and there are lots of long hours, but I think of the team at the course and everyone smiling and proud of the job they are doing. So that really gives me motivation when I need it most.

## 9. Best piece of advice you've ever been given?

When I took this job, someone said to me, "Alejandro, work every day like it is your last day working." This meaning to give maximum effort every single day. This really stuck with me.

## 10. Most admired sports person?

Rafael Nadal. His character, his power, everything about him – I really admire him.

# It takes teamwork...

Daniel Lightfoot, Syngenta UK

Ryder Cup - Syngenta

Working together with our partners





Volunteering to work on golf tournaments brings a new perspective for greenkeepers and can be an inspiration to introduce new things on their own course, believes Alejandro Reyes, Golf Course and Estates Manager at Le Golf National near Paris.

As he prepares to welcome a volunteer crew for first, The French Open in July and then, just three months later, an international greenkeeping team of 180 for The Ryder Cup in September, Alejandro explained his approach to team motivation to Daniel Lightfoot of Syngenta.

**Continued over**





**Why do you think it's so important for greenkeepers to get involved with volunteering for competitions?**

When I came to Le Golf National we had many great people who had been working on the course for 10, 20, even 25 years without ever being on another course. They had no experience to compare what they were doing here.

Since then we have actively encouraged everyone to get out and work on other courses and other tournaments on the European Tour, to see a different way to manage a golf course and work with different people.

**And do they bring ideas back as well?**

Definitely. We are always welcome to ideas and considering new approaches as to how we can manage the course.

**Do you think working on tournaments helped you?**

For sure, I love to do tournaments! Between the European Tour and the PGA Tour, I've lost count of the number of tournaments I've worked on. And every time you work on one you see something different.

You get a picture of something and think 'ah, that could work on my course' or 'we could do it better if we did it like this'.

I am incredibly grateful for all the courses and superintendents who gave me the opportunity to see what they did through volunteering, so it's a chance to give something back now.

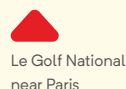
**And it's good for team morale for greenkeepers to get that same buzz that you had?**

Exactly. It's an investment in time for them to be away from the course, but the experience that they bring back is extremely valuable.

Also it's good for the team here to welcome other people and to share experiences.

**And that's just part of the investment you make in education and improving your greenkeepers' skills.**

In France we now have a dedicated turf management academy, which is delivering education to a high level. They provide training in basic greenkeeping skills, and also for superintendents. We have guys in training to be golf course superintendents, on part-time



basis over three to four years, so it takes time but they get the education, alongside working on the course.

**I watched your team meeting this morning, and you go to great lengths to explain what you are doing and why to the guys every day.**

That's one thing that I really like to do. For example, when we are going out to work on hollow tining or aeration, I explain why we are looking to reduce organic matter and what it will do for playability and improvement to the course.

It's particularly important when we look to do something different or hadn't been done in the past. We want them to engage in our journey and what we want to achieve as part of the challenge.

---

'You get a picture of something and think 'ah, that could work on my course' or 'we could do it better if we did it like this'.'

---





You can follow the experiences of Alejandro and meet the Le Golf National greenkeeping team as they build up to the French Open and The Ryder Cup on the dedicated website: [www.turfteamchallenge.com](http://www.turfteamchallenge.com) — where you can also get to hear from the BIGGA members taking part in the volunteering team.

Sometimes that means putting in extra time and effort but if they know the end goal it makes it easier. They really appreciate that.

**So with the name and reputation of Le Golf National, do you get lots of people wanting to come in and learn from what you are doing?**

Lots. And lots! From all over France, and around the world. It's not just for tournaments. Some of them are, for example, perhaps a course manager who would want to send an assistant here for a week or two. We provide them with accommodation and they're going to work with the whole team — to

see how we manage the course on a day to day basis, along with the long-term plans.

We also get lots of people from other golf courses just coming in to see what we are doing, and how we do it. That's part of our role as the national golf course of the French Federation.

**And off the course, what sort of things do you do to keep up morale with the team?**

I always say, we are like a family. Every week we are going to have a social evening together, some pizza, a BBQ, a few beers — and we stay talking, joking and having a great time. It builds the



Fairway mowing

Left: The 13th hole at Le Golf National

Right: Alejandro Reyes and Daniel Lightfoot of Syngenta UK



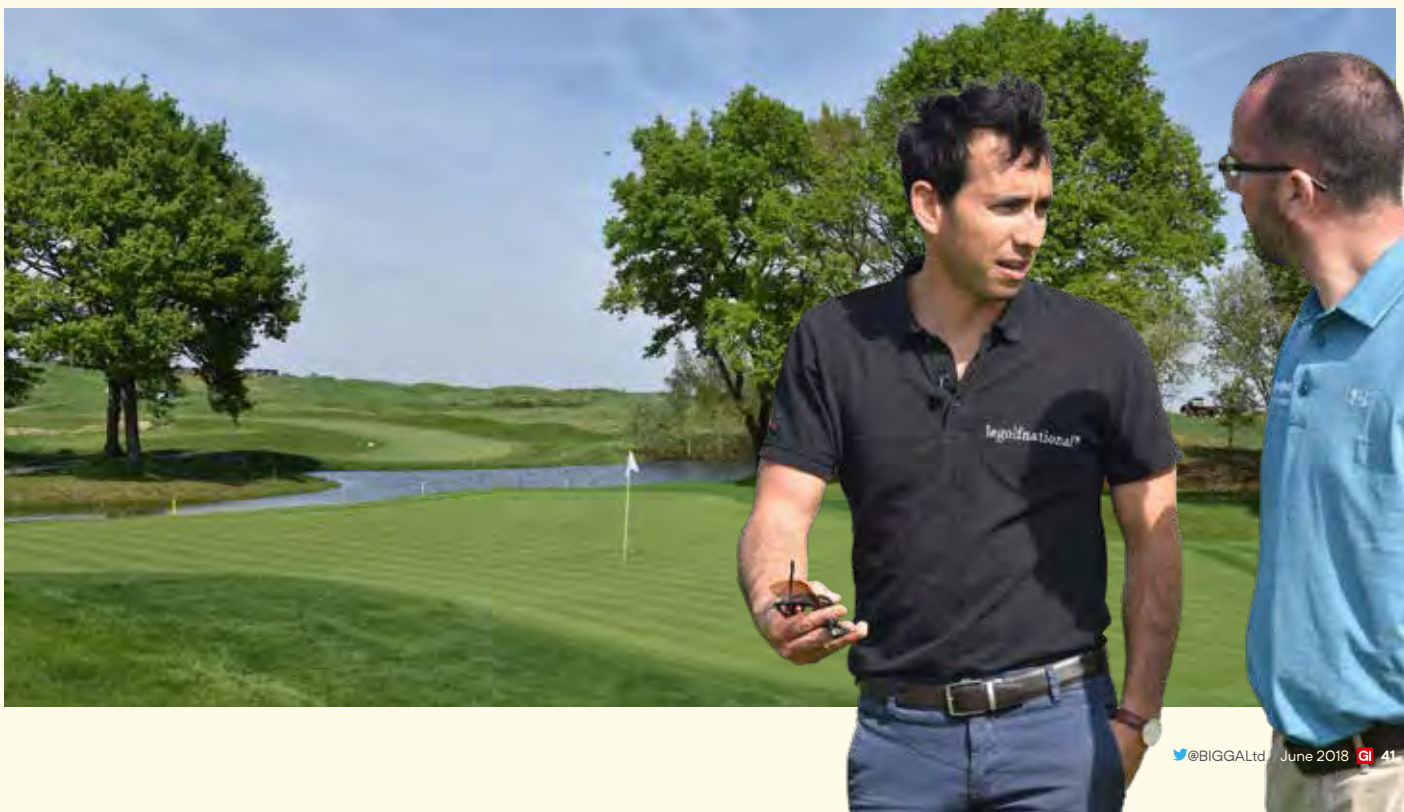
relationship that makes working as a team so much more enjoyable and productive.

The team spirit is fantastic.

Sometimes it is the whole team from Le Golf National so they get to better understand us and what we do, but for the greenkeeping team it is every week.

**The word 'family' is a great way to describe what you are pulling together here. From the team we have met everyone seems really engaged. In a tournament situation you absolutely rely on the team to work together to deliver.**

Absolutely. It's a lot of time that's invested. But I love these guys; we have a great time. We are now really looking forward to growing the team when the international volunteers arrive, and hopefully giving them the experience that will be hugely beneficial for their future development.









# O The 147th pen

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

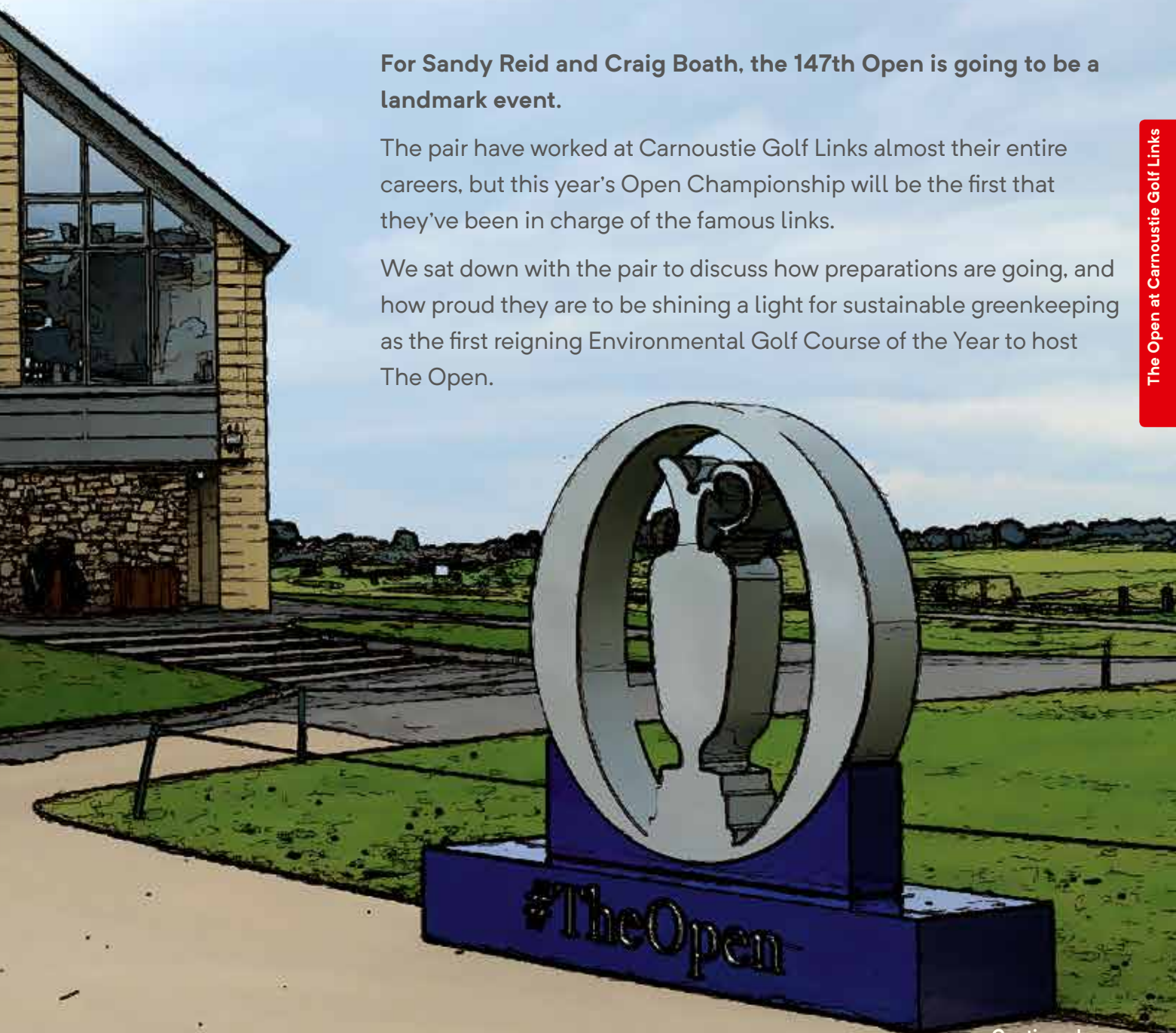
## At Carnoustie Golf Links

**For Sandy Reid and Craig Both, the 147th Open is going to be a landmark event.**

The pair have worked at Carnoustie Golf Links almost their entire careers, but this year's Open Championship will be the first that they've been in charge of the famous links.

We sat down with the pair to discuss how preparations are going, and how proud they are to be shining a light for sustainable greenkeeping as the first reigning Environmental Golf Course of the Year to host The Open.

The Open at Carnoustie Golf Links



Continued over



Out on the course, preparations for The Open have seen the conclusion of a renovation programme of all 112 of the Championship Course's bunkers, including 80 completed this past winter. Over 12km of fibre optic cables have been laid to enable Wi-Fi provision all over the course, and 12 cameras have been fitted into bunker faces.

Spectator mounds have been constructed to increase viewing opportunities for visitors, while gorse has been removed to enable spectator routing and three fairways have been raised to allow bunkers to be lifted further above the water table.

"Hosting The Open has always been a major undertaking," said Championship Course Head Greenkeeper Craig Boath. "But like everything, it's increased in size and scale. From 2007, I'd say the contractors' and television compounds are about three times the size as they were."



The famous Barry Burn

The most recent time The Open was hosted at Carnoustie was 2007, when Sandy Reid was head greenkeeper on the Championship Course and Craig was his deputy.

"At that time there was a deputy links superintendent, working underneath Links Superintendent John Philp. Paul O'Connor was the deputy, and the abolishing of this role means more responsibility has fallen upon Craig as head greenkeeper.

"Craig has more input than I did in 2007," explained Sandy. "I was more like a foreman, with many of the course management decisions being made above me. Craig has much more autonomy.

"I view my role as trying to make Craig's job as easy as I can. We've had contractors on site for the past year and I don't want Craig to have to worry about contractors driving on his turf. He'll speak to me, but he's running the course on a daily basis.

"The difference between the superintendent role and the role of a head greenkeeper is that as a head greenkeeper you have a plan of work for the week, month and year and you have your resources such as staff and machinery to get the work done. There's a physical sense of achievement and satisfaction there, whereas I think in this role it's much more

---

'Hosting The Open has always been a major undertaking, but like everything, it's increased in size and scale.'

---





'The reason I miss being out on a mower is the thinking time it gives you. Your best ideas never come when you're sat at a desk, it's when you're out doing something else.'

  
Craig Boath (left) and  
Sandy Reid (right)

intangible and so it's difficult to get that same sense of achievement.

"I do miss being out on the different machines and the thinking time it gives you. Your best ideas never come when you're sat at a desk, it's when you're out doing something else. You're at your most creative when you're not meaning to be, and when you're trying to think, you never do."

With so much responsibility resting on Craig's shoulders, he's entitled to be nervous ahead of his first Open in charge of the Championship Course. He's pretty level headed about the entire thing, however, and describes the sense of anticipation as exciting, rather than nerve-wracking.

As the day dawns on the Thursday of The Open, the greenkeeping team will be called in to work at 4.15am, already aware of their roles and ready to get things completed before the first tee time, at around 6.30am.

Supplementing the home course maintenance team of 31 will be just eight volunteers, six of whom are drawn from other venues on The Open rota. This stands in stark contrast to events such as the Ryder Cup, where there will be upwards of 90 volunteers, or The Masters, where the volunteer workforce multiplies the greenkeeping team by a factor of around 10.

"I think you can have too many people," said Craig. "You are left finding jobs for volunteers, when by the time of The Open, the hard work should be done. Other Open venues ask for support for two weeks, starting the week before the event, but we hope that we won't need that extra assistance as we have staff from the other two courses."

Despite this being their first time in charge at The Open, Sandy and Craig are confident that they have everything in hand.

Continued over



## Carnoustie Golf Links

### Greens staff

#### Championship Course

Craig Boath, Championship  
Head Greenkeeper

Duncan Cairnie, Championship  
Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Mark Reynolds, Championship  
First Assistant

Brian Rooke

Colin Law

Greig Peal

Chris Murray

Malcolm Kydd

Stuart Kerr

Willy Spark

Ross Mitchell

Andy Pickard

Pablo Lizano

Victor Wood

Neil Bruce

#### Burnside Course

Kevin Stott, Head Greenkeeper

Stephen Sutherland, First  
Assistant

Alan Breen

Gavin Lowe

Barry McDonald

Chris Salvin

Danie Van Wyk

#### Buddon Course

Steve Mitchell, Head  
Greenkeeper

Allan Begg, First Assistant

Paul Atkins

Neil Campbell

Craig Kerr

Derek Murray

Darren Simpson

Continued over



Sandy hopes he'll get the opportunity to watch the first players get The Open underway on the Thursday morning.

Sandy said: "I remember last time [Deputy Links Superintendent] Paul was changing holes, and I was painting them. But I was also responsible for course checking and so Grant Moir of The R&A would contact me on the radio and tell me about something that needed correcting on the course.

"What we've become conscious of is the need for Craig to be doing nothing other than being on standby, ready to fix any issues that arise, and so hole changing has been delegated down a level.

"The way The R&A do the greens, each is stimped after it's cut and a decision is made as to whether it needs to be cut again to get it consistent. That decision-making process is between Grant, the STRI and Craig. It shouldn't need my input and although I'll be out on the course, I'm conscious that I don't want to step on Craig's toes."

The spotlight falling upon Craig is appropriate, as it is he and his team who have spearheaded the conservation efforts at Carnoustie, leading to the club being crowned Environmental Golf Course of the Year at the 2018 Golf Environment Awards, held last January during the week of BTME. This year's Open

will mark the first time the event has been held at the reigning champion of the award, which ties in well with The R&A's drive to increase sustainability across the sport.

Environmental projects undertaken at Carnoustie include the planting of crocus bulbs with two local schools, sea pea planting with Dundee Botanic Gardens, Kidney Vetch planting and the Small Blue Butterfly project with Easthaven, Tayside Biodiversity Group and local schools. They have also published an environmental booklet.

The club has worked hard to thin out areas of rough to improve finer grasses, while they have also cut down on the amount of chemicals that are used.

"We have done a lot of work with local schoolchildren," said Craig. "We've tried to get the wider community involved, and hopefully that will get them interested in golf and raise awareness of what goes on, on a golf course. They are your future members, greenkeepers and other staff, and I think we all have to take responsibility for securing the future of the game.

"We don't do the conservation for the publicity, we do it because it's the right thing to do. In many ways, the things you're doing are also saving you money. For example,

---

'But we don't do the conservation for the publicity, we do it because it's the right thing to do. In many ways, the things you're doing are also saving you money.'

---



18th hole at Carnoustie

if you can get rid of your poorer grasses, you're saving a guy going out into the rough with a trimmer to cut back areas and instead you're letting them grow naturally, meaning you're saving labour and petrol costs.

"The same goes for chemicals, and if you're cutting back then you don't need to buy as much in.

"This isn't just about saving money, it's also about not throwing money away."

The team hope that television coverage will reflect this drive by the Carnoustie team and The R&A, in line with other members of the greenkeeping industry, and highlight the importance of sustainability.

Sandy added: "If you look at all The Open venues, we are trying to lead the way. We all feel we have a responsibility as the figureheads in



the industry to lead the way. Also, there are a lot of smaller clubs that are doing a lot of conservation work, so why shouldn't we as well?

"The Open is a fantastic opportunity to show golf is good for conservation, that we are not just out here cutting grass, and that greenkeepers all over are doing a huge amount to help with things such as habitat creation, recycling, and other great initiatives.

"But I must add, the game of golf is the reason we are here. It's the most important thing and it is why golf courses exist, so we are trying to marry our environmental management of the course alongside never taking our eyes off the game. The course should always come first, but everything we do does have one eye upon how we can manage the environmental impact."

With 24-hour golf channels and such publicity bringing attention to the efforts of the course maintenance team, The Open is a fantastic opportunity for the greenkeeping industry to be highlighted. Print media and broadcasters have already been in contact, looking to speak to Craig and Sandy about their preparations, and this opportunity to showcase greenkeeping practices will shine a light on the industry as a whole.

For that reason, Craig must be one of the few people who is actually hoping for a little rain during the event. He explained: "It'd be good if we got some different weather through the four days and gave the course a bit of a test, as long as it's not on the Sunday afternoon during the trophy presentation. If everyone says 'didn't the course

do well, despite the weather' then that would be an achievement."

In an attempt to combat the potential effects of rainfall, as mirrored the 2007 Open, three fairways have been raised to allow the raising of bunkers.

"It was driven by it being such a wet summer in 2007," explained Sandy. "We had a high water table and these bunkers would often sit with water in them. The further inland you go, the water table comes up, and as it's flat there isn't a great deal of drainage. We weren't comfortable with the look it gave on television, with water in the bunkers, so we're hoping this will combat that."

You won't be able to perceive it on television, but the landing area on the 11th hole was raised by around a foot, while the 17th hole was recontoured, again being raised an average of around a foot.

This required the movement of around 600 tonnes of sand, sourced from elsewhere on the site or from a local quarry. Turf would be stripped off the fairway, followed by the sand immediately below the turf. The imported sand would then be laid down, followed by the original layer of sand and the original turf, or turf grown at the onsite nursery. This ensured the soil profile and grass species would remain the same.

Recycling of resources has also proved useful in the construction of the new spectator mounding, where grass clippings and old turf has been combined to raise areas around the edge of the course. This has then been topped by the original sand and turf to ensure the soil profile is protected.

## Workshop

Sandy McCubbin, Maintenance Engineer

Derek Findlay

Steve Martin

Kevin Riddoch

Graham Brand

## Greenkeeping Administrator

Nicola Cunningham

## Machinery

Toro Flex 2120 x 12

Toro 3420-D x 11

Toro 5410 x 4

Toro 3100 Sidewinder x 2

Toro 3500 Sidewinder x 1

Toro Multi-Pro Sprayer x 3

Toro Hydroject x 2

Toro Procore x 2

Smithco Roller x 4

Various Toro Utility Vehicles (MDX, HDX + GTX)

Various Tractors

(New Holland, Kubota + TYM)

Although the event is being held on the Championship Course, Carnoustie's Burnside and Buddon courses will also be heavily impacted by the tournament.

The 18th fairway of the Burnside will be hospitality tenting, and the fine, tight turf will be cut off from sunlight for the best part of three months. Other sections will be used as car parking, and so a huge amount of damage can be caused, depending upon the weather.

"We're not sure how bad it's going to be," explained Sandy. I would hope that we wouldn't need to relay turf and it'll be interesting to see how resilient the course is going to be. There's not going to be any daylight, but there will be air movement, which helps.

"We've removed some mounds to allow trackway to run through and we removed the turf, because we thought the trackway would do more damage than the tenting. That turf will be re-laid afterwards, the tee and green will be in good nick, and so we expect that course to be open by the middle of August."



Carnoustie Golf Links receiving their award at BTME 2018



# Levelling a tee

Mark Silk | Managing Director | Working Turf

In this feature I would like to discuss the methods of levelling of the teeing surface, not the construction of the entire tee area.

What is a 'tee'? A tee is an area of closely mown grass and is the starting place for the hole. It is the only place (not including winter rules) where the golfer gets the opportunity to position and set up the ball.

Ideally the tee needs to be slightly raised, flat (level) and of sufficient size to cope with year round play and weather conditions.

After the construction has long since finished, tees will begin to change and lose their trueness. So as the years roll by, the renovation of tees becomes a regular annual project.

The traditional method of levelling a tee as an in-house project was by hand, using hand tools like rakes and shovels and utilising lots of greenkeepers and their time!

As machinery and measuring tools developed, this 'hard work' project became more about routine maintenance and subsequently less time consuming.

There are three ways of levelling a tee: by hand; using a powered box grader; and using a large excavator.

In this piece we are only looking at the finishing off process, so we will not include the large excavator as this is generally used during construction of very large projects.

To level a tee by hand or using a powered box grader you can employ the same levelling principles to both. I know there are many ways of helping to level or smooth a teeing surface and methods include using string line, running over with a pallet, or using shutter boards.

**I am only going to focus on a few techniques, ranging from basic to high tech. These techniques are:**

- 1, level by eye;**
- 2, inlayed poles;**
- 3, boning rods;**
- 4, laser (fitted to machinery).**

We will look at a typical teeing size of approximately 140m<sup>2</sup> (14x10m), so we can see how long each process takes to complete one tee. Note, all the times given are broad estimates.

## Method 1: By hand

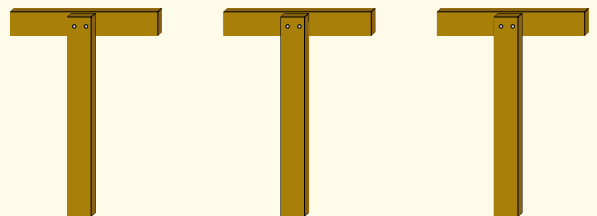
Tools required; rakes, shovels, x2 poles, x4 man power and dumpy level

### Step 1 'Levelling by eye'

This will be the least accurate and most time consuming. Based on the size of our hypothetical tee, you will need to allow at least 84 hours of labour. However, it will generally be the lowest cost way of achieving a level teeing surface if you exclude staff wages and include just the materials and the hire of small tools. The amount of labour required comes from the overall amount of extra material needed to help make up the levels, constantly shovelling, raking and heeling-in and eyeing across the surface until you are happy with the results. However, the tee will not yet be level.

### Step 2 & 3 'Inlayed poles' and 'boning rods'

This is just as time consuming as levelling by eye, with approximately 84 hours of labour required, but introduces an element of accuracy. Utilise sunken poles set on opposite sides of the tee to run a board across the top of the pole. Or use boning rods, set in each corner (plus a travelling rod) to get a greater level of accuracy, using a measuring tool like a dumpy level to set-up the levels. Using these two levelling techniques, continue moving across the tee and spreading the material until the surface is level and firm. The accuracy should vary between 15-50mm depending on factors including the skill levels of your team.



Boning rods used to provide a level line of sight across a tee





Hand preparation of site. Picture by Tony Giraldi



Frasie-mower removing the top layer of vegetation. Picture by Campey Turfcare

## Method 2: Powered box grader

Tools required: Powered box grader box and laser

### Step 1 'Levelling by eye'

You could use a powered box grader like Working Turf to 'grade by eye'. This will give you a smooth and even surface, but it won't be levelled. It will reduce the overall time and improve the consistency of the smoothing process. You may not need to add additional material as the grader can cut material from the high spots and move them to the low spots. It will also continually firm and loosen ground.

The grader will continue until you are happy with the surface, but remember that although it's smooth, it's not yet level! Based upon our hypothetical tee, you will need to allow at least approximately three hours of grading work.

### Step 2 & 3 'Inlayed poles' and 'boning rods'

**'Inlayed poles' and 'boning rods'.** For these part, we will need to discard the sunken poles as they will hinder the grader. Continue the accuracy improvements by using boning rods, set in each corner and a travelling rod, plus a 'banks man' who will continually check the levels over the whole tee as the grader works over the surface.

Use a dumpy level to check out your accuracy.

As in step one, the powered grader will cut through any high spots and use this material in the low spots. Keep the grader working until the surface has achieved the desired level and is ready for your turf or initial seeding. Based upon our tee you will need to allow at least eight hours, comprising four hours of grading work and four hours for the banks man. The accuracy will vary from 10–25mm. This tee is level, but only as accurate as the dumpy level, boning rod and levelling by eye that you've been undertaking.

### Step 4 'Laser'

The laser guided powered box grader is the most accurate way of achieving a level surface to within a margin of 5mm. It is also the most time efficient, only requiring on average 2–3 hours to complete.

Your options are to either import extra material to make up the ground, with the added benefit of improving the soil and rootzone conditions or you can level the existing ground using a 'power box grader'. This can cut through heavy and compacted ground conditions, utilising material from the high spots and moving them to the low spots. This process has the additional benefit of maintaining or slightly increasing the teeing surface and reducing the cost of the project, because of there is no need for additional material.

The laser can level with no falls, or alternatively it can incorporate a fall of between 5–10%. This will help with drainage — normally from front to back. As the equipment works the ground and moves the material held within the box area from the high areas to the lower points, it is continually consolidating and firming the ground. The laser will instruct the grader to move up or down until the tee has become perfectly level.



Laser levelling with mounted grader. Picture by Kevin Weller

I hope this puts you all on a level playing field and cleared a few unexplained processes of levelling tees from days gone past to present. All three have a common theme, to have an even/level teeing ground and fit for golf for another 5–10 years.

## Working Turf

Hi, I am Mark Silk, the managing director of 'Working Turf LTD', turf maintenance and renovation company. We have just celebrated our 10th year in business. My life in this beautiful trade started way back in August 1990 at Minchinhampton Golf Club. I did my three years apprenticeship under Laurance Pithie and Paul Worster's tutelage. After almost 18 years as a greenkeeper at different golf clubs around the UK, of which I was 'course manager' for 12 of them, I felt I could use my skills to better use elsewhere and set about creating my own turf care company.

Working Turf is a turf maintenance and renovation company, carrying out all aspects of contracting and renovation work from 'weed spraying and aeration work' to 'bunker and tee renovations' to 'over-seeding' and 'secondary drainage installs' to name but a few. Our main area of excellence is 'laser levelling tee tops'.

We use 'Harley T6' powered box grader rigged up to Trimble laser equipment on a back of a mid-sized tractor. This set-up allows us to give you a perfectly level (or with a fall) teeing area ready for turfing (or seeding). This tool is ideal for either going through new root-zone or the existing tee material.

The benefits of using this type of grader is, as we move around the tee moving material from the high areas to the

low areas, the action of the powered grade bar is constantly firming the surface, so you are left with a level and firm tee and happy customer in a matter of a few hours.

Call us on 07976269440 or email [office@working-turf.com](mailto:office@working-turf.com) or look out for our new web site, going live in June.



## Inturf

Since 1985 Inturf has developed a reputation for quality and service, we are one of the founder members of the Turfgrass Growers Association which exists to drive up standards in our industry.

Inturf's farms located near Pocklington, York and Grantham are unquestionably the most suitable regions for growing some of the finest and most consistent quality turfgrass. The land is virtually stone free, open and flat with rich sandy loam soils and adequate supplies of irrigation and is perfect for maintaining the grass in the best possible condition. Our state of the art drilling, maintenance and harvesting equipment ensures quality and efficiency at every stage, not to mention technical experience.

Inturf products adorn world class golf venues, are used by respected landscape practitioners and are stocked by 500 outlets nationwide.

In 1990 we developed the revolutionary Big Roll turf harvesting system and this format is available for larger areas where speed is of the essence. Considerably less joints ensure faster establishment and provide a more instant effect.

Various reliable partners in haulage and our own transport deliver our turf on time and in excellent condition with off-loading facilities if required.

We pride ourselves on reliability, being safety conscious and nurturing a high level of integrity that a traditional family run business promotes.





### Kubota

Designed to meet the evolving needs of turf professionals, Kubota UK's latest machinery innovations offer unrivalled performance and reliability, delivering a professional finish every time.

The new ZD1211 zero-turn mower offers a host of unique operating features and is equipped with a three-blade, 140mm deep and 1.5m rear discharge deck. Engineered to achieve a superior cut, the front axle is offset with a choice of two positions, oscillating or rigid, which adapts to the contour of the terrain. The powerful 18.5kW diesel engine and HST transmission enables the machine to deliver exceptional quality and performance.

Within the compact tractor range, the launch of the BX231 sets a new standard, with its premium specification providing operators with a single machine that is capable of tackling a multitude of tasks. Despite its compact size, the tractor boasts a powerful Kubota three-cylinder diesel engine, offering an impressive 17kW, while also featuring a two-speed HST for maximum power.

Innovation has also been demonstrated within Kubota's existing product range through the improved standard B1 Series and premium B2 Series compact tractors, which supersede the popular B50 Series. The B2 Series has three

new models ranging between 20–31kW, with a wide range of features, including Kubota's Bi-speed turn, enabling operators to achieve a significantly reduced turning radius for increased manoeuvrability in tighter spaces.

For more information on Kubota and its extensive range of solutions for the groundcare sector visit [www.kubota.co.uk](http://www.kubota.co.uk) or call 01844 268000.



## Budding Photographer?



For your chance to win an **Apple iPad 32GB**, enter the **BIGGA photographic competition** by sending **high quality versions of your images** along with your name and membership number to [comps@bigga.co.uk](mailto:comps@bigga.co.uk) by **Friday 24 August 2018**.



# Irrigation

## Where are you going with yours?

Adrian Mortram, Managing Director, Robin Hume Associates

Irrigation



Evaluating sprinklers for operation and nozzles

Scafell Crag covered in rime ice





## The winter of 2017 to 2018 was variable throughout the UK, but some may say we actually had a real winter for the first time in a number of years.

As many of you will know I enjoy spending time in the hills and mountains of the UK. Rime ice was common in high places of the Cairngorms, Lake District and Pennines this winter, indicating not just the extreme cold, but also the dryness of the surfaces as moisture laden winds deposit ice crystals onto dry, cold surfaces such as rocks, walls and cairns.

The snowfalls of March were also a contradiction in quantity terms due to extreme drifting of dry powder snow. Both of these factors are an indication that less precipitation fell, which was therefore unable to replenish the subterranean reserves. Spring then suddenly arrived in early May with record breaking temperatures and a rise in ambient temperatures of over 25 degrees.

It is not unusual for weather patterns to change so dramatically in a maritime climate on the edge of an enormous landmass, as average precipitation figures for the whole of the UK suggest. However, one factor which does seem to be changing is the actual pattern of precipitation with, for example, shorter, heavier, periods of rainfall. Heavier rainfall combined with buildings, car parks, roads and pavements comes more surface run-off onto land which at times cannot cope with this increased

volume of water. This excess water may then be lost in surface run-off and subsequently wasted, making its way through drainage systems and into water courses entering the seas. It may therefore seem a paradox that this change in weather may in fact actually increase our dependence on irrigation rather than decrease it.

While carrying out irrigation system evaluations and audits we now see many which are well past their use-by date. The average life span of an irrigation system is 25 years, depending upon how well it has been designed, installed, maintained, serviced and upgraded where needed throughout its life. To replace, or not to replace, is never a simple question. The solution usually lies in the choices available, which need to be looked at in the short, medium and the long term. Be proactive rather than reactive in your thinking and ensure you plan ahead so you may not need to do everything at once.

In the short term, developing good working practices is essential, as is furthering your education and taking advice from your peers and specialists within the industry as well as using resources such as the R&A Sustainability guidelines on course management. The rootzone must be kept free draining

‘It may therefore seem a paradox that this change in weather may in fact actually increase our dependence on irrigation rather than decrease it.’

to encourage deep rooting of the sward and a greater root biomass.

Avoid skimping on either surface or sub-surface aeration. Modern cultivars of fine turf grasses may be more drought tolerant or exhibit more advantageous colour traits (colour being a very subjective matter) and wetting agents can improve the absorption of water and make use of the dew factor. Regularly check the operation of key components of your irrigation system such as the incoming water supply, water storage, pump station, valve boxes and sprinkler heads. Raise, level and trim around sprinkler heads to avoid breaking up the spray pattern as it comes in contact with the un-manicured turf and ensure the most efficient sprinkler performance as possible from the quality of system you have.

**Continued over**





## What to look for

In the short to medium term look at the day to day management of the irrigation system. Ensure the water supply and water storage is sufficient in terms of quantity and quality to sustain the irrigated surfaces during dry periods.

Have the water quality checked at least annually for pH, alkalinity and salinity. Maintaining records of water quality and the quantity of water used for irrigation as justification of need has never been more prevalent, with abstraction licences under more pressure and scrutinised more than ever before.

Ensure the pump station is delivering the optimum pressure and confirm it corresponds with the designer's recommendations necessary to give the required pressure and therefore coverage at the sprinkler head. Pressures can be checked at individual sprinkler heads using a pitot gauge, however, always remember this should be undertaken during an automatic cycle rather than as an individual spot check.

Review all the onsite valve/hydrant boxes to ensure they are in good working order, components can be accessed easily and remove any miscreant vermin as mice can create havoc with the electrical cabling. Depending upon the overall condition of the irrigation system it may be worth identifying valve assemblies which need

upgrading/replacement using a traffic light system (red, amber and green) to ensure those needing attention are prioritised first. This methodology could also be used across all areas of the irrigation system, such as sprinklers.

Review and assess all sprinklers and solenoids for electrical and mechanical operation.

Check whether the sprinkler spacings are uniform to ensure optimum coverage and that there is head to head coverage from the sprinkler nozzles. Check whether each sprinkler has the correct nozzle (nowadays often colour coded) and arc setting. These should be consistent for the area irrigated and set to avoid wasting considerable amounts of water into areas not requiring irrigation and to avoid the potential for changing the localised environment.

Ensure the computerised controller is set to deliver the correct quantities of water whether in time or millimetres.

All the above are simple maintenance checks which can be carried out relatively inexpensively but could contribute to an improvement in turf quality and a considerable reduction in water usage. As mentioned previously, maintaining detailed records of all your maintenance work is essential, especially records of your water usage.

Irrigation really is often a case of 'out of sight, out of mind',



Tee Irrigation Good  
Coverage && Even  
Spacing

which is sad considering it is the single most expensive item of maintenance equipment on any golf course.

An irrigation system audit may serve you well and can be carried out in-house, seeking independent, non-biased assistance and guidance as required. This will provide you with a condition status of the irrigation system to allow for decisions to be made on the way forward. It will undoubtedly not only save time, effort and finances in the long term but also act as future bargaining power with the water companies and environmental agencies as an indication of your care and that you are proactive in the management of both your environment and water conservation in general.

In the medium to long term it may not only be necessary to upgrade the whole irrigation system but also to reconsider the sourcing of water. In many cases financing of such a project will place a considerable burden upon the golf club and have a bearing upon what can be done, or what cannot be done. With the pressures on many golf clubs to just sustain their membership, as well as the rhetoric from some of the membership of "why do we need an irrigation system as it always rains in the UK?", the thought of spending upwards of £350,000 on a new irrigation system for the greens, approaches and tees can be a daunting and at first thoughts a potentially non-viable



proposition. There is, however, no getting away from it that an irrigation system is an essential item of maintenance equipment for any golf course and needs to function efficiently and effectively when required.

Everything in life has a lifespan. Golf courses will therefore need to be creative in how they plan to upgrade their irrigation systems as continually putting off the inevitable is not viable either. We have worked with clubs who have for example sought a levy from the membership (sometimes considered acceptable, sometimes not), borrowed from some of the membership (with a structured repayment programme plus interest), financed through their bank or irrigation manufacturer or financed the project from cash reserves. Often a combination of options are used. For some golf clubs there may be only one option and that is financing over a number of years (which could be the lifespan of the system) and this may well be the way the irrigation industry goes in future.

Sprinkler applying water into areas not necessarily requiring irrigation



‘An irrigation system is an essential item of maintenance equipment for any golf course and needs to function efficiently and effectively when required.’

### Looking to the future

Looking to the future there is no doubt that water availability and its usage will be restricted, more expensive and more tightly controlled. Our irrigation systems must therefore be efficient and effective. As I have already mentioned, keeping accurate records is absolutely essential if we are going to be able to influence both the government and the water industry. Some years ago, and I am not aware of any more recent research, the National Rivers Authority (pre-environmental agencies)

predicted that agriculture uses only about 1% of all available water resources for irrigation purposes and golf uses only 1% of that. However, as our usage in sport is deemed ‘privileged’ it is regarded as politically sensitive. This will not apply to all users, however, where possible, we should start to consider the recycling of ‘clean’ clubhouse water, collecting surface run off from buildings and hard standing areas etc. Overall our industry must start to communicate, share information and work together to secure an adequate supply of water for the future.



## Robin Hume Associates

### Adrian Mortram

Adrian is managing director of Robin Hume Associates, a firm of golf course and sportsturf design consultants based in the United Kingdom and northern Europe.

With over a century of experience, Robin Hume Associates is the longest established irrigation design and consultancy practice in the United Kingdom.

Adrian is privileged to have worked at most of the prestigious golf courses within the UK and has undertaken numerous education sessions for BIGGA, both at a regional and national level. He is an annual contributor to the Continue to Learn education programme.

In his spare time Adrian leads an active life, having mountaineered on six of the seven continents, as well as having visited the Arctic. Later this year his adventures will continue as he plans to visit Antarctica.

For more information about Robin Hume Associates, visit [www.irrigationconsultants.co.uk](http://www.irrigationconsultants.co.uk) or email [adrian.mortram@irrigationconsultants.co.uk](mailto:adrian.mortram@irrigationconsultants.co.uk)



## Otterbine | Perfect for sustainability

### Otterbine's Fractional aerating system

Water conservation is a hot topic at the moment and any way to re-use, recycle and utilise that resource on a golf course is good news. It's certainly a trend Otterbine distributor Reesink Turfcare has noticed in recent years, especially when it comes to the amount of interest the brand has had in clubs looking for an aerating system that can support a small reservoir.

Reservoirs allow clubs to collect water during wetter months to overcome summer droughts and then use this resource to responsibly irrigate entire courses. And Otterbine's Fractional five-in-one aerating system can be relied upon to keep the ecosystem of any smaller reservoir in perfect balance.

It has the highest performance rate of any fractional aerator on the market, and can transfer an impressive 1kg/2.2lbs of oxygen per hp/hr, and pump 115m<sup>3</sup> of water per hour.

Robert Jackson, Reesink irrigation manager, said: "Improving stored water quality will bring long-term benefits. Utilising clean water in reservoirs will reduce the requirement for potable supply where water costs will rise. Acting now will bring long-term cost savings and start the process of achieving full sustainability."

The Fractional also has the option to deliver four different spray patterns that can be quickly and easily switched into a horizontal mixer system for maximum value and versatility, providing not only function but beauty too, to any small to medium-sized lake or pond.





### Netafim

Netafim is the largest irrigation company in the world and the global leader in micro irrigation. Established market leaders in the manufacture, design and supply of precision irrigation systems for agriculture, Netafim holds a strong position in the provision of golf, sports and landscape irrigation solutions. We are a key distributor for Hunter Industries and use our extensive experience, including a wealth of golf irrigation knowledge, to support the Hunter Golf products range including rotors, valves and control systems. With a full technical support operation, Netafim has the resources to support Hunter products of all types. Our warehouse is fully stocked with Hunter's products and parts allowing us to offer an unsurpassed service to those wishing to use products from this major golf and landscape irrigation manufacturer.

At Netafim we look to provide solutions to the wider requirements of irrigation. We have identified the critical need to ensure water used for irrigation is of the highest quality and is managed to prevent algae build-up and low oxygen levels. As a result, we have selected AquaMaster as our partner in providing water quality management solutions for irrigation water storage facilities. As the leading manufacturer of floating fountains and aeration systems, AquaMaster's units have proven reliability and simple servicing requirements delivering reduced long term

operating costs. As the AquaMaster full line UK distributor, we can provide an AquaMaster product to meet your requirements. Whether it be for water quality management or a decorative floating fountain near the clubhouse or on the course, we will have the right AquaMaster for you.

Netafim UK Limited  
01695 556222  
[uk.info@netafim.com](mailto:uk.info@netafim.com)



### LWS Irrigation | Buy four Rain Bird EAGLE rotors and get one free

As irrigation systems across the UK get fired up and tested in preparation for the 2018 season, this special Rain Bird spring offer is perfectly timed. Rain Bird Gear-Driven Rotors are engineered to efficiently manage water. With minimal maintenance requirements, worry-free performance and maximum water distribution uniformity, they help your course, pitch, green or court achieve maximum playability and profitability.

Unlike some competitive products, Rain Bird 751 Golf Rotors offer easy, top-adjustable rotation settings that retain the memory of their part-circle arc setting when shifting between full and part-circle operation. This unique feature is designed to offer quick, dry arc adjustments not just during grow-in, but for the life of the rotor. So whether you need to ramp up watering during fertilation or to conserve water, you can do it all with just a twist of your wrist.

Whether for the replacement of damaged units or to upgrade old, inefficient and under-performing heads, this is an opportunity to purchase units at very attractive prices.

The offer is valid throughout May and June and includes the Eagle range of rotors including 351B, 500B, 500E, 550B,

550E, 700B, 700E, 751B, 751E, 900E & 950E. It is based on the purchase of Rain Bird rotors within the same family, for example if you buy four 751E rotors you will actually receive five 751E rotors!

For further details, conditions and how to claim this deal contact the LWS team on 0345 230 9697 or email [simon@lws.uk.com](mailto:simon@lws.uk.com)



# Irrigation renovation

## Bush Hill Park invests in irrigation renovation

Rain Bird

**Bush Hill Park is a stone's throw from Enfield Town in North London. Originally nine holes, this 100-acre parkland course was designed by Open Championship winners James Braid and Harry Vardon and enjoys a reputation in the area for being a well-maintained course.**

However, much of the irrigation system was installed 25 years ago, had deteriorated and was in need of a complete overhaul.

Head Greenkeeper Graham Careford has worked at Bush Hill Park since 1986 and explained: "The ground here is clay so very dry in summer. With only a small number of heads on tees, irrigation

coverage was poor, combined with leaks and frequent system breakdowns.

"The challenge any club like us faces is that you can't see how badly the irrigation system has deteriorated because the pipework is buried underground.

"Extra watering takes place in the early hours or at night, and staff working overtime to keep the course in the best condition won't usually be seen by most club members and players.

"Keeping an unreliable and ageing irrigation system going becomes increasingly expensive."

To help build the case for investment in a new irrigation system, Graham began keeping a detailed timeline, recording all system faults, breakdowns and overtime, as well as taking photographs of course conditions.

This information was presented to the management committee to inform decision-making and helped the club properly evaluate its various options.

The club appointed Irritech Limited to undertake the irrigation system

Working together with our partners

**RAIN BIRD**®





design and specification and to coordinate a competitive tender process for a fixed price contract, including warranties and retentions.

The committee decided that the major investment of £300,000 in a new Rain Bird IC Stratus II Central

Control System with Windows 10 functionality and mapping for greens, approaches and tees would provide the system reliability and future water efficiencies that would maintain the quality of the course for many years to come.

The new system is now operational, and with over 300 sprinkler heads, seven miles of piping, 6.5 miles of cable and 3,500-man hours, the contractor, Irrigation & Water brought the project in within budget.

### Irrigation & Water Director Ashley Proctor

“Our biggest challenge at Bush Hill Park was heavy clay and a high water table, which meant adopting a more sympathetic approach to ground conditions. It’s taken a little more time and care but that’s been essential to minimise damage to the course. This is our first complete Rain Bird renovation and we’ve had

a superb Rain Bird team working with us providing all the technical support, training and back-up we needed to make sure the system was installed to the right standards. We’re delighted to have been involved in what’s been a landmark project.”

### Jimmy Sandison, regional golf sales manager for the UK and Scandinavia

“We were thrilled to be awarded this project and Graham Careford and the project team were a delight to work with from the start. We all knew ground conditions were going to be a challenge but

Bush Hill Park now has a highly efficient irrigation system that can be easily upgraded in future years, reducing the cost of overall ownership.”

# Insight

The science of modern greenkeeping

Insight - Syngenta

## Turf Science In Action

Light is a requirement for healthy plant growth – but can it also be a stress for turf grasses? Dr Dominic Petrella, post-doctoral associate at the University of Minnesota, discusses why too much light can be physically harmful, and new technology that could help to alleviate the issues.

Working together with our partners

**syngenta**



# Making light work



**Not all energy emitted by the sun is useful for turf grass growth, and some of this energy can actually be harmful. Radiation that is emitted by the sun only contains a small amount of energy that can actually be used by turf grass to promote growth and development.**

Solar, or electromagnetic (EM), radiation can be defined by its wavelength (Figure 1). Plants are primarily exposed to three types of EM radiation: (1) visible light, 400–700nm; (2) ultra-violet (UV) light, 100–399nm, and (3) infrared (IR) light 700 – 1,000,000nm.

Visible light, or Photosynthetic Active Radiation (PAR), accounts for approximately 40% of EM radiation, and it's these wavelengths of light that are used for photosynthesis. PAR light includes the following broad categorical 'colours' of light: violet, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red light.

Blue and red light are both considered the most efficient for photosynthesis. These wavelengths of light can be absorbed by chlorophyll, resulting in photosynthesis and producing

the energy and structural elements needed for turf grass growth and development. However, high levels of PAR light can also be stressful for turf grasses.

Infrared radiation (IR) consists of longer wavelengths (700 – 1,000,000nm) of light that account for approximately 50% of EM radiation, but most IR doesn't directly impact turf grass growth and development. IR can, however, indirectly effect turf grasses by increasing leaf temperature. This increase in leaf temperature is due to the fact that IR is readily absorbed by water, and when absorbed, the water will warm. Because plants, especially turf grasses, consist of greater than 70% water by weight, the absorption of IR can dramatically warm the entire plant.

Not all light is useful for photosynthesis – some can be harmful

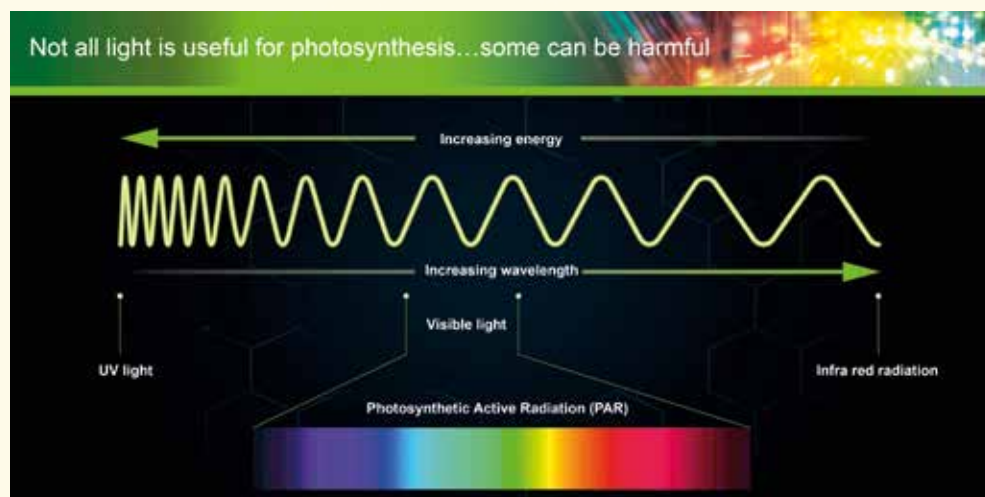


## UV sunburn

Shorter wavelength EM radiation, which includes x-rays, gamma radiation and even microwaves, has more energy and can cause damage to living tissues. Ultra-violet radiation (UV light) consists of UV-A, UV-B, and UV-C light — of which UV-C light has the greatest amount of energy of the three. Together they account for approximately 10% of EM radiation. UV light has relatively large amounts of energy, compared to both PAR and IR, and UV light can physically damage or destroy DNA, resulting in detrimental mutations and destruction of required proteins. Essentially, plants can get a sunburn just like people do (Figure 2).

Besides damaging DNA, UV light can also directly damage chlorophyll molecules and proteins involved in photosynthesis – resulting in photo-inhibition. Photo-inhibition is the decrease in photosynthesis due to light itself. When photo-inhibition occurs due to UV-damaged proteins or chlorophyll, the PAR normally absorbed by chlorophyll does not result in photosynthesis.

Instead, this absorbed light energy leads to the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS). Large quantities of ROS, such as hydrogen peroxide and superoxide, generated during photo-inhibition can lead to widespread plant stress.



## Ultraviolet (UV) Light

- Can directly damage photosynthetic proteins and pigments
- Directly damages DNA and can cause deleterious mutation



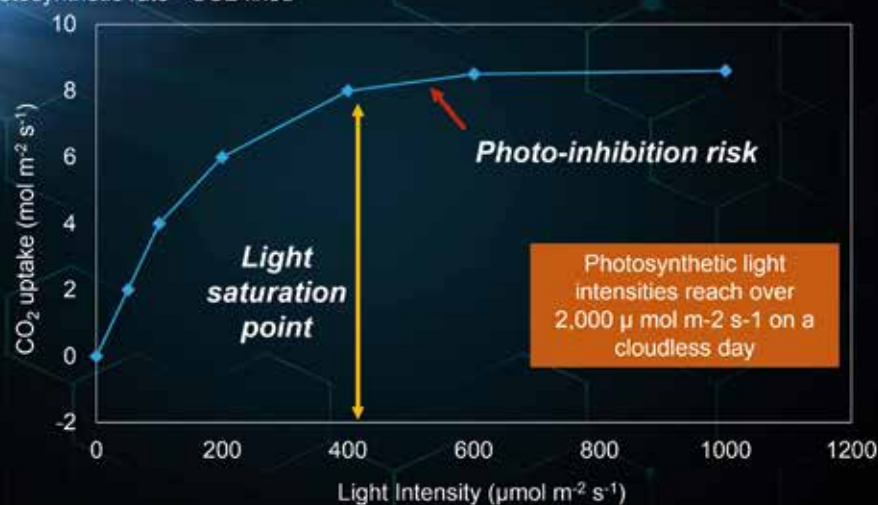
Control Light



UV Light Exposure

## Plants can have too much light

Photosynthetic rate - CO<sub>2</sub> fixed



## Photo-inhibition

Generally, plants undergo daily photo-inhibition under moderate conditions with limited impact, but when light intensities are very high, or when photo-inhibition is prolonged due to the addition of other stresses — such as low or high temperature, drought, etc. — it can lead to irreversible damage.

PAR, along with UV light, can also result in photo-inhibition. High intensity light — greater than  $500 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  — can “saturate” photosynthesis. When photosynthesis is saturated by light, the plants are exposed to extra amounts of light that, instead

of being used in photosynthesis, are used to generate ROS, in a similar way as UV light damage.

How often can light intensities be found above saturation? For a comparison, during a typical summer day light intensities well above  $2,000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  can be observed for 3–4 hours per day, and even on a cloudy day in the summer  $1,500 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  would still be normal. On a sunny winter day light intensities can still be saturating, reaching between  $500$ – $1,000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  during peak daylight hours.



**Top:** Ultraviolet light can have damaging effects on photosynthetic proteins and plant DNA

**Bottom:** Plants can receive too much light — leading to photo-inhibition and the release of potentially damaging free radicals in the leaf

Chlorophyll and photosynthetic proteins can only handle so much light at a given time, and these excessive amounts of light, that are above saturation, can lead to photo-inhibition and ROS production. Furthermore, during times of additional stress, plants will saturate with light at lower light intensities, increasing the odds of photo-inhibition occurring (Figure 3).



## How can we mimic plant photoprotection?

- Turf responds to light stress by synthesizing extra pigments such as carotenoids and anthocyanins, to decrease photosynthetic stress
- Synthetic pigments can mimic naturally occurring plant pigments to filter and reflect light



## Natural pigments

Because light can be stressful overall, plants have developed ways to adapt to these stresses. Plants can produce natural pigments that reflect, scatter, and screen incoming solar radiation to help protect against damaging quantities and wavelengths of light. Carotenoids, anthocyanins, flavonoids, and cuticular waxes in particular can help to decrease photo-inhibition.

Because of this, the idea of treating turf grasses with synthetic

pigments that can help to mimic the function of natural plant pigments may help to decrease light stress.

Synthetic pigments are relatively recent additions to the turf grass industry, and have recently really taken off. The base green pigment used in turf grass applications, known as chlorinated copper phthalocyanine (pigment green 7), can be found in innovative new pigment products being developed and tested by Syngenta – in the UK



Application of the engineered pigment, Ryder, can mimic the plant's own UV protection mechanisms

under the trade name, Ryder. When sprayed on turf grass, pigment green 7 can reflect or absorb harmful UV light along with screening PAR — and could help mitigate damaging effects of excessive sunlight at key times in the turf manager's calendar.

‘Plants can produce natural pigments that reflect, scatter, and screen incoming solar radiation to help protect against damaging quantities and wavelengths of light.’

**syngenta**

Insight - Syngenta

## Visual attraction

Having studied photo-inhibition at Ohio State University, Syngenta Technical Manager Glenn Kirby believes UK superintendents should be considering the potential for damage more closely. Opening up greens to improve air circulation, for example, also increases the amount of light reaching surfaces, with potentially damaging impacts.

But in addition to Ryder's ability to filter out harmful UV rays, it also gives the ability to instantly control colour, completely independently of fertilisers.

Results of an initial user group trial, set up in conjunction with ICL and including golf course superintendents and sports turf managers, has demonstrated the instant green up looks great and is having long lasting effects.

In practice users have reported the attractive green colour of Ryder can act as a spray indicator to help with accurate application. However, unlike a water soluble dye, the formulation of the high concentration

pigment stays on the leaf for far longer without degradation. Reducing mowing with a PGR programme could further prolong its effects.

Users have also commented that the colour concentration builds up in the hours and days after application so, by adjusting rates and intervals, they can select a colour intensity that is best suited to their individual course or situation. Using pigments in combination with nutrition is also being looked at to develop optimum programmes and recommendations.

One of the key applications identified is where different grass species may have created a mottled colouration effect on the surface, the pigment can even up the colour consistency that is highly appealing to players. Users have also highlighted its potential to mask the temporary adverse effects of some turf management actions — including the colouring of sand after topdressing, which reduces its visual impact and appeases players.

The technology has been well received and has the potential to make a step forward in the presentation of more consistent turf surfaces across all sports. For us the key is a proven scientifically advanced product, backed with practical experience and reliable recommendations.



# What We Do

## ICL Golf Green Nutrition Trial

By Andy Owen and Henry Bechelet, Technical Managers, ICL

ICL

**Last year we conducted the first in a series of trials to test the relative merits of employing liquid and granular fertiliser strategies for golf greens. While we are at the early stages of this work, we felt the initial results were interesting enough to report and hopefully stimulate some debate. It's what we do.**

In recent years golf green fertiliser programmes in the UK and Ireland have moved towards a greater reliance on liquid/foliar feeding, with granulars generally only being reserved for the spring and autumn (if at all).

There are lots of reasons for this shift toward a 'little and often' or 'spoon feeding' liquid applied approach, such as giving a greater level of flexibility with inputs, the convenience of tank mixing to dovetail with the application of other liquid technologies such as wetting agents or plant growth regulators, achieving more consistent response patterns with more regular applications or less disruption to the surface preparation routines. Liquid nutrition

seems to fit better with modern golf green management strategies.

As one of the market leaders in the production of turf nutrition technologies, ICL supplies liquid, soluble, conventional and slow release granular fertilisers and so we are able to support all approaches to greens nutrition. But when making recommendations for turf nutrition programmes we want to ensure we are giving the best advice. We know that the move towards liquid feeding is driven from good reasoning, but is it the best approach agronomically? Are there any downsides?

In order to shed some light on this subject we embarked on a series of field-based trials beginning last year.

This initial trial was situated at Hart Common Golf Club near Bolton (thanks to Richard Roberts and his team) and ran from April to October 2017. Four treatment schedules were employed (untreated, liquid-only, granular-only and a mixed programme employing both granulars and liquids, with the granulars being applied at the start and end of the season and the liquids in-between).

The trial was situated on a sand-based green and set up as a randomised plot design with four replications to allow a robust statistical analysis of the assessment results. Assessments were made on a weekly basis for turf colour and quality (on a 1-10 scale)

and NDVI, with additional assessments being made for turf stress, root development, % moss infestation and % disease activity when relevant. We tried to set up the trial in a way that would give us a good reflection of the turf responses through the duration of the trial.

In terms of the treatment schedules, the granular-only programme involved four applications of micro-granular conventional and slow release technologies at 6-8 week intervals. The liquid-only programme employed seven monthly applications. The granular plus liquid programme started off with a conventional granular in spring and then seven monthly liquid applications,

finishing off with a granular in autumn. Each approach applied the same level of Nitrogen (120kg/ha), Phosphorus (12kg/ha) and Potassium (120kg/ha) in various different forms.

The turf colour responses highlighted the peaks and troughs associated with fertiliser applications. The more regular liquid applications resulted in a greater level of consistency but there was still a gradual decline in colour towards the end of each month. Interestingly, the overall colour score averages for the whole season were the same for each approach (6.4 out of 10) with them all applying the same level of Nitrogen. In this year's follow-up trial we have employed increased application frequencies at lower rates for each approach to try to achieve more consistent turf colour responses.

The turf quality assessments took into account turf colour, density, consistency and weed and disease ingress. The main factors affecting turf quality were the positive impact of nutrition as well as the negative influence of drought stress, poor recovery from maintenance operations, moss ingress and Microdochium patch disease.

The development of drought stress seemed to be increased under the liquid-only programme but the results were not statistically significant enough to draw solid conclusions. The development of moss in early autumn was significantly related to the treatments, with the liquid-only plots sustaining a greater level of moss ingress than the granular or granular/liquid programmes. The liquid-only plots also sustained a significantly greater level of

Working together with our partners







Microdochium patch disease in the autumn. These turf quality attributes will be studied with an increased level of scrutiny in this year's trial to see if we can gain a greater understanding of the situation.

The NDVI results (an objective measurement that relates to 'turf vigour') were mostly influenced by the background maintenance operations (topdressings) and the scheduling of fertiliser applications. It was clear that to achieve quick recovery from maintenance operations such as top dressing we need to apply an appropriate level of nutrition at the right time.

The rooting data was inconclusive, probably due to the sampling methodology. Three core samples were taken from each plot on two occasions during the course of the trial with the rootzone being washed off and average root length measured. On each occasion the granular-only plots had a greater average root length than the liquid-only plots but the results weren't robust enough to be statistically significant. In this year's trial we will be employing more comprehensive measurements to be able to draw more solid conclusions.

So, although this trial is just our first attempt to understand the influence of liquid and/or granular approaches to turf nutrition, we felt that the results were interesting enough to report. There were certainly limitations with the trial set-up and design, which we will improve with future trials but there were some good pointers here for us to pursue.

All trials tend to raise more questions than they answer, which is why we need to commit to research over a period of years to gain a full understanding. From this work it appears that there may be some disadvantages to taking a liquid-only approach, but let's not draw too many conclusions yet.

At ICL our aim is to provide the best advice when it comes to the use of our technologies and so we will continue to invest in credible and interesting research work that helps us all become better at **what we do.**



ICL Plot trials at Hart  
Common Golf Club

ICL

# Around the Green Northern



**Chairman**

**Chris Sheehan**

07531 760545

wdgcgreenkeeper@gmail.com



**Regional Administrator**

**Sandra Raper**

07866 366966

@BIGGANorthReg

sandra@bigga.co.uk



Cleveland: Uncovering the leak

## Cleveland



**Anthony McGeough**

amcgeough@

aol.com

Summer has finally landed at RGC! The sun block is out and my Yorkshireman's greenkeeper tan is coming along. It's amazing what a bit of nice weather can do for you — the spring is back in the step and the smile back on your face. I'm sure this feeling won't last too long and I will soon be longing for the end of the growing season so I can start planning the winter renovations.

With all this lovely weather I thought it would be a good idea to prime my irrigation system ready for its 37th year of faithful service, only to find I had a leak exactly where I had put 3,500 tonnes of soil for a new mounding complex close to my 11th green. Imagine the worst case scenario and

times it by 10. What started as a little repair job turned into two men, a three ton digger and a 2.5m deep trench looking for a pipe. Six hours later we found it! Note to self, don't build mounds on top of irrigation lines because one day you might need to find a leak!

May saw the first Cleveland Section family footgolf evening at Knotty Hill. Everyone had a superb night with many of us experiencing our first (and not last) try at footgolf. The evening was won by Ian Pemberton, who is not only a little bit of a bandit at golf but also not too shabby at footgolf! Also well done to Iain Leversuch for scoring a hole in one on the 'over the water' par 3. Seeing was believing!

The gauntlet has been thrown down by BIGGA North East. How many Cleveland members are ready to take up the challenge? Your section needs you! BIGGA go karting, North East vs Cleveland! Come and have a go if you think you're fast enough! Thursday 5 July, 5pm to 8pm. Spaces will be

limited so stay tuned for updates on Facebook. Cost should be £10 each.

## North West



**Steve Hemsley**

@BIGGANorthWest

steven.hemsley1@

ntlworld.com

## North East



**Paul Walton**

@paul\_walton20

paul\_walton14@

hotmail.co.uk

## Section News

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

Email your news to  
Karl@bigga.co.uk



# New Members

## Scotland & Northern Ireland

Andrew Duncan	GK - Moray
Douglas Elrick	GK - Murcar Links
Luke Ebersold	GK - Trump International Golf Scotland
John Milne	HGK - Rothes

## Northern

Eddie Jacomb	Apprentice - Scarborough South Cliff
Jack Heslehurst	Apprentice - Driffild
James Gaskell	Apprentice - Ripon City
Jamie Hogg	Apprentice - Thirsk & Northallerton
Matthew Hastings	Apprentice - Bracken Ghyll
Nathan Rogers	Apprentice - Tankersley Park
Neil Smith	CM - Oulton Hall
Thomas Tomlinson	FA - South Moor
Geraint Sims	GK - Rudding Park
James Crowley	GK - Ripon City
James Naylor	GK - Rudding Park
Michael Robinson	GK - Portal
Callum Robertson	AGK - Fulford
Ian Pyatt	AGK - Tipton Park

## Central England

Joseph Childs	CM - Mapperley
Richard Sampson	DHGK - Edwalton
Adam May	FA - Reading
Jordan Watson	GK - Rye Hill
Gary Anderson	GK - Beeston Fields
Scott Twells	GK - Beeston Fields
Jak Bratton	AGK - Stoke Rochford
Nicholas Jones	AGK - Cocks Moors Woods

## South East

Adam Richardson	Apprentice - Royal St George's
Kieron Derbyshire	Apprentice - Coombe Wood
Thomas Seymour	Apprentice - Cherry Lodge
Dean Taylor	FA - Sittingbourne & Milton Regis



Cleveland: Evening of footgolf

## Yorkshire



**Rob Gee**  
 @Rob\_Grn  
 robgee.O3@blueyonder.co.uk

Well as I write these notes who would have thought we'd be wanting some rain! I hope all your irrigation systems are working and we're all enjoying the good weather! And let's hope England do well in the World Cup!

No real news among the section. Good luck to anyone who's been lucky enough to get on any of the support teams!

We'll have played at Fixby by the time your reading these notes so will report on the event in next month's issue.

Enjoy the weather, happy greenkeeping!

## Sheffield



**Adrian Keys**  
 ajkeys79@hotmail.com  
 @SheffieldBigga

## North Wales



**Eifion Ellis**  
 @BIGGANorthWales  
 eifionellis9@gmail.com

Summer's here at last! I've got dry patch starting to appear in my greens due to lack of aeration carried out over the winter and the rough won't stop growing. Happy days!

Darren Anderson MG is moving from Abergele to Bromborough as course manager. We wish him all the best in his new job.

There was good support for the machinery demonstration at Henlle Park, run by Charlie's Groundcare and Charterhouse. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Henlle for hosting the day.

Thank you  
to our section  
sponsors

# Around the Green Central England



**Chairman**

**Andrew Laing**

07870 188619 | [@andrewmlaing](#)  
andrew.laing@gaudet-luce.co.uk



**Regional Administrator**

**Roger Butler**

07525 593359 | [@BIGGAcentraleng](#)  
roger@bigga.co.uk

## BB&O



**Craig Earnshaw**

[@craigdearnshaw](#)  
craig@harleyfordgolf.co.uk

Well that's the winter well and truly done. We will soon all be calling out for rain and the bad winter will be a long and distant memory. I'm a bit late writing this as we are all hands on deck preparing for our club championships and straight into the EuroPro event the following week.

The next golf day is on the 24th of this month at the lovely Millride, I'm sure Mr Ramsay will have the place in tip top condition. If you haven't booked on yet drop me or Ben a line, it should be a fantastic day.

On the education side the Kubota tour will be on 12 June. This may well be booked up by the time this is published, however it's still worth dropping us an email if you are interested in attending.

Again if you have any stories from around the section please drop me a line and we will get it in this column.

## Mid Anglia



**Darren Mugford**

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com

## East of England



**Rob Welford**

welfordn@aol.com

The Section held its first golf day of the year at the lovely Holme Hall in May and the event was proudly sponsored by Burdens. Russ Moody (Lincoln GC)



East of England: Event winner Russ Moody, Lincoln Golf Club

secured a commanding victory with a cool 36 points. Matt Shaul was the runner up with local lad Richard Parsons coming in third. It was a great turn out with 27 people playing. A big thanks to Jim Birkett and everyone at Holme Hall for such a lovely day.

Our attention now turns to the summer golf day which will take place at Boston West on Wednesday 11 July. Please get the date in your diaries as we want to make sure we get another fabulous turn out.

As some of you will know Ian Collett has stepped down from the Section Committee so we are looking for a volunteer to write this article each month for the magazine. If you are interested please get in touch with Graham Ives.

If you have any stories, golf related or otherwise, that would be interesting to read, please get in touch. Have a great month.

## Section News

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

Email your news to  
Karl @bigga.co.uk

## Midland



**Glen Howard**

howie8447@sky.com

**Thank you  
to our section  
sponsors**



## East Midlands



**Paul Fowkes**  
 @pazza20001  
 pazza20001@gmail.com

Hi, I hope everyone is good and your courses are enjoying the sunshine.

It saddens me to write about the passing of Tim Needham, head greenkeeper at Beedles Lake. All of us send our best wishes to his family and friends.

We had our first competition of the year at Hollinwell and the course was in great condition, I would like to say

thank you to all the staff for hosting us and a big well done to Scott Krokosynski for winning with 38 points.

Our next competition will be the par 3 event at Beedles Lake, this is always a popular event so get your names down when the details are released.

We had a great education day at Lingdale which was very well attended. Big thanks to Geoff Fenn and Kelly-marie Clack from AGS for taking the day. It was informative and everyone went away having learnt new things.



East Midlands: Education day at Lingdale



East Midlands: Scott Krokosynski (centre), winner of the competition held at Hollinwell

# New Members

## South East

Andrew Sheehan	GK - Westgate & Birchington
Chris Samson	GK - The Wentworth Club
Chris Davis	HGK - Hartswood
Robert Hill	HGK - Rustington
Dan Smith	AGK - Queenwood
Andrew Devonport	AGK - Windlesham
Harry Sills	AGK - East Sussex National
Jack McCormack	AGK - Grim's Dyke
Joshua Paynter	AGK - West Hove

## South West and South Wales

Chris McCarthy	GK - Royal North Devon
Robert Dowling	GK - Hayling
Edward Walkey	HGK - Bowood Park
Stephen Bishop	HGK - Newport Sands
Ben Browing	AGK - Trevose
Luke Sullivan	AGK - Wheatlands
Shaun Stapleton	AGK - Downes Crediton

## International

Fred Perlini	Superior View
Janne Lehto	Hirsala Golf
John Lavelle	Diamond Creek
Merett Alexander	NG Turf
Rodney Hinwood	Ellerston
Stuart Blyth	Bossenstien Golf & Polo Club
Vicki Perlini	Superior View

# Around the Green South East



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



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



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



Surrey: A group assembled on the 1st tee at Copthorne awaiting the start

## Surrey



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

Thank you to Iain Dye and all his team at Tandridge for our spring tournament. The course was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. Many thanks to Club Secretary Andrew Tanner and his assistant Jane Edwards for hosting the BIGGA Surrey Section. The scores were close and the winner with 38 points was Andrew Gibbs from Sunningdale. In second was Andrew Cornes and third was Michael Holliday. From now on entry to the events will only be possible by payment in to the account before the day. If you don't pay you don't play!

We are looking to update our Facebook homepage so can you all please send in your best photos. For the next few months at least your photo will be used. Please also remember to nominate your fellow staff member who will get a free pass to this year's BTME show. The closing date is the end of September. More information can be found on the Surrey website.

Good luck to those who are playing Roehampton on the 23rd. I hope the weather stays as nice as it is writing this column now!

## Kent



**Darren Burton**  
@BIGGAKent  
dbawol05  
@gmail.com

Time flies when you're mowing grass! And by the looks of things on social media, we are all hard at work enjoying the morning sunshine and showing off our course's in the best light. It's such a shame I can't seem to replicate the professional look on my garden lawn... it's more "au naturale".

June is upon us and so is our first golf day of the year. Shooters Hill are our hosts and we are looking forward to a great turn out. We are still ironing out a few bugs in the system and we hope that everybody has seen an invitation flying about on text/email/social media — if not we want to hear from you. Results to follow.

We have also reintroduced the Kent K.O's, which is underway with the first round ties being played in the coming weeks. This was posted on Facebook and we are hoping that next year we can gain enough interest to run both a singles and doubles knock out throughout the year. So get involved!

As ever, a big thank you to our sponsors, and a huge personal thank you to the committee in all your help. Enjoy the fine weather while it lasts.

## East Anglia



**Mike Virley**  
@BIGGAEastAnglia  
mikevirley@sky.com

## Essex



**Tom Smith**  
@essexbigga  
tom@colnevalley  
golfclub.co.uk

Our golf day organiser, Mr Fance, certainly picked a glorious day for our first outing of the season at Clacton back in April. A big thanks to Alan Smith and his staff for having the course in great conditions despite the poor winter and early spring we all have had to endure. Also we would like to thank Clacton for hosting the event and all their staff for making us welcome. The winner on the day was Callum Smith from the Essex Golf & Country Club, with a return of 44pts, so Mick will be cutting him before our next event. The rest of the results can be seen on our own Essex website. From the raffle we made a donation to the captains' charities, McMillan Cancer and Autism Anglia.

Ian Nicholls organised our second educational seminar of the year at Writtle University on 25 April. Luke Hunt from Barenbrug spoke about 'Best practice overseeding techniques' and 'How to ensure new seedlings go on to develop'. Our second speaker was Richard Owens from Tillers Turf, talking about turf production, harvesting and case studies. Part of Rich's seminar focused on how the introduction of wild flowers can enhance your course. We would like to thank both Luke and Rich for their time and Writtle for letting us use their facilities.

It was nice to see three of our members who volunteered at The PLAYERS at

## Section News

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

Email your news to  
Karl @bigga.co.uk

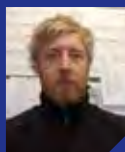


TPC Sawgrass. David Byron of Thorndon Park, Anthony Kirwan of Romford and Spencer Dunstan Adams of Chart Hills. They will all have stories to tell on their return.

Our next golf event is 18 June at Badgers' Par 3 course. The National Qualifier is on 23 August at Boyce Hill. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

If you would like something mentioned in our area of Around the Green please give me a call or text 07900 680370.

## London



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

## Sussex



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

It is sad to report that Paulo Pereira, greenkeeper at Pyecombe, has been diagnosed with liver cancer. To support Paulo, who will be losing his hair while undergoing treatment, the greenkeeping team have shaved their heads and are raising money for Cancer Research UK. Please support Paulo and the Pyecombe greenkeepers by giving via Simon Wells on Virgin moneygiving page or hand donations to Simon or to me as I call round to see you.

On 24 April the section held its spring tournament. The day was very kindly hosted by Copthorne Golf Club and the section would like to thank all at the club for making us feel so welcome.



Sussex: Paul Brown, course manager at Ham Manor, giving his presentation

There were 42 greenkeepers from across the county taking part. The day started with a hearty breakfast followed by 18 holes across the beautifully presented course. Our thanks and admiration go to Mike and his team as not many greenkeepers want to host the spring competition as they fear that their courses won't be at their best in early spring. This was certainly not the case at Copthorne and Mike's team really produced a top quality playing surface with excellent presentation, which could not have been easy as growth had been slow to non-existent. The winning team was Gary Ogilvie, Glen Golding, Niel Gillham and Kevin Day. Second was the team from The Dyke and Hastings. Third was the team from Littlehampton and forth were the team from Cooden Beach. Nearest the pins were Luke Green, Lewis Turner, Matt Alexander, Kevin Day. Longest drive was Roger Mills.

The section also held a Turf Club afternoon on 26 April at Ham Manor. Speakers for the afternoon included Henry Bechelet, who gave a great presentation on non-fungicide disease suppressing trials being undertaken. Peter Smith spoke about what it is like to work on the Birch Grove Estate and is it heaven or hell working on a course with no members and only a handful of rounds each year. Robin Cheney gave a presentation on what it was like to be selected for the Future Turf Managers Initiative. The final speaker was Paul Brown, explaining the works going on at Ham Manor, including installing an irrigation lake, new irrigation, new tees and a new green, this was followed by a walk around the newly constructed areas. Great work Paul and the team.



Sussex: Head Greenkeeper Simon Wells getting his head shaved



Sussex: Paulo being shaved



Sussex: Pyecombe greenkeeping team

# Around the Green

## South West & S. Wales



**Chairman**

**Steve Lloyd**

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



**Regional Administrator**

**Tracey Walker**

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

### South West



**Dave Taylor**

[@DaveTaylor101](#)  
dt\_taylor101@  
hotmail.co.uk

Well it finally feels like we can all put the winter well and truly behind us. What a great couple of weeks we have had with the spring weather finally catching up, and everyone is right back into the swing of things. We are seeing lots of cutting and preparation out on many courses to help bring them back to life. This really helps to raise morale within the teams. Long may this lovely weather continue... well at least until we all start complaining that the grass won't slow down and greens are starting to burn off. We are a funny bunch of individuals.

So, this month our very own Jamie Blake from Broadway was lucky enough to be part of the TPC Sawgrass course preparation team. There are only limited spaces for this amazing experience and Jamie was there as a representative for the South West & South Wales region.

This past month our chairman, Lucy Sellick, was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Wenvoe Castle, stepping up to the head greenkeeper position after previously being deputy course manager at Saltford. Because of this step up, Lucy made the decision to stand down as chairman of the South West committee. On behalf of myself and everyone on the committee we would like to thank Lucy for all the hard work she has put in while onboard. She has held various roles and with each of them she has put 100% into it at all times. Congratulations and best of luck at Wenvoe Castle.

Talking of Saltford, we will be holding a mechanics-based workshop there next month. Currently scheduled for 10 July, this workshop is being hosted by one of our patrons, TAG (Tallis Amos Group), formally BS Mowers. This is a great opportunity to gain some knowledge



South Coast: The team from Corhampton

about machine maintenance and servicing. As we are all now getting ourselves comfy back on the machines for the summer, it is great idea to have knowledge of maintenance to help reduce downtime following breakdowns or better yet, be able to stop it before it happens.

The following month, we are holding our joint summer tournament with South Wales at The Kendleshire. A bit of extra incentive to get yourself involved is the winner of the event will gain a free spot at the national tournament, held over two days on 8-9 October at Gullane. Winners of the national event will get £500 worth of vouchers and become BIGGA National Champion 2018.

### South Coast



**Mike Cartwright**

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

For those of you of a certain age, I'm sure you'll remember the Fast Show and a certain weather woman. Her report would be very apt for today, SCORCHIO! Irrigation pumps can be heard humming through the night, and we all discover that our hoses aren't quite as hole-free as remember them. After the winter we've just endured I for one am really going to enjoy the heat.

With irrigation in mind, there is an upcoming two day course to be held at Parkstone. It has aroused quite a bit of interest and there'll be a report in next

month's column.

We have also just played the Clearwater Cup (formally the Course Care Cup). Organising this fixture is my job, I stress over it a bit, but come the day I love it.

This year's match was held at a glorious Corhampton. I've never played here before but I will definitely visit it again. Thanks go to Iestyn Carpenter and his team for presenting a fine golf course. The match was hotly contested, with the secretaries fielding what they thought was a very strong team. But not strong enough! We managed to hold them to a draw, which means we retain the cup for another year.

A great day was had by all and a big thank you goes to Matt Mears at Clearwater for sponsoring the day. Matt also made an eight-hour round trip to come along as well.

The next golf event coming up is the summer tournament, which will be played at Stoneham. If you've never been to Stoneham then you really should, it is superb. The date for it is 18 July. You may still have time to enter when you read this.

Lastly, our Chairman, Glen Kirby, is leaving Hockley for pastures new. Glen works tremendously hard on making sure that the committee runs smoothly. Glen is going to join Syngenta and we wish him well for the future.

### South Wales



**Andrew Hatcher**

[@BIGGASouthWales](#)  
andrewhatcher1@  
msn.com

### Devon & Cornwall



**Neil Rogers**

[@buckaroo14](#)  
nrogers@advance  
grass.com

### Section News

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

Email your news to  
[Karl@bigga.co.uk](#)



# Around the Green Scotland & N. Ireland



**Chairman**

**Stuart Ferguson MG**

07947 859062

stuferrg@btinternet.com

@stuferrgusonmg



**Regional Administrator**

**John Young**

07776 242120

johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

A course walk is being hosted by the Young Greenkeepers Committee at this year's Open venue, Carnoustie. The event takes place on Wednesday 4 July. Meet at 12noon for a tour of the maintenance facilities, before a course walk at 1pm. Thirty spaces are available, so contact Lyle Davidson at LyleDavidsonJr@aol.com for more information or to confirm attendance.

## East



**Grant Moran**

@BIGGA\_ES

grant@mortonhallgc.co.uk

Our spring outing took place at Woll Golf Club. Big thanks to the club for looking after us for the day. The winners on the day were: Scratch, Keith Burgon, 76pts; 1st class, Shaun Cunningham, 34pts; 2nd class, Jamie Martin, 32pts; Trade winner, Ryan Beck, 28 points; Nearest the pin, Phil Butler; Longest drive, Gary Rodger.

Now that warmer weather has arrived and our courses are getting back to normal and a smile is on our faces we can all look forward to the season ahead. Any news please get in touch

## Central



**Craig Boath**

@CraigBoath

cboath@carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk

This weather is more like it, but it has been a long time coming.

Recently we held our Spring Outing at Leven Links. A great day was had by all and big thanks to Andy O'Hara and the team for preparing the course. Best scratch and Duval Trophy: Kevin Webster, Elie, gross 72. Best Stableford and Greentech Cup: G McLaren, Leven, 36 points. 1st class

0-7hc: 1st and Toro cup, Phil Hind, St Andrews, 32 pts; 2nd, S McNaughton, Aucterarder, 31 pts; 3rd, Gordon Moir, St Andrews, 29pts.

2nd Class

1st and BIGGA Cup, G Bolton, G west, 35pts; 2nd, James Lindsay, Stirling, 35pts; 3rd, Mike Clark, Elmwood, 32pts.

Stewarts Quaich (best 2 scores from the same club): P Hind and G Moir, St Andrews.

Events coming up include a course walk at Montrose Links on 5 June at 1pm and a course walk at Carnoustie Golf Links prior to The Open, details to follow.

## North



**Neil Sadler**

gkneil@sky.com

By the kind permission of Nairn Dunbar we held our spring outing on 3 May. A complete contrast from last year's spring outing at Cruden Bay where we had to contend with bitterly cold winds and heavy snow showers. The weather this year was magnificent, bright sunshine and a warm wind. Richard and his staff had the course in fantastic condition. The combined years of experience at Nairn Dunbar amounts to 157 years, not bad going for five men. Richard himself has had 17 years at the club, Graeme Robbins has had been there 39 years, and Mike McInnes 43 years. Graham Burnett and Brian Tait make up the remaining years. Who said loyalty has gone?

Results: Best gross, G Paterson; Best net, Robert Fraser; Cat 1: 1st, Graeme Robbins; 2nd, Dougie Elrick; 3rd, Marc Lawrence.

Cat 2: 1st, Kian Taylor; 2nd, Liam Geals; 3rd, James McCormack.

Cat 3: 1st, Kerr Edgar; 2nd, Craig Aitkin; 3rd, Ryan Sherwood.

We also made the draw for the first 6 draws in our 200 club. Results: Caroline Munro, £100; Jock Stuart, £100; Kenny Liddel, £50; Roy Donald,



£50; Jim McCombie, £50; Blair Young, £50. Well done to all winners.

Just a quick reminder to make sure your details are all up to date. If you are not receiving correspondence from us it is more than likely your details are not the same as we have on the system.

Our autumn outing will be in the form of a Texas scramble, this is being trialled to encourage the less competitive golfers among us to join in and see what we are all about.

## SW Scotland



**Steven Carmichael**

@gkstevie79

stevies79@icloud.com

## West



**Scott Davidson**

@BiggaWest

headgreenkeeper@cathcartcastle.net

## Northern Ireland



**Andy Barr**

@3andybarr

Andybarr\_3@hotmail.co.uk



**Phillip Snellin**

@PhillipSnellin

philsnellin77@hotmail.com

## Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk



To advertise in the Buyer's Guide please contact:



**Lauren Frazer**  
Business  
Development  
Manager

01347 833832  
lauren@  
bigga.co.uk

# Buyer's Guide

## Construction

**MDownes Earthworks™**

- Golf Course Construction Services
- Green and Tee Reconstruction
- Lakes and Reservoirs • Cart Paths
- Bunker Remodelling • Drainage

T: 01829 771 939  
E: info@mdowneseearthworks.co.uk  
www.mdearthworks.co.uk  
f /MDEarthworks t @MDEarthworks

Proven Country of Building Plan  
Rugby Golf Course "Signature Island Green"

**JOHN GREASLEY LTD**  
Specialists in Golf Course Construction  
Tel: 0116 2696766

## Waste/Washwater

**Waste2Water®**  
BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE &  
EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.  
Tel: 01782 373 878  
Fax: 01782 373 763  
E-mail: info@waste2water.com  
Web: www.waste2water.com

## Irrigation

**irritech limited**  
Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Derry on:  
**01823 690216**  
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

**LWSirrigation**  
YOUR CARE YOUR SPACE

For all your golf, sportsturf and  
landscape irrigation needs.

Buy online at [www.lws.uk.com](http://www.lws.uk.com)  
Tel 0345 230 9697 **RAIN\*ARD**

## Machinery Wanted

**Invicta Groundcare**  
Equipment Ltd

**We buy used golf  
course machinery**

Contact: Steve Dyne

Tel: 01474 874 120

Email: [invictagroundcare@live.com](mailto:invictagroundcare@live.com)

## Top Dressings

**Mansfield Sand**

Pioneering the development and  
production of high quality  
sand-based products for over 150 years

**Fibresand**  
**Fibrelastic**

Contact Sharon Morris on  
**07932342044** or email  
[Sharon.morris@mansfield-sand.co.uk](mailto:Sharon.morris@mansfield-sand.co.uk)  
[www.mansfield-sand.co.uk](http://www.mansfield-sand.co.uk)

## Drainage

THE UK'S LEADING GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE  
& CONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST

**Turfdry**

GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE & CONSTRUCTION

**Survey / Design / Installation**  
**Greens / Fairways / Bunkers**

For fast & friendly service, contact Melvyn Taylor:  
01283 551417 / 07836 259133 / [melvyn@turfdry.com](mailto:melvyn@turfdry.com)

**WWW.TURFDRY.COM**  
MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY | MINIMUM DISRUPTION  
20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE | NATIONWIDE SERVICE

Do you have a  
**product  
or service**  
to advertise?

To advertise contact **Lauren Frazer**  
on **01347 833832** or email [lauren@bigga.co.uk](mailto:lauren@bigga.co.uk)

Aeration

Agronomy

All Weather Surfaces

Anti Slip

Bunker Construction

Clothing

Footwear

Compact Tractors

Construction Drainage

Hedges & Trees

Irrigation Consultants

Lake Construction & Liners

Machinery Wanted

Rubber Crumb

Soil Food Web

Top Dressing

Tree Moving

Tree Clearance

Turf

Used Machinery

Vertidrainage Waste

Washwater Treatment





# The Bayer Turf Solutions team

At Bayer our experienced and BASIS qualified UK and Irish team of former greenkeepers and groundsman combine the expert scientific knowledge of Bayer with a practical understanding of how our products can be integrated into your turf management programme.



**Contact the Turf Solutions team with your questions**  
at [turfsolutions@bayer.com](mailto:turfsolutions@bayer.com) or on 00800 1214 9451.

You can also subscribe to receive regular updates from the team at [www.environmentalscience.bayer.co.uk](http://www.environmentalscience.bayer.co.uk)

**The Turf Solutions team from Bayer can offer you:**

☒ Technical support ☒ Tailored advice ☒ Training & seminars

*Visit our new Twitter feed for all of the latest news and developments*



[@BayerAmenityUK](https://twitter.com/BayerAmenityUK)



Via the free to download  
Bayer TurfXpert app, you  
also have access to:

- ☒ Product information
- ☒ Photo identification
- ☒ Pest identification  
& treatment

Backed by **Bayer**



Learning &  
Development Team  
01347 833800  
(option 3)



**Sami Strutt**  
Head of  
Member  
Development  
sami@bigga.  
co.uk



**Stuart Green**  
Head of  
Member  
Learning  
stuart@bigga.  
co.uk



**Deb Burnett**  
L&D  
Administrator  
deb@bigga.  
co.uk

Careers



The Greenkeepers  
Training Committee Ltd.



**Fiona Lyttle**  
Manager  
01347 838640  
fiona@  
the-gtc.co.uk



**Emma Willis**  
Administrator  
01347 838640  
emma@  
the-gtc.co.uk

www.the-gtc.co.uk

/greenkeeperstraining  
committee

@TheOfficialGTC

Everything you need to develop your career in greenkeeping

# Careers

## ICL Scholars



**At BTME this year, five BIGGA members got the opportunity to attend the Continue to Learn education programme thanks to our partners, ICL.**

The scholarship gave each of the members access to 15 hours of education, and three nights' hotel accommodation.

Now, five months after their trip to Harrogate, we caught up with two of the scholars; Simon Pyett, greenkeeper at Halesworth, and Daniel Ashelby, assistant greenkeeper at Wilmslow, to see how the ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship has impacted upon their daily working lives.

**What was the experience of being a scholar at Continue to Learn and BTME like?**

**Chris:** I found the whole thing very rewarding. Right at the start the application process made me consider several things about where I was and where I wanted to go in greenkeeping, through to carefully choosing from a vast amount of workshops and seminars to maximise the opportunity and tailor it to what would be of most benefit to me.

The education experience at Continue to Learn was fantastic, and sharing with other greenkeepers from all walks of life really extended the learning. BTME itself was eye-opening in its scale. Being my first visit, the buzz

about the place and the industry, meeting people I did and didn't know, and the sense of belonging to something bigger than we are aware of on a day-to-day basis really had an impact on me.

**Daniel:** Being an ICL Continue to Learn scholar is a very busy experience. You are provided with 15 hours of educational sponsorship over three days, as well as social experiences meeting the other scholars and sponsors. In addition to this there are many interesting BTME exhibitions to see and networking opportunities in your own time during the evenings. The experience is very immersive and offers fantastic learning opportunities and is highly motivational to aspiring greenkeepers.



The ICL Scholars 2018, with Sami Strutt, BIGGA Head of Member Development and Ed Carter of ICL, were (left to right) Simon Pyett, Philip Billingham, Michael Barnard, Daniel Ashelby and Michael Hughes





## How did the scholarship help your enjoyment of Continue to Learn this year?

**Chris:** It really freed me up to enjoy the whole thing without having to worry about too much else. My circumstances meant I wasn't really in the position to have been able to attend without the scholarship, so it was an opportunity too good to miss. ICL were very hospitable and looked after us and took the time to talk to us and understand our situations too, which stood out to me. We even received a free coat!

**Daniel:** The ICL scholarship made the experience very helpful. I was able to attend many events which caught my interest and was given accommodation close to the exhibition halls. We were invited to meals with our sponsors, who were very interested to hear about career progression and wanted to hear our opinions on the scholarship and how to improve it further. The financial support meant you could fully experience what BTME has to offer and make the most of the annual event.

## Since the event, how has the experience you gained as a scholar helped you back at your club, in your daily working life?

**Chris:** It has given me something somewhere between a re-invigoration and a kick up the backside! I feel more confident that I have something worthwhile to contribute and am also keen to learn as much as I can from others to fill in some of the gaps in my knowledge. I have been able to give feedback on some of the topics that we looked at in the Continue to Learn education sessions, and some of the things I wanted to investigate while at BTME, such as bunker linings.

**Daniel:** The experience I have gained from my scholarship has been invaluable. My club was very pleased I was able to represent them academically. The

knowledge I have acquired has changed my outlook as a greenkeeper and I have been able to apply it during my work on a daily basis. Additionally courses I have undertaken have contributed to my college work and helped progress my qualification completion more swiftly.

## Do you believe being an ICL scholar has helped with your career aspirations?

**Chris:** Yes, very much so. I attended a personal career benchmark session and it was especially helpful in thinking through the direction in which I want to be heading, and how best to go there. I want to continue to develop my knowledge, practice and experience with similar events and opportunities as I had through BIGGA and ICL's generosity. Following the Continue to Learn scholarship I am now certain that my passion for ecology and nature can sit squarely alongside my passion for greenkeeping with no conflict, and I would love to be at the leading edge of such an approach to greenkeeping going forwards.

**Daniel:** I believe the ICL scholarship is aimed at greenkeepers who already have an interest in the industry and want to further their career. The scholarship helps aspiring greenkeepers achieve their goals, helps greenkeepers interact with knowledgeable people and network with other like-minded individuals. It helps open the door to new opportunities and helps develop scholars' burgeoning interests into promising careers.

Would you like to be an ICL Scholar?

Applications for the ICL Scholarship 2019 will be accepted between 2 - 31 July 2018. For more information on the scheme, visit [www.bigga.org.uk/education/scholarships/icl-continue-to-learn-scholarship.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/education/scholarships/icl-continue-to-learn-scholarship.html)



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

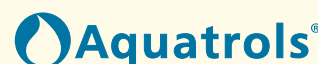
David Warner, Woking; Iain Macleod, Tain; Shaun Cunningham, Mortonhall; Lyle Davidson, The Carrick; Leigh Powell, Windlesham; Nicholas Roberts, Hendon; Tom Smith, Wickham Park; George Mitchell, Newmachar; Andrew Wilson, Whitecraigs; Jim Brown, The Carrick; Colin Hutt, Basingstoke; David Taylor, Thornbury Golf Centre

## Congratulations to the following member who achieved their CPD Milestone this month:

Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar



JOHN DEERE



## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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



# Careers

## Apprentice Corner

Emma Willis | The Greenkeepers' Training Committee

## Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping

### Why should a golf club choose the new certificate?

The new apprenticeship standard has been developed specifically with the role of the golf greenkeeper in mind. The GTC has worked with golf club employers, training providers and City & Guilds to create a course which develops the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSB's) of apprentice golf greenkeepers.

The new certificate has been enhanced from the Level 2 Sports Turf framework to include elements such as soil science, Irrigation and Drainage.

The apprenticeship should take 18-24 months to complete. It is important to remember that this is an apprenticeship. It is about the apprentice attaining competency on all tasks of golf course maintenance and being able to demonstrate these skills regularly and to the correct standard.

The employer plays a significant part in the apprentice's training. They must ensure the apprentice is sufficiently trained and skilled before they put them through the gateway for their end-point assessment (EPA). If the apprentice is put forward for the EPA before they are fully able to demonstrate the KSB's of an apprentice greenkeeper, there is a strong likelihood the apprentice will fail

the EPA. This will ultimately cost the employer money in resit fees.

### The apprenticeship process

#### The learning journey

On-the-job, acquiring the required skills and knowledge to become a competent golf greenkeeper.

#### The gateway

The employer, training provider and apprentice agree that the apprentice is ready to go through the gateway. This gives the apprentice up to three months to prepare for the end-point assessment (EPA). A date is set for the EPA to take place at the learner's golf course.

### The end-point assessment includes:

- An online test.
- A trainee statement submitted with employer and training provider feedback.
- A professional discussion and course walk with the independent assessor.
- A series of practical end-point assessment tasks.



The Greenkeepers  
Training Committee Ltd.

### The learning journey

**Employers/Students** contact GTC/England Golf/BIGGA for advice on apprenticeships

**Directed to City & Guilds (C&G)**–GTC Quality Assured Centres (training providers) to discuss requirements

**Quality Assured Centre** (training provider) contacts employer to discuss induction, health & safety, individual learning plan, delivery, costs.

**Learner registered** with C&G. C&G informs the GTC of all new registrations.

**Training provider** delivers education and co-ordinates training and formative 'on the job' assessments in conjunction with employer. This programme is quality assured by the GTC.

**Training provider** with employer takes the learner through to completion of the Training Manual and agrees with the learner when they are deemed ready for their final end assessments

**The end of the learner journey and the start of the end point graded, independent assessments**

**C&G** informed that the learner is ready for their final end assessments.

**C&G** administers end assessments with the independent assessor

**C&G issues Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping**

Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards (FISSS)





# Are you the person we're looking for?

## ————— TRAINEE TECHNICAL SALES SUPPORT —————

**Rigby Taylor's continued business growth requires high calibre individuals to join its amenity turf and landscape products sales team in Scotland**

### **You are**

A person that is looking for the opportunity to enter into a career in sales and technical support. We are looking an individual with enthusiasm, determination and ambition to succeed within the exciting sports and landscaping business environment.

This is a trainee role on a three-year learning curve, with the opportunity of being appointed as a Technical Sales Representative managing your own territory calling upon end-users and contractors, supporting the company's eminent range of fertilizers, grass seeds, specialities and plant protection and line marking products.

Highly motivated, with excellent social and interpersonal skills, you demonstrate a confidence in being able to interact in a professional manner with a wide range of personalities across different environments. Full product training is provided and will be ongoing.

### **We are**

Part of highly successful PLC, Rigby Taylor has an unsurpassed reputation for product innovation and product development. Having been operating in the UK amenity industry for almost a century, the company has shown a continuous track record of success with many of its products being 'first-choice' selections by some of the most well known but demanding clubs and organisations in the industry.

We were the company selected by Bayer to launch their new turf fungicide Exteris, the first company to introduce to the UK the 'R' range introduction of tetraploid ryegrasses, the liquid seed dressing Germin-8T and the worlds first robotic line marker, the IO. And, we were the company selected by Rain Bird's to be their UK golf course product distributor

### **We offer**

- \* Competitive salary and commission
- \* Company car and travel expenses
- \* 25 days annual leave
- \* Contributory pension scheme
- \* Opportunity to work within a team environment and be part of a highly successful and dynamic company environment.



*To apply send an up to date CV and application letter to:*

**Rigby Taylor Ltd  
Clifton Hall Road, Newbridge Industrial Estate  
Newbridge, Midlothian EH28 2PJ**

**Attention of David Carson Regional Sales Director**

**Or email to: [d.carson@rigbytaylor.com](mailto:d.carson@rigbytaylor.com)**

**Closing date: July 6th 2018**

## Greenkeeper Wanted North Hants Golf Club



Are you ambitious and looking to take the next step in your career? Do you want to work at one of the best golf clubs in the country, which will be co-hosting the 2019 English Amateur Championship?

North Hants Golf Club have a vacancy for an ambitious, reliable, hardworking and motivated greenkeeper.

**The successful candidate will desirably have the following qualifications and skills:**

- Qualified to NVQ 2 or minimum 2 years experience

- Good team player with a can-do attitude
- Knowledge of Health and Safety Regulations
- Ability to produce and maintain high standards of work

### Key benefits:

- Very competitive rates of pay
- Industry leading staff benefits scheme
- Food allowance

Please send your CV and a covering letter to: [coursemanager@northhantsgolf.co.uk](mailto:coursemanager@northhantsgolf.co.uk) or Visit our website: [www.northhantsgolf.co.uk](http://www.northhantsgolf.co.uk)

## Greenkeeper The Shire London

The Shire London, Barnet, Hertfordshire

**The Shire London is a 27 hole course designed by Seve Ballesteros, the only course designed by him in the UK.**

We have an immediate vacancy for a greenkeeper to join our team.

We need someone who has either an NVQ level 2 or equivalent sports turf maintenance (with potential to progress towards level 3)

Would need to be a team player

Operate equipment for fine turf maintenance programmes

Salary negotiable depending on experience

Please forward your CV to [anne@theshirelondon.com](mailto:anne@theshirelondon.com)

Visit our website: [www.theshirelondon.com](http://www.theshirelondon.com)

## Greenkeeper/Irrigation Technician | Lahinch GC



Lahinch Golf Club offers an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and self-motivated individual.

**The ideal candidate will have:**

- Minimum 3 years greenkeeping experience with at least two years as an irrigation technician
- Minimum NVQ level 2
- Working knowledge of irrigation pumps and systems
- PA1 and PA6 spraying certificates
- Strong work ethic

- Ability to work on own initiative
- Up-to-date knowledge of Health and Safety

Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper, responsibilities will include:

- Regular auditing of the irrigation system
- Repair, maintenance and operation of the irrigation system components
- General greenkeeping duties

An attractive salary package applies.

Please apply with full CV + covering letter to [paddykeane@lahinchgolf.com](mailto:paddykeane@lahinchgolf.com)

## Qualified Greenkeepers Celtic Manor Resort



**The Celtic Manor Resort is a world-class destination with exceptional business, golf and leisure facilities. It is set in 1400 acres of panoramic parkland & is the venue of The 2010 Ryder Cup.**

**We are looking for Qualified Greenkeepers to join our team.**

- Minimum 2 years' experience
- NVQ level 2 or equivalent
- PA1, 2 and 6 preferred but not essential
- Applicants must be self-motivated and able to work as part of a large team
- Accommodation available

The successful candidate will be a full time member of staff with a salary based on qualifications and experience.

If you are looking for a change and feel this is the role for you please visit our careers page at [www.celtic-manor.com/careers](http://www.celtic-manor.com/careers)

## Seasonal Greenkeepers Cape Kidnappers Golf Course / Kauri Cliffs – New Zealand

**Both courses are seeking Qualified Greenkeepers for 2018-19 Summer Season, September 2018 to April 2019. They are both top ranking golf courses with luxury guest suites, each are based on a 6,000-acre working farm.**

The successful candidates will have relevant greenkeeping/ turf management qualifications, a sound knowledge of tools, methods & materials used in course maintenance. Must be reliable, physically fit & in good health, enthusiastic and willing to work overtime.

Generous benefits are available to the successful candidates so if you would like to be part of our amazing summer teams, we would love to hear from you. Apply on our careers website and for more information.

[www.robertsonlodges.com/careers](http://www.robertsonlodges.com/careers)

Positions will close once all vacancies have been filled.



## Deputy Head Greenkeeper Wentworth Club

**Wentworth Club is one of the world's finest private members Golf and Country Clubs. Wentworth is famous for its Championship Golf and three outstanding courses, and a Tennis & Health Club that sets the standard in its class.**

Following a multi-million pound upgrade to the facilities of the club and on the back of our annual European Tour event, the BMW PGA Championship, Wentworth Club is searching for a Deputy Head Greenkeeper to join our dedicated team on the East course.

As our Deputy Head Greenkeeper on the East Course, you will be responsible for producing excellent standards and the highest quality of work, admired by both members, guests and golf pros alike.

**Please send your CV and a covering letter to: [careers@wentworthclub.com](mailto:careers@wentworthclub.com)**



## Senior/Greenkeeper Windmill Village Hotel Golf Club

Windmill Village Hotel Golf Club & Spa are looking for a Senior/greenkeeper, located on the A45 between Coventry and the NEC.

You will be working as part of a team in the maintenance and development of the golf course and its grounds. The position is full time based on a 39hr week with 28 days annual leave.

Uniforms will be provided. Staff lunches daily. Plus company incentives.

**The requirements are:**

- Minimum 3 years' experience in greenkeeping
- Minimum NVQ Level 2
- PA1/PA6 spraying certificate

Please apply by email with a full CV and salary requirements to:

[golfcoursemanager@windmillvillagehotel.co.uk](mailto:golfcoursemanager@windmillvillagehotel.co.uk)



## Assistant Greenkeeper Beaverbrook Golf Club

**An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the greenkeeping team at Beaverbrook. Beaverbrook is a private members golf club, delivering exceptional customer service to its members and their guests.**

Located in an area of outstanding natural beauty in the Surrey countryside, the Estate hosts an 18 hole championship course which was designed and constructed by renowned Golf Course Architect, David McLay Kidd in collaboration with 8-time major winner, Tom Watson.

We are inviting applications for a highly motivated, hard-working and enthusiastic full time Assistant Greenkeeper.

Ideally you will have a NVQ Level 2 greenkeeping qualification or equivalent, good understanding of operating machinery and be a team player who is also able to use own initiative. Send your CV through to [recruitment@beaverbrook.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@beaverbrook.co.uk)



## Senior Head Greenkeeper

£33,282 to £37,098

Job ref: LBH4174



We are seeking an experienced individual, who combines practical skills with disciplined leadership to oversee the daily conditioning and presentation of London Borough of Hillingdon's three golf courses.

You will be based at Haste Hill Public golf course and will oversee maintenance operations at Ruislip and Uxbridge golf courses.

### Essential requirements

- You will have substantial work-based experience preferably gained at a Senior Greenkeeper level
- You will have an Industry recognised qualification in Sportsturf management
- You will have PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificate and a chainsaw operators licence
- You will have knowledge, set-up and operation of a computer based Irrigation system.

**Closing Date: 18 June 2018**

To apply please visit [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/jobs).

If you require any further information about this post contact [gkersey@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:gkersey@hillington.gov.uk)

## Deputy Course Manager

## The Richmond Golf Club

Due to the current Deputy moving on to become a Course Manager, a fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the hard working greenkeeping team at The Richmond Golf Club. Located in South West London the club is next to the world famous Richmond Park.

The successful applicant will have a flexible approach to working hours and be willing to join in with several non-greenkeeping aspects of the club's management.

The Deputy Course Manager position is an integral part of the club's management structure and forms a very strong link between senior management and the greenkeeping team. You will be self-motivated, a natural leader of people, able to teach, train and guide the younger and less experienced members of the team with empathy and humility. Good IT skills and a reasonable understanding of Health & Safety, COSHH, and other legislative matters is deemed to be of the highest importance.

Having good greenkeeping skills and agronomic knowledge is a given as is an interest in further learning and Continuing Professional Development.

For further details please go to the Jobs area at [www.bigga.org.uk/careers](http://www.bigga.org.uk/careers)

All applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

To apply, please send a maximum two page CV, a printout of BIGGA CPD Credit Summary, a passport sized current photograph and a short covering letter stating your reasons for applying, to Leslie C Howkins MG, Golf Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Lane, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7AS.

Closing date 25 June 2018



ARE YOU LOOKING TO

# RECRUIT

A NEW TEAM MEMBER?

Advertise your position here and online for one month at [www.bigga.co.uk/careers](http://www.bigga.co.uk/careers) from **£595 +vat** for a 1/8 advert.

Contact the sales team on **01347 833800** or [info@bigga.co.uk](mailto:info@bigga.co.uk) to book your space.

**Visit our website for details of our Iron Products and Turf Hardeners**

**Chelated Iron – Fine Products for Fine Turf**



**GBR Technology Ltd**  
Units 6-8, Jupiter House, Calleva Park,  
Aldermaston, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 8NN  
Tel: +44 (0)118 982 0567 Fax: +44 (0)118 982 0590  
Email: [info@gbrotech.co.uk](mailto:info@gbrotech.co.uk) [www.gbrotech.co.uk/amenity](http://www.gbrotech.co.uk/amenity)





# Around the Globe

David Abercrombie | Alsace Golf Links, France

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

Due to its size and geography, France experiences oceanic, Mediterranean, continental and alpine influences, which play an important role in shaping the regional diversity and attitudes of the people.

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

In the rain shadow of the Vosges mountains, Alsace is 400km from the nearest coast. Despite our position, we've tried to create a course which would look and play like a links by installing a free-draining base and developing links-type features. Surrounded by continental parkland courses, we are a refreshing option for golfers and try to promote the fun values of the links game and astute, lean links course management. Still very much in a developing phase, we continue to develop dune-scapes and refine the course.

## How does greenkeeping in France vary from the UK?

Climate influences everything! We respect the basic principles of links course maintenance but adapt them to continental conditions. With stable high pressures, summer temperatures can reach 35°C, giving tropical nights. Combine this with burning sunshine and both golfers and grasses struggle. Winter nights can drop to minus double figures, promoting frost and giving a wide annual range of temperatures.

Communication in a foreign language poses obvious challenges.

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

During the warmer seasons, people eat outdoors and activities are geared accordingly. You can plan a BBQ knowing the weather will work! Alsace is popular with tourists throughout the year, and since it borders Germany and Switzerland, we have opportunity to discover neighbouring cultures just by crossing the Rhine.

## What is the worst?

French politics have been in disarray for some time with an excessive number of civil servants. I hope the recently appointed regime will be able to encourage business development, facilitate employment and lighten the excessive administrative load.

## How does the weather affect your work?

Our area is officially one of the driest places in France with rain gauges over the last 20 years measuring between 350 and 500mm per year. Longer periods of heat, followed by thunderstorms, milder winters and hotter summers over recent years challenge our team to adapt accordingly. Fescue adapts well to these extremes, although poa annua has little room to manoeuvre.

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

Our merino sheep and cashmere goats help with rough management, while our electric

fence and bordering forest keep the wild boar visits to a minimum. Storks visit regularly and together with the small lizards, dragonflies and crickets, you may even see a praying mantis in the rough.

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

Being a BIGGA member for around 30 years kept me up to date with the industry as I travelled throughout Europe, gaining experience in design, construction and greenkeeping. The magazine is a continual professional support and reference, while the association continues to adapt and modernise.

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

Keep a long-sighted vision of what you aim to achieve, communicate clearly and be patient.

Praying mantis in the rough







**BARONESS**

Quality on Demand

# THE **BEST** CUTTING **PERFORMANCE** ON THE **MARKET**

The Baroness range of mowers sets the industry standard, combining high work rate with outstanding quality of cut.

The unique Baroness production process means our cutting cylinders, bedknives and rotary blades set standards others struggle to match.

Whatever your turf conditions or type of grass, we have a mower that will give you amazing results and at a whole life cost you won't believe!



**ADDRESS:** Unit 5 Hatch Industrial Park, Greywell Road, Basingstoke, RG24 7NG

**TEL:** 01256 461591 **EMAIL:** sales@baronessuk.com



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



## Get more with a Toro® Hybrid Mower

Greensmaster Hybrid TriFlex 3420



**Clean. Green. Cuts like a dream.**  
**And so quiet, you could hear a pin drop.**

Toro hybrids are fitted with electric cutting units that save you fuel and virtually eliminate damaging hydraulic leaks. What's more, they're so quiet, you can almost hear a pin drop. These valuable green credentials all come with Toro's unrivalled quality of cut and outstanding productivity. It all adds up to much, much more.

[reesinkturfcare.co.uk](http://reesinkturfcare.co.uk)

**Get more from your turfcare partner this year:**  
**More products > More advice > More training > More finance**

Reesink Turfcare UK Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.  
Images shown for illustration only.



Member of Royal Reesink 