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# Greenkeeper

International

THE WAIT IS  
**ALMOST  
OVER**

## The Open at Royal Portrush

After 68 years, The Open is returning to Northern Ireland. Graeme Beatt and his team are ready and waiting



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# Welcome



The BIGGA Open Support Team will once again be under the spotlight at this year's event

I've been looking forward to this month ever since it was announced that The Open would be returning to Royal Portrush, back in 2015.

I was privileged to play Royal Portrush a couple of years ago and I can't wait to see how the world's best golfers tackle it.

Course Manager Graeme Beatt and his team have done an outstanding job in preparing the course and working with our team to welcome the BIGGA Open Support Team.

Over the last few years we have spent a lot of time and energy engaging with our members in Northern Ireland and I'm delighted that many have applied to be part of the support team on home turf.

I say this every year but it bears repeating: never is greenkeeping more in the public eye than during The Open. It is a huge chance for us to put forward a great impression of greenkeeping and of the association. Images of the course are beamed around the world and millions will see a BIGGA member accompanying every group in the tournament.

It is also a brilliant



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

It is a huge chance for us to put forward a great impression of greenkeeping

opportunity for us to engage with the many other governing bodies in the sport and a very hot topic at the moment is golf club governance. Despite a definite shift in recent years to more professional management of golf clubs, there are still far too many that are at the mercy of changes in committee. The greens committee is very often the focus of this and, especially with the extreme weather we now face, this is putting unacceptable pressure on a number of our members. At best it can be

challenging, at worst it results in bullying and intolerable conditions. We are providing support and advice on the ground to a number of members in these situations but, importantly, we are working with the governance of the sport to find more significant solutions. Too often the employed staff, who are highly-trained and professional, are the ones adversely affected by the actions of, often, well meaning but misguided volunteers.

As ever, communication is key and I'm thrilled that this month we are unveiling a new initiative. Our good friends at Campey Turf Care are backing a series of awards to celebrate excellence in communication in the industry in all its forms. An early contender for the main award is featured in this magazine and is on the theme of communication with golfers and members. I'm grateful to Ryun Holden for submitting his great article and hope many others follow in the coming months. There is so much knowledge and leadership within our membership and I hope this initiative ensures more of it is shared in this magazine.

# WHAT'S INSIDE...

## Editor's Notes



Greenkeeper International, editor, Karl Hansell

**Whatever your roles or responsibility, every now and then it's important to refresh your working practices.**

Whether you'd like to try something new for your own personal development or you're looking to make a few subtle changes that will suddenly bring to light an element of the course that members have taken for granted, it's good to have a change every now and then.

Fashions shift, too, and what may have once proved attractive, no longer fits with the image you want to portray.

It won't have escaped your notice that Greenkeeper International has had a little bit of a revamp and so you'll see where I'm going with this.

Don't worry, we'll still feature the nation's golf course dogs, but the magazine has got a fresh, new look that we hope will emphasise that message of professionalism that we hope you're conveying at your own golf club.

And on the subject of change, I had a pretty unpleasant experience at a golf club recently. The previous course manager had left his position in acrimonious circumstances and the replacement had inherited a team that was unmotivated, had poor morale and resented him for filling the gap of their friend who had been moved on.

What would you do in such a situation? Would you stamp your authority or would you attempt to win them over?

We spend so much of our time as an association discussing the pressures placed upon greenkeepers by golfers and it was sad to see a team adding to the problem by fighting among themselves.

I suppose I should have a well-crafted conclusion to this point, but I don't and I'm afraid there's no magic solution. So all that's left is for me to say that I hope you enjoy the new-look magazine and, as always, your feedback is very welcome.



Golf Club Wyllyhof

## 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:



### Ryun Holden

Ryun, 44, is course manager at the STRI's Golf Environment Award-winning Wyllyhof in Switzerland



### Caroline Munro

Caroline is the only full-time member of staff at Bonar Bridge, Ardgay in Sutherland and spoke about life at the remote club



### Graeme Beatt

Graeme, 39, is preparing himself, his team and the course at Royal Portrush for the biggest challenge of their careers



### Elliott Dowling

Elliott is a former course superintendent and is now the USGA Green Section's Northeast Region agronomist

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## TALKING POINTS

# The Theory of Positivity

It's time to make a change

Ryun Holden | Course Manager | Golf Club Wylihof



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

The title of this article is obviously a play on words from Einstein's "Theory of Relativity", the aim being to highlight what could be the biggest challenge to our industry.

Bigger than climate change or chemical legislation, I would argue the most important challenge for us to

overcome is the issue of positive communication between 'us', the greenkeeper, and 'them', the golfer.

The golfer, whether directly as a committee member or club owner or indirectly as a member or green fee player, has an impact on the club direction. Committees make decisions, while other players feed back, either with their custom or verbally to our employers.

All golfers are important to the golf industry and it is communication with every one of them that I believe to be critical to securing the game's future.

Both climate change and chemical legislation are having a dramatic impact on our day to day work and the general expectation is the situation will become greater in the long term. Both challenges

require significant forward planning and investment. This could constitute improved drainage, grass conversion, improved irrigation, increased topdressing, tree removal, higher heights of cut, traffic management and the list goes on. Each of these processes require the understanding and support of golfers. If we don't get the golfer onside, all our best practice, sustainability, water resource management, wildlife conservation and other 'key phrase' programmes are unattainable. After all, they hold the purse strings.

As a regular to BTME over many years and having enjoyed the company of so many of you, the issue of golfer expectation and understanding is universal. There is an obvious divide between the demands of the golfer and the work of the greenkeeper.

During one workshop this January, we were asked under which circumstances we were permitted to close our golf course. I was shocked to see over 60% were never allowed to close under any circumstance. One attendee described seeing his chairman of greens out on the putting green with two greenkeepers, a hole cutter and a sledgehammer, attempting to change the pin after a very hard frost — the club rule stated that if the hole can be changed, the course must be open. Seriously, what chance do we have if this is the expectation?

The professionalism of greenkeepers during my 28 years in the job has grown immensely. I am amazed at the passion, energy and progressive approach of so many. Forward-thinking greenkeepers are driving us onwards and our professional



organisations, such as BIGGA and the R&A, are brilliantly supporting the agenda and doing some fantastic work, including Golf Course 2030. This initiative has brought all relevant partners around the one table and I hope the issue raised in this article is given priority status for the following reason: the golfer-greenkeeper understanding has not kept pace. The conversations I have with greenkeepers are the same ones we were having more than 20 years ago. We need to get this right, as it is obstructing all the other good work.

So, while Steve Isaac, Jim Croxton et al set policy, what can we be doing at a grassroots level? We all communicate regularly with our managers, members and committees, but often the message doesn't get through. We attend meetings or post a notice on the information board or social media. Although useful, this isn't

changing attitudes and we need to be more proactive.

Two years ago, while banging my head against the proverbial brick wall, I decided to try something new. I invited our committee to conduct a walk and talk. The aim was to get them out of their comfort zone (the committee room) and into mine (the golf course). I wanted to demonstrate the impact of both the golfer and our work in a real world setting.

I designed a tour of our facility, workshop, chemical store, pumphouse and golf course. On the course we considered all areas, such as greens, fairways, woodlands and hard roughs. Finally, we returned to the putting green to demonstrate some of the agronomic tools we use to objectively measure playing quality. I explained how golfer's opinion is subjective, often depending on how well they have played, and how this

is unhelpful to our decision-making. Thinking I had covered every angle, feeling confident and maybe a little smug, we met one Saturday morning.

Over the next four hours I did my best to clarify what we do and its relevance to producing high quality playing surfaces for our golfers. But despite my best efforts, the event left me feeling somewhat deflated. My head and the brick wall kept meeting.

The positive outcome though, was the realisation that this should not come as a surprise. This group is essentially responsible for the running of the golf club business and their questions mainly focused on cost and use of resources in the short term; the things that directly affect the balance sheet. This is both necessary and understandable.

Despite this set-back and motivational hit, I advertised five further events, inviting our members to attend. The first two course walks were conducted on the same weekend. We had 13 signed up for Saturday and eight on Sunday. The programme was the same, but to my great surprise this was a totally different experience. The tour was greeted with fascination and real amazement at how varied our responsibilities, skills, knowledge and achievements are. Most surprising was the overwhelming interest in our environmental work. I had guessed the greens would be of most interest, but our members showed real pride in our team's efforts to responsibly manage the entirety of our land, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and some of the new specific habitat work we had just begun to develop. »



Golf Club Wylihof



Member engagement



Demonstrating the use of a stimpmeter

One member produced a report for the club newsletter saying what a great event it was and how happy they were to have the opportunity to spend a morning on the course in the company of the head greenkeeper. After this, the next three events were fully booked. I now have a waiting list for the five events planned for 2019 and three further events planned for external guests from the local community. My conclusion from this experience was a necessity to communicate directly with the golfer, not just through committee or management channels, which are often filtered or biased. Through these course walks I have built a core support within the membership. Members now talk among one another and with management. I overheard one member in the clubhouse correcting the opinion of another, based on their experience during a course walk.

These course walks will need to be a continual process, pursued year on year. I strongly believe this to be the key to gaining better golfer understanding and managing the demand. It is easy to become demotivated, to think the golfer is the enemy and accept this to be the norm. All too often it feels as though our work is under-appreciated, but attitudes absolutely can be changed.

The key to success is direct contact with the golfer, rather than management. Done right, the golfer will support and push the agenda on our behalf.

**“That was the worst advice I have ever received”**

**Key tips for conducting a course walk**

**Plan it:** As the saying goes, “failing to plan is planning to fail”. Know which

subjects need communicating and how you want the course walk to go. Have set stations and set up any equipment before the walk starts. People don't want to spend time watching you set up equipment. Think of the topics and key phrases you wish to communicate.

I would advise against scripting your talk as the conversation must be able to flow so people feel relaxed. The golfer will listen more if they are part of the



Golf Club Wylhof



Ryun has enjoyed significant success with the course walks he has hosted

conversation, not just preached to.

**Keep it short, keep their interest:** I advertise three and half hours but so far have not completed one in less than four. Our job has so many associated aspects that it is easy to set six or seven stations broken into 30-minute sections.

**Do not try to baffle with science:** When I was starting out in greenkeeping an old head greenkeeper told me, “baffle them with science, then they will stop asking questions”. That was the worst advice I have ever received. The golfer's interest in our work is a necessity if we are to change attitudes. The key is to set the agenda and dictate the talking points. This requires clear and concise explanations of subjects that are often complicated.

**Always be honest, do not make it up:** Golfers sometimes ask difficult questions or ones that are not relevant. It is OK to say “I don't know”. Say you need to give it some thought or maybe it's such a good point that you will put a notice on the board or in the newsletter or post a tweet later, but don't feel rushed to give a false answer there and then.

**Make it interesting:** This generally means demonstrating areas that interest you, as you will naturally be more enthusiastic. Beware of going into too much detail and if golfers start looking at their phones or wandering off, you've gone on too long, so move on. I have found certain subjects gain more interest

than others and have concentrated more on these during later walks.

**Set up demonstrations:** Demonstrations are great and are often the aspect of the course walk golfers go away telling others about. Make them short, interesting and straight to the point. A greenkeeper friend once explained to me how he demonstrated the importance of sharpened cutting units by grinding an old bottom blade in front of his members. Can you imagine standing for 15 minutes watching a grinding machine?

I do a similar demonstration with two cutting units; one well used, the other freshly sharpened. Using setting paper, I show the difference in quality of cut using the sharp unit to make a clean cut and tearing the second piece between my fingers. I can then explain the relevance of this to plant health and disease resistance.

**Tidy up:** Use the events as an excuse to tidy the sheds. Golfers will be impressed and possibly surprised to see a good level of order behind the scenes. After all, tidy sheds equal tidy course.

**Be on topic:** Utilise whichever current issues concern the club. If you have positive results to share, then great, but do not try to avoid the difficult subject as the golfers will only ask about it anyway.

Formulate sound, objective arguments. If you have evidence to support your own on-course statistics, use them.

There will always be the ones who refuse to believe even the blatantly

obvious, but do not get into arguments. State this is the best available evidence to date and leave it at that.

**Ask for their help:** Whether it is repairing pitchmarks, volunteering, communicating to their friends or writing a report for the newsletter, try to get the golfer involved beyond the course walk. We will not change attitudes overnight, but facing the issue head on is the only solution. Hoping it will get better or accepting the status quo means significant damage to our industry and no chance of overcoming future challenges.

**Do not give up:** There are always setbacks and there will always be difficult golfers. Concentrate on those who you can influence, not those you can't. Eventually the ones who get it will outnumber the ones who don't. Their influence becomes diminished and we can get on with the job. Make the course walks as much a part of the job as changing the holes. Our personal well-being will benefit as much as the golf course itself.

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# BIGGA EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATION AWARDS

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## Where will your thoughts 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](mailto:commsawards@bigga.co.uk).

**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](mailto: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!

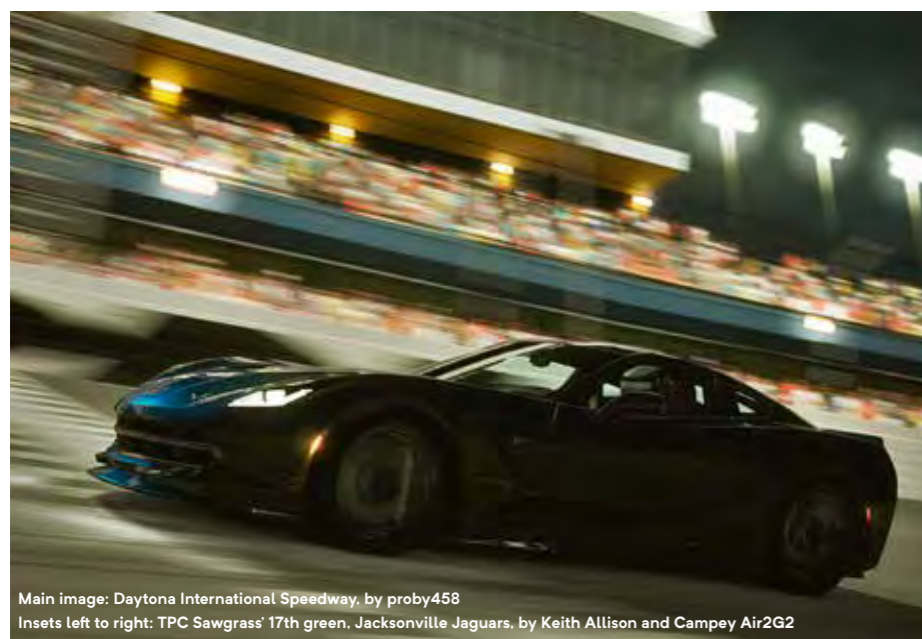
The closing date for entries is 30 November 2019.



### How to enter...

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# ACROSS THE BOARD

Scott Reeves | Course Manager | Leyland

The last couple of months have been a lot quieter in terms of BIGGA activity for me, which is just as well as it's been non-stop at work since my last Across the Board column.

With two staff members on long term sick leave and two temporary greenkeepers to acquaint with our working practices, I do feel pretty stretched. Fortunately, I have two other great lads and I can rely on them to pick up the slack when necessary.

In March, Jim Croxton and I attended the Golf Forum at St. Andrews, a regular gathering of industry leaders.

A variety of topics were discussed, and it is a sign of BIGGA's increasing status that we were able to inform the debates with the perspective of working greenkeepers. From both formal and informal discussions, it is clear that our views are both sought and respected.

Shortly after this I attended a meeting of the Committee for Golf Club Salaries. Quite often we hear the term "BIGGA rates" thrown around, but that is an extremely misleading phrase, given the constitution of the body which makes salary recommendations. Eddie Bullock, the committee chairman, is going to great lengths to make meaningful changes on this front. The aim is to provide tools which can give greenkeepers, club managers and their employers the basis for a proper discussion and negotiation on salary issues.

The Board and staff were sad to see Rob Welford, Central England Region Representative, resign his seat due to a change of position within the industry. Rob has been a stalwart member of the board, offering an honest, balanced contribution and has represented his region members with distinction. Personally, I have come to count on Rob as a valued friend. I'm sure he will continue to contribute to the association wherever he can, and we wish him every



James Hutchinson at Myerscough College

success in his new career.

At the same time, we welcome Andy Laing from Gaudet Luce as Rob's successor. Andy has already been brought up to speed with board business and having got to know him, I'm sure he will prove an able and conscientious representative.

Recently, I have supported James Hutchinson at the Myerscough College Open Day, promoting greenkeeping and sports turf as a career path. We must push our profession at every opportunity as the next generation of greenkeepers will not just magically appear.

I'm really looking forward to The Open at Royal Portrush and meeting the support team members who have given their time to contribute to this historic event.

I'm guessing Brooks Koepka will be a popular figure among the greenkeepers following his comments on accepting course conditions and not moaning! I think most of us would like our members and guests to realise that the greenstaff start each day with the intention of improving their course. If conditions don't always meet the expectations of others, it's not for lack of trying.

We are at that point of the year where we are all working flat out to provide great conditions for golfers. Although we have had a wet spell, I hope you will all take time to apply sun cream or take other UV protective measures when the conditions are right. Skin cancer must be taken seriously in the same way we protect our feet with steel toe caps or our hearing with ear defenders.

Knowing greenkeepers as I do, I'm sure there are plenty of you working extremely long hours. Take the time wherever possible to be with your families and decompress. They need you more than the grass does.



Scott and James Dobie at Blackburn Central High School

# 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.



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



# YOUNG GREENKEEPER'S COMMITTEE

Sandra Raper | Membership Services Manager | Northern England

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## A verified list of your qualifications to accompany your CV

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## A useful tool to use with annual appraisal

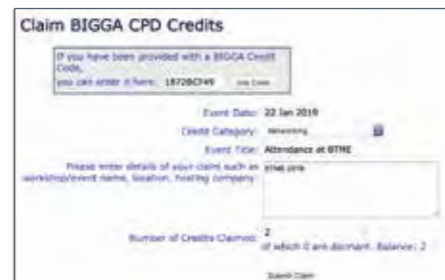
When that appraisal form lands, your CPD record shows how you have developed in the last 12 months and can be used to plan what you would like to achieve in the year ahead. The plan can be made in your appraisal and then recorded in your CPD record, ready for next year to show that the planned progress and training has been achieved.

## How do I claim CPD credits?

It couldn't be easier. The first step has already been taken as you're a BIGGA member, so you are CPD Registered. Now all you have to do is log in at [bigga.org.uk](http://bigga.org.uk) and click on 'Continuing Professional Development' in the list. Then click on



Sample CPD record



Claiming a CPD code

the red 'sign in to CPD'.

The next step is finding the relevant experience you want to claim credits for. For example, on the front page there is a code to claim two credits for attending BTME 2019 (1872BCF49). So if you visited, simply click on 'claim credits' and use this code to autofill the boxes and click submit claim. Done.

If you don't have a code, there are four boxes to complete. Then, photograph your certificate or signed register sheet as verification of your claim and email it to [cpd@bigga.co.uk](mailto:cpd@bigga.co.uk) with your name and membership number in the email title.

## How to maximise your CPD credit claim

If you claim credits for a course walk, workshop or demonstration then why not

maximise this experience? You can write an article for Greenkeeper International and submit it to Karl Hansell and claim further credits. And now, every member submission received for publication in GI is automatically entered into the BIGGA Excellence in Communications Awards sponsored by Campey Turf Care Systems, where you can win a week in Florida!

You can also complete a personal learning statement, which is a simple one-page form that can be completed and submitted online, reflecting on your development experience. Suddenly one credit for attending a course walk has quickly extended to five or six credits!

**If you need a bit more help, ask Deb Burnett or Emily Chandler at BIGGA House, or email [cpd@bigga.co.uk](mailto:cpd@bigga.co.uk), and they will help to get you started and answer any questions you may have.**



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Baroneess 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. Baroneess 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**.

B-ACT is Baroneess-Aggression Cutting Technology. B-ACT offers a variety of versatility of products / parts design and setup to meet the demands for precise specifications, this allows for Baroneess cutting units to adapt and perform on different turf conditions.

The Baroneess "LM Series" are all fitted with the **sharpest**, most **durable** and long-lasting cylinders and bottom blades in the industry. Providing the best **quality of cut**, healthiest turf and after cut appearance. The "LM Series" ride-on mowers are powered by **Kubota** engines and offer a **3-year warranty** while the pedestrian mowers in the LM Series are powered by **Honda** with a **5-year warranty**.



ADDRESS: Unit 5 Hatch Industrial Park, Greywell Road, Basingstoke, RG24 7NG  
TEL: 01256 461591 EMAIL: [sales@baroneessuk.com](mailto:sales@baroneessuk.com)





# LOOKING AHEAD

## BIGGA Golf Management Trophy Qualifying Events

A number of qualifying events will be held for the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy throughout July, sponsored by BIGGA Golf Partner Rigby Taylor.

The events are an opportunity for all aspects of the management team at a golf club to come together in the spirit of competition to build bonds and form friendships.

Golf clubs are invited to enter a team of four, comprising the course manager or head greenkeeper, who must be a BIGGA member, alongside three other staff members. These can be drawn from the

club secretary or general manager, chairman of the greens or committee member, club captain or vice captain, or the club owner.

To earn a spot at the national finals, which will be held at Frilford Heath in Oxfordshire, teams can qualify by participating in a regional event.

Hosted by BIGGA Golf Partner Rigby Taylor, the Golf Management Trophy is one of the most enjoyable national events in the BIGGA calendar. The trophy began in the South West & South Wales Section and has expanded into a national competition.

BIGGA Membership Services Manager Roger Butler said: "The opportunity to spend time with the members of your club management structure is rare, especially in these times

when we are all rushed off our feet."

To book a place on a regional qualifying event, contact the BIGGA membership services manager for your region.



The Rothley Park team won the Golf Management Trophy in 2018

## Get involved with a BIGGA event near you

### Scotland and Northern Ireland

- 1 Golf Management Trophy Qualifier - Scotland South**  
Date: 23 July  
Location: The West Lothian
- 2 Event: Golf Management Trophy Qualifier - Scotland North**  
Date: 25 July  
Location: Portlethen GC
- 3 Event: Willie Woods Texas Scramble**  
Date: 15 August  
Location: Hirsell GC
- 4 The Open Volunteer Support Team**  
Date: 18 to 21 July  
Location: Royal Portrush
- 5 Men's and Ladies' Scottish Opens**  
Date: 11 to 14 July and 8 to 11 August  
Location: The Renaissance Club

### Northern

- 1 Sheffield Summer Golf Day**  
Date: 16 July  
Location: Hallamshire GC
- 2 Yorkshire Summer Tournament**  
Date: 24 July

- 3 Location: Otley GC**  
**Greenlay Cup**  
Date: 1 August  
Location: Whitley Bay GC
- 4 North Wales Section visit to Chester Racecourse**  
Date: 4 August  
Location: Chester Racecourse

### Central England

- 1 BB&O Summer Cup**  
Date: 9 July  
Location: Goring and Streatley GC
- 2 Toro - Irrigation Training Day - Part One**  
Date: 9 July  
Location: Stratford-upon-Avon GC
- 3 East of England Golf Day**  
Date: 11 July  
Location: Spalding GC

### South East

- 1 Essex Section Golf Day**  
Date: 18 July  
Location: Forrester Park
- 2 Captains & Greenkeepers Event**

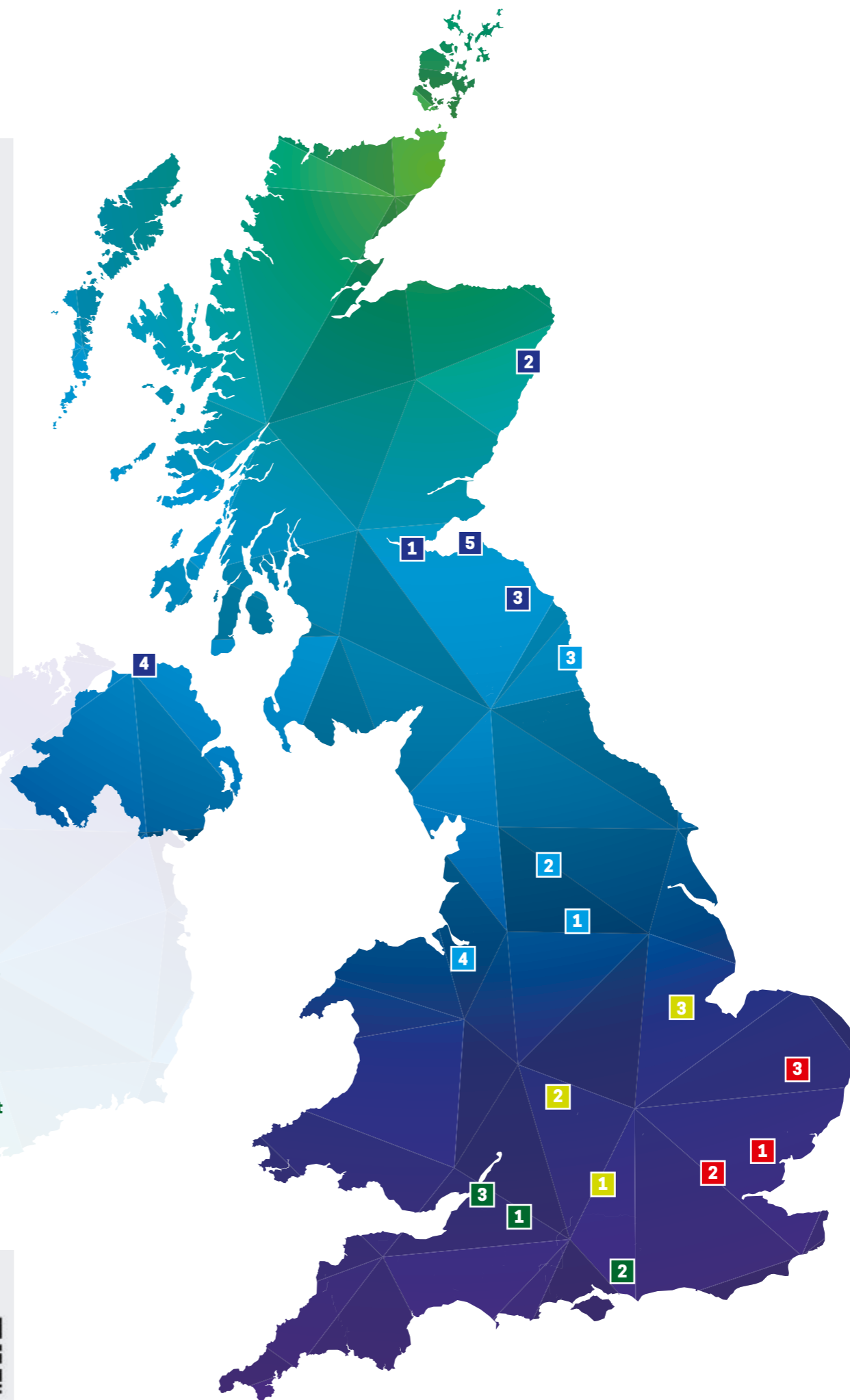
- 3 Date: 23 July**  
Location: Romford GC
- 3 Partners Education and Golf Day**  
Date: 25 July  
Location: Diss GC

### South West & South Wales

- 1 Golf Management Trophy Qualifier**  
Date: 10 July  
Location: Cumberwell Park GC
- 2 South Coast Golf Day**  
Date: 11 July  
Location: Rowlands Castle GC
- 3 South West and South Wales Joint Golf Day**  
Date: 1 August  
Location: Long Ashton 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

Michael Dinsmore, Royal County Down, GK; Mark Reid, Lanark, FA; Graeme Feldmann, Turnberry, GK; Kevin Friend, Thornton, GK; Matthew Watson, Thornton, AGK; Ewan Neil, Muir of Ord, AGK; Ian Walls, Vale of Leven, AGK.

### Northern

Matthew Towse, Wetherby, APP; Oliver Moss, Leeds, APP; Andrew Bennett, Styal, CM; Will Bailey, Alveston Hall, CM; Adrian Holroyde, Balmers GM, ED; Andrew Meeks, Balmers GM, ED; Ben Cook, Balmers GM, ED; James Daley, Aitkens Sportsturf, ED; Matt Porter, Aitkens Sportsturf, ED; Paul Emmanuel, Aitkens Sportsturf, ED; Ash Williams, Worsley, GK; Mark Elliott, The Mere, GK; Chris Wood, Hollins Hall, HGK; Matthew Colcombe, Longley Park, HGK; Ollie Tovee, Prestbury, AGK; Adam Devenney, Upton-by-Chester, AGK; Nathan Kitchen, Ripon City, AGK; Peter Wright, Worsley, AGK.

### Central England

John Frankham, Easthampstead Park, A; Chris Dodds, The Wentworth Club, APP; Dani Hoof, Market Drayton, APP; Jack Wetherall, Wexham Park, APP; Jonathan Bonewell, De Vere Wokefield Estate, APP; Sam Copeland, Astbury, APP; Simon Dudge, Myerscough College, CA; Craig Wyatt, Northampton, DHGK; Danny Glover, The Wentworth Club, GK; Morice James, Easthampstead Park, GK; Walter Frankham, Easthampstead Park, HGK; George Beales, Badgemore Park, AGK; Carl Entwisle, The Wentworth Club, AGK.

### South East

Andrew Hardy, Worplesdon, APP; Ben Lamison, The Grove, APP; Christopher Clements, Risebridge, APP; Connor Winter, Orpington, APP; Douglas Busbridge, Nevill, APP; Elliot Clay, The Shire London, APP; George Davies, Moor Park, APP; Jack Foster, Ashridge, APP; Jack Wood, Sittingbourne & Milton Regis, APP; Jake Elwood, High Elms, APP; Jake Hill, Kings Hill, APP; James Bishop, Coombe Wood, APP; James O'Sullivan, Ash Valley, APP; Jasmine Philips, Cobtree Manor Park, APP; Lee Roberts, Lingfield Park, APP; Matthew Briscoe, Orpington, APP; Nicholas Danny, Hartsbourne, APP; Oliver Osborne, Luton Hoo, APP; Steven Haynes, The London, APP; Edward Pickford, Saffron Walden, GK; Ellis Hatter, Rye, GK; Jason Brown, Chelmsford, GK; Nicholas Cooling, Sweetwoods Park, GK; Dorian Ansell, Clacton-on-Sea, HGK; Jake Buchorski, Ellesborough, AGK; Joshua Coleman, Colne Valley, AGK; William Hutton, Mill Green, AGK; James Leighton, Chelmsford, AGK; Matthew Christie, Fulwell, AGK; Michael Jordan, Southwold, AGK.

### South West & South Wales

Matt Chown, Woodbury Park, APP; Tom Hughes, Henbury, APP; Helen Goodland, Bridgwater & Taunton, CA; Steve Grealy, Leominster, DHGK; Alex Jellicoe-Smith, Newport Sands, GK; Mark Gray, Hayling, GK; Craig Oaten, Celtic Manor Resort, AGK; Jackson Merrick, Leominster, AGK; Stephen Redpath, Came Down, AGK.

### International

Andrew Knott, Haagsse Golfvereniging Leeuwenbergh; Lionel Bard, The SeaPines Resort - Atlantic Dunes; Scott Bibby, Kinloch.

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



# REVEALING THE BMW PGA SUPPORT TEAM

The 2018 BIGGA Wentworth Support Team with last year's winner Francesco Molinari and Wentworth's Kenny Mackay

**BIGGA members ready to lend a helping hand as championship switches to September hosting**

**When the European Tour arrives at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship, it will have been 16 months since the event was last held on the club's West Course.**

A change in the world golf calendar has seen the traditional curtain raiser for the British golf season switch to a position as part of the European Tour's grand finale.

For Kenny Mackay and his team, it's a brand new

challenge and we're delighted that once again a support team of BIGGA members will be on hand to help out with all aspects of course preparation.

Kenny, the director of golf and greenkeeping at

Wentworth, said: "It's going to be really interesting for the guys who've done The Open or other championships, to come in and do an event at Wentworth at the back end of the year as it will be a completely new experience.

**Speaking on The Green Room Golf Course Podcast, Kenny explained how the switch in dates will provide a number of new opportunities for his team.**

"When the change was announced, we were cautious after so many years of doing things. When you make a change of that magnitude, everyone's a little taken aback. But we know the decision has been made for the right reasons and we quickly warmed to the decision. Everything's evolving and you can't stand still, nor do we want to.

"It's going to be very tight for us in terms of staying ahead of play, so we're going to need more people to help us achieve that. This year the East and Edinburgh teams will come back into the fold, while the BIGGA volunteers will also provide assistance. We need to be able to adapt to any situation that might arise."

Look out for the interview with Kenny Mackay on The Green Room Podcast



“They learn many things that they can take back to their own club

“As the volunteer programme began to develop, we started inviting guys to do full time work with us. At first they were doing bunkers and some mowing, and we never had any complaints, but in the last two years we've really evolved the support team programme so the volunteers have got the chance to cut and roll greens or cut fairways and become completely involved.

“Last year we even did a BBQ in the greenkeeping facility and we tried to make the volunteers feel like part of the entire team. That went down really well. If you ask the volunteers who come

regularly, every year is getting better and better. We want to make that experience better for them, so they learn many things that they can take back to their own club.”

A selection of the team has been chosen to help out with early morning course work and preparation in advance of each day's play, while the remainder will be on hand to

accompany each individual match throughout the tournament.

The preparation team will be provided with accommodation for the duration of the event and although the bunker team don't receive accommodation, they are invited to integrate with the team during their time at Wentworth.

## THE TEAM FOR 2019 IS:

### Preparation support team

Adam Baldwin, Lilley Brook; Anthony Duffield, Ham Manor; Craig Woodman, Bramshaw; Daniel Evans, Maesdu Llandudno; David Ball, Thetford; Josh Dunn, Bramcote Waters; Kevin Tigg, Merrist Wood; Leigh Powell, Windlesham; Phillip Slater, West Herts; Rob Patrick, Stoneham; Sam Ewing, Crane Valley;

Jonny Peacock, Rugby; David Taylor, The Bristol; Peter Meek, The Wisley; Seamus Gaughan, Migros Golf Park (Switzerland); Tim Leat, Rich River (Australia); Luke Lacey, Exminster; Callum Atkinson, Prestbury; Harry Misselbrook, Harewood Downs; Henry Aggar, Windlesham.

### Bunker support team

Jeff Drake, Newbury & Crookham; Oliver Kirk, unattached; Sam Amey, Basingstoke; Nathan O'Sullivan, China Fleet; Kevin Weller, Dale Hill Hotel; Iain Biggs, Chesterfield Downs; Oli Norfolk, Tylney Park; David Westwood, Kingswood; Jamie Ingerson, Rochester and Cobham; Nick Street, Crews Hill; Billy MacArthur, Temple; Craig Gibson, Essendon Country Club; Steven Maples, Coventry; Oliver Clark, Mill Hill; Matthew Winney, East Sussex National; Jacob Kennard, Milton Abbey School; Aaron Stead, Surrey Down; Ashley Darnley, The Bristol; Charlie Cripps, Cams Hall Estate; Sam Bethell, Chipstead; Steve Bridgeman, Woking; Steven Hirons, Kirtlington; Tony Bartram, Wentworth; Stuart Simmonds, Boundary Lakes; Robert Brown,

Bognor Regis; Adam Young, The Players Club; Daniel Allsworth, Drayton Park; Nicholas Edwards, Remedy Oak; Stevie-Jon Hood, Forest of Galtres; Lewis Turner, The Dyke; Ryan Lindsay, East Sussex National; Matthew Lindsay, Highwoods; Chris Mitchell, Maidenhead; Ryan Frankish, Spalding; David Smith, Newmarket Links; Gary Nimmo, Oundle; Jordan Belong, Camberley Heath; Patrick Redmond, Woking; Stuart Fry, Old Thorns; Jakob Schur, Rudding Park; Jorge Manso, Coombe Wood; Daniel Cowley, Stanmore; Lee Williams, Phoenix; Martin Coe, China Fleet; Kevin Hensman, Rowlands Castle; Steven Morgans, Harrow School; Jack Holman, Middleton Hall; Graham Down, Harewood Downs; James Lomas, Hadley,



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**Full Members Personal Accident Helpline**  
0113 393 6808

**Greenkeepers Legal Assistance**  
0808 181 9194

**Lifestyle Counselling Helpline**  
0333 000 2082



Early morning course preparation at Wentworth



# Your chance to gain world-leading education with ICL

The ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship is back for 2020

“Our club has a limited budget, so I wouldn’t have been able to attend BTME this year, without the scholarship

## Are you interested in attending Continue to Learn at BTME 2020, but put off by the cost?

The ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship offers five BIGGA members the opportunity to attend the world-leading Continue to Learn at BTME 2020 education programme.

The scholarship, worth approximately £500, comprises three nights’ hotel accommodation and up to 15 hours of education.

The applicant must be a BIGGA member from one of the following membership categories: Full Member (categories 1A or 1B); Assistant

Greenkeeper (in training) (categories 2A or 2B).

Applicants should be CPD Active and able to attend BTME and Continue to Learn 2020, taking place 19 to 23 January 2020.

Successful applicants will be expected to meet the cost of travel, meals and other personal expenses.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31 July 2019 at 5pm.

**For more information and to apply for a place, visit the BIGGA website or scan this QR code.**



## Find out more...

You can also find out more information about becoming CPD Active by visiting the BIGGA website.



## How did the 2019 Scholars get on?



### Blair Shearer, greenkeeper, Dunbar

“The scholarship benefitted me in a number of ways. Most importantly, it gave me the opportunity to go to BTME, when otherwise I wouldn’t have been able to. It also provided me with the chance to meet new people and create contacts that will stay with me throughout my career.

“The whole experience from start to finish is fantastic and the seminars on offer

cover a huge range of topics, catering to everyone. To have the greatest minds in the industry sharing their knowledge and experience is simply priceless.

“The application process is incredibly quick and simple. It takes no more than 10 minutes to complete and yet it is one of the most beneficial things you can do to advance your career and yourself as a person.”

### David Stewart, deputy head greenkeeper, Walmley

“Getting the scholarship to attend BTME was so important to me at my stage in my career. I had finished my Level 3 and I wanted the opportunity to broaden my knowledge in areas that I felt I was lacking due to them not being covered in my previous education.

By attending BTME and Continue to Learn, you meet so many people in the industry, who you wouldn’t normally meet. That’s important as it helps build relationships for the future.

“The application process couldn’t have been more straight forward, consisting of three main questions. I found that answering these made me think about what I’ve achieved in the last six years and my hopes for the future.

“ICL looked after us really well and I couldn’t have asked for a better week. I never thought I would get so much done as I did in the days I was there, but having the scholarship made it so much easier. All my education was booked before I arrived and every day was as jam-packed as I could make it.

“If you’re passionate about what you do and want to gain the invaluable education that’s on offer, then you have to apply for the scholarship. You get everything that BTME has to offer, all sponsored by ICL. All you have to do is make the most of it!”

### Andrew Brown, course manager, Boundary Lakes

“The scholarship was important for our club as it enabled me to attend many workshops and seminars. As the club had money in our budget for education, it enabled me to take another member of the team along.

The seminars helped me in my development as a course manager and improved my knowledge of the latest

techniques and restrictions in the industry.

“I would tell people not to hesitate if they’re thinking of applying. If you’re successful, you will meet some really good people in the same position as yourself and the scholarship will give you the opportunity to sample more of the education than you would have access to normally.”

### Jorge Manso, greenkeeper, Coombe Wood

“Our club has a limited budget, meaning I wouldn’t have been able to attend BTME this year. I have been there before, but nothing compared to what I experienced this year. The accommodation was amazing, the seminars and workshops that I attended were all very interesting and inspiring, but the best part was meeting the

rest of the scholars and the ICL team. At the end of the day, BTME is all about meeting new and old friends.

“I would encourage people to take advantage of every opportunity BIGGA has to offer and this is one of the best! It will only take a few minutes to apply, but if you put a little bit of effort in to it, the reward is enormous.”



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**Stuart Green**  
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/greenkeepers trainingcommittee

@TheOfficialGTC

# Continuing Professional Development



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

Scott Aitchison, Royal Dornoch; Cameron Campbell, SRUC Elmwood; Lukasz Jurkowski, Beaverbook; Stephen Duckett, Wickham Park; John Scurfield, Morpeth.

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

Cameron Campbell, SRUC Elmwood; Simon Olver, Whitley Bay.

## 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](http://www.bigga.org.uk/member-homepage/continuing-professional-development.html)



## RTV-X: SMART SAVER

<b>0%</b> FINANCE 2+22 monthly payments	<b>2YR</b> WARRANTY AS STANDARD <small>Conditions apply.</small>	Choose from: <b>RTV-X900</b> <b>RTV-X1110</b> or <b>RTV-X1140</b> 4 Seat
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**OFFER ENDS 30th SEPTEMBER**  
Business users only. Terms and Conditions apply\*

## RTV-X: Unbeatable versatility for work.

**Powerful, versatile and built for work, Kubota RTV-X utility vehicles offer effortless control over any terrain, with the power and versatility to take on any task.**

Better still, they now come with an unmissable Smart Saver 0% finance offer - available only until 30th September 2019. Choose from three extremely capable and economic models – from the versatile RTV-X900 or powerful RTV-X1110 to the four seat RTV-X1140.

Each model features VHT-X transmission, selectable 4WD, independent suspension and dynamic braking for optimum traction and unrivalled hill control. All backed by Kubota's legendary reliability, durability, first class nationwide dealer network and a 2-year warranty as standard.

**DON'T MISS OUT. VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR TALK TO YOUR DEALER TODAY.**

\*Terms and conditions: Finance for business purposes only. Subject to acceptance and affordability checks. Applicant must be 18 or over. Promotion valid until 30th September 2019. Available on new equipment only with RRP 60%. The finance products offered under this promotion is a Finance Lease and Hire Purchase. For Finance Lease, VAT is due with each rental payment and you will not own the equipment at the end of the agreement. Return conditions apply. A documentation fee of £50 (VAT is applicable for finance lease only) will be collected with the first rental. For hire purchase, full VAT is due on signing. An option-to-purchase fee of £50 (plus VAT) will be collected with the final payment. The customer will own the machine when all payments have been made. Alternative finance options are available. Terms and Conditions apply. Images are for illustrative purposes only. Annual admin fee of £40 (plus VAT). Kubota Finance is a trading style of BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Limited. Finance provided by BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Limited, Northern Cross, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 4HL. Registered in England No. 901225

## Get the Xtra Benefits

Save time, money and even the cost of your membership with the BIGGA Xtra Benefits Scheme, offering you fantastic discounts on a wide range of products and services.

Log in to [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) to start saving.



# Greenkeeper Training

**BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of greenkeeper training. The association is a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including section, regional and national workshops, seminars and conferences.**

The range and quality of training available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This will improve the quality of greenkeeping and help produce better quality

golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry. Employers should ensure their staff are trained to the highest standards.

For formal qualifications, this begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff. There are now a number of GTC Approved Training Providers identified by the GTC Approved logo.



## Berkshire College of Agriculture



Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, SL6 6QR  
Contact Name: Rob Phillips  
T: 07491 963 572 | E: rphillips@bca.ac.uk

BCA offers both Level 2 and Level 3 Greenkeeping, Sportsturf and Horticulture courses as apprenticeships or work-based diplomas. Delivery is either class based or online/distance, through our industry experienced assessors.

The college can also offer a wide range of short courses including PA1, 2 and 6, chainsaw, tractor driving, strimmers and brushcutters. Please enquire for full details.



## Pershore College



Pershore College  
Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP  
T: 01926 318261 | E: ccampling@warwickshire.ac.uk  
W: www.wcg.ac.uk

Pershore College is a national land-based centre of excellence and WCG is the largest college provider of Apprenticeship Standards in the Midlands.

Our land-based apprenticeships are well established and include: golf greenkeeping/ sports turf operative/grounds person; arborist operative, forestry operative, horticulture/ landscape operative and crop technician; land-based service engineering; service engineers/technicians. We also offer short courses in arboriculture.

Pesticides training: PA1, PA2 and PA6 and many more. WCG works with over 1,100 employers and more than 2,500 apprentices. We have outstanding success rates.



## Merrist Wood College



Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE  
T: 01483 884 040 | E: mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk

Merrist Wood College offers a wide range of part-time, full-time and online distance learning qualifications (Level 3 and above) in Sports Turf, Horticulture, Landscaping and Golf Management. Our sports turf qualifications include Sports Turf Level 2 and 3 diplomas, Golf Greenkeeping (Level 2) Intermediate Apprenticeship Standards and Sports Turf Operative (Level 2) Intermediate Apprenticeship Standards. Our short courses include FEPA PA1, PA2 and PA6 Safe Use of Pesticides, Chainsaw Use and more. Funding is available for Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeship Standards, qualifications for 16 to 18 year olds (fully funded) and qualification for 19+ learners (partially funded) — subject to eligibility.



## YMCA Training



112 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B3NQ  
Contact Name: Sallyann Smith  
T: 07341 072519 | E: sallyann.smith@ymca.co.uk  
W: www.ymca.co.uk

Apprenticeships are a cost-effective way for businesses to develop their new and existing staff and hire fresh talent, while giving someone a life-changing opportunity. As a leading national charity, we have a proven track record of successfully training thousands of apprentices every year who go on to build rewarding and fulfilling careers.

Among the portfolio of qualifications available at YMCA Training are Level 2 apprenticeships in Horticulture, Golf Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Operative. Having recently changed from 'frameworks'

to 'standards', these programmes are written by employers and academics within the sector, which means they're specifically designed to meet your needs as an employer.

We are proud to recruit dedicated apprentices to golf clubs, nature industries and sports organisations all over the UK, including delivering sports turf apprentices to Manchester United Football Club for 29 years.



## Myerscough College and University Centre



St Michaels Road, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY  
Contact Name: Course Enquiries Team  
T: 0800 652 5592 | E: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk  
W: www.myerscough.ac.uk | Facebook.com/groups/MyerscoughSportsturfAlumni

Myerscough College and University Centre is the pioneering centre for sports turf and golf course management education in Europe. Courses are available at all levels – from introductory practical skills training to our post graduate Masters Degree in Sustainable Golf Course Management. There are options for full-time or part-time online study. Our foundation degree, honours degree and MA programmes are available online and have

students enrolled from across the globe. Students enrolled on our degree courses are eligible to apply for a prestigious R&A Scholarship. Our work-based training team also provide nationwide apprenticeship opportunities in greenkeeper training.



## Looking for new students?

If your college offers courses in greenkeeping, or groundsmanship advertise it here.

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

## Coleg Cambria

Llaneurgain, Northop CH7 6AA  
Cyswllt: Tîm Ymgysylltu â Chyflogwyr  
Contact: Employer Engagement Team  
T: 0300 30 30 006 | E: employers@cambria.ac.uk  
W: www.cambria.ac.uk

Coleg Cambria offers a fantastic range of work-based qualifications in sports turf, horticulture and environmental conservation ranging from Level 2 to Level 3 providing you and your workforce with the skills required to support future progression in the industry. We also offer a vast range of accredited short courses including PA1 – PA6, chainsaw, brushcutting, hedge laying and wood chipper to help build skills in the team. Work-based qualifications are available throughout North Wales and the North West of England and assessed in your own place of work. Please contact us for more information on qualifications and accessing funding.

Mae Coleg Cambria yn cynnig ystod wych o gymwysterau yn y gwaith mewn Caeau Chwaraeon, Garddwriaeth a Chadwraeth Amgylcheddol, sy'n amrywio o Lefel 2 i Lefel 3, gan roi'r sgiliau angenrheidiol i chi a'ch gweithlu i gefnogi datblygiadau yn y diwydiant yn y dyfodol. Rydym hefyd yn cynnig ystod helaeth o gyrsiau byr achrededig, gan gynnwys PA1 – PA6. I'f gadwyn, torri prysgoed, torri gwyrchoedd a sgloidiwr coed i helpu i feithrin sgiliau tîm. Mae'r cymwysterau hyn ar gael ledled Gogledd Cymru a Gogledd Orllewin Lloegr a byddant yn cael eu hasesu yn eich gweithle chi eich hun. Cysylltwch â ni i gael mwy o wybodaeth am gymwysterau a chyllid.



## Gosta Training Ltd

Glasgow G40 2AB  
Contact: Lesley Lowrie  
T: 01415 563 999 | E: Learn@gostatraining.co.uk  
W: www.gostatraining.co.uk

SVQ Level 2 (SCQF 5) and SVQ Level 3 (SCQF 6) and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/Sports Turf and Landscaping. Also available SVQ Level 2 (SCQF 5) Modern Apprenticeship in Sports Turf Groundsman.

Attendance day release, SVQ Level 4 Management is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPCT Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machinery training, First Aid, Defibrillation training and more. Candidates may use their Individual Training Account to fund many of the courses. Training courses are available in the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas throughout the year.



## SRUC Elmwood

Scotland's Rural College Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB  
Contact: Mike Clark  
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# The importance of community

Bonar Bridge, Ardgay

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

**Read this for:**

- / Gender equality
- / Community engagement
- / Sharing resources

## What would a golf course operated entirely by ladies look like?

Such a course actually exists in the UK, albeit way up in the Scottish Highlands, where Caroline Munro is the solitary greenkeeper and each of the other members of the club's management structure are women.

The twin villages of Bonar Bridge and Ardgay have a population of about 1,500, scattered across the surrounding hills. It's not a large target demographic for the club to exploit and the membership is just 150 players. However, around 40% of those are female — far in excess of the national average of 12%.

Life here is rural and the ancient practice of crofting is common, with many of the population owning a small patch of land that they use for small-scale farming.

"You do your shearing, your dipping and your dosing and everyone gets together and helps each other," said Caroline, head greenkeeper at Bonar Bridge, Ardgay Golf Club. "I used to help my uncle shear his sheep. The fleece would come off the sheep and be put in bags that would be hung from the rafters and the bairns would get to use them as a swing »



Listen to the extended interview on The Green Room Golf Course Podcast

You would stand in them and pack them down, so you would be swinging back and fore in these big bags, it was a lot of fun.”

Usually the local community is dispersed across the hills. But once a year, in August, they come together for the Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week. There's a raft race, space hopper race, chilli eating competition, flower festival and other traditional events, although the controversial baby show has been cancelled due to everyone believing their child should win. At the golf club a par-3 competition is hosted, they host the darts competition and there's also, appropriately, a ladies' night.

Despite its low membership, Bonar Bridge, Ardgay is a firm fixture of the community, under the stewardship of course manager Caroline. She chose greenkeeping as a career after undertaking work experience during her studies at Golspie High School. Caroline explained that her reasons weren't exactly out of a love for the game: “This is going to sound so shallow, but the boy I fancied was doing work experience at Royal Dornoch, so I put my name down too!

“I did a week's work experience and thoroughly enjoyed it so I asked Robert Patterson, who was the course manager there at the time, for a summer job and at the end of that he asked if I wanted to start full time.”

Aged just 15, Caroline had to delay and go back to school for her final year, but each school holiday she worked at Royal Dornoch until she graduated.

“I just liked being outside,” she explained. “There's a satisfaction in cutting grass, striping up lines and the smell of cut grass.”

Bonar Bridge, Ardgay is a nine-hole heathland course, with membership costing just £200 per year. With around



“I was told by a great man, if you can't do anything else, just keep cutting

Left: The Kyle of Sutherland looking towards Bonar Bridge and Ardgay

Below: Carron Munro and Boots both keep Caroline company throughout the year

I've had fusarium and I've gone down and helped him. Even Eoin Riddell at Royal Dornoch helps out whenever he can.”

Of course, equipment sharing is just one aspect of the relationship and when a club requires help in other ways, such as when nearby Golspie was damaged by flooding or when the Boys' Internationals was held at Dornoch, the community of greenkeepers comes together to lend a helping hand.

There's one other piece of advice that Caroline received from Robert Patterson — now at Royal Aberdeen — which she has taken to heart. “I was told by a great man, if you can't do anything else, just keep cutting,” she said. “We don't have the machines to aerate, we don't have stimp meters, POGOs or greens irons. All you can do is keep cutting. Cut your greens every day and stripe your fairways.

“Yes, we don't have everything and there are daisies in the rough, but it

looks good. If the place is tidy and your greens are reasonable, that's what golfers will remember.”

This far north — the club is on a parallel with the southernmost tip of Norway and Alaska — there's an extremely short growing season, beginning around the middle of April. However, with 20 hours of sunlight during summer, when it starts growing, the grass doesn't stop until autumn.

But this high in the Scottish mountains, the onset of spring doesn't particularly mean relief from frosts and snowfalls aren't uncommon, even in April.

Caroline said: “I'll phone Brora and James will ask what jobs I'm on with today and I'll say that I'm in the shed painting because we've got snow on the course. It's completely different when you come inland. We're higher and we don't have the sea keeping us warm.”

At the other end of the spectrum, winter days are extremely short. Nights are long and there are times when the Northern Lights are the only thing keeping Caroline company. »

“This is going to sound so shallow, but the boy I fancied was doing work experience at Royal Dornoch, so I put my name down!

150 members, it's just enough to cover Caroline's wages. As such, the club's survival depends upon its position at the heart of the community and the relationships Caroline has built with other golf courses in the area. Take the tree maintenance project that is ongoing, which is undertaken by Caroline's dad, who owns a wood processing plant and sells the timber to earn a small income — every penny helps.

With a limited budget, access to machinery requires

no small degree of creativity and other clubs in the area will often share resources to help each other out. There's an informal co-operative of golf clubs in the area, many of whom have as limited resources as Bonar Bridge, Ardgay. For example, the club owns a Wiedenmann Super 500, purchased using a grant received from windfarm developers. Caroline said: “James MacBeath at Brora borrows it, as do Iain Macleod at Tain and Mike Keay at Portmahomack. We really try to help each other out, so in return I'll use Iain's topdresser or James' greens roller. I share deliveries of fertiliser with Gary Urquhart at Invergordon and I'll nip down there to pick it up, to save costs. He's come up and sprayed for me when





Above: Bonar Bridge, Ardgay's 18th green  
Below: The view from Bonar Bridge across the mountains

"That's why I got the dog," she said. "Boots keeps me company and at least there's no one to argue with!"

What help Caroline has is in the form of her daughter, Carron, who is the closest thing the club has to a seasonal greenkeeper. There's also a group of members who volunteer each Tuesday, providing additional support.

Make no mistake, it's hard work, but Caroline said she wouldn't like that to deter other women from considering greenkeeping as a profession. She explained: "It's not as physical a job as it used to be, when I first started.

"Back then you walked everywhere and lifted everything. There's so much of greenkeeping that's been mechanised, that as long as you're physically fit, you'll be OK. The heaviest thing you're doing is humping 25kg bags of fertiliser or lifting machinery units, but there's ways around these things.

"The only job Carron

doesn't like is putting the markers back in, because she never quite gets them aiming in the right direction!"

With a greenkeeping team comprised entirely of ladies and the club manager being Caroline's cousin, Yvonne Lowe, Bonar Bridge, Ardgay could be unique in the UK in being entirely operated by ladies. Although there are male members of club committees, even the greens

convener, Jeani Hunter, is female. It may be that this structure is what has attracted so many female members, although Caroline said that having a female perspective towards course set up is also a contributing factor.

"I think many male greenkeepers don't cater for the female player," she said. "You go to many courses and they don't really think about where the ladies' markers are

## IN THE SHED



### The Team

- / Caroline Munro, head greenkeeper
- / Carron Munro, part-time seasonal greenkeeper



“Make no mistake, it's hard work, but Caroline said she wouldn't like that to deter other women from considering greenkeeping as a profession.

going, they're almost an afterthought. I tend to think more about the female set up than I do the male."

Caroline, a capable golfer who has her name on the Club Champion board after beating her aunt (it really is a small community) in the final last year, said she will also play off the men's tees to get an idea of what the course plays like from there. However, she questioned whether male

greenkeepers would ever play from the ladies' tees, using clubs that would give them a similar distance to their female golfers. She said: "After a while you get blind to what's on your course and you may not realise, but for the ladies there could be things that are in the way, such as bushes.

"Hitting 150 yards off the red tees, as opposed to hitting your driver off the yellows or the whites, makes it a very

different course and you should be aware of that."

The Scottish Highlands are an unexpected place to find so many lessons about the way a golf course and a club can be managed. But perhaps through its down-to-earth, community ethos, Bonar Bridge, Ardgay provides a timely reminder of the inclusive role a golf club can play.



Right: The Dornoch Firth heads down to the coast

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# A fresh start

**WOMEN  
& GIRLS'  
GOLF  
WEEK**  
29 JULY - 4 AUGUST

## Nicky Chaplin has started a second career as a greenkeeper in her late 40s

Adam Lawrence, editor of  
Golf Course Architecture magazine

**If there are few enough women in greenkeeping, the number who come to it as a second career must be tiny.**

But that's what Nicky Chaplin, trainee greenkeeper at Prince's in Sandwich, Kent, has done.

Nicky and her husband Mark, at the time a senior officer in the Metropolitan

Police, lived in London in their younger years, before moving out of the city to Tonbridge.

Mark, a keen golfer, joined Royal Cinque Ports in 1998 and has become a well-known fixture of the club in the years since. When Mark retired from the Met in 2012, the two moved to Deal, where the club is located. They

bought a bed & breakfast in the town, running it for five and a half years.

The couple sold the B&B in early 2017, and Nicky took a job managing a local restaurant. But that was not a success and she began looking for something new.

And then Mark announced that he would like to spend a summer living in St Andrews, experiencing the Home of Golf in a way that only locals can. He had originally thought of 2019 as the year for this trip, but, as Nicky said 'I might find my dream job in the next year. Let's do it now'. And so they did. Both knew they needed to work, and looked around for seasonal opportunities in the town — which basically meant golf.

James Bledge, course manager at Royal Cinque Ports and a good friend, offered advice on seasonal opportunities in Scotland and Mark sent his CV to St Andrews Links Trust director of greenkeeping Gordon Moir.

The two had a successful interview via Skype, and as they were closing up, Gordon said: "I'll interview your wife too, if you like."

And so it came to pass that the couple spent the summer

“I have tried to bring the conversation round to sunscreen and moisturiser, but it's not really working

of 2018 living in St Andrews and working on the golf courses from Monday to Friday, 5.30 to 9.30am, and often on weekends too.

On returning to Kent last autumn, the question arose: what should the two of them do with themselves? Mark's police pension meant they would not go hungry, but neither was ready to retire. Nicky, who had much enjoyed her experience at St Andrews, began volunteering as part of Sean McLearn's crew at Prince's.

"It was almost like an extended interview," she said. "After a few weeks, Sean came to me and said he appreciated my enthusiasm and attitude.

I spoke to him about a part time opportunity, but part-timers don't really fit in with the way Prince's organises its crew. So I started as a full-time trainee greenkeeper on 4 April this year."

How is she finding her new

life? Nicky is the sort of person who takes new things in her stride, and the small greenkeeper in a cap has already become a common sight at Prince's.

Nicky said: "I find getting up in the morning to be easy, especially now it is light so early. It's beautiful to be outside in the early morning, although at first, when it was dark and I needed to wear a head torch for the first hour or so, that was tougher.

The crew have been very welcoming — they talk a lot at break — but it's football, football, football. I have tried to bring the conversation round to sunscreen and moisturiser, but it's not really working.

"I think the big challenge for me will be winter work. But I enjoy the job. I don't know if it would suit all women, but greenkeeping could and should attract more women. It's probably never going to be

fifty-fifty though, just because there are plenty of women to whom this would not appeal.

"I do still care about what my hair looks like, but at the end of the day it is what it is.

"Strength-wise, there's nothing I haven't been able to do and in terms of fitting in with a team of men, I can curse just as well as the next person — if anyone wants to shock me they find I can give it back!"

Nicky is a BIGGA member and went to BTME — sponsored by BIGGA Kent — for the first time this year.

"I'm not worried about progressing upwards, but I would like to get qualified," she added. "I have always been someone who wants to know why she's doing what she's doing.

"BIGGA has a Facebook group for women in turfcare that has been very useful. But mostly it is just about being out and about in a beautiful environment and helping get the course ready for people to have fun.

"Several of the Prince's members recognise me now, and come across to say hi when they see me. Getting that kind of feedback is what makes any job worthwhile."

Read this for:

/ Women & Girls'  
Golf Week



# — 100 years — — of Rigby Taylor —

The search for continual improvement

As Rigby Taylor celebrates its centenary, executive chairman Chris Clark is adamant that all customers – at facilities of every size and of every kind - will continue to benefit from the company’s ethos of continual improvement.

“We will not be resting on our laurels as the company enters the next 100 years,” said Chris. “We will always seek to offer effective turf solutions based on value-for-money products that are supported by a team of turf professionals who offer unrivalled turf care technical knowledge and expertise — all underpinned by superb levels of delivery and customer service.

“Irrelevant of the volume and frequency of the orders placed, every customer will always be treated similarly. Every customer is important, whether it’s a volunteer cricket groundsman who orders a few bags of grass seed each year or an elite stadium where, for example,



Chris Clark, Rigby Taylor's executive chairman

“Throughout our 100-year history, Rigby Taylor has never stood still...

we work together on integrated turf maintenance programmes with all the products and expertise that will entail.

“Going forwards, the end result has always to be the same — first-class products offered at the most cost-effective rates, delivered on time and backed up by a highly-experienced, professional team.”

In the eight years since Chris picked up the company reins and instigated a number of strategic, across-the-board improvements, “not least by addressing the historical view that Rigby Taylor is a company that deals only with the ‘top-end’ of the market”, he reflects that the ‘hearts and minds’ process of the company re-inventing itself included a complete appraisal of the product range.

Chris explained: “The industry has diverse needs and the demands of a village bowls club are different to those of a Premier League ground. They will all have differing budgets and agronomic requirements. What we had to do was ensure we could provide highly effective solutions for all possible situations that would continually exceed our customers’ expectations – a one-stop shop for turf solutions, if you like.

“While our product development — and brand or product additions via acquisitions or commercial partnerships »



Grass Seed breeding trials at Les Alleuds research facility



— is an ongoing process, sustainability is increasingly to the fore. With certain products and chemicals being withdrawn, it is vital that sports turf is fitter and stronger to fend off the problems. Prevention is always better than cure, and this is where our product development and applications expertise come in. The demand for these attributes will only increase and we are ensuring that we are best placed to meet that now and in the future."

Importantly, too, customer expectations are increasingly growing, explained Chris: "Gone are the days of across-the-board advance ordering and many users now request products on a weekly basis, partly to enable them to respond to the weather (with an application of wetting agent or fertiliser) and to enable them to better manage their budgets. So, we must always be in a position to satisfy users' needs."

While improvements in technology are impacting Rigby Taylor's end-to-end procedures, starting with the 100,000ft<sup>2</sup> central warehouse at Stallingborough, Lincolnshire, and the use of industry-leading, next-day delivery



Identifying problems and providing solutions

parcel and pallet carriers, as well as the recent, significant investment and revamp of its customer service operation.

"Nothing can replace the human touch," said Chris. "You can buy everything you want via the internet, including our products, but we are certainly not 'box-shifters'. We place great store in our nationwide team of 50 technical representatives — who are

supported by five dedicated product managers covering all sectors including fertilisers, grass seed, chemicals, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, line marking, wetting agents, biostimulants, soil improvers and flower seeds.

"Crucially, this dedicated, well-trained and focused team is highly knowledgeable and competent, the majority of whom are from practical greenkeeping or groundsman backgrounds. Their aim is to create effective partnerships with customers to provide appropriate solutions to continually improve turf quality — and add value to the products with their expertise. Partnerships are a two-way thing based on trust and an understanding of each individual site in terms of its micro-climate and usage.

"We are problem solvers; we fully understand the synergy of how each product interacts with another and with the turf. At many sites there are variables that will impact product efficacy and it takes a lot of knowledge to deliver the correct maintenance programme. As a company, we will continue to ensure our people have that expertise.

"Throughout our 100-year history, Rigby Taylor has never stood still and especially during recent times has moved forward in strides. My ongoing quest is to guarantee that we'll continue to do just that!"

Working in partnership with



## A CENTURY OF INNOVATION

**From its incorporation in 1919, Rigby Taylor has been at the forefront of providing products and services to the sports and amenity turf industry and is now the largest national turf solutions provider, both in market share and in the number of nationwide technical sales representatives.**

Originally serving horticulturalists and gardeners in the north west of England, the company launched its first 'Taylor's' fertiliser in 1930, becoming the leading supplier of sports turf products in northern England. Throughout the 1970s and '80s, it established branches in the Midlands, southern England and Scotland.

Rigby Taylor was the first sports and amenity distribution company to introduce its own range of branded turf protection products and it entered into long-term supply partnerships with major international research-based organisations who saw Rigby Taylor as the perfect conduit for promoting and supplying products. Many of these partnerships continue to operate today.

As a seed agent in its own right, the company works closely with its

breeding partner, Top Green, to develop technologically-advanced grass seed mixes.

The company also leads the way in introducing super granulated fertiliser formulations as well as its Impact paint formulations, which have received the Queen's Award for Innovation and Enterprise.

Rigby Taylor was also the first to introduce autonomous robotic and GPS pitch line markers to the industry.

Most recently, Rigby Taylor was selected by Bayer to launch the new fungicide active Exteris Stressguard and by Rain Bird as its authorised UK irrigation products distributor for golf, landscape, sports pitch and domestic systems. The company has also become the exclusive UK distributor for Bionema's NemaTrident nematode solutions, for the control of chafer grubs and leatherjackets larvae.



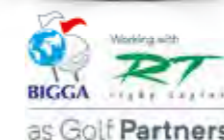
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# The Brab' Pack

Alwoodley hosted the Brabazon Trophy during June

**The Brabazon Trophy is one of England Golf's flagship annual events.**

An elite amateur championship featuring 147 players from around the world, it is an opportunity to showcase golf in England at a club level.

With opportunities for high-level championships becoming increasingly rare in the United Kingdom, it's also a valuable opportunity for greenkeepers to get experience of preparing a course for a major event. Throughout the summer season, England Golf hosts about three events a week and the highest standards of course preparation are expected, even if these events don't carry the same glitz and glamour of professional tournaments.

For Matthew Brighton, this year's Brabazon Trophy was an opportunity to prove he had what it takes to maintain the first course designed by Dr Alister MacKenzie, of Augusta National, Cypress Point and Royal Melbourne fame.

Matt is acting course manager at Alwoodley, in Leeds, having taken over the role following the retirement of long-term course manager Philip Taylor earlier this year.

“For a lot of people who are competing this week, this is their Masters”

“Hosting this event is brilliant for the club and it brings so many people that haven't been here to the club, so we can share our wonderful course with them,” said Matt. “It's brilliant for us on a marketing side and it gives my team a boost. They're long days of getting up early, staying until late and not getting much sleep, but there's an awful lot of satisfaction that comes from it. We're fortunate that we have such a good layout of the golf course that people are always going to enjoy playing it, but then it's down to myself and my team and a lot of hard work.”

Having been at Alwoodley for 12 years, Matt is in the fortunate position to have hosted a number of large competitions, including Open qualifying, the British Mid-Amateur, the British Ladies and now the English Men's Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship, to give the Brabazon its full title.

As such, he's learnt a lot about what it takes to host a successful event. With players teeing off at 7am and the last ones not going out until 3.30pm, »

The greenkeeping team at Alwoodley. Pictures by Leaderboard Photography

there's little time to set everything up for the following day's play.

"You don't want to disturb their round because for a lot of the people who are competing this week, this is their Masters," said Matt. "This is their big chance, so we've been very fortunate, along with the help of BIGGA, that we've got a support team in to help.

"We've got greenkeepers from around Yorkshire who have come in to help us with fairway divoting and morning preparation. Russells Groundcare has supplied us with about nine extra machines and together with the volunteers, it allows us to cut all our fairways in three hours, where it would normally take seven hours for two lads."

Working alongside the Alwoodley team to host the Brabazon, and each of England Golf's other events throughout the year, is director of championships, James Crampton.

A successful amateur golfer in his own right, he has been in the position since 2012 and said that collaboration with the home greenkeeping team is vital for the success of any tournament.

"For example, there's a number of very challenging greens here at Alwoodley," said James. "Matt and I have spent considerable time on those and he's convinced me of some suitable pin locations which, had he not been there, would have created the possibility of a pin position going somewhere that's not particularly good."

In the build-up to major professional championships, such as the Open (which you can read about elsewhere in this magazine), it's not uncommon for drastic course alterations to take place ahead of any event. However, this is not sustainable at an amateur level and it is a point of note for James and his team that they never ask any venue to set up the course any different to how they would for member play. James explained: "I'm of a view that the golf clubs we go to have members as a priority, so all I would ask of the club and the greenstaff is that they set up the course suitable for the time of year that it's being played. I won't stipulate that I want 12 on the stimp meter, or that I want the fairways at a certain width or the roughs at certain heights. All I ask is that the club presents the course as they would want to present it to lots of people who are turning up and playing their course for the first time."

Rather than dictating to the greenkeeping team what he would like to see, James understands that they are the ones with the expert knowledge of each



venue and he trusts they have the ability and desire to prepare the course to the required standard.

Key to the success at Alwoodley, according to Matt, was taking nothing for granted. He said: "One of the big things is it can be quite easy to get into the habit of thinking that if they're teeing off at 7am, you can come in at 5.45am. That's more than an hour and you could be alright if you go around ahead of play. But you only need a small breakdown on a

cutting unit and all of sudden that gap slowly gets eaten away from you.

"I've got my guys getting up at 3.30am in the morning and they're here on site at 4.15am. Yes that's a long time before the first one's go out, but we're back in the shed by 7.30am, knowing that it's all done, there are no issues, and the guys can go enjoy the game.

"It's about giving yourself time, planning everything in extreme detail and trusting your own budget."

## VOLUNTEERING AT AN AMATEUR TOURNAMENT

**Just as at professional events, the success of any amateur tournament is due in large part to volunteers from the local area, who give up their free time to gain experience and skills that they can take back to their own course, while making friendships that can last a career.**

30-year-old Jason Norwood is a greenkeeper at Ridding Park in Harrogate. Family commitments mean he's unable to put his name forwards for national events and so amateur events at clubs such as Alwoodley are a great opportunity to gain that experience.

"Volunteering is something I've always been interested in doing," said Jason. "This event falls just right for me to volunteer, as opposed to larger events such as The Open or Wentworth, just due to having a young family. Hopefully in a couple of years I'll be able to volunteer at larger events, but for now this is ideal.

"The tees and greens are immaculate and the fairways look amazing. It's one of the best courses I've been around.

"Volunteering is good fun and completely different to what I'd be

doing at Ridding Park, so it's been eye-opening."

James Dawson, 29, is a greenkeeper at Oulton Hall in Leeds and said that volunteering has given him an insight into course preparation at a different style of course — Alwoodley is heathland, compared to Oulton Hall's parkland fairways.

"Matt took us to the 6th green and told us to just fire questions at him," said James. "He was saying he's had lots of conversations with England Golf about pin positions. From what he's said, we may look at pin positions differently at our own course for a weekend, even if it's just for a small competition.

"You get new ideas that mean you can tweak things back at your own course to make it better or improve efficiency. If it can improve you, why not take the time out to do it?"

BIGGA collaborates with host venues and national governing bodies to provide volunteer opportunities for its members throughout the season. Head to the BIGGA website for more information.



# Turf REWARDS

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Graeme Beatt

# The Open at Royal Portrush

For Graeme Beatt and his team, the wait is almost over...

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

**This month will see the culmination of a 68-year journey at Royal Portrush as The Open returns to the Northern Irish links for the first time since 1951.**

Responsible for the preparation of Royal Portrush's Dunluce course for the major championship is 39-year-old Graeme Beatt. Born and raised in St Andrews, Graeme has been greenkeeping since 1995, when he spent the summer working at Scotsraig. His career has taken him to Kingsbarns, Royal Melbourne, Castle Dargan and County Sligo, before joining Royal Portrush as course manager in 2015, just a few months before the club was announced as the host of the 2019 championship.

This will be the first major championship Graeme has hosted as a course manager and GI spoke to him about whether the nerves have kicked in just yet...

**There's a lot of pressure in hosting a major tournament, often requiring you to work incredibly long hours. This can be difficult for anyone with a young family, as you have. Have they got used to seeing daddy less as the tournament gets closer?**

My wife did say last week that she was seeing less and less of me. But it's not been too bad. I feel like we're on top of things so I don't have to stay very late at night. We're quite well organised and on top of everything.

**This is your first major championship. Are you still as calm as you were when GI spoke to you two years ago?**

Yeah, I think so. If we are panicking at the last minute, then we've done something wrong. It's quite comforting really, because we're getting visits from the different departments of the R&A, and they're all happy with what we've achieved.

Our volunteer team is also in place. In addition to our team of 30, including part timers, we're going to have 24 volunteers, with three or four more for the morning set up.

Each morning we will need to have 13 people cutting greens and 10 mowing fairways. By the time you've done that, you've lost a huge chunk of your staff, which is why the volunteers are so vital to us.

**You said you're calm now but I remember you saying that for your job interview you were prepared, as you are now, but you were sweating the entire time. Do you think you'll be the same ahead of The Open?>>**



Listen to the extended interview on The Green Room Golf Course Podcast



The Dunluce's undulating fairways should make for a spectacular Open

No, I hope not! And the board room was very warm that day!

**You like to give a lot of responsibility to your greenkeeping team. Have they embraced that opportunity?**

The standard of work over the last 18 months has really improved. Everything they're doing, they're thinking about what's coming up. Individual tasks are taking longer than they normally would have done before, but the end result is better, so I can't complain with that.

For a lot of us there's a little bit of the unknown with The Open. Some of the guys have experienced an Open Championship before as a volunteer and we have hosted other events, but this is just on a different scale.

“ My eldest daughter wants a birthday party on the Monday, but I think I'll be a zombie by then!

**You had the Boys Championship last year. Did you treat that as a dress rehearsal?**

We did to a point. We were mowing fairways every day and double cutting greens, but obviously we did that just with our own staff, without volunteers. The course presented really well but I suppose with The Open, the tee off time is so early

that we have to be in and set up within two hours. For championship days and practice days we'll be in by 4am and we hope to be off the course by 7am.

Our mechanic has got some assistance from Toro, so we can have everything set up as part of the evening duties. We'll have all the mowers back on the trailers, ready to go out the door in the morning.

**Some of the grandstands will have been up for three months before The Open takes place. Does that have any potential impact on the course condition, which you will need to keep an eye on?**

There's a potential issue around the edges, but we have a good coverage of turf so I'm not overly concerned. Airflow could be a problem, especially around the likes of the 18th green, where the horseshoe grandstand is. We'll keep an eye on the moisture levels and reduce the input of water on that green because it will probably dry down slower than the others, so you're more likely to get disease. We may even put a fungicide application down, which is something we wouldn't normally do.

**With the R&A being very keen to promote sustainability, has that impacted any of the practices you have been able to do on the course?**

We wouldn't generally be a big user of pesticide anyway and on the older, established greens we've made one fungicide application in three years, so that means there hasn't been much of a change.

**We've heard people in the past say they don't spray chemicals, but to counter that, others say maybe that's because they accept a higher level of damage. You obviously don't do that, so how do you keep the grass healthy without applying chemicals?**

We would use seaweeds in all our tank mixes as it's quite good for reducing turf stress. We also do a fair bit of topdressing through the season so the profile of the plant's always quite dry. We've started using phosphite over the winter, which has been quite good for us. And we're predominantly fescue, so we don't generally get much disease anyway.

We get a little bit of anthracnose on any annual meadow grass we have and in a normal season we wouldn't mind that too much as you can just manage it with a little nitrogen. I suppose the most noticeable disease we've had in the last couple of years is dollar spot, towards the tail end of the summer, but it's not a massive issue for us.

**You have a tight sward on the greens and the quality is incredible. What's the key to getting that density of turf?**



Graeme has overseen a large amount of construction work

You have to provide a habitat that your preferred turf enjoys. We've been doing a lot of topdressing over the last few years so the profile's a lot drier and that's helped, along with regular light feeding. We would topdress every two weeks throughout the season and then we've done quite a bit of overseeding over the years. We use a slender creeping and chewings fescue mix and we have put a lot of seed into the greens. The sand

we've applied has diluted our surface thatch, creating an even drier surface.

**What height are you cutting at?**

At the moment we're at 5.5mm with the hand mowers and 5mm with the Triplex. Our Triplex is a tri-flex so the cutting units are floating heads and there's no ground pressure, whereas our hand mowers are a fixed head and >>



Removing sand from bunkers



The horseshoe grandstand at 18



Sand dunes frame the new holes on the Dunluce

there's a bit more pressure, so you generally get a slightly tighter cut with them.

We're not down to our full summer height yet, which is about 4.5mm. I suppose we'll only go lower if the weather conditions mean we need to get a bit more speed. If it stays dry in the build-up and through the championship, we probably won't go any lower. But if it's warm and wet and there's a lot of growth, then we'll drop them down a little bit.

**Where does your water come from?**

We have six boreholes around the site that we use. We drilled and commissioned two extra ones last April, so the timing was quite good ahead of the drought. That gave us an extra 300m<sup>3</sup> each day, so it worked out well.

**You've got the fewest bunkers on The Open rota with 58, including a 20-foot high reconstruction of the 'Big Nelly' bunker, guarding the 7th fairway...**

Among ourselves we're calling it 'Wee Nellie' as it's ever-so-slightly smaller than the other one, but still huge. Hopefully there won't be a massive amount of raking in that one — we'll probably just rake the bottom!

We rebuilt all 58 bunkers over the last two years just to freshen them up, with some of the bunker surrounds reshaped the winter before last.

We've also been taking a lot of sand out of the bunkers to make them deeper for the players. They were fine for our members, but we wanted to make them a bit more of a challenge for the best players in the world, who may have found them a little easy.

**No one will find Wee Nellie easy – have you played out of it yourself?**

I have, yes. I didn't get it very far though!

“ Among ourselves we're calling it 'Wee Nellie' as it's ever-so-slightly smaller than the other one...

**What does the last month before the tournament look like for your team?**

Just final polishing on the course and little bits of tidying up on the outer areas. We'll be pulling up any weeds that may have been picked up on the cameras and feathering the rough around bunkers.

We'll be continuing our normal mowing programmes and just doing a little rolling on the greens. We'll also give the fairways a brush a few weeks before The Open, just to pick up any lateral growth.

As the surfaces are at the moment, they're OK and don't need a massive amount of work, just that final polish to get everything to Open standard.

**What does your day look like on the opening day of the tournament? Where will you be when the first tee shot is hit?**



Speaking to former Carnoustie links superintendent John Philp at the Open 2018

I'm going to make sure that I see the first tee shot. Course set up comes first and then hopefully I can drift off to see the first tee shot, along with the other greenkeepers. It will be a proud moment for everyone and I just hope the weather holds for us so we get some decent weather. We want just a bit of breeze to add to the challenge, but so long as it's not torrential rain, I'll be happy.

**Will you bring your family down to the event?**

They'll be down every day and my parents are coming. My eldest daughter will be nine on the Monday after the championship so she's talking about a big party, but I think I'll be like a zombie by then!

**Through the rest of the tournament, will you be in your office hoping the phone doesn't ring?**

I think I'll be out, around the site most of the time and I can't see me spending much time in the office. There's always going to be little bits and pieces to do. Last year at Carnoustie was quite good and I spent a bit of time with Craig and Sandy. I got a good insight into what I'll be doing.

**At the conclusion of the tournament your team forms a guard of honour. You stand on the 18th green as the trophy's being presented and you get acknowledged for all your efforts. But what will be going through your head at that point?**

Probably embarrassment and a lot of relief! As long as everything goes well and the weather plays ball then I'll be happy. A good winner would be nice, but I just hope for a good tournament and the weather not being too bad.

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# The interview: Elliott Dowling, agronomist, USGA

Karl Hansell, BIGGA



## We sat down for a conversation with the USGA Green Section's Northeast Region agronomist, based out of Pennsylvania.

Alongside the R&A, the USGA administers golf, including setting the rules of the game.

Before joining the USGA, Elliott was the golf course superintendent at country clubs in Illinois and Michigan.

## What is the state of the greenkeeping industry in America?

Interestingly, since the recession in '08, budgets really dropped. We were in such a heyday, those late '90s and early 2000s, when Tiger Woods was flying and golf was really booming in the States. Then the recession hit and got everyone scared. Budgets are creeping back up, but we've learnt some valuable lessons and golf course superintendents and their staff are still producing the same conditions without as much money.

Water is becoming more expensive, so superintendents aren't able to use as much on the course. I think we're heading down the path that the course can be a little off colour at times, but the grass is still healthy and the playability is really good. Many of the 'classic era' golf courses in the United States were really designed for a bump and run ground game. You look at the classic architects and we got away from that by over-manicuring them. Golfers are now commenting how interesting these classic courses are again because they are drier and you're able

to run the ball around and bring in some interesting features that the architects always wanted you to play. Reducing our reliance on water is a high priority for golf courses.

A lot of that has come down to them not spending as much time on what I call 'outside the ropes' and instead they're really focussing on playability. I think golfers are becoming more accepting of where budgets are and that superintendents need to do things differently. But at the end of the day it's still difficult for them to wrap their head around the fact that the rough may not get cut every day or the bunkers may not get raked every day. To say that is one thing, but to do it is another and it is still a fight in the States because perfection has been the name of the game for many years.

## Is the USGA-greens construction method still as relevant in a world of reduced resources?

We refined the USGA greens specifications last year, but in a lot of ways it's the same as it was before.

Superintendents of all abilities are really getting deep into putting green construction. When their club decides they're going to rebuild their greens, they're really getting good at making mixes specifically for their golf course. So we revised the guidelines to better explain how they can create a mix that's perfect for their property.

If you really want to rebuild your putting greens, we still recommend that you spend the money and do it right. Get the drainage and the gravel and build a USGA green.

## What are the priorities going forwards for the USGA's greens section?

We really want golf clubs to ease the burden on

superintendents, moving the focus away from ultra-perfect golf courses towards getting the fairways, tees and greens to where you want them.

Whatever budget you're given, let's make that money work best for our facility. You should sink most of your money into tee, green and fairways and then look outside that with what you have left.

It's also really difficult to find labour. Turf schools don't have as many students as they had in the past and so golf course superintendents just can't achieve as much as they used to, even if they wanted to. They don't have as many people and so you start to prioritise what's important.

Myself and a lot of the other agronomists will speak at turf clubs, universities or conferences, where there are students, and tell them that this is still a really good business to be a part of.

Students now value their work, life balance heavily. They want to be at work when they need to be, but they also want to have that time away from work with their families. We need to look at reshaping the job a little, where you can still meet stakeholder expectations, but do you have to be there all the time, like the older generation thinks you do?

There are creative ways in which people are making this job more enticing. A good one I've seen is that when they post a job, golf courses don't post saying that the working hours are from 5am until 3.30pm with a hard start and stop time. Instead they're asking 'when can you work, and we'll make that work for us?' On a golf course there's always something to be done and you could work 24 hours a day if you wanted to. There are your jobs that need doing first thing, such as cutting greens and raking bunkers, but you can stagger other jobs throughout the day. Whether they like it or not, golf courses are being forced down that

route because there just isn't the labour pool any more.

## What is the state of the chemical industry in America?

It's still really strong and we are releasing some really good products. Their use rate is ultra-low, an ounce per acre, so you're getting a very effective product at a really low rate. That's going to be better for the environment and better for budgets because we're not using as much of it.

But we do have a couple of products that they're looking to ban and that's really scaring superintendents because they are some of the most effective and cost-effective and if we lose those, what's the alternative? There are other products that can be used, but they come at a premium.

We find greenkeepers are doing a good job of getting involved with their state legislature and arguing their side of the debate. I see a lot of superintendents who have turned into really crafty politicians.

## What does the golf course of the future look like in the United States?

I don't have a dollar figure, but I'm confident that a lot of facilities are going to have to shrink. We have a wide range of golf facilities, from the very high end to community golf courses. There are more people playing golf at mid-range public or private courses down towards the community venues than there are at the high end and people need to start recognising that.

We take surveys and golfers are telling you that they are looking for faster, cheaper, more relaxed rounds of golf. Now it's time for the facilities to take that to heart. You need to recognise that this is the future, or at least the future right now, and we have to get on board with that.

Listen to the extended interview on The Green Room Golf Course Podcast



# CHANGING THE VIEW

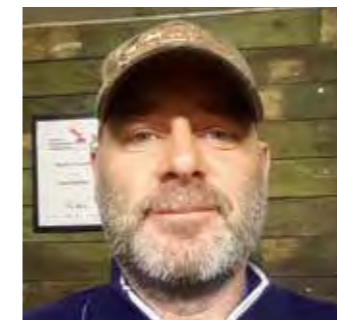


**What affects does course furniture have on your own course?**  
Join the conversation on the BIGGA Facebook group today.

**How does course furniture change the look on your course?**  
Does it enhance it or is it more for the team to maintain?  
We spoke to two members for their points of view, here's what they think...



## Course furniture gives us a sense of identity because...



**John Milne, head greenkeeper, Rothes Golf Club, Speyside**

We're surrounded by some major golf courses here and we're the smallest course in a small town, so anything we can do to stand out from the crowd is really good. I'm the only greenkeeper

working at the club and I'm of the opinion that less is more, but some of the things we do have, help to give Rothes a sense of identity.

We used to have red, yellow and white markers on our tee platforms, but that was too much clutter. I thought, if we can make a front nine and a back nine with separate tees, it's one less set of markers. It also means that if you play 18 holes, you have a different experience the second time around.

I accept that where I'm working is a budget golf course, I'm not trying to punch above my weight and fancy furniture isn't going to make

a better golf course.

We're in such a rural setting that to have it as natural as possible enhances it more than anything artificial would. But I wanted the tees to be bright coloured so they stood out. I wanted to get as far away from white, yellow and red as possible because they stand for something on most golf courses. I went for two completely random colours, so it's B&Q orange and apple green, because there's no existing association with those colours on a golf course.

We're just trying to do something a bit different, to give us a little bit of

recognition for the club.

Our upright markers on the tee are made from old whisky barrels, as are two benches that we have around the course. We are in the middle of whisky country and our greens convener, Ronnie Anderson, who has sadly passed away now, was a retired cooper and he made these benches for us. They provide a talking point as the majority of visitors to our area are here for whisky.

So, if we can connect the two — whisky and golf — that will help them enjoy their stay on the course as much as possible.

## I like less course furniture because...



**Gary Corlett, head greenkeeper, Comis Hotel and Golf Resort, Isle of Man**

From a greenkeepers' point of view, a lot of furniture gets in the way. I think that having fewer benches, ball washers and bins, just looks better.

I don't like to see yellow and red hazard or GUR sticks and one thing I really don't like are out of bounds posts inside a golf course, unless there's a safety reason. I think they take away from the natural beauty of the course.

We have one green that's a nice hole and in front of the green there's a stream. There were yellow sticks either side of the stream so you were looking at the hole and all you could see were these yellow sticks. I have cut them down so you can't see them unless you're up close and it makes a big difference.

Regarding tee markers, if you don't have them, it gives golfers the freedom to play wherever they want on the tee box. Although we do have tee markers, I've always had the idea of allowing golfers to play anywhere on the tee box. People may think that they will then only play from the front. But to avoid the divots, you may find that actually the golfers use the box fairly evenly.

It takes a long time to maintain things around the course. For example, it takes

two hours a week to clean the yardage stones on the tees.

We don't have ball washers anymore because of the time it takes us to clean and refill them and strim around the bottom. The members weren't happy with that at first and I asked why they couldn't clean their own balls? No one mentions it now.

We had a bin on every hole and I reduced that to a bin on every fourth hole. There's no more litter on the course and the members don't mention it, but it saves my team a lot of time in cleaning and emptying them.

The thing that people remember from their visit to Mount Murray is the quality of our greens. A part of the reason why is we spend less time maintaining course furniture, meaning we can concentrate on the greens.



# Pin in or pin out?

Does leaving the flag in the hole increase the chance of your golf ball not dropping?

Tim Webb, Tacit



Hole changing on the Old Course at St Andrews

**One of the hot topics at the Golf Industry Show this year was the rule changes introduced by the R&A and the USGA, particularly with reference to the ability for golfers to leave the pin in situ while putting.**

Just a few days after the show and I received a slightly concerned email from a very well-known superintendent on a very prestigious Florida course. We had a meeting the following day and as he put it "the talk of the town" (or at least his club and his greens chairman) was the pin in the cup.

And more to the point, if they were going to leave the pin in the cup, which style of pin should they leave in? What were the advantages or disadvantages of the different pins?

Now it may come as a shock to most golfers but regarding the pins and specifically the diameter of the pin in the critical 100mm area on the flag pin, there are at least eight different versions that Tacit alone makes.

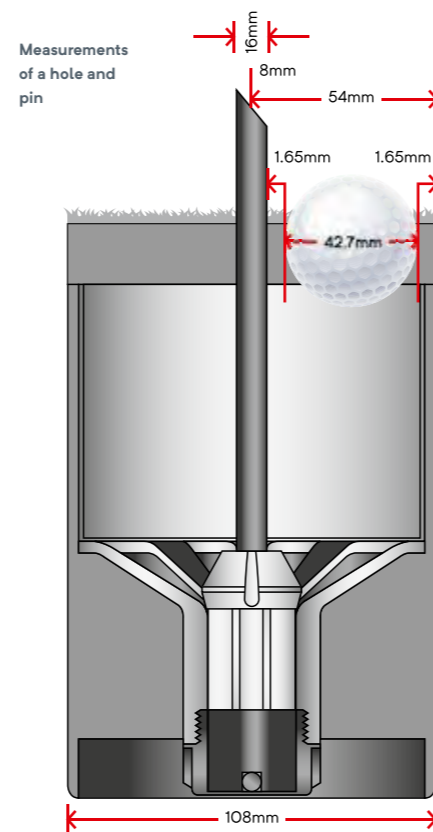
They are: 1/2 inch plain; 1/2 inch with one PVC sleeve; 1/2 inch with two PVC sleeves; 5/8 inch plain; 5/8 inch with one PVC sleeve; 5/8 of an inch with two PVC sleeves; Javelin pin with one PVC sleeve; Javelin pin with two PVC sleeves.

At this point I am much better at working in metric, so both the 1/2 inch pin and the javelin pin at the point where the ball enters the hole are 12.5 mm in diameter unsleeved.

Every time we add on a piece of PVC sleeve, we increase the diameter by approximately 2mm.

A javelin pin with two sleeves being equal to 16mm in diameter is the pin that the course I was meeting would be using. Incidentally, that's the one used at the Old Course in St Andrews.

A golf hole is 108mm wide, while a golf ball 42.7mm. So, if we take the radius of a hole (54mm) and minus one side of our largest flag pin (8mm) and the size of the ball (42.7mm), we are left with 3.3mm clearance for the ball to enter the hole.



That is less than 2mm on either side of the ball, provided the hole is accurately cut to 108 mm and the pin is vertical. This is something I will return to later.

I would regard myself as somewhat of an expert on cups and pins, but the question of "which pin would provide the best option for a golfer?" had me guessing.

I grabbed a range of pins that were immediately to hand (1/2 inch plain, 1/2 inch with one sleeve, Javelin with one sleeve, Javelin with two sleeves), a sleeve of Titleist Pro V's and a stimpmeter to give a consistent velocity when the ball hits the pin.

I dashed to my local club who kindly gave me permission to roll balls around their first green for as long as I wanted. The green was stimping at 9 feet, so I thought a good starting point would be 6 feet away from the hole. I then rolled the balls at the centre of the hole, with each of the pins in situ and with no pin at all.

I then repeated the exercise at 5 feet,

4 feet, 3 feet and 2 feet. I stopped at 2 feet as a putt of this velocity from this distance, if missing the hole, would end up around 7 feet past the hole. I did three rolls at each pin at each distance and two hours later, with darkness encroaching, I had my result, proven by science.

There was absolutely no difference as to which pin was in the hole or if there was no pin at all. All rolls going to the centre of the hole went in until we got to 2 feet. At which point the only pin to behave differently was the 1/2-inch pin unsleeved, where two of the rolls bounced away.

I will leave it to you to draw your own conclusions from this exercise, but for me it just reinforced that in order to get the ball in the hole all you need to do is putt it into the middle of the hole, regardless of which pin is in the hole or if there is no pin at all.

However, if you do decide to leave the pin in, there are two very crucial factors involved. Firstly, the hole must be

accurately cut to 108mm (4 1/4 inches). An auger holecutter cannot achieve this, while a twin-bladed hole cutter struggled. The Tacit Shole holecutter has proved worldwide to be the holecutter that can provide that accurate cut and maintain its shape. The same hole cutter that is used at St Andrews and TPC Sawgrass for The Players Championship.

Secondly, the pin needs to be held bolt upright. Again, Tacit's ferrule and cup combination with the subcap configuration is the only holecup that holds the ferrule in two separate places, thus maintaining that all-important vertical position and keeping that position day after day, giving the correct tolerance to allow the ball to drop unhindered into the hole.

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# Golf Course 2030 update

What has happened so far?

Steve Isaac, The R&A

For those not familiar with Golf Course 2030 (GC2030), it is the industry initiative facilitated by The R&A that is considering the impacts, both positive and negative, of the changing climate, resource constraints and regulation on course condition and playability.

The aim is to produce a roadmap that will steer the sport to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that these issues present and to secure optimal course condition and playability for this and future generations of golfers.

GC2030 is being piloted in Great Britain & Ireland and in 2018, 25 industry stakeholder organisations (including BIGGA) agreed on priority issues for investigation. These are:

- / Communications: making GC2030 relevant and compelling to key audiences, notably decision-makers at golf facilities and golfers
- / Course condition and playability
- / Resources — pesticides, aggregates and labour
- / Water — scarcity and too much
- / Coastal change

BIGGA is a member of the GC2030 Working Party, which advises on the management of the GB&I programme.

Action plans for each of the GC2030 priority issues have been delivered and are available from The R&A website at [randa.org/Sustainability/GC2030/Action-Plans](http://randa.org/Sustainability/GC2030/Action-Plans)

Recommended actions from these plans have been reviewed. Potential projects have been identified and these



are subject to a call for proposals. For more information on this call, visit The R&A website at [randa.org/en/sustainability/gc2030/call-for-proposals](http://randa.org/en/sustainability/gc2030/call-for-proposals)

Expect to see outcomes from some of these projects early in 2020. Other projects will continue for a year or more, though updates on progress will be provided in relation to all projects.

Implementing the communications plan will require expert input and a small comms group is being formed to move the recommendations from this action plan forward.

There are recommended actions from the Resources Action Plan, which need further development for them to be delivered as projects or initiatives. Consequently, two advisory groups will be formed to take this forward and these will be:

- / Resources Advisory Group – to review

synthetic plant protection products and aggregates recommendations / Education Advisory Group — to review all greenkeeping workforce and education projects from the Resources Action Plan.

Course managers and their greenkeeping teams will play a vital role in engaging with, implementing the outcomes from and promoting GC2030.

There will be few working at courses that are or will not be impacted by the issues being investigated. Mitigating actions may sustain the sort of course condition and playability we now enjoy. They could improve playability by delivering firmer, drier and healthier turf.

Whatever the change we see to our golf courses over coming years and decades, course managers will be responsible for delivering the product to golfers on which they, and their fellow decision-makers at the club, will be judged. Play your part and keep informed about the initiative through the updates provided by your association and by regularly visiting The R&A website.

Further updates will be provided at key moments of delivery of the GC2030 plans. For more information visit [www.randa.org/en/sustainability/golfcourse2030](http://www.randa.org/en/sustainability/golfcourse2030)

Article brought to you by



# PRACTICES TO AID THE CONTROL OF SOIL-BORNE LARVAE

With the revocation of a number of soil-applied insecticides, the control of chafer beetles (pictured) and leatherjackets requires an integrated management programme. The options available for proactive control of these pests, for greenkeepers are:

## Chafer

/ **Acelepryn:** using 120-day Emergency Authorisation 20192067, the areas covered by this approval are restricted to specific amenity areas. For golf greenkeepers these are greens, tees and fairways as a patch treatment up to 10% of the total area. The registration authorities also require a stewardship form to be completed and a number of other restrictions such as time of day and use of a no spray buffer zone. Details in full are available on the HSE website and published literature from the marketing company (ICL) and manufacturer (Syngenta)

/ **Nematodes:** a number of species of naturally occurring soil-borne entomopathogenic nematodes, such as *Heterohabditis bacteriophora*, use the larvae of chafer to complete their life cycle. During this process they infect the larvae with a bacteria that kills the host. The juvenile nematodes use the host as a protein source to mature prior to moving back into the soil profile to find the next host. These nematodes have been isolated by various companies and selected for infectivity. They are then multiplied in industrial fermenters prior to being cooled down and held in suspended animation.

## Leatherjackets

/ **Acelepryn:** using 120-day Emergency Authorisation 20192067 — see above.  
 / **Nematodes** as above, but different species predate leatherjacket larvae  
 / Autumn - *Steinernema carpocapsae*  
 / Spring - *Steinernema feltiae*  
 / **EGC Liquid (MAPP 17852) and Granules (MAPP 17233)** — these products contain garlic extract and are the only products registered for nematode control and a range of other problems on managed amenity turf. EGC has been shown to be ovicidal and will

also control the first generations of crane fly larvae at the recommended rates used for nematode control.  
 All the above products and solutions have the same fundamental issue in that the active ingredients, in the case of Acelepryn or EGC, and the infective bacteria, in the case of the nematodes, needs to get into the larvae of the target species in order to work. The larvae are also only susceptible at particular stages of their life cycle. This is generally prior to the third instar.



## How can greenkeepers help enhance performance?

The treatment methods mentioned need to be applied when the soil is moist. The soil moisture needs to be in excess of 25% and ideally around 35%. Importantly, the moisture level needs to be maintained for ideally for 2 to 4 weeks following the application.

### OPTIONS

- / **Wait** for rain and apply products either during rainfall or post rainfall;
- / **Use irrigation** to artificially increase moisture levels prior to and post application;
- / **Use wetting agent** prior to application to aid wetting from natural rainfall;
- / **A combination** of the above is ideal.

### APPLICATION

- / **Use a coarse spray pattern** to avoid droplets drying on turf leaves;
- / **Use recommended water volumes** to ensure product run-off occurs;
- / **Use a suitable wetting agent** in tank mix - make sure the wetting agents are compatible with product being applied. A number of scientific papers have reported that many wetting agents are antagonistic or even toxic to nematodes:
  - / **Do not** apply nematodes in direct sunlight: Apply in rain;
  - / **Ideally irrigate** post application to wash products into soil profile.

### PRE-PREPARATION

- / **Cut turf** and ideally remove clippings — this will reduce interception by the turf;
- / **If you have to cut post application**, do not collect clippings;
- / **Use a range of cultural techniques** to open up soil profile, which will aid ingress of irrigation and products being applied to control soil pests;
- / **Check soil moisture levels** in areas to be treated. Record levels and capture data using proprietary moisture metres (FieldScout TDR, Delta Thetakit) or GPS mapping systems such as POGO;
- / **Apply wetting agent programme** — make sure the wetting agents are compatible with nematodes.

### IDENTIFICATION OF PEST SPECIES

In the UK we have multiple species of both chafer and leatherjackets. It is critical to identify the problem species in order to optimise your control programme and select the correct product. This is best achieved by catching the adults. The adult of the different species are much easier to identify than the larvae. For chafer, greenkeepers can use attractant funnel traps to catch adults and to monitor flight activity.

### TIMING

Watch out for peak adult activity. Chafer and crane fly have a very short-lived adult stage and lay eggs within days of emergence. All the options available provide highest levels of efficacy when timed to control the early larval stages. Once adult activity is noted start planning your application programme

## The pest control action plan

- / Watch-out for adult chafer, crane fly activity — monitor if possible
- / Access historical problem — map out areas likely to be infected
  - / Prioritise area if budgets limited
- / If threshold exceeded or historical records indicate need for treatment, check moisture levels week before intended application
- / If dry weather is forecast or soil conditions dry, apply wetting agent and irrigate to raise levels
- / Cut areas to be treated day before intended application, remove clippings if possible
- / Apply in recommended volume of water
- / Immediately post application irrigate product to wash off product from turf and into soil profile
- / If low natural rainfall, maintain moisture levels in excess of 25% for next 3 to 4 weeks

# Soil application on target



Use the GreenCast Turf App to find the optimum nozzle choice, operating speed and pressure for each application

The science of modern greenkeeping

Targeting soil applications can be a particular challenge for sprayer operators, but is crucial to getting best performance from any treatment.

**With soil target sprays, the aim is to minimise initial contact and retention on the leaf.**

As soon as a spray starts to dry on the leaf surface it begins to bind to leaf wax layers. This can be within minutes of application, particularly at lower water volumes. That is highly beneficial for foliar acting fungicides, but potentially detrimental for products targeted at the soil.

Large droplets, with greater velocity and momentum when they leave the nozzle tip, are far more effective at bouncing and rolling off the leaf.

Using a higher water volume will help in getting the spray down through the sward to the soil surface and not sticking to the leaf. However, in most instances further irrigation after application has been shown to enhance movement of the product into the soil profile.

An application at 800l/ha only equates to 0.08mm of water, compared to a recommendation of 3 to 6mm of irrigation as soon as possible after Acelepryn treatment, for example.

Spraying at lower water volume, with smaller droplets retained by the leaf, and then

seeking to wash off with irrigation, reduces the chances of success. Treatment at higher water volumes gets the product to an area where irrigation water has a better chance of moving it towards the target.

A survey into the application practices in the UK with Acelepryn has highlighted that up to a third of applications were made with too little water volume. The label stipulates 600l/ha to aid movement through the sward and this should not be compromised.

For soil targeted treatments, application in light rainfall or when the leaf surface is already wet can prove effective, especially if irrigation resources are limited.

### Nozzle selection

To deliver higher water volumes, it is better to change to a larger nozzle size and to slow down, compared to increasing the pressure on a smaller nozzle (Table 1). The effect of increasing pressure would be to create more of the smaller droplets that are less effective at penetrating down to the soil and, in a worse scenario, highly susceptible to drift.

Table 1. Increasing pressure to deliver higher water volume from a smaller nozzle hugely increases the proportion of small droplets less effective at reaching the soil and more susceptible to drift

	08 flat fan	04 flat fan
Output per ha	600 l/ha	600 l/ha
Sprayer speed	4km/hr	4km/hr
Operating pressure	1.2 bar	5 bar
Number of sub-100 micron drift susceptible droplets per ml of spray	550	67,000

Table 2. Syngenta XC Nozzle 08 output

Operating pressure	2 bar	3 bar	3 bar
Sprayer speed	6km/hr	6km/hr	4km/hr
Output per ha	520l/ha	640l/ha	960l/ha
Droplet number per ml of spray	10,294	15,717	15,717
Droplets per m <sup>2</sup>	535,288	1,005,888	1,508,832

**For most soil target applications, best practice would suggest:**

- / Syngenta 08 XC Nozzle
- / Speed — 4 to 6km/hr
- / Pressure — 3 bar
- / Water volume — 960-640 l/ha
- / Nozzle tip height — 50cm from soil surface

When using sprayers with auto-rate controllers, take care that, as you speed up, the operating pressure will ramp up to maintain consistent flow rates. The effect on droplet sizes and the greater proportion of low-penetration drifty droplets with flat fan nozzles could be highly significant. Faster speed will also increase turbulence and drift potential, which exacerbates the issues of higher pressure and small droplets.

### Cutting drift

Reducing drift is essential to get the maximum amount of product where it is intended to work. Stewardship is improved and risks to non-target areas are reduced. New nozzle technology can reduce drift by up to 90%, compared to flat fans operated in the same conditions.

Furthermore, managing drift can significantly improve the consistency of spray pattern across the boom, especially if there is gusty wind.

Weather record monitoring during Syngenta application trials showed that even in 'perfect' spray conditions, with an average wind speed of 1.4m per second, actual speeds

varied from 0.8 to 4.6m per second, with up to 20% reduction in performance of soil target sprays with flat fans, compared to 90% drift reduction nozzles.

For turf applications, the Syngenta XC Nozzle has offered a step change in drift reduction, compared to flat fan nozzles and is designed to produce a more consistent pattern if the boom height moves above the optimum 50cm.

When targeting the rootzone, the best practice is to maintain optimal levels of organic matter and maintain an effective wetting agent programme, independently of any application.

The sprayer operator's role is vital to balance all these factors to optimise results.

A new look Art of Application Zone on the GreenCast website provides easy access to a range of tools and advice to aid accurate spraying.

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# ‘Extreme’ recommendation

## Rebuilding tees to make a great first impression at Thirsk & Northallerton

**Established in 1914 and extended from nine holes to its present 18 in 1997, Thirsk & Northallerton turned 100 years old in 2014.**

Since then, Head Greenkeeper Roger Mackerell and his team have embarked on an exciting tee improvement project.

Roger, who has been at the club for 13 years, with eight as the head greenkeeper, said: “The club had always found that the tees let our course down. They had been neglected, were uneven and full of unwanted grass species.”

Having worked previously at Moortown in Leeds, Roger has experience of how much a high-quality teeing ground can add to a golf course. He added: “After a course walk with the committee, it was agreed that I would put together a plan to revitalise the teeing grounds. We’d starting initially with one tee as a trial and then move on to the rest if the members saw the value in it.”

It was decided that after the golf season ended in late September, the trial tee would have the turf stripped, the soil would be inspected and amended if required, rotovated, laser levelled and consolidated, ready for grass. The big decision was whether turf or seed would be adopted.

“Turf was the obvious choice considering the time of year, but after speaking with Phil Logan from Barenbrug, he assured me that the mixture Extreme, with its 100% dwarf perennial ryegrass, would be more than capable of doing the job. The difficulty was ensuring that the tees would be back in play by spring the following year.

“The process seemed similar to a renovation done on a sports field, so I consulted a few groundsmen for advice. After hearing their thoughts, I was convinced that seed was the way to go.”

Roger sowed the tee with Extreme on 1 October at roughly 40gm<sup>2</sup>, just after the season finished.

“I was surprised to see the first shoots were visible after just 11 days,” he said. “I was impressed by the speed at which the grass established. The tee had its first cut on 5 November and by the time it was back in play on 8 April, it was in perfect condition.

“The biggest challenges at Thirsk & Northallerton are the balancing act of a tight budget and the high expectations of the golfer, so I must spend wisely,” said Roger. “Considering I can do a 500m<sup>2</sup> tee for around £1,500, it was a no-brainer for

the club to extend the project and complete more tees.

“The impact of stepping on to a perfectly level and well-maintained tee is instant and impressive. As the saying goes, ‘first impressions last’. It has even influenced my staff, who regularly double cut the tee without being asked. They love maintaining it to a high standard and take great pride in their work when it comes to the new tees.”

Amenity sales manager for East Riding Horticulture, Richard Pull, has been pivotal in assisting Roger through the process and has found himself learning something along the way.

Richard said: “I can now pass this experience on to other customers so they have the advice needed to undertake a similar project. The thought of ripping up your tees in September would be daunting for anyone. However, I now have the experience to say that by using the correct Barenbrug seed mixture, along with a planned grow in, tees can be completely renovated at the end of the season and in play by the following spring.

“The whole thing really was a doddle when working with Extreme. If you can irrigate and fertilise at the right times, for a small investment, more golf clubs really should consider a similar project.”

“As the saying goes, ‘first impressions last’



A close up of the 10th hole tee, 10 weeks after seeding

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# Biostimulants

With plant protection products becoming ever more constrained, there is greater emphasis on biostimulant use.

Paul Morris, GBR Technology

**Increasing the health of a turf plant, and the health of symbiotic species to increase resistance to pathogens, is a goal worth striving for.**

A biostimulant should not have any direct action on diseases or pests and thus is not regulated in the way plant protection products are. Many biostimulants, when applied to the soil (or a plant via foliar application), can increase resistance to abiotic stress. They can increase plant yield, vigour or quality and they may be in the form of a diverse range of natural or synthetic materials or

even micro-organisms.

Biostimulants may act with a wide range of different mechanisms. However, it is often the case that biostimulants have effects, for which the mechanisms are not well understood.

Common products sold as biostimulants include seaweeds and their extracts, humic and fulvic acids, molasses or sugars, amino acids, soil oxidants, phosphite solutions, chitin derivatives and microbes (bacteria and fungi).

**Let's look at some of the product types:**

Above: Seaweed

## PRODUCT TYPES

### Seaweeds

**Ascophyllum nodosum** is a seaweed that naturally contains macro and micro nutrients and various bioactive substances including plant hormones. Most seaweed products sold in the UK are based on extracts of *Ascophyllum nodosum*.

**Ecklonia maxima** is a species native to southern oceans — this seaweed is rich in auxins and higher auxin-to-cytokinin ratios are promoted as stimulating root growth.



### Humic and fulvic acids

These are natural decay products of dead plant material, normally extracted under alkaline conditions from humus. Humic acid precipitates upon acidification, while fulvic acid remains in solution at all pHs. They are highly complex mixtures, largely of carboxylic and phenolic organic compounds.

### Soil oxidants

Oxidation in chemistry is defined as the removal of electrons. Living organisms have evolved mechanisms to utilise oxygen in energy pathways. Most soil oxidants reportedly work indirectly by stimulating soil microbes to produce oxygen. The formulations often contain nitrates and so will show green-up and plant growth effects. In soils with a low redox potential (redox = reduction-oxidation; redox potential indicates how aerobic the soil is), the nitrogen in nitrate form may be the next most potent soil oxidant after oxygen. Soil oxidants are no substitute for good cultural aeration practice.

### Phosphite

Supplied as a solution of potassium (or ammonium), phosphite is regularly used to help reduce incidence of fusarium patch. Phosphite is well translocated within the plant, but is not believed to be a form of potassium that can be used to replace that in phosphate for nutritional uptake in turf grass. Phosphite at certain levels of use can directly act on a pathogen, although applications are normally made at levels below this and it is believed that the action is one of stimulating the turf plant's own natural defences.

### Amino Acids

Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins and make up various structures and components of plants and animals, including cell walls in plants. Nitrogen uptake in plants is generally converted to amino acids and then much of these into proteins, as well as incorporation into DNA. Plants need various amino acids, many of which they can synthesize themselves. However, this synthesis requires energy and during periods of high stress it is believed that supplying some amino acids directly will reduce the abiotic stress on the plant.

### Molasses

Molasses is a by-product of sugar refining — it contains sugars and other macro and micro elements. Sugars are also a rich source of carbon and can help achieve a desirable nitrogen to carbon ratio in fertilisation programmes. Sugars can be an easy food source for microbes.



### Chitosan

Chitosan is a derivative of chitin. Chitin is biosynthesised in nature and is highly abundant — it makes up the exoskeletons of many insects and crustaceans and also found in the cell walls of some fungi. Chitosan is a soluble material supplied in aqueous solution.

Chitosan has been extensively studied and has a number of bioactive effects.

### Microbes

Microbes in the form of bacteria and fungi can bring positive effects by breaking down plant material and releasing back nutrients. This gives nutritional benefits to the turf plant, as well as reducing thatch. Certain fungi can also work symbiotically with plants to exchange benefits (nutrition and energy) and it is believed that in many cases the fungi can help protect its symbiotic partner against pests and diseases.

Mycorrhizal fungi can have underground networks forming the mycelium, which link into root systems and which can form very extensive networks, effectively increasing access of a plant to nutrients and water.

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# FLAIL SAFE

## WIEDENMANN SUPER 500 & 600

WWW.WIEDENMANN.CO.UK

- / Three-in-one sweeper, collector, flail mowers which can scarify and fraise mow.
- / Ultra versatile machines favoured by estate managers and golf course managers alike.
- / High dump facility up to 2.1m.
- / Often deployed with the Wiedenmann Terra Rake (five versions) for rough management duties

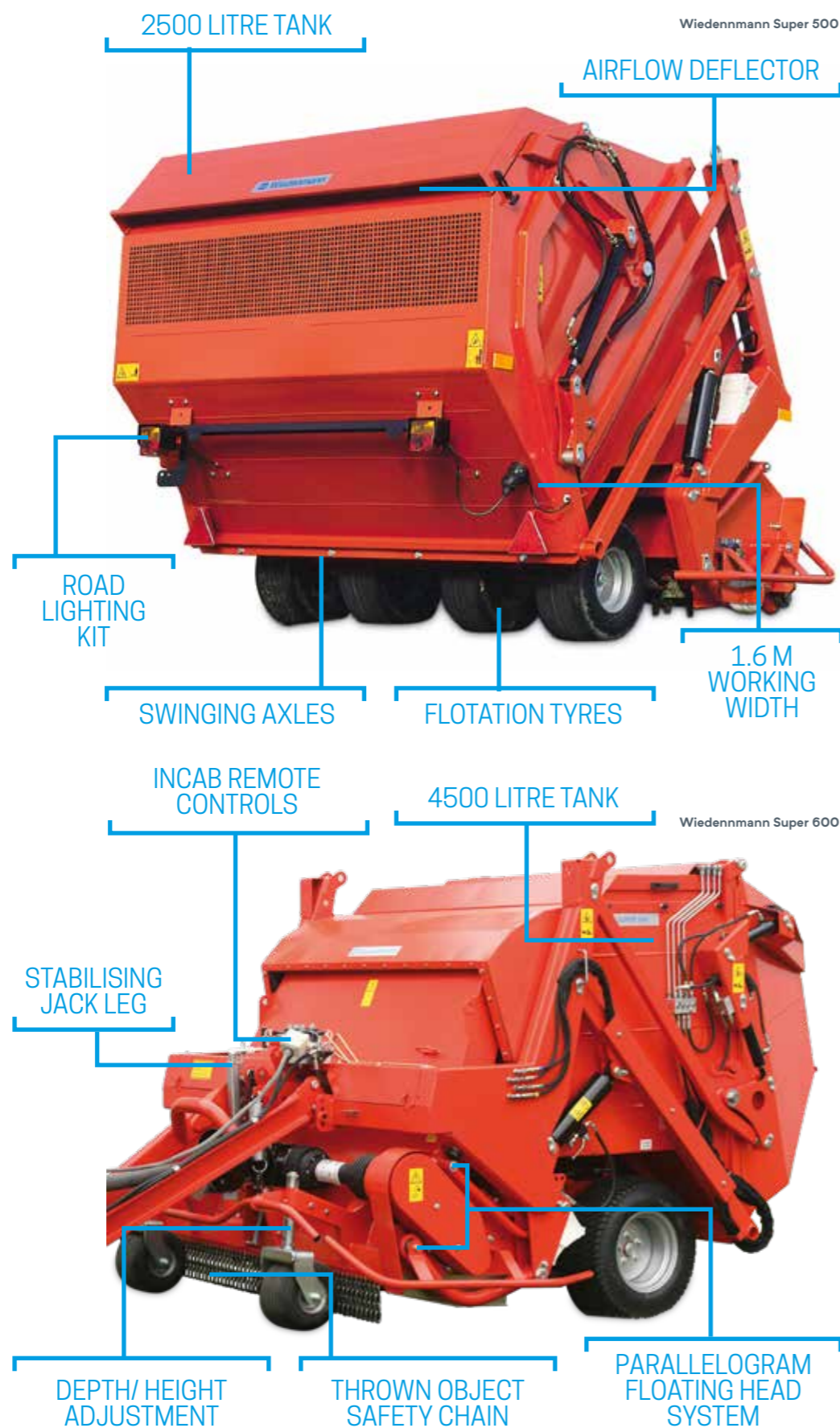
The Super 500 offers a 2,500-litre tank, while the Super 600 gives 4,500 litres.

In-cab controls allow the operator to easily change the three operating functions - head unit lift and lower, hopper lift and hopper tip.

The vacuum collects leaves, litter and other debris.

In any of its modes, high airflow ensures collected material is well-compacted.

The rotating hopper can be discharged at any height up to 2.1m. In sweeper mode it has a fully floating head and a wheel-locking system allows the four swinging axle wheels to float and pivot during work but can lock into a fixed position when the tank is raised for tipping, giving a stable base.



## Robot automation by Wiedenmann maintains commitment to quality

Wiedenmann UK's fleet of over 40 turf maintenance machines is consistently commended for technical excellence and efficiency. At the German headquarters in Rammingen, robot automation is taking quality to the next level.

Last year over €1M was invested in welding processes and associated technology. Further funds bought an automated milling processing centre. A CNC metal-milling machine produces components to the tightest of tolerances. It comprises a fixed machine bed with a mobile table. Finally, a new press brake for 3D models ensures uniformity and faster processing.

"We are pleased with the facilities upgrade," said Volker Zippel, product



specialist for Wiedenmann GmbH. "Not only have we raised product quality we've also increased competitiveness.

"Importantly some cost increases on the procurement side have been offset and we've avoided passing these to the customer."

Investments have also benefited personnel. Volker added: "There's been no job elimination, which is so often the case when companies purchase advanced technology. On the contrary, despite robot automation, Wiedenmann has created six new jobs as part of production expansion. By producing more efficiently, we have deliberately increased capacity — for this we need additional qualified team members."

The robot technology will be used on machines such as the Terra Spike fleet of deep aerators. Wiedenmann has 11 separate machines in working widths

from 1.4m to 2.1m and working depths down to 400mm, including the GXi8 HD, the UK's top selling machine for the last three years.

The manufacturer has also engaged seriously with environmentally-friendly processes across the last decade. The factory's fully-automated paint spray and degreasing plant use components prepared with an organic phosphating coating process.

Only galvanized materials from a sheet thickness of between 1.5mm to 3mm are used. The phosphate coating acts as a protective shield which combats issues like moisture, acids and forms an optimal base for powder coating processes that follow. Electrostatically-charged coloured powder particles are sprayed on and burned in at about 220°C. As the powder melts it forms an extremely shock and scratch-resistant coat of paint. No residues and emissions arise with this type of degreasing.

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# AROUND THE GREEN

## Bernhard Academy opens

South East Region - East Anglia

**BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt was the guest of honour at the opening of the Bernhard Academy at the company's facilities in Suffolk.**

The intention is for the academy to become a hub of knowledge for the industry and a centre promoting learning and development across the globe.

In recognition of more than 25 years promoting greenkeeper education for BIGGA members, including the organisation of Continue to Learn at BTME each year, Sami was invited to officially open the centre.

She said: "It is a privilege to see young, inexperienced greenkeepers coming into the industry and to witness what I like to call their 'a-ha' moment, when they realise that greenkeeping has got under their skin and it becomes their passion as well as their career. Being able to contribute to their development by providing guidance and assistance to help them achieve their career goals and seeing them transform into leaders within the industry is truly rewarding.

"Bernhard and Company's support of BIGGA's sections, regions and national education events embraces the ethos of 'selling through education'. The investment in this training academy provides outstanding evidence of their commitment to reinforce and drive education standards in the industry."

In addition to promoting education to



Sami Strutt speaking at the launch of the Bernhard Academy

UK turf specialists, the academy will develop a training programme for Bernhard distributors from across the US, Asia and Europe to enhance their knowledge of turf health solutions.

Working in partnership with Mow-Sure Training, the academy aims to train customers, technicians and distributors' sales teams to promote turf health, cutting precision and superior playability.

Bernhard director Steven Nixon said: "This academy is just an extension of what we have been doing for a number of

years. When this factory was built in 2012, we had a small room upstairs and we felt as time has gone on that we wanted something bigger and better. We feel that better educated people make sharper decisions and that's the key to our business."

The accredited training will be delivered in several formats at the purpose-built facility at Haverhill including hands-on training, theory or via online learning. For more information on education support from Bernhard and Company, visit [www.bernhard.co.uk](http://www.bernhard.co.uk)

## Jamie Hobson memorial

Northern Region - Sheffield



Jamie Hobson



Stocksbridge & District

**A charity day will be held at Stocksbridge & District in memory of head greenkeeper Jamie Hobson, who passed away suddenly in December 2018.**

Taking place on Friday 9 August, the event will be in the form of an am/am and will cost £60 a team, including food. All proceeds from the

day will go to the British Heart Foundation.

Anyone who would like to enter a team or is interested in donating a prize should contact Wayne Lazenby at Stocksbridge & District.

Jamie died in December aged 48 after 15 years as head greenkeeper at the South Yorkshire club.

## Hole damage survey

National

**BIGGA has been contacted by a number of members who are concerned that the option to leave the flagstick in the hole when putting out is causing additional and unnecessary damage.**

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "Although the feedback on the updated Rules of Golf has been generally positive, members have told us they have seen an increase in damage caused around the

hole. This could be due to players reaching their hand into the hole to remove the ball, using a suction cup on the end of their grip or even using a golf club to extract the ball from the holes."

BIGGA needs your help to assess the extent of this issue and so we've launched an online survey. Scan the QR code below or head to our website to contribute your informatio.



Hole changing at Thetford by David Ball

## Andrew Laing appointed to National Board

Central England Region

**Gaudet Luce course manager Andrew Laing has been appointed to the National Board.**

Andrew, 36, has been appointed to represent the Central England Region on the association's National Board following the resignation of Robert Welford.

Robert has recently taken up a role with Consolidate Turf after leaving his position at Waltham Windmill.

Andrew said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as a director for the association and to be able to offer something back to an industry that has been such a huge part of my life so far."

The son of PGA professional Mark Laing, Andrew has recently celebrated his 20th anniversary at Gaudet Luce, joining the club as an



Andrew Laing

assistant greenkeeper in May 1999. In June 2004 he was appointed course manager at the venue, overseeing the 18-hole Phoenix and 9-hole Hadzor courses.

BIGGA chairman Scott Reeves said: "I'm delighted that Andy has taken up a position on the National Board. He has been an active member of the Central England Region for many

## Secretaries win

South West & South Wales Region - South Coast



The team of greenkeepers

**The annual Greenkeepers versus Secretaries match was held at Bishopwood.**

Sponsored by Acumen Highspeed, the event saw the secretaries, led by Jane Harefield, secure a 3-1 victory.

The greenkeeping team was led by captain Rob Patrick from Stoneham. Also taking part was Harvey Simms, Jon Worrel, Anthony Gadd of Barton-on-Sea and Paul Martin and Graham Hastie of Stoneham. They were also joined by John Wright from Southampton Football Club.

Get in touch with our local Membership Services team

Scotland & Northern Ireland



Chairman Robert Patterson



John Young 07776 242 120 johnyoung@bigga.co.uk

Northern



Chairman Jack Hetherington



Sandra Raper 07866 366 966 sandra@bigga.co.uk

Central England



Chairman Andrew Smith



Roger Butler 07525 593 359 roger@bigga.co.uk

South West & South Wales



Chairman Steve Lloyd



Tracey Walker 07841 948 110 tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk

South East



Chairman Peter Smith



Clive Osgood 07841 948410 cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



Kerry Phillips 07715 672568 kerry@bigga.co.uk

# SHORT PUTTS

## Hurrells visit

### Northern Region - Cleveland

The Cleveland Section is organising a visit to Hurrells Seed Company in November.

The East Yorkshire-based seed supplier is a family business now in its third generation.

Ian Pemberton and Ian Lavell are organising the visit and you can contact them for more information on [ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianpemberton60@yahoo.co.uk).

Numbers are limited due to transport requirements, so anyone interested in attending is urged to get in touch.

## Rodney McKay

### Scotland & Northern Ireland Region - NI



Galgorm Castle's Rodney McKay is celebrating after being awarded the Top Level 3 Greenkeeper award at his graduation from CAFRE in Northern Ireland.

Rodney, 38, is head greenkeeper at Galgorm Castle and was revealed as the year's top student, while others collected either their Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Sports Turf.

## Northern Ireland excitement

### Scotland & Northern Ireland Region - Northern Ireland



**Around the Green's Phillip Snellin has spoken about the excitement being felt by the golf industry in Northern Ireland ahead of this month's Open Championship.**

Phillip is a greenkeeper at Donaghadee and said: "The feeling in the air around the clubs is buzzing. Everyone is talking about it in the pro shops, the course and in 19th holes up and down the country."

Royal Portrush last held The Open in 1951 and much

has changed since then, said Phillip. He noted how the maximum number of players making the cut after 36 holes was increased from 40 to 50. The total purse was increased from £1,500 to £1,700 to accommodate the additional players potentially making the cut. However, the other prizes remained unchanged, with £300 for the winner, Max Faulkner. This year the winner will take home around £1.9m.

Phillip added: "The course holds the North of Ireland Amateur Championship every year and not that long ago a 16-year-old kid called Rory shot an incredible 61 around the old layout. This will be my third time working at The Open with the BIGGA Support Team and I think it could already be building up to be the best. Good luck to the greenstaff working on it!"

## Stan Shotton

### Northern Region - Cleveland



Stan Shotton (right) with Ian Pemberton

**Long-serving course manager Stan Shotton has retired from his position as head greenkeeper at Durham City.**

Stan spent 45 years within greenkeeping and was presented with a gift from the Cleveland Section and BIGGA's Sandra Raper said: "Best of luck in your retirement Stan! We wish you well."

## Volunteering at Bethpage

### Northern Region - Cleveland



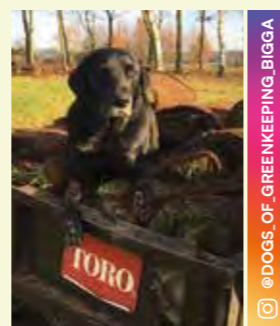
Liam Ord, centre, with other greenkeepers at Bethpage Black

**Sharpley Springs greenkeeper Liam Ord has spoken about his experience volunteering at the PGA Championship during May.**

The major championship, won by Brooks Koepka, was hosted on Bethpage State Park's Black Course.

Liam said: "To rake and cut championship tees was

## DOGS ON COURSE



**Name:** Sander  
**Owner:** Will Sjoberg  
**Course:** Epping  
**Favourite treat:** Cheese  
**Favourite spot on the course:** Sitting on the second green  
**Naughtiest moment:** Cocking his leg on the lady captain's golf bag  
**My dog is happiest when...** He is scavenging in a skip undetected

## Sean McDade

### Central England Region - Midlands

**The association was saddened to hear of the passing of Sean McDade, who acted as deputy head greenkeeper at various courses including Frilford Heath throughout his career.**

Sean died on 1 June at the age of 52. He had recently begun a short-term contract as an assistant greenkeeper at Trentham in Staffordshire.

Trentham course manager Ed Stant said: "For those who knew Sean, he was not your conventional greenkeeper. He liked natural history, classical music, ballroom dancing and fly fishing. Sean never married or had children but was popular with those who took the time to get to know him."

"We often hear that there are not many characters left in our profession. Well, Sean will certainly be remembered as a character."

Sean enjoyed a long career

in greenkeeping, starting at Frilford Heath in 1988. He progressed to the deputy head greenkeeper role at the club, before moving on to hold the same position at Harborne, Penn, Sandwell and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Sean also enjoyed working abroad, having taken up positions in Austria and more recently Gravelingenhout in the Netherlands.

Ed added: "Sean and I were reunited at Trentham, having previously worked together at Penn in Wolverhampton. I was delighted when he accepted the role and looked forward to his 'alternative' view on life to the rest of us!"

Throughout his career, Sean achieved a HNC from Elmwood College, he was an able tree surgeon and he was involved with three Open

Volunteer Support Teams, between 1995 and 1997.

He was also involved with the BIGGA Midlands Section for 13 years as secretary and Around the Green correspondent.

Ed added: "He will no doubt be fondly remembered by those members who recall his 'Around the Green' noted for the Midlands Section, which made for compulsive reading as they were so often completely random."

"My most vivid memory, which sums Sean up perfectly, was when we had a young female cat at home who had got herself stuck about 60-feet up a very tall poplar tree behind our house in Walsall. That cat's too scared to come down, the wife's going nuts and the fire brigade don't want to know unless she's been up there for a week! Despite not working



Sean McDade, pictured in 2005

with him then, I phoned Sean who climbed the tree with just his tree climbing spikes. 'I don't need the cat basket' he said. I'll never forget the noise at the top, from both Sean and the cat!

"He returned a short while later with cat in arms, both looking a little traumatised and with his arms covered in scratches. Ever since that day, Sean has been a superhero to my wife.

"Rest in peace old pal."

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# SHORT PUTTS

## Practice rounds

### Northern Region

Discounted green fees have been made available for participants of the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

BIGGA members are able to secure green fees at Formby for the reduced price of £22 per person.

This rate applies to entrants of the competition only and other guests would be required to pay a full green fee. Tee times are available on Friday 27 September between 2 and 3pm and Sunday 29 between 2.30 and 3pm.

Contact Julie Strong at Formby using [julies@formbygolfclub.co.uk](mailto:julies@formbygolfclub.co.uk)

## Blair Shearer

### Scotland Region - East



Blair Shearer has been appointed to the Young Greenkeepers' Committee serving the Scotland Region.

Blair, 25, is a greenkeeper at Dunbar and was an ICL Scholar in 2019.

He also joined The Open Volunteer Support Team at in 2018, helping to maintain the course at Carnoustie.

## British Masters

### Northern Region - North East



The North East section has offered its congratulations to Brian Clark of Close House in Newcastle on bringing the British Masters back to the North East.

The event provides an opportunity for golfers in a region that has previously been starved of large golf

events to view the game's top players up close and hopefully inspire the next generation.

Close House has come a long way after formerly being owned by Newcastle University, meaning its fairways transformed into rugby pitches for a portion of

the year. The club previously hosted the British Masters in 2017, with Rory McIlroy finishing in second place.

Anyone who is looking to volunteer at the event, taking place from 30 July to 2 August 2020, is urged to contact Brian by email using [brian.clark@closehouse.co.uk](mailto:brian.clark@closehouse.co.uk)

## School visits

### Scotland Region - West

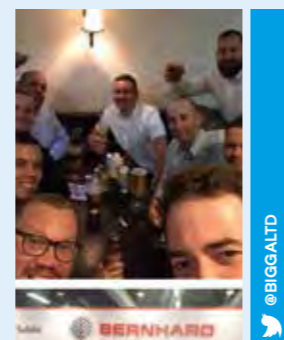


BIGGA members in the West of Scotland have been undertaking school visits to raise awareness of the greenkeeping profession.

In an effort to combat a perceived drop in youngsters who are interested in pursuing greenkeeping, Lyle Davidson and Paul McClearn of The Carrick Golf Club paid a visit to Balfron High School.

## TWEET OF THE MONTH

Tom Smith  
@tommyguns247



## Request for volunteers

### SW&SW Region - South Coast

Parkstone in Poole is hosting the European Ladies Amateur Championship and Course Manager Grant Peters is looking for volunteers to help with course preparation.

The event takes place from 22 to 27 July at Parkstone, a mature heathland course, located on the South Coast.

This year's championship will be held in memory of Celia Barquin Arozamena, the 2018 champion who was murdered on a golf course in Iowa, where she attended the state university.

If you're interested in joining the team for the event, email [grant.peters@parkstonegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:grant.peters@parkstonegolfclub.co.uk)

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# Change someone's career forever...

The BIGGA Awards are back for 2020. Each year BIGGA provides the opportunity for its members to be recognised for their incredible hard work and dedication throughout the year.

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](http://www.bigga.org.uk/the-bigga-awards-are-back) or scan the QR code





# AROUND THE GLOBE

George Thomas | Superintendent | Bridgton Highlands | Maine, USA

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

Like a lot of courses in Maine, we have a great deal of trees surrounding the course, so I would call it a mountain and forest course. The course was built in 1926 by the well-known American architect A.W. Tillinghast. It was only nine holes, set upon a hill. It was then brought to an 18-hole golf course in the 1990's with Cornish and Silva doing two holes, then Fred Ryan doing the rest.

Our claim to fame is that from the first hole you can see Mt. Washington as well as the Presidential mountain range in New Hampshire.

## How does greenkeeping in your country vary from the UK?

The biggest difference would be how different golf courses are all over the USA. Just from Maine to Connecticut is very different climate-wise. I talked to another superintendent in Connecticut and in the first week in April he is getting ready to mow greens. On the other hand, here in Maine we had three feet of snow on the ground. So, the difference between the UK and the USA is the fact that the USA is so big. I have worked up and down the east coast and going from Florida to Maine can blow your mind. The sandy soils in Florida to the rocky clay soil here in Maine, as well as the difference in grasses. I use a great deal of Velvet grasses here in Maine and in Florida it was Bermuda and rye.

## How does the weather affect your work?

We get a lot of snow here. The grass copes really well, as long as you snow blow the deeper snow off when it starts to get warm. You really have to be good with putting down your snow mould

protection right before the first snow. If you don't, turf loss is very bad.

The weather affects me greatly as my course is in the mountains, so we have extreme storms come through. Heavy rain and snow are normal every year. The course is always slow to warm up and quick to be shut down.

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

Being in Maine is vastly different from the southern states due to less people, meaning less money. But I personally have changed my management practices to work with a smaller budget.

I get a lot of used equipment and cut back on any kind of fairway care, such as fungicide sprays and fertiliser applications.

I look for deals and make friends with other superintendents to find deals on used equipment and cheaper fertilisers, as well as better management practices.

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

I grow a lot of velvet grasses here, along with L-93, A-4, and T-1.

I have also been working on trying to tip the tide on the Poa annua. The Poa annua is very strong here because it can grow back in so fast. Therefore, I have been trying to overseed and strengthen the bentgrass stand. I use growth regulators and a very aggressive management practice to build the bent grass up while pushing Poa out. When I got here the greens were 75% Poa, but they are now 35%. The goal is to eventually just have Bentgrass.

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

Training in our country mostly comes out of colleges like Penn State, U Mass, Rutgers or Michigan State. These are just

some colleges and universities that have turf programs. The best is Penn State, where I went there for my Masters in Turfgrass Management after I had graduated with a BA in English.

The biggest thing from schooling was how to work outside the box to recruit from high schools in my area, as well as local colleges. It is getting tougher to find younger generations to work in this field. Students want to work in offices and on computers.

I also have a short season in Maine which makes it even harder to train and keep people. The turnover rate is high, so I recruit every year.

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

I have a great deal of interaction because I am first and foremost a golfer.

I talk with almost every golfer that is playing on my course. I really like to get feedback, such as how the course is playing and where I need to improve.

I caddied at Lancaster Country Club for nine years and was caddy master for eight of those years, and that taught me how to communicate with members,



owners, and players. I believe this makes my golf course better every day. They perceive me as progressive and hard working.

Since I have been here, I have cut down over 10,000 trees with the help of a logging company. The course has improved in leaps and bound in the past five years. Trees and drainage have been the major thing I have worked on.

So, I think the people around the club see me as determined to make this the best golf course in the area. Membership has gone up 40% and outside play has gone up 35% while I have been here. I hope I am perceived well.

## Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

I wanted to get more education, which I hope will help me become a better superintendent. I have learned a great deal already and have had several conversations to help me progress in my career. I would like to become a master greenkeeper.

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

Turn off the water. Water is not the answer. It only causes more problems.



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# INDUSTRY NEWS

## Leadership in sustainability

**The GEO Foundation has announced the development of a ground-breaking framework for golf's social and environmental reporting.**

The news was shared in front of an audience of global sustainability systems, government agencies, non-government organisations and corporations.

The independent chair of the project's Strategic Advisory Group is Paul Druckman, former CEO of the International Integrated Reporting Council. He said: "Golf is a large and influential sport, comprising over 34,000 grassroots facilities in over 200 countries, hundreds of professional tournaments and with a significant supply chain. It also has a powerful media and reach and can inspire hundreds of thousands of fans."

"The project began a year ago after discussions hosted by the Vidauban Foundation. The resulting framework is designed to help golf more consistently qualify and communicate its 'net impact' across golf's 'sustainability agenda'. As such, it covers the material environmental social issues across three main themes: fostering nature, conserving resources and supporting communities."

To ensure credibility and connectivity, the framework aligns closely with mainstream sustainability goals and reporting systems and is underpinned by the core principles of inclusiveness, materiality, reliability and context.



The GEO Foundation has unveiled a social framework for golf

Steve Isaac, director of sustainability at the R&A, said: "We have long advocated the value of golf building a robust database of key performance indicators to measure and report on golf's sustainability performance locally, nationally and internationally. Our support of the GEO Foundation on this project should help golf understand its current performance, identify priority areas for improvement, enhance the sport's image and help the sport become more resilient to the many

environmentally and socially-driven challenges we face related to the changing climate, regulation or resource constraints."

With both golf's voluntary standards and the metrics fully integrated into OnCourse, the software solution used to engage golf facilities, tournaments and associations, the next phase is to work closely with partners to roll-out, engage and drive active participation. OnCourse is used in 76 countries around the world and is available in nine languages.

## The Club Company picks up Chesfield Downs

**Leisure operator The Club Company has acquired its 14th venue as the group looks to expand its operations.**

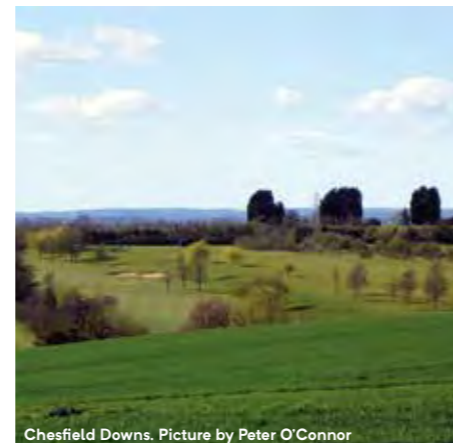
Chesfield Downs in Graveley, Hertfordshire, is a 27-hole venue, including an 18-hole 'inland links' course designed by Jonathan Gaunt.

The Club Company's Thierry Delsol said: "We are delighted to announce the acquisition of Chesfield Downs Golf and Country Club. This acquisition fits perfectly with our expansion strategy and we look forward to welcoming Chesfield Downs' members and employees into our

portfolio. We believe that under new ownership and with new investment, the club will go from strength to strength."

The Club Company has enacted a strategy of expansion through the purchase of new sites and improving existing facilities. The company is investing more than £10m in its clubs, including building a 65-bedroom hotel at The Tytherington Club in Cheshire and extending the facilities at Chartham Park in West Sussex.

Chesfield Downs also features a nine-hole short course and driving range.



Chesfield Downs. Picture by Peter O'Connor

## John Deere and Wentworth



The Wentworth team and its fleet of John Deere machinery

**Wentworth Club and John Deere has announced an exclusive partnership for the supply of golf course maintenance equipment.**

The 2019 BMW PGA Championship is being held on the West Course from 19 to 22 September, with John Deere and its supplying dealer Farol providing additional technical and equipment support.

"We are delighted to welcome John Deere to

Wentworth as our exclusive partner in the supply of greenkeeping and grounds machinery," said Wentworth Director of Golf & Greenkeeping Kenny Mackay. "This agreement represents a significant investment to ensure our fleet is always at the leading edge of technology and innovation."

The maintenance fleet consists of over 140 machines, including the latest GPS PrecisionSprayers.

## IOG Awards



Dan Walker

**Tickets are available for this year's Institute of Groundsmanship Industry Awards, to be hosted by the BBC's Dan Walker on the first day of SALTEX.**

The awards are in their 11th year and recognise the passion, dedication and challenges faced by staff at clubs all over the UK.

Nominations are also open for the 2019 Awards. Visit [www.iog.org/awards](http://www.iog.org/awards) and click the nominate button.

## Yeovil enlists Swan Golf Designs

**The 112-year-old Yeovil Golf Club has enlisted the services of Swan Golf Designs to identify an improvement schedule that will be rolled out across the next decade.**

Yeovil is in the singular position of having one golf club in Dorset and another across the border in Somerset. Both courses and the club's practice areas will be audited by Suffolk-based Swan Golf Designs, with a view of producing a plan to be implemented during the next five to 10 years.

Course architect William Swan said: "Yeovil Golf Club has an enviable reputation as one of south-west England's premier golf venues. But, as with any course of its age, it's certainly worth analysing to see if any improvements should be made to bring it in line with the demands of 21st century golf."

The course architects were asked to carry out a full audit of the facility, rather than a 'make do and mend' approach and were given up to a decade to complete the work, ensuring as little disruption to players as possible.

Course Manager Jason Connaughton said: "With the current climate in the golf

industry, we feel it is as important as ever to move with the times and progress with both courses.

"Having worked with Swan Golf Designs in the past, it was easy to see that they would be a good fit for Yeovil and we are looking forward to building for the future with them."



Yeovil

## SPARE PARTS

### Auction for Immingham

**A nine-hole Lincolnshire golf club has been put up for sale with a world-renowned auctioneer in an attempt to find a buyer.**

Immingham Golf Club will go under the hammer with Savills auction house after closing to the public in November.

Ian Simpson, director at Savills, said: "It is unusual for an established golf course to be offered to the market with vacant possession."

The course originally opened in 1975, before being extended to 18 holes in 1984. It has again been reduced to nine holes and is set across 56 acres.

### Sandspreader

**Parkers Pitches has added a GKB Sandspreader SPIOO to its range of machinery, through distributor Ernest Doe.**

Managing director of Parkers Pitches, Will Parker, explained the build quality and simplicity of the machinery were main factors when choosing the sandspreader.

He added: "This is our first GKB machine and we have been really impressed with the build quality. I have no doubts it will be a machine we will be using for many years to come and the service was top class."

"We are looking to spread around 1,000 tonnes with this machine and so far it has been faultless."

## Karl Wiedenmann



Karl Wiedenmann has retired

**BTME regular for the last 24 years, Karl Wiedenmann, has retired.**

Even though his remit was heading up worldwide sales for Wiedenmann Gmbh, Karl made it his business to attend as many UK trade shows as possible, seeing him attend every BTME since 1995.

At a special farewell at Wiedenmann UK's headquarters, Managing Director David Rae said: "Not only is he expert in logistic

and technical matters, Karl's dependability to 'do the right thing' has always shone through. Dealers and customers up and down the UK got to know him and valued his opinion. Every business needs a Karl."

Speaking at the presentation, Karl reserved special thanks to Alistair Rae, who passed on the education that enabled him to thrive, saying it was the foundation on which he built his career.

**The Green Room**

**On the podcast this month:**

**Episode 13:** How can greenkeepers learn from actors? Mark Doyle of The Method explains how you can project a more professional image.

**Episode 15:** In our Open preview we sit down with Royal Portrush's Graeme Beatt to ask what it takes to host the world's greatest golf event.

## Amenity supplier for the north west

**Greenkeepers and groundsmen in the north west of England have a new source of amenity supplies and technical support following the launch of Spunhill Amenity.**

The company's portfolio includes LG Seeds and Momersteeg seed mixtures, the company's own Marcher brand of fertilisers and ICL fertilisers, plant protection products, Aquatrols wetters and Bathgate composts, topdressings and soil enhancers.

The range of amenity products is supported by a team of amenity professionals, based in Cheshire, Wrexham, Denbighshire and Monthmouthshire.

Siôn Price, Spunhill Amenity business manager, said: "Between us, we have gained experience and expertise through working for Monsanto, BASF, Barenbrug,

ICL and Nomix. Our team also has hands-on greenkeeping and golf course construction experience.

"As local area specialists, everyone can give their personal attention to understanding a customer's requirements and providing appropriate advice and timely supplies."



Spunhill Amenity's Siôn Price

Spunhill's head office and main warehouse are located in Ellesmere, Shropshire and further depots are in Mold, Flintshire and Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

All stores are BASIS-approved with deliveries serviced by a fleet of Spunhill vehicles supported by partner carriers.

## Corvus

**A new player on the off-road utility vehicle scene has arrived in the UK.**

Corvus is Europe's first manufacturer of 4x4 Side by Side vehicles and a British company, BOSS ORV, has been formed to introduce, distribute and support the brand in the UK.

The brand will be introduced with three models: TerrainDX4 EPS, Terrain DX4 PRO EPS and TerrainDX4 CAB EPS.

"When you first look at the Terrain, you can see immediately that it's a well-designed and tough, professional UTV," said BOSS ORV's managing director, Phil Everett. "Look deeper and it stands out for environmental and technological advancement, a powerhouse engine and a great payload capacity.

"We're proud to offer the Corvus range in the UK."

## ISEKI launches out-front mower

**ISEKI UK & Ireland has announced the launch of an out-front mower for the ISEKI range.**

The ISEKI 60" out-front rotary deck features three blades and the cutting height can be adjusted from 25mm to 125mm in 12.5mm increments. A mulching kit is available to order.

Product Manager Richard Tyrrell said: "When developing the product we studied how people use their mowers, quickly realising storage was a key issue when cutting for a long time. People were either bringing trailers with them, another vehicle, additional members of staff or tying containers on to the machines in order to carry strimmers, bin bags and tools.

"With the new SF224, operators can be more effective and productive with their time, taking equipment with them in the large storage

bed on the back of the mower, keeping items safe and eliminating the need to keep going back to the van to empty bins or change tools."

The high performance out-front mowers are designed to facilitate grass cutting in difficult areas. The mowers are equipped with two-pedal hydrostatic transmission and automatic or selectable 4WD. There is also a lockable differential for use when conditions demand. To ensure efficient engine cooling, the radiator is fitted with an automatic reversing fan that prevents the blockage of the grill.

Managing Director David Withers said: "With the engine regulations coming in shortly, we wanted to offer the customer a competitively priced out-front mower with the same ISEKI-renowned quality and reliability alongside a Stage V complaint

22.5hp diesel engine.

"The ISEKI SF224 mower offers the most economical way to cut grass commercially with high productivity, plus the added benefit of the new 22.5hp engine enabling customers to save on fuel costs and initial purchasing costs of their machinery.

"Offering a range of decks to suit the various customer sites and cutting cycles, customers can choose from the Wessex, ISEKI and Muthing flail decks or the new ISEKI out-front rotary deck. These options allow the machine to be highly versatile in this competitive market."



ISEKI SF224

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## Qualified Greenkeeper Bromborough Golf Club

Bromborough Golf Club is recruiting an additional greenkeeper to join its existing greens team. The candidate should be self-motivated, hardworking, enthusiastic and a strong team player.

### Position Criteria:

- Minimum of three years' experience.
- S/NVQ level 2 or equivalent as a minimum.
- NPTC Pesticide: Pa1, Pa6, Pa2a

### Position Details:

- Full Time - 40-hour week.
- 20 days annual leave plus bank holidays.
- No accommodation is available.
- Competitive salary will be offered inline

with qualifications and experience.

Closing Date: 15 July 2019

Please apply in the form of covering letter and CV to:

Darren Anderson (Course Manager)

Email: [gm@bromboroughgolfclub.org.uk](mailto:gm@bromboroughgolfclub.org.uk)

Website: [www.bromboroughgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.bromboroughgolfclub.co.uk)



## Golf Course Manager Belton Woods Hotel

Belton Woods Hotel seeks to recruit an experienced and highly motivated golf course manager who, together with a team of nine staff, will be responsible for further developing its prestigious two PGA championship-approved courses and 9-hole academy course to the highest standards.

Reporting to the director of golf, the successful candidate will ideally have direct experience in golf course management.

They will form part of the club's senior management team and will be responsible for course preparation and condition; management and development of the greenkeeping staff; management of

equipment, irrigation system and greenkeeping compound; and the course budget and expenditure.

To apply, please go to:

<https://almarose.recruitgenie.co.uk/golf-course-manager-30434.htm>

Closing date: 31 July 2019



# Ambitious?

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](http://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](mailto:info@bigga.co.uk)



## Course Manager / Head Greenkeeper

Northenden Golf Club seeks to appoint a hands-on, forward-looking course manager/head greenkeeper.

A beautiful parkland course, situated in South Manchester alongside the River Mersey, Northenden Golf Club was established in 1913. The course benefits from well-established USGA greens and a newly-built contemporary clubhouse.

The successful candidate will enjoy a flexible working environment with an excellent opportunity to further develop our highly-regarded parkland course within a friendly and inclusive members' club. The club plays a regular role in hosting Cheshire County Golf Union events.

In return for a competitive salary, the successful applicant will need to show excellent course, man-management and budgeting skills, with relevant greenkeeping and/or agronomy qualifications.

For further details visit our website: [www.northendengolfclub.com](http://www.northendengolfclub.com) to download a full job description and person specification.

Apply by post or email enclosing a full CV and covering letter by Friday 19 July to:

Roland Harris, Director/Chairman, Northenden Golf Club,  
Palatine Road, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4FR.  
or to [manager@northendengolfclub.com](mailto:manager@northendengolfclub.com)



Northenden Golf Club

## Technical Sales Position GBR Technology

Area: Wales, Midlands and East Anglia

The candidate will be based in the territory, handling direct accounts as well as giving support to our resellers and with a focus on continued business growth.

You will join a friendly and professional team, enjoy an attractive base salary, bonus elements, a company car and 25 days' paid holiday.

The successful candidate will have a positive track record of selling amenity products within the sports turf market or be in the sports turf industry, possibly as a greenkeeper and have industry knowledge and contacts. BASIS and FACTS

qualifications would be desirable but not essential. A full driving licence, excellent communication skills plus the ability to build good working relationships are essential.

Please apply with covering letter and CV to [paulmorris@gbstech.co.uk](mailto:paulmorris@gbstech.co.uk) by 31 July



## Course Manager Bearsted Golf Club

Bearsted Golf Club seeks to recruit a highly-motivated golf course manager who, together with the experienced greenkeeping team, will be responsible for the maintenance and further development of our prestigious parkland course.

Reporting to the general manager, the successful candidate will be required to show extensive experience in all aspects of golf course management, to include:

- Agronomic and environmental management
- Excellent management and organisational skills
- Ability to motivate, lead and develop staff

- High level of IT competence
- Minimum of HND in Sports Turf Management or similar

Apply by post or email enclosing a full CV and covering letter by 20 July to:

Keith Osbourne, General Manager  
Bearsted Golf Club, Ware Street  
Bearsted, Kent ME14 4PQ

Email: [manager@bearstedgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:manager@bearstedgolfclub.co.uk)



Turfgrass Agronomy & Services

# Managerial and Greenkeeping Positions

Turfgrass Agronomy & Services is recruiting for a deputy course manager, assistant greenkeeper/mechanic and two assistant greenkeepers for a site in Hertfordshire.

The site is a 9-hole golf course currently being built. The greenkeeping team will be involved in all maintenance tasks from the initial growing period to the upkeep of the course. The site has a modern machinery fleet and maintenance facility. These are great opportunities to see all the processes involved in the evolution of a golf course, to the maintenance of the course when it is ready to open and achieve its full potential.

TAS is recruiting a team of highly-motivated staff who are team players and able to work well under pressure and capable of bringing the course to the highest standards.

### Key aspects for positions and qualifications.

#### Deputy Course Manager

- NVQ Level 3 or equivalent
- Management and leadership capability
- Spraying Licence PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Keen eye for detail
- Setting a good example and displaying a very strong work ethic
- Being able to manage and motivate the team when course manager is off site
- Report to the course manager

#### Assistant Greenkeeper/Mechanic

- NVQ Level 2
- Relevant qualifications and training in mechanics
- Be able to recognise and solve problems
- Maintenance of mowers and machinery
- Report to course manager and deputy

#### Assistant Greenkeeper

- NVQ Level 2
- Highly motivated
- Can-do attitude
- Team player
- Ability to produce and maintain high standards of work
- Report to course manager and deputy

Full details on BIGGA website. Full terms, benefits and conditions will be made during the selection process. Please send a covering letter with your CV via email to: The Course Manager, Fabien Maisonny at [f.maisonny@turfagronomy.com](mailto:f.maisonny@turfagronomy.com)



## Seasonal Greenkeepers (x3) Sorrento Golf Club (Australia)

Sorrento Golf Club, located on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, are looking to employ three seasonal qualified greenkeepers to help maintain the course over the busy spring/summer period. The period of employment is for six months, starting from 30 September 2019 through to the 27 March 2020.

Applicants must satisfy the requirements in obtaining an Australian Working Visa (Subclass 417).

Assistance with airfare for travel to Australia will also be provided.

For more information, or to apply for these positions please send a detailed resume (including three referees) to Course Superintendent Shane Greenhill:

[sgreenhill@sorrentogolf.com.au](mailto:sgreenhill@sorrentogolf.com.au)

Closing date: 25 July 2019.



## Head Greenkeeper Woolston Manor Golf Club

Woolston Manor Golf Club is located in the heart of Chigwell, a popular and beautiful location with stunning views. Established in 1994, the course is widely regarded as one of the leading golf courses in Essex. Home to PGA East Region order of merit events

### Main duties and responsibilities

- Manage the golf course and the greenkeeping team
- Carry out effective turf maintenance
- Manage construction/renovation projects
- Operate and maintain machinery and irrigation & drainage systems
- Maintain appropriate levels of supplies

### Desirable Skills

- Proficient in the use ICT
- NVQ level 3 or equivalent, PA1, PA2 and PA6A spraying certificates
- Certified to operate chainsaws

### To Apply:

Please send your CV with a covering letter to: [golf@woolstonmanor.co.uk](mailto:golf@woolstonmanor.co.uk)  
Closing date: 20 July 2019



# Get Social

Join BIGGA on Facebook

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# ECOLOGY ROUNDUP

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)



**The more presentations I give to BIGGA members, the more I hear 'I wasn't aware that I could request an eco-visit'.**

Another oft-heard comment is 'We didn't know that you developed environmental management plans'.

This is understandable as BIGGA has only had a resident ecologist - me - as part of its staff for around four years and so we haven't spoken to everyone yet.

But with that in mind, here's a rundown of the ecology benefits that you may be able to apply for as part of your BIGGA membership:

- / A half day visit from myself, James Hutchinson, to help with wildlife, ecology, rough management and any other opportunities you may like to discuss. It may be a couple of months before I can get to see you, though, as these visits are quite popular;
- / Members evening presentations - another popular request. These usually last for two to three hours and consist of a talk in the clubhouse and then a course walk to look at tree management (why some are removed and why some should stay), rough thinning practices, wildflower introduction and so on.
- / Waste water advice, such as holistic reed bed designs;

- / Full course environmental plans, which will often include woodland management, flora and fauna protection, invasive weed control, wildlife identification and preservation;
- / Ancient tree conservation, as many of the courses I visit have old trees that require management;
- / I am also on hand to provide general ecology advice, via email or phone and I would encourage anyone to get in contact if they have a query or are interested in requesting my services!

There are additional costs for some of the above and an example of this is the environmental management plan. However, you will find that for BIGGA members, this costs significantly less than you will find elsewhere. The plan usually takes a two-day visit to aid the design and then three days to be formalised into a document, with further research on wildlife regulations, such as SSI, SAC, RAMSAR sites and so on.

It may be that I can offer guidance on your Golf Environment Organisation application too. GEO-certification is widely-respected in the industry and I would encourage you to check out their website if this is something you're interested in pursuing.

Lastly, the monthly website blog that I

produce for the BIGGA website has further information on course visits and the work carried out on your behalf.

And one other thing - a recent visit to Royal Jersey proved to be as fruitful as you can get, with the team introducing us to a very rare lizard orchid - did you ever see such a beaut?



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