



GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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Triple crown

Featured Inside

David Simpson secures record-breaking third title
after first play-off in BIGGA National history

Whitwood | The Ryder Cup | Dew dispersants | Sprayers
BIGGA photo competition | Chainsaws | Utility vehicles





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

Head of Finance and Operations
Steve Wragg | steve@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Services
Tracey Maddison | traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

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

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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
@Lauren_BIGGA



Printing

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

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Welcome



Crieff greenkeeper David Simpson shot an open-round 69 at Gullane despite strong winds



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

For one reason or another I have played very little golf this year, and that which I have played has been of an embarrassingly poor standard.

It was with trepidation then that I laced up my golf shoes in gale force winds for a few holes on Gullane Number 2 during the BIGGA National Championship.

Conditions were brutal, but the golf course was extraordinary. Even after the tough summer the fairways were simply beautiful, or at least they looked it from my vantage point in the rough!

The scoring at the top end of the tournament was unbelievable; the eventual champion David Simpson's 2-under par 69 on day one was an incredible feat.

Congratulations on your third victory in the championship, David. And big thanks to our generous sponsors, Charterhouse and Kubota, for their support.

It was a privilege to play in the company of Gullane's courses manager Stewart Duff who, as

well as welcoming BIGGA's finest, this year hosted the Scottish Opens on both the European and Ladies European Tours within a three-week spell. As is so often in this industry, Stewart shrugged off the incredible achievements of his talented team as if it had been just another day in the office.

This modesty is shared across the land and was reinforced during the recent round of interviews for the 2019 BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show. This initiative, sponsored by our friends at Bernhard Company, is without question a career-defining opportunity for our members. Yet those interviewed, almost without exception, really struggled to answer the question of "why should we pick you?"

This is perhaps the issue over which I'm most conflicted in greenkeeping. On the one hand it is so nice to work with such humble, modest people, but on the other hand it sometimes makes it hard for us to promote the amazing talent, knowledge and commitment our members possess when the standard response to praise is "it was nothing really!"

In truth we are making progress. This was my eighth year of interviewing for the delegation and it was undoubtedly the toughest. The standard across the board was excellent and those that weren't selected can count themselves unlucky. The quality in the industry is outstanding and, as communication skills improve, I believe we are getting that message across in a more powerful way than ever before.

The second edition of Your Course, just released, will I hope provide a further tool for our members to utilise in their endeavours to educate golfers at their clubs. It has been a difficult year for many so any assistance will be very welcome.

There are so many workshops, conferences and seminars at BTME designed to help our members in this battle. The number of bookings over the first month has been unprecedented so please, if you are thinking of attending Continue to Learn, get your bookings in quickly and make sure you don't miss out.



Regulars

- 3 Welcome
- 6 Newsdesk
- 10 Across the Board
- 12 Ecology
- 16 YGC
- 18 9 Hole Heroes
- 20 Industry News
- 24 Membership
- 58 Insight
- 60 Around the Green
- 66 Buyer's Guide
- 68 **Careers:** L&D
- 70 **Careers:** Apprentice Corner
- 72 **Careers:** Recruitment
- 74 Around the Globe

From the Editor

Staying on course



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

This month you should have seen the second edition of Your Course laying around the clubhouse where you are.

Produced once again with the assistance of Sports Publications, the magazine is filled to the brim with BIGGA members speaking about their roles as greenkeepers and what that means.

The magazine is part of our continuing drive to raise awareness of what it takes to produce a quality playing surface for golfers.

I hope Your Course is an initiative that would have earned the approval of our predecessors at BIGGA House, those pioneers who willed into being a national association for greenkeepers and built this brilliant office building on the grounds of Aldwark Manor, where BIGGA has been located the past 20 years.

Last month we featured a piece taking a look at the opening of the building, when the Duke of York Prince Andrew came to learn more about the greenkeeping side of a sport that he has been passionate about his entire life. I was heartened to learn that the piece had stirred fond memories of those with long associations with BIGGA and received a note from Elliott Small.

Elliott wrote: "I was privileged to be vice chairman of the association at that time and part of the discussions for the arrangements on the big day. The chairman, Gordon Child, had been invited to attend the prizegiving ceremony at Askham Bryan College, where the Duke of York was presenting awards before travelling to open BIGGA House.

"As it was essential that Gordon as chairman should receive the duke when

he arrived at Aldwark, I was asked to attend Askham Bryan on his behalf.

"In order that I as vice chairman could get back in time for the opening it was agreed that I would travel with the duke's security people in the car immediately behind the duke's.

"So off we set from Askham, a police car leading the way, then the duke's car, then the two security men with myself sat in the back seat, then another car and finally a police car.

"The security car looked like any black saloon car from the outside, but inside was obviously different with communications devices and cameras.

"The two guys were very pleasant and I started asking questions, only to be met with the response, 'ask no questions and we'll tell no lies'.

"As we joined the A1237 ring road around York, two police motorcycles swept past us and at the first roundabout were stopping any traffic until we passed. There were crowds of people at most of the junctions waving and eventually I couldn't restrain myself and I waved back. You could almost see the people asking 'who was that?'

"It was a most interesting day and as Sami said in last month's feature, we now had a place of our own, and I have yet to meet another greenkeeper who has travelled in a Royal cavalcade!"

Tremendous memories from BIGGA's past and thank you to Elliott for getting in touch.

As always, check out the magazine to find out more about how you can become an active part of the association's future.

Don't forget you can download the regular and dyslexia-friendly digital versions of Greenkeeper International from the resources section of the BIGGA website.

In this Issue

Our contributors

28 Kevin Moore

Aged just 31, Kevin has transitioned from a greenkeeping role to a club management one. Working at Whitwood, a nine-hole venue in West Yorkshire, Kevin has learned a huge amount about managing expectations and balancing the needs of greenkeepers against the desires of golfers.



32 Jon Kiger

Heading to the Ryder Cup with his son, David, Jon offered to speak to UK greenkeepers who were volunteering for the event, as long as we didn't rub in Europe's comprehensive victory too much. In this feature Jon reports back from Le Golf National.



36 Paul Morris

Paul is managing director at GBR Technology. He has a degree in chemistry from Oxford University and an MBA through the Open University. With turf disease such a hot topic this time of year, Paul explained how dew dispersal can help keep grass healthier and improve playability.



44 Dr Colin Mumford

Colin began his career in greenkeeping at Chingford, before moving to a number of different courses in the south east.

A member of the Bayer Turf Solutions team, Colin believes more stringent criteria for crop protection products encourages companies and greenkeepers to be more innovative, including in the use of sprayers.



Featured this month

26

BIGGA Photo Competition

Revealing the 12 images that will comprise the BIGGA calendar 2019

28

Life at the coal face

The challenges faced at a course built on a former mine site

32

Ryder Cup

Meeting BIGGA members who volunteered in France

36

Dew Dispersants

Why getting moisture away from the sward aids the health of grass

38

BIGGA National 2018

Who came out on top in an epic play-off at Gullane Golf Links?

42

Chainsaws and their safe usage

New GTC guidelines provide tips on how to stay safe when cutting

44

Sprayers

The importance of good pesticide stewardship to disease prevention

48

Utility Vehicles

How the greenkeepers' workhorse is adapting to modern needs

54

John Deere

Case study of Tadmarton Heath and its new John Deere fleet

56

Aquatrols

Presenting a to-do list to help prepare your turf for the off season

58

Insight - Syngenta

The results of trials using an active mix approach against diseases

Rothley Park victorious at Golf Management Trophy

The final of the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy was held at Frilford Heath on Monday 1 October, with Central England's Rothley Park claiming the top prize.

Rothley Park Course Manager Nigel Colley, Deputy Course Manager Asa English and the club's Jon Feeley and Tom Roberts combined to score 86 points, handing them a two-point victory.

Nigel said: "It was good fun and a really good day.

"Asa and I were pleased with the prize of a place at Continue to Learn, which is hugely valuable. The course was great and the greens were tricky with some really interesting pin positions! But we all played really well, including on the 500-yard 6th hole where we scored two eagles and got nine points."

The Golf Management Trophy provides an opportunity for all aspects of a golf club management structure to come together in a single competition and is intended to help build bridges within the team and the within the wider industry.

In second place was the South West & South Wales team from The Mendip, comprising Stuart Ponfield, Stuart Disney, Richard Jeffery and John Shakesby.

The prizes for nearest the pin and longest drives were also shared between



participants on the two teams, with Tom Roberts hitting his tee shot closest on the 9th hole and Richard Jeffery driving beyond the competition on the 15th hole.

Nigel added: "I'm in constant contact with the members of my club committee who were on our team, but it was good for my deputy, Asa, to get to know them a little more. The Golf Management Trophy really helps as we try to break down the barrier where you are seen as just greenstaff and not that important. The club was supportive of us and was delighted when we won.

"On the day, Jim Croxton also gave a speech that was really relevant to us. He spoke about the tough



summer and the need for clubs to provide budget to repair drought affected areas. It was relevant to me because I had done it the week before. It was good to hear those comments and it made my team at Rothley Park ahead of the game as we had already done it!

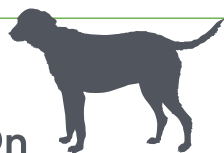
"I think it also helps that we can play golf as it gives you something to talk

about with your members. You also get to understand their point of view more from a golfing perspective.

"You see things completely differently sat on a mower, but when you golf and play with people, you encourage constructive criticism because we are all in it to get the course as good as it possibly can be."



Dogs On Course



Name: Jack

Age: 9

Owner: James Braithwaite

Course: Long Ashton

Breed: Border Collie

Favourite treat: Denta Stix

Favourite spot on the course:

Around the mess room

Naughtiest moment:

On Christmas 2016 he was running alongside the Workman, messing about trying to bite my foot. He dipped inside the Workman, got it wrong and I ran over his foot, breaking all four metatarsal bones. He needed a full operation with his foot pinned and plated plus eight weeks off work, which cost £3,500 as I had no insurance.

My dog is happiest when... he is with me.

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



Chairman-elect in Ironman challenge

BIGGA Chairman-elect Scott Reeves has thanked everyone who helped him raise funds for charity by completing an Ironman challenge.

The Leyland course manager completed the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile cycle ride and 26.2-mile run that comprised the Ironman UK course, finishing in Bolton.

In doing so he raised £1,066 for Being Lincoln DMD.

Scott said: "One of my relatives' children, Lincoln, has Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy and I raised money for the charity that supports him and children like him. Thank you to everyone who donated, it means a lot to everyone involved."



Scott Reeves undertaking his Ironman challenge

Higher education scholarships

A trio of BIGGA members are celebrating after being awarded Higher Education Scholarships supported by Jacobsen.

Tom Platt and Jimmy Butler, of Queenwood in Surrey, have both received scholarships to help fund their studies towards the HNC in Golf Course Management at SRUC Elmwood.

Tom said: "Greenkeeping is such a fantastic career. It opens a lot of doors and gives you the opportunity to spread your wings if you want to. Even after nine years, I still really love it."

"Thank you to BIGGA and to Jacobsen for providing this scholarship, which I hope will help me to progress my career even further."

A greenkeeper since 2010, Tom started his career at Thorndon Park,



Ellesborough Golf Club. Image by Amateur with a Camera via Flickr.com

before studying with the Ohio State Program. He returned to England and gained a place at London Golf Club, before taking up a role at Queenwood Golf Club.

"My course manager encourages us to develop and anyone that wants to study is given the opportunity to do so. I hope to one day become a course manager and this will be a huge help as I continue my studies."

Matthew Mackenzie of Ellesborough has also been awarded a Jacobsen Higher Education scholarship as he studies towards his FdSc Sportsturf Online.

Thanks to the support of Jacobsen, BIGGA has been able to award one-off scholarships of up to £1,000 to members studying towards a higher education qualification.

Chance to join the magazine task group

BIGGA is appealing for help to shape the look of Greenkeeper International.

As part of a process of forming task groups to help advise on various projects and ongoing areas of BIGGA, a group is to be formed to provide expertise and steer topics to be covered in the magazine.

The task group will be chaired by an individual National board member and requires a further nine members, including the GI editor and BIGGA's business development manager.

The intention is to have representation across the regions and the whole spectrum of membership.

Each volunteer member will serve a maximum three-year term.

The group will have one face-to-face meeting annually, with others taking place using ZOOM or conference calls, unless otherwise agreed.

If you are interested in getting involved and helping shape BIGGA's award-winning monthly magazine, email karl@bigga.co.uk for further details.

Northern Ireland event



The second BIGGA Northern Ireland Golf Championship took place at Massereene on Thursday 13 September.

Strong winds greeted the 29 participants, drawn from around the country.

The winner was Aaron Small from Belvoir Park who scored 76 gross to beat his nearest challenger, Gary McDowell from Royal Portrush by two strokes.

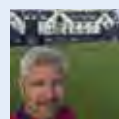
Aaron collected the Champions Trophy and thanked the club, his playing partners and fellow competitors for a great day.

Steven Andrews from Ards and North Down Borough Council collected the Challenge Cup with 39 points and also noted his thanks to all involved in the event.

Membership Services Manager John Young said: "Our thanks go to Mark Cassidy, head greenkeeper at Massereene and his team for presenting the course for the championship. We now look forward to the 2019 championship, which Aaron will be hosting at Belvoir Park."

Tweet of the month

@BIGGALtd



Richard Mullen

@BGCagronomy



It causes no end of pain with the morning frosts and strong winds but my goodness... step back guys and girls and just look up, even just once a day, turn off that machine and take in your surroundings
@BIGGALtd @Banchorygolf #greenkeepinglife

Long road to victory for the Black Isle's George



George Paterson made a 430-mile round journey from the Black Isle in the Highlands to Ayrshire to claim the 2018 Scottish Championship.

The Fortrose & Rosemarkie head greenkeeper fought off competition from 2019

BIGGA Champion David Simpson and 2017 BIGGA and Scottish Champion Chris Lamb on his way to a winning 3-under par score of 69.

Membership Services Manager John Young said: "Kilmarnock Barassie was in excellent condition for the

championship, as you would expect from Brian Finlayson and his team. There was no doubt that the course was set up worthy of BIGGA Scotland's major golf event, with players noticing the difficulty of the course and in particular the new par-3 12th

hole being a great addition."

David, of Crieff, didn't go away empty handed as he won the Challenge Trophy for the best Stableford score of 36 points on a better inward half from Colin Finlay of Galashiels.

In accepting the Challenge Cup, sponsored by Reesink Turfcare, George thanked the region, club, his fellow playing partners and made special mention of Brian and the Kilmarnock Barassie team for the great work on the course.

John added: "Overall the day proved to be a huge success and Scottish Chairman Stuart Ferguson MG was on hand to thank all those that took part in the championship."

The 2019 Scottish Championship will be held at Haggs Castle.

Revealing the TPC Sawgrass volunteers



The BIGGA delegates with Tommy Fleetwood in 2018

BIGGA and John Deere have revealed the six members who will be heading to Ponte Vedra beach next March to help prepare TPC Sawgrass for THE PLAYERS Championship.

Each spring TPC Sawgrass is home to THE PLAYERS Championship, with the event returning to its traditional March timing after 12 years of being hosted in May.

The successful BIGGA members who have been selected to join the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme 2019 are: Scotland, Darren Skinner, Castle Stuart; North, Jon Gamble, Welshpool; Central England, Matthew Shaul, Cleethorpes; South West & South Wales, Mark Simmons, Kingsdown; South East, Andy Copeland, Chesfield Downs; International, Niels Sorensen, Randers Golf Klub, Denmark.

Nicholas Thorley of Little Aston was selected to join the programme in 2018 and he said: "It was absolutely amazing. My favourite point was actually seeing the course for the first time. I have seen it on the television so many times, that to actually be there and see it live was incredible. 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!"

The shift in dates has been necessitated by a shuffle in the PGA Tour calendar and will see the greenkeeping team in 2019 undertake a very different challenge to that of preparing the course in May.

With the capacity to host 36,000 fans each day and THE PLAYERS considered by many to be men's golf's unofficial fifth major, all eyes are on the course.

Each of the BIGGA members underwent a rigorous application process, consisting of an online application, submission of a short video and an interview with BIGGA and John Deere representatives.

In March the course is overseeded with cooler-season rye to ensure good playing conditions, whereas by May the harder ground and Bermudagrass that had grown in made for a very different playing style. This is just one of the challenges these six BIGGA members will face as they join the home greenkeeping team and a volunteer course maintenance force

of over 90 volunteers.

But with 4am starts each morning, the BIGGA members are expected to work hard in exchange for the privilege of joining the team. They are expected to completely integrate with the home course maintenance team in exchange for an insight into the preparation of TPC Sawgrass' Stadium Course, where more of the world's top players will compete than at any other venue throughout the year.

In 2018, Webb Simpson secured the \$1.98m first prize with his tournament victory after tying the course record with a 63 in the second round.

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton said: "BIGGA has grown into a hugely international association and it's fantastic that the expertise and professionalism of our members is recognised around the globe. I am certain that the BIGGA members who have been invited to join the team at TPC Sawgrass will once again do us all proud, while at the same time benefitting from this outstanding career development opportunity.

Members mourned



The association was saddened to hear of the passing of **Adrian Robertshaw** at the age of 86.

A former chairman of the BGGGA, Adrian passed away on 20 September.

The former head greenkeeper at Ilkley, Adrian began his career at the STRI, before holding positions at Shipley, Leicester and Otley.

Vincent Casey of Heaton Moor Golf Club has passed away following a valiant fight with cancer.

His work colleague for 20 years, Frank Strickland said he remembers Vincent as always being on the ball and busy.

Vincent loved the construction side of greenkeeping and always kept everyone working to get the jobs done.

Vincent's love of Manchester United was a bone of contention as Frank supports Manchester City, which made for interesting Monday morning debates. The thoughts of the association are also with **Gary Marsh's** family and friends after the 54-year-old passed away after a short illness.

Gary was course manager at Hickleton prior to his passing and was an active member of the Sheffield section.



Across the Board

Chris Kennedy | BIGGA President

Being your president throughout 2018 has certainly been an honour and a privilege.

I embraced the opportunity and have represented BIGGA at any event I could attend, all over the country.

From the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards at Aldwark Manor to the very well-attended BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Golf Day and the BIGGA National Championship, I've certainly been kept busy.

The Benevolent Fund Golf Day was played at Penn in lovely autumn sunshine on a well-presented golf course and everyone had a great day. Thank you to Tim Johnson for all his efforts in hosting the event, promoting it to golfers and sponsors and, of course, preparing the course. The day raised £5,000 for the charity.

The Dunhill Links Championship on the Old Course at St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns was also blessed with good weather for the first three days. But a storm was forecast for Sunday and an 8.30am shotgun start was put in place. Not a problem for Gordon Moir, Gordon McKie and his team and the greens crew were fantastic on Sunday morning in getting everything ready in time. As you'd expect, the course played well, giving Gordon Moir a glorious send-off as he said farewell to tournament golf ahead of his retirement. Over to you, Sandy Reid!

Across the Firth of Forth, the BIGGA National Championship was played over the immaculate Gullane Number 2 course. The wind was very strong on both days, which made for some wild conditions and even wilder scoring, but that didn't stop some great golf being played. All of the participants were invited to a lovely dinner in the Members' Clubhouse



Chris Kennedy and Jim Croxton with Gullane's Keith Anderson, Paul Hay, Barbara Gibb and Stewart Duff

and we received a warm welcome from the club captain, with Jim Croxton speaking very well on our behalf.

After an exciting play-off between Crieff's David Simpson and Matthew Haynes from Belton Woods, David won the tournament with a superb birdie 3 at the second play-off hole.

Stewart Duff and his team did a great job preparing the course and I would also like to thank the BIGGA staff for their efforts in organising and running the whole event.

The British Masters at Walton Heath was Michael Mann's first European Tour event in charge. He was involved in many at Wentworth during my time there and I was delighted that he and his team, with support from other local greenkeepers, produced a great course on a wonderful venue.

This year we have seen the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth, The Open at Carnoustie, the Senior Open and Dunhill Links at St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns, the British Masters at Walton Heath and let's not forget the BIGGA members who joined the team at Le Golf National for the Ryder Cup. Each of these teams have done the association proud in difficult circumstances this summer, so congratulations to them all.

This year has been very tough for greenkeepers everywhere. We started the year with heavy rainfall,

then we had cold winds and a severe drop in temperature with the Beast from the East. We then went from extreme cold weather into the driest summer on record, without any real spring in between. Some areas of the south east are still experiencing drought conditions in October.

This is manageable if you have an unlimited water supply and a top irrigation system, but what if you don't have fairway irrigation, your system fails or you have limited water use on the course? I would say this would put course managers under extreme pressure.

Some greenkeepers, through no fault of their own, are facing large areas with very little grass cover. Golf clubs need to understand that no greenkeeper wants bare areas anywhere going in to winter. Resources are needed to allow us to overseed if required so these bare areas that have not recovered naturally can repair for winter.

What we don't need is greenkeepers being told they haven't tried hard enough to get the course back in good shape, which is unfortunate and disheartening.

Finally, may I say thank you to all the staff at BIGGA House for their help over the past year and I wish them and your incoming president, Chris Sheehan, and chairman, Scott Reeves, all the best for 2019.

Funding your future

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



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





Ecology Roundup

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James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)

This past month began on a positive note in terms of wildlife goodies and went on the incline as the weeks went by. Here are a few examples from October.

The guys down at Thorndon Park sent us this ripper of a lizard, whereas at the opposite end of the UK we saw Gullane's newt.

Bramshaw has pigs residing on the course. As it falls within the confines of the New Forest National Park, animals have the right to roam, including around the fairways and greens. It's tiring work, and this pair opted to take a nap beside one of the greens, as you can see in this image!

Up in Muckhart you can find the biggest set of hallucinogenic mushrooms you are ever likely to find – don't eat these though.

The final few weeks gave your resident tree hugger one of the best moments of his long, ecohunting career to date.

A tree of such humongous enormity that it's likely to be 1,000 years old. When this chap germinated, Ethelred the Unready and Sweyn Forkbeard of Denmark were knocking seven bells out of each other, paper was being invented and, apparently, an asteroid hit somewhere in the Atlantic and caused a tidal wave large enough to engulf Cornwall.

This sweet chestnut is growing peacefully on Willesley Park and was measured by the Ancient Tree Forum as being 11.5m around at 1m high, making it a true ancient tree. This is an absolute beauty.

In Cornwall there has been a sighting of a catbird (I don't make these names up). This is only the second-ever UK sighting of this extremely rare bird, so keep a look out if you're working on a golf course in the area.

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



Top to bottom: a lizard at Thorndon Park; a newt at Gullane; pigs beside the green at Bramshaw; giant fungus at Muckhart. Background: Frazer Harrison beside a massive 1,000-year-old sweet chestnut at Willesley Park

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PENN HOSTS BIGGA CHARITY GOLF DAY

Benevolent Fund Golf Day

The BIGGA Greenkeepers
Benevolent Fund golf day raised
more than £5,000 for the
association's charity.



The members of the winning team Keith Swann, John Guest, Steve Barratt and Charlie Middleton





Held at Penn Golf Club and hosted by Course Manager Tim Johnson, the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Golf Day was incredibly well supported by BIGGA members and industry representatives.

The Benevolent Fund works to provide aid to current or past BIGGA members in the form of financial support and practical help during difficult times.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: "The Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund is still a relatively young charity and yet it has already helped out a number of BIGGA members who have found themselves in need of support. I'm sure this number will continue to grow as more and more members realise that help is available when they need it most."

"Following the wonderful efforts of Mal Mitchell at his event at Patshull Park in 2017, I'm delighted that we have been able to carry on with a golf day and I'm sure this will become a successful annual event. I would like to give my sincerest thanks to Tim Johnson and the team at Penn for being such incredible hosts. Thank you also to each of the separate companies

and all those BIGGA members who attended the event for their support.

"We raised a fantastic amount, with further funds still coming in, and I'm incredibly proud of everyone who got involved."

Played out in autumn sunshine at the Wolverhampton venue, the home team comprising Keith Swann, John Guest, Steve Barratt and Charlie Middleton came in first place.

Course Manager Tim Johnson said: "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank BIGGA for approaching me to host this event and to the Penn greenstaff, board, clubhouse staff, the club's professional James Wright and the members of Penn for making the day possible."

"A big thank you must also go to Roger Butler and Rachael Duffy for their hard work in organising the event. Without them it wouldn't have been possible."

"I'd also like to thank all the greenkeepers, members of the trade and golf clubs who have supported the day. Anything from entering a team, donating a prize or sponsoring a hole, it's been vital to the success of the event."

Results

Putting competition winner:

Jamie Brooks

Blind auction:

Allan Donlevy

Nearest the pin:

Hole 7: Tom Weston

Hole 9: Dave Stewart

In 2 on Hole 10: Neil Robinson

Hole 16: Tony Hunter

Beat the pro:

Steve Trickey. 12 players beat the pro and there was a draw for the winner.

Longest drive on hole 13:

James O'Brien

Overall 3rd:

Avoncrop Amenities, 80pts, Steve Trickey, Zak Thackeray, Billy Hayes and Peter Sands

Runner-up:

Symbio 2, 81pts, Neil Robinson, Fin Madden, Jim McMurdogh, Simon White

Winners:

Penn GC, 84pts, Keith Swann, John Guest, Steve Barratt, Charlie Middleton

Hole sponsors: Hitachi Capital, Fine Turf, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Greener Grounds, BIGGA East of England, BIGGA Scottish Region, ALS, Kubota, Bancroft Amenities.

Prizes donated on the day by:

Asbri Golf, Glenmuir, Agronomic Services, The R&A, Jon Lewis (Toro), Bigga East Midlands, Eddie Ainsworth.





YGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Stefan Carter | Greenkeeper | The Wentworth Club

Arriving at Le Golf National two weeks before the Ryder Cup I realised that for many this marked the end of a two-year journey.

The last time I had seen the course, it was still in the finishing stages of its largest renovation project. Now, everything was in pristine condition, ready for the world's best players.

The first week there saw myself and a small number of volunteers work closely with the home greenkeeping team to put the finishing touches on the course. Duties included irrigation head raising, pulling weeds from the long rough, trimming all irrigation heads inside of the ropes and ensuring the bunker levels were at the correct depth and firmness.

The second week saw a further 100 plus volunteers arrive, which ramped the atmosphere around the place up a couple of notches. We were split into the teams which we would be working in throughout the week. I was in team 2 and we were in charge of holes 8 to 12.

On the Monday morning we went through our first practice run of jobs to make sure everyone knew what they were doing, and the time it would take us. My morning job was to mow all of the tees in my section.



Each day we alternated direction from 8 to 2 to 10 to 4 on a clock to give a great diamond effect.

My task was made easier by my partner Lewis Birch, who cleared debris and aided in moving my turning boards to prevent wear, something which I had never seen before on tee complexes.

Fresh croissants and pain au chocolats awaited us upon our arrival once we had made it back to the compound and washed our mowers down.

Throughout the week there were great seminars hosted by a variety of guest speakers to extend our learning experiences of this trip even further. Some topics included working overseas, bunker design and moisture dynamics in sand.

The evening shifts saw us assemble into our respective teams again, heading

out to edge and firm bunker faces with paint rollers! We also dry cut the rough and semi, as well as replenishing any isolated dry spots on the holes.

The evening shift usually finished at around 8.30pm, which meant there was no shortage of beautiful sunset photo opportunities. Dinner was provided each night with a mixture of dishes being served.

The atmosphere of the whole experience was nothing I had ever witnessed before in golf tournaments.

Sixty thousand spectators attended each day and they were getting behind the European team with some great enthusiasm. The vibe from the greenkeeping team was something extraordinary as well. Although some of the team had been working flat out for months, and many of the volunteers didn't speak the same language, there was nothing but smiles all around as everyone was working towards the same goal to motivate one another to keep going.

I want to say a huge thank you to Alejandro Reyes and everyone at Le Golf National for having me and for making my time with you all an experience I will never forget. My French family!



EDUCATE EXHIBIT EVOLVE

BTME 2019 | 22-24 January 2019
Harrogate Convention Centre | btme.org.uk

With 250 hours of education delivered by more than 60 world-class speakers, Continue to Learn is Europe's most influential and important golf industry event.

The new layout for BTME 2019 sees Continue to Learn positioned right at the heart of the turf management industry's leading exhibition.



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association





9hole heroes

Celebrating BIGGA's nine-hole greenkeepers

Jeremy Smith | Rushden Golf Club

1. What is your job title?

Head greenkeeper

2. How long have you worked in the industry?

I have been at the club for 25 years, working up to my current position, which I have held for the past 15 years.

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

The club celebrates its 100th birthday in 2019 and, needless to say, it has a very interesting history. Rushden still maintains a sense of tradition, while also lowering the barriers for progression within the club.

We were formerly a 10-hole course and we only had two staff, myself and Jon. Therefore all tasks were shared and I was always hands on.

Then, in 2013, we extended from 10 holes to 18 holes. We now boast two differing style nines, providing different tests to all golfing abilities. My position is now very different and I have more responsibility.

4. How many staff do you have?

We have four full time staff. Myself as head greenkeeper,

Senior Greenkeeper Jon Mitchell, Greenkeeper Kyle Swailes, and Trainee Jack Frankham. We employ a seasonal worker from April to September. Also, we occasionally have help from members on lighter tasks.

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

We don't set a machinery budget and instead we generally renew machinery when we feel it is necessary. We had to purchase additional machinery when we were expanded to 18 holes. We run a mixture of Toro, John Deere and Baroness mowers, both ride-on and pedestrian. We have a Kubota tractor with attachments, such as Amazone collector, Charterhouse verti-drain and

a drainage whizz wheel.

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

I have used Sherriff Amenity for the last 12 years or so. Joe, who I deal with, takes soil samples yearly and gives me a programme as a guide. We use granular applications and when spraying is required we use contractors. In total we spend around £5,000, which includes contractors.

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

I have had quite a few over the years, but one that sticks in my mind was during a frosty winter when I was asked why don't we put hot water in the irrigation tank as this would thaw out the greens.



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Amenity Forum announces winners of sprayer awards



Keith Gallacher receives his award

The category winners of the 2018 Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year Award were announced at the Amenity Forum conference on 9 October.

Following a record number of applicants for the award, the winners of the three categories were revealed, with the overall champion to be announced at BTME in January.

Professor John Moverley, independent chairman of the forum, said: "The Amenity Forum is the voluntary initiative for this important and essential sector. We promote best practice and these awards are a demonstration of the high professional standards in our sector."

Andy Baker won the Sportsturf Using a Knapsack or Boom Sprayer category, with Paul Gater of Caldry Golf Club coming in second.

Ryan Shepherd of Hortech won the Landscape and Industrial Using a Knapsack Sprayer category and Keith

Gallacher of CWC SSE won the Landscape and Industrial Using Vehicle Mounted Equipment category.

The awards are sponsored by ICL and Syngenta, while BASIS registration offers free training vouchers for the winners.

Each category winner receives a trophy and framed certificate, while the overall winner is awarded the Amenity Forum Shield and earns a trip to the USA to a major amenity exhibition.

The annual Amenity Forum conference saw a record number of attendees under the title 'Change, Challenge and Opportunity'.

John added: "While we are certainly in the midst of changing and challenging times, this is in many ways nothing new for the amenity sector. Effective management of amenity spaces impacts upon every UK citizen every day, creating safe, healthy and fit for purpose amenity spaces."

Unfair dismissal

The former course manager at Montrose Golf Links has told his former employers to "consider their positions" after winning an unfair dismissal verdict.

Niall Bruce, 47, was awarded the equivalent of one years' salary and two years' pension contributions after a tribunal ruled he had been unfairly removed from his position at the Angus links.

Speaking to The Courier, Niall said his "head was on the platter" before the process had even commenced.

Having been appointed course manager in 2008, Niall and two other members of the greenkeeping team discovered in January that their positions would no longer exist and would be replaced by new roles.

The tribunal's Judge Ian McFatridge said these new roles "seemed to have identical functions" and so the existing staff should have been retained, rather than having to interview for the roles, with Niall's application then proving unsuccessful.

Niall said: "The roles of head greenkeeper and course manager are the same job and restructuring was merely a means to substitute a new face in place of myself."

Rain Bird

Matt Gilks has been appointed by Rain Bird Europe as golf sales specialist for the UK and Ireland.

Closely involved in golf course irrigation throughout his career, Matt joins Rain Bird from Farol, where he specialised in sales to golf sector customers.

Prior to that, his greenkeeping and engineering roles at The Belfry and MJ Abbott were focused on water resources and construction.

Matt said: "Irrigation is my specialism and having been involved with every aspect of golf course systems, from construction to water management, I understand the challenges golf clubs face.

"I'm delighted to join the Rain Bird team. In my role I'll be supporting clubs with their existing systems alongside Rain Bird's expert technical team to ensure irrigation systems are running at their most efficient."

Open boosts local economy



Carnoustie Golf Links

An insight into the economic benefits of The Open at Carnoustie has been revealed through a survey conducted by Angus Council.

Of the golf venues in Angus, Perthshire and Fife who responded to Carnoustie Country's post-event survey, 78% recorded an increase in business during July compared to the previous year.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with

some clubs noting three-figure jumps in business during Open week. One club recorded a 795% boost, while another posted a 785% increase.

"The figures speak for themselves," said Andrew Crerar of Panmure. "We got a massive upsurge in visitor bookings. It certainly surpassed my expectations and the club's.

"As a destination, The Open has put us in the spotlight."

Precision Microbes

Ahead of product trials that are scheduled to start in spring 2019, Precision Microbes launched a blend of beneficial micro-organisms into the European golf greenkeeping industry at SALTEX.

The 2019 trial will involve several dozen golf clubs in Great Britain and Ireland, with the final list of venues due to be confirmed by February 2019.

Precision Microbe's Paul Kenneally said: "Soil biology is set to become a very important topic in the sports grasses market, with new regulations coming in and less weapons in the greenkeepers' armoury.

"Our trials in spring 2019 will be, in my opinion, very educational for the golf industry.

"Our product is not a silver bullet, but we believe it will become an extremely important part of future maintenance regimes at golf courses."

Established in 2015, Precision



Microbes has already attracted prestigious customers in the football industry, with the product in use in seven stadiums in Spain's La Liga, including Real Madrid, and at several stadiums in Germany's Bundesliga.

Precision Microbes is a blend of up to 60 different micro-organisms and probiotics. Suspended in a liquid, it is mixed with water and sprayed on to growing surfaces as a soil and plant conditioner, with the intention of reducing reliance on fungicides and pesticides.

Farol takes on area

John Deere dealer Winchester Garden Machinery Ltd has relinquished its professional golf and turf business at the end of October 2018, while retaining Deere's full homeowner equipment franchise.

Neighbouring dealers Farol Ltd and Hunt Forest Group will share WGM's existing professional sales area of responsibility, with Farol's Midhurst outlet covering West Sussex and Surrey and Hunt Forest Group at Chilbolton taking on Hampshire.

"This is an incredibly exciting prospect for Farol Midhurst," said Managing Director Matthew Vellacott. "Since Farol's debut in the golf and turf machinery business eight years ago, we have seen exceptional business growth."

Farol will now manage six John Deere agricultural and turf dealerships from the Midlands to the south coast of England.

Mack closures

Seven courses across England closed after the company that ran them collapsed.

Mack Golf operated council-owned courses in Merseyside, Cheshire, Dorset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Lancashire.

The seven courses affected are: Bowring Park, Huyton; Ellesmere Port; Heaton Park, Bury; Knights Grange, Winsford; Moors Valley, Ringwood; Stony Holme, Carlisle; Southwood Park, Blackpool.

Bowring Park is one of the oldest municipal course in the country and has since reopened under the operation of Knowlsey Council. With a £2m investment underway at the course, the council has undertaken a tender process in an attempt to find a permanent operator and staff have been reinstated.

Open irrigation

Royal St George's has chosen Toro Irrigation to ensure the links are looking their best when The Open returns to the south coast venue in 2020.

The course has installed Infinity sprinklers on the greens, surrounds, approaches and fairways. The tees also have the FLEX B series with main nozzle multi-trajectory adaptors.

One area of the course that has also benefitted is the pathways, which now have over 1,000 Toro 590G sprinklers with Precision Rotating Nozzles.

Installation expert Ocmis was able to use most of the original pipework, only replacing joints and heads.



New machinery releases

Innovation

Industry Update

ECOPLUG MAX ICL

A patented application method for controlling tree stump growth that applies granular glyphosate directly into the wood.

Plugs are placed into holes drilled into the stump using Ecoplug drill bit.

Each plug contains 300mg of granular glyphosate

The plugs are then hammered in, forcing out the sides of the plug and releasing the glyphosate

Tree stump control application method delivers glyphosate directly into the tree stump

This kills the root system and prevents re-growth

Products supports requirements of the sustainable use directive

With glyphosate encapsulated inside the unit, the pesticide only comes into contact with the correct plant.

BERMUDAGRASS

Pure Seed and Atlas Turf International has introduced PurePro Seeded Bermudagrass, a blend of the industry's highest performing bermudas.

PurePro combines the attributes of multiple varieties to produce a fine-textured, dark green, elite blend.

"In partnership with Pure Seed, we are proud to bring to market a new seeded bermudagrass of unmatched quality," said John Holmes, president of Atlas Turf International. "PurePro raises the level of performance sports field managers can expect from bermudagrass."

ECHO CHAINSAW

ECHO has launched the CS-4510ES chainsaw.

Possessing a 45cc two-stroke stratified scavenging engine, the chainsaw offers an output of 2.3kW and weighs 5kg, making it more powerful yet lighter than previous models.

The Stage II emission compliant engine is one of ECHO's new engine platforms. The two-stroke has a piston operated scavenging system

in which a layer of fuel-free air is created between the burnt charge in the combustion chamber and the fresh charge in the crankcase. The buffer reduces the fuel laden losses during the cycle.

An air filter design shields the engine from dust intake, while there are also drop-out prevention nuts, a translucent fuel tank and an ES Easy Start system.

Who are the Committee for Golf Club Salaries?

Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Head of Membership Services



The Committee for Golf Club Salaries has been in existence for more than 20 years, holding its first meeting in April 1997.

In those days it was called the Recommended Minimum Salary Working Party and six representatives attended the meeting, headed up by Ken Richardson, education manager at BIGGA.

Over the coming years the committee would welcome on board a representative from the Greenkeepers Training Committee and then in 2000 Mark Dobell, financial secretary of the R&A and BIGGA Guardian joined

a newly-structured committee.

In its third meeting held on September 2nd 1997, the name was changed to Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment. At this time a representative from the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) was adopted on to the group.

At the meeting held in March 2005, the committee agreed to produce recommendations for the Golf Club Secretaries Salaries and the name of the committee changed to Committee for Golf Club Salaries (CGCS).

During the years that

followed, representatives from the various bodies contributed towards creating an improved recognition within the industry.

With the retirement of Chairman Don Bailey MBE in 2017 there was an opportunity for the committee to enter into a period of review.

Intending to build on its excellent heritage and increase its profile within the golf industry, the committee believes alignment is key in developing and enhancing its impact on more golf clubs.

Making significant strides during 2018, the committee focused on four core objectives:

2018 Objective	Update
Inviting a broader range of governing bodies to align with CGCS.	England Golf, The PGA and Golf HR are additional contributors to CGCS
Increase the profile of CGCS with a coordinated communications strategy.	During autumn, a dedicated website will be introduced to improve communication for golf clubs.
Focus relentlessly on the key goal of supporting vibrant and healthy golf clubs.	Increased meetings throughout the year, with more emphasis on connecting with clubs that support CGCS.
Focus on the trends that will affect the future employment challenges for golf clubs.	Continued focus on how to improve the information delivered through the salary reports. Continued research in how to improve the process will be one of the main priorities.

The CGCS is focussed on bringing improved value to golf club businesses in an ever-changing marketplace, especially with the uncertainty of Brexit on the horizon. The committee believes firmly that golf clubs that value and invest in their staff will be best placed to succeed in this challenging climate.

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries is committed to supporting a healthy golf industry by acting as a positive reference for all club staff and club officials.

It is a pivotal time for clubs to recognise that the competitive market place is increasingly becoming dominated by service and the need

to engage knowledgeable people into their workforce. The CGCS recognises that further information needs to be provided to influence club officials about the professional educational development programmes available within the golf industry.

For golf clubs to flourish it is critical they engage the right professional skillset to enable their business to prosper.

Concerns about the levels of pay in golf clubs have been growing in recent years. It is becoming more apparent that low pay has an impact on the golf club's workforce, contributing to problems with morale, recruitment,

retention, leadership and diversity. If clubs are to deliver an excellent service, they have to value their staff and this includes ensuring that salary levels reflect people's commitment and skills.

Superior results come from employing the most driven workforce, enabling staff to continuously learn and develop and making work more meaningful.

A team fused by trust and purpose is crucial and much more potent; such a group can deliver a more powerful product.

Feedback and ideas are essential for the CGCS to make a meaningful impact within the whole industry.



Membership Team
01347 833800 (option 1)



Tracey Maddison
Head of
Membership
Services
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk



Elaine Jones
Membership
Administration
Manager
elaine@bigga.co.uk



Rachael Duffy
Membership
Events Manager
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

BTME

Pre-registration for BTME
2019 is now open at
btme.org.uk

Membership

'That's going to take some raking...'

The Open has been held outside of Scotland or England just once so far, and that was at Royal Portrush, where the championship will return in 2019.

If you want to experience the splendour of The Open on Irish shores, opportunities to get involved are few and far between.

That makes the invitation of The R&A for BIGGA to once again provide a volunteer support team for the duration of the tournament even more special.

Darren Clarke was instrumental in getting the course on The Open rota and the 2011 Champion Golfer said: "It's hard to contain the excitement now. The place is buzzing. I've been in Portrush a lot recently and all the work is being completed, all the little touches for infrastructure that most would never imagine, with

all the cabling under the ground and everything. It's going to be a huge honour and privilege to have the biggest tournament in the world in our town."

Royal Portrush's refurbished Dunluce Course will host the 148th Open on 18 to 21 July 2019, with Course Manager Graeme Beatt hosting the championship for the first time in the 39-year-old's career.

Back in 1951, the magnificent Northern Irish links were tamed by Max Faulkner, with the flamboyant Englishman reportedly signing autographs 'Max Faulkner, Open Champion' prior to the final round.

Defending champion Francesco Molinari will likely be a little more reserved during his time at Royal Portrush, but said he's looking forward to returning to the venue.

"I played there in 2012 at the Irish Open,"

Be a part of the BIGGA Open Support Team 2019



he said. "I still remember now I was paired for the first two rounds with Darren Clarke and he had just won The Open the year before. The atmosphere was something else, so I'm sure it's going to be a great championship, a great Open."

BIGGA Volunteer Support Team members will assist with maintaining bunker presentation throughout the duration of the tournament. The 62 bunkers that will be in play is the lowest total of any current Open venue, but the team members will hope players stay out of the massive 25-foot high Big Nellie bunker, recreated on the 7th hole.

Team members may also be called upon at short notice to help out with early morning preparation work and divoting duties. With early

tee times and golf being played until nightfall, the week is intense and physically demanding. But it's also an incredibly rewarding opportunity to get inside the ropes at this once-in-a-generation tournament.

Full BIGGA Members can apply for a place on the support team by completing the application form included within their Greenkeeper International pack this month. Alternatively, you can download an application form from the BIGGA website. Entries close on 25 January 2019

Welcome new members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Francis Lesser, SRUC (Elmwood), S: Fraser Elliott, SRUC (Elmwood), S: Greg Harris, SRUC (Elmwood), S: Reece Haspell, SRUC (Elmwood), S: Steven Penman, SRUC (Elmwood), S: Jai Auchterlonie, Leven Links, AGK.

Northern

Alistair Caskie, Heswall, App: Daniel Barlow, Shrigley Hall, App: Elliott Harling, Rishton, App: Reece Jackson, Retford, App: Richard May, Runcorn, App: Morgan O'Sullivan, Jacobsen, GK: Benjamin Roberts, Bradford, GK: Daniel Whalley, Highfield, GK: Richard Hartley, Bradford, GK.

Central England

Adam Nicholson, The Nottinghamshire, App: Bailey Hobson, The Belfry, App: Callum Lees, Redditch, App: Daniel Dalton, The Belfry, App: Jack Hall, Kilworth Springs, App: Joshua Scurr, Goring & Streatley, App: Lewis Horton, Oakmere Park, App: Morgan Wilson, Bulwell Forest, App: Nathan Hart, The Belfry, App: Thomas Mortenson, The Belfry, App: Kieran Finney, JCB, GK: Tim McCutcheon, JCB, GK: Jonathan Allen, Northampton, HGK: Joshua Wood, Redditch, AGK: Matthew Goode, Priors Hall, AGK: Ashley Hill, Redditch, AGK: Jack Hopkins, Basingstoke, AGK: Jack Leach, Berkshire, AGK: Zak Koracevic, Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands, AGK.

South West & South Wales

Thomas Filkins, Knighton Heath, App: Phil Hellier, Axe Cliff, CM: Nicholas Rose, Lyme Regis, GK: Paul Foot, Remedy Oak, GK: John Harris, Pontewydd, HGK: Harry Boxell, Hampshire Collegiate School, HGM: Andrew Rosser, Newport, AGK: Ryan Williams, Ferndown, AGK.

South East

Callum Mizen, The Wisley, App: Isa Adams, South Beds, App: James Bentley, Shooters Hill, App: Joseph Groom, Golf World Standsted, App: Kenneth Crawford, Aldwickbury Park, App: Luke Carter, Shooters Hill, App: Marc Mountney, Abridge, App: Rory Hopgood, Shooters Hill, App: Sam Hessey, Purley Downs, App: Thomas Whitefield, Garon Park, App: David Gass, Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands, CM: Aaron Stead, Surrey Downs, GK: Joshua Reely, Harrow School, GK: Michael McNaughton, Dartford, GK: Ross Anthony, Sprowston Manor, GK: Sean Franks, Littlehampton, GK: India Lockey, Chichester College Brinsbury Campus, S: Ben Homewood, Worldham Park, AGK: Curtis Everitt, Letchworth, AGK: Fenton Yeulett, Burnham-on-Crouch, AGK: Ryan Lindsay, East Sussex National, AGK.

International

Carey Hofner, The Club at Cordillera: Gavin Jagger, Haga: Micah Woods, Asian Turfgrass Center.

Membership

CM	Course Manager	GM	Groundman
HGK	Head Greenkeeper	M	Mechanic
HGM	Head Groundsman	O	International Member
DCM	Deputy Course Manager	A	Affiliate Member
DHGK	Deputy Head Greenkeeper	S	Student Member
FA	First Assistant	ED	Partner & Education Supporters
GK	Greenkeeper	L	Life Member
AGK	Assistant Greenkeeper	R	Retired Member
		APP	Apprentice

July

2018
WINNER

BIGGA Photo Competition 2018

January

February

March

April

May

June

August

September

October

November

December

BIGGA Photo Competition 2018.

The winner...

BIGGA is proud to reveal that the winner of the BIGGA Photographic Competition 2019 is Bill Whybrow of Royal Bled Golf in Slovenia with this image of the course framed by the spectacular Karawanks mountain range.

The winning image was chosen, from the top three in the members' vote, by renowned golf course photographer Alan Birch, whose idea it first was for the association to host a competition celebrating greenkeepers' working lives on golf courses through photographs.

Bill's photograph was taken from behind the 6th hole on the course's King's Course on 31 July and shows a beautifully-prepared green, with the hole running away into the landscape.

Alan said: "This image shows excellent craftsmanship. It shows how much the greenkeepers care about that golf course. It's also strengthened by the atmosphere and as a golfer I would say I would love to play that place. That picture really fits the golf course in with the landscape. You look at that picture and say 'great work lads, you should be proud of your trade'."

Speaking from Slovenia, where he is on a seasonal placement until December, Bill, 23, was delighted to discover he had won the competition. He said: "I really didn't expect this. I'm shocked. There were so many other good photographs that I'm really surprised that I've won!"

Placed second in the competition was an image by Steve Hume of an inquisitive fox, approaching a hole on a green at Murrayfield Golf Club outside of Edinburgh.

That picture really fits the golf course in with the landscape. You look at that picture and say 'great work lads, you should be proud of your trade'.

From the hole just inches away, all the way to Bass Rock 20-or-so miles away, it's an image that shows a huge amount of thought and planning.

"It's a true nature shot," said Alan. "But it's not often that you also get the opportunity to look at the quality of turf on the golf course. There are things happening all over this picture and for me it has everything, it's a great photograph."

Third place was an image by Aiden Wright of a pond beside a green at Camberley Heath. Alan said this was a fantastic photograph and was the best calendar image, but the others just nudged ahead as the golf course was more central to the picture.

"This is a beautiful photograph," said Alan. "When picking a calendar photograph you have to think, can I see myself looking at that for a month? The answer is definitely yes!"

"I would love him to have got on a step ladder and got a little bit higher because he would have got a beautiful reflection in the pond and you would have been able to see more of the green."

BIGGA members were invited to choose their favourite 12 images from the finalists. These will comprise the BIGGA Calendar for 2019, to be posted out with December's Greenkeeper International.

"The depiction of working greenkeepers is what I always look for. Looking at a golf course, you can see the quality of the work in the photos. The images were all difficult to separate from those top three. I could talk about all of them and the things I enjoyed. Well done to all the finalists!"

The 12 photos chosen are:

January:

Jon Wood, St Andrews Links

February:

David Rumbles, Elgin

March:

Graeme Roberts, Swinley Forest

April:

Ash Youd, The Mere

May

Ryan Norman, Stowmarket

June (second place):

Steve Hulme, Murrayfield

July (winner):

Bill Whybrow, Royal Bled

August:

Shaun Cunningham, Mortonhall

September:

Christopher Brown, Ardfin

October: (third place):

Aiden Wright, Camberley Heath

November:

Scott Gibson, St Enodoc

December:

Paul Connolly, Ralston



Life at the coal face

Whitwood is a nine-hole course located in the rust belt of West Yorkshire, close to Castleford and neighbouring an extensive industrial estate.

Glitz and glamour are hard to come by around here, but that doesn't mean General Manager Kevin Moore isn't proud of the course he offers to members.

A former head greenkeeper who made the leap into a club management role, Kevin is responsible for overseeing the former colliery site, which opened as a golf club in 1987 and has been operated by a regional charity since 2012.

Across Yorkshire, Derbyshire and other mining areas, huge spoil heaps resulting from coal mining ran the risk of becoming a blot on the landscape.

Comprising of shale and other detritus from the mining process the land was undesirable for housing or farming.

But, as the material was easy to move and shape, it seemed that in golf course construction the developers had found an ideal way to utilise



Shale subsoil at Whitwood

the landscape, while at the same time giving their employees something to do in their spare time — especially when the latest round of redundancies hit.

Anecdotal evidence from the early days of these golf courses recalls how you may walk off the 18th green with your golf shoes covered in a layer of thick black coal dust. Such occurrences are a thing of the past, but Kevin gave us a tour of the course to discuss what other challenges are faced on this former colliery site — both on the course and in his role as club manager.

GI: What challenges do you face at Whitwood?

Kevin Moore: Whitwood is an old council course, built for an old mining community. The course opened in 1987 for the miners from Kellingley and Pontefract to have something to do after their shift. The council had this course and

City of Wakefield Golf Club, but in 2012 they decided they couldn't afford to run this place and a charity called Groundwork came on board.

They took over in July 2012 and really got caught out because most of the groundstaff had moved to City of Wakefield, meaning that first year they lost money. However, in the third year they received some money through the Big Lottery Fund and Keyfund amounting to £228,000, which was split between us and our sister course at Springhead Park in Hull.

With that grant we bought some improved machinery for the course, managed to do up the clubhouse and paint the outside and installed some signage.

We've also purchased some picnic benches and have installed a footgolf course, which is a huge asset as we try to get families involved and break down that barrier of people who may never have thought about playing golf before.



Drought-hit fairways at Whitwood

Whitwood is a modest course, with a small budget. How does that influence what you achieve out on the course?

We see ourselves here as a beginner's course. It's a nine-hole course with 16 tees, but our key values are that it's a quick round, it's cheap and we don't have a strict dress code. We're just trying to get as many people playing golf as we can, like a feeder club.

We like to work on an apprenticeship structure, based on one greenkeeper and one apprentice. In my time here we've had four apprentices and three of those have gone on to other jobs at larger courses.

This being a former colliery site, built on spoil heaps, how does that impact maintenance of the course?

The vast majority of the fairways are old shale, so it does burn off quite quickly with dry weather. There are a few natural becks that have been made where you can see there isn't much topsoil and you are straight down on to the shale.

We were fortunate that when they built the course they installed irrigation on the tees, but we try not to use as much because we're on mains water. However, what we've saved this year in diesel we've probably spent on water.

It was good to see how dry they were at Carnoustie when The Open was on. We couldn't wait for The Open to be shown so people could see a course that was very dry, like we are. We could chuck fertiliser on the fairways and they'd grow, but we'd need to keep doing that every couple of weeks and it would cost thousands.

When they used to run the site, the council would put autumn fertiliser

down every month during the winter. They got black layer and one of my first jobs was to get it out of there. The first process was to bang some holes in, get some sand in the greens and go from there. From then, we're just looking to put one application on in October. We've had a few scars but you're looking at 5% of the greens, which people will put up with.

You're limited with what you can do on the course, so what other touches do you do to make the course seem a little bit special for golfers who play here?

We're in the process of getting new tee signs with a company who will get sponsors for us. They'll look great. We also got some javelin pins donated to us, which are a little touch that will make it look better.

With us being a community-based club, we are trying to provide things for the community. We have been given some grants that have been

really useful and we've made a picnic area and planted flowers. There's also a footpath that runs around the golf course that people can use.

How does the dynamic of you being a former greenkeeper help the team?

I go out at least once a week to have a look at the course. We normally have a chat about any issues there may be.

I'd like to think that me being a former greenkeeper helps the course. If anyone has a complaint they can speak to me, because I understand what it takes to do things and that takes a lot of pressure off the greenkeepers.

With budget restraints, which are quite evident here compared to other places, we also feed ideas to each other.

Do you find yourself saying no more than you expected?

In a sense. For example, we had a talk yesterday with our head greenkeeper, Jon, about what he'd like to do this coming winter. I got him to write down each hole and what he wanted to do on them.

He writes a wish list and I ask him to put it into categories. Say by some miracle we have an influx of money, what can we get? All the way down to, what would be reasonably priced for a couple of projects in the winter? This could be rebuilding a bunker or a new tee. It's that fine balance.

People here appreciate hard work and honesty. We don't try and sell this place as the all singing, all dancing, because we know that's not what it is. And we know our market. We target people through Facebook and social media quite well in the local area.

We compare ourselves to the



Kevin Moore, Matthew Robertson, Jonathan Glynn

other courses that are like us. We consider ourselves to be like Roundhay, Lofthouse, Ferrybridge or Gotts Park and Lupset. They're our competitors.

We wouldn't try and target ourselves against Pontefract or Normanton because it's the wrong type of audience. But I do research their websites and social media to see what they're doing.

As a greenkeeper you were used to just worrying about your own course. That process of looking externally and market research must be quite new to you?

There are a number of useful things online through England Golf and I did a course with the Golf Course Managers Association.

I also attended a seminar at Sandburn Hall a few years ago with England Golf that they did for all the clubs in Yorkshire. They did a talk about putting things into perspective and how to market your club. What are your strengths, what are your weaknesses and what do you want to achieve? I think we've got a decent understanding of that here, which is key.

You can have 15 clubs in an area that are selling the same thing, but what

'My being a former greenkeeper helps the course. If anyone has a complaint they can speak to me, because I understand what it takes to do things...'

makes a golfer choose from among them? Our unique selling point is we're nine holes so you can come round on an evening and you're done in two hours. You can then go home and have tea with your family, because it isn't too late.

Whitwood had a bad reputation and it wasn't maintained well. It's taken us a while to get rid of that bad reputation and we're now getting a lot of positive reviews. All we can hope for is that people will finish their rounds, put their clubs away and go "actually, I don't mind that there, it's not too expensive, customer service is good, I'd go back". That's all we can hope for.

How did you find the transition into a management role?

It's something I thought would benefit me and my family in the long term, more than greenkeeping. One of the things I hated most was the winter

and the rain, I didn't enjoy those days.

The pressures are different when you're a club manager. I was OK because I do a lot of education. I did a GCMA course the year before I took over in January, so I was already gearing myself up to what I was going to do next anyway.

I've found the hardest thing has been dealing with the committee. Sometimes rumours spread around the course and you say 'why didn't you just come to me and I would have explained it?' People management has been the main difference and I've found myself becoming more diplomatic.

Instead of saying things how they are, I've had to bite my tongue on a few things, definitely!

Sometimes you can be too honest in saying things how they are, when really, they just want you to tell them what they want to hear.

Whitwood

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Behind the scenes with our Team Blue

BIGGA member Jon Kiger attended the Ryder Cup at Le Golf National. While in Paris, Jon took the opportunity to speak to five UK greenkeepers who had crossed the channel to volunteer at the Ryder Cup.

Ryder Cup

Tod Bannerman is from Scotland, but has been a seasonal worker at Le Golf National this year.

What sort of challenges were there before the volunteers arrived?

The primary challenge was getting all our regular jobs done around the construction work for the event infrastructure. We had only 30 staff until our 180 volunteers arrived.

What were your regular jobs as a seasonal worker?

A bit of everything really. Whatever needed to be done and I was more than happy to help.

What was it like seeing the infrastructure being built?

It was incredible. Ever since I arrived back in April the infrastructure was starting to go up. Seeing the buzz then and now was amazing.

How have the massive crowds impacted things compared to when the maintenance team had the course to yourselves?

It's great. The spectators are cheering you on when you're doing your job and it just gives you an extra buzz and encouragement to be even better than what you normally are.

What will you take away from your two seasons working at Le Golf National?

There's so many positive things about this experience that it's hard to put into words. I'd just like to thank everyone involved who have been an incredible help to me while I've been here.



Lewis Birch is deputy head greenkeeper at Sunningdale and has been volunteering at Le Golf National for the duration of the tournament.

Why do you volunteer at events like the Ryder Cup?

I just enjoy the experience. To work with one of the best greenkeeping teams in the world and help the other 180 greenkeepers that are here is thrilling.

What tasks have you done in Paris?

I've been part of the tee setup so we've been hand mowing the tee surfaces and making sure they are clear of debris and that they're the best standards for the European and American teams.

How does Le Golf National compare to Sunningdale?

It's very similar. We both have very high standards that are expected and demanded by the membership. We also strive to be professional at all times and I see that here as well.

Has anything surprised you this week?

I've worked a few Open Championships but I'd say the expectations from the players and the fans is increasing. We have to make sure we give them the best conditions.

What is the biggest thing you've learned this week?

I've learned a great deal and when I go back home I'm going to encourage all the staff at Sunningdale to make sure they try to volunteer in big events like this. It will certainly help their career progression as well.



Scott Logan, from Royal Bled in Slovenia, was at Le Golf National on a five-week exchange last year and had been in Paris for two weeks during Ryder Cup preparations.

Why did you volunteer at the Ryder Cup?

This is my first event that I've volunteered at, and why wouldn't I want to? It's just such a great experience to come here, especially the Ryder Cup being my first event. It's incredible being here for two weeks, and it's been a buzz ever since we came, right through to just now. And even now, the buzz is just unreal.

I was encouraged by my course manager, Steve Chappell, to volunteer for the networking opportunities and the overall experience.

How does Le Golf National compare to Royal Bled in Slovenia?

The work here involves a lot more attention to detail – a lot of nitty-gritty things. It's totally different compared to the golf course that I work at. We don't have tour events.

What has surprised you the most this week?

The biggest thing I'd say that surprised me is the number of volunteers and size of the infrastructure. The amount of volunteers has been incredible. I think there's 180 volunteers just in the greenkeeping side, so

trying to remember faces and people's names is hard.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned during your time at Le Golf National?

Biggest thing I've learned is about using paint rollers on bunker faces, it's quite a good way to firm the faces up. I think one of the most important things is to have a good leader at the top who can interact with people and knows how to speak to people. And just knows the standards that are required of an event like this.

It's been an honour and a privilege to be here and thanks to Steve Chappell for giving me the time off to experience it all.



Ryder Cup



Left to right: Lee Burton, Stefan Carter, Scott Logun, Tod Bannerman and Lewis Birch

Continued over

Stefan Carter, greenkeeper at The Wentworth Club, has had an incredible year, including spending a year working at Augusta National.

Why do you volunteer at events like the Ryder Cup?

I choose to volunteer at events because I always feel like I learn something new from each event I do. I meet new people, get new ideas from what I do, and generally just have an awesome time being inside the ropes at a fantastic golfing event.

What tasks have you done in Paris?

I've been mowing tees eight to twelve in the mornings and during the afternoons I do bunker work, making sure the sand is compacted and looking good for the players.

How does Le Golf National compare to Wentworth?

The Ryder Cup is a huge event, so although I'm used to working at high standards with a tournament each year, The Ryder Cup is just at that next level. The eyes of the world are looking and the grandstands and all the spectators are just a whole new level.

What are some of the other tournaments you've worked on?

I've obviously done the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth. Earlier this year I was out at the Masters and the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

Has anything surprised you this week?

Just the whole scale of things to be fair. I've seen a few tournaments in my time, and this is just something I've never seen before. The infrastructure and the crowds and the attention to detail has been fantastic.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned this week?

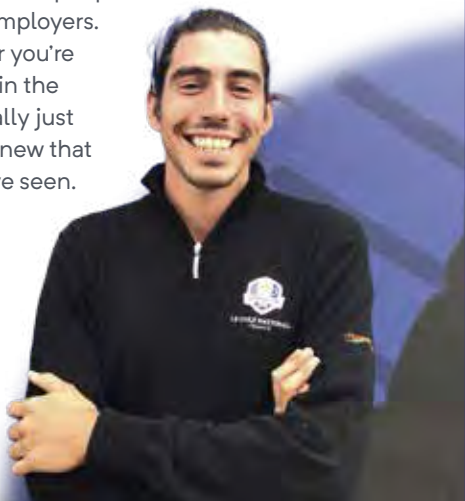
I think the biggest thing that I've seen here is that the atmosphere in the team has just been so closely-knit. They seem like more of a family than just workers, and it really pays off when you've got people that are tired, and people that are getting annoyed with people. But here it's just so much of a friendly atmosphere. It's been fantastic.

What would you say to any other greenkeepers that would be considering putting their name forward to volunteer at an event such as the Ryder Cup, or any other event?

I think for any greenkeeper, volunteering is just a fantastic opportunity to meet new people and potential new employers.

When you volunteer you're making new friends in the industry, and generally just learning something new that you might never have seen.

I would definitely recommend any greenkeeper to just get involved with whatever event they can.



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Lee Burton, formerly of The Mere and Fairhaven in Lancashire is no stranger to going abroad to gain more experience, having taken up his present role at Molndal Golf Club in Sweden in 2017. He spent four weeks at Le Golf National in the build-up to the tournament.

How does Le Golf National compare to Molndal in Sweden?

There's no comparison. The Ryder Cup is obviously on a world stage — the crème de la crème. Molndal is just a private golf course in the area.

Has anything surprised you this week?

The amount of spectators on practice days so far. Today (Friday, first day of match play) the atmosphere is absolutely amazing.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned this week?

The importance of good communication and proper equipment set up.

What is the biggest thing you'll remember about your time at Le Golf National?

Just the chance to meet up with old friends and make new ones.



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DEW DISPERSANT

The application and benefits of dew dispersants

Dispersing dew and guttation fluid from your sward can have a number of potential benefits — the obvious one being early morning playability on the greens and the ability to get a good clean cut when mowing.

Switching and mechanical methods can be quite time consuming and do not stop the dew reforming, whereas spray-applied dew dispersants can work for a week or more and keep the leaf drier throughout the day and night. If you are switching then the sward may be covered in water droplets throughout the night and these surfaces may prove to be more prone to fungal diseases.

Dew dispersants can also disperse rain — again extending playability and giving a drier leaf surface that may be less susceptible to certain diseases.

So how should a dew dispersant be applied to maximise effect?

Firstly – and this is rather important — a dew dispersant should not be applied to grass that already has a lot of

Dew and Guttation

fluid: Dew is moisture that condenses out of the atmosphere onto a plant surface. Guttation fluid is moisture that is secreted from within the plant out onto the leaf surface. In essence they both produce water droplets on the leaf surface that will affect play.

moisture droplets on it. You have to first pick a dry day — or start with a switch — or indeed apply before the last dose of dew dispersant has fully worn off.

If attempts are made to apply to a surface that has droplets on, then as soon as the dew dispersant spray hits the leaf surface you break the contact angle of the existing drops. These will then pretty much immediately run off the leaf, taking much of the dew dispersant with them before it's had a chance to fix itself to the leaf surface and lead to a lot of wastage.

It's also worth noting that some adjuvants in plant protection products may also bind to the leaf so strongly that they prevent the dew dispersant getting to the leaf surface too. This is very rare and most plant protection products would not contain such adjuvants, but this does appear to explain one or two cases that I have seen of dew dispersants not working. If this does happen to you — think what you applied in the five days before the dew dispersant application — it may be that this isn't compatible.

One other point to consider is what you may tank mix with a dew dispersant. Most anti-foams rely on having finely dispersed, normally hydrophobic particles in. On a surface such as a leaf, antifoams can cause de-wetted areas and again affect the action of a dew dispersants. Also, under highly acidic conditions (below about pH 4) then many dew dispersants can break down chemically by a process of hydrolysis, which again can stop them working. Make sure you don't mix with spray tank

SANTS

Paul Morris, GBR Technology

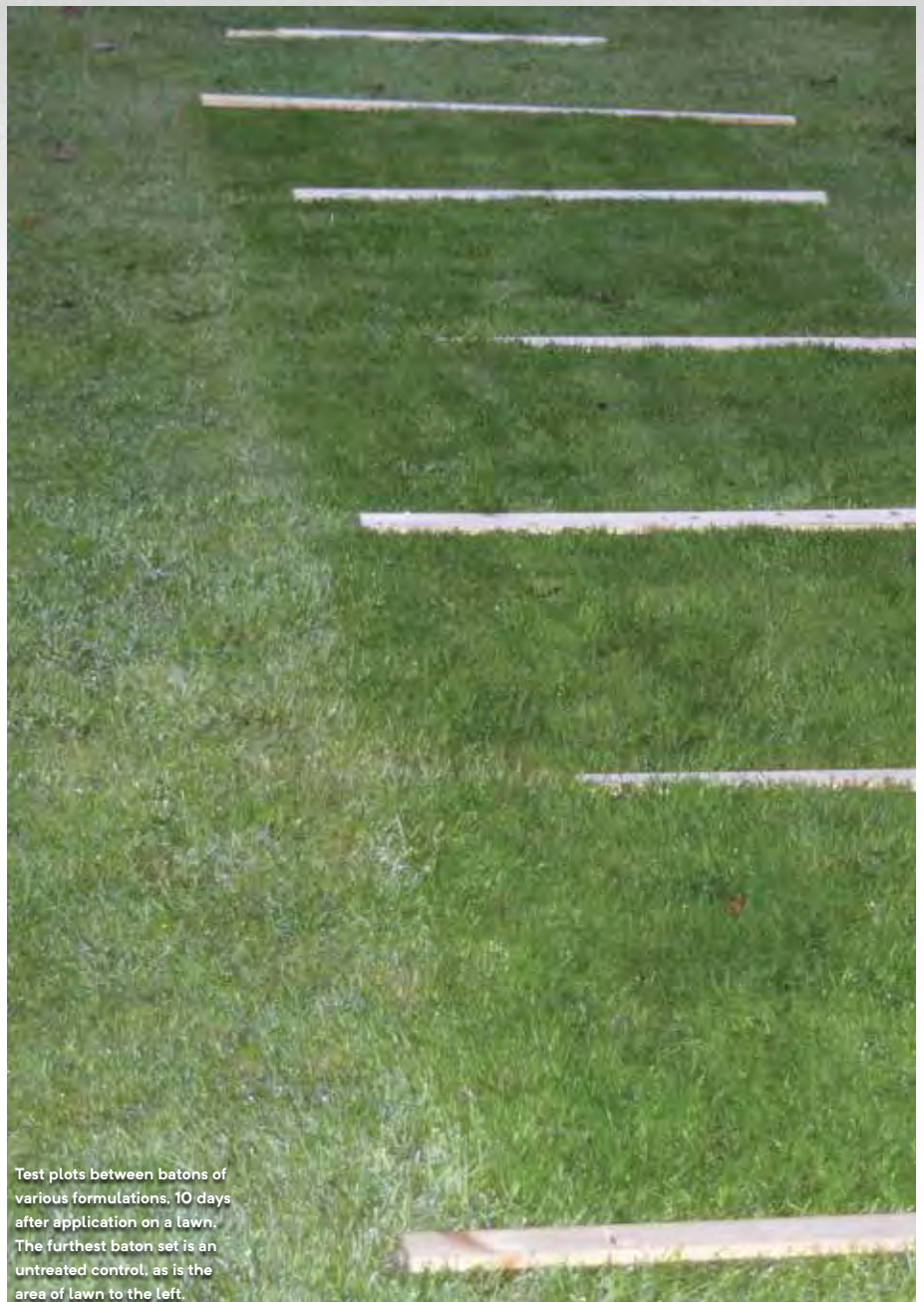
acidifiers that will bring the pH below 4.

Once on the leaf, a dew dispersant should do its job — day or night and with rain, dew or guttation — for a period of time. That period does then vary — the most obvious factor is growth and cutting. Growth generates a fresh surface that will not have dew dispersant on, although some migration can occur on a microscopic level to the fresh surfaces. Cutting and boxing off will remove leaf tips with the dew dispersant on and it's even likely that heavy foot traffic can have some effect.

Under optimum conditions, and if applied correctly, a well-formulated dew dispersant can give a pretty good effect for three to four weeks. But in most cases with the best products under typical conditions, you won't quite get that period of longevity. If you can get a programme of application every two weeks, this may be a good routine to get into.

One of the most interesting benefits, especially with the loss of iprodione, is the potential of a drier sward to have less incidence of fusarium patch and other fungal disease. Theory would suggest that dew dispersants, due to their continued ability to shed water from the leaf, should see benefits in this respect over switching alone.

It should be pointed out that different products from different suppliers do perform differently in this product category, as the chemistry used and its concentration in the product does vary across brands. Despite the discussion here, manufacturers guidelines should be followed for each product.



Test plots between batons of various formulations, 10 days after application on a lawn. The furthest baton set is an untreated control, as is the area of lawn to the left.



David Simpson tees off on the 1st hole at Gullane

Record breaker David secures third BIGGA National title

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Brandon Stone, Ariya Jutanugarn and now David Simpson.

The Crieff greenkeeper has been added to the list of golfers to enjoy championship success at Gullane Golf Club in 2018 following the first play-off in BIGGA National Championship history.

While Brandon won the Scottish Open and Ariya the Ladies Scottish Open just a fortnight later, the BIGGA members taking part in the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota had to wait until October for their taste of the action.

David defeated Belton Woods' Matthew Haynes in a two-hole

'I just holed everything. I only hit 23 putts and I was just getting up and down from ridiculous places.'

playoff after both shot 146 over 36 holes on Gullane's Number 2 course, exquisitely prepared by Courses Manager Stewart Duff and his team.

David, the 2007, 2008 and 2018

BIGGA National Champion said: "I had a wee smile to myself when my putt went in for a birdie on the 18th because I knew nobody had won it three times."

David's previous victories came at Kilmarnock Barassie and Dundonald Links, which co-hosted the event in 2007 and at East Sussex in 2008.

But he said this year's victory was the most special as it marked his comeback from illness, which prevented him from taking part last year.

The 40-year-old +1 handicapper began his march to the title with an incredible 69 in the opening round, made all the more incredible due to the strong winds that blew for the duration of the championship.

"I just holed everything," explained David. "I only hit 23 putts and I was just getting up and down from ridiculous places."

However, David would find the second day's play much tougher, shooting a 77 that included a seven on the 10th hole. Meanwhile Matthew Haynes, 26, was more consistent and shot 74 and 72 to force a play-off.

Both players parred the first hole, while David hit a spectacular four-iron tee shot on the 291-yard 18th hole that came to rest 20 feet from the hole.

Matt parred the hole, while



Callum Robertson tees off on the 15th hole on his way to winning the opening day handicap prize in the 13+ category

Continued over

PRIZE LIST

BIGGA National Championship

winner: David Simpson, Crieff

Runner-up: Matthew Haynes, Belton Woods

Third: Dominic Dougan, Sandyhills

Fourth: Chris Lamb, Newmacher

Fifth: Gordon Sangster, Cathkin Braes

BIGGA Challenge Cup winner:

Terry Carver, RAF Marham

Runner-up: Dennis

Grant, Newmacher

Third: Callum Robertson, Fulford

BIGGA Challenge Plate: Sid

Arrowsmith MG, Frilford Heath

BIGGA Challenge Bowl: Andrew

Cornes, Thorntrees Amenity

Winning team: Scotland

and Northern Ireland, David

Simpson, Chris McGhee,

Blair Shearer, Liam Gillie.

Runners-up: Northern, Andrew

Riley, Callum Robertson, James

Hampson, Simon Ashford.

Daily handicap prizes (day one)

+2 to 5: David Simpson, Crieff

6 to 12: Denis Tweddell, Golf

Club Schmallenberg

13+: Callum Robertson, Fulford

Daily handicap prizes (day two)

+2 to 5: Dennis Grant, Newmacher

6 to 12: Sid Arrowsmith,

Frilford Heath

13+: Terry Carver, RAF Marham

Nearest the pin (day one):

Tony Thacker, RAF Marham

Nearest the pin (day two):

Matthew Haynes, Belton Woods

Longest drive (day one):

Cassidy Steffens, Orsett

Longest drive (day two): Anthony

Duffield, Ham Manor

The BIGGA National
Championship is sponsored by



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BIGGA Challenge Cup Winner Terry Carver with BIGGA President Chris Kennedy

David was able to two-putt for a birdie and the BIGGA National Championship for the third time.

"I've never won a play-off," he said. "I've played in about six and that's the first I have won. When they said it was a play-off I thought, 'well I'm not ready for this'. But I wasn't nervous at all. I like to keep myself in my own space and I was just focussed until that final putt went in.

"It's funny because on Sunday a group of us went out for a practice round and I came in after six holes because it was too windy. I was getting called a wimp by the guys I was playing with because I couldn't handle the wind. But after I won I had a wee smile to myself, thinking 'who's the wimp now?!'"

'I've never won a play-off, I've played in about six and that's the first I have won.'

The event's other big winners were Terry Carver of RAF Marham, who won the BIGGA Challenge Cup, contested in Stableford format over 36 holes, with a combined points total of 72, and former BIGGA President Sid Arrowsmith MG, who won the BIGGA Challenge Plate, contested in Stableford format



The winning Scotland and Northern Ireland winning team of Blair Shearer, David Simpson, Liam Gillie and Chris McGhee with BIGGA President Chris Kennedy



Dave Allen and Mark Blacknell, who celebrated his birthday on the final day of the BIGGA National Championship



BIGGA Challenge Plate winner Sid Arrowsmith MG with BIGGA President Chris Kennedy

over 18 holes on the second day of the event after gaining 35 points.

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton praised Gullane's Stewart Duff and his team for preparing the club's Number 2 course after an epic summer that also saw them host the Aberdeen Standard Investments Ladies' and Men's Scottish Opens over a two-week period in July.

Jim added: "After the spectacular year they have enjoyed at Gullane, Stewart and his team could be forgiven for being fatigued by the time BIGGA National came around in mid-October. But that couldn't be further from the truth and the course was truly in championship condition.

"On behalf of the association and all its members who took part in the event, I would like to thank all those at Gullane for making our members so welcome during our two days at the links. With such strong winds, I'm certain there isn't anywhere on the course our members haven't found themselves and yet there wasn't a spot that was not in superb condition. I'd also like to thank our excellent sponsors, Charterhouse and Kubota.

"Congratulations to Stewart and the rest of the team on a stellar 2018 and congratulations also to David for his brilliant performance in very challenging conditions. He's a very worthy BIGGA National Champion 2018."

The 2019 BIGGA National Championship will be held at Formby and Formby Ladies in Lancashire on 30 September and 1 October 2019.

PLAY OFF

The BIGGA National Championship had never before been decided via a play-off, but with David Simpson and Matthew Haynes both shooting 146 over two rounds, a two-hole sudden death play-off was required to separate the pair.

Matthew opted to tee off second, allowing David to hit the play-off's opening shot on Gullane Number 2's 1st hole. Shooting into the persistent strong wind, David played up the right hand side of the fairway – a decision he later confessed was borne out after almost hitting his tee shot out of bounds on the left hand side the previous day.

Matt's tee shot was up the centre and both players played on to the green and two-putted to par the hole, setting

up a tense showdown on the 18th.

Playing back downwind, David's opening tee shot was on the hole for the entirety of its flight, with the massive four-iron coming to a rest 20 feet beyond the flag on the 291-yard par 4.

Matthew's tee shot was short of the green and he chipped on, knowing that he would have to hole his next putt.

He left himself around 20 feet to go and when his putt came up short, leading to a tap in for par, David knew he had two putts for the win.

He held his nerve and his first putt came to rest just six inches from the hole, leading to a tap in birdie as he claimed the BIGGA National Championship for the third time.



Matthew Haynes putting on the 18th green at Gullane as David Simpson watches on

With the Greenkeepers Training Committee launching a set of guidelines for safe operation covering all aspects of work on the golf course, we took a look at guidelines around the safe use of chainsaws.

Chainsaws have the potential to cause serious injury if employees are not properly trained in their use and there are no safe systems of work. An employee should be physically fit to use a chainsaw and should inform their manager if they are on any prescribed medication.

A chainsaw should also not be operated by anyone:

- Who has not undergone a certified course in its safe use
- Under the age of 16 years, although use by anyone under 18 is not recommended.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

PPE should be provided to employees when using chainsaws to give protection against cuts, noise and flying debris. Any other clothing worn should be close fitting and non-snagging.

PPE should include:

- Safety helmet
- Hearing protection
- Eye protection such as safety glasses, full face visor
- Gloves — consideration should be given to protection from the cold or wet and plants/bushes with thorns
- Leg protection incorporating chain clogging material and having all round protection
- Upper body protection such as chainsaw jackets
- Safety boots/gaiters.

Questions to Consider:

- Are there heavy bandages available in chainsaw first aid kit?
- Can the task be outsourced to an external specialist contractor?
- Are chainsaw tasks carried out by a minimum of two people?
- Are staff emergency first aid trained to deal with accidents involving chainsaws?
- Is there a register of authorised users?
- Is your insurance company aware of the chainsaw activities carried out?

TRAINING

Users of chainsaws must be adequately trained and be competent enough in their use for the type of task. Training must be conducted by a suitably qualified instructor.

Any training should detail:

- The risks associated with the chainsaw
- The risks from the type of work to be conducted
- The control measures to avoid these risks

If any work is to be carried out on trees then the user must have been trained for this activity and have the relevant level of competence to do this work.

All chainsaw users should ensure that they attend refresher courses to update their skills and knowledge.

Recommended intervals are:

- Every two to three years for occasional users
- Every five years for full time users.



CHAINSAWS AND THEIR SAFETY

KEY REQUIREMENTS

LONE WORKING

This should be avoided due to the inherent dangers of chainsaw use. If someone works alone and a serious accident happens then that person could lie for a long time unnoticed with a potentially life-threatening injury.

If lone working cannot be avoided then a standard operating procedure should be created for this.

This should include but is not limited to:

- Supplying the employee with a two-way radio or ensuring that they carry a mobile phone; Ensure there is adequate mobile phone signal coverage in all areas being worked
- Mobile phones should be programmed with emergency contact numbers as fast dial
- Where mobile phones are relied on they must be shown to have adequate battery power at the start of the working day
- Ensuring that the employee is contacted on a regular basis
- Ensuring that, where possible, lone workers can be observed from a distance
- Checking on the employee if they have not arrived back from the job site after the time allocated for completion.

WORK AT HEIGHT

Work at height with chainsaws is a specialised task. Only people that have been suitably trained to use chainsaws at height should be allowed to do this type of task due to increased risk of injury.

Consideration needs to be given to overhead power lines and cables to ensure these are not cut during chainsaw operations.

Mobile lifting platforms should be used for any work at height involving chainsaws. Ensure that employees are trained in the safe use of the lifting platform.

Ladders should be avoided as a user requires the use of both hands when using a chainsaw.

Where harnesses and fall arrest systems are used, operatives must be trained in their use and how to rescue suspended persons. Harnesses and ropes will be subject to the LOLER regulations and will require inspection and examination at least every six months

For more information head to the GTC website



CHAINSaws SAFE USAGE

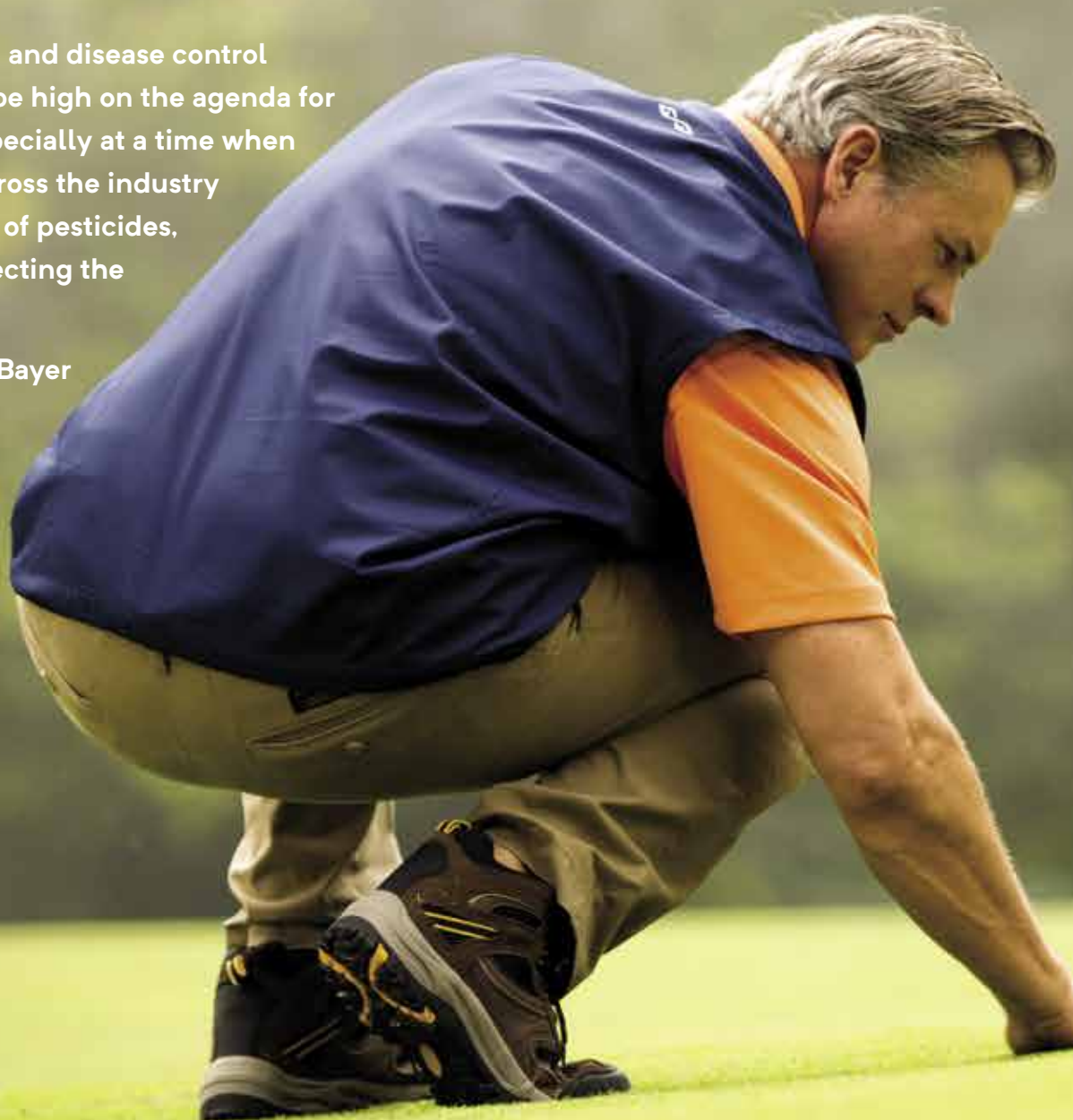


Stay in touch with pesticide stewardship

Sprayers

Stewardship of pest and disease control treatments should be high on the agenda for any golf course, especially at a time when there is pressure across the industry to decrease the use of pesticides, with an aim of protecting the environment.

Dr Colin Mumford, Bayer technical manager, highlights some of the key aspects of stewardship that all greenkeepers should consider in their daily routines, particularly at this time of year when disease risk is high.



Check the label

Carefully read the label as this is a legal document that contains vital information for effective and sustainable use.

When, where and how often applications can be made, as well as the application rate, will all be listed on the label. Buffer zone requirements will also be included to provide guidance on the use of the product near watercourses, with an aim of protecting against contamination.

Generally, most products have a five-metre buffer zone, but those more hazardous to aquatic life will have a bigger buffer zone.

However, there are some exemptions to this, which are granted with a 'LERAP' (Localised Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides) code. For example, you may find a product with a 'LERAP B' code that states you can apply the product closer to a ditch if it's dry.

Check the weather forecast

The environmental conditions should always be taken into consideration before spraying anything onto turf. Ideally you want a dry, not too sunny day, with a slight breeze.

The ideal wind speed for spraying is 2 to 4 mph. To help avoid spray drift reaching non-target areas use low drift nozzles and never spray on a windy day.

Know your area

The next step to consider is the size of the green being treated, so a site survey may be necessary, especially if a new area is being worked on.

The area of land being covered will dictate how your sprayer needs to be calibrated. I'd suggest using a free to download tool such as the TurfXpert app to help measure your greens and then calibrate your sprayer accordingly.

This will ensure that you're not applying too much or too little pesticide, and that wastage is minimised.

Prepare your equipment

Recent regulations state that all sprayers must be regularly tested in accordance with NSTS legislation. For most greenkeeping equipment, testing will be required every three to six years, depending on boom width.

This ensures the equipment is in good working order and helps to highlight areas of concern.

Once equipment is approved for use, the product being applied may require the use of low drift nozzles, to adhere to stewardship guidelines. So again, it's essential to check the label for these details.

If you're still concerned about spray drift, especially when working in a particularly windy area, fitting a shroud onto your spray boom can be a useful option to help avoid this issue.

Consider all options

To ensure the use of pesticides is kept to a minimum and control is effective, the use of cultural and biological controls should be considered before turning to products with chemical active ingredients.

There are a number of cultural practices that greenkeepers can employ to minimise the disease threat. Aeration can relieve compaction and drought stress by allowing roots to grow deep into the soil to uptake water and nutrients.

Ensuring surfaces are kept as dry as possible creates a hostile environment for disease.

A good biological option for disease prevention is to introduce new grass species with proven stress tolerances to your greens. These help to improve the turf's composition, and reduce the chance of diseases such as Microdochium Patch taking hold.

An integrated disease management programme will use pesticides to complement the cultural and biological approaches. It's recommended, however, to apply fungicide preventatively to stop disease development before it has a chance to take hold and cause further damage to your turf.

Protect the operator

It's not only the environment that needs protection, the operator should always take their safety very seriously.

It is essential that staff members are suitably trained and qualified for the task they set out to do. Anyone applying pesticides should hold the appropriate pesticide application qualifications.

The minimum requirements for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for each specific product can be found on the product label. This often includes equipment from gloves and clothing to face protection.

Application equipment can be adapted to reduce operator exposure. For example, low level hoppers reduce the need to lift chemical bottles up high, minimising the spill risk, while a tank filling system such as the EasyFlow can eliminate exposure to product concentrates.

Once the operator is appropriately protected, it's good practice to fill the tank in a bunded area, ideally with a washdown pad. This will allow for any pesticide spillage, or contaminated washings, to be collected and safely disposed of in a waste management system such as the Phytobac, which acts like a bio-bed.

Don't forget the public

Public rights of way run through many golf clubs, and it is a legal requirement to notify visitors that spraying is taking place on the course. I would recommend placing signs near footpaths, that state the product being sprayed, and the reason why.

Often people see a sprayer being used and immediately assume that it's harmful, so it's important to educate them otherwise, allowing them to make an informed decision as to whether they want to walk or play during application.

Continued over

Bayer UK & Ireland

Bayer is a global leader in providing innovative solutions to pest, weed and plant disease problems in the professional non-crop markets. This encompasses the turf and amenity sector, as well as industrial vegetation management and horticulture.

Each year, the company looks to reinvest 10% of its turnover into research and development across the entire business.

The Bayer Turf Solutions Team of experts is BASIS qualified and is available to answer technical questions on the use of plant protection products.

For more information on stewardship and best practice please visit www.environmentalscience.bayer.co.uk or contact a member of the Turf Solutions Team on 00800 1214 9451 or turfsolutions@bayer.com.



Gambetti Sprayers | Gambetti Sprayers are leading the global golf course spraying industry.

Spraying is about delivering accuracy, precision and value. We are innovators in this field and over the past five years have been actively selling and distributing our AMC400s GPS technology with our sprayers.

We have ultra accurate GPS receivers which read over 17 satellites simultaneously. The system cleverly plots your golf course or pitch and knows where every nozzle is. For example, once the green is plotted on satellite it can be stored.

Gambetti will do this for you on the installation. Then, simply drive onto the green and the nozzles will individually turn on automatically. The pressure is there instantly too, so the spray pattern is exact on turn on.

Drive off the end of the green and the nozzles will turn off again. This means only the green is sprayed to its exact shape. This saves chemical, hugely reduces inaccuracies and delivers product where you need it and not where you don't!

To spray on a golf course accurately requires skill. This precision tool will take your spraying to new levels. Cleveland Sprayers, Gambetti's parent company, are working on a new auto steering system which will steer trucks and tractors via satellite as well as automatically treat surf.

This system will be showcased at BTME 2019.
www.clevelandsprayers.com 01361 883 418



Toro | Precision spraying with Toro's multi pro 5800-d

Choosing a dedicated turf sprayer calls for attention to both the vehicle and sprayer, and Toro's Multi Pro 5800-D sprayer has all the basics covered and more.

Good traction and a light footprint for the vehicle, and as for the sprayer — it has to be accurate, reliable and straightforward to operate. And the details count: how easy is the sprayer to calibrate? Can the pump cope with heavy suspensions that need constant agitation?

A 36.5hp engine transports up to 300 gallons of spray tank content and, if you opt for the large optional rinse tank kit, 30 gallons of fresh water too meaning three cycles worth of water can be carried at one time. That kind of capacity means a dramatic increase in productivity as chemical and water refill is far less often.

Continual tank content agitation means chemicals are always applied evenly at the optimum mixing point, while the optional Pro Control feature enables precise calibration responding instantly to the operator's desired flow rate, so spray application stays consistent pass after pass.

The boom can be enhanced with a boom shroud to minimise spray drift in windy conditions, which our links course customers find particularly beneficial, and to make sure nothing slows down operation there's an optional fully-enclosed cab with air conditioning.

Specification:

Engine: 36.5hp Kubota diesel engine

Ground speed: Forward: 0-10mph. Reverse: 0-4mph

Nozzle type: Drift reduction

Spray control: Manual as standard, optional Pro Control

Spray pump: 6-diaphragm adjustable hydraulic drive

Chemical tank capacity: 300 gallon (1,136ltr)

Standard boom (open): 6.1m

Weight: 2,882lbs (1,307kg)

Dimensions with spray system:

Height: 1.46m. Length: 3.91m booms

forward. Width: 1.75m booms forward

Warranty: 2-year limited warranty



EDUCATE EXHIBIT EVOLVE

BTME 2019 | 22-24 January 2019

Harrogate Convention Centre | btme.org.uk

The turf industry is rapidly changing. Autonomous machinery, pioneering grass species and state of the art turf health products are redefining how turf professionals achieve their goals.

BTME, too, is evolving, and 2019 will see the exhibition expand into alternative facilities in the Harrogate Convention Centre providing visitors with an enhanced BTME experience.



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association



What next for the humble utility vehicle?

Did you know that at the Ryder Cup there were more than 40 turf utility vehicles utilised by members of the greenkeeping team?

Thirty more utility vehicles were used to provide operational support to staff and volunteers involved in the staging of the event, providing assistance with duties such as moving 600km of television cabling and 25km of rope, used around the course to cordon off fairways.

They may not get the headlines, but utility vehicles prove their worth every day — not just at the Ryder Cup but at golf courses everywhere.

At every Ryder Cup since 1997, it has been Club Car who has been official supplier of vehicles and Jean-Michel Cortinavis, sales leader for Europe, Middle East and Africa, explained what he believed the most important asset of a utility vehicle.

“One of the most important things that greenkeepers need from us is reliability,” he said. “Greenkeepers need to know that if they have a job that needs doing, our cars will not let them down.”

Increasingly, the ability to accessorise your utility vehicle has become important. Cargo boxes, brushguards, trailer hitches, places to put your switch. It seems the options are endless. Club Car has recognised this with its turf package offering smaller wheels for a smaller turn radius and the removal of steering stops.

But greenkeepers themselves are typically innovative in how they have adapted their equipment, as you would expect.

“A Workman is a workhorse and puts in the hours,” said Nigel Broadwith of the fleet of Toro utility vehicles he has available at John O’Gaunt. “We use ours for divoting tees, topping up bunkers with sand, turf and tree work and transportation. We even have one whose body we have removed and replaced with a topdresser for that sole use.

“The machines comfortably seat two men and in the rare times when we have issues with player’s golf trollies, we’ve been more than happy to pick up members and transport them

‘One of the things greenkeepers need from us most of all is reliability’

Jean-Michel Cortinavis, sales leader for Europe, Middle East and Africa





around the course in the Workmans.”

So, with increasing variety of usages and no sign of the demand for utility vehicles lessening among greenkeepers, what are the major manufacturers focussing on for the next generation of vehicles?

Peter Nelder, who is based at John Deere’s European headquarters in Mannheim, Germany, said the future of UTVs runs in electric power, when the cost catches up with the demand.

“We have the technology,” he explained. “And we could utilise it, but it wouldn’t make a commercially viable product. Greenkeepers ask us regularly whether we are pursuing alternative fuels and we have released the Gator TE. But at the moment, electric fuel won’t be rolled out across our entire range.

“As the wider economy accelerates into this type of fuelling, such as cars and vans, then it brings the cost of the technology much more into the realm of these vehicles. It’s just about judging when to strike.”

From the iconic images of Ryder Cup captains hurrying around host venues on their Club Cars, to the regular images we feature in Greenkeeper International of course dogs taking their favourite seat on the utility vehicle beside their owner, it’s clear that UTVs remain one of the most useful and adaptable tools when it comes to life around the golf course.



‘As the wider economy accelerates into this type of fuelling, such as cars and vans, then it brings the cost of the technology much more into the realm of these vehicles.’

Peter Kelder

Textron Specialized Vehicles | The 'go anywhere' cushman utility vehicles

Textron Specialized Vehicles, the Ipswich-based manufacturer of turf maintenance equipment, is the European distributor for the range of Cushman utility vehicles. From heavy duty vehicles with excellent load carrying ability to electric vehicles with an impressive range of 50 miles, there's a product offering to suit all applications.

The premier UTV in the range is the recently re-designed Cushman 1600XDR-2, a road homologated 4x4 all-terrain utility vehicle, which features a powerful 24hp, 1,007cc three-cylinder OHV diesel engine with plenty of grunt to handle tough landscaping tasks on rough terrain. An advanced design brings superior levels of comfort, usability and performance while maintaining the flexibility of an optional hydraulic power source, dump kit and a rear hitch receiver.

The all-electric Cushman Hauler PRO and PRO X feature a 72-volt AC drivetrain providing the range and power once exclusive to petrol-powered machines.

Upgraded from more traditional 48-volt systems, the 72-volt drivetrain in the new Hauler PRO will provide up to 50 fully-loaded miles between charges. The patented AC Drive technology also ensures that the

Hauler PRO maintains consistent power and performance from the first pre-dawn chores to the last light of dusk, without the noisy drone of a petrol engine.

The Cushman Hauler PRO X has all the attributes of the Hauler PRO, but due to its lifted suspension has a higher ground clearance enabling it to tackle the roughest terrain.

For more information please visit the website at www.cushman.co.uk or call 01473 270 000.

TEXTRON
SPECIALIZED VEHICLES



Price Turfcare | Ventrac making its mark in the golf sector

Price Turfcare, based near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, has been the UK Ventrac distributor for the past 20 months and in that time the Ventrac 4500 compact tractor with its numerous attachments has been widely accepted as an indispensable tool for golf course management.

Peter Pattenden, the Golf Courses and Estates Manager at Carden Park, was one of the first turf professionals to appreciate its benefits. His initial machine was delivered with a selection of accessories including Contour deck, Tough Cut deck, Stump Grinder, Edger, Blower and Power Broom. He has recently taken delivery of a second machine.

"Every piece of equipment we buy has to earn its keep and this Ventrac certainly falls into this category. I've been buying machinery since 1996, so I can honestly say this is one of the best machines I have ever bought! It has uplifted the presentation of the estate in the short time that we've had it."

Bryn Preece, the head greenkeeper at Wrotham Heath Golf Club near Sevenoaks in Kent says,

"We have begun a five-year planned process of returning our heathland course to a more traditional state and in its first couple of weeks it proved its worth. The ToughCut deck easily removes bracken allowing the underlying heather to thrive. It can go anywhere on the

course and tackles any slopes with ease. We do everything in-house and the versatility is amazing. This is one of the best pieces of equipment that I have ever purchased."



Reesink Turfcare | Toro Workman GTX

Toro's Workman GTX might be light but it offers loads of utility. With over 300 configurations, this turf and grounds crossover utility vehicle is the industry's most versatile platform, with more power, improved steering and an exclusive suspension and braking system, also making it the most practical and comfortable in its mid-duty class.

Reesink Turfcare's national sales manager Jeff Anguige comments: "The GTX is an exceptionally versatile and powerful machine. A host of additional features means the new model meets high power and performance standards, while also being incredibly comfortable to drive. Being more compact and lightweight means it's kind to turf and power hasn't been substituted for a light tread; this machine has both."

Available in petrol or electric versions, the adaptable Workman GTX is first in the range to offer the option to seat four, working as a personnel carrier as well as materials carrier, and does so "without compromising on power, comfort or control," says Jeff. "It's a worthy addition to the range and really complements the existing line-up of Toro utility vehicles."



Machine spec:

Power: 429 cc, air-cooled, single-cylinder Kohler or 48volt brushless AC electric
Steering: Manual rack and pinion. 2.75 turns lock-to-lock
 Turning clearance circle: 6.30m. Inside turning radius: 153cm
Brakes: Front- and rear-wheel hydraulic disc
Suspension: Front Modified MacPherson strut. Rear-articulating swing arm with adjustable coil springs
Suspension Travel: Front 88.9mm. Rear 101.6mm
Fuel capacity(petrol): 18.9 litres
Transport speed: Variable up to 16mph/25.6km/h
 Ground clearance: Front: 21.6mm. Rear: 15.5mm
Tyres: Front and rear 20x8 -10 4-ply turf tyres
Outline dimensions:
 Vehicle — width by length by wheelbase:
 2-seat with bed: 1.20m x 3.00m x 2.20m
 4-seat with bed: 1.20m x 3.60m x 2.90m
 2-seat with 1.80m flatbed: 1.20m x 3.00m x 2.90m



EDUCATE EXHIBIT EVOLVE

BTME 2019 | 22-24 January 2019
 Harrogate Convention Centre | btme.org.uk

With 250 hours of education delivered by more than 60 world-class speakers, Continue to Learn is Europe's most influential and important golf industry event.

The new layout for BTME 2019 sees Continue to Learn positioned right at the heart of the turf management industry's leading exhibition.



BIGGA
 British and International
 Golf Greenkeepers Association



Ernest Doe | Letchworth go with Ernest Doe

Letchworth Golf Club has taken delivery of a new Jacobsen Truckster and Gambetti mounted sprayer as part of a continuing machinery renewal plan.

Letchworth is situated on the edge of the Garden City of Letchworth and is a highly respected club within Hertfordshire, with an experienced team of greenkeepers, headed up by Course Manager Matthew Towler.

The truck and sprayer combination were purchased as replacements for a similar set up but a number of demonstrations took place before a decision was made. Commenting on the purchase Matt said, "We needed to replace an older set up and deliberated long and hard whether to go for a fully dedicated sprayer or continue with truck and separate sprayer unit. We had a number of demos from all the leading manufacturers and decided

the flexibility of the truck and sprayer was the right way to go". He continued, "Having seen the Jacobsen truck up close and on the golf course it quickly became obvious this was the right one for us. It offered a huge carrying capacity in the payload of 1600kgs, excellent climbing ability, good seating position for any size driver and seemed light on its foot print across the golf course".

Once Matt decided on the truck, discussions quickly took place with Ernest Doe & Sons on the best option of sprayer to mount and they recommended the Gambetti 900litre Pro Plus which Matt was able to view at the BTME show.

Matt and his team were not only impressed by the build quality of the Gambetti, but also the ease of use of the AMC rate control system. Daniel Spencer, Deputy Course Manager, commented, "As the main spray

'...We had a number of demos from all the leading manufacturers and decided the flexibility of the truck and sprayer was the right way to go...'



The team at Letchworth take delivery of their sprayer

operator I wanted a system that was user friendly and one that would give me all the information needed. Another criteria was the ease of removal of the sprayer and again the way the Gambetti is set up on the Jacobsen; this is a quick and easy operation".

Finally Matt commented, "The purchase of the Jacobsen Truck and Gambetti sprayer was one that we spent a lot of time on, ensuring we got the right one and we are really pleased with the outcome. The truck is a good solid piece of kit that will work hard for us for many years. The sprayer has worked excellently this season and, again, a good purchase for the club.

"We also purchased the Jacobsen LF570 fairway mower as part of this deal and we are so impressed by Ernest Doe's responses to demonstrations and support of the kit we have bought. This has a huge bearing on a machinery purchase as I need to know we are getting the best back-up and support available and with Ernest Doe, I know I have this".

Ernest Doe is a long established family firm with a network of branches in the South and East of England. Managing Director Colin Doe is the fourth generation of the family to have run the business in its 100+ years of trading with his son, Angus Doe, who is presently the Service Director.

The firm is the UK's largest groundcare, agricultural and construction dealer and supplies a wide range of machinery; from garden mowers and chainsaws to golf buggies and industrial chippers as well as selling outdoor clothing, footwear, garden sundries and hardware across 19 country stores.

Our philosophy is simple: to take a real interest in the needs of our customers; to supply high quality products, underpinned by competent technical advice and comprehensive service back up, to ensure that when you buy from Ernest Doe, you can buy with confidence.



TADDY TAKES ON NEW PARTNERS

Since the start of the year, Tadmarton Heath Golf Club near Banbury in Oxfordshire has seen investment in a new management team, strategic changes to the course under the eye of course architect Ken Moodie and its first ever course maintenance equipment fleet deal with John Deere and local dealer Farol Ltd.

The avowed ambition of golf operations manager John Stubbs, course manager Jim McMurdo and general manager Matt Draper is to achieve a place in the UK's top 100 golf courses.

Already ranked at #91 in National Club Golfer's Top 100 courses in England, Taddy — as the locals call

it — is a classic heathland layout featuring gorse and broom, with an 'inland links' character. It has been described by NCG editor Dan Murphy as "absolutely delightful and quintessentially English, with a pretty stone clubhouse at its centre".

The new machinery has been bought on a five-year John Deere Financial lease deal, including PowerGard maintenance and protection.

The package features 12 John Deere machines, including 220SL walk-behind and 2500E electric hybrid greens mowers, A Model fairway mowers, a 1600T wide area mower and Gator utility vehicles in addition to a Tru-Turf greens roller, Fleming trailers and a Weidenmann Super 600 three-in-one flail mower, collector and verticutter for the rough.

"We wanted to rationalise the existing machinery fleet and deal, which was coming up for renewal," said John Stubbs. "As part of the tender process we met the Farol team for the first time, including Golf and Grass Director James Moore and Area Sales Manager Mike Wheeler. We were looking for a completely open,

John Deere

Working together with our partners



JOHN DEERE

‘The new investment created an amazing wave of interest in the improvements. People regularly come up to me to say how pleased they are with the way things are going...’

honest and transparent deal at the best possible price and we found that Farol and John Deere were very easy to work with all the way through the process.

“Their approach gave us confidence that they could deliver what we needed to help achieve our ambition of becoming the premier all year round course in this area.

“We had plenty of help and advice on which machines would provide the most efficient and affordable solution for the golf course and the club, and in the end the decision to partner with John Deere and Farol was a very straightforward one.”

As it boasts one of the last remaining areas of proper heathland left in the county, the course has undergone a

five-year regeneration project as part of the club's vision to put the traditional heath back into Tadmarton Heath.

More recently, all the bunkers have been redesigned or rebuilt, and Jim McMurdo has begun a process of improving the greens, reducing the more punitive rough areas and raising the overall standard of the course presentation.

“The initial aim has been to make the golf course look a lot more professional and make the greens and rough fairer,” said Jim. “One of the first jobs was to bring the fairway cutting height down to 13mm, which made a massive improvement straight away. The increased differentiation means golfers now find it easier to see

where to play and where to avoid.

“We’ve also opened up all the bunker areas and defined the run-offs around the greens, to help improve the overall playability. It’s really a very simple approach — it’s about uniformity and attention to detail, so that everything in the eye is set up the same way, to create the best overall impression.”

John added: “The new investment created an amazing wave of interest in the improvements. People regularly come up to me to say how pleased they are with the way things are going and new members are joining all the time.

“It was certainly a great confidence boost for us to get the board’s approval to spend what is admittedly a large sum of money for a private golf club.

“It was also good for Jim and his greenkeeping team to know that every single recommendation that was asked for has been delivered.

“Our goal is to maintain the traditions of the golf course, with its history and heritage, but packaged in a forward-thinking way, while also providing a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere as well as first class service throughout the club.”



Tadmarton Heath general manager Matt Draper, John Deere territory manager Nick Ashman, course manager Jim McMurdo, dealer Mike Wheeler of Farol and golf operations manager John Stubbs, with greenkeepers Jordan Cotterell, Daniel Welford, Marcus Hendy and Neil Markham in the back row.

PREPARING YOUR TURF FOR THE OFF SEASON

Autumn brings with it plenty of changes for greenkeepers. With fewer rounds and more favourable growing conditions, the focus shifts from playability and maintenance to winter preparation.

While your to-do list for the course will depend upon the species of turfgrass you manage, many of the practices listed below are still good precautionary measures to take in order to ready your turf for lower temperatures during the winter months.

Evaluate turf sunlight exposure

Adequate sunlight exposure allows grass plants to achieve the desired rate of respiration, photosynthesis, and plant growth. When exposure is compromised, grass plants become significantly weakened, resulting in a depleted root system and lower energy reserves. In turn, this less than optimal condition makes it more difficult for the plant to recover from both wear and winter injury. With shorter days during the winter months, sunlight is already limited. Consider thinning canopies or removing trees that are shading areas of your turf to correct unsuitable lighting conditions. Tree removal can also improve air movement, resulting in a lowered risk of disease on your turf.

Practice Deep Aeration

Aeration is a good practice to relieve any compaction in the soil profile from season round foot traffic, heavy equipment or accumulations of excessive thatch. Practicing deep aeration in the autumn when overall turf stress is low, allows for a quicker recovery. Pairing this process with a soil surfactant application can help speed the recovery time even more.

Overseed in Combination with a Soil Surfactant

A good overseeding programme can be key for autumn and winter play, as well as determining the quality of your turf for the upcoming season. When turf is mowed closely prior to seeding, it can cause significant dry down. While important for getting good seed-soil contact, this practice increases the effect of water repellency at and below the soil surface. This heightened repellency can make it difficult for seedlings to establish properly and can lead to wasted water and grass seed. A proven soil surfactant like Revolution, Dispatch or Primer Select will overcome water repellency, enhance water infiltration, and ensure that applied water wets the soil and seed evenly for faster, more uniform turf germination. For best results, soil surfactants should be applied two weeks before seeding to prepare the soil.

Monitor Soil Moisture

It is important to continually monitor the soil moisture of your greens throughout the season to ensure a healthy return of your turf for the spring. Keeping a record of these levels can also help you compare with winter injury in the spring and allow you to start building a site history.

Continue with regular applications of a proven water management product like Revolution, Zipline or Dispatch Sprayable throughout the winter in order to reap the proven turf health benefits that these products provide. These include the promotion of a drier and firmer surface, keeping water moving through the profile, providing consistency, reducing surface run off, preventing dry down and hydrophobicity from reappearing, increasing photosynthesis and other metabolic functions, as well as assisting with the uptake of applied nutrients.

Ensure adequate turf nutrition

It is vitally important that your turf remains healthy and strong, giving it the best opportunity to withstand harsher weather conditions and combat wear and tear.

The emphasis should be on turf health and not top growth with applications of a proven turf hardener, containing low amounts of Nitrogen but adequate amounts of Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium and Iron, as supplied by the "Tough Turf" combination from Aquatrols.

Conclusion

There is no way to control what the winter season has in store for your turf, but you can take precautionary measures and be best prepared.

Insight

The science of modern greenkeeping

Mix up winter disease control

Insight - Syngenta



Turf
Science
IN ACTION

Working together with our partners

syngenta®

Autumn and early winter weather conditions have proven increasingly variable over recent years — posing new challenges for season-long disease control. Syngenta Technical Manager Glenn Kirby looks at the results of trials using an active mix approach.

Undoubtedly the climate trend in recent years has been for extended milder conditions later into the season. The point at which turf growth slows up is now more difficult to predict and typically more variable across the country.

Prolonged turf growth is really valuable to help recovery from essential autumn management aeration and over seeding. It has been especially important this season, with the opportunity to rebuild strength and carbohydrate reserves after the incredibly difficult summer heat and drought.

How long turf plant growth continues will create a real challenge in appropriate fungicide selection as the seasonal *Microdochium* patch (*Fusarium*) risk rises.

Active combination trials

Research at STRI has looked at tank mixing combinations of fungicide actives that are known to be highly effective against *Microdochium*, but have different modes of action within the plant.

The research has looked at optimising the proportion of the two actives to best meet the prevailing conditions, rates of turf growth and disease risks, through the key autumn and early winter disease control programme.

Used in the trials, Banner Maxx II enables a fast uptake of the systemic propiconazole, which is well suited to cooling conditions, particularly in autumn into winter. Medallion TL is a predominantly contact+ formulation of fludioxonil that coats the leaf surface, along with evidence of some crown uptake and targeting disease spores in thatch.

Assessments of the trial results on the STRI site, managed as a sports turf surface, clearly highlighted the role of the fungicides. With treatments starting mid-October, while surfaces were essentially clean and just 2% visible disease, all the fungicide options were effective right through to the spring.

Results analysis

Without treatment, surface infection

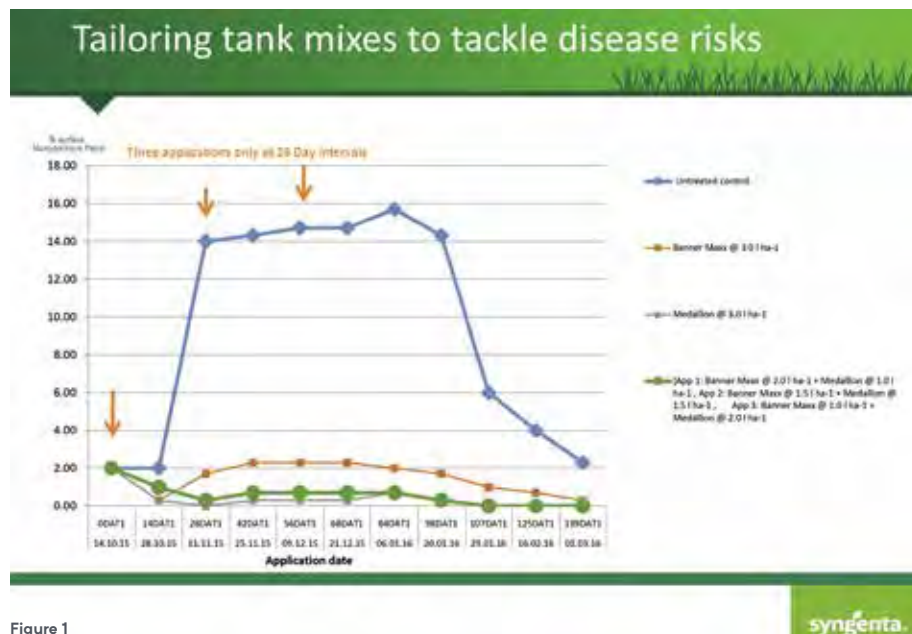


Figure 1

reached 14% by mid-November and worsened through into the New Year.

That compared to a programme of three applications at 28-day intervals, in mid-October; mid-November and mid-December (Figure 1). Starting the programme in October, while there was still time for surface recovery, saw the level of *Microdochium* patch infection decline to less than 1% of surface area after all the treatments.

Including straight Medallion TL in the trial also appeared to demonstrate the highly-effective knockdown of the pathogen population and the persistent suppression of disease and symptoms right through the winter.

The trial also looked at a fixed combination of the two fungicides for each of the three treatments that worked well. But the consistently best results for the whole season of disease control, holding surface infection below 1% throughout, was achieved from a higher rate of Banner Maxx II with the first application; equal rates for the second application and a higher rate of Medallion TL for the third.

The results indicate that the rates of the two fungicides in the mix can be tailored, with a higher proportion of systemic Banner Maxx II while there is greater plant growth activity and moving to more of the Medallion TL as growth slows and the prolonged contact+ activity becomes a priority.

While untreated surfaces did recover into the early spring assessments, the fungicides had kept disease in check throughout and enabled the surfaces to start the spring cleaner with little or no visible signs of infection.

Anti-resistance strategy

One of the key advantages of mixing fungicide actives is to promote a good resistance strategy. While the incidence of recorded resistance or reduced efficacy among turf disease pathogens in the UK is very low, varying actives or using different actives in a mix ensures a wider spectrum of different races within a disease population would be covered.

It is a really important element of reducing the risk of selecting for resistant races to any one active, or group of actives defined by the FRAC guidelines.

Equivalent results for both disease control and anti-resistance strategy can be achieved with pre-formulated multi-active fungicides, such as Instrata or Instrata Elite. However, with a limited number of permitted applications for each option, the ability to understand and tailor the rates of straight fungicides to the situation and disease threat allows a sophisticated targeted approach.



Syngenta Technical Manager Glenn Kirby



Chairman

Stuart Ferguson MG

07578 276082 | [@stufergusonmg](https://twitter.com/stufergusonmg)
stufurg@btinternet.com



**Membership
Services Manager**

John Young

07776 242120
johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Calling young greenkeepers in Scotland! Loch Lomond is embarking on a full course renovation over the next three years that will include the installation of a full irrigation system, drainage, an upgrade of bunkers and a 10" sand cap across fairways and rough areas, before fully re-grassing.

David Cole MG, course superintendent and estates manager, is offering younger BIGGA members the opportunity to visit this exclusive golfing venue for a course walk and presentation to view the work in progress. The dates of the visit are Tuesday 11 and Tuesday 18 December.

Spaces are limited to 20 per day with catering provided. This is a free event and CPD credits will also be available.

To register your interest, contact Membership Services Manager John Young on johnyoung@bigga.co.uk



**East
Grant Moran**

[@BIGGA_ES](https://twitter.com/BIGGA_ES)
grant@mortonhallgc.co.uk



**Central
Craig Boath**

[@CraigBoath](https://twitter.com/CraigBoath)
cboath@carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk



**North of Scotland
Neil Sadler**

gkneil@sky.com

On 27 September we held our autumn outing at Banchory. We joined our autumn outing with our AGM to encourage more members to attend and get their opinions across on how they would like our section to be run. Last year's AGM had 13 members attend and this year we had 32 attend.

On the theme of trying something new, we decided to change the format of the golf. Instead of our usual Stableford competition, we ran a Texas Scramble. We had eight teams taking part. The winning team came from Royal Aberdeen and included Mark McLaren, Euan Polson, David Bruce and Gary Hamilton. In 2nd was the team from Banchory of Richard Mullen, Owen Lawrence, Paul McKay and Steven Shaw.

The 200 club was also drawn and the winners were, Billy Craig and Jim

McCormack (£50), Alan Dykes (£50), Murray Smith (£50), Mark Angus (£50), L Milne (£100), Michael Craig (£100). All should have received their winnings.

At the AGM, we asked the members who were present if they liked the format and when was the best time to have the event. Everyone was in favour of keeping the scramble, but the timing of the event was undecided.

To give ourselves a better identity, we are calling our section North of Scotland. This was voted for unanimously.

We welcomed Mark McLaren and David Rumbles on to the committee and we have had a change in the chairman. George Mitchell has been chairman for the last two years but unfortunately could not attend the outing. He was replaced by myself, Neil Sadler.

I would like to pass our congratulations to Richard Johnstone and David Rumbles, who both got married (not to each other, I should mention).



**SW Scotland
Robert Tosh**

[@bigga_sws](https://twitter.com/bigga_sws)
roberttosh@btinternet.com

Hopefully the recent weather from Storm Ali at the end of September didn't cause too much disruption to your courses. It was certainly sad to see a 200-year-old elm at Loudon Gowf Club succumb to the storm.

The autumn golf day was held at Western Gailes on 10 October. The course was in fantastic condition and, along with the good weather, it made for a great day of golf. Congratulations to Stuart Brown and his team for setting up the course in such superb condition and congratulations to all the winners.

First class was won by Cammy Blair of West Kilbride. Second class was won by Robert Tosh of Kilmarnock Barassie, who also won the trophy for best score on the day. Iain Barr from Largs won both the George Brown Trophy for the lowest score by a course manager, which was kindly donated by Alec Cruikshank, and also the Harry Diamond Trophy for the lowest net total score from the spring and autumn outings combined.



**West
Scott Davidson**

[@BiggaWest](https://twitter.com/BiggaWest)
headGK
@cathcartcastle.net

Congratulations to Gareth Thompson and his wife Emma on the arrival of Ben, brother to their firstborn, Luke.

The section Christmas night out is on Friday 30 November at Mr Singhs. 7pm then on to One Up at 9pm. We have 30 spaces available.

The West Section would like to send its thoughts to Stuart Taylor and staff after the fire to the clubhouse at Glasgow.

Congratulations to Paul Hampsey who has been appointed head greenkeeper at East Renfrewshire.

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the recent passing of our dear friend and colleague Stephen Hogg, at just 56 years of age. Stephen was a past chairman of the West Section and was a well known figure and a friend to many.

Stephen's greenkeeping career began as an apprentice at Crow Wood, before moving to Cawder with Alistair Connell.

In 1985, he was appointed head greenkeeper at Drumpellier.

After 11 years he moved to Portugal to take up the position of courses manager at Quinta De Lago. Unfortunately, due to his young family not settling abroad, Stephen returned home and, after a short spell working with Scottish Grass Machinery, returned to his home club at Crow Wood, as course manager.

In 2010, Stephen moved on to North Lanarkshire Leisure Trust, where he was appointed Golf Manager, later taking the added responsibility for the maintenance of the trust's artificial sports surfaces.

Stephen's wife Marie, and his children, Sean and Rebecca, would like to thank his friends in the industry for the kind wishes and the show of support at the service, which was a great comfort.

The West Section Autumn Outing was held on 13 October at Douglas Park.

Thanks to Course Manager Drew McKechnie and his staff. A great day was had by all in attendance. Results. 1st class: 1st, Brian Hillen, Drumpellier; 2nd, Scott McTaggart, Ralston; 3rd, Chris Prior, Bearsden. 2nd class: 1st, Paul Hamilton, Ralston; 2nd, Ryan Brennan, Glasgow; 3rd, Ronnie Myles, Buchanan Castle. Visitor, George Roberts, Captain, Douglas Park. Longest drive, Scott Davidson, Cathcart Castle; Nearest the pin, Alan Jack, Aquatrols.



**Northern Ireland
Phillip Snellin**

[@PhillipSnellin](https://twitter.com/PhillipSnellin)
philsnellin77@hotmail.com

Thank you
to our section
sponsors

Section News

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

Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk



Chairman

Chris Sheehan
07531 760545
wdgcGK@gmail.com



**Membership
Services Manager**

Sandra Raper
07866 366966 | @BIGGANorthReg
sandra@bigga.co.uk



**Cleveland
Anthony McGeough**
amcgeough@
aol.com

Cleveland's autumn tournament was held at Bishop Auckland, which was in fantastic condition.

I know we always say the host course was in great condition, but Dave Jobey and his team have set the bar pretty high. Well done guys.

Results: longest drive, Tom Smith; nearest the pin, Mark Brown; 3rd. John Talbot, 28pts; 2nd, Roger Douglas, 28pts; 1st, Iain Leversuch, 31pts.

The go-karting challenge versus the BIGGA North East ended in defeat. Not even the valiant efforts of Iain Leversuch could help our team. With Sunday drivers like me, we were always up against it! Massive thanks to Alan Morton of TSL for sponsoring the day and to Terry Charlton for stepping in to make sure everything ran smoothly.



**North West
Steve Hemsley**
@BIGGANorthWest
steven.hemsley1@
ntlworld.com



**North East
Paul Walton**
@paul_walton20
paul_walton14@hot-
mail.co.uk

Tyneside has had two of their greens, the 8th and 17th, drained using PCDrainage.

These were the two wettest greens on the course and were on temporary greens for most of the winter. Work was carried out by Cameron McMillan and his team from DJUKE.

They arrived on 25 September to measure up and cut ropes to size.

The morning of 26 September the drainage was installed. This took around three hours per green to complete.

Drains were installed at approximately 1m spacings at a depth of 300mm. The PCDrainage was drilled and sealed into 110mm non-perforated twin wall pipe.

All drainage outlets were dug out in-house prior to DJUKE's arrival and both greens were back in play the following afternoon.

The North East greenkeepers took on the Cleveland section at go-karting

earlier last month. The North East came out on top. Thank you to the sponsors TurfCare for supplying trophies for the event and thanks to everyone that turned up and supported it.



**Yorkshire
Rob Gee**
@Rob_Grn
robgee.O3@
blueyonder.co.uk

After this summer's drought, it's never been more important to have a good working irrigation system and just as important to have enough water to supply the system for the required areas.

Perhaps problems need addressing through the winter period so we are all prepared for what may be another dry summer. I would explain the needs for a reliable system to a committee member as a bit like having an insurance policy. If you have a mishap, insurance policies are there to help solve the problem.

What a great day at Hesse for the Yorkshire Section Tournament. Thank you to James Neve and the team for preparing a great course and to Hesse for hosting the event. Thank you to Aquatrols for sponsoring the event and to everyone who attended.

The results were: 1st, Craig Sanderson, 32 points; 2nd, Simon Oliver; 31pts on count back; 3rd, Dave Collins 31pts, 4th, Frank Stewart, 30pts; Nearest the pin on the 8th, Dave Collins; Trade Prize, Craig Lalley, ICL.

Next golf day and AGM is at West Bradford on Wednesday 21 November. 10am for bacon/coffee before play. AGM, and Christmas dinner after play. Christmas jumper competition open to all. It would be great to see you there.

Adrian Robertshaw has sadly passed away. Adrian was elected chairman of BGGA in 1970, representing BGGA at an international greekeeping meeting in Edinburgh in 1978. Adrian moved from being head greenkeeper at Otley to head greenkeeper at Ilkley on 1 January 1969. Adrian trained many greenkeepers, including Duncan Campbell, head greenkeeper at Ilkley Golf Club, Ian Pullen and many more who remain within the industry.



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

It was a great attendance for the golf outing at Ganton. The weather was superb, as was the course and hospitality from all at Ganton. Our thanks to our sponsors, Mansfield Sands, Rigby Taylor, Premier Pitches and Russell Groundcare.

We really were all winners on such a great day. However, the prizes were presented to the overall winner David Thompson with a Stableford score of 39, Adrian Keys runner up with 37, third place was Jonathan Conway with 36 points. The trade prize was won by Mike Bear with 37 points, nearest the pin on the 5th was won by Chris Manthorpe and nearest the pin on the 18th was won by Adrian Keys. Thanks to everyone who made the journey to support the event.

The Christmas competition and AGM will be held at Worksop Golf Club on 5 December 2018. To book a place please email your name and handicap to Sandra@bigga.co.uk.



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

Thank you to Aberdovey for hosting the autumn golf day. If you didn't play, you missed an absolute treat. The weather was sunny, warm and very little wind.

It was a long drive there and back, but well worth it. The course was in fantastic condition, especially the greens. They were very fast, firm and probably the best I've played on and so large in size.

I'm sure we'll be back there for future events. Thanks to Steven and his greenstaff for preparing the course and to the bar and catering staff for making it a memorable day.

Thank you to Charlie's for sponsoring the day and to Kev for driving round the course, providing us with much-needed water and chocolate.

It was also nice to see Terry Adamson playing golf again.

The results are: 1st, Rhys Butler, Peter Lacey, Mark Tucker and Andrew Cornes; 2nd, Jon Gamble, Ken Stephens, Mark Lloyd and Mark Fletcher; Birdie 2's, Andy Peel, Rhys Butler, Andrew Cornes, Mark Tucker, Ken Stephens and Jo Davies.

Dave Lewis of Conwy has left the industry after 39 years at the club. We wish him all the best for the future.

Our next golf event is at Conwy on Wednesday 5 December. Book your tee times with James Hampson, email address is Hampson17@hotmail.com.



Section News

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

Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk



Chairman

Andrew Laing

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



**Membership
Services Manager**

Roger Butler

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



BB&O

Craig Earnshaw

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

We're not normally craving warm, wet conditions at this time of year, but we could do with some of these drought areas to recover.

I know the boot is on the other foot for Graham Down at Harewood Downs. With a massive £300,000 project revamping 38 bunkers, he needs a nice dry autumn for as little disruption as possible.

The project should take four months, consisting of 31 greenside bunkers and seven fairway bunkers. He is managing two contractors while maintaining the course with his six staff. The work looks very professional and the course is in great condition. He is halfway through the project, with six bunkers ready for sand and 12 shaped.

It was great to get over to Harewood Downs and see this project in full swing.

The BB&O Greenkeepers V Trade will take place on 21 November at Billingbear in Binfield.

Details regarding this year's turkey trot will be out soon. This will be a great day at Frilford Heath on 14 December.



Mid Anglia

Darren Mugford

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com

I was very lucky to have attended the Ryder Cup at Le Golf National, which was a stunning weekend of golf with top weather and the result going our way.

The event is like no other in golf with an amazing atmosphere and huge crowds giving a boost to our industry.

On a beautiful October day, 22 players enjoyed the wonderful test of Berkhamsted at our autumn golf day. The course was in stunning condition and our thanks go to Gerald Bruce and his team for providing a great challenge.

We would like to give a big shout to Mark House from Ernest Doe who once again provided all with refreshments at the halfway house.

Results: 1st, Nigel Broadwith, 35pts; 2nd, Gerald Bruce, 33pts; 3rd, Lee Rance, 31pts; trade, John Chamberlain. Nearest the pin: 5th, Chris Carpenter; 15th, Barry McCloskey.

Our ever-popular Turkey Trot will be

held at John O'Gaunt on 20 December so please look out for entry forms and get your forms back to Richard as soon as possible to avoid missing out. As ever teams of four with a minimum of two greenkeepers per team.

An irrigation seminar will be held in late November so please look out for details on social media for information.



East of England

Robert Bemment

r088emo
@hotmail.com

We would like to wish Bruce Hicks all the best on his retirement and thank you for all the hard work over many years of service to our section.

The autumn golf day was held at Cleethorpes on 9 October after being rescheduled. Thanks to Steve Beverley and his staff for the great condition of the course. The day was sponsored by Tom from Fine Turf Machinery.

The overall winner of the day was Ben Lowery with 38pts. Second went to Colin Hopper and third to Zane Pexman.

Nearest the pin went to Tom Evison and nearest in two went to Robin Portess.

Our Christmas competition is to be held on Friday 14 December at Sleaford, sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands. This is our Open Texas Scramble so get in touch with Graham Ives to submit teams via golfer.ives@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Matthew Shaul for successfully being selected for The John Deere TPC Sawgrass volunteer programme for 2019.



Midland

Glen Howard

howie8447@sky.com

The BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Golf Day was held at Penn, hosted by Tim Johnson and his team. A great day was had by all, the weather was perfect and the course was in great shape for us all to play. A big thanks goes out to Tim and his team for putting on a great event.

We also had our summer team event, kindly sponsored by Working Turf and Rigby Taylor. Again we were treated to great weather for the event, held at Harbourne. Jim Gilchrist and his team put a fantastic course on for us, everyone was commenting on the greens and that they

were the best we had played, they were smooth and very quick!

We had 10 teams entered with the following scoring. Results: 1st, G. Howard, P. Bullock, T. Shinkins, J. Shellis, 99pts; 2nd, J. Gilchrist, B. Boucher, S. Howard, V. Cavinue, 95pts; 3rd, A. Trossell, L. Hine, R. Moule, G. Page, 95pts. Nearest pins: 3rd, S. Howard; 6th, A. Trossell, 14th, H. Brook; 18th, A. Moss.

Thank you to all the sponsors for the prizes. Without your generosity these days wouldn't be so enjoyable.

May I wish Adam Moss a speedy recovery after I maimed him off the first tee, I hope your toe is not still black but I'm sure the wife will like the wine!

Rhys Thomas from Blackwell, who has served on the Midland committee, retired after 25 years' service to the section. Rhys was presented with a signed England cricket shirt. Rhys will be sadly missed by all the serving committee and we thank him for his dedication to the Midland section over such a long term.

The Christmas golf tournament is at Copt Heath on Thursday 13 December, sponsored by Banks Amenity. This is a pairs event, to be drawn on the day.



East Midlands

Paul Fowkes

[@pazza20001](#)
pazza20001@gmail.com

We had our AGM Texas Scramble at Mickleover in October.

The winners were the team from Mickleover who were Chris Learmonth, Nick Miller, Richard Seaborn and Brad Green. Thanks to Mansfield Sands and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring this event. Without you these days cannot happen.

We had the final of the AGS pairs competition, with the teams of Paul French and Jordan Baker contesting the final against the defending champions of Nigel Colley and Asa English. The final was held at Coxmoor with Nigel and Asa coming away with the win and defending their title. A massive thanks to Geoff Fenn and Kelly-Marie Clack and all at AGS for sponsoring.

It was a successful month for Nigel Colley and Asa English who, along with Jon Feeley and Thomas Roberts, won the Golf Management Trophy, held at Frilford Heath. Well done to them.

Our next event will be our Christmas event at Charnwood Forest on 12 December. All details will be emailed out very soon.

Thank you
to our section
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Section News

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

Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk



Chairman

Steve Lloyd

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



**Membership
Services Manager**

Tracey Walker

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



Glenn Kirby talking through various Ryder trial plots



The Devon & Cornwall section visited Caldy



One of the newly-constructed bunkers at Hayling Island



The JCB Course

get in touch with Tracey and see if there is any more space to book rooms.

Josh Marshall claims the sponsored place from the section to attend BTME in January.

Hope the rain and storms haven't affected you too much and haven't brought much devastation to the courses in the area.

Any other information that you want put in next month's magazine, get in touch and will post and share.



**Devon & Cornwall
Neil Rogers**

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

Over the last month the section trip to Liverpool took place, we were blessed with some nice weather and more importantly some great hosts.

After a very early start we arrived at Caldy where we were showed around by Carl Crocher, who described the improvements that have been made and what his plans were for this winter.

Then we moved on to Royal Birkdale, where we were showed around by Chris Whittle. I was amazed by how different the course looked without The Open stands and surroundings. The course was in stunning condition and there was a lot of discussion as to the great amount of desirable grass that was present at this Open venue.

Day two took us to the JCB factory followed by the JCB golf course that is the dream of Lord Bamford. I think we were all amazed by the scale of the factory and how much is manufactured in this country.

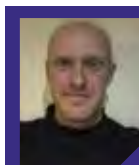
Euan Grant then showed us around the golf course. The site is simply stunning and has taken a lot of work and ultimately money to create the course from what was described to us as a heavy clay site to them hoping to have a tour event there within five years.

All in all it was a great trip enjoyed by those that attended. Thanks to AGS who sponsored the trip.

The next meeting is at Churston on 22 November with a speaker to be confirmed closer to the date.

The Christmas meeting this year is at Newquay on 13 December where Tank Sherman has been booked to make us all laugh!

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



**South West
Dave Taylor**

[@DaveTaylor101](#)
dt_taylor101@
hotmail.co.uk



**South Coast
Jim Fancey**

[@biggasouthcoast](#)
hgk@southwickpark-
golfclub.com

On 3 October we held a turf club at Hayling Island.

It was a great chance to visit this brilliant links course and get a small taste of the challenges faced by Greig Easton and his team.

The course was fantastic and great to see the progress being made and the vision going forward. Thanks for showing us around Greig.

It was an amazing turnout and thank you to everyone who attended and supported this event.

On the morning of the event, ICL, in partnership with Glenn Kirby from Syngenta, hosted a seminar on disease management.

We also looked at several interesting trial plots set up by Glenn Kirby on Ryder spray mixes with wetting agents and Stressbuster. Watch this space!

Many thanks to everyone who made this day happen - it was enjoyed by all.



**South Wales
Tom Howells**

[@BIGGASouthWales](#)
howeller_@
hotmail.com

Now comes the busy time with course maintenance weeks fast approaching and winter projects getting ready to start.

Plenty going on around the section. The irrigation day at The Worcestershire was supported by Rainbird and was well attended.

Don't forget you can now book your BTME seminars, which came in last month's magazine. If you want a room

Section News

**We want to
hear what's
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in your section**

Email your news to
Karl@bigga.co.uk



Chairman
Peter Smith
07715 672568
Pds1@btinternet.com.



Membership Services Manager
Clive Osgood
07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



Membership Services Manager
Kerry Phillips
07715 672568
@BiggaKerry
kerry@bigga.co.uk



charity, Changing Lives for Good.

Please note the section will once again subsidise section members who pay their own fee if they attend the SE Conference, 8 November. For further details please contact Tom Smith, tom@colnevalleygolfclub.co.uk

With the AGM fast approaching on 4 December at Orsett, two places are available on the committee, that of scribe and golf day organiser. Two people have put their names forward but if you would like to be considered, let Tom know by 30 November, tom@colnevalleygolfclub.co.uk



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

Surrey came third in the regional match.

Our team was comprised of Sam Bethell and Jack Percival from Chipstead, Dan Shaw from Cuddington and Aaron Stead from Surrey Downs. Aaron was our highest scorer with 33 points and Jack Sims won one of the nearest the pin prizes. Well done gang!

Once again, the Reps versus greenkeepers event happened at Worplesdon. The Reps were victorious despite the mighty Ryan Hyder and Chris Kelsey losing their match! All the winners are duly invited to next year's competition.

We would like to thank Worplesdon, Chris Lomas, Paul Robinson and the greenkeeping team for allowing us to play our event at such a prestigious course and I believe once again next year we are going to return as well!

Good luck to Derek Cunliffe and Charlie Simpson who are playing Andrew Cornes and Kenny Mackay in the final of the Surrey Bowl on the 18 October at Foxhills. This is Derek and Charlie's third time in the final! The winners will be announced next month.

A big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who made the British Masters a fantastic event. I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to ride and drive some machines I'm not familiar with and even made the TV! I had a great time experiencing what you guys as greenkeepers do on a day-to-day basis. The golf course looked fantastic and I believe it was a very good event all



Section News

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

Email your news to Karl@bigga.co.uk

round! Well done Michael Mann and his team for a brilliant event.



Kent
Darren Burton
@BIGGAKent
dbawol05@gmail.com



East Anglia
Mike Virley
@BIGGAEastAnglia
mikevirley@sky.com



Essex
Tom Smith
@essexbigga
tom@colnevalleygolfclub.co.uk

We would like to congratulate the East Anglia Section on winning the South East Regional team match, with the event hosted by our section at Romford.

On Wednesday 3 October at Little Channels we held the SE Region Partner Showcase Event, with 22 employees from the eight different partners who supported the day attending. They were Avoncrop Amenity Products, Aquatrols Europe, Campey Turf Care Systems, Ernest Does, Iseki UK, John Deere (Tuckwells), Sherriff Amenity and Symbio. Such a level of commitment ensured the 33 delegates who attended were treated to demonstrations and presentations covering a range of topics associated with greenkeeping and sportsturf management. We held a raffle on the day that resulted in the BIGGA Essex Section being able to make a donation to the Little Channels captain's



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



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

As the leaves turn, the section held its autumn competition at the wonderful Piltown heathland course, one of the clubs in the area where Henry Longhurst was a member and was regularly seen playing in the 50s and 60s.

The course was in fantastic condition, well done to Matt and his team on the level of presentation. Something most greenkeepers would envy is the fact that the course has no bunkers, other than in the practice area to give members practice for away matches.

However, the outstanding heathland is a real challenge in its own right. The winners on the day were the team of greenkeepers from Piltown, bit of a home advantage there!

Second came the team from Beauport Park and third were the team from Birch Grove. The section would like to thank Piltown for their hospitality.

On Sunday 23 September it was the official opening of the new hole, including the new lake and the new practice facility at the Ham Manor. Paul Brown and his team have been working for many months to get everything to such an high quality. Well done Paul, I think the section will be asking to come back again soon.

Remember to put a date in your diary for the section's Turkey trot on Friday 7 December at Worthing.



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For more information, talk to your local Aquatrols Europe representative about your Autumn - Winter turf management programme



BIGGA

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

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Everything you need to develop your career in greenkeeping

Careers

NEW: Deputies' Conference

A new educational experience making its debut at Continue to Learn 2019 is the Deputies' Conference, taking place in the HCC's Main Auditorium on Tuesday 22 January.

The conference features a programme of topics designed to help greenkeepers who have ambitions to achieve course management roles and to allow them to be successful when they actually get the role.

For Paul Copsey, the step up to course manager was one he took around 40 years ago.

A regular education speaker, in the intervening period he has been a college lecturer and tutor, as well as group courses manager for Crown Golf, overseeing 30 courses.

He said one of the biggest challenges facing greenkeepers when they take the step into a management position is learning that a large portion of their role is spent in the office, away from the course.

"When you are working in a commercial environment for a large company, the bottom line becomes really important," explained Paul. "When I took the role

with Crown Golf, I found myself sat at a computer looking at early Excel spreadsheets, getting an insight into costs and budgets. That's something you can't learn out on the course."

And budgeting isn't just something that's important for large organisations. In the modern economic climate, when every penny counts, having a good knowledge of budgeting and how to work within cost restraints is something that's important at every level of the game.

"Making sure you get the absolute maximum out of your budget is really important if you are to deliver the product your customers expect," said Paul.

But away from the benefits to the club, the skills gained at the Deputies' Conference are intended to make attendees stand out from the crowd when they apply for that dream course management position.

"It's one of those key management steps," explained Paul. "Deputies spend most of their time out on the course, but sometimes it's what you do in the office that's important. Sitting in front of a calculator isn't very exciting, but it's one of those things that you have to do if you are to make the next step in your career."

"If you backtrack through the last few years, the big talking points in the industry would be the amount of fertiliser we use, ecology and losing certain chemicals. But in the day to day advancement of people's careers, they need to widen the tools in their armoury in terms of budgeting, management and using technology."

"It's something that's easy to overlook, but it's going to be hugely important in your career."

To book your place at the Deputies' Conference and to check out the rest of the Continue to Learn education programme, head to www.btme.org.uk or download the BTME App.



Deputies' Conference

Tuesday 22 January | Main Auditorium

Evaluating the course maintenance budget, deliver course quality and how to come in on target

An insight into how to budget and take control of your purchasing options as the professional custodian of your club or proprietor's investment in purchasing products, machinery and services for the golf course.

Using your phone to manage your facility

Taking a look at some features, add-ons and apps that can turn your smart phone into a valuable assistant.

Life is like a box of chocolates

Progression in your career is usually positive. However, be aware that all is not what it seems. Milestones in your life can come with additional pressures, stresses and strains that, if not realised, can reduce your mental wellbeing and adversely affect your work, home life and decision making.

Bookings are now open for Continue to Learn. Don't miss out!

Golf is a business

The importance of understanding that golf is a business and the head greenkeeper or course manager will benefit from recognising they are an integral part of it.

Maximise your personal impact

Understand the behaviours you need to deliver beyond your current capabilities and leave an exceptional impact in every interaction.



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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



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

Simon Olver, Whitley Bay; Jorge Manso Grandio, Coombe Wood; Phillip Worth, Prestbury; Antony Kirwan, Romford; Ian Nichols, Orsett; Dan Dooley, Mount Murray.



Careers

Apprentice Corner

Alwyn Jones | Coleg Cambria

Storing chemicals

Careers

For those of us who have been in greenkeeping for many years, I am sure there are a thousand stories we could tell about how chemicals were stored, mixed and used in the past.

I remember when I started, worms would be dipped in strychnine and used as bait in mole control. This was done in the brew shed next to the kettle.

I was recently talking to a course manager who used to go with the local farmer collecting turnips, which were put in the back of his truck together with herbicides.

How times have changed and for the better!

With the threat to many of the chemicals at the disposal of the turf manager being removed (in my opinion a good thing), we need to be better equipped in the handling, using and storing of such herbicides.

Considering the potential damage to the environment, having the appropriate training and getting the correct skillset is a must for all those who wish to do so.

Before talking about which certificates you need, let's just touch on grandfather rights. Anyone born before 31 December 1964 could use pesticides commercially without the need for a certificate of competence. That came to an end on 26 November 2015,

meaning anybody wishing to spray a professional product has to be certificated to do so.

For those who are eligible, you can do a level 2 Award in the safe use of pesticides, replacing grandfather rights.

Although there are several Pa courses you can do relating to your profession, the first step for any person wishing to spray a professional product is gaining Pa1 certification.

Before you can do any other spraying qualification you must pass your Pa1. This qualification covers the principles of safe handling and application of pesticides.

Within the qualification you will learn about the legal requirements and the codes of practice that govern the use of pesticides and how to read a label and understand the product information.

You will also learn how to deal with emergency situations and minimise risk of human contamination, as well as minimising the risk of environmental contamination.

As part of the course you will learn how to implement emergency procedures, which should help control the risks involved and any possible damage.

Other parts of the Pa1 course include the safe storage and transportation of pesticides,

the legal requirements and code of practice in keeping records and finally how to manage and dispose of surplus pesticides and their containers.

As you can see we have come a long way. Many would say the rules are too strict, but we are losing many chemicals which are part of the arsenal of a turf manager. To keep them we need to get better at using them and remember they should only be used as a back-up to cultural greenkeeping.



The background of the entire poster is a close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a molecular model. The model consists of black spheres (likely carbon) and white spheres (likely hydrogen) connected by thin white rods. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a blue sky.

EDUCATE EXHIBIT EVOLVE

BTME 2019 | 22-24 January 2019
Harrogate Convention Centre | btme.org.uk

The turf industry is rapidly changing. Autonomous machinery, pioneering grass species and state of the art turf health products are redefining how turf professionals achieve their goals.

BTME, too, is evolving, and 2019 will see the exhibition expand into alternative facilities in the Harrogate Convention Centre providing visitors with an enhanced BTME experience.



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U.S.A | Quality Trainee Greenkeepers wanted

Quality trainee greenkeepers wanted for management training on the best golf courses in the USA. Must be enthusiastic and motivated and have at least NVQ 2 or one year of full-time turfgrass education.

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Check out this youtube video about the programme: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ4vYPZMgjI

Visit our website: www.osu.edu



Course Manager / Head Greenkeeper | Holyhead GC

An exciting opportunity has arisen at Holyhead Golf Club for a highly motivated, forward thinking individual to lead a small team of greenkeepers at this well-established private member golf club with 500 playing members.

See BIGGA website for further details

Salary £25,000 to £30,000 depending on experience and qualifications. Expected start date 1 March 2019

Please apply in the first instance by sending your C.V and covering letter via email to info@holyheadgolfclub.co.uk

Closing Date: 21 November, 2018

Holyhead Golf Club, Lon Garreg Fawr, Trearddur Bay, Anglesey. LL65 2YL

01407 763 279 opt: 1

www.holyheadgolfclub.co.uk



Assistant Greenkeeper Le Golf National, France

Truly the home of golf in France and host of the French Open.

We are currently seeking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic greenkeeper to join our young, dynamic and experienced team.

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Hold NVQ level 2 qualification in Sports turf
- Have 2 years' minimum greenkeeping experience
- The ability to work individually or as part of a multi-language team
- An excellent attention to detail

- Spraying certificate, chainsaw licence appreciated

Package: Competitive salary, overtime, company pension scheme, an opportunity to be involved in presenting one of the top European Tour properties, housing if needed, staff uniform.

Please apply with a covering letter and CV to: lucas.pierre@golf-national.com



Qualified Greenkeeper Machynys Peninsula



Machynys Peninsula Golf & Country Club is a Nicklaus designed 7121 yard modern links Championship Course based in South Wales.

We are seeking to recruit a Qualified Greenkeeper with the following attributes:

- A minimum of NVQ level 2/3 in Sports Turf and Management or equivalent
- A minimum of 5 years' experience as an Assistant Greenkeeper
- Be competent in the use of a wide variety of machinery associated with the job
- Must have a positive work ethic

This is a fantastic opportunity to work on a Nicklaus Design Championship Course.

Applicants should apply in writing or email with current salary details to:

Marcus Weaver (Course Manager)
Machynys Peninsula Golf & Country Club

Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 2DG

Marcus.weaver@machynys.com

Closing date: 30 November 2018

Seasonal greenkeeping Sweden 2019



Interactive Management Agency Limited specialises in the recruitment of sports turf professionals. Our client, GML Sport manages an expanding portfolio of top golf courses across the Stockholm and Gothenburg regions of southern Sweden.

What we're looking for:

- Greenkeepers of all levels of experience and positions
- Formal qualifications in turf management are beneficial
- Experience with machinery or irrigation are desirable
- Flexibility and positivity a must

What we offer:

- Insight and experience of agronomics in a severe climate
- Competitive rates of pay aligned to experience
- **Free Accommodation** including bills & WIFI
- Work clothing included
- 6 month contracts starting spring 2019

Send your CV to info@interactive-management.co.uk or visit www.interactive-management.co.uk.

Technical Sales person

Sherrif Amenity

Sherrif Amenity is the specialist division of Agrovista UK Ltd. we are currently looking to expand our team in Scotland and would like to hear from experienced Amenity Specialists who are interested in joining the leading supplier of turf care and amenity products in the UK.

This exciting opportunity is a technical sales /business development role in which you will develop and maintain business in your trading area by offering sales support and technical advice to new and existing customers.

Preference will be given to those with experience, however we are prepared to provide professional support leading to a BASIS qualification for the right person. To succeed as an amenity specialist you will need to be self-motivated, able to work on your own initiative, demonstrate commercial awareness and have a flexible approach towards working in an industry where seasonal fluctuations frequently dictate the working pattern.

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

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

To apply, please forward your curriculum vitae and covering letter to lisa.pitt@agrovista.co.uk or Lisa Pitt, Agrovista UK Ltd, Rutherford House, Nottingham Science and Technology Park, Beeston, Nottingham, NG7 2PZ.



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Course Manager

Dyrham Park Golf & Country Club

Dyrham Park Golf & Country Club, a prestigious private members' Golf & Country Club in North London, is seeking to recruit a new Course Manager.

The ideal person will be experienced, qualified, motivated and have the drive and passion to deliver a golf course of the highest quality for both members and guests to the Club. The ability to lead and manage an enthusiastic team of greenkeepers is an essential requirement. The Club has recently invested in a fleet of the latest John Deere Machinery, therefore familiarity of working with this equipment would be advantageous.

In addition, candidates will ideally possess the following:

- A successful and varied track record in Golf Course Management
- A minimum NVQ Level 3 in sports Turf Management (or similar) – Level 4 preferred
- Spraying (PA1, PA2, PA6) and Chainsaw qualifications
- Experience and/or a working knowledge of Landfill developments

The successful candidate will be part of the Club's Senior Management team and will play an integral part in the future development and presentation of the golf course.

The Club is offering a remuneration package, appropriate to the importance of the role, in line with BIGGA recommendations. Accommodation may be available if required.

In the first instance, please send a comprehensive CV and covering letter to: David Adams, General Manager, Dyrham Park Country Club, Galley Lane, Barnet, Herts EN5 4RA

By email: gm@dyrhampark.com
Visit our website: www.dyrhampark.com



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Around the Globe

Ronan McKeown | Montgomerie Links, Vietnam

What is the most unusual thing you would tell other BIGGA members about Vietnam?

The amount of staff we have compared to the UK. Typically we have more than 60 staff for an 18-hole course.

Their salary averages about £130 per month and so total staff wages would still be less than most courses in the UK.

Also, most of our staff are female.

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

The course is called Montgomerie Links and is located 300m from the sea. Because of the warm season grass, Paspalum, it does not play like a links.

The amount of water we must use because of the heat means the course plays more like a parkland.

We also have a lot of pine trees.

How does greenkeeping in Vietnam vary from the UK?

There are more staff, golf carts are used more and there are more pests and disease pressures, so the sprayer is out every week.

What is the best part about living in Vietnam?

The people are friendly and the cost of living is low. It costs 50p for a bottle of beer and street food costs around £1 a meal.

What is the worst?

The wet season. We have around 2m of rain in six to eight weeks some years.

How does the weather affect your work?

The summers are very hot, so irrigation is the most important thing. Throughout the wet season there is the possibility of typhoons. Just one destroyed 2,000 trees on our course.

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

We find cobras and green vipers. Both are deadly.

What is your club management structure like?

It is a private club with one owner. There is a general manager, a director of golf and a teaching professional. Most of the time, nearly all decisions relating to the golf course are left up to me.

What is the public perception of golf in Vietnam?

There are only around 50 courses in Vietnam, but two or three new ones are opening every year. Golf is perceived as an elite and expensive sport, but that also means the wealthy Vietnamese want to play and so are putting a lot of money into golf.



Cobra and vipers can prove deadly if not spotted by the team

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

I have always been a BIGGA member, dating back to when I worked in the UK.

What is one tip would you give to British greenkeepers that you have learnt in Vietnam?

The main thing here is that the owner respects my experience and qualifications, as opposed to the UK where most of the greenkeepers have to deal with committees who think they know better than greenkeepers.

So guess what my tip is!



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