

August 2019 | £5.50

Greenkeeper

International

THE
OPEN

148TH ROYAL PORT

A JOB WELL DONE

**Behind the scenes
at The Open**

From the course manager
down to the volunteers
who fixed divots, it's
incredible what you can
achieve with teamwork



IN THIS ISSUE:

Celtic Manor and Caerleon | Thirk & Northallerton | Lanzarote
Aldeburgh | Turf rollers and irons | Personal development
Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists



The combination of precision, quality and tournament support from Jacobsen made it the only brand we could trust to deliver perfection for The Ryder Cup.

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



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Welcome



The BIGGA Delegation to San Diego in 2016

I spoke to you last month about my excitement for The Open and wow, did it deliver.

It was an outstanding championship and the performance by Graeme Beatt and his team was quite spectacular.

Graeme was part of the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show, sponsored by Bernhard and Company, in 2016. During that week, as usual, the group of delegates bonded incredibly well and they all committed to being part of the Portrush crew for The Open. Naturally, life got in the way for some, but it was brilliant to see four of the delegates embedded in the Portrush team for the duration of the event. I was also pleased to see another delegate, Shaun Anderson, attend after his life-threatening health problems.

As it happens, the application process for the delegation is open right now so, if you haven't already, don't delay in applying for a place in Orlando in 2020 ahead of the 30 September deadline.

BIGGA membership carries a number of benefits. Some are exciting opportunities that you



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

It can sometimes feel like you have no one on your own side

hope to enjoy, such as The Open Support Team featured so heavily in this magazine. Other benefits are ones you hope to turn to very rarely, when things aren't going well.

I'm pleased that in this magazine we can announce an important new member benefit. In recent years we have had an ever-increasing number of members suffering under poor management at their clubs. Our legal helpline service is excellent, but very often problems occur before an employment situation becomes a legal matter and

assistance isn't available to help prevent a situation escalating. We now offer a service that fills this gap.

We have agreed a Human Resources telephone helpline with Xact (details on page 57).

Their skilled, qualified advisors are on hand to provide high-level HR advice to all of our members.

Please take advantage of this if you have any concerns over the employment conditions you face or for advice on your own management challenges.

Our team of membership services managers spend a huge amount of time visiting members and listening to their concerns. They do so admirably, but their resources are limited, they aren't able to access everyone who needs help and they aren't qualified in employment law and HR.

Our team will continue to offer support as appropriate, but the external HR helpline is a superb addition.

It can sometimes feel like you have no one on your own side, but this new member benefit will ensure that never needs to be the case again.

Head to the BIGGA website to find out more.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Editor's Notes



Greenkeeper International editor, Karl Hansell

Having only been in the greenkeeping side of the golfing industry for a few years, there's a huge amount that I still have to learn.

Friends will say "how's the grass cutting going?" and I'll sigh, knowing that the next half an hour will be spent explaining how there's so much more to it than they realise. I'll give it a go though, using the experience as practice for when I come face-to-face with a golfing journalist from one of the leading publications who asks the same question. Practice is a vital part of effective communication (and you can find out more about effective ways of rehearsing by listening to Episode 13 of our podcast).

However, I'll be the first to admit that there's still a massive amount that I have to learn. In fact, one of the most important things that I've learnt is that BIGGA members will respect you more if you acknowledge that you don't quite understand what they're discussing and ask them to to explain it further.

Accepting you don't know everything but showing an eagerness to learn is a philosophy at the heart of the association, and that goes for BIGGA staff as much as it does our members.

One of the topics for discussion that I've come across in recent months is whether golf clubs should share resources. Are you strengthening the competition or are you helping to foster positive working relationships? Are you keeping open avenues into the sport or do you work for a business and so should look out for number one, first and foremost? In this magazine we take a look at two clubs that are very much outward-looking out of a desire to improve the perception of the venue in the local community. They make excellent cases and I'm convinced, but then I do have a lot to learn and I'd be interested to hear your perspective on the topic.



Royal Portrush and the BIGGA Open Support Team is featured on page 38. Picture by Ash Youd

With thanks to our contributors

Each month Greenkeeper International is put together with the help of our industry contributors. This month we have features from:



Ian Powell
Ian is regional pitch advisor for the North East and Yorkshire for the Institute of Groundsmanship



Simon Pyett
A greenkeeper at Royal Worlington & Newmarket, Simon was a member of the FTMI class of 2019



Abi Leighton
Freelance writer Abi flew to Lanzarote to discover what it takes to maintain a course on the volcanic island



Mike Richardson
Mike is a professor in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Arkansas, where he focuses on turf production

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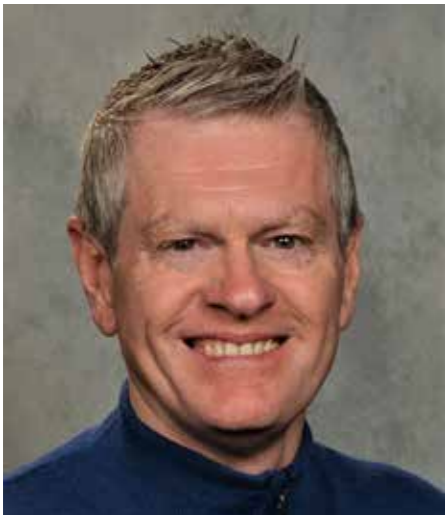
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Where will your thoughts take you?

BIGGA and Campey Turf Care Systems are looking for your stories to share through the BIGGA Excellence in Communication Awards. We have some incredible prizes available to the winners too. To get involved, turn to page nine.



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



TALKING POINTS

The importance of continuous personal and professional development

Phil Helmn MG | General Manager, Sports Turf & Grounds | Goodwood



Do you have a topic that you'd like to discuss? Submit your article to commsawards@bigga.co.uk to be in with a chance of winning a week in Florida!

work-based improvements.

Professional development ensures you continue to be competent in your profession and should continue throughout your career. The process of tracking and documenting these skills, knowledge and experience will help you to stay relevant and updated. Professional development is improved by attending conferences and workshops, maintaining academic credentials, further education, participating in professional organisations

and informally networking with other professionals across your industry.

The key benefits of professional development to the organisation are:

- / Improved knowledge and credibility (trustworthiness in decisions you make)
- / Enhanced existing skills and efficiencies (increased visibility and perceived value)
- / Job satisfaction and retention (has a positive impact on customer service)
- / Up to date and higher confidence in

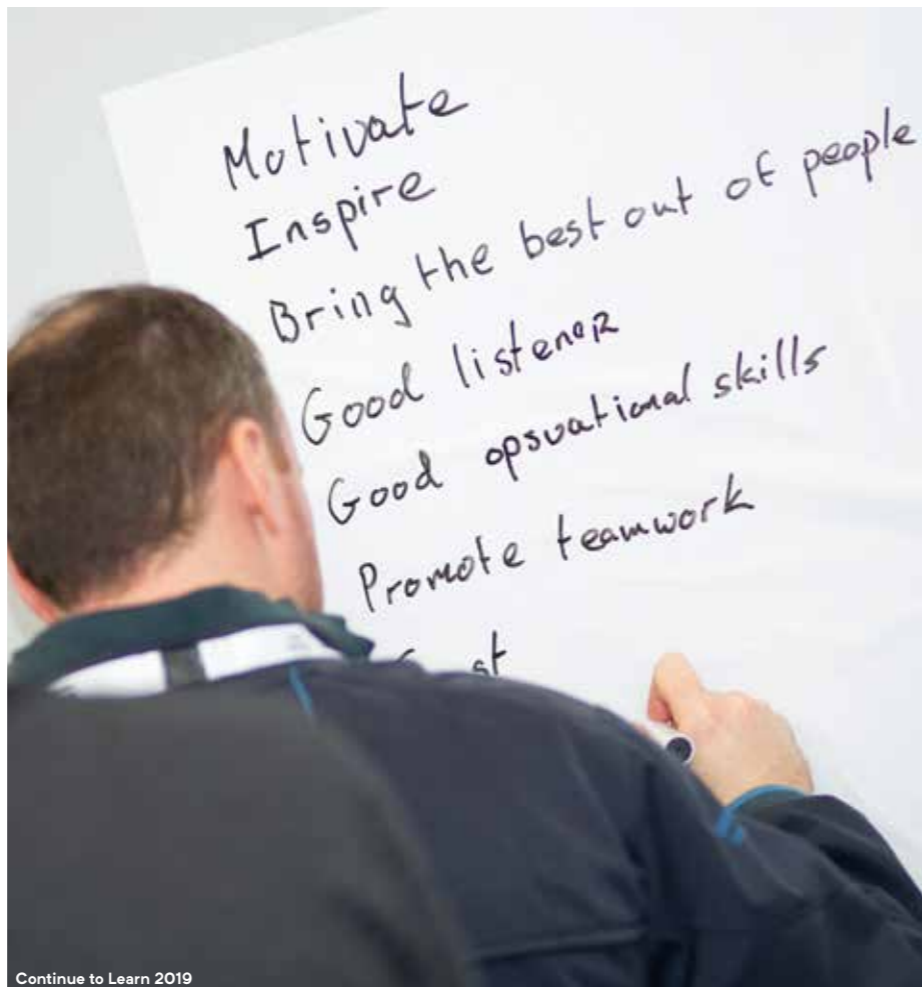
Personal development is highly beneficial to both the individual and the organisation on many levels.

It is a lifelong process that, through analysing and assessing your personal characteristics and qualities, helps you consider your aims in life. By creating a tailor-made plan, highly personal to you, you are able to achieve positive and effective outcomes in your personal life. Ultimately, as you achieve greater self-awareness and knowledge of yourself, your empowerment and effectiveness for your organisation improves.

Key benefits of personal development to the organisation are:

- / Greater self-awareness (able to experience ourselves as individuals)
- / Sense of direction and focus (helps you to prioritise life)
- / Improved effectiveness (helps you deliver results that matter)
- / Motivation and greater resilience (ability to deal with life's stresses and strains)
- / More fulfilling relationships (improved emotional and physical well-being)

Professional development — as opposed to personal development — on the other hand, centres solely on direct



Continue to Learn 2019

- market (can aid increased revenue)
- / Motivation (increased productivity)

The use of reflective practice in personal and professional development

Reflective practice is the action of thinking about or reflecting on your experiences. It is the ability to look closely at a past situation, evaluate what happened and decide what you would do differently next time in order to achieve a more positive outcome. Fundamentally, it is the process of learning from experience, rather than more formal academic learning or knowledge transfer. It is the ability to bring together theory and practice within the context of your own work situations and is a powerful tool towards personal and professional development.

A person who reflects throughout his or her career is not just re-living past events, but is taking an in-depth, conscious look at their own emotions, feelings, actions and responses to these situations. It is this realisation and awareness of individual emotions that helps build personal information to add to his or her existing knowledge base and reach a higher level of understanding. In theory, it is this acquired knowledge that

Ultimately, as you achieve greater self-awareness and knowledge of yourself, your empowerment and effectiveness for your organisation improves.

can then help the individual in future similar situations to manoeuvre themselves and influence others in order to gain better and more positive outcomes.

Benefits of using personal reflective practice include:

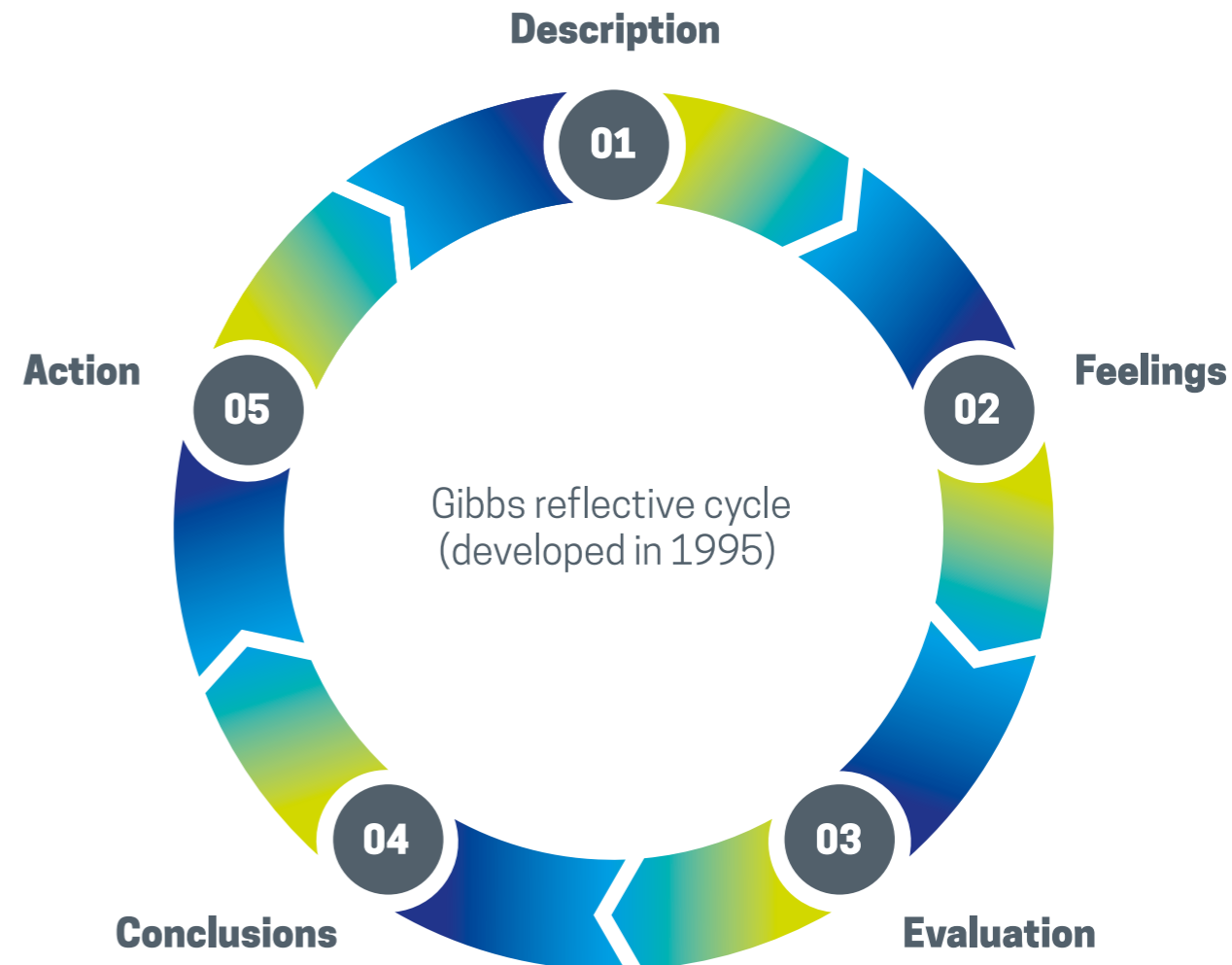
- / Promotion of life-long learning (enhances the knowledge of the world around us)
- / Identification of personal strengths (gaining confidence and self-assurance)
- / Realisation of personal weaknesses (understanding what areas require focus)
- / Identification of educational needs (improved understanding of your path)
- / Acquisition of new knowledge and

skills (stimulates innovation and growth)

The use of reflective practice in professional development is vital in order to better serve not only yourself but the organisation too. By reflecting on situations and interactions with colleagues both above and below helps in achieving more successful outcomes through greater emotional intelligence. The ability to learn from past experiences, modify behaviour and adapt new strategies (don't repeat mistakes) not only increases the potential for success but builds self-confidence and that of the people around you.

Benefits of using professional reflective practice include:

- / Strengthen emotional intelligence (ability to control negative impulsive feelings)
- / Builds integrity and core values (respect is gained through truthfulness and honesty)
- / Greater confidence with colleagues (ability to overcome fear in decision processes)
- / Better understanding of others (improved human connection and empathy)
- / Improved engagement in work processes (greater enthusiasm and greater growth) »





Phil Helms MG at the Goodwood Motor Circuit during the Festival of Speed in July

Approaches to reflective practice

What are the practical methods (or tools) of measuring reflective practice in the work place? Before we can begin, it is important to create the right environment for reflective practice in order for the correct processes to be useful.

Key operational ways to support this type of learning are:

- / Build reflection into your individual learning practices.
- / Become open to your experiences.

- / Keep an eye out for the experiences that lead to the most powerful learning.
- / Create a structure for reflection.
- / Learn from other professionals.

There are many benefits for reflective practice, as we have discussed earlier, but most follow a similar principle of self-awareness of a situation and how it could have been dealt with better. The Gibbs reflective cycle (developed in 1995) requires the individual to search their feelings, as well as their practical involvement, in order to reflect on

possible better outcomes. It requires deep thought and through mental conclusions, drives possible new actions to resolve the same issues if they arise again.

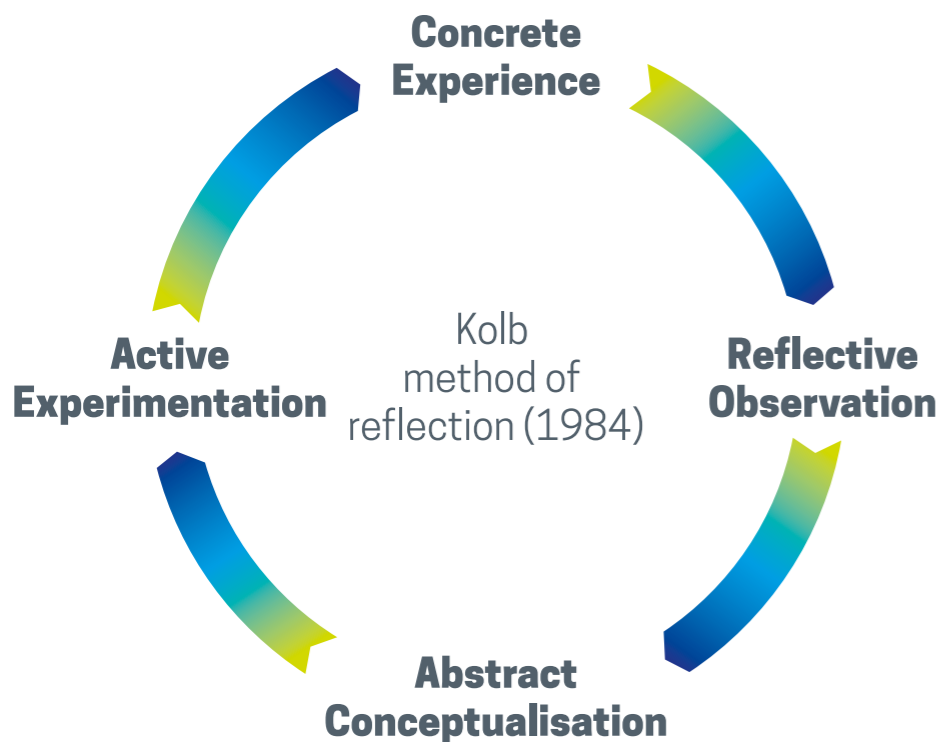
In much the same way, so too does the Kolb method of reflection (1984). It challenges the individual to search for a more conclusive way of tackling the same problem in different ways to achieve better outcomes.

At Goodwood we adopt many other approaches of reflective practice and learning. These take the form of both personal and professional and include appraisals (both self and peer), 360-degree feedback, SMART goal setting with believable paths, individual and group reviews, individual performance focus points and individual and group learning activities.

Currently, methods used in our department at Goodwood are:

- / Insights colour personality test (during our interview process)
- / W3 at each head of department meeting (every month with group)
- / One-to-one monthly appraisals (once every two months on all levels)
- / Performance/progress annual reviews (annually set and tracked throughout the year)
- / Trait Emotional Intelligence interview process (Thomas) (during the interview process)

All have a place in the organisation in order for us to create alternative strategies, open opportunities of influence and help us learn so we can deliver success in the future.



BIGGA EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATION AWARDS

with Campey Turf Care Systems

Additionally, there are two other awards up for grabs.

The New Media award recognises the importance of social media and other digital platforms. Whether you're using social media, podcasts, blogging, video content or anything else to engage with golfers, we want to hear from you.

The Outreach award seeks to reward those BIGGA members who have taken their message outside the normal work boundaries, this can be to the local community, schools, environmental groups or to the wider industry. Any form of communication, including face-to-face qualifies for consideration.

The winners of the New Media and the Outreach awards will both receive a £400 cash prize, with the winners to be revealed on the Campey Turf Care Systems stand at BTME 2020.

To nominate a BIGGA member or team of BIGGA members for an award, email commsawards@bigga.co.uk and put the name of the award in the subject heading, in addition to some information about why you think they should win!

The closing date for entries is 30 November 2019.

Where will your ideas take you?

BIGGA and Campey Turf Care Systems have teamed up to offer one BIGGA member a money-can't-buy trip to Jacksonville, Florida.

All you have to do to enter the Innovation and Thought Leadership category is to put together a feature for Greenkeeper International that discusses your thoughts on an aspect of the greenkeeping industry today.

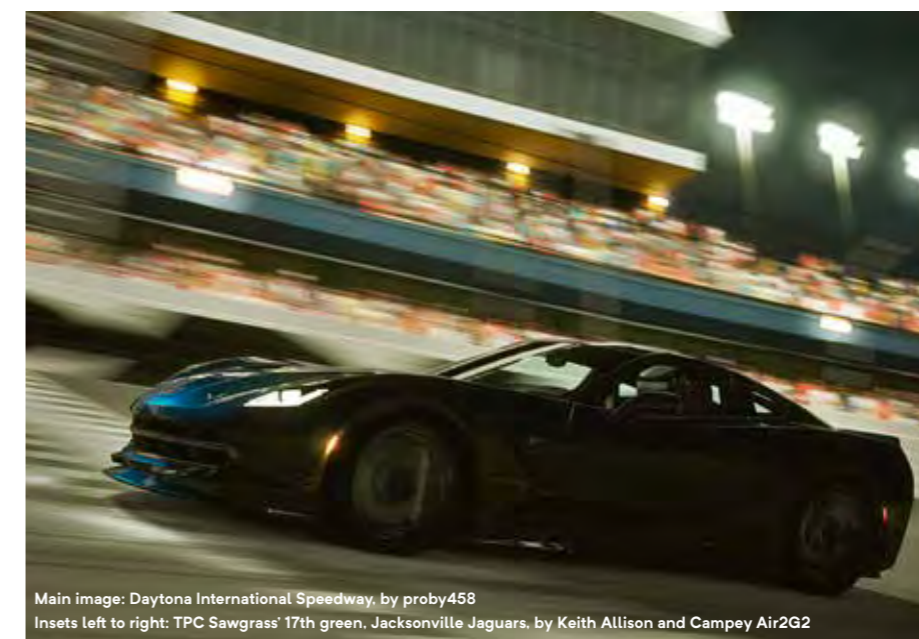
If your article is chosen as the best received throughout the year, you'll win an all-expenses-paid trip to Jacksonville courtesy of Campey Turf Care, where you'll visit the Air2G2 factory, TPC Sawgrass, TIAA Bank Field — the home of the Jacksonville Jaguars — and Daytona International Speedway. There's also a

£750 cash prize, with the winner being revealed at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, taking place on the first evening of BTME 2020.

There are no restrictions on the length of article you write and articles will be judged on content, rather than spelling or grammar ability (we'll tidy that up for you!)

We're looking for you to draw upon your own talent, experience and passion to produce articles that spark debate among fellow members and drive the industry forwards. Each month we'll select an article for inclusion in the magazine, with the author winning £100 in Continue to Learn vouchers.

To submit an article, email commsawards@bigga.co.uk.



Main image: Daytona International Speedway, by proby458
 Insets left to right: TPC Sawgrass' 17th green, Jacksonville Jaguars, by Keith Allison and Campey Air2G2



How to enter...

To submit an article or nominate any BIGGA member(s) email commsawards@bigga.co.uk

The BIGGA Excellence in Communication Awards are brought to you by





ACROSS THE BOARD

Chris Sheehan | BIGGA President | Course Manager | West Derby

As The Open drew to a close on the Sunday evening, with the presentation ceremony cut short due to the threat of impending storms and the winner, Shane Lowry, hurried off for media commitments, I was proud to gather with the BIGGA Open Support Team on the 18th green of Royal Portrush's Dunluce course.

Also stood on the green, still undertaking official duties, was Course Manager Graeme Beatt, who had performed such exemplary work in hosting the championship. Despite his exhaustion after such an intense week, Graeme took the time to come over and thank the volunteer support team for their efforts. It was a great gesture that highlighted what an incredible ambassador for the profession Graeme and his team became throughout the event, while also showcasing the bonds that exist between BIGGA members everywhere.

For my part, The Open week began on the Tuesday prior to the event when I attended the Association of Golf Writers' Dinner, where I had the opportunity to speak with Wilma Erskine, general manager of Royal Portrush. It was through her incredible efforts that The Open returned to the club and there's no better example of what can be achieved if management works with mutual respect for all levels of the club structure – including the greenkeepers – and ensures that all pull together to achieve the same goal.

For Royal Portrush, that goal was the return of The Open and to hold a successful championship. Your own club's ambitions will almost certainly be more modest, but the notion remains true and success will not be achieved unless everyone works together towards clearly established goals.

Also at the dinner was television presenter Ken Brown, who we spoke to



Alongside the BIGGA Volunteer Support Team and Royal Portrush's Graeme Beatt and members of the Royal Portrush team

with a mind to persuading him to include more coverage of greenkeeping practices within the pieces he does. Speaking to him, we got an understanding that no matter how much we'd like greenkeeping to be covered, those who operate television broadcasts are extremely limited on time and the golf itself must always take precedent.

It is clear, however, that the people at the top level of the game have a real understanding of what happens on the course and they appreciate the work that greenkeepers do. The challenge is getting that over to the mainstream media. They want to see famous faces, because they think that's what people want to see. In reality, it's my belief that even casual viewers have a curiosity regarding what it takes to set up a course for any event and so there's a real opportunity for us to engage with the media and inform viewers. The BIGGA website features a number of informative pieces that you can refer your golfers to, while work is underway on the next edition of Your Course, the twice-yearly magazine that goes out to every golf club in the country.

Events such as The Open aren't possible without a huge number of volunteers who give up their free time to help the event achieve incredible standards. However, that's rarely discussed on screen and can lead the viewer to make inappropriate comparisons with their own courses, which usually have significantly less resources. This message is a critical one as it leads to unrealistic expectations from club members and officials which can place intolerable pressure on our members.

Everyone at BIGGA will keep working on this issue at national level and I trust you'll do your part locally to support the cause.



Congratulating Graeme Beatt on his efforts

FUNDING YOUR FUTURE



BIGGA Partners provide incredible opportunities that are exclusive to members of the association. These career-defining opportunities see BIGGA members travel the world, gaining experience and knowledge that helps them elevate standards across the golf greenkeeping profession.



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



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



YOUNG GREENKEEPER'S COMMITTEE

Andy Barr | Greenkeeper | Royal Portrush

We have a saying at Royal Portrush and that is 'pressure is for tyres'.

During The Open we arrived between 3.45am and 4am for a coffee and to charge up, before heading out on to the course between 4am and 4.30am. Once Graeme [Beatt] had told us what to do, we were ready to rock and roll.

Don't get me wrong, there were nerves in the week before The Open, but those nerves are just because I like doing this job so much and I was excited to be able to do what we were doing.

One of the things that really helped me stay calm was listening to music with my earphones in. The music allows me to get into my own rhythm when I'm doing things like hand mowing.

But the approach we took was that The Open was just another day on the course. We set the course up every day for golfers, whether they're professionals or amateurs. The Open was just another standard day and we were doing what we get paid to do.

Graeme had told us well in advance exactly what jobs we were doing and when the volunteers arrived on Sunday morning I was put in charge of leading a team. Graeme was clear that this week would make or break us, but he told us to only do what we were comfortable doing and not to try to do too much, just because of the event.

There was a large team, but we were all confident in what was expected of us. The full-time greenkeepers knew exactly what holes and jobs they had to do, but we also had to bring in the volunteers and make sure they were OK with what was being asked of them. The volunteers seemed relaxed though and because of that, it made us more relaxed.

In many ways, the course is maintained to such a high standard that we didn't feel a huge amount of additional pressure. We just had to work earlier and be off the course before golf started and were then



Alister Beggs, Simon Olver, Adam Newton, Adrian McCullough, Andy Barr and Graeme Beatt

unable to go back out there until the evening, which meant days were long.

I was working with Simon Olver from Whitley Bay, who was volunteering with us, and he asked me whether he could cut the first line on the 18th green one morning. I said sure, work away, because even though it was The Open, we wanted to give our volunteers the best experience that we could. I was cutting the first line on the green most days, but Simon asked if he could try cutting it and I said why not, go for it!

That may sound like I'm putting a lot of trust in him to not make a mess for The Open. But he'd given up his free time to help us out and he was here for a good time, not a bad time. We're all qualified greenkeepers, so why not?

The Open was an unbelievable opportunity for all of us to make memories that we'll keep with us forever. I was so proud to share it with the other members of my team and the volunteers who joined us for the week.

At the presentation ceremony on the final day we formed a guard of honour and Shane Lowry walked down between us to collect the Claret Jug. To have an Irish winner made The Open extra special and the noise on that final day was deafening.

Shane then came over with the trophy and posed for a photograph with us, which was amazing.

The Open was everything I hoped it would be and I'm grateful to have shared it with so many friends and colleagues. Thanks to the preparation and hard work that we put in during the years building up to the tournament, we were able to really enjoy things when it got going and I think that was reflected in how warmly the course was received.

We're all now looking forwards to finding out when we get to do it again!

The Young Greenkeeper's Committee is sponsored by **BARONESS** Quality on Demand

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TEES – SURROUNDS AND SPORTS GROUNDS



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FAIRWAY AND SPORTS GROUNDS

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CUT

Models fitted with Baroness cylinders are the "LM Series"

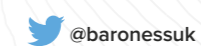
Baroness has invested significantly in cutting technology. Most notably in its bottom blades and cylinder reels that have succeeded in achieving the highest-level of cutting quality and durability. Baroness has always emphasized the quality of its products as a priority and has contributed to the goal of creating the ideal turf through providing the highest **quality of cut**.

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www.baronessuk.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Charity Golf Day

BIGGA's annual charity day returns during August, with all the proceeds from the fun day of golf helping support association members who encounter hardships in their personal and professional lives.

Chesterfield Golf Club in Derbyshire will be hosting the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Charity Golf Tournament on Wednesday 21 August.

BIGGA Golf Partners Rigby Taylor will be sponsoring the event and Chesterfield Course Manager Nick Miles said he was inspired to get involved after taking part in the 2018

event, hosted at Penn GC by Tim Johnson.

Nick said: "The Benevolent Fund has the potential to be so important for members of our association and it can provide assistance if things do go wrong in your personal and professional life, so I wanted to do my part to support the charity."

"Chesterfield is a beautiful course with great views and I'm certain that anyone who plays will have a fantastic day in addition to doing their bit to support this incredibly important charity that supports those in need in our profession."

The charity golf tournament is a fun day where things aren't taken too seriously. With a single tee start from 10am, there will be a long putt competition and a two-course meal following

play. The cost is just £160 per team of four and there are still places available if you'd like to get involved.

Contact Rachael Duffy for more information on rachael@bigga.co.uk



Nick Miles is hosting BIGGA's charity golf day at Chesterfield Golf Club

Get involved with a BIGGA event near you

National

- 1 BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund Charity Golf Tournament**
Date: 21 August
Location: Chesterfield
- 2 STRI Open Days**
Date: 25 to 26 September
Location: STRI - St Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire
- 3 BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Rigby Taylor**
Date: 30 September to 1 October
Location: Formby GC and Formby Ladies GC

Scotland and Northern Ireland

- 1 Willie Woods Golf Competition - East of Scotland**
Date: 15 August
Location: Hirsell GC
- 2 Northern Ireland Golf Championship**
Date: 22 August
Location: Belvoir Park GC
- 3 BIGGA Scotland Golf Championship**
Date: 28 August
Location: Hags Castle GC

- 4 BIGGA Caledonian Quaich - Race to Dornoch 2021**
Date: 5 September
Location: Fortrose & Rosemarkie
- 5 Central Scotland Golf Day**
Date: 10 September
Location: Glenbervie GC
- 6 West of Scotland Golf Day**
Date: 18 September
Location: Glasgow GC

Northern

- 1 North West Summer Golf Day**
Date: 15 August
Location: Ringway GC
- 2 Yorkshire Section Summer Golf Tournament**
Date: 18 August
Location: Bingley St Ives GC

Central England

- 1 Central England Summer Par 3 Event**
Date: 22 August
Location: Beedles Lake GC

South East

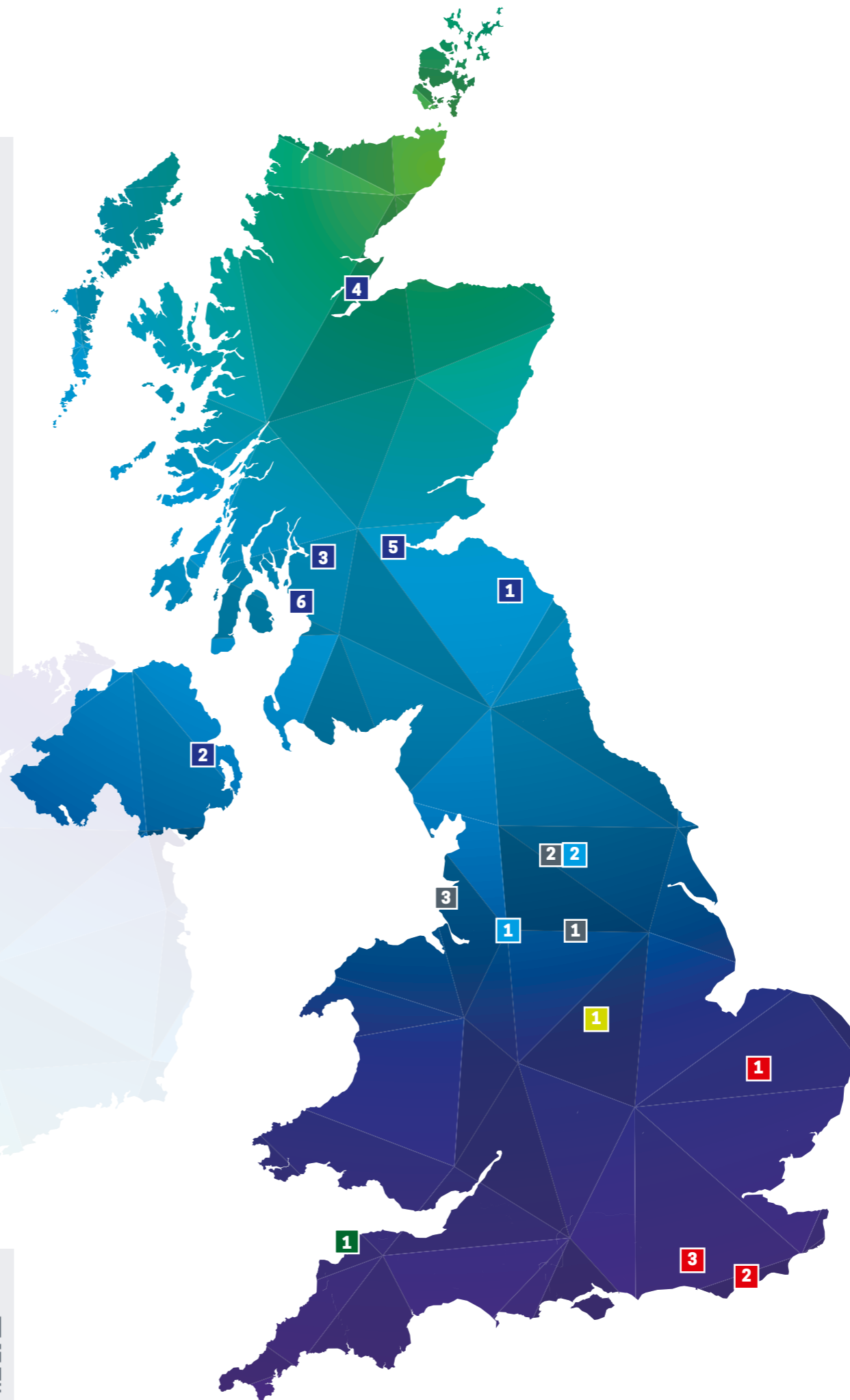
- 1 East Anglia Section Golf Day**
Date: 14 August
Location: Thetford GC
- 2 Sussex Section Autumn Golf Day**
Date: 12 September
Location: Cooden Beach GC
- 3 South East Regional Match**
Date: 26 September
Location: Pyecombe GC

South West & South Wales

- 1 Golf Management Trophy Qualifier**
Date: 18 September
Location: Saunton GC

Don't miss out

Look online to see a full list of the events that are happening near you



Welcome new members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Ciaran Cunningham, Royal County Down, GK; James McDermott, Royal County Down, GK; Patrick Brady, Royal County Down, GK; Alan Thomson, Germinal, ED; Andrew Henry, Kirkcaldy, GK; Matthew Robb, Dumnicker Park, GK; Sean McGirr, Tumberry, GK; David McOwat, Silverknowes, HGK; Connor Falconer, Hamilton, AGK.

Northern

Gavin Brown, Childwall, A; Chris Szoradi, Meltham, APP; Thomas Corps, Swinton Park, APP; Ben Shaw, Sandfield, GK; Jamie South, Stocksbridge & District, GK; Robert Ibbotson, Richmond (Yorks), GK; Ben Riggall, Alder Root, HGK; George Edwards, Wentworth, GK.

Central England

Alfie Poulter, Abbey Hill, APP; Callum Hart, Blankney, APP; Charlie Collins, Manor (Laceby), APP; Joshua Key, Stratford Oaks, APP; Ryan Smith-Tandy, Worcester, APP; David Smith, Easthampstead Park, GK; Corey Dann, Thorpe Wood, AGK; Daniel Clarke, Thorpe Wood, AGK; John James Frankham, Easthampstead Park, AGK; Phil Birch, The Worcestershire, AGK; Stephen Ball, Burnham Beeches, AGK; Stuart Wickham, Kirtlington, AGK.

South East

Jack Carvey, Burnham-on-Crouch, APP; Liam Bregan, Frinton, APP; Oliver Cuthbert, Essex, APP; Steven Vaughan, Frinton, APP; Paul Smith, Millers Barn, AHG; Des Drake, Eastern and Otley College, CA; Dan Mason, Bay View, CM; Billy Britton, Hayes Leisure Parks, DHGK; Aaron Winfield, The Grove, GK; Ben Hyder, Beauport Park, GK; Callum Pridmore, Millers Barn, GK; Cameron Fraser, The Richmond, GK; Mathew Curtis, Easthampstead Park, GK; Nick Harris, Wentworth, GK; Nick Unwin, Harpenden, GK; Fred Sines, Hayes Leisure Parks, G; James Crickmore, Hayes Leisure Parks, HGK; Aaron Hutchinson, Pittdown, AGK; Christopher Elsdon, Bush Hill Park, AGK; Joseph Paris, Brent Valley, AGK; Paul Christie, Rickmansworth, AGK; Sam De St Creix, Hindhead, AGK.

South West & South Wales

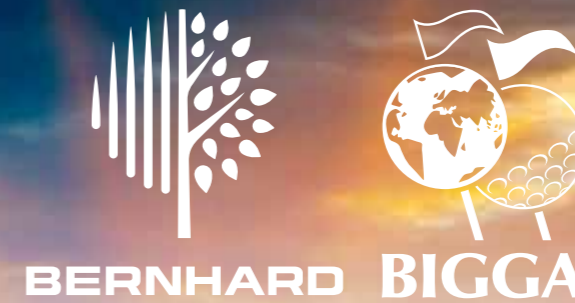
Lewis Frankom, The Players Club, APP; Thomas Dorey, Minchinhampton, APP; Charles Blatchford, China Fleet, GK; Matt Frost, China Fleet, GK; Victor Hackett, Whitley, GK; Alistair Watts, Royal Jersey, M; Charlie Simmonds, Boundary Lakes, AGK; James Wills, Bramshaw, AGK; John Le Cappelain, Royal Jersey, AGK; Thomas James, Tenby, AGK.

International

Charles Harris, Sharjah Golf & Shooting Club; Andrew Halifax, Elea Estate; Jan Van de Craats, The Sportsturf Maintenance Company; Steven Van de Craats, The Sportsturf Maintenance Company; Wybe Jan Nauta, The Sportsturf Maintenance Company.

A	Affiliate Member	FA	First Assistant
AGK	Assistant Greenkeeper	GK	Greenkeeper
AHG	Assistant Head Groundsperson	G	Groundsperson
APP	Apprentice	HGK	Head Greenkeeper
CA	College Assessor	HG	Head Groundsperson
CM	Course Manager	I	International Member
DCM	Deputy Course Manager	L	Life Member
DHGK	Deputy Head Greenkeeper	M	Mechanic
ED	Partner & Education Supporters	S	Student Member
		R	Retired Member

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS



A great opportunity for BIGGA members to join the next BIGGA delegation to the 2020 Golf Industry Show in Orlando

The deadline is 30 September 2019, to complete your application scan the QR code or visit www.bernhard.co.uk/BIGGA2020.



/ The Golf Industry Show is billed as one of the leading events in the turf management calendar. BIGGA and Bernhard and Company are giving you the opportunity to join nine other successful candidates on the trip of a lifetime, where you will visit the show and attend the GCSAA-sponsored educational conference in Orlando, Florida from 25 to 30 January 2020.

/ A place on the trip allows you access to the massive educational conference, while you can expect to meet industry experts and enjoy field trips to top US golf courses, building a network of global contacts.



An unrivalled professional development opportunity

The Bernhard and Company-sponsored BIGGA Delegation will be heading to Orlando in January 2020 to attend the Golf Industry Show, the biggest single event in the industry.

Candidates will be invited for interview with BIGGA and Bernhard in October and 10 successful applicants will be announced in the December issue of Greenkeeper International. Each delegate will receive return flights to

Orlando, hotel accommodation and transfers for the duration of the event, an entry ticket to GIS 2020, two days of seminars at the GCSAA educational conference and a guided tour of a top US course.

To apply for this exclusive opportunity you must be a full BIGGA member. Simply go to www.bernhard.co.uk/BIGGA2020 and complete the online application form by 30 September 2019.

How the delegation 'Opens' doors



The BIGGA delegation 2016 included Shaun Anderson, Graeme Beatt, Darren Burton, Simon Hart, John McLoughlin, and Simon Olver, who were all involved at The Open

At BIGGA we're proud that the opportunities for members that we're able to provide aren't just career-defining in their own right, but the benefits to careers can be far-reaching.

Working alongside our industry partners, member opportunities can take you places you'd never imagined as you forge friendships that can last a lifetime.

The BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show is a great example and during July we were delighted to discover that Royal Portrush course manager Graeme Beatt had invited some of his fellow former delegates to take part in the whole Open experience by helping out around the course.

Graeme, 39, said: "It was amazing to attend the Golf

“ On the trip I met so many guys who have come over to help at The Open...

Industry Show and on the trip I met so many guys who have come over to help at The Open this week. We made some great friendships and it's been really great to catch up with them and give them the opportunity to experience everything that's been going on around the course."

Jokingly, Graeme said that the other delegates weren't shy about asking whether they could help out at The

Open, even three years ago! One of the other delegates who has formed a close friendship with Graeme since their trip with Bernhard and Company is Simon Olver, the course manager at Whitley Bay on Tyneside.

Simon joined the team responsible for preparing the 18th green throughout the championship and said: "I was on the BIGGA delegation three years ago, where I met Graeme and we became good friends, as everyone on that trip did. It's amazing how close we've stayed since the trip, professionally as well as personally and I come over quite a bit with my family to visit Graeme. I'm really grateful to BIGGA and Bernhard and Company for giving me the chance to join the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show — I had no idea that because of it, just four years later I'd be mowing the 18th green ready for the final day's play at The Open!"

You can hear more about Simon's experience at The Open, including how he was responsible for mowing the 18th green during the tournament, in our Open feature in this magazine.



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Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2019

BIGGA has revealed the 11 finalists who will contest this year's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards.

The 31st hosting of the finals of the prestigious awards will take place at BIGGA House in North Yorkshire, following a nationwide search for the country's leading student greenkeepers.

Stuart Green, head of member learning at BIGGA, said: "At a time when golf clubs are finding it increasingly-difficult to attract the next generation of greenkeepers in to the profession, I'm delighted that we had more nominations

than ever before for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards. The extremely high standard of candidates that we interviewed reinforced what a fantastic and rewarding profession this can be.

"I was astounded by the enthusiasm and knowledge for the industry shown by the candidates and it's clear that the future of the industry is in safe hands."

Once again, the awards have been sponsored by turf maintenance equipment manufacturer Toro and distributor Reesink Turfcare.

A record 46 students were nominated for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, with seven

“I was astounded by the enthusiasm and knowledge for the industry shown by the candidates and it's clear that the future of the industry is in safe hands

Stuart Green, BIGGA

talented candidates making it through to the grand finals, to be held on Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 September 2019.

Daryn Curtis, 25, of Farleigh Golf Club in the South East Region, is a finalist and said: "Being able to take part in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Awards has been a phenomenal experience for me, allowing me to meet new people within the industry and to learn and explore my own knowledge alongside them. It's incredible that I have been lucky enough to progress to the final stages."

Up for grabs will also be the fourth Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, which is only open to qualifying students aged 20 or under at the time they were nominated. Four candidates have been invited to attend the finals.

Sam Richards, 20, of Sherborne in the South West



The finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards are held at BIGGA House



BIGGA's Stuart Green

and South Wales Region, is a candidate in the Young category and said: "I really can't put in to words how much it means for me to get through to the final stage.

"I have been working hard for the past couple of years and I am extremely grateful that my hard work and dedication has been recognised. I am looking forward to seeing what the future has in store for me in this career."

Vince DeMarzo of The Wisley is set to become the first student ever to have participated in both awards. Vince was runner-up at the first Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 2016, winning a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME in January 2017.

Each year the awards enable BIGGA to work alongside Toro and Reesink Turfcare, to celebrate the next generation of talented

greenkeepers who are dedicating themselves to a career within the industry.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner will receive an eight-week all expenses paid scholarship to America, including a six-week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts. They will also represent BIGGA and Toro at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida and pay a visit to Toro's facilities.




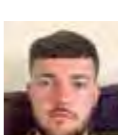
The Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner will receive a work experience placement at the exclusive Vidauban Golf Club in southern France.

They will also receive a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME and enjoy a five-night package that includes hotel, four days of education, travel and £125 expenses, plus a Toro training voucher.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists are:

-  1. Thomas Bird, Sutton Coldfield
-  2. Daryn Curtis, Farleigh
-  3. James Dawson, Outton Hall
-  4. Vince DeMarzo, The Wisley
-  5. Jason Norwood, Rudding Park
-  6. Matthew Strudwick, Royal Norwich
-  7. Nicholas Turner, Royal Dornoch

The Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists are:

-  1. Tom Bromfield, Trentham
-  2. Josh Marshall, The Worcestershire
-  3. Sam Richards, Sherborne
-  4. Lewis Westwood, Celtic Manor



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 /greenkeepers trainingcommittee

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Continuing Professional Development



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

Shaun Cunningham, Mortonhall Golf Club; Matthew Gallagher, RAC (Royal Automobile Club); Jon Methven, St Andrews Links Trust; Craig Hempseed, Mortonhall Golf Club; Stuart Ferguson, West Linton Golf Club; Stefan Carter, Wentworth Club; Andrew Laing, Gaudet Luce Golf Club

Congratulations to the following members who achieved their CPD Milestone this month:

Shaun Cunningham, Mortonhall Golf Club



How to CPD

Are you wondering what CPD is? Would you like to improve your career prospects, but aren't sure where to start?

BIGGA members have access to a range of educational opportunities and almost every event we host enables you to bank CPD credits. You can claim credits for attending seminars, getting involved with schemes or even by reading Greenkeeper International each month.

To get started with your CPD journey, head to the Members' section of the BIGGA website and select Continuing Professional Development. There you'll find resources, the answers to frequently asked questions and details of how you can get CPD approved.

www.bigga.org.uk/member-homepage/continuing-professional-development.html

Proud of your pictures?

Time is running out to enter BIGGA's annual photographic competition. With an Apple iPad up for grabs for the winner, it's an opportunity not to be missed.

To enter the competition, email high quality versions of up to five photographs, along with your name, membership number and club name, to comps@bigga.co.uk before the deadline on Friday 30 August 2019.




Read this for:
/ Sharing resources

Sharing's Caer-ing

Why is Celtic Manor keeping afloat this small, former municipal course?

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Celtic Manor is massive. Let's reel off some stats... The 2010 host of the Ryder Cup is owned by Canadian billionaire Terry Matthews. The £100m Welsh International Conference Centre is under construction and will feature the largest room in Europe. The resort is part of a consortium to construct two new courses in Hoylake and is also converting

the former post office in Cardiff into a five-star hotel. On the resort you'll find GoApe, adventure golf, tennis, polo and many other activities.

So, it may come as a surprise that nestled among the juggernaut's assets is a small 9-hole former municipal course located in a town around five miles away. >>

Caerleon's tale of woe is one you'll have heard a hundred times before. A municipal course handed over to a company to operate on behalf of the local authority, it was losing in excess of £60,000 a year and when budget cuts were discussed, Caerleon was an obvious candidate for closure.

What happened next could provide an interesting lesson for clubs who are seeking new ways of attracting golfers into the game by creating and enhancing pathways. A large club has staff and the resources, and a small club has the advantages of being a low-cost pathway into the game for those interested in taking up the sport. With a little bit of mutual support, there could be a brighter future for everyone.

Jim McKenzie MBE is director of golf courses and estates management at Celtic Manor.

"We didn't have to take on Caerleon," said Jim. "And quite frankly, if we didn't have the backing of Celtic Manor and were instead an independent company, I don't think we could make it work, which brings you back to reality."

"There are many golf clubs closing and, in this area, we've had Raglan Parc, Alice Springs and Dewstow close in the last two years. So that's five 18-hole golf courses just within five miles of our area that have closed down. We can't help them all and many are very independently run by a farmer or land owner, who don't want to ask for help. But I think a lot of the bigger courses can do an awful lot to help their neighbours."

Golf clubs are businesses and they are in many ways in competition with each other. But they also have mutual interests and many are embracing ways they can collaborate for the benefit of all. If you're the town's top golf club, charging in



Jim McKenzie MBE and Alan Quarterman

“If you're a successful club, you've almost a moral responsibility to support other courses

excess of £1,000 per year for membership, how are you going to replenish your membership numbers if the next generation of golfers aren't coming into the game? A cost-effective way may be to engage with the town's pitch and putt, nine-hole, more modest course down the road. They're likely to be struggling with regards to staffing and machinery budgets and could probably do with a helping hand to survive. Just a couple of days each year, lending them some expertise with aeration or other time-consuming tasks could be enough to raise standards and provide the spark that keeps that entry into the game open.

Jim added: "It could be as simple as operating in clusters, where golf clubs market themselves as a group. They can then buy products in clusters as well and in today's difficult climate it's got to be an advantage for three or four clubs to go to a supplier and say 'we don't want 25, we want 100, what's the best price you can do?' Sadly, many clubs are still operating very insularly, very blinkered, and there are many closing down."



Ryder Cup 2010



Caerleon GC

Prior to securing a role at Royal Malta in June, responsibility for maintaining the golf course at Caerleon was 36-year-old Alan Quarterman, who counts Forest of Arden, The Belfry and Wentworth among the places he has worked.

"Caerleon was my baby," said Alan. "When Jim asked whether I was interested in heading down there after the Ryder Cup to operate the club, I bit his hand off because it was such a good opportunity."

"I have three seasonal staff in the summer but through the winter I'm working on my own, so there are a number of tasks that I can't do because it would take me too long to complete. But Jim will sometimes send trainees down from Celtic Manor and we find that it's a really great opportunity for us to teach them many different skills when they first come on board. It can be daunting going out and cutting fairways on the 2010 course. But Caerleon isn't that, we haven't got 50 golfers teeing off behind you on a morning. There aren't those pressures so they can go out on a fairway mower and they can learn the machine in their own

“Sadly, many clubs are still operating very insularly, very blinkered, and there are many closing down.

time and safely, without the pressures of the resort."

Is it too much to suggest that a large championship club may engage a small club in the area as a training ground for its new employees? You get to develop their abilities without impacting your course, while they get the advantage of trained staff and machinery on their course.

The relationship with a smaller club in the locality has also enabled Celtic Manor to connect with the community. There's no direct or measurable benefit to Celtic Manor, but in doing so, they've kept open a pathway for people to first get into the sport.

"Caerleon allows us to engage with the community," said Jim. "Golf's not all about playing at the best clubs with the best equipment. If you're a successful club, you've almost got a moral responsibility to support places like that. We all started playing golf at a local municipal course and we need to ensure that pathway into the sport continues to exist."

Caerleon Golf Club

Located five miles away from the Celtic Manor Resort, Caerleon was constructed on a former racecourse that hosted the Welsh Grand National up until the 1950s. The remains of a Roman villa and potentially a temple to the Roman goddess Athena are buried beneath the course. Located within a bend of the River Usk, Caerleon floods following heavy rainfall, leading to fertile soil that encourages rapid turf growth.



2010 Course at Celtic Manor

Community Responders

Read this for:
 / Machinery banks
 / Resource sharing
 / Community engagement

Could looking outwards provide a boost to what you're able to achieve internally?

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Better machinery and better training. Give us both and we'll give you a better golf course.

It's fair to say that there aren't many greenkeepers who would disagree with such a statement.

The training element comes through your interaction with BIGGA and whether you take advantage of the regional and national education opportunities that are available.

But what about the machinery?

If you're on a tight budget, how do you gain access to funding that allows you to have better resources on your golf course?

At Thirsk and Northallerton, the solution has not only improved the standard of the golf course, but it's also helped to improve playing conditions at sporting venues in the local area.

“By helping to support local communities, it's going to give the golf club a really positive image

The brainchild of Sport England, with assistance and support from the Institute of Groundsmanship-led Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), the club has been able to purchase a range of new machinery through a Sport England grant that was given after the club outlined its plans to act as a contractor, helping maintain other nearby playing surfaces.

Golf clubs have high quality equipment and they also have highly-trained staff that know what it takes to prepare a surface, whether that be a golf course, a cricket pitch or a football pitch.

Local sporting teams often

don't have the budget to hire staff or equipment of their own and so their pitch maintenance remains in the dark ages. What if golf clubs were to share their resources with the local community?

Such an idea could provide additional income — or at least give the golf club access to better machinery — while also acting as an excellent public relations exercise for the golf club.

“My role is regional pitch advisor for Yorkshire and the North East with GaNTIP,” said the IOG's Ian Powell. “Inevitably, when I go to community sports clubs and organisations, they'll say that they have poor playing

surfaces. I give independent advice and local contractors and golf clubs often come up in the conversation with regards to a potential solution.

“There's a real opportunity for golf clubs to approach community venues and ask whether they need any support with issues such as aerating the centre circle or the goalmouth. This could provide some additional income in the winter when there's not much to do around the golf course and because you're only working in the local area, you're not spending a large amount on transport.”

At Thirsk & Northallerton, Ian has supported the club to establish a not-for-profit company that fulfils that »





Above and insert: Thirsk & Northallerton's greenkeepers at work in the community

IN THE SHED



The Team

- / Roger Mackerell, head greenkeeper
- / Simon Todd, deputy head greenkeeper
- / Richard Fawcett, apprentice
- / Jamie Hogg, apprentice

The Equipment

Through the Sport England grant, Thirsk & Northallerton was able to purchase:

- / John Deere 4066R
- / Charterhouse Verti Quake
- / Star Green sprayer from Cale Engineering
- / Wiedenmann GXi8 HD Terra Spike
- / Wiedenmann 2.1m Terra Rake
- / Super 500 towed flail mower/collector
- / Terra Float overseeder
- / Double-sized Terra Brush with folding wings

exact purpose. The company is called Hambleton Sportsground Improvements Ltd and sits as a separate entity alongside the golf club. Putting together a successful proposal for the pilot scheme, Ian helped secure a £126,000 grant, working alongside the club and Sport England, that has been used to purchase machinery. This equipment could not have been afforded by the club without the grant, but it is available for use on the course, in addition to any contract work they receive from local community groups.

"This is the first scheme of its like in the country," explained Ian. "Sport England are monitoring everything we do, from fuel usage and working hours to the type of work we're doing. That's helping us show Sport England how it could potentially work on a wider basis.

"A golf club has the knowledge, first and foremost,

and the majority of the work on football or rugby pitches is needed throughout the winter, which is the downtime for golf. This concept won't be for every club and that's fine, but at the end of the day what we're trying to get across is the concept that golf clubs, alongside the other Sport England pilots being explored, are ideally placed to raise standards and improve facilities.

"We're not suggesting you offer to do complicated maintenance such as preparing cricket squares, but basic things, where you can

have a big impact. Take teams who aren't able to play because the pitch is waterlogged, if remedial work is carried out in spring and autumn, it may stop the pitch flooding.

"What's important is that golf clubs realise they can open their doors and be more receptive to other clubs and organisations in their area. This idea will be most useful in areas where there isn't a lot of investment otherwise and by helping to support local communities, it's going to give the golf club a really positive image."

Roger Mackerell, head greenkeeper

"We're very happy to play our role. This has brought an amazing opportunity for our greenkeepers. Not only do they access a wider fleet of machines year round, but their turf knowledge and experience will be significantly enhanced. Tending different types of turf stressed by team sport just broadens their skill set. I'm hopeful that as more work is commissioned, we'll be able to offer additional greenkeepers apprenticeships. That would be really good for the area and the club."

The partnership sees the golf club's trained greenstaff do the work, then the club invoices the community group for the greenkeepers' time, fuel expenses and machinery rental. While that means there won't be a profit made by the golf club, the greenkeepers' salaries are reimbursed for that period. This reduces wage costs without the financial need to cut staff down to winter hours.

At Thirsk & Northallerton, Ian assisted the club by speaking to the committee, the chairperson and the greenkeeping team and laid out their vision for how the concept could work. A major selling point for the club was that the Sport England grant would enable the club to access machinery it would not have been able to afford otherwise. All that was required was that a separate not-for-profit company be established. Ian said Head Greenkeeper Roger Mackerell quickly saw the potential

benefits to the club and was on board from the very start. Ian said: "Roger would have to bring in a contractor to complete tasks that he couldn't do himself. But now, because he's got the equipment, he doesn't need to bring the contractor in, so in effect he's saving the club money.

"Another example is that we used the money to purchase a sprayer. In the past that was a two-man operation, but the new machinery means it can be done by a single member of staff. That other person is now dimple seeding or irrigating, to make sure the product is washed in. It's all become more efficient and the standard of the golf club has been raised, even though there are a couple of days where a member of staff will be working offsite.

"From October through to March when grass growth slows down, their focus shifts to general maintenance and renovations with an element of downtime, compared to the hectic golf season. The project means a small group of their team is being expanded to also work on winter pitches and become the labour force for the machinery bank, with potentially more staff added.

"It's radical because conventional thinking has been turned on its head. But the solution is a win-win for everyone who is playing on natural turf locally."

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Read this for:
 / Ecology and the environment
 / Course walks



LEARNING FROM THE BEST...

BIGGA members pay a visit to the Environmental Golf Course of the Year

Simon Pyett, greenkeeper, Royal Worlington & Newmarket

Representatives from nine different golf clubs from across the East Anglia Section gathered at Aldeburgh for an ecology-focussed course walk, by kind invitation of the club and Course Manager Mark Broughton.

Aldeburgh won Environmental Golf Course of the Year at the 2019 STRI Golf Environment Awards (one of two Suffolk clubs to reach the finals; the other being Ipswich) and Mark was keen to share their success and experiences with like-minded greenkeepers from across the region.

Mark introduced the day with a short talk, and a few things really came to the fore as key ideas to grasp.

The first was that there should be no separation between greenkeeping and

ecological practice.

Ecological-mindedness is not a side line or an afterthought, but something that should permeate through all of your thinking and planning when considering your course maintenance practices.

The second was that communication (both to staff and the membership) is paramount when changing practices or significantly altering the look and playing characteristics of any area of the course. Regular meetings, presentations, noticeboard updates, social media and the like should all be employed to explain what is happening and why it is happening, keeping "on message" all the time.

Aldeburgh made a conscious decision to change how they were going about things, especially with regards to their »



rough and gorse management, and importantly this came about as a result of a comprehensive course review that agreed on the way forward for both course and ecology. This plan was ambitious and radical in many ways, but public and available to all.

Lastly, you should be prepared to face criticism, but hold the course and stick to the agreed plan. Keep the end goal in mind and be unashamedly proud of what you are trying to achieve to further the ecological cause at your club.

BIGGA's Ecology Guru (not actual job title) James Hutchinson gave a short presentation covering ideas for how to get started with a more ecological approach, from composting to rough management via living walls and bug hotels.

He also brought our attention to the new categories that have been introduced for the Golf Environment Awards 2020. The Home Unions National Awards, supported by the governing bodies for amateur golf in the UK, are designed to encourage clubs just starting their ecological and environmental journey to enter the GEAs.

The new categories join the existing GEA awards — Environmental Golf Course of the Year, Environmental Project of the Year, Conservation Greenkeeper of Year and Operation Pollinator.

James encouraged us all to consider applying, whatever stage we were at as the application process itself can generate some good ideas and gain some great advice along the way.



GORSE MANAGEMENT

Gorse management was a key project coming out of the club's course review and the aim was to move away from ever-narrowing gorse-lined fairways. Serious amounts of work had been put in to remove large stands of gorse, and also smaller sections crowding bunkers, blocking good shots and the like. The build-up of gorse litter underneath was also removed to get back to the original soil.

Some areas had heather brash spread which had taken well, while areas to the edges of fairways had been managed by cut-and-collect to impoverish the soil which had resulted in lovely areas of thin, wispy fescues with sorrel providing a wonderful touch of colour.

ANCIENT TREES

There was a chance to hug an ancient tree for those so inclined, and for the rest of us the opportunity to see how an old oak had survived for hundreds of years and begun to hollow-out to form a strong cylinder that should last for many hundreds more. There was also discussion on how this type of tree can often be at some danger from the misplaced idea of removing trees that are "dying" when they are anything but.



DIVERSE HABITATS

Following the presentations, we headed out on the course to see the kind of things Aldeburgh had managed to achieve, and what they planned to do in the future. The idea was to have different "grades" or "ages" of habitat, like grassland, woodland or gorse. If everything is of the same height, age, species or the like then it is less diverse and less attractive for a wider range of animals and plant life.

WILDFLOWERS

Of particular interest was the practice ground, which was mown at fairway height but left unsprayed to allow many low-growing native plants to thrive alongside the grass. This was a real demonstration of the "all weeds are plants" philosophy being put into practice in an area that simply did not demand being presented as 100% grass. The result looked great, showed remarkable ecological

diversity compared to your average driving range, and provided a valuable source of food for pollinators, and all without a detrimental impact to the golfers or their practice facilities.

The message was that we shouldn't always be 'tidying things up' where it is not needed. Context is obviously key here, but there are always areas that can be left alone, which is often beneficial for wildlife.

Above: Managing heather and gorse alongside each other is no easy task

Left: Heather management

Right: James Hutchinson (BIGGA) interacting with a tree

It is amazing how quickly habitats can change over time, and how wrong the 'it's always been like this' comments can be



JAMES HUTCHINSON, BIGGA MEMBERSHIP SERVICES MANAGER (ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABILITY)

Aldeburgh is one of those golf courses that has surprises around every corner – where else will you find singing woodlark and nightingale within a few metres of each other?

Simon Pyett has already excellently explained about the ecology day we held at the course, so I shall give you an insight into why the team were awarded the overall winner's prize at the STRI's Golf Environment Awards 2019.

It's quite simple really and the sheer amount of work that has gone in to preserving the fragile habitats is nothing short of amazing, in my opinion.

You'll find managed heather and gorse growing alongside one another (not an easy thing to do), and a good amount of canopy heights within the woodlands, resulting in a diverse section of singing

birds. Also, the team has somehow managed to find a good balance of sorrel on the playing areas, again, not an easy thing to do.

Holistic waste water management has been thought of, with the guys building a reed bed wash-down system. Not only that, the course has man-made sand scrapes for the basking reptiles when they've had a drink from the reed bed! What a place!

If you're thinking of entering the awards this year, and I think you should as I've been to well over 300 courses and so many of you are doing something to protect the flora and fauna onsite.

You can find the application form here: golfsustainabilityawards.com/entry-form/

The very best of luck (not that you'll need it), if you're thinking of joining in on the fun!



Above: Mark Broughton explains reed bed management

“The day was not only a wonderful walk around one of the finest heathland golf courses, but an encouragement to be proactive in making the case for a more ecological approach at our own golf clubs...

BIRD BOXES

Many bird boxes have been put up on the course, including several barn owl nest boxes, which Mark, as a licensed barn owl nest box monitor, can keep an eye on himself, as part of the Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project.

This has seen a hugely positive impact on the resident barn owl population.

It is amazing how quickly habitats can change over time, and how wrong the “it's always been like this” comments can be. Left unmanaged, grassland can rapidly become scrubland, which then becomes woodland. Scrubland is

important habitat, but active management is needed if you want to maintain a more open aspect to areas, and the regular use of tree-poppers or similar will be needed to remove saplings. Pioneer species such as birch, poplar, blackthorn and hawthorn are quick to colonise an area, and may be highly undesirable on a more open golf course.

Aldeburgh made good use of aerial photos during the whole process of their course review and change in management practices to illustrate the changes that had taken place and what was needed to rectify them.

REED BED SYSTEM

The Aldeburgh team has installed a reed bed system on its wash-down bay and for many of us, this was the first time we had seen one close up.

It was surprising how compact reed bed systems can be (they aren't of nature reserve proportions!) and how effectively they work, while providing yet another type of habitat on the golf course.

The process of removing self-setting saplings is very important.

The day was not only a wonderful walk around one of the finest heathland golf courses, but an encouragement to be proactive in making the case for a more ecological approach at our own golf clubs, with some genuinely helpful input on how to go about that process.

It may be that some minor battles are lost along the way, and indeed this should be expected, but with the greater goal in mind, steady progress can be made.

Much help is available, not least from BIGGA in the form of advice or visits and reports from James Hutchinson, and several of us went home having requested such, and keen to get things in place at our own courses.

Sincere thanks go to Mark Broughton, Aldeburgh and James Hutchinson for facilitating the day.



Aldeburgh's Mark Broughton MG and Martin Turna

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Read this for:

- / Warm season grasses
- / Island greenkeeping
- / Desalination

How do you maintain a course on the side of an extinct volcano?



If Elon Musk is considering setting up a golf course on Mars, he should first take a look at Lanzarote.

Seventy miles from North Africa, the island of Lanzarote has an other-worldly appearance with its crumpled iron oxide tinted texture of exposed lava rock, strong winds and lack of fresh water.

At first glance, it's an inhospitable place to

construct and maintain a golf course. Yet descending on the flight, a carpet of green is clearly visible, cut among the black and white landscape of the volcanic island. The two golf courses in the south can be spotted immediately and may be the most green you will see on the island — with the exception of swathes of aloe vera and the La Geria wine region.

Lanzarote experiences almost no obvious season changes, with on average of less than 20 days of rain per year. This makes it a prime tourist hotspot during winter, as Brits look to escape the UK for the steady temperatures of the Canaries. As Nacho Roda, from Lanzarote Golf, and Olga Fernandez, from Costa Tegui Golf Club, explain, greenkeepers have to work »

Abigail Leighton, BIGGA



Costa Tegui greenkeeping team

hard with limited resources and the isolation of the island.

Olga Fernandez, marketing and sales at Costa Tegui, described the course as a 'Little Lanzarote', with areas of lava rock, views of the Atlantic Ocean, volcanic backdrop and palm trees. The club was opened in 1978 and has a team of six gardeners and one head greenkeeper.

Lanzarote Golf Club is situated between Puerto Del Carmen and Tias and the 18-hole course opened in 2008.

"The club is quite different to any other golf course you can see in the world," said Nacho. "We have six months of high season and so maintenance works are very limited due to the crowded volume on the course."

With a mind towards the tourists who want a casual, idyllic round — golfers don't head to Lanzarote for a tough, championship challenge — the courses are designed for ease of play and to ensure relatively speedy rounds.

Preparation is key to avoiding hold ups during high season. Any serious machinery failures can take quite some time to resolve.

Machinery must be transported to the island, which is costly both financially and for time.

Nacho explained: "Let's say an engine or a grass cutter breaks, a replacement can take a long time to arrive because it has to come from Europe or the USA. It can take two months, so we find it is better to stock up with spares."

Silica used for the bunkers can cost up to three times more than mainland Europe because it has to be shipped over to the island. However, Nacho continued: "Thankfully there are big golf companies on the other Canary Islands, so they offer assistance to the golf courses."

The most serious issue is water – or lack of. The island

has no natural fresh water sources, a blaringly obvious dilemma for keeping greens green. In 1965, the first desalination plant in Lanzarote was opened, giving the islanders access to water from the tap, and subsequently this is how the golf clubs irrigate their courses.

Olga explained: "We take the water from the sea, which goes first to human consumption. It is then recycled and regenerated for our use. That means we have to add minerals to the water so we can use it for irrigation."

The course at Lanzarote Golf has a computer system and sprinkler system, mainly for the tees, fairways and greens. Nacho explained: "When we have to set up the

sprinklers and irrigation system, it's very challenging due to the strong winds we experience on the island."

Gesturing to the palm trees swaying in the breeze, he added: "The prevailing wind comes from the north and so if we set the sprinklers from the south, it will never irrigate on the other side. Then when the wind changes, the water doesn't go into the grass as it should do."

Ironically, water has also become a major advantage on this course, as a few years ago the club created a 'lake' on the 17th hole that has brought unexpected benefits to the club.

"Five million tourists move around the world every year just focusing on birds," said Nacho. "We found out the lake was being used by birds in migration twice a year, when they fly from South Africa to Northern Europe, North America, Alaska and even Russia. When these birds fly from one place to another and see the small lake, they decide to stop and take a break to recover their strength. So, we have many people from all over the world who come during these



Costa Tegui Golf Club

periods to watch the birds."

Spotting an opportunity, Lanzarote Golf set up a hide for bird watchers, believed to be the first on the island. The result is a close partnership between the ornithologists and the greenkeepers. "They are our eyes out there," said Nacho. "They move around the course, respecting the golfers and help us out if they spot an issue, such as a broken water pipe."

By uploading information onto the golf club's website relating to the species of birds that have been spotted, Nacho was surprised to find more interest from bird watchers than golfers, giving them an improved position on Google and inadvertently helping the course to be discovered easier by potential golfers.

Ecology is at the forefront of Costa Tegui, where Head Greenkeeper Alex Delgado insists regulations over chemical usage on the island causes no problems. Alex

“ We prefer to focus on looking after nature to nourish the grass instead of using chemicals

said: "We prefer to focus on looking after nature to nourish the grass instead of using chemicals to achieve this."

The greenkeepers at both clubs adopt the same approach to weeds and plants by ripping them out by hand. Rather than a set routine application of fertiliser, they

assess the needs of the grass. Learning to cope with the environment has not been completely smooth at Lanzarote Golf, as greenkeepers learnt how the grass reacted to the volcanic surroundings.

"When we built the golf, we made the mistake of using

picon (volcanic ash) underneath the grass, rather than soil," said Nacho. "Although it is rich in minerals, the water drains too fast, so the grass couldn't grow roots. We learnt instead to use sand taken from the beach or the deserts as a top layer over the ash as this holds moisture — we just have to analyse the sand to ensure salt content isn't too high."

The same technique is used at Costa Tegui, with local sand used in the bunkers and clay loams for the fairways.



Costa Tegui Golf Club

BIGGA was invited to take a closer look at the golf courses on Lanzarote courtesy of Tourism Lanzarote, British Airways and the European Sports Destination project. For more information, visit turismolanzarote.com or email info@turismolanzarote.com

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BIGGA at The Open



The BIGGA Open Support Team 2019. Picture by Ash Youd

This year's Open was the first in a generation to return to Northern Ireland's shores.

It was an Open of firsts, whether it be Graeme Beatt and the Royal Portrush team hosting their first ever major championship or the 237,750 visitors who made this the best-attended Open ever held outside of St Andrews and the largest since 2000.

The BIGGA Open Support Team had a number of new faces on it this year as well, with half of the BIGGA members taking part for the very first time.

Some travelled from California or Vietnam while others were enjoying a major event close to home for the first time. This is what they got up to...

“This was the best Open I've ever played in. The way it was ran, the golf course, everybody was raving about the golf course, how good it was. So I'd be very surprised if it's not back here in the next 10 years.



Shane Lowry

Shane Lowry, the champion golfer of the year 2019

Behind the scenes

When Rory McIlroy hit that disastrous opening tee shot, effectively ending his Open weekend in a single stroke, little did he know that just a few feet from the unfortunate woman whose phone his wayward shot reportedly smashed, stood the man who had spent the past five years ensuring Royal Portrush would be in the best condition possible for the local hero to make Open history.

Rory's day began (and pretty much ended) at 10.09am but for Graeme Beatt and his team, they were reporting for duty more than six hours earlier, at 4am.

“It's a week where everyone here can be proud of themselves and all the work that's gone in,” said Graeme, a softly-spoken 39-year-old St Andrews native. “All the heavy lifting was done in the last few years, so you could say that most of what we've done this past week is just a final polish.

“I would have been happier if we'd had a little less rain”



The home greenkeeping team with Shane Lowry

Sean Tully, Meadow Club in California

Sean Tully was participating in The Open Support Team for the first time.

"It's been amazing to meet a bunch of different people from all over the UK and Ireland. I'm walking the course every morning, trying to see it from all the different vantage points. The Open is as exciting as I would hope it would be. It's just really cool to talk to other folks from different courses and talk about their own issues and share mine. We all stand to learn from this and we're happy to be here and I'm just thankful that I was picked."

Raking the beach

For three BIGGA members, there was the opportunity to showcase the support team on Portrush's West Strand beach as the trio were invited to feature on the BBC Northern Ireland show *Open for Summer*.

Ronan McKeown, Sophie Bulpitt and Aaron Small demonstrated the correct way to rake a bunker at The Open to presenter Stephen Clements.

However, not all the members got the opportunity to speak on camera, with Belvoir Park's Aaron Small missing out.

"I'm feeling terrible, really disappointed," Aaron joked. "They probably put the two weakest links of the team on to speak and I'll have something to say about this in another interview later!"



Sophie Bulpitt and Ronan McKeown demonstrating the correct way to rake a bunker on Portrush's West Strand beach for BBC Northern Ireland

in the build-up and through the event, but at the same time the surfaces are firm and true. We've been mowing more regularly, each morning and night, whereas we wouldn't have expected to do that. Due to the rain there was extra moisture in the leaf of the grass, so everything became a bit slow and sticky and the run-offs were just a bit slow, so we started cutting them in the evening.

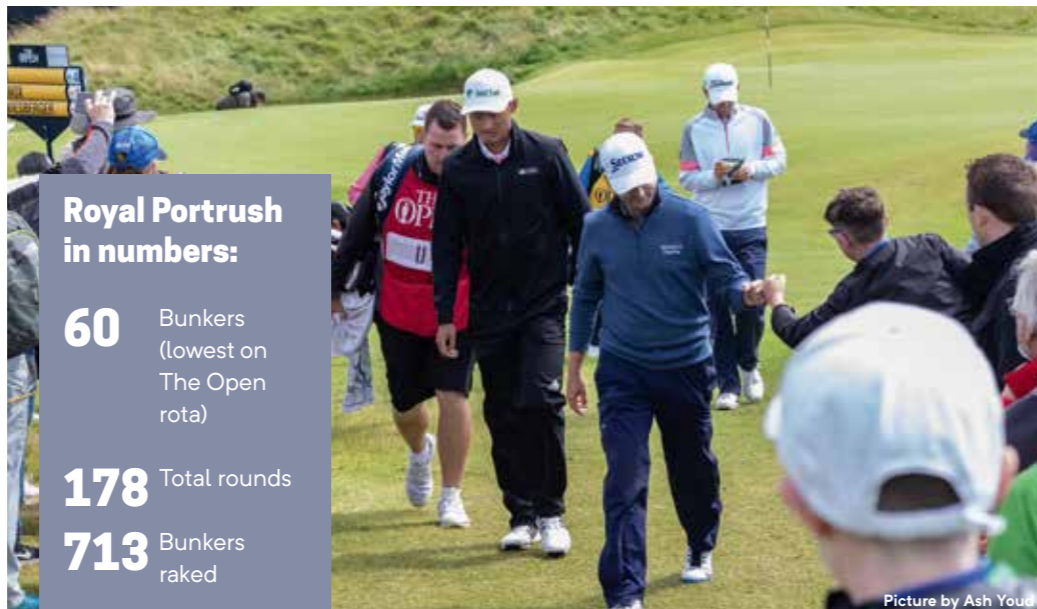
"The double cutting has been really useful and the smoothness has really

improved since the first practice day."

Throughout the opening three days of the championships, the greens had been cut at a height of 3.75mm. On the second cut there was barely any grass being clipped, but the additional process of grooming and rolling caused by running the mowers over the ground is enough to add two to three inches to the roll of the ball — the difference between a ball dropping into the hole or just coming up short.

As for the greens, they registered at 10.3 feet of roll on the second day of the championship and then a marginally-slower 10.2 feet on Saturday. Across all 18 holes, the difference between the greens is just a few inches. Graeme could expect his slowest green to be 10.1 feet and the fastest 10.4 feet. That's elite level performance that's only possible when you've got the incredible resources available to an Open venue.

"It's hard to do that, but »



Royal Portrush in numbers:

- 60** Bunkers (lowest on The Open rota)
- 178** Total rounds
- 713** Bunkers raked

Picture by Ash Youd



Gary Corlett, Mount Murray Comis Hotel & Golf Resort. Picture by Ash Youd

Greens data

- Thursday: 10'1"
- Friday: 10'2"
- Saturday: 10'3"
- Sunday: Slowed to 9'11" due to forecast wind

Differentiation across the course: Greens all stimped within around 4" of each other

Firmness: 113 gravities to 123 gravities depending on rainfall

Cutting height: 4.2mm lowering to 4mm then 3.75mm due to rain

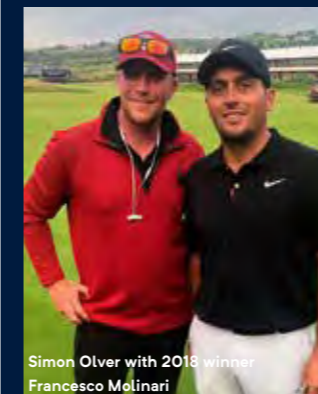
Rolling frequency: nil

Simon Olver, course manager, Whitley Bay

A number of volunteers joined the Royal Portrush greenkeeping team for the build up to the event, being completely integrated into the group and playing an important role in the preparation of the course.

Whitley Bay course manager Simon Olver met Graeme Beatt as part of the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in 2016 and was one of a number of members from that trip who were invited to help out.

As part of Simon's role, he was tasked with joining the team that prepared the 18th green for the championship.



Simon Olver with 2018 winner Francesco Molinari

Simon said: "I've always wanted to cut the greens at an Open and I knew it would take me out of my comfort zone. The first day when you turn up is nerve-wracking, but then when you're on the mower you're just doing your job, like any other day."

"It's only afterwards when you're making your way back from catering down towards the grandstand, when it's full of people, that you realise what you've been doing."

"Watching the event on television, the comments are what we knew would come in because it's one of the best-presented courses I've ever been on. The volunteers had only been here a week and so it's Graeme and his team who should be really proud of what they've achieved."

Simon arrived in Portrush the Saturday before The Open began and so by the time the event took place, had gained a great understanding of life behind the scenes. The team arrived



Early morning at the 18th hole

at 4am most mornings, moving to 5am after the cut, while they could be on course at 10pm in the evening, fixing divots and ensuring the course was ready to go the following day.

"It has been long hours and hard work, but it's been a great experience," he added. "There is a different culture here and it's definitely more relaxed. Everyone has their own job and they're trusted

to complete it. "It has been really interesting to see a completely new way of doing everything. You get trapped in your own roles, no matter what your own course, and it's good to see a different way of working. Everyone has their own jobs and they're encouraged to maintain their own patch and live up to the responsibility they've been given."



Bunker raking demonstration prior to the event getting underway. Picture by Ash Youd

Peter Robinson, course manager, Slieve Russell

Peter Robinson is course manager at Slieve Russell in County Fermanagh, about 80 miles from Portrush.

He said he never imagined that not only would The Open come to Northern Ireland, but that he'd be a part of the team hosting the event.

"Growing up in this part of the world, with all the carry on that went on, I never dreamed this would happen and it's just brilliant to be a part of it," he said. "In this part of the world you're

so used to getting on a flight for college or to go to work, because everything happens on the mainland. So to see The Open come to Portrush, it's just incredible.

"Coming off the 10th green, Lowry birdied the hole and there was a massive roar from the crowd. Brandon Grace's caddie shouted 'my God, I've never heard a roar like that in a long time!'

"The atmosphere was incredible, but you can always hear the Irish lads shouting 'go on ya boy!'"



Early morning preparations

we have learnt how the greens will react to a cut," explained Graeme. "Some of our newer greens will pick up pace more easily than some of the older greens. We know that one may be a simple cut and a stimp while another is a double cut. I suppose you could say the greens have their own personalities."

Set up for the day's play actually begins the previous afternoon, when Graeme will meet with the R&A to check out the weather report. The weather will determine what speed to set the greens at; high winds will dry out the

greens and make them faster so they may want to cut less to counteract that. Rain will increase the moisture content and make the grass grow faster, so they may choose to trim then down. When that's the difference between a ball skipping off a green into a run-off area or a putt breaking a little sooner than a player may anticipate, such decisions can have a real impact on who takes the Claret Jug home at the end of the weekend.

They've also got a catalogue of potential pin positions that has been gathered by the club over the

years and R&A officials will be the ones to make that decision.

"We'll agree what we're going to do that evening and the following morning, then we'll look at the tee times and decide how things are going to go the following morning."

The team arrives for duty and after a quick breakfast and coffee to wake up, they're out mowing by 4.30am. The chipping and putting greens are first, before the 1st and 18th and then the remaining holes.

Whether mowing once or twice, the greenkeeping team must be finished and back in the maintenance facility prior to golfers arriving on the first tee at 6.30am. They can then put their feet up and relax or head out to enjoy the golf, while Graeme's days »

Course data:

Rainfall: over **100mm** of rain in the week prior and week of the tournament

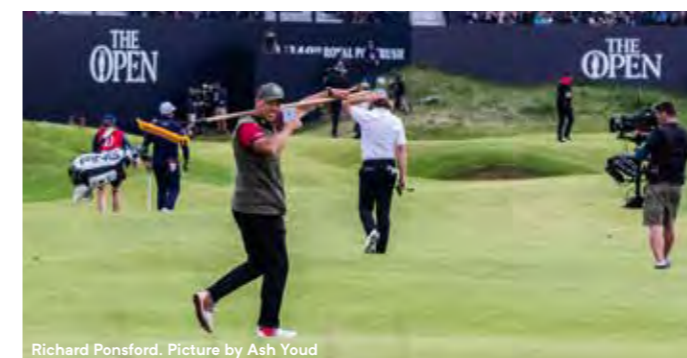
Staffing: **52** greenkeepers and **six** part-time on divotting duties

Irrigation usage: **5m³** on greens and bunkers watered in evenings when needed

Nutritional programme **2.5kg N 2 ½** weeks prior to championship and **35-50kg N** in a usual year

Preventative treatments: **one** for fairy rings

Topdressing regimes **150 tonnes** of local sand applied per year



Richard Ponsford. Picture by Ash Youd

Gary McDowell, greenkeeper, Royal Portrush

As hometown hero Graeme McDowell loosened up for his opening round, his younger brother had already been out on the links, hard at work and enjoying The Open experience.

Gary, 37, has been a greenkeeper at Royal Portrush ever since he left school. It's been a 22-year career, during which he's watched his brother forge a successful career on the PGA and European Tours, winning the US Open in 2010 and playing in four Ryder Cups, but Gary said he couldn't be happier.

"I'll leave the golf to Graeme and I'll do the easy job!" he said. "This is one of the best places you could end up working. I enjoy being out in the fresh air and being around the golf course."

"Obviously, I like golf and I play myself, but I get real pleasure out of the different things that you do when greenkeeping. It's true that every day is different and I love it."

Like his brother, Gary is a member at Rathmore, which sits beside Royal Portrush. He once played to a +4 handicap but although he had the natural talent and there was a time when they were almost on a par in terms of ability, he never had quite the same determination to make it at the highest level as his brother did.

"There was a certain point when I was close to him," said Gary. "But obviously Graeme's put in the practice, whereas I was more interested in going down the streets with my mates. You need to practice, you don't get there any other way."

A BIGGA member, Gary attends section events and the occasional golf day, including most recently at Massereene. With 'McDowell' on the entry list, there's a little bit of pressure to perform and although it's not unusual for a younger greenkeeper to use hand-me-down clubs, the ones he receives are of a pretty high quality.

"I've got some decent gear, I'm just not the best at using it at times!" said Gary. "At Massereene I didn't start off great, then I got a wee bit better and then finished off not so great. Ah well, it's only a game of golf and in the end, that's why I'm the greenkeeping brother!"

At the close of play on Sunday there was a McDowell stood on the 18th green, soaking in the applause of the crowd, as Gary stood in the guard of honour formed by the Royal Portrush greenkeeping team. Had there been two McDowells on the green, it would have gone down in family folklore. It wasn't to be, but Gary was happy enough with his week's work.



Gary and Graeme McDowell



Left to right: Andy Unwin, Peter Robinson, Rodney MacKay and Sean Tully

are filled with meetings with the R&A and other official bodies.

As play drew to a close in the evening, the team headed back out to prepare for the next day's play, whether it be repairing divots or giving the course a mow.

It's a fact that The Open wouldn't be possible without a massive team of volunteers who give up their free time to get involved with the event and join the home greenkeeping team and take an active role in the preparation of the course. It's a massive, collaborative effort, but the one thing that shone through is how relaxed and enjoyable the entire experience was for the team.

With The Open returning to Northern Ireland for the first time since 1951 and this being the first major championship

Daily information on cutting height and frequency of cut:

Tees: **8mm** cut daily with Baroness Saxon

Fairways: **9mm** cut daily with **Toro 3550**

Semi-rough: **65mm** normally but stopped cutting **three weeks** prior to the tournament

he's ever prepared the course for, Graeme could be forgiven for being a little tense, but his calm demeanour has transferred to his team and they enjoyed the whole experience.

"I didn't feel relaxed the couple of days before the

official practice day, with the number of little bits and pieces we needed to do. But as soon as we got into the event itself, I felt pretty comfortable," said Graeme. "The key thing is to be prepared and then to not be tense. I'm getting feedback from the R&A and they're relaxed, so that's half the battle.

"If we've done our homework and our work before the championship begins, then we're nearly there. The key is to prepare and have a really good team around you.

"Everyone has pulled it out of the bag and having a team you can rely on when it comes to the crunch is the most important thing."

When it's all over, the crowds will disperse and the players will go home. Some

“The key is to prepare and have a good team around you. Having a team you can rely on is the most important thing...

will have a sore head and one will have some additional hand luggage in the form of a famous trophy.

But for the greenkeeping team, they were right back at it on Monday morning, with a corporate event teeing off at 6am and a packed course as golfers jostle to play at the latest Open venue.

Phil Snellin, greenkeeper at Donaghadee

There weren't many members of the BIGGA volunteer support team who had a more exciting week than Donaghadee greenkeeper Phil Snellin.

Firstly, Phil was reunited with a familiar face from a previous employment on the opening day of the event and then he drew the final match of the final round and so got the chance to witness history up close.

When Rory McIlroy was a youngster he would spend his Friday nights at American Golf, hitting balls in the net

and practicing his putting, while his parents went shopping. Working in the store from 1997 to 2005 was a young Phil Snellin and he got to know the superstar-in-the-making.

"As he walked past before his match I said 'It's a long time since I've seen you in American Golf' and he recognised me!

"Afterwards we shook hands and he said he remembered those days, even though he was only eight or nine years old. He gave me a ball and signed my flag. I was going to ask him for his

wedge, but he shot 8 over so it probably doesn't work. He should probably go back to the shop and get a fitting!"

But that wasn't the end of the adventures for Phil and he was the fortunate one drawn to assist with the final match of the tournament, as Irishman Shane Lowry and Tommy Fleetwood went head to head for the Claret Jug.

Speaking after the round, Phil said: "The day was so stressful and amazing at the same time. It's a media circus but the last two holes were one of the best things that have ever happened to me, it was awesome.

"I thought there was going to be play-off holes, but when Lowry got to 14-under and he was too far in front, I relaxed and really enjoyed it. I got to shake hands with him, but it was just mental and everyone wanted a piece of him — that's what it'll be like now for the rest of his life.

"Walking down the 18th, I've never experienced anything or seen anything like that. The songs, the atmosphere, the hair stood up on my arms big time and there's no words that can describe it. I'm still in shock and maybe in a few days' time it'll sink in and I'll remember pieces of it, but right now I'm still in shock."



Phil Snellin tidying up a bunker with Henrik Stenson. Picture by Ash Youd



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Is rolling ever a bad idea?



Double roller drive 7475

Physiological and performance reactions to intensive rolling of putting greens

Dr Mike Richardson, University of Arkansas, was speaking at the Turf Managers' Conference as part of Continue to Learn at BTME 2019



Dr Mike Richardson, University of Arkansas

Putting green management has changed a lot in the last century.

One of the things that was either the greatest or the worst thing to ever happen to putting green management was the development of the stimpmeter, where people could start quantifying the

speed of the greens they were managing.

One of the first things that was done to attain faster speeds was a decrease in mowing heights and they have been trending downwards for the last few decades.

Another practice that has been used to enhance speeds is the use of rollers. Rolling greens is a practice that's been around for a long time. You can go back in the archives and see giant street rollers that they would use to try and increase the smoothness and performance of the greens.

Many of those were being put on to soil-based greens, which were very heavy and as a result you got a lot of compaction problems, leading to a loss of turf.

The first lightweight turf rollers began appearing 20 years ago, at the same time as sand-based greens became more

prevalent. The combination allowed greens to be smoother and speedier than ever before.

Can you increase mowing height or decrease mowing frequency with regular rolling?

We conducted an experiment at the University of Arkansas on a six-year-old USGA green that was planted with L-93 creeping bentgrass. It was mowed with a Toro Greensmaster 1000 and rolled with a Tru-Turf greens roller.

One of the takeaways we saw was that rolling can lead to a decline in the quality of the turf. The more you rolled, the more damage was caused.

If you raised the mowing height, you see less damage because you have a healthier turf that is more resilient to the stress of maintenance.

Cutting at 3mm and 4mm, as we go from no rolling at all to rolling six times a week, we saw about a foot and a half increase in greenspeed. However, there was no difference in speed between the two cutting heights, meaning we could raise the mowing height and still attain the same greenspeed.

We concluded that we can increase greenspeeds by implementing a rolling programme rather than cutting at lower heights. We were also increasing putting green quality, leading to increased root production and a greater leaf area, meaning improved photosynthetic rate and higher carbohydrate reserves.

Driving past the experimentation area one day when there was a heavy thunderstorm, I noticed the water was puddling in some areas but not others. They didn't puddle on the unrolled plots, suggesting the intensive rolling was »

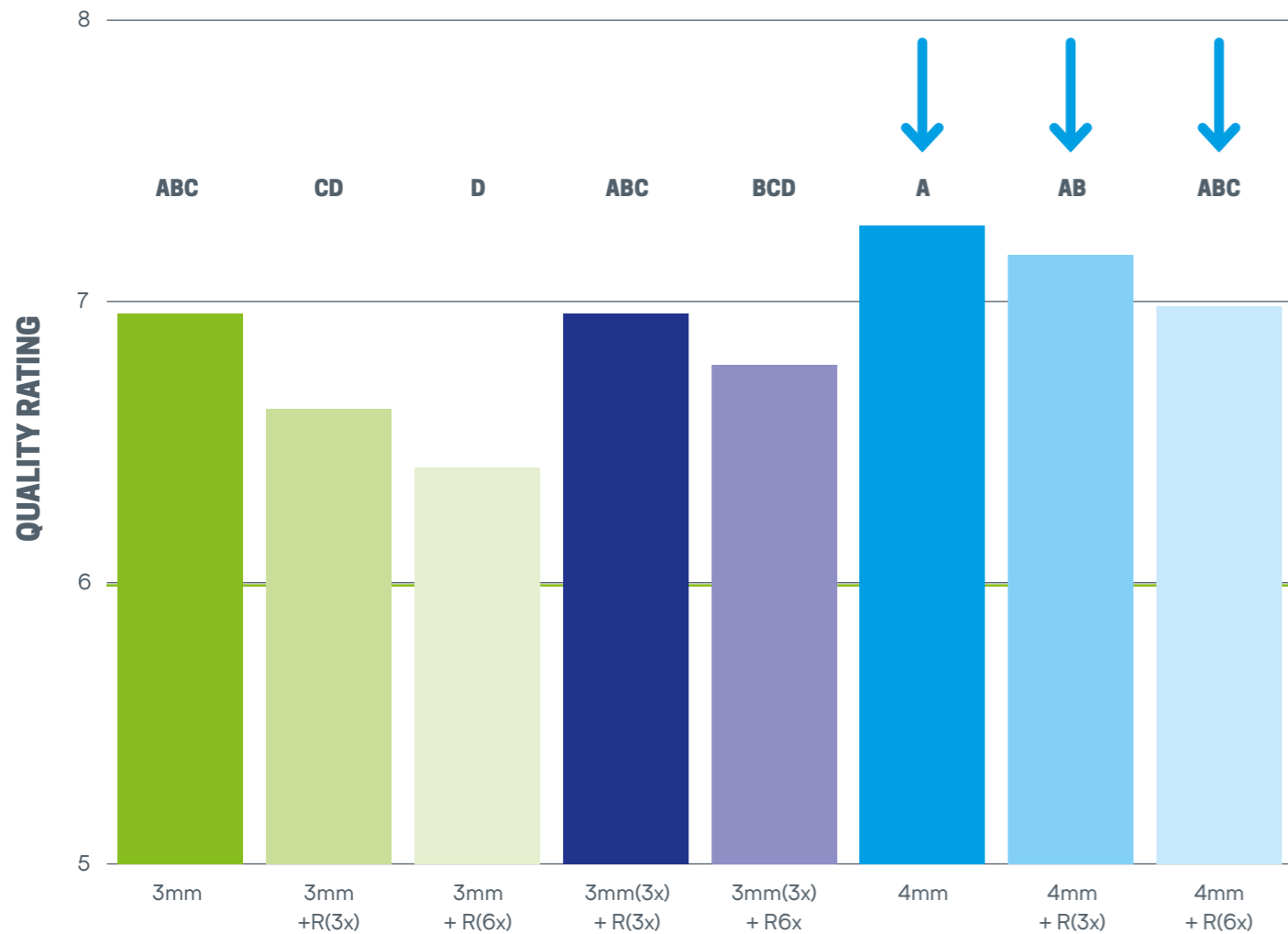
Continue to Learn video library

You can view this seminar and many others by heading to the members' area of the BIGGA website and clicking on Education & Training. Videos of all the seminars delivered at Continue to Learn are available from the BIGGA website on a wide range of topics, providing a fantastic reference for BIGGA members to refer to, whether you attended Continue to Learn or not.

Visit the BIGGA website or scan the QR code



VISUAL QUALITY



influencing infiltration rates. However, when we looked at the data, it was not statistically different enough to reach that conclusion.

How often can you roll without significant decline?

We noted that a number of major venues were increasing their rolling intensity in preparation for major events, such as Open Championships, and so we

As we raised the mowing height, we were able to handle more rolling. As we increased the frequency of rolling, we also saw a reduction in turf quality.

asked how often, hypothetically, you could roll without seeing a significant decline in turf quality?

The experiment featured four treatments, with rolling taking place two, four, six and eight times per day, six days a week over a six-week period.

If you are preparing for a tournament, we didn't see a significant decline within four or five days. However, after six weeks we saw a significant decline and proved that you can actually kill turf by rolling it too much.

When we looked at greenspeeds however, there was a nice jump in greenspeed caused by the more aggressive rolling practice. It turns out the fastest grass is dead grass.

We learned that rolling can eventually cause problems if it's done too aggressively. Even though you may be using lightweight rollers, they are a form of traffic and so make sure you keep that in mind as you start stacking it on top of the other stress that you have the turf under.

Assistant professor Joey Young looked at the physiological effects of low mowing heights, rolling and foot traffic on

creeping bentgrass putting greens. The objective was that we wanted to look at a combination of these stresses on the putting green and the severity and recovery of ball marks due to the various practices.

As we raised the mowing height, we were able to handle more rolling. As we increased the frequency of rolling, we also saw a reduction in turf quality. So, as you lower the cutting height and increase rolling, you're going to see a plant that isn't able to withstand as much traffic.

We looked at ball mark severity and recovery, as affected by mowing and rolling. We had a 'gun' that would fire a ball at the turf and we used a red ball that we could photograph with digital analysis software and it would allow us to calculate how much ball was beneath the surface. We marked the location of the ball mark and then repaired it, as instructed by the USGA. Then we took regular images to see how quickly the damaged area would recover.

As we increased mowing height, we got faster recovery and as we increased the frequency of rolling, we saw that ball marks took longer to recover.

We believe that rolling is a very beneficial process for obtaining better, smoother, more consistent greens. But the practice of that during less than favourable conditions can potentially cause some problems. As we increase those cultural practices, we can see some declines in the turf and effects on how it responds to foot traffic, ball marks and less than favourable conditions. One thing we learned is that rolling is another form of stress, so there is an upper limit as



MOW AND ROLLING EFFECTS ON DAYS 50% RECOVERY

Mowing height	Days to 50% recovery	Rolling frequency / week	Days to 50% recovery
2.5	14.0	a	10.8
3.2	11.4	ab	11.7
4.0	10.0	bc	12.2

to how much rolling a cool season turf can handle.

One suggestion from the USGA is the implementation of target rolling, especially during high stress periods. They would suggest you only roll within 20 to 30 feet of the cup placement. That means if the cup is moved around,

hopefully each section of the green will only be getting rolled every couple of days, rather than daily.

Implications for golf course managers

- / Low mowing heights are beneficial for increased green speeds during favourable environmental conditions
- / Raising mowing heights and implementing rolling can maintain green speeds
- / Rolling is a stress to the turf
 - / More rolling during stressful periods can cause problems
 - / Adding an aggressive rolling programme on top of low mowing heights can result in additional stress
 - / Implement target rolling



Toro Roller

Contact details

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 @ArkansasTurf

Acknowledgements: USGA, Toro, OJ Noer Research Foundation, Tru-Turf, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

SMITHCO | No wonder no other roller measures up.

SMITHCO just celebrated 50 years of designing and manufacturing some of the finest golf course maintenance equipment in the industry. Take a look.

SMITHCO bunker rakes add to the beauty of your course, making sand smooth, consistent and never soft. SMITHCO sprayers provide added control for safety as well as savings on chemicals. The SMITHCO XL7000 greens roller is more productive. And whatever product you choose, financing to match your needs is available.

The Smithco XL7000 ultra-wide greens roller is setting sales records. It is the most productive greens roller ever.

Three articulating rolling heads gives you a 70" wide rolling area. It's the widest, most productive greens roller available.

Your rolling time will be reduced dramatically and so will your labour costs.

And it's loaded with features:

- / Triple hydraulic direct drive to rollers for superior traction
- / No more time-consuming chain maintenance



- / 16hp (12 kW) Vanguard OHV gasoline engine
- / 10mph ground speed for rolling
- / Hydraulic power steering
- / HD Transport Trailer included
- / CE compliant

In the SMITHCO greens roller range there is also the Tournament Ultra 7580, Tournament Ultra 7590 and Tournament Ultra Lite 7576, and for the other areas of

your golf course the Ultra 10 and Ultra 15 fairway rollers.

For further information visit www.smithco.com and for any enquiries or questions contact John Moore at jm@smithco.com

Article brought to you by

Smithco.com

TRUE-SURFACE

True-Surface by Turflite, Inc. has the only turf roller on the market able to customize your turf rolling practice.

Equipped with the patented Select-A-Vibe dial, the True-Surface Vibe V vibratory turf roller allows you to adjust up to five levels of vibration. This will allow you to choose the exact setting that is perfect for your turf.

Why choose True-Surface's Vibe V roller? Imagine putting a pile of soil or sand in the middle of a tray and then trying to spread that pile out evenly. Would you smash the pile with your hand, or would you shake the tray to efficiently even out the soil? Using the True-Surface Vibe V allows you to shake your topdressing into the turf, giving you a consistent ball roll and a healthier turf. The Vibe V roller is a tool not just for topdressing dispersing but also: rolling after aeration, turf repair or grow in, removing morning dew, and training new employees without worrying about damage to the turf.

The True-Surface Vibe V Roller offers a universal design to fit most triples (triplex) mowers and walk behind units.



With the availability of adaptation kits, if you decide to change mower brands later you won't have to buy a whole new roller. This is all part of the True-Surface customer first motto with no obsolescence of parts and real people to answer your phone calls and questions.

For more information visit www.true-surface.com.

Article brought to you by

TRUE-SURFACE
... makes true greens!

TRU-TURF | A company built by hand

Ronald Kaye and Ray Dufty had a vision: to create a roller utterly unlike any other.

When they joined forces more than 30 years ago, they devised a revolutionary design. A minimal-footprint roller that would produce a superior putting surface more quickly, more meticulously and with less operator effort than any other machine.

Ray formed Tru-Turf in 1989 alongside partner Dorothy Rix and the two directors set out on the road to take their machines to the world. They themselves demonstrated their rollers at trade shows the length and breadth of the US and throughout Europe. Initial scepticism — particularly in the face of an aggressive response from much larger competitors — rapidly gave way to orders from the head greenkeepers of some of the northern hemisphere's prestige courses.

Word soon spread, and greenkeepers referred their colleagues to Tru-Turf. The PGA selected Tru-Turf as their roller of choice. St Andrews — the spiritual home of golf — purchased Tru-Turf machines. As did Augusta and Pebble Beach, routinely rated as two of the best course in the world. Others followed with the



company now selling rollers in more than 50 countries.

We've created a company from the ground up — based on our obsession for engineering excellence and a personal pride in the solutions we deliver — so we're free to design and make our own componentry, prototype, test, research and re-test our products for as long as it takes to make them perfect, and listen hard to exactly what it is that our customers want. It's not fashionable, but

when you see the results out on the course, it makes sense.

The Double A Trading Company Ltd are UK distributors for Tru-Turf rollers, for further information visit www.doublea.co.uk or contact us on 01334 657 602.

Article brought to you by

TRU-TURF

TORO | A smooth roll for smooth greens with Toro's GreensPro 1260

While there's always a lively discussion to be had on the pros and cons of fast greens, one thing at the top of most golfers' wish lists are smooth greens and delivering the smoothest roll for the smoothest greens is Toro's GreensPro 1260 greens roller.

With split stainless-steel smoothing rollers, uniform smooth greens are achieved in just one sitting and the risk of scuffing during turns is dramatically reduced.

Overlapping heads deliver a consistent roll over every pass, a quick latch coupler and pivot handle easily transitions the machine from roll to transport and a hydraulic drive system eliminates leaks and potential contamination of the grass as well as reducing the amount of maintenance required compared with chain drive systems.

There are many easy maintenance features, including only one grease point and added comfort, such as a bi-directional seat adjustment lever, armrests and a rubber isolation mount, to name but a few.

Put all this together and the result is



smoother greens with a more uniform appearance and the best playability.

For the operator, it's a more comfortable ride, thanks to the isolated engine, which means minimal vibrations and the ability to perfectly place the seat and steering column according to individual requirements.

For maintenance, well that job just got a whole lot easier — there's less to clean and access is much easier, as is

transporting the machine from green to green.

For club management it's an improvement in course perceptions and an increase in productivity.

Article brought to you by

TORO

Dry patch

A three-pronged approach

Dry patch can be a serious issue for turf managers. Many greenkeepers and groundsman have experienced dry patch developing on their turf during the recent hot and dry summers.

Before tackling the problem with a surfactant, it is very important to first distinguish whether the problem is true hydrophobic dry patch, or just a dry area or drought stress.

Once the issue is diagnosed it is then very important to use the correct surfactant chemistry for that particular problem. Using the wrong chemistry can result in the fruits of your labour taking very little effect in resolving the problem or could make matters even worse.

Hydrophobic soil

When an area develops hydrophobic dry patch, the turf dries out to the extent that it becomes very difficult, if not impossible, to re-wet, even when copious amounts of water is applied. The soil literally repels water.

Drought stress is very different. The moisture levels will still be low, however there is no water repellency present.

The dry soil could be due to a number of reasons, such as poor irrigation coverage, using the wrong surfactant chemistry, high percolation rate or a sandy area that cannot hold moisture.

All may lead to drought

stress patches. A simple droplet test will distinguish whether it's hydrophobic (water repellent) or simply dry patch.

Hydrophobic soil & aqueduct

If you have discovered that the soil is hydrophobic (water repellent), you need to reset the balance. The chemistry of soil surfactants allows you to do exactly this.

By applying a turf surfactant to these areas, turf managers can reverse water movement issues and fix hydrophobicity, both at the surface and below the soil surface. This will then allow them to apply enough water to bring it back to targeted moisture levels.

An application rate of 20 to 25L/ha and application deep into the soil profile will get things moving.

If the symptoms are severe, another application may be necessary a few weeks later.



WDPT time (sec)	Classification
<5	Wettable
5 – 60	Slightly water repellent
60 – 600	Strongly water repellent
600 – 3600	Severely water repellent

Water drop penetration time chart

Localised hydrophobic dry spots

The granular form of soil surfactants contain the same chemistry as the liquid form but comes in a re-sealable bag and is useful for smaller, hard to spray areas.

The product can be used to treat:

- / Bunker faces
- / New turf/seeded areas
- / High mounds/hot spots
- / Walk on/off areas
- / Drainage lines
- / Small localised dry patch areas on greens, surrounds, tees and fairways
- / Divot mix
- / Localised fairy ring and fungal dry patch

Hand watering with Advantage / Advantage Plus Pellets

When the water droplet test confirms that the area is simply dry and is struggling to hold onto moisture evenly, soil surfactant pellets could be the answer. Hand application enables turf managers to deliver water exactly where they need it during hand watering, spot treating or syringing.

Soil surfactant pellets:

- / Distribute applied water more uniformly deep into the soil profile
 - / Stay intact and dissolve evenly during application
- Additional products may also include seaweed extract, to give additional benefits derived from those biological products.

Benefits of combining with seaweed can include:

- / Promoting fast recovery of stressed turf
- / Stimulating root growth
- / Promoting the growth of healthy, vigorous turfgrass

Now, more than ever, making the best use of water and other resources is essential and manufacturers of wetting agents and soil surfactants are playing an increasingly important role.

Aquatrols has a team of scientists and technical professionals who are continually seeking more effective solutions to address the unique challenges facing the future turf industry and individual turf manager's needs.

Working in partnership with



Droplet test



The science of modern greenkeeping

PREPARE FOR RECOVERY

While the long term aim of renovation is to improve playing surface quality, some of the actions involved can be extremely damaging for turf plants. The additional stress imposed can make them more susceptible to disease at a time when spores are being brought to the surface and leaf tissue damage gives a gateway for infection.

Preparation to enhance turf plant health and ease stress in the weeks before renovation, including nutrition, wetting agent and growth regulation programmes, will minimise the impact of renovation practices and speed surface restoration.

For those already on a fortnightly programme for turf health, tailoring application timing now should aim for a treatment three to five days ahead of planned renovation work.

Renovation practices that increase the risk of disease outbreak:

- / Poor cut quality due to sand
- / Extended periods of moisture
- / Leaf surface damage from dragging
- / Disturbance of spore-laden thatch
- / Soft growth promoted by additional nutrition
- / Extra water applied for seed germination

Disease protection

This season, the wet conditions for many in June resulted in unusually late outbreaks of Microdochium Patch. While healthy turf has outgrown the worst effects, there will inevitably be a legacy of latent spores that could be triggered by renovation actions.

Heavy watering to initiate seedling growth, or providing additional nutrition to stimulate recovery, can give a flush of soft growth more susceptible to infection.

Pre-renovation planning, with appropriate nutrition, wetting agent and PGR programmes, can minimise the risk.

GreenCast historic disease and weather records also show infection risk can be high through typical renovation timing in mid to late August. Through the recovery regrowth period, a systemic fungicide treatment will give added protection. Application as close as possible to renovation should be targeted at the leaf and crown for optimum uptake and movement through the leaf.

Application with a red O4 XC Nozzle, at a water volume of around 400l/ha, will give the required movement down to the crown.

Seedling moisture

Even where there is good overnight irrigation available, seedlings and plant recovery can still be adversely affected with dry down during the day, especially in

hot conditions and with the renovation process. STRI research has shown significant benefits from a Qualibra wetting agent programme, for all turf species.

Holding moisture lower in the soil profile encourages rapid root growth to reach moisture, while surfaces can still be effectively held drier and faster — which is also less conducive to seedling diseases.

In STRI trials, Qualibra programmes at full rate prior to sowing achieved the best results. But even half rate applications achieved a significant boost in seedling establishment. Results showed a 200% increase in bentgrass germination after 19 days with treatment of 20l/ha five days before sowing, for example (Figure 1).

Seedling vigour, measured as growth, along with all important surface coverage after 40 plus days, were also enhanced with the wetting agent programmes.

Regulating growth

The concept of pre-stress conditioning is an extremely valuable technique to have turf in full regulation prior to any stressful period, including renovation.

Additionally, research has shown that putting an existing sward into full regulation in the days preceding renovation can allow new seedlings to establish more effectively. The pre-treatment, before overseeding, has no regulatory effects on the establishing seedlings. New seeds can be treated from

the second true leaf stage within the PGR programme, to encourage lateral growth and quicker coverage.

Light recovery

The use of artificial lighting is standard practice for most stadium renovation processes. The technology is increasingly becoming available for golf course renovation too.

Extensive research into light availability and plant utilisation would indicate that, in most instances on an open golf course, light is unlikely to be a limiting factor in turf seedling establishment and growth in August and September. In fact, too much light, which could be damaging, is more likely to be the issue.

However, particularly on shaded greens and tees, there could be useful benefit in supplementing light with a turf pigment if the surface is not receiving the required 500-600µm for a sufficient length of time. Furthermore, as the season progresses into October, and the day length starts to significantly shorten, again research indicates that supplementary lighting could extend the growing period and aid recovery.

Colour match

The other aspect for renovation with the use of a turf pigment has been the instant green-up from application after



Above: Figure 1 Qualibra results to aid seedling establishment.

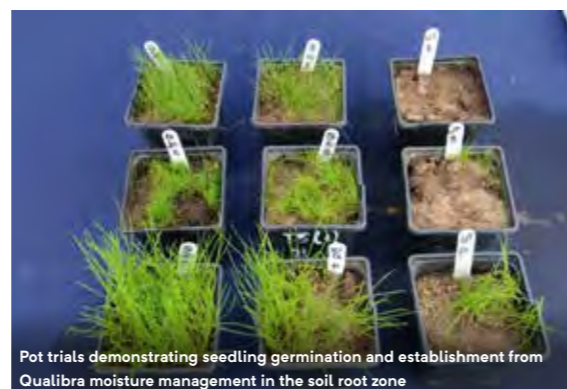
renovation. Where a heavy topdressing has been applied as part of the process, for example, a treatment can effectively mask the colour and eliminate subjective player perceptions of the effect of sand on surfaces — which will typically play faster and truer after sand top dressing.

Flexible options

It is important to be flexible with tailoring the intensity of renovation operations to the prevailing conditions. If it is too wet for planned intensive soil operations to be effective, for example, there is little point imposing extra stress on plants, and better postponed until a season when conditions are more suitable.

If conditions are perfect for recovery, however, and you have all the other preparations in place, then it's a real opportunity to get as much done as possible, and still achieve rapid recovery to a better place.

Working in partnership with



Pot trials demonstrating seedling germination and establishment from Qualibra moisture management in the soil root zone

Above: Sand topdressing and drag matting (left) and intensive renovation (right) can stress and damage leaves, giving a route for disease ingress

AROUND THE GREEN

Reunited with life saver

Northern Region - Sheffield

The first time Carl Flavell met John Blackburn, he was already dead.

John, 72, had entered the Senior's Open at Hickleton near Doncaster and was marking his putt on the very first hole, when he suffered a serious cardiac arrest. The former PE teacher and tennis coach would 'die' five times over the next few hours as first Carl, 46, and then a team of ambulance paramedics worked to save his life.

"There's no time to think," said Carl, the environmental officer at the club. "Adrenaline kicks in and all that matters is you're a first aider, that's it. Then you let the defibrillator take over, because it will tell you exactly what to do.

"It was the first time I'd ever used a defibrillator and what I'd like to say to people is that they shouldn't be scared to use them. CPR is useful, but you have a 60 to 70% better chance with a defibrillator. And don't be scared to use it, because anything you can do is better than doing nothing at all."

A former semi-professional footballer who leads an active lifestyle, John said the heart attack may have been brought on by a combination of it having been both his golden wedding anniversary that week and the seventh anniversary of his wife's death.

"That must have been weighing on my mind, because this happened out of the blue," said John, who only took up golf when he was 67. "I teed off, hit my second and third shot and woke up on life support in hospital. I remember going down to mark my ball on the green and that was it. I can't believe I'm alive now and that for a moment, I was dead.

"I used to say to my son, if something happens to me while I'm playing tennis, cycling or running, don't worry because I died doing something I loved. I never imagined something would happen when I was playing golf!"

To prevent this happening to John again, he has had a mini defibrillator and pacemaker fitted inside his chest that monitors his blood flow.



John Blackburn and Carl Flavell

Meeting Carl for the first time since he saved his life, John added: "What can you say? I took Carl some whisky and a bouquet, but to be honest that's very little for your life. What can you do or say? I just wouldn't be here today, I would be dead now, if it wasn't for him."

Since John's incident, the defibrillator has been out on two other occasions. Hickleton's assistant professional Jak Lee had the idea of installing a portable defibrillator at the club and it was purchased using funds raised by the ladies' section. In John's case, it proved to



Hickleton's defibrillator sits outside the club office

be money well spent.

Carl is one of the club's trained first aiders and was called to help when John collapsed. He attached the defibrillator and shocked John five times while undertaking CPR to get him breathing again. Such was the force he put into the chest compressions, he even broke John's ribs.

Carl said: "What's the best thing you can give somebody? A second crack at life. I'm just happy to have been able to do that for him.

"It wasn't all me and there was a good team showing the ambulance the way to go and helping out. I was just the one shocking John and giving him a kiss!"

"Just knowing that the defibrillator is there means we have a good chance of saving someone's life if an incident like John's happens again. If your golf club doesn't have a defibrillator, get one. It's the difference between life and death."

Having not completed a single hole at last year's Seniors Open, Hickleton has invited John back to play in this year's competition free of charge. Carl added that he's taken the day off so he can follow John around, just to make sure he's OK.

NEW HR helpline for members



Creating a good working environment as a team

Are you looking for HR advice?

- / Do you need to sort out how much annual leave you are entitled to?
- / Do you need to lodge a grievance but aren't sure how to do it?
- / Do you need help with maternity or paternity leave?
- / Are you suffering from harassment or bullying at work?
- / Would you like to discuss fair and equal pay but aren't sure how?
- / Would you like an employee handbook?
- / Do you want to discuss personal well-being and mental health?
- / What benefits are you entitled to at work?

Each of these and any other HR issue can be discussed with a dedicated team of advisors at no additional cost to you — it's all included in your BIGGA membership.

BIGGA has teamed up with Xact to provide every member with access to free help and advice to make your workplace a more professional and positive environment.

A team of qualified advisors will be on hand to assist BIGGA members with any HR problems that arise, with advice just a phone call away. The advisors can help from the very early stages through to the conclusion of the matter and unlimited telephone and email advice is available for each case. The helplines are available

Just pick up a phone and we'll do what we can to help

from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

The service is completely confidential and no contact will be made with your employer. The only things they'll ask for when you get in contact are your full name, your start date at your current employer and your BIGGA membership number, just to make sure that your membership is still active.

They may ask for a copy of your employment contract if appropriate to your enquiry.

You can get in contact by email and an advisor will aim to be in contact the same day

For help with your HR matters, email
BIGGAmembers@xactgroup.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can call 0330 332 2636 to speak to an advisor immediately.



Get in touch with our local Membership Services team

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SHORT PUTTS

Rushmere

South East Region - East Anglia



David Driver is presented with his prize after winning the event

The East Anglia Section's second meeting of the year took place at Rushmere, with around 30 people taking part.

The sponsor for the day was Reesink Turfcare, with the Toro Trophy up for grabs for the winner.

David Driver of Rushmere was the winner of the event, with Michael Buck and Ian Lloyd qualifying for the BIGGA National Championship.

Volunteering

National

Volunteer opportunities are available for members to get experience of preparing a course for major tournaments.

Spots are available to help at the Portugal Masters, taking place at Dom Pedro Victoria in Vilamoura from 20 to 27 October and the Turkish Airlines Open, taking place at The Montgomerie Maxx Royal in Antalya from 3 to 10 November.

Accommodation and food is available, although flights are not provided.

Email stefancarter1@hotmail.co.uk for details.

Frank Scullion

Central England Region - Mid Anglia



Sylvia and Frank Scullion at Buckingham Palace

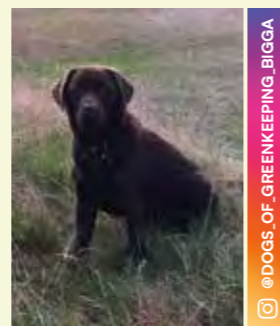
BIGGA life member Frank Scullion received an invitation he couldn't refuse during May.

The former Dunstable Downs head greenkeeper was invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 21 May alongside

his wife, Sylvia.

The invitation explained how Frank had been invited along to the event, which was also attended by members of the Royal Family, in recognition of his services to greenkeeping in a career spanning 45 years.

DOGS ON COURSE



@DOGS_OF_GREENKEEPING_BIGGA

Name: Baxter
Owner: Steve Goldthorpe
Course: Hallowes
Favourite treat: Anything edible
Favourite spot on the course: Wildlife pond on the 17th
Naughtiest moment: Pinching members' balls
My dog is happiest when... Receiving treats from members

Parkstone hosts European Ladies' Amateur

South West & South Wales Region - South Coast



Volunteers assisting at Parkstone

Parkstone Golf Club recently held the European Ladies' Amateur Championships.

The event took place from 22 to 27 July with Grant Peters and his team hosting.

Jim Fancey said: "Many of our section members volunteered during the competition, which shows what an amazing industry this is to work in."

The 'Race to Dornoch'

Scotland & Northern Ireland Region



Fortrose & Rosemarkie

The Scottish champion 2018, George Paterson, is set to host the first qualifying event in the 'Race to Dornoch 2021' at Fortrose & Rosemarkie.

The GoGreen Caledonia Quaich is an opportunity to qualify for the 2021 BIGGA Scotland Golf Championship, to be held at Royal Dornoch.

The qualifying competition will take place on Thursday 5 September, with a portion of the entry fees donated to the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Non-BIGGA members are welcome to take part, to gain a better understanding of what BIGGA can offer. Head to the BIGGA website for details.

Greenkeeper awards

Scotland & Northern Ireland Region - Northern Ireland

The College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) in Northern Ireland hosted its horticulture awards day, with a number of BIGGA members taking home prizes.

The BIGGA Level 2 Greenkeeper Student of the Year award was presented to

Matthew Reid of Helens Bay. Rodney McKay, course manager at Galgorm Spa and Golf Resort was presented with the GCSAI Trophy (Best Level 3 Greenkeeping Student) by Wendy Cole of the R&A. Other awards winners were Calum Burnside and Martyn Cullen.



Martyn Cullen won Golfing Union of Ireland Greenkeeping Cadet of the Year



BIGGA Level 2 Greenkeeping Student of the Year was Matthew Reid of Helens Bay Golf Club. He was presented with the award by BIGGA's John Young and Senior Lecturer Paul Campbell



Rodney McKay of Galgorm Spa and Golf Resort was presented with the GCSAI Trophy (Best Level 3 Greenkeeping Student) by the R&A's Wendy Cole and Fergal Greenan, CAFRE lecturer in greenkeeping



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SHORT PUTTS

Scholarship

South East Region - Surrey



Graeme Roberts. Image by Ash Youd

Swinley Forest greenkeeper Graeme Roberts has become the latest recipient of a Higher Education Scholarship supported by Textron Golf.

Graeme, 31, is in receipt of the scholarship to assist with his studies towards a HNC in Golf Course Management at Elmwood College SRUC.

Callum Edwards, 32, of The London Golf Club, has been awarded a Textron Golf Higher Education Scholarship as he studies towards his online FDSC Sportsturf with Myerscough College.

Scholarships assist full members of BIGGA move into higher education, with up to £1,000 awarded to each candidate.

Correction

Central England Region - Midland

The July edition of this magazine mistakenly stated that Sean McDade, who passed away in June, was the former deputy head greenkeeper at Frilford Heath.

This was in error and Sean had actually been employed at Fulford Heath.

Have you overcome disaster at your club?

BTME and Continue to Learn

The BTME Breakfast Club is returning in 2020



The BTME Breakfast Club is returning to Continue to Learn in 2020 and we're on the lookout for BIGGA members to take part.

The theme for this year's on-stage conversation is 'Cock-ups, disasters and calamities!' and we're looking to hear stories about when the

unexpected happens at your golf club.

BIGGA's head of member development, Sami Strutt, said: "When no amount of planning helps, what do you do next? We're looking for true stories from greenkeepers who saved the day and are willing to talk to Naga

Munchetty on stage about what they learnt and what they'd do differently next time.

"The Breakfast Club should be an entertaining and informative addition to Continue to Learn in 2020."

If you're interested in taking part in the conversation, email sami@bigga.co.uk

Brian Bolland

Scotland Region - West



Brian Bolland

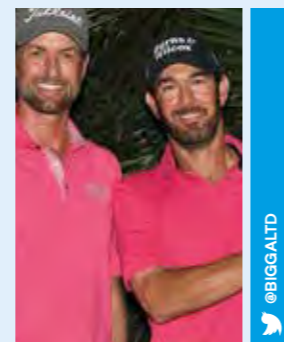
BIGGA was saddened to hear of the death of Brian Bolland, aged 59.

The course manager at East Kilbride for over 28 years and former section chairman, Brian died on 4 July after a short illness.

Scott McTaggart said: "Brian was a talented greenkeeper and a dear friend who has left us far too soon."

TWEET OF THE MONTH

Paul Tesori
@PaulTesori



@BIGGALTD

My favourite choice that @TheOpen makes each year is to have [greenkeepers] rake the bunkers for each group. It speeds up play and helps keep us older guys moving quicker. @Ryanneale92, you were a stud today. Thank you.

Golfpark Zurichsee achieves fourth GEO accreditation

The team at Golfpark Zurichsee in Switzerland, led by Steven Tierney MG, is celebrating after the club achieved its fourth GEO certification.

The club was acknowledged for its "outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community".

Course Superintendent Steven Tierney MG said: "We're really proud to have achieved our fourth certification, making us one of only a handful worldwide to have done this. Since the opening of the club in 1998, we have strived to treat nature with respect and work with it, rather than against it."

England captain supports charity

BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund

Former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan did his bit to support the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund recently.

The cricket commentator and Ashes winner was part of the winning team that took part in a charity golf day for the benevolent fund, hosted at Wilmslow Golf Club in Knutsford, Cheshire, during July. Wilmslow hosted the event as the benevolent fund has been selected by club captain Ben Cartwright as his charity for the year.

His victory in the charity was just the start of the festivities for Vaughan, who a day later was on the scene to witness England claim the Cricket World Cup, which he described as "My greatest day in cricket".

BIGGA is hosting its own charity golf day in aid of the



Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund, taking place at Chesterfield Golf Club on 21 August. Head to the BIGGA website for more details.

Elsham and Holme Hall

Central England Region - East of England



The team at Elsham

The teams at Elsham and Holme Hall have been praised after successfully hosting the English Seniors Men's Open Amateur Championship.

The England Golf championship was joint hosted by the Lincolnshire

golf clubs.

The East of England Section's Rob Bemment said: "Great feedback was given by the players over the week about the excellent condition of both courses, so congratulations to everyone who was involved!"



EDUCATE EXHIBIT EVOLVE

BTME 2020 | 20-23 January 2020
Harrogate Convention Centre | btme.org.uk

More than 5,000 of the best and brightest talent in the sportsturf maintenance industry will be heading to Harrogate this January to discover the latest innovation and exciting product launches.

Make sure you and your golf course stay ahead of the game by joining the industry's top manufacturers, distributors and end users at BTME 2020.




SHORT PUTTS

Loch Lomond hosts YGC

Scotland Region - West

Loch Lomond recently hosted a Young Greenkeepers Committee section event.

The day included a tour of the facility, practical machinery training and talks about sand capping and career development.

Thanks were given to Loch Lomond's David Cole and Peter Haggerty, who gave up their time to host the event.

For more information about the Young Greenkeepers Committee in Scotland contact John Young on 07776 242 120 or email johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Alwoodley appointment

Northern Region - Yorkshire



Following the successful hosting of the Brabazon Trophy during May, Matthew Brighton has been appointed course manager at Alwoodley.

Matthew, 30, had been acting course manager following the retirement of Phillip Taylor and oversaw the hosting of England Golf's leading men's amateur championship.

David Briffault

South East Region - Essex



David Briffault pictured on holiday with his girlfriend, Penny Bristow



A fund has been set up to support Boyce Hill greenkeeper David Briffault

The thoughts of everyone at BIGGA have gone to our member David Briffault and his family after a serious incident that occurred while the Boyce Hill greenkeeper was holidaying in Spain.

David, 23, suffered catastrophic life-changing injuries to his spinal chord that left him paralysed after

using a slide at the Aqualandia Waterpark just a few days before he was due to fly home.

A JustGiving page set up in his name has generated more than £80,000 at the time of going to print, to aid with flying David back to the UK and to begin the process of transforming his family home

to accommodate his disabilities.

Boyce Hill is hosting a charity golf event at the club to help raise support for David and his family.

The event costs £160 per team of four. To book a place, call 01268 793 625 or email generalmanager@boycehillgolfclub.co.uk

Rowlands Castle

South West & South Wales Region - South Coast



Greig Easton and Amy Thomas enjoying the summer tournament at Rowlands Castle

The South Coast Section's summer tournament was held at Rowlands Castle.

The event also acted as the section's qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship and was won with 41 points by Harvey Sims of Rowlands Castle.

Congratulations went to Bill Davis, Kevin Hensman and team for hosting the event.

Summer golf day

Central England Region - East of England

The East of England's summer golf day was won by Ben Lowery, the head greenkeeper at Market Rasen in Lincoln.

The event took place at Spalding GC and was sponsored by GKB, with the company also sponsoring a spot at the BIGGA National Championship for the winner.



Ben Lowery (right) accepts his prize from Tom Shinkins of GKB

Stanley Zontek memorial

Scotland & Northern Ireland Region - South West Scotland



Ben McGraw delivers a talk on leatherjackets

The South West Scotland Section hosted the Stanley Zontek Memorial Conference at Gables Hotel in Irvine.

The guest speakers were John Kaminski and Ben McGraw from Penn State University.

Ben McGraw gave a talk on pests on the golf course, focussing upon leatherjackets and methods of combating the problem.

John Kaminski then spoke

about diseases associated with Poa annua turf.

Finally, John Kemp from the Golf Environment Organisation gave an insight into what the GEO can do for golf courses.

South West Scotland committee member Robert Tosh said: "The event was well attended and included greenkeepers from other sections, so it was great to see everyone there."

Belvoir Park

Scotland & Northern Ireland Region - Northern Ireland



Aaron Small of Belvoir Park

Aaron Small, reigning Northern Ireland champion and course manager at Belvoir Park, is looking forward to hosting this year's golf championship at the Belfast club.

The championship is an opportunity for BIGGA members and patrons to come together to find Northern Ireland's top golfing greenkeeper. Two prize winners will also receive

complimentary entry to the BIGGA National Championship, taking place this year at Formby and Formby Ladies.

The championship will take place on Thursday 22 August and a portion of the entry fees will be donated to the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Non-BIGGA members are invited to take part. Head to the website for details.










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AROUND THE GLOBE

Etienne Pillier | Golf de L'Isle Adam | France

How would you describe the style of course you manage and what is your club's claim to fame?

We are an 18-hole parkland course in the middle of very old woodlands. We're also quite hilly. The course was designed in 1995 by Ronald Fream and it is playable all year round.

How does greenkeeping in your country vary from the UK?

Greenkeeping in France is much like in Britain, but with far fewer courses.

How does the weather affect your work?

We are starting to suffer with climate change. This means we are experiencing more severe winters and hotter and drier summers. This leaves little time in between to prepare the course.

Water is very much becoming a problem, with too much in winter and not enough in summer.

How does the availability of resources, such as chemicals or machinery, impact what you are able to achieve?

The restrictions on chemicals in France are very tight and there are fewer and fewer each year. We are trying different greenkeeping techniques to find the best for us and our golfers and this is proving very challenging.

What turfgrass species do you grow on your course and how are they impacted by your climate?

The course has agrostis stolonifera on greens and tees, with ryegrass fairways. The fairways are suffering with the hotter summers and we will have to find a solution.

What is greenkeeper training like in your country and how does that impact recruitment?

Training in France is quite good, with one college for future head greenkeepers and several regional centres for greenkeeping. This helps us a lot when it comes to recruitment.

What interaction do you have with golfers at your club and how are you perceived by them?

There is not a lot of interaction with golfers in France. But since the Ryder Cup at Le Golf National, our image in general is getting much better.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

I choose to be a BIGGA member firstly for its open and international perspective. Secondly, for its great magazine, and finally because my father, Leslie Pillier,



has been a member for 30 years. BTME is also the best event of its kind in Europe.

What tip would you give British greenkeepers that you have learnt?

You have to adapt to each course that you work at. Each course is unique.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

New directors at Campey

Julia Campey has been appointed as the managing director of BIGGA Partners Campey Turf Care Systems.

Meanwhile, former managing director Richard Campey has taken on the position of chairman.

Richard said: "I've had many successful years at this company and I'm very proud of what we have achieved. Julia has been a part of that success for many years and has extensive knowledge of our product range and the industry. I'm very confident in her ability to take Campey forwards."

Campey has recently entered into a partnership with BIGGA that has seen the launch of the Excellence in Communications Awards. You can find out more about the awards - including how you could win a trip to Florida - on page nine and by visiting our website.

As part of the restructure at Campey, John Campey and Lee Morgado have been appointed directors and Neil Armstrong, who joined Campey in 2010 as accounts manager, will take up the position as company secretary.

Julia has been a key figure at Campey since 2004 and has been the sales and marketing coordinator for the last 10 years. She has developed the corporate presence of the company throughout the UK, Europe and other parts of the globe.

Julia has organised exhibitions, as well as educational tours for overseas visitors



Lee Morgado, Richard Campey, John Lee and Julia Campey

and provided support to the sales team in the pursuit of excellence in product development, sales and back-up services.

Lee, who started with Campey in 2006 in the workshops, has seen his role in the company grow and change direction over the years. He progressed to become a sales demonstrator before taking on numerous renovations across Europe and further afield before becoming product specialist for southern Europe and Denmark.

Along with John, Lee has experience from the field and both will work actively in the new structure to maintain the founding principles of the company.

Richard added: "Lee has worked his way up through the company over 13 years and has a great understanding of how we operate and has a brilliant relationship with our customers and dealers. Lee and John have been great assets to us and I think both will use their practical experience to great effect in the boardroom."

Consultant agronomist at STRI Group



Kelly-Marie Clack

STRI Group has appointed Kelly-Marie Clack as a consultant agronomist.

Kelly has worked in the amenity industry for over 10 years, most recently with AGS.

Kelly said: "I'm over the moon to have joined STRI Group. It's an exciting time for the business and I'm relishing starting this journey with them. I have lots to learn over the coming months and I can't wait to get stuck in."

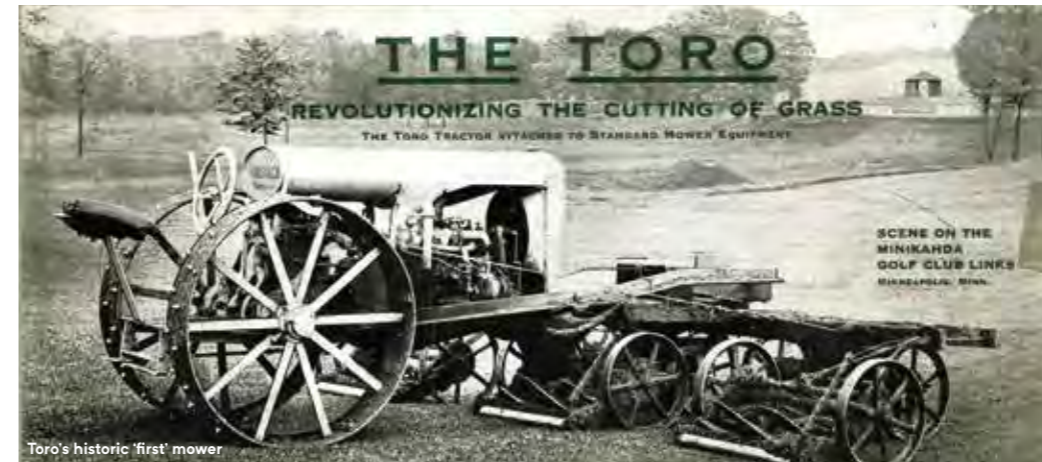
Kelly will be working with a range of sports facilities across the UK, delivering STRI's broad suite of services and

agronomic support for clients.

Agronomy general manager Paul Woodham said: "Kelly has been on our radar for a while and this is the perfect time to welcome her to STRI Group. Her skill sets and enthusiasm are well suited to our team, who work across a range of sports. Kelly's recruitment has been well-received in the industry."

Kelly's recruitment is one of several new faces to join STRI Group in the last three months, as the business grows globally, including the establishment of a centre in Hong Kong.

Toro celebrates 100 years in the golf industry



Toro's historic 'first' mower

Machinery manufacturer Toro has celebrated 100 years of serving the golf industry.

A century ago, the Toro Company developed the industry's first motorised fairway mower for the Minikahda Club in Minneapolis.

By mounting five lawn mowers on the front of a farm tractor, Toro has a claim to

creating the motorised golf course equipment industry.

Grant Young, general manager of Toro's Commercial Business, said: "Without a doubt, we owe much of our success to the Toro employees who have helped shape the golf industry with countless innovations. But we wouldn't be here today without the Toro customers across the globe who put their

faith and trust in our products every day.

"As we celebrate a century in the golf industry, we simply want to say thank you to our customers and channel partners for continuing to put your trust in Toro people and products."

The first Toro product to hit UK shores was the Toro Greensmaster 3, which arrived in the early 1970s.

Durabunker signs on as BIGGA Education Supporter

Bunker design and construction specialist Durabunker has pledged its commitment to BIGGA members after becoming the association's latest education supporter.

Durabunker is a market leader in the construction of high performance, low maintenance bunkers with a growing international portfolio and a product line that includes patented synthetic bunker edge technology and multiple bunker liners.

Durabunker director Rhydian Lewis said: "Since first bringing the Synthetic Bunker Edge to market in 2010, I have had the pleasure to meet and work with so many genuinely friendly and supportive characters in the greenkeeping industry. It still amazes how professional and knowledgeable greenkeepers are and how much of a

challenge many of them face in their working lives. It's a tough gig and I'm constantly impressed at how they rise to that challenge.

"Having spent a large part of my career in training and education, I remain passionate about the benefits that lifelong learning brings to any profession. We are all looking

forward to working more closely with BIGGA and to supporting the industry that is the lifeblood of our company's success."

In its new capacity as education supporter for BIGGA, Durabunker will help provide valuable professional development opportunities for BIGGA members.



A Durabunker demonstration attended by BIGGA members

SPARE PARTS

Club Car's configurator

Club Car has upgraded its customer experience with the launch of an online car configurator that allows customers to design, build and view their vehicles online before purchase.

Designed to engage customers early in the purchasing journey with an interactive experience, the configurator integrates with the Club Car website, enabling customers to customise a model and create a car that suits lifestyles and needs.

Working from computer aided design data, the Onward 2, 4 and 6 passenger vehicles can be fully customised with more than 30 accessory options.

Equality role

The European Institute of Golf Course Architects has appointed an equality advisor as part of its commitment to the R&A's Women in Golf Charter.

Kari Haug is an advocate for improving course playability for all golfers, especially women and seniors, making her an ideal candidate for the role.

Kari said: "I think we are on the cusp of positive and historic cultural change in golf following the vision and leadership of the R&A and I am looking forward to beginning our work together."

As part of her role, Kari will work to encourage more women to join and remain within the course architecture profession.

Reesink Turfcare



Rochelle Bedford

Reesink Turfcare has appointed a marketing manager for all the turfcare machinery and equipment brands in the distribution company's portfolio.

Rochelle Bedford said she was attracted to Reesink Turfcare by the company's established reputation, values, work ethic and ideas-sharing culture.

She said: "With the marketing machine fully up and running, I was excited to

get stuck straight in to see how it all worked. Over the past few months, I have seen great potential for how the marketing department can be developed, in supporting the business as a whole and taking it to that next level."

Reesink's marketing department is considered a vital part of the business. In addition to coordinating turf marketing programmes, it also organises show and event attendance each year.

The Green Room

On the podcast this month:

Episode 17: Back from the dead: why your course needs a defibrillator. The podcast visits Hickleton and its life-saving greenkeeper, Carl Flavell.

Episode 18: Women and Girls' Golf Week. What's life like at a club operated entirely by ladies? We visited Bonar Bridge to find out.

GCMA and Golf Foundation announce partnership

The Golf Club Managers' Association (GCMA) has agreed to support the Golf Foundation as its chosen charity for 2019-20.

The relationship aims to raise awareness of both organisations within golf clubs around the UK, while helping to raise funds to support junior grassroots golf activity.

The GCMA supports 1,700 members around the UK and has been a long-time support of the Golf Foundation's work to help young people to enjoy the playing and personal benefits of golf. However, this marks the first time the association has designated the Golf Foundation as its official charity.

The GCMA's Phil Grice said: "Having taken over as chairman in 2018, I was conscious of the association's social responsibility within the sport and I'm delighted that we'll now formally be

supporting the fantastic work that the Golf Foundation does to support young people's participation in our game."

The first initiative in the collaboration is to encourage GCMA members to bolt a fundraising element on to an existing competition at their club, with all money raised being donated to the Golf

Foundation to support junior participation activity.

Vanessa Bell, head of fundraising at Golf Foundation, said: "We are hugely excited to be working with the GCMA, not only to try and raise additional funds for the Golf Foundation, but also to develop links with managers around the UK."



The Golf Foundation is the GCMA's charity of the year

Dunbar rebuild

Plans are expected to be submitted that would modernise historic Dunbar Golf Club in East Lothian.

According to the East Lothian Courier, discussions about a new clubhouse and hotel at the historic course have been ongoing for more than a decade.

The club was formed in 1856 and the latest plans also feature a driving range, nine-hole golf course, golf academy and practice facilities.

The proposals will not impact upon the existing course and Tony Thomas, from APT Planning and Development, said he expects the plans to be submitted to the local authority by September.

If plans are approved, about 17 homes would be built on the site and the clubhouse would be built in 2022 and open the following year.

Infinicut mower launch



The Infinicut team alongside SM34 models

Greenkeepers were invited to Tottenham Hotspur's training facility to see the launch of the Infinicut SM34 Rotary Mower.

The SM34 follows the same design philosophy as the rest of the Infinicut range, with an emphasis on a modern, clean power source.

John Coleman, head of MTD Specialty Products UK said: "The Infinicut Rotary was a natural product progression from our well-recognised Infinicut cylinder mower range. The design of this machine is a combination of

our own concepts and ideas, but at the same time we've listened carefully to our customers' feedback.

"The culmination is a machine that takes a well-known concept and places it firmly in the modern era by introducing wireless parameter adjustment via our proprietary InfiniApp."

The machine takes its mode of traction from the Infinicut reel mower and can be utilised in either a traditional mowing sense with a 34" cutting width or as a stand-alone vacuum.

Bunker solution at Royal Norwich



Bunker installation at Royal Norwich

Royal Norwich, which opens in September, has completed the installation of the Capillary Concrete liner system across its 60 bunkers.

The course, designed by Ross McMurray of European Golf Design, is located on the site of the former Weston Park course, which Royal Norwich acquired after selling its existing site for housing development.

"When I was looking at the specification of the project, I was continually asking myself how we could make the club

as maintenance-friendly as possible," said club director and estates manager Peter Todd. "When we planned this project, we knew the soils in this area had small stones in and the old Royal Norwich always had a reputation for stones in its bunkers. In fact, we could see the stones clearly as soon as we started construction, so it was obvious we would need a good liner for our bunkers."

A local contractor was utilised to install the product, with all 60 bunkers completed in 13 days.

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Photo courtesy of Builders Plan
Ryder Cup Course, "Spartan Island Green"
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gcma.org.uk/conference

Greenkeeper Astbury Golf Club, Congleton

An opportunity has arisen for an experienced greenkeeper to join the greens team managing this excellent Cheshire parkland course.

- Ideally, the successful applicant will have:
- / Two years' greenkeeping experience
 - / NVQ 2 in Amenity Sportsturf
 - / Knowledge of health & safety procedures
 - / Operation of modern greenkeeping equipment, delivering outstanding presentation
 - / PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates
 - / Flexibility regarding work rota
 - / Ability to work individually and in a team
 - / Positive attitude with good communication skills

Salary dependent on experience and qualifications. Applicants should apply in writing, with CV, to admin@astburygolfclub.com or The Greens Chairman, Astbury Golf Club Ltd, Peel Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4RE. Closing date for applications: Friday 9 August 2019



Qualified Greenkeepers Essendon Country Club

Essendon Country Club, Hertfordshire is looking for two qualified greenkeepers to join our team.

Full-time/40 hours with a flexible approach and to include some paid overtime at weekends.

The successful candidate to be NVQ3 Sports Turf qualified or equivalent, trained in chainsaw CS30/31 and spraying PA1/2/6.

The position requires an individual who can apply their skills to all aspects of course maintenance. Working within a well-established team you will be working closely with the course manager and management team to implement the weekly greenkeeping plan.

Ability to operate a full range of equipment essential. Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

In the first instance, please send your CV with covering letter to Craig Gibson, course manager at craig.gibson@essendoncc.com



Assistant Greenkeeper New Zealand Golf Club, Surrey

Established in 1895, New Zealand Golf Club is considered one of the finest heathland golf courses in Surrey, and ranked amongst the top 100 golf courses in the UK.

The club requires an assistant greenkeeper to join our existing team on a full-time basis. Applicants must be self-motivated, hardworking, enthusiastic and be able to work as part of a team.

- Position details:**
- / 40 hour week with additional rota based weekend work
 - / Paid overtime
 - / Staff lunch
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 - / Paid BIGGA membership
 - / Inclusion in staff gratuities
 - / Competitive salary
 - / Opportunities for further training

Closing date: 13 September 2019
Apply via email with a cover letter and CV to: paul.hobden@nzgc.org



Mechanic Greenkeeper Hadley Wood Golf Club

Hadley Wood Golf Club is seeking a full-time mechanic greenkeeper to join its dedicated, hardworking and progressive team. The successful candidate will need to excel in all areas and will need to be passionate, reliable and self-motivated.

The club operates a broad spectrum of turf machinery and equipment. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of a large, purpose-built workshop and will also assist with golf course maintenance duties.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and in line with BIGGA recommendations.

To apply, please send your CV with a

covering letter to David Jackson: gim@hadleywoodgc.com



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From trainee vacancies to senior management roles, new greenkeeping job opportunities are added daily to BIGGA's online recruitment pages.

BIGGA's website receives 1.6 million page views per year and 55% of those are to our careers pages. Visit www.bigga.org.uk to see our latest opportunities and find out more about advertising your position.

For more information call 01347 833 800 or email info@bigga.co.uk



Course Manager Thonock Park, Lincolnshire

Thonock Park is a 36-hole golf venue set in 800 acres of beautiful Lincolnshire countryside. This stunning venue, owned by PING, boasts a flood-lit undercover driving range, teaching studio, a large two-storey clubhouse with extensive function/catering capabilities and new luxury accommodation. The successful candidate will have extensive experience in all aspects of golf course management.

They will form part of the venue's senior management team and be responsible for:

- / Golf course preparation and condition
- / Landscape and gardens
- / Management and development of the greenkeeping team

- / Management of machinery, equipment, irrigation system and chemical applications
- / Annual budget and expense control
- / If you have a passion for golf, great customer service skills, a high attention to detail and would like to be a part of this prestigious brand, please send your CV to: caroliner@pingeurope.co.uk



Assistant Greenkeepers Farnham Golf Club, Surrey

Established in 1896, 'Farnham Sands' is supremely well presented with excellent greens, set within the glorious Surrey countryside. The club is seeking enthusiastic, motivated staff to join the dedicated team.

Working under the direction of the head greenkeeper or his deputy, the successful candidates will be responsible for ensuring the course and practice facilities are maintained to a first-class playing condition and assisting with a number of exciting projects.

Full, part time and seasonal opportunities available. Salaries negotiable depending upon experience and qualifications. Full

training will be given to trainees. Benefits include competitive salaries, training, access to the course, pension, uniform and complimentary lunches while on duty. Contact course manager Rupert Lawrence, on manager@farnhamgolfclub.co.uk or www.farnhamgolfclub.co.uk



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Entries close on 31 October 2019, and all you have to do is complete the nomination form that's located on the BIGGA website.



To nominate someone for an award visit www.bigga.org.uk/the-bigga-awards-are-back or scan the QR code





ECOLOGY ROUNDUP

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)



Ragwort

Let's get one thing straight from the off: ragwort is hugely important to our invertebrates.

Ragwort has had a lot of bad press over the years as it is poisonous to livestock in large quantities. It's also poisonous to humans by the way, but if you eat enough to reach the fatal dosage, then you were probably already looking for trouble.

The Weeds Act 1959 even states that landowners can be compelled to remove ragwort, although it is not a requirement to automatically do so.

In contrast, ragwort is so important to the ecology of the UK that over 200 different type of insects have been found either drinking nectar, laying eggs or simply chomping on the leaves and flowers.

We all know about the cinnabar moth caterpillar, don't we? That black and orange wriggler, which munches its way through whole ragwort plants? Well those eventually turn into a beautiful red and black day-flying moth that can be seen on most golf courses throughout Britain. The northern reaches of Scotland appear to lack this treat, however, it's getting a whole lot warmer, so you never know when or where one will crop up.

Golf courses often manage ragwort by



Ragwort with a small copper butterfly

pulling the plant in summertime, when you can actually see the yellow flower head. But do you know what? It is probably too late at that stage. This is because the plant is giving pollen to the many visiting pollinators and, as a consequence, is pollinating other ragworts!

The ideal time to remove the plant is when it is in rosette form (first year), but these aren't easy to find in the long roughs, so we'll stick to year two pulling shall we? Be sure to pull them before they flower though or you may be wasting your time.

I guess what I'm saying is greenkeepers, historically anyway, used to rid the golf course of this yellow biennial in its totality through misinterpretation of the law. The truth is yes, there are laws relating to its

whereabouts, and these should be adhered to.

However, they are there not to eradicate ragwort in its totality, but to simply control the weed in locations where it could pose a risk to animal welfare, such as farms or horse paddocks.

With that in mind, thought should go to leaving pockets of this important plant in the out-of-play areas of your course to allow pollinators and other invertebrates to thrive.

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