



GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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One hosts European Tour events, the other worked alone for seven months of the year

How different can the lives of these namesakes really be?

MANN TO MANN

Featured Inside

Cardigan | Personal wellbeing | Seaweed and biologicals
Sustainability around the globe | Master Greenkeepers



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



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



ISSN: 0961-6977
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Welcome



As at Continue to Learn, greenkeeper education is becoming more important than ever before



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

There's an old adage in magic that you should never tell anyone how you do a trick.

As soon as you show your methods, the mysticism vanishes and you're left with a simple set of moves that impresses nobody. The magic is lost, as it were.

In many ways, greenkeeping is the exact opposite of this. What is presented to golfers appears very simple. A neatly-prepared course, nice and tidy with well-defined playing surfaces can't be difficult to produce, can it? Yet when we lift the cover on the 'simple' task of course preparation, golfers soon discover that the role of a greenkeeper is one that requires expert knowledge and skill built on research and years of training.

And it's a job that's only getting more complicated with each passing year. Decisions are increasingly data-driven, requiring high levels of understanding and suitable

equipment. Increasing scarcity of resources also requires a high level of ability, as clubs simply can't afford to waste anything they spend money on. I was pleased to hear that the pesticide Acelepryn has again been authorised for emergency use at UK golf courses this summer. But the restrictions on its use and the precision of application required mean that if you do get your hands on some of the product, you can't afford to waste a single drop.

All these factors, and many more besides, have led to the role of a greenkeeper becoming even more highly-skilled. If you're to prepare a high-quality course in the modern climate, you're going to need to have your finger on the pulse.

Counter-intuitively, it is my opinion that all the challenges our industry is facing will, in the long run, be of benefit to our members. We all know the golf course is the most important asset that any club possesses and if it takes more skill and knowledge to keep it in prime condition, then those tasked with looking after it will rightly earn greater respect from the others within that club structure.

As an association we have two roles; to encourage our members to constantly develop their own abilities and to work with the rest of the industry to ensure they appreciate this development. Greenkeeping has never been a job that can simply be carried out from a general managers' office, or worse, from a chair of greens' front room, but that's becoming even clearer. We have worked extremely hard to highlight this across the sport and our efforts will continue.

Speaking of highly trained professionals, may I say congratulations to the six BIGGA members who have recently achieved the Master Greenkeeper award. It takes years of professional development and a high level of competency and practice to attain the certificate and there is no finer example of greenkeepers who have embraced the modern landscape for the betterment of themselves, their courses and the industry.



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From the Editor

Time to say thanks

Who can say where life will take us?

Is it all a matter of chance and location or will hard work and dedication eventually pay off?

This month's magazine takes a look at two namesakes and their differing circumstances. Both are called Michael Mann and both have worked hard to achieve everything they have done so far in their careers. One works at the prestigious European Tour venue of Walton Heath, while the other until recently was tasked with preparing a nine-hole course up in the Scottish Highlands.

As such, their working lives were very different and through their shared names, it's a fascinating case study about how different circumstances — be that location, fame, budget or resources — can impact what we're able to achieve out on the course.

As part of an association that prides itself on providing some of the best professional development opportunities available in any industry, not just sportsturf, I'd like to say that the sky's the limit if you apply yourself to the best of your abilities.

Sure there's a little bit of luck involved, but you'd be surprised how often it's the people who stick their neck out who are the ones that get lucky.

Take the BIGGA Awards, which we are proud to launch this month. There's certainly a degree of luck involved with the awards process, but if you're nominated, you may become a finalist. Become a finalist and you may win. Do that and who knows where you'll end up. It's certainly worth a go.

We're actively encouraging everyone



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

within the club management structure to nominate staff who they believe deserve recognition for their efforts. This year I'm really happy that everyone who is nominated for an award will receive a certificate of achievement to proudly display. That's only a small gesture, but it's nice to know that your hard work is appreciated, so do take the time to get involved if you know someone who is deserving, no matter what stage of their career they are at.

By the way, BIGGA's regular audio offering, the Green Room Golf Course Podcast, is quickly approaching 5,000 listens. It's possible that most of those are my family, but I'm hopeful that through this new form of media, we're able to reach a new audience who may not have encountered greenkeeping practices in the past and who may have had no understanding of what goes into the creation of a modern course.

Regular listeners will have also noticed that we're covering some innovative topics that you may not have associated with greenkeeping in the past, such as how to present yourself to management or the importance of microbiology.

I'm hopeful that there's something there for everyone, but what we need is your input to help keep the podcast going. We want to hear your stories, so do get in touch with me if you'd like a conversation about your course and I'll give you a call.

Digital media is a great new way to connect with your customers, so please feel free to get in touch if you'd like help getting started and I'll see what we can do to help!

In this Issue

Our contributors

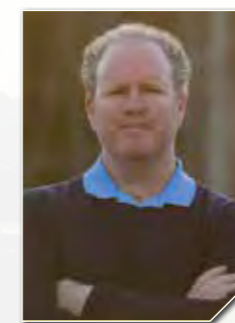
24 Stuart Adams

Having made the step up from Trefloyne to the course manager's role at Cardigan in 2017, the 43-year-old has learned a huge amount about the realities of what it takes to manage a golf course. In this feature, Stuart gives us an in depth look at life 'down Cardi' way' and shares some of the lessons he has learned.



26 Paul MacCormack

Paul MacCormack is the author of the Mindful Superintendent Blog on Turfnet. He is a public speaker and advocate for wellbeing within the turf industry. He is also the general manager and superintendent at Fox Meadow, located in Prince Edward Island, Canada.



34 Michael Mann

It isn't often that we have two contributors who share the same name and this month we take a look at two namesakes to discover just how varied this industry can be. Michael Mann hosted the British Masters in 2018, while Michael Mann worked alone in the Scottish Highlands for seven months a year. Read on to find out more.



46 Paul Jansen

One of golf's most widely-travelled course architects, this month Paul visits Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Myanmar and even Nepal as he takes a look at what sustainability looks like on golf courses in other parts of the globe. Paul began his career working for Nick Faldo Design before establishing Jansen Golf Design and Construction in 2011.



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

Golf Management Trophy

One of the most enjoyable national events in the BIGGA calendar is returning to Frilford Heath this October as representatives from all aspects of golf club management come together in pursuit of the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy.

Hosted by BIGGA Golf Partner Rigby Taylor, the event offers the opportunity to build bonds with other members of your club management team, beginning with the regional qualifying events.

Rothley Park were victorious at the national final in 2018 and Course Manager Nigel Colley said: "The Golf Management Trophy really helps as we try to break down the barrier where you are seen as just greenstaff and not that important. The club was supportive of us and was delighted when we won."

"I think it helps that we can play golf as it gives you something to talk about with your members. You see things completely differently say on a mower, but when you play golf with people, you encourage constructive criticism because we are all in it to get the course as good as it possibly can be."

Regional qualifying events will take place throughout the summer and you can book your place by contacting the BIGGA membership services manager for your region.

The top two teams from each qualifying event will move on to the



Frilford Heath. Picture by Leaderboard Photography



grand final, to be held at Frilford Heath on Monday 28 October. More than one team can enter from the same club, but only one may progress through to the final.

THE TEAMS

Each team of four must consist of one or two members of the greenkeeping team, who must be BIGGA members, with the remainder drawn from:

- Golf club secretary, manager, director of golf or similar role;
- Chairman of green or a member of the

- greens committee or main board;
- Club captain or vice-captain;
- Owner, if proprietary club.

REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Scotland: Tuesday 23 July, West Lothian;

Thursday 25 July, Portlethen

Northern: Thursday 18 July, Wakefield

Central England: Wednesday 24 July, Rothley Park

SW&SW: Wednesday 10 July, Cumberwell Park; 11 September, Barton-on-Sea, 18 September, Saunton

Scholarship

Queenwood greenkeeper Will Dix will receive support from the association as he studies towards his Higher National Certificate at Elmwood College SRUC.

Also in receipt of a Higher Education Scholarship supported by Textron Golf was Richard Mullen, who is studying HND Golf Course Management at Banchory.

spoke at Continue to Learn on several occasions and was a truly lovely man who was very well respected within the industry. He will be sorely missed."

Eddie was head groundsman at Wimbledon for 22 years and oversaw the roofing-over of centre court in 2009 and the hosting of the 2012 Olympics.

He leaves behind wife Chris following a 40-year marriage.

Eddie Seaward MBE

The association was saddened to hear of the passing of retired groundsman Eddie Seaward MBE.

Eddie was the former head groundsman at the All England Lawn Tennis Club and often spoke at Continue to Learn, sharing his wisdom with BIGGA members.

BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt said: "Eddie



Name: Sander
Age: 11
Owner: Will Sjoberg
Course: Epping
Breed: Labrador
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. That was embarrassing!
My dog is happiest when... he is scavenging in a skip undetected!
If you know a dog we should feature, email karl@bigga.co.uk

Gullane cousins



Bobby and Paul Hay alongside Gullane captain Keith Anderson

A pair of greenkeeping cousins are celebrating 70 years of service at the same golf club.

Gullane Irrigation and Drainage Technician Bobby Hay has retired after 45 years at the club, while his cousin, Paul Hay, is head greenkeeper at Gullane No.1 and was also recognised after celebrating his 25th anniversary with the club. Gullane Course Manager Stewart Duff described Bobby as "a great character who will be missed by all".

Speaking to the East Lothian Courier, Bobby said he was unsure what he was going to do with his spare time, but that retirement will allow him to focus on his other hobbies.

"I look over the course and it is a funny feeling knowing I am not there now after 40-odd years," he added.

Paul, 42, added: "There have never been two days that are the same. We have got a good team and it has been good to work for so far. It does not feel like 25 years for sure!"



BIGGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

30 September to 1 October 2019

Formby and Formby Ladies Golf Club

Entries are now open for this year's event. For more information and to download the entry form visit www.bigga.org.uk



Brian Piggott



Brian Piggott

Buckingham head greenkeeper Brian Piggott is celebrating his 40-year anniversary at the club.

Brian started at Buckingham on 1 June 1979 following employment at Badgemoor from the age of 15.

He then moved on to Henley, working alongside his father, brother and grandfather, who was head greenkeeper.

Brian succeeded his grandfather as head greenkeeper at Henley before taking up the course manager role

at Buckingham, via a short stop at Doncaster GC.

Deputy Course Manager Dave Griffiths said: "Brian has witnessed many changes over the years, from a humble garage as his office and machinery found dotted about the course, to where the team is now based in a purpose-built building, holding all the latest Toro machinery.

"And at least now you don't have to walk the length of the course to get the hand mowers!

"Like most head greenkeepers, humour is a must and April Fools pranks have been some of Brian's finest moments. We've had mole hills all over the 18th green, a new strain of disease (I think it was April fool spelt backwards), but best was his leaking new reservoir for the new green. Brian got us to hand water the side of the reservoir so it turned to mud and the club secretary rushed up in a panic, only to find Brian and the staff stood there holding an April fool banner! Priceless!

"Brian has truly seen and done it all and to this day he is as keen and still in love with the job as he was as a 15-year-old

Stephen Lindsay



Stephen Lindsay

Gleneagles has stepped up its preparations for the Solheim Cup with the recruitment of Stephen Lindsay.

Stephen headed to Perthshire after spending four years at the Wentworth Club in Surrey, where he was deputy head greenkeeper responsible for the conditioning of the West Course.

Golf Course Manager Craig Haldane said: "Stephen's arrival, coupled with his expert knowledge, industry insights and global greenkeeping experiences are already proving to be a valuable addition to our growing team."

Stephen has previously worked at Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand and Harbour Town and Hilton Head Island in the United States.

Young greenkeepers

Eighteen young greenkeepers attended a practical event at Dundonald Links.

The young greenkeepers were all modern apprentices in their 14th week of college and are based at courses at Troon Links, Belleisle and Girvan in South Ayrshire.

Some time was spent in the workshop setting hand

mowers and checking quality of cut.

Each of the apprentices went through standard operating procedures for hand mowing and fairway cutting, with practice taking place on a spare piece of ground.

Four holes were also walked, allowing grass, flora and fauna identification to take place.



Young greenkeepers undertaking an educational day at Dundonald Links

German ecology group

A group of ecologically-minded greenkeepers in Germany is hoping to share its knowledge with others around the globe.

Stomata is a network of German greenkeepers, including a number of BIGGA members, who have worked together for 12 years.

The group investigates opportunities for economical, ecological, cultural and social thinking. This includes

offering help and support with practical and scientific information, along with the identification and implementation of alternative greenkeeping methods.

Norbert Lischka MG said: "We are interested in getting in contact with other sustainable groups in Europe or even worldwide."

For more information, visit www.stomata.org and click on the 'English version' tab.



The Stomata group meets to discuss ecological methods of greenkeeping

Wing walk

BIGGA design and brand executive Libbie Waddleton, who is responsible for designing Greenkeeper International and all the other great BIGGA publications you see each month, is undertaking a daredevil challenge in support of the association's national charity.

Libbie and her mum, Sue, will be undertaking a wing walk, which will see the pair

stand on the wings of an aeroplane as it flies above Lincolnshire, with Libbie raising funds for the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund and the Alzheimer's Society in the process.

The challenge will take place at Wickenby Aerodrome in Lincoln on Saturday 7 September.

To sponsor Libbie or to wish her well, email libbie@bigga.co.uk.



BIGGA's Libbie Waddleton (insert) is undertaking a wing walk for charity

Environmental resources available to BIGGA members



John Clarke and the team at Woburn have engaged with ESi to improve their environmental offering

BIGGA members will have access to a library of resources on environmental matters after the association joined forces with Environmental Solutions International (ESI).

Members will have access to ESi's online resource files that offer advice on subjects including water security and availability or usage, pollution and spill planning, fuel or chemical storage and a range of other topics.

ESi will also provide telephone and

email support to BIGGA members for environmental management questions and will provide free access to ESi sustainability workshops.

As part of the agreement, BIGGA members will also have discounted access to ESi's environmental management system, which allows clients to review their entire operation for efficiency and compliance.

For more information about ESi visit www.esinternational.co.uk

Case study: Woburn

ESi has been working with Woburn since 2013 and the club has been using ESi EMS for nearly five years.

Woburn has recently moved to the ESi Environmental Management System 7th Edition with enhanced management tools and reporting functionality.

Gavin Snowden of Woburn, said: "The main areas in which we have benefited from using ESi EMS have been recording all our chemical applications and output totals. This has improved with the latest version recording stock levels and cost.

"Recording fuel usage is useful when budgeting and ordering as we can look at previous months and see how much we used historically.

"Finally, using ESi EMS makes it easy to monitor our operations to ensure we meet all the requirements for GEO Certification."

Download BIGGA's new podcast on Spotify and Apple Podcasts

The Green Room

BIGGA AWARDS

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

That's why we're delighted to announce the launch of the BIGGA Awards 2020 and once again they're completely free to enter.

BIGGA's annual awards acknowledge the achievements of its members and are handed out at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, held at BTME in January each year.

Candidates are allowed to nominate themselves or they may be nominated

by a colleague or someone who recognises their commitment to greenkeeping. For the first time, this year every nominee will receive a digital certificate with their name on it that they can print off and put on display.

Entries close on 31 October, so don't delay and get nominating now — there's no limit on how many people you can put forward for each award. We'll then announce the finalists in December, ahead of BTME 2020.

It couldn't be easier to enter the BIGGA Awards and all you have to do is complete the nomination form that's located on the BIGGA website.

It takes just a couple of minutes to complete and you never know, you could change someone's career forever!

For more information about the BIGGA Awards, contact Rachael Duffy at rachael@bigga.co.uk

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



Outstanding Contribution of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen

In recognition of the growing number of members who undertake voluntary work each year for the betterment of the association or any number of charities. The winner may be someone who has raised significant sums for charity or given fantastic support to greenkeepers or the industry.

'This is unbelievable. I didn't think I could cry in front of hundreds of people, but it was just brilliant!'

Jack Percival, Chipstead GC, winner in 2019



Championship Performance of the Year



The Harleyford GC team won this category in 2019

This award isn't just restricted to those clubs who host majors or European Tour events. A team may have done incredible work to get the course fit for professional events such as the EuroPro Tour or Ladies European Tour, or amateur events such as national or important local events. All nominations will be considered on merit.

'This is mad, I can't believe it to be honest. When you look at who we were up against, I am really just short for words.'

Craig Earnshaw, Harleyford GC, winner in 2019

Greenkeeping Project of the Year

This award recognises those greenkeepers or greenkeeping teams who have undertaken a specific project, completed within the 2019 calendar year. However, projects can be long-term, beginning in a previous year. This can be construction, renovation or repair and the possibilities are endless.

'To be honest I'm a little star struck by the whole thing. It's absolutely out of this world to even think we could win something like this.'

Stuart Imeson, Dunstanburgh Castle GC, winner in 2019



Stuart Imeson of Dunstanburgh Castle receiving his award in 2019



Across the Board

Tom Smith | Course Manager | Colne Valley

Writing this column, I find myself sitting contemplating that although we had a dry winter in the South East, as usual our job is never easy.

Some have been lucky and worked within a budget, finding their course in near perfect condition in May. However, others have found the lack of fungicides and insecticides a problem. Many have also been struggling due to the hot summer last year, meaning a real lack of grass covering. At Colne Valley we experienced dry and burnt areas and have all been working extremely hard to keep our greens in the best possible condition, to keep our golfing customers and managers happy.

There are many problems out there. Grass has started to grow and suddenly we are expected to produce the perfect course as we have in previous years. A golfing friend who played our course in April asked, "will you ever get the greens as good as you had them two years ago?" I decided to find him graphs and photographic evidence of the greens over the past five years, but the following week he told me that the greens were fine and the best they had been for years. The fact that he shot 38 points on this visit may have had something to do with it, but I continued the day with a smile on my face nonetheless!

Every year we face challenges, it is a fact of life, but I truly believe that our industry really has been given more than its fair share, including environmental, climatic and, for most of us, financial. We have all heard golfers moaning about the condition of a course somewhere, but they have no idea about the financial restrictions and the ever-increasing regulations that we must adhere to.

My point is that we, as an association, are here to help greenkeepers. The membership is for all greenkeepers and provides education and support in many



The greenstaff at Colne Valley

areas. My personal experience of BIGGA has always been a place to turn to for good knowledge and guidance. You don't have to agree with everything that happens, but as an association we stand tall for our small, but valid, part in the golfing world.

The only way that we can improve our relationship with golfers is through education. BIGGA has made fantastic strides in education in the last decade. Thanks to our training, we now have some of the finest greenkeepers around.

However, our own education is not going to erase the problem of the uninformed golfer. We must continually strive to keep golfers informed and up to date with our world in greenkeeping. Our 'Your Course' magazine has opened new avenues to educate golfers, with articles explaining the basics of timings, climate, soils and budgets. By passing on our knowledge and sharing our experiences, golfers can only benefit and possibly start to understand some of the pressures and problems that greenkeepers experience.

BIGGA is respected by the R&A and the various golf unions and our presence at these golf meetings ensures we

continue to be seen and heard.

We must not be scared or worried to talk to others in our industry and must be aware that our association is for now and the future, not the past. Membership of BIGGA is continuous, which means it is always there for you, not just when you need it. BIGGA is there to help all greenkeepers, from the apprentice to the head greenkeeper, to continually learn and train, while also offering member advantages including legal advice, insurances and BIGGA Xtra Benefits.

Using your BIGGA membership to its full potential can be rewarding and educational. However, we need to be a 'must-join' association for greenkeepers. This will only happen if we spread the word and remind greenkeepers to take advantage of the benefits which are only for our current members.

Being the South East representative on the National Board has been an eye opener as I have learnt more about how the team at BIGGA House and our Membership Services Managers operate so professionally. Our association is expanding and we must all do our bit to help it continue to grow and develop.

FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

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

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Richard McGlynn ■ Jaey Goodchild ■ Frank Newberry ■ Greg Evans MG ■ Jon Kiger





Ecology Roundup

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)

On occasion, I feel it is best to write a blog which is not so... well... exciting.

It just so happens that this month is one of them. However, that doesn't mean it isn't important!

Have you ever heard of The Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981?

The legislation is in place to protect our wild birds (game birds aren't included in that, but that's a topic for another day).

One of the important facets of the act is that all bird nests are protected by law. This means that if you find one, it is illegal to disturb it. You may have heard or even witnessed tractors, buggies and other such vehicles that cannot be used until a young family of nestlings have fledged from the engine bay they were living within.

This brings me to the subject of nest boxes and what you should do if you have them on your course.

First up, well done for erecting them in the first place. Our lightweight friends need all the help they can get their passerine feet on, so keep up the good work.

However, although you may be curious to see how they're getting on, it is important that you do not disturb them by continually lifting the lid. If you simply must know, I would suggest that you purchase a camera box, which are inexpensive and available online. If you then erect it near to the clubhouse or greenkeeper's facility, you will be able

to constantly monitor them whenever you like.

Another slightly more difficult way is to become a licensed ringer, but that takes many years of practice and is only worthwhile for the most dedicated birder! I know this because I spent an afternoon observing Stephen Thompson, 'eco royalty' at John O'Gaunt, while he ringed numerous great and blue tits. Stephen has counted 502 chicks in boxes this year, which is an incredible feat!

If you're interested in counting bird populations on your golf course, do get in professionally-trained assistance. If you are untrained and you interfere with nest boxes, you're not only increasing the likelihood that the mother will abandon the nestlings, leading to them starving to death, but you may also be breaking the law.

The safest thing to do is admire them from a distance.

Additionally, if you do spot birds or other wildlife that is in distress, call the RSPCA, RSPB or your local wildlife trust for advice.



Handling birds should only be undertaken by trained professionals



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YGGC

Young Greenkeepers' Committee

Stefan Carter | The Wentworth Club

My trip to the 101st PGA Championship at Bethpage Black started at Heathrow airport, where I met up with around 10 other greenkeepers from the UK and Ireland and we flew out to JFK Airport in New York.

Our first full day on Long Island saw heavy rain throughout the day. We had our orientation meeting at 4pm, where we were told our jobs for the week.

Due to the rain, the director of agronomy, Andrew Wilson, made the decision to stay off the course for the night to avoid making unnecessary mess or damage to the course.

The next morning was drier, so we were able to get out onto the course. We held off from a number of mowing tasks first thing until the course conditions were assessed. Our first tasks were to clear standing water from fairways using water hogs, basically a giant sponge on a roller.

Later in the morning we went out to do our mowing tasks. I was cutting tees 1, 18, 15, 16 and 17 with fellow Englishman Dave Moreno.

More rain fell that evening, so no work was carried out. By this time the course had received over 2 inches of rain in two days. With a major tournament just a few days away,

you'd think that the crew would be concerned, but the management team showed no signs of worry, which kept everyone else's mind at ease.

It was now Wednesday and the guys cutting fairways finally got the go ahead to get out and cut. Growth was minimal, despite no mowing for three days, due to cooler temperatures, so there wasn't much debris left by the mowers. With the course drying up and with the fairways given a fresh cut, the place was coming to life.

Thursday through Sunday continued to bring sunshine and hotter days, which emphasised the course's stunning holes as the long broom sedge in the rough shone golden in the sun. With each day, we perfected our routes in the morning shifts to give us the most amount of time to get ahead of the golf, while in the evening, we repaired the course from the golfers play.

With a lot of rain at the start of the week, it was a perfect chance to meet and talk to all the new faces that were volunteering for the week. I caught up with people I had seen before from overseas and met a load of new greenkeepers that all had interesting stories to tell. It was particularly interesting to hear about



The greenkeeping team for the US PGA Championship

the work the club was doing with their integrated pest management plan.

Professors from Cornell University ran tests on the putting surfaces on the Green course, looking at how each surface reacted to disease outbreaks, with varying applications of pesticides in an attempt to use less pesticides through the club. The club also has areas of woodland left untouched to encourage wildlife, as well as housing a number of bee hives and flower plots in the out of play areas.

The team's decision to seriously reduce the amount of single use plastic bottles through the week showed how they are doing their part in reducing the amount of waste created by hosting a large golfing event.

I'm looking forward to following the team's journey over the next five years in the build up to the Ryder Cup.

Young Greenkeepers' Committee



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- Richie Stephens, Ringway GC

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Emergency authorisation

The emergency authorisation for the use of the Syngenta insecticide, **Acelepryn**, for the control of chafer grubs and leatherjackets, has been re-approved for the 2019 season.

The request was applied for by ICL, on behalf of the amenity industry, with support from BIGGA, among others.

Chafer grubs and leatherjackets cause damage to turf through extensive feeding on roots, which can be severe in localised patches. Extensive damage can also occur when badgers, birds and foragers root through turf in search of the grubs.

"Since the withdrawal of effective insecticides, economic damage from chafer grubs and leatherjackets has been of major concern," reported ICL technical manager, Henry Bechelet. "Obtaining this authorisation of Acelepryn enables us to manage the most damaging effects of these soil pests as part of an integrated turf management programme."

The authorisation permits Acelepryn use in situations where there is an acknowledged instance of economic damage and where the product has been recommended by a BASIS-qualified agronomist.

This season, ICL's work has seen the authorisation extended to permit limited use on affected fairways, as well as greens, tees, horse race tracks and



Acelepryn has been granted emergency authorisation to combat chafer grubs and leatherjackets

airfields. Acelepryn can be applied until the end of September, to cover the key chafer grub and leatherjacket treatment timings that coincide with egg hatch and initial larval activity.

The authorised label permits application at the rate of 0.6 litres per hectare, applied in 600 to 1,000l/ha water and, ideally, irrigated in after application. Acelepryn is supplied through ICL in one litre and 0.6 litre containers. One application per year is permitted, with the latest time of treatment being 30 September 2019.

Turf managers or owners who believe they have suffered economically damaging effects of chafer grubs and leatherjackets are advised to contact their ICL area manager or BASIS-qualified agronomist or distributor in the first instance to access the treatment.

STRI Research 2019

STRI Group has announced that its annual research days will take place on 25 and 26 September.

The event takes place at STRI's UK research and development facility in Bingley, West Yorkshire and offers an opportunity for sports facility managers, groundstaff and greenkeepers to learn about and discuss the development of the latest products and technology for the sportsturf industry.

Dr Christian Spring, research operations manager, said: "STRI Research Days are an excellent way to gain insight into the latest developments and thinking on tackling turf management issues."

Delegates will be taken on a tour around a range of live research stations by an STRI staff member. At each station, there will be a joint presentation on the research being undertaken, which will be delivered by a member of STRI's research team and representatives from the sponsor company.

Christian added: "STRI Research Days offer turf managers a unique opportunity to network with not only fellow turf managers, but to view and discuss the latest developments with turfgrass scientists and industry professionals."

Email enquiries@strigroup.com or call 01274 565 131 for more information.



Sprayer award

The Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year competition is returning for 2019.

Sponsored by ICL and Syngenta and supported by BASIS, the awards recognise the industry's best sprayer operators. Its aim is to improve overall standards by identifying the best practice of individuals to enhance results and sharing their experiences across the industry.

There are two categories up for grabs, with the overall winner earning a trip to Italy or ICL or Syngenta product to the value of £2,000.

Entries close on 30 June.

For more information visit www.amenityforum.co.uk

Track turf pests

Syngenta has launched a Turf Pest Tracker that will follow the timing and movement of the adult life cycle stages of key turf pests this summer.

The GreenCast website enables turf managers and agronomists to report activity of the main chafer species and crane fly. Sightings will be recorded on maps, giving the chance to check out the level of pest presence in any local area.

"The more people get involved, the clearer the picture we will have to tackle the issues," said Syngenta's Glenn Kirby.

Prince's announces comprehensive links work

Prince's Golf Club has announced details of course renovations to the Shore and Dunes nines at the 27-hole links facility.

The Prince's team was a BIGGA Award finalist at BTME 2019 following the redevelopment of the Himalayas nine and work is underway to improve a further 18 holes at the 1932 Open venue.

Rob McGuirk, general manager of Prince's, said: "We were thrilled with the reopening of our Himalayas nine last year and as a result came to the prompt realisation that we require similar upgrades to the other 18 holes on the property. I believe the steps we're taking to elevate the visual and playing aspects of the course are overwhelmingly positive and it shows how determined we are to provide a world-class experience to our members, guests and visitors."

Golf architects Mackenzie & Ebert have been recommissioned by the Kent club, with work commencing in October 2018. Both nines will be finalised for spring 2020, with the course remaining open for play throughout 2019.

Commenting on the works, Martin



A further 18 holes are being redeveloped at Prince's

Ebert said: "We have been delighted to continue our involvement at Prince's.

"Having the opportunity to provide design input to the Shore and Dunes has led us to enjoy an even greater respect for the quality of the detailed shaping of the greens and green surrounds. The original work of Sir Guy Campbell and John Morrison in restoring Prince's as a great golf course after the Second World War was fantastic. It has been a great honour to follow in their footsteps."

Much the same as the changes

made to the Himalayas, open natural sand scrape areas will add an attractive landscape feature, while also providing a natural habitat for rare coastal species of flora and fauna.

A short par-3 is under construction on the Shore, with a variety of tee positions allowing it to play between 110 and 155 yards. Similar to Bloody Point, the signature par-3 hole on the Himalayas, the hole sits with the backdrop of the sea, albeit with a slightly different angle, and will open for play in spring 2020.

GCMA directors



GCMA Manager of the Year 2017 Amy Yeates was elected to the association's board of directors

The Golf Club Managers Association appointed six directors to its board at the 2019 AGM.

Consisting of serving managers and industry professionals from around the UK, the makeup of the newly-elected board is hoped to better reflect the age and gender demographics of the association's 1,700 members.

Chief Executive Officer Bob Williams said: "I am delighted to welcome the new directors to the GCMA board and look forward to driving the association

forward with their support. It's an exciting opportunity to have so many new faces at the same time and the demographics of the board are changing. Given our support for the R&A's Women in Golf Charter, I'm really pleased to welcome two female directors to the board."

The newly-elected officials are: Judy Barker of Bishop Stortford; Stuart Leech of Formby; Brad McLean of Thorpeness; Andrew Minty of Langland Bay; Andrew Rankin of Buckinghamshire New University; and Amy Yeates of Moor Park.

Social mistake

A UK golf club has been inundated with social media abuse after being wrongly identified as the culprits of a wildlife culling programme.

Launceston Golf Club in Cornwall was heavily criticised by online trolls, who were seemingly oblivious to the fact that it was actually Launceston Golf Club in Tasmania that was undertaking the cull. The Australian club had been granted a permit to cull species that have been 'causing damage to the golf course', including possums and wallabies, neither of which are native to Cornwall.

"I was inundated with a storm of messages on social media accusing us in Cornwall of being murderers and wanting to kill for our elitist sport," club secretary Alan Creber told The Golf Business. "We have a very rich animal population around our course and we do everything we can to look after them."

IOG Industry Awards



The IOG Award winners in 2018

Nominations have opened for the 2019 Institute of Groundsmanship Industry Awards, to be presented at SALTEX this October.

This year's 20 award categories include a new award for an organisation or individual who has championed the groundscape industry abroad.

Now in their 11th year, the awards will be presented on

Wednesday 30 October at The Vox with the Birmingham NEX on the opening evening of the SALTEX exhibition. The event will be hosted by BBC TV presenter Dan Walker.

IOG Chief Executive Geoff Webb said: "The awards continue to provide the only national stage for the achievements of everyone involved in groundscape across all levels of sport."

Nigel Church

Nigel Church is retiring at the end of June after almost 50 years working in the turf sector.

Nigel joined Ransomes Sims & Jeffries as an apprentice in the 1970s, along with other industry notables such as Bob Buckingham, Bob Bevan, Paul Watson, Richard Bishop, Richard Walne, Graham Dale, Jeff Anguige and Barry Beckitt.

Former colleague Ian Mitchell said: "Readers of a similar age will recognise many of these names, demonstrating that this generation of apprentices were the base for the new Toro European distribution — all built on the Ransomes skills they had been taught by John Wilson, Ken Buckledee and Guy Catchpole. In its day, Ransomes was considered the 'university' for the UK turf industry."

Nigel fulfilled many roles within the Ransomes business and the industry in general. Included in his CV was an eight-year sojourn, when he left Ransomes to work for one of their dealers, Kingston House Mowers. He was back at the company in 1998, when it was purchased by Textron, became Ransomes Jacobsen and played a significant



Nigel Church

part in providing continuity as the two businesses merged.

Later in his career he joined the Cutting Edge Training division at Ransomes Jacobsen with a remit to pass on his knowledge and experience to the next generation of sales and technical professionals within the dealer network.

In the past few years he has continued to expand this role, travelling to all points of the globe to deliver training in his enthusiastic, effervescent manner and

Growing Golf



Liz Dimmock

More female greenkeepers, course architects and club managers would drive greater profitability in the golf industry, it has been claimed.

Liz Dimmock, founder and CEO of Women Ahead, says there is clear evidence from international studies that businesses with more diverse management teams are more profitable. Women Ahead is a social impact organisation

committed to female development at every level of business.

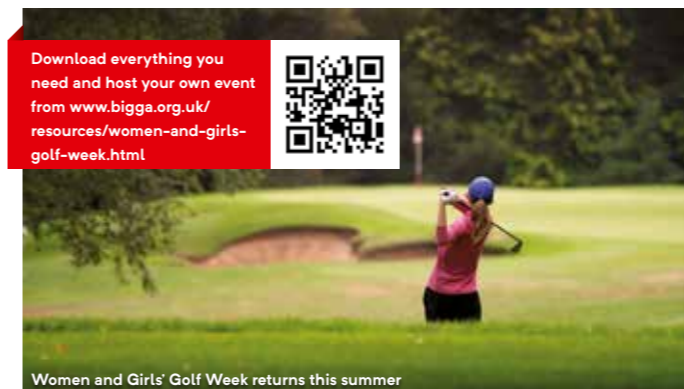
Liz, who is supporting the R&A's Women in Golf Charter, said: "What we are learning is that people from different backgrounds and experiences will view the same problem in a different way and come up with different solutions.

"But it's not enough just to be diverse. It's about how inclusive is the culture within which the team operates. How do we reflect the customers to whom we are trying to sell to or serve?"

The comments come as part of Changing the Face of the Golf Business, an editorial and podcast published by Syngenta as part of its Growing Golf campaign.

The article highlights that more female golfers could unlock a \$35bn windfall for golf worldwide.

Women and Girls Week



Women and Girls' Golf Week returns this summer

Women and girls will celebrate their love of golf and be encouraged to take up the sport when a second awareness week is held later this summer.

Building on the success of last year's online campaign, Women and Girls' Golf Week is the inspiration of England Golf and will take place from 29 July to 4 August.

The week is also being promoted by Scottish Golf, Wales Golf and the Irish

Ladies Golf Union and is designed to unite the golf industry in growing the women and girls' game.

England Golf Chief Executive Nick Pink said: "The reaction to last year's campaign was fantastic, generating over 12 million Twitter impressions. We urge golfers and non-golfers to get involved, as well as encouraging clubs to provide opportunities to promote women and girls' golf locally."

Residual herbicide



Lewis Blois



Bayer has introduced a residual pre-emergence herbicide to the UK market.

Lewis Blois, Bayer national account manager, said that Valdor Flex contains a formulation not yet seen in the UK market.

"The pre-emergence herbicide contains two active ingredients," said Lewis. "These prevent the emergence of a broad spectrum of weeds for up

to four months, reducing the frequency of traditional herbicide applications.

"The product provides excellent residual control for even the hardest to manage weeds on a wide range of surfaces."

Alan Abel of Complete Weed Control said: "Herbicide resistance is an increasing issue, so the fact new products are coming to market is certainly a positive."



Sign up to Turf Rewards 2019

Turf rewards helps to improve your business and your turf. Here's how to sign up and start earning points and rewards.

- 1 Register your business at turfrewards.com
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- 3 Log your purchases on Turf Rewards
- 4 Choose your rewards – including equipment, vouchers and tech

Learn more at turfrewards.com

Benefit from better turf





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'You deserve everything you get out of this tournament'

Are you up to the challenge of joining the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme?

With its famous island green and stunning Florida setting, the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass is considered among the most spectacular golfing challenges in the world.

Each year the PGA Tour headquarters hosts The Players Championship, with Rory McIlroy winning the event for the first time in 2019. This year was also the first time The Players had reverted to a March date since 2006.

'They put their heart and soul into every blade of grass'



McIlroy described the change as an opportunity to better showcase his skills, due to the different course set up required by the earlier hosting. The shift in dates was also very much an opportunity for TPC Sawgrass director of course maintenance Jeff Plotts and his team, which for the duration of the tournament was expanded by 92 volunteers from 19 countries, to test their own abilities.

"They put their heart and soul into every blade of grass," remarked PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monaghan at the conclusion of the 2019 event.

As usual, six BIGGA members formed a part of that volunteer workforce and we're inviting you to apply for a spot helping to prepare the

What the professionals said this year:

Tiger Woods

"The golf course is one that Pete [Dye] has set up to intimidate you visually. You have to overcome that part of it"

Justin Rose

"I think overall you're going to be a little more aggressive. You can get much colder, windier days, but when it's green the golf course suits your eye a lot better around here."

Matt Wallace

"Special isn't it? It's tough, but that's what gives it its stature, because you know that at the end of the week, if you've still played well then you deserve everything you get out of this tournament."

course for the 2020 edition of the tournament.

We're looking for five members, one from each of BIGGA's five regions, and an additional overseas member. The volunteers will be flown to Ponte Vedra Beach in Florida courtesy of BIGGA Partner John Deere, who will also provide accommodation, food and uniform for the duration of your 10-day stay in America.

In May's magazine we told you about the six BIGGA members who earned the opportunity to join Jeff Plotts and his team at TPC Sawgrass and now you can follow in their footsteps.

There are three stages to the application process.

Stage one

Stage one is to register your interest by completing the online registration form.

The closing date for this stage of the process is Wednesday 31 July 2019.

Stage two

Stage two requires applicants to make a video submission of up to three minutes in length explaining what makes them an ideal candidate for the scheme. Details of how to do this will be emailed to you after your application is made. The closing date for these is Monday 2 September 2019.

Stage three

Stage three will see the candidates invited to participate in an interview with your region's Membership Services Manager and representatives from John Deere. These will take place later in the year.

Members will be notified as to the success of their application prior to Friday 25 October 2019, when the successful applicants are revealed.

The application process is open to all full BIGGA members over the age of 21, who have been a full member of BIGGA for at least 12 months.



For your chance to take part visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8B7922M or scan the QR code on the right.



Welcome new members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Martin Headley, Pro-Turfcare, A; **Alistair Connell**, Glasgow Life, CM; **Craig Aitken**, Aitkens Sportsturf, ED; **Alan Graham**, Kilkeel, GK; **Alan Madden**, Largs, GK; **Conchobhar Kerr**, Royal Portrush, GK; **David Awburn**, Ochil Developments - G West, GK; **James MacDonald**, Buchanan Castle, GK; **Keith Law**, Forfar, HGK; **Mark Spence**, Alford, HGK.

Northern

Edwin Eyre, Waterton Park, A; **Alan Harrison**, University College Isle of Man, CA; **David Hobbs**, Waterton Park, CM; **Michael Goodhind**, Prestbury, FA; **Andrew Graham**, Northop GK; **Christopher Wright**, Disley, GK; **David Davies**, St Annes Old Links, GK; **Joseph O'Brien**, Mount Murray Comis, GK; **Paul Mycock**, Disley, GK; **Lukasz Regiec**, Caldly, AGK.

Central England

Richard Lucas, Charterhouse Turf Machinery, ED; **Luke Sheldon**, Beau Desert, GK; **Robert Bowyer**, Bedford & County, GK; **Richard Baker**, Bromsgrove, M.

South West & South Wales

Roscoe Harrington, Queens Park (Bournemouth), APP; **Dan O'Rourke**, Horsham, CM; **Lee Payne**, Wellow, CM; **Steven Dun**, Ross-on-Wye, CM; **Martyn Joseph**, Lanhydrock, DHGK; **Scott Paterson**, Newquay, DHGK; **Andy Balcombe**, Barton-on-Sea, GK; **Joseph Bound**, Royal Winchester, GK; **Michael Hayes**, Parkstone, GK; **Shayne Savident**, Parkstone, GK; **Tom Crowe**, Lanhydrock, GK; **Sean Tollefsen**, Southampton Football Club, GM; **Aaron Martin**, Sturminster Marshall, AGK; **Chris Badman**, Chipping Sodbury, AGK; **Huw Dickman**, Henbury, AGK; **Peter Bailey**, Morlais Castle, AGK; **Philip Thomson**, Ross-on-Wye, AGK.

South East

Aaron Cross, Warley Park, APP; **Aaron Newton**, Thorpeness, APP; **Ben Haymes**, Bletchingley, APP; **Ben Mills-Reed**, Rustington, APP; **Daniel Knight**, Links (Newmarket), APP; **Ewan Monnickendam**, Willington, APP; **James Towse**, Hill Barn, APP; **Kynan Cain**, Cuddington, APP; **Melissa King**, Five Lakes, APP; **Nick Royal**, Sutton Green, APP; **Reece Morden**, Sand Martins, APP; **Will Evans**, Tandridge, APP; **John Brown**, Woodcote Park, GK; **Richard Scott**, Braxted Park, GK; **Sam Cannon**, Woodcote Park, GK; **Sam Turner**, Woodcote Park, GK; **Sean Savage**, Moor Park, GK; **Tommy Scargill**, Woodcote Park, GK; **James Ramsey**, Braxted Park, HGK; **Ben Brennan**, Sandy Lodge, AGK; **James Barnett**, Dunstable Downs, AGK; **Charlie Jennings**, Ashford Manor, AGK; **John O'Shea**, Sandy Lodge, AGK; **Kierron Bushell**, Langdon Hills, AGK; **Steven Harrison**, Stanmore, AGK; **Stuart Coxhead**, Singing Hills, AGK; **Stuart Moorhouse**, Brocket Hall, AGK.

International

Amit Bajaj, GreenLinks Consulting; **Daniel Freund**, North Carolina State University; **Henrik Lindberg**, Give Golfklub; **James Kerns**, North Carolina State University; **Wendell Hutchens**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

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



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MASTER GREENKEEPERS

REVEALED

75 | Bob Vaughey

Bob has previously worked at Spyglass Hill, a Pebble Beach resort, and the Valley Club of Montecito. In his current role he has overseen the construction of a David McLay Kidd course at the centre of a \$62m redevelopment of Rolling Hills in California. He also recently became a father for the first time.

"Why not do as much as you can in your career? It shows a degree of dedication to continued development and advancement. Much like the CGCS, Master Greenkeeper can help you learn something new and help develop your trade. I've wanted to be a Master Greenkeeper ever since I learned what it was 10 years ago."

77 | Rob Clare

Formerly at Skipton, Rob is course manager at Brough in Humberside. In July 2010 he graduated from Myerscough College as top student on the Turf Science course, winning the Ransomes Jacobsen Cup. As part of his prize, he became the first European student to attend Jacobsen's Future Turf Managers programme in the USA.

"I see Master Greenkeeper as a benchmark, not only for where I am in my career, but for the course I manage too. The award really makes you review your policies. My crew have been a huge help, they have all pulled together and now I have everyone on the same page."

76 | Sam Evans

Sam is the course manager at Fulwell and has achieved the accreditation aged just 30. An active member of BIGGA, Sam has participated in two Open volunteer support teams, the Future Turf Managers Initiative, the TPC Sawgrass volunteer programme and the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show.

"I believe there is always a next level to aspire to and push yourself to. I have been brought up to aim high and to me, the MG qualification is an unrivalled pinnacle and professional status, which I still cannot believe I have achieved. I am over the moon to be awarded this and it is another example that hard work does really pay off."

78 | David McGregor

Starting his career at Abbey Hill before moving on to Woburn, David moved to America on the Ohio State Program and has never looked back. He gained his qualifications and took up a superintendent role at Potomac Shores, close to Washington DC, in 2012 before moving on to Westwood Country Club.

"Master Greenkeeper has always interested me as it's an elite group to be in. Everything is possible if you really work hard and apply yourself. I sadly lost my mother 12 years ago and I know she pushed herself in her nursing career, so I will do the same in mine."

Six BIGGA members have achieved the achieved the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper award, widely regarded as the highest award in the industry.

They have joined the ranks of course managers, head greenkeepers and superintendents who can count themselves among the most highly-qualified and respected individuals within the industry.

This also marks the first time six BIGGA members have achieved the qualification at the same time.

79 | Matthew Gourlay

For Colbert Hills' Matthew, golf is a family business. His grandfather emigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1948 and was a founder member of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, while the family name is synonymous with the feathery golf balls that were popular in Scotland in the 19th Century.

"I have always thought highly of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, having worked for Steve Cook CGCS MG. But it wasn't until attending BTME for the first time in 2016 and watching a mentor, Matt Wharton CGCS MG, being recognised that I made it a goal of mine. After achieving MG, I am left asking myself, 'what is next?'"

80 | Andrew Sprunt

Englishman Andrew began his career with a degree in horticulture from Writtle University. He would be employed at Royal Norwich, Dunstan Hall and The London Club before moving to Aphrodite Hills in Cyprus. Then came a move to America, where he is now superintendent at Florissant Golf Club in Missouri.

"I knew Master Greenkeeper would help me to raise the bar on the standard I wanted to achieve in my career. It will always be very important for me to learn to grow and improve. I hold this title with pride and hope I can continue my career with passion and enthusiasm, while working to give back to the profession that we all love."

Congratulations to all of the new Master Greenkeepers of 2019!



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

Trevor Harris, St Andrews Links Trust; William Curran, Hever Castle; Luke Green, Littlehampton; Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar; Fabien Maissony, Burhill Golf & Leisure; Kyle Targett, Sunningdale; Alex Brougham, Trentham Park; Matthew Aplin, Goring & Streatley; Mark Hollingsworth, Whitley Bay; Richard Mullen, Banchory; Jonathan Gamble, Welshpool; Andrew Riley, Warrington; Peteris Sadovskis, St Andrews Links Trust.

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

Trevor Harris, St Andrews Links Trust; Scott Aitchison, Royal Dornoch; Joe Curtis, Gloucester; Peteris Sadovskis, St Andrews Links Trust.



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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

Life down Cardi' way

Stepping up into management at Cardigan

Stuart Adams, head greenkeeper

Read this for:

- Taking the step into a management position
- Good management practices
- Continued Professional Development

Low-lying mist at Cardigan

Cardigan

It was a cold October day when I walked into the maintenance facility at Cardigan Golf Club on my first day as a head greenkeeper.

This clifftop links with a view of the sea on every hole was a dream move. I was first introduced as the "the new lad", which was meant as a joke but I thought at the time couldn't be further from the truth. I had well over 25 years' experience in the industry and counted five golf clubs among my previous employers, including 14 years at Tenby.

The talk of a golf course with strong professional development ethics had got me excited at the interview a few months earlier. I couldn't wait to get stuck in, but experience told me patience was always going to be key.

Years earlier, a simple post on social

media had also inspired me. It said, "you can't expect to reap the fields if you haven't spent time sowing them". A new addition to the team, a young Rhys Davies fresh from Elmwood College, had also encouraged me to explore the possibility of distance learning. At 39 years of age, I laid plans to return to college and re-engage with the learning process that I had been quite content to lay to rest for many years. A BIGGA scholarship helped the financial side at the beginning and The R&A Scholarship continued to make it possible.

This process would dominate my life for the next six years and really pushed my limits of comfort and time. It would see me through countless interviews with hundreds of miles on the road, at sea and in the air. I would move

'If I was to stop greenkeeping tomorrow, I would have some incredible stories to tell'

employment three times, but continue a normal constant family life, even once making myself unemployed before I finally came to the doors of Cardigan.

The process enabled me to visit BTME annually, where I made fantastic friends within the industry. It would see me join the FTMI class of 2016, sponsored by Jacobsen, which I believe was the real turning point of my career, giving me the confidence to progress. Another life-changing experience was the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show with Bernhard and Company in 2018.

Lee Strutt had said to me at FTMI that we shouldn't concentrate on the destination, rather that we should concentrate on the journey. I understand what he meant more than ever now and if I was to stop greenkeeping tomorrow, I have some incredible stories to tell.

Through all these experiences it has become clear that if you want something, you have to work incredibly hard to get it. But anything is possible and you get out what you put in, as that social media post years earlier had said.

The early days at Cardigan

Cardigan is an average-sized golf club with a small budget. This was my first time steering the ship, looking at budgets, staffing, meetings, products, health and safety. Where should I begin?

The answer was one step at a time, day by day, week by week.

I have always been a naturally organised sort of guy and I had been keeping a diary some years before, allowing patterns to appear in the workings of the trade. The diary has become my best friend and I hardly leave home without it.

Here are some of the thoughts that I've noted in my diary during my early years as a course manager.



Stuart graduating from the FTMI programme

The role of head greenkeeper at Cardigan was the step up in my career that I had been looking for ever since my friend and mentor Chris Jenkins, the head greenkeeper at Tenby, had passed away in 2014. Chris had become a good friend and a role model that I aspired to emulate. He was kind, fair and more importantly, one of the team. I miss him to this day. Many people have since asked why I didn't apply for his role, but the answer was simple and I wasn't ready or able to do what I can now!



Chris Jenkins

What approach was I going to take?

What sort of image did I want to give? I hoped to be professional, yet fair and approachable. And I kept my mentor, Chris Jenkins, in the back of my mind at all times.

I spent the first three to six months monitoring the processes of the club and course, without suggesting any changes. I needed to understand the specific quirks of the location, before I made any changes. I felt academically competent, but from my experience this doesn't always travel well from course to course.

Monitor, evaluate, then plan, became my mantra.

A place for paperwork?

I believe that if a club wants their head greenkeeper or course manager to manage, they should allow time for them to manage, with the time to complete the correct paperwork and communication. Time should be set aside to compare products, prices and outcomes or to network and speak to company representatives. The single biggest mistake is expecting your course manager to do these important jobs on the run or at worst, at home. Yes, a head can be hands on, but this job is so much more than being a greenkeeper. Without proper preparation or planning, a lot of courses fail. Allow your turf managers to manage.

Continued over



Pictured front and centre, I was a part of the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in 2018



The many colours of Cardigan



Stuart and Craig Thompson

Teamwork is critical

Delegation is also a massive hurdle that I personally struggled with. I've learnt to be respectful, always be clear and consistent, yet allow the greenkeeping team to breathe, grow and do what they are paid to do with pride and professionalism. Make sure you find the time to train well and do not micro-manage.

I would always try not to ask anyone to do a job unless I was prepared to do it myself.

Most critically, be firm but fair!

Three golden rules to success

Rule one is understand what has worked in the past and don't change it. Only improve what can be improved for the sake of bettering the course, not furthering an ego.

Rule two is listen to the staff and members that have been at the club the longest as most will have the answers

to a lot of your questions. This will mean you avoid falling into the same traps as previous head greenkeepers. Communication swings both ways.

Rule three is never be afraid to ask the obvious. Simple questions usually have simple answers.

The long way around and back to basics

At Cardigan I took conscious steps to manage the fescue (and bent to a smaller degree) within the greens and reduce the Poa. After talking to a few reps and colleagues, they all thought I was mad.

The first hurdle I faced was educating the members on how you could lift cutting heights to speed greens up. We introduced 4mm summer and 6mm winter heights, with a strong aeration programme of 8mm tines monthly through winter. When conditions allowed, we would Sorrel roll every few weeks through the summer.

I was also adamant that we would be fungicide free within a year. We would save copious amounts of money through products, but would also no longer protect the weaker grasses. March 2018 was the last fungicide application that we applied. I made the brave but fruitful decision to run with the outbreaks of fusarium and allow nature to take the weaker grasses, while promoting a healthier sward. With a little-and-often

feeding approach and the aid of turf hardeners, more money was saved on fungicides than can be spent on seed application. It was a win-win, although there were quite a few nervous Friday afternoons.

My nitrogen input for 2018 was just over 50kg, which further aided the thinning of the Poa annua within the green sward. This allowed nature to take its course and fescue became quite dominant.



Slit tining



Bunker renovations before (left) and after (right).



Manage fescue then do not be surprised when fescue grows

Within the sward I alternate seed companies to allow eight separate fescue cultivars to grow, which furthers the hardiness of the green sward. These predominantly comprise of six slender creeping red and two chewing fescues. They are overseeded twice yearly using a Vredo. I would like to run more, but we need to be budget and time-aware.

A six-monthly check of profiles matched on the laptop allows me to monitor thatch levels. If the thatch stays under control, hollowtining will be put on hold.

The natural bents within the green are now adequate to allow a good mixture of species for harder wearing greens through the winter. However, the greens still need a small amount of brushing and grooming early in the season to allow the fescue to thrive and Poa seeds to be removed. I'm aware of the disturbance theory with regards to

fescue but at times, good greens are about balancing the right operations with the managed species.

The big issues of the day at present are leatherjackets and worm casts, for which we have produced an integrated pest management plan for the club to work with. The plan includes switching, while repairing with brushes and rolling becomes the normal practice, not the exception. We're always looking for cultural methods first, biological methods second and chemicals, which are increasingly being removed, as a last resort.

The final piece of the jigsaw is managing expectations. At first, Cardigan's members and committee were unconvinced. But the increased amount of fescue and other finer grasses within the green sward has naturally sped the greens up and improved consistency, so it has really paid off.

Irrigation - don't panic

Unpopular as this is going to sound, I'm a firm believer in managing what you have until it becomes cost effective to replace.

Better managed systems can save serious money without the need to replace.

Spotting a leak and repairing it, maintaining good angles of sprinklers and nozzles, replacing worn O-rings. Costs all add up. But if a full installation can run into the hundreds of thousands of pounds, then surely there are other cost-effective ways of managing that system for less money. It's the same as machinery, which you don't replace as soon as they need new parts.

Our irrigation system is well over 30 years old and with correct management and maintenance, I see no real immediate need (even though our finances will not allow anyway) to replace the whole system yet.

We're focusing on small sections at a time, especially if a real need becomes apparent. As a course manager you must understand budget constraints and the future financial sustainability of the club, remembering it is also a business.



Cardigan

The Team

Stuart Adams, head greenkeeper, studying HND at Elmwood College

Jac Emanuel, assistant greenkeeper studying towards Level 3 at Pen-Coed College

Ben Walsh, assistant greenkeeper studying Level 3 at Elmwood College

Craig Thompson, part time assistant greenkeeper

Henry Malloy, part time assistant greenkeeper



Effective irrigation

Continued over



The view towards Cardigan Bay

Machinery – Why New?

Machinery capital expenditure for a club with a small budget can make or break its financial future. Prepare well and budget, but the surest way of saving the most money is by looking after what you have.

When I talk about machinery, I always revert it back to the car your committee drove to the club in. If there is a rattle in that car and it can be fixed for a small price, most committee members would get the problem fixed. Not many would leave the issue until a breakdown occurs and costs spiral out of control. A stitch in time really does work.

Use the winter months to air out all the small issues of the machines, ready for a zero-fault machinery count at the start of the season. Ensure machinery and units are serviced and sharp.

Make time for maintenance when machines need it — more so through the season as grass is growing and machines get used more. If not, expect breakdowns and more delays. I would suggest you spend your budget to keep on top of

things, rather than saving for a rainy day with respect to maintenance or repairs.

I do wonder, why are we afraid to buy second hand machinery? Are we the only ones that look after kit properly? Do we not look at second hand cars the same way?

Second hand kit is always a risk, but for smaller budget clubs, is it that much of a risk if an expert mechanic looks at the purchase and is fully aware of the faults — if any — before purchasing?

I know this opinion isn't going to be popular, but surely, it's no different to purchasing a second hand car?

Millions of pounds are invested in machinery through the golfing industry, then are poorly-maintained or simply not used enough to warrant their initial purchase.

If you can't afford the investment, then don't invest. If a piece of kit starts to cost you more money than it's worth in terms of time and money, let second hand kit be an option, instead of disregarding it completely.

Health and safety

OK, we all know the stance of most with regards to health and safety, but even on this subject can we save money by doing the right things.

Fortunately, the club had already engaged with Xact on this front and working with them to create an all-round better approach saved hours of painstaking work in formatting and legalising actions within the workplace.

Action plans were produced on the back of risk assessments and, importantly, the plans were then followed. Xact will take on all legal responsibility, removing it from the committees or executives. This encourages more participation from our membership.

Standard Operating Procedures have been drafted for all aspects of the greenkeeping operations. These are then used as the backbone for training, which in turn increases the productivity and quality of the course.

Standardisation of all operations allows you to refer to reference sheets if you are in need of help, while any amendments are made with all those concerned made aware. This is a process that I have found invaluable.

Simple routine processes have been introduced, such as weekly housekeeping and monthly health and safety checks. This has in turn produced a more organised and clean maintenance facility, a more productive workforce and less downtime spent searching for tools or avoiding accidents.



Second hand equipment is useful for saving costs



Jac Emanuel, Henry Malloy and Ben Walsh



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Preventing Pests

If you want to avoid pests occurring on your course, these common greenkeeping practices could actually be making things worse.

The amenity turf management industry is seeing a reduction in the number of products that are available to greenkeepers.

Chemical solutions that were available in the past are being removed out of fears they could cause damage to human populations and the wider environment. As a result, turf managers must constantly be on the lookout for the next threat to their golf courses.

Speaking at an emergency summit to discuss the impact of pest diseases on the amenity industry, Dr Kate Entwistle of The Turf Disease Centre, highlighted some everyday practices at golf courses that may actually be contributing to the impact of turf diseases.

"We have to be aware of bio-security," said Kate. "It's a constant battle to keep your turf healthy and with less plant protection available for use in the amenity sector, there is always the potential for pest and disease problems to develop very quickly and completely kill your turf."

Here are three everyday actions that greenkeepers could be doing, that may unknowingly lead to them introducing pests and diseases to a golf course.

1. Laying new turf

What do you do if your turf is damaged? One solution is to lay new turf. But have you found that the new turf is quickly reducing in quality or is being immediately torn up by the same predators that caused the damage in the first place? The cause may have been brought in by the new turf that you laid.

Turf pests live within the rootzone of a plant and that could include any product that you have purchased and shipped in.

Before purchasing turf, ask your distributor what methods they've been

using to fight plant parasitic nematodes, invertebrate pests and fungal diseases. Have they had any outbreaks that they have suppressed? If they do have pests within the turf, have they undertaken a soil sample to find out exactly what pests there are, which will aid you if you need to begin fighting them yourself?

And if you're importing your own turf from a nursery or elsewhere in the course, have you checked to see whether you're not unintentionally introducing other pests to this area yourself?



Chafer beetle

2. Topdressing

A healthy microbial environment is important for maintaining healthy turf. Think of the soil in the same way as any ecosystem: if you change the habitat then some species will thrive and others will die out. Root pathogenic nematodes are big fans of sandy soil as less life lives in them — especially in new constructions — meaning less predators or antagonists, to help manage them. Less microbial diversity also means fungal disease problems don't have anything to suppress them.

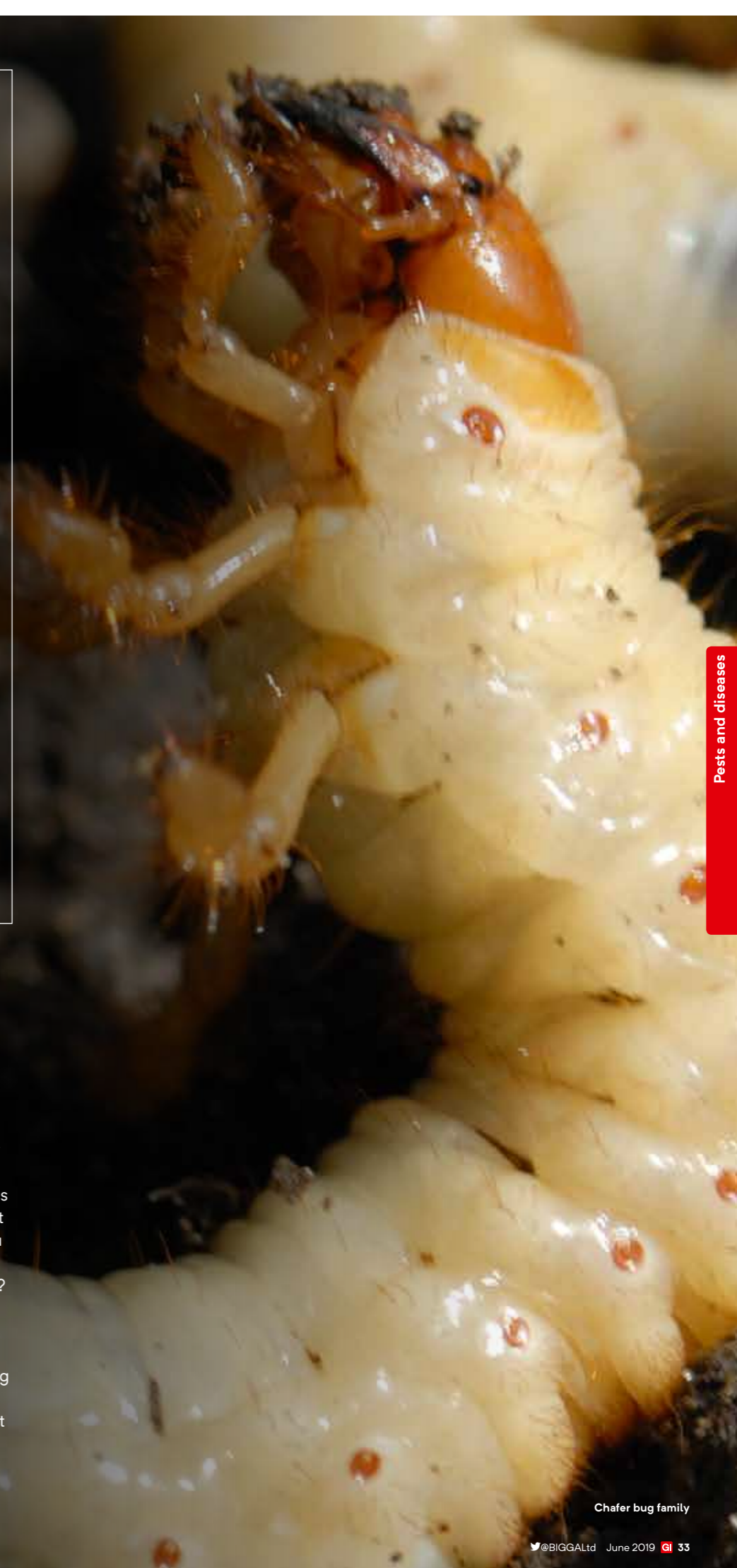
If you look after your rootzone and maintain a healthy soil with a good microbial diversity, many fungal and nematode problems will naturally be suppressed to levels that cause little or no visual effect on the turf. The age-old practices of regular aeration and the maintaining of organic matter levels will help keep the turf healthy and naturally support that microscopic ecosystem.

Additionally, to prevent new diseases being introduced with your sand and soil mix when topdressing, you could ensure that the product has been kiln-dried as this will kill any potentially harmful microbial life, however it is an expensive process.

3. Hosting machinery demonstrations

Hosting machinery demonstrations is a fantastic way to bring colleagues from the area together to witness machinery being used first hand. Sales personnel from distributors for all the major brands will be delighted to showcase the latest products and innovations. But have you thought about where that machine will have been before it arrives at your club?

If it hasn't been correctly cleaned, you may be unwittingly introducing pathogens and other pests onto your course. And machinery can come a long way to be used in a demonstration — last week it may have been in a different part of the world, encountering pests and diseases that aren't native to your area and as such could cause major problems if they take hold.



Chafer bug family

Read this for:

- Personal development
- Mental health
- Physical wellbeing



Image courtesy of Scott Gibson, St Enodoc GC

THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF KIT

What is the most important tool that you'll find in the greenkeeper's facility?

Paul MacCormack,
course superintendent,
Fox Meadow, Canada



Our job as greenkeepers has never been more difficult.

Shrinking budgets, a constantly changing workforce, ever rising expectations; the list is endless. Add the current state of world politics, the real threat of climate change and the normal stressors of daily living and you have what amounts to a tough day at the office.

We are inundated by the message that if we just purchase the next great gadget or programme, our lives will magically change and everything will be alright. As superintendents we are under constant pressure to find that elusive formula that will allow us to produce better golfing conditions with fewer resources than ever before.

What if a salesman came to your office and offered you a simple programme that would allow you to:

- better utilise the resources your turf already has on hand;
- better equip your turf to fight the stress of the long golf season;
- boost immunity and resistance, making your turf less prone to disease;
- increase winter hardiness of your turf;
- generally make your life as a turf manager better?

Continued over

KEY ASPECTS TO CONSIDER

What if they said to you that all you need to do is stick with it, show a wee bit of discipline, and you will witness a transformation you never thought possible? And the best part of all, the programme is practically free.

Does this sound too good to be true? Are you ready to show this snake oil huckster the exit? I don't blame you.

But here is the rub: what if we replaced the words 'your turf' with the word, 'you'? Take a moment, go back through those questions and give it a try.

How does it sound in your mind? A tad uncomfortable? Don't worry, that's to be expected.

But trust me when I say that adopting this new paradigm can make a world of difference in the quality of your life.

The magic bullet we are referring to here is the powerful habit of self-care. We spend so much of our time at work, taking care of everything around us. We use best cultural practices to keep our turf healthy; we use preventative maintenance to keep our gear operating as efficiently as possible; we spend a great deal of our energy fostering good relationships with our managers, owners, and staff.

But have you ever sat back and asked yourself how much effort you put towards your own wellbeing? I'm not referring to the last conference or seminar you attended to improve your agronomic knowledge. I'm talking about the last time you made taking care of your health a real priority.

On the surface the words 'self-care' can sound selfish. Greenkeepers are often the sort of people who tend to defer their own needs and care for others first. We are the ones whom people come to when things need to be fixed or problems solved. Focusing on ourselves makes us uncomfortable and unsure of where to even begin.

But allow me to present an argument: I think that if we are not making self-care a top priority, we are not doing our jobs properly. If we are not making our own health and wellbeing paramount, then we are doing our employers, staff, golfers, our families, and most importantly ourselves a great disservice.

So where does one begin this journey towards regaining some semblance of balance and wellbeing? The easy answer is anywhere at all; as long as you commit to a starting point for taking care of yourself, you can't go wrong.

EATING WELL

The fuel we use to provide ourselves with the necessary energy to make it through the day has a major effect on our overall health. What we take in has a huge effect on our energy levels, as well as mood and mindset. There are lots of ways to shift eating towards healthier alternatives, but focusing on eating real, unprocessed food is a good place to start. Simply placing your intention on eating well will better enable you to bring mindful awareness to what foods work best for your body.



MENTAL HEALTH

The elephant in the room is oftentimes our mental wellbeing. We are conditioned to keep any problems of this nature behind closed doors and soldier on. But let me tell you straight up, it's a myth and a lie. Our mental wellbeing is critical to our overall health and balance. The job of greenkeeping carries with it many variables and factors that can, over time, grind you down.

If we don't have adequate safeguards in place to attend to our mental health then we are especially vulnerable. Things like ensuring you have a network of people that you can regularly talk to about issues, practicing a mindful approach to living, and balancing your own expectations can go a long way to ensuring your mental health remains a priority.

If you are looking for a new approach to your job or your life in general, you could start by putting self-care at the top of your next 'to do' list. If you take it slow, use positive intention, a liberal dose of compassion, and non-judging you will be amazed by the results. The best part is that those that matter most to you will be forever grateful.

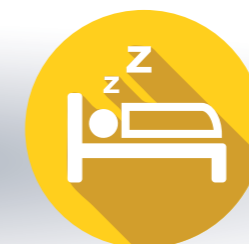
EXERCISE

As we begin to focus on what we put into our bodies, the next logical step becomes paying attention to how we are physically moving throughout our day. Again, the how and what you do are not as important as just doing something. The bottom line is you need to get out and get your body moving. Our jobs are physical by nature, but digging an irrigation hole is not the same as taking a walk through the forest or playing football with your kids.



SLEEP

This one often gets left out, but the argument could be made within our industry that getting adequate rest may be the secret to operating at peak efficiency. We work early mornings and long hours, and so it stands to reason that our bodies simply need more time to rest. Simply put, make sure you get adequate sleep, because sleep deprivation is cumulative in nature and wreaks havoc on our bodies as we age.



MICHAEL MANN OF
BOAT OF GARTEN

MICHAEL MANN OF
WALTON HEATH

MANN TO MANN

Mann to Mann

Mann to Mann

With almost 6,000 members, it's inevitable that across BIGGA, there will be some members who share the same name.

There are, for example, two Jim McKenzies. One is the director of estates and golf courses at Celtic Manor and hosted the Ryder Cup in 2010. The other is head greenkeeper at Lamlash on the Isle of Arran, home of the famous £30 golf and grub deal.

There are also two Michael Manns and we thought we'd take a look at their two respective careers and working conditions to get an idea of just how varied this world of golf greenkeeping can be.

Michael Mann, 38, is course manager at Walton Heath in Surrey and hosted the Sky Sports British Masters in 2018.

Michael Mann, 45, was until recently the head greenkeeper and only full-time member of staff at Carrbridge in the Scottish Highlands, although when we spoke to him he had recently secured a new position as course manager at Boat of Garten.

This is an updated version of an article that appeared in the Spring 2019 edition of Your Course, produced by BIGGA and distributed to every golf club in the country.

Continued over



Walton Heath overview

WALTON HEATH

When the future King Edward VIII is listed as a club's inaugural captain, you know it is going to be a special venue, with exceptional resources and expectations from those who play it.

With two heathland layouts, Michael Mann oversees a team of 21 at the height of summer. He utilises a fleet that includes four fairway mowers and four tee and approach mowers as he attempts to manage six hectares of tees, 23 hectares of fairways and three hectares of greens.

"We manage Walton Heath as one big course," explained Michael. "We keep the standards the same and obviously those are the standards that you would expect on a high-profile heathland course that sometimes hosts tournaments. I often think back to where I grew up, where if the membership was over £300, it was a lot of money. It's a lot more at Walton Heath, but then it is an affluent part of the world."

"I don't want to shatter anyone's illusions, but everyone has a budget and you can't live beyond your means."

Walton Heath hosted the Ryder Cup in 1981, Senior Open in 2001, British Ladies Amateur in 2000 and hosts US Open Qualifying annually.

Last year, the club held the European Tour's British Masters, won by Eddie Pepperell. That brought an acceleration in maintenance work, to ensure the course was as good as it could be for the arrival of the top professionals last autumn.

Michael added: "There were some tees that we were planning to improve in the future and that was brought forward. I think in total, we reconstructed nine

'I don't want to shatter anyone's illusions, but everyone has a budget and you can't live beyond your means.'



Rain falls on the greenkeeping team and winner Eddie Pepperell following the British Masters 2018

tees. On the composite course that we put together for the tournament we exchanged sand in 65 bunkers.

"All of this was stuff that needed to be done, but whereas you could expect to complete it over two years, we managed to complete it in a single winter."

"This year we have been completing heather regeneration programmes, revetting bunkers, pathways and things like that. There are always improvement projects going on every year."

Affordable water supplies are becoming increasingly difficult to come by and so Michael is exploring ways to make Walton Heath self-sufficient through water capture projects to feed the on-site reservoir.

"It came to a point last year where the drought really took hold and we were drawing water from the mains supply, but we needed even more."

Like most high-end venues, there is a zero-tolerance approach to damage and so even though the budget is large, every penny is accounted for and targeted.

Michael said: "The job has to be done well and that applies to everything, from top to bottom."



Testing the greens at Walton Heath ahead of the British Masters 2018

CARRBRIDGE

Five hundred miles north of Surrey and Carrbridge is a nine-hole golf club that for 22 years was overseen by Head Greenkeeper Michael Mann. For seven months each year, he was the only member of the greenkeeping team.

"When I started at Carrbridge, I had

'The key is to plan well and be determined to finish what you're doing. Be dedicated and set yourself goals every day.'

Continued over



14th hole on the Old Course at Walton Heath

one other full time employee. But over the years circumstances and finances changed and the club cut back, meaning we were only employing other staff seasonally. That meant that for seven months of the year, I was working alone, and I did that for 12 years.

Carrbridge is set against the backdrop of the Cairngorm mountains in Scotland's Spey Valley. In winter it can be cold and remote, especially when you're working alone, but that didn't faze Michael.

"The key is to plan well and be determined to finish what you're doing. Be dedicated and set yourself goals every day," he added.

Michael's greenkeeping budget for the entire year was set at under £13,000. £7,500 was spent on course upkeep, while machinery, repairs, servicing and fuel costs were just over £5,000.

"I have a good association with quite a few of the manufacturers and suppliers of greenkeeping products," said Michael. "We just tried to get as good a deal as we possibly could for everything we bought, most of which was second hand."

It could be said that Michael has paid his dues and was rewarded with the course manager role at nearby Boat of Garten, where he now oversees a team of five greenkeepers.

"I was very happy at Carrbridge and I loved it there," he explained. "But obviously you can't refuse an opportunity like this."

After spending so long working alone, how did Michael convince the management at Boat of Garten, a James Braid design ranked 41st in Scotland, that he was the man to lead their team?

"I said I would grab the opportunity with both hands," said Michael. "I said I would start at Carrbridge with 100 things running through my head,



Carrbridge

knowing I couldn't delegate anything, but now it's just 10 times easier because I can delegate and get four or five things done at once.

"My aim for the coming years is to improve on what's here. The first thing I did was ask the professional and the course manager what the main complaint over the past five years had been. I think everything they told me is achievable and the club has said there's

more money to spend.

"It's quite good to have some money to spend at last! Carrbridge ran perfectly well and they are very sound financially, but this is just a completely different level altogether.

"The thing I'm looking forward to most is getting time off in the summer. At Carrbridge I'd be working seven days solid for six months. So now, I've landed on my feet!"



Michael Mann pictured at Carrbridge

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- Alternative revenue sources
- Recycling material
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MORE THAN JUST A GOLF COURSE

What does 'sustainable' mean in other parts of the globe?

Paul Jansen, course architect

Many modern 18-hole golf courses are routed over as much as 185 acres of land and often much more.

Even some of the world's most unique, fun and charming golf courses, like Nuwara Eliya, Kingston Heath and Utrecht De Pan, cover an area as large as 100 acres. To put that into some perspective, an acre is a unit of area containing 4,840 square yards, which is approximately the same size as one football pitch or 16 tennis courts.

If you were to use this as a guide then you begin to get an idea of how big these playing areas are. This might also lead you to believe that a space that large could be enough to serve multiple purposes.

In some parts of the world, golf clubs are looking at ways of becoming more sustainable by transforming some of their space to serve multiple purposes. Some examples of these can be found in Asia, where golf courses in far flung destinations such as Sri Lanka, Vietnam and even Myanmar are benefiting by having an edible crop growing on their golf course.

At Shangri La Hambantota on the southern tip of Sri Lanka, thousands of pineapples, the national fruit, have been planted between some of the holes. This makes for quite a distinctive scene and gives the course a real sense of place.

Continued over



Laguna Lang Co rice paddy fields

Add to that these areas require limited input and have the potential to generate money, since pineapple cultivation is a very lucrative business on the island.

Not far away, in Myanmar, mangoes can be found in droves across the country and particularly in areas surrounding Mandalay, where you will find the wonderfully interesting Yay Tagon Taung Golf Club. Existing mango trees surround many of the holes and add both strategic and visual interest. The mangoes themselves are a good source of nutrition for the golfer (who are welcome to pick and eat the fruit at no cost), maintenance staff and even the local monkeys that make their way down from the mountains to eat the fruit and socialise with the golfers.

In Vietnam, rice paddy fields border holes on the front and back nine at the Laguna Lang Co Resort, situated between the cities of Da Nang and Hue. This is a case of regenerative design where the paddy fields, which lay fallow for many years before the golf course was constructed, have been brought



Shangri La Hambantota pineapples

'Recycling and reusing material to create features such as benches, steps or signage can improve the golf course experience immeasurably'

back into existence and now create a very memorable scene for the golfer. Most importantly, when all the rice paddy fields are sown, they can produce as much as 30 tonnes of rice from two harvests a year, which is then used at the resort and also distributed to the locals that surround the resort. A win-win scenario in every way.

Recycling

Recycling material on a golf course is nothing new, but it is a great way to make a positive impact without having to break

Continued over



Tee markers at the Himalayan Golf Club

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Benches created from trees we removed during the build at Royal Colombo

the bank. Recycling and reusing material to create features such as benches, steps or signage can improve the golf course experience immeasurably and help create real sense of place, which is hugely important for a golfer's enjoyment of a course.

During the redesign and reconstruction of the Laguna Phuket Golf Club in Thailand, trees removed during the clearing exercise were recycled into wood chip and then used to replace up to 15 hectares of local grass that had previously made up the rough areas.

This exercise helped reduce the cost of maintenance. These new areas now

'I suspect our golf course may look very different in future'

require much less water input and are less labour and machine intensive.

The construction of the Himalayan Golf Club in Phokara, Nepal was a difficult exercise. The ground was littered with mountain deposit, including thousands of small rocks and stones.

Fortunately, the club wanted to create one of the most natural golf courses on the globe. To achieve this, nothing would go to waste during the build. Rocks and stones were reused as tee markers and to create tee areas and retaining walls for some of the green complexes.

Tree timber that was leveled during the construction exercise was also reused to build bridges that traverse some of the smaller stream systems. The result is a very natural golf course that was built for a very small budget.

Lastly, at the Royal Colombo Golf Club in Sri Lanka, trees removed during the construction of two new holes were recycled to create benches, steps and signage. This new course furniture replaced the old more decrepit items and has automatically improved the overall experience.

Where it is possible, golf courses can profit by having multiple other sporting activities included on the property, particularly where the golf site is large and where there is adequate space between holes or on areas of the site that are not utilised. The Royal Bangkok Sports Club in the centre of busy Bangkok, Thailand is perhaps the best example of this. The golf course weaves its way around (and sometimes through) a myriad of activities, including cricket and tennis. But mostly, the holes take advantage of the horse race track that



Rock tees at the Himalayan Golf Club

serves as the main feature on most of the holes.

At the storied Nuwara Eliya Golf Club in Sri Lanka, the golf course traverses over common land which is also used for other forms of recreation like badminton and cricket.

At the fabulous Royal Copenhagen Golf Club on the outskirts of



Royal Copenhagen is used for multiple activities

Copenhagen, Denmark, it's very common to see people walking, jogging, cycling and even horse riding on designated paths between the golf holes. Thousands of native deer roam the property as well and give it a strong sense of place.

Not every golf course would have started with a long-term future in mind, but many are now having to find

ingenious ways of staying relevant so that they can secure their future. This may mean growing an edible crop or recycling existing material. In some cases, utilising the property for other activities like walking, cycling and horse riding might be the way forward.

I suspect our golf courses may look very different in the future.




Woodchip in rough areas at Laguna Phuket






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Read this for:

- Microbiology
- Disease suppression
- Species interchange

SEAWEED, BIOLOGY AND THE MODERN GREENKEEPER

Speaking to the young scientists
who may shape the direction of
disease control in sportsturf

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

They're leading the charge when it comes to soil microbiology. These scientists are taking a closer look at the microscopic environment within soil and exploring ways in which it can impact what greenkeepers are able to achieve.

Tamsin Williams and Francesca Bayliss are postgraduate students at Royal Holloway, University of London. Both are looking at biological ways of improving plant health, with Francesca investigating treatments to improve soil microbiology and Tamsin focusing upon the potential uses of seaweed products.

From potentially aiding species interchange to alternative methods for disease suppression, the microbial ecosystem is one that greenkeepers may never have considered before. Is it time we started?

Ten years ago soil microbiology wasn't something greenkeepers were cognisant of, it feels brand new. Would that be fair?

Francesca: If it helps, it is new in science as well. What's great about my work is that so much of it has never been done before. There's so much in terms of the soil that people just don't know.

With regards basic soil microbial ecology, we're looking at the rhizosphere. Roots don't maintain all of the liquid inside them and the plant's

'You don't take paracetamol every day to prevent a headache'

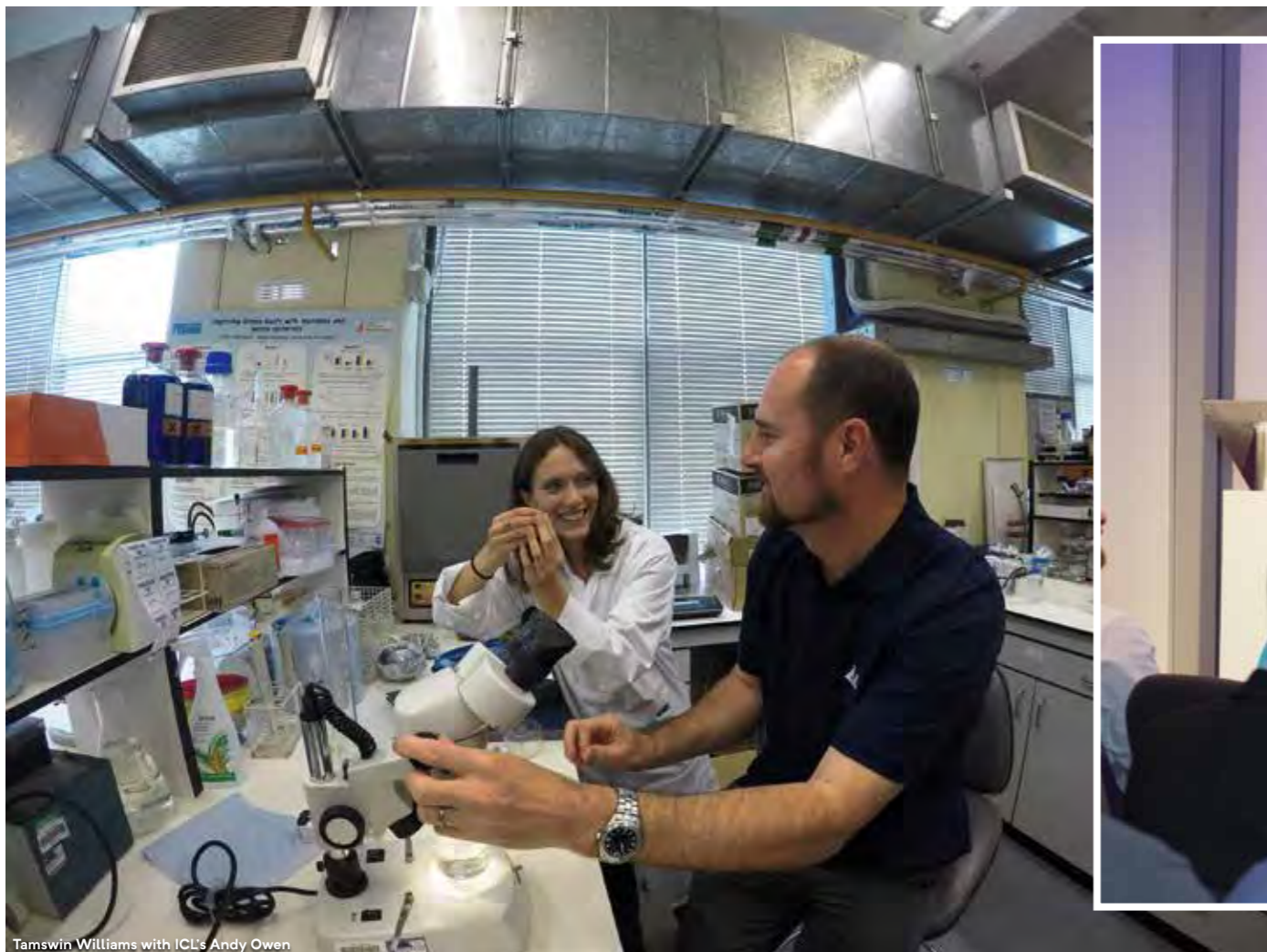
Francesca Bayliss

sap seeps out into the soil. Any area where that sap reaches is called the rhizosphere. In the rhizosphere you have 10 to 1,000 times more bacteria than any other part of the soil, alongside other microbes, fungi — including mycorrhiza — nematodes, small insects and actinomycetes, which is a type of bacteria that doesn't move. All of these eat that sap. The rhizosphere is the most ecologically-rich area of the soil and this microbial ecosystem keeps the plant healthy by maintaining decomposition, nutrient take-up and by just keeping the plant healthier.

Why should a greenkeeper be interested in the microbial ecosystem?

Francesca: One example is that knowledge of microbes can be important when looking at what grass

Continued over



Tamswin Williams with ICL's Andy Owen

species you have. A large part of my research has shown that different grass species react very differently to various microbes. The most interesting finding was that *Poa annua* and *Poa pratensis* really do not like mycorrhizae, so if you grow with them, that reduces their growth. However, mycorrhiza works really well alongside fescue *Agrostis* and *lolium*.

But the best thing you can do is make sure you are aerating and irrigating correctly as that will encourage a healthy rhizosphere.

Is the suggestion that microbes could be used to aid a species interchange away from *Poa annua*?

Francesca: It's a possibility and there are some companies who do speak on that claim, although I haven't seen any evidence to back it up yet. But it depends on what you're applying. The negative effect upon *Poa* did depend on what species of microbe you applied. But then, when we applied a mix of microbes, we got an even bigger negative effect in the *Poa*. The mycorrhizae may have been competing with each other, causing an even greater

negative effect. It's a possibility and any disadvantage you can give to the fastest growing species in the UK, may allow

something else to come in better.

Tamsin: Each different grass species will have its own innate microflora

Glossary

- **Brown alga:** A type of seaweed commonly used in a variety of everyday items, from ice cream to toothpaste, as well as other commercial products.
- **Fucoidan:** A carbohydrate, or string of sugar molecules, found in various species of seaweed.
- **Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry:** An instrumental technique that separates, identifies and quantifies complex mixtures of chemicals.
- **Mycorrhizae:** Microbes that grow in association with the roots of a plant in a symbiotic or mildly pathogenic relationship.
- **Nematodes:** Roundworms that are found in every environment on Earth. While some are harmful parasites, others play a vital role in nutrient cycling.
- **Oligogalacturonide:** A carbohydrate derived from the breakdown of the plant's cell wall due to contact with water.
- **Rhizosphere:** The region of soil close to roots in which the chemistry and microbiology is influenced by plant's growth, respiration and nutrient exchange.
- **Root exudate:** Substances in the rhizosphere that are secreted by the roots of living plants.
- **Trimethylsilyl:** A functional group within a molecule that makes it more volatile, aiding its analysis by gas chromatography or mass spectrometry.
- **Metabolomics:** the study of molecules within an organism, cell or tissue.



Francesca Bayliss alongside Alan Gange at Continue to Learn 2018

associated with it, so what you are doing is trying to support that for each different species.

Where do nematodes fit into that microbial culture?

Tamsin: You have plant parasitic nematodes, which are the problem ones for plants, but then you have bacterial, fungi eating nematodes or entomopathogenic nematodes, which are the ones that eat insects, so there are different types.

In terms of the bacterial eaters, they fit more into this microbial food web because they're in direct competition in the soil, whereas plant parasitic nematodes are ignoring what's in the soil and going straight for the plant. They'll move up through the root exudates until they get to the host plant and they'll infect that, which we are trying to avoid. If you can find a way to make the plant more repellent, that will disorientate the nematode and they won't be able to find the plant. That's my working theory, anyway!

Francesca: There's some good evidence for that happening in tomatoes. If the mycorrhizae are there before the nematodes, then the nematodes can't find the plant. But that was in tomatoes

and we now need to prove it in grass.

What does that experiment look like?

Tamsin: It's in a field called metabolomics. You harvest the root exudates from the plant in sterile water and use gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. This reads off all the compounds that it detects within the plant. For example, I'll be looking at Trimethylsilyl derivatives as a starting point, because they're the ones that have been shown to be repellent.

The more repellent compounds you have, the less likely you are to have a nematode infection.

Is the threat of nematodes something that regular greenkeepers should be aware of?



Tamsin: I think three things have happened recently that have meant they have gained notoriety. Firstly, people became better at noticing them or heard more about them. Secondly, we lost quite a few nematicides, so there has been an increase in their populations. And thirdly, as the climate changes and temperatures get warmer, it speeds up nematode life cycles. Shifting seasons may also mean we are getting nematodes emerging earlier in the year.

Francesca: As awareness increases, people understand what's happening more. Nematodes produce such generic symptoms, like yellow patches or wilting, that it is really hard to diagnose them unless you have a microscope. Every soil will have plant parasitic nematodes in it, that's just a given, but it's whether the numbers are large enough to cause a problem.

If plant parasitic nematode populations are increasing, should we be worried?

Tamsin: In football nematodes are a problem due to undersoil heating.

Continued over



Tamsin Williams

which speeds up their life cycle. But that is manageable and I don't think we'll get to a point where there's a massive population explosion in golf, because climatic conditions won't ever replicate under soil heating.

How do you go from theories and experiments to practicality?

Tamsin: I'm specifically looking at using seaweed products. In other crops they've been shown to increase these defence pathways, which could lead to a repellent root exudate profile.

I've been working with Andy Owen from ICL and we're looking at whether seaweed products can be used to decrease the plant parasitic nematode infectivity on turfgrasses. I'm mainly looking at using brown alga, *ascophyllum nodosum*, which is a bladder wrack that you find on the coast in Canada and Northern Ireland. It is in most of the seaweed products you can buy, so we're taking what's already there and seeing whether we can use it for another purpose.

I'm trying to understand what the seaweed is doing to the plant and the microbiota in the soil. Then, what are all of these doing to the nematode?

The seaweed isn't nematocidal,

but it may have indirect effects that strengthen the plant's other defences, such as improved rooting.

What is it about seaweed that potentially makes it so useful?

Tamsin: Seaweed has compounds called fucoidans and oligogalacturonides that mimic the microbial proteins of bacterial cell walls. The plant recognises these in the same way it would a mycorrhiza, as a non-pathogenic stimulus, and this can increase a plant's defences against things like plant parasitic nematodes.



Nematode damage in plants

Seaweed can also be sustainably-sourced, which makes it a very attractive resource.

Do you think the future of greenkeeping will require a greater scientific awareness?

Francesca: As people learn more about it, that tends to make everything more complicated. However, everything we've seen has indicated that there are benefits to ensuring your soil microbiology is good. As people are losing the chemicals that they used to use, they are going to rely more on these

non-chemical alternatives.

However, there will always be people who say 'I've never bothered with it, why should I begin now?'

Are you investigating biological methods out of a desire to reduce the requirement for chemicals to be used on golf courses?

Francesca: Not exactly. I think of it like, I can live a healthy lifestyle, but the moment I get ill and I need antibiotics, I will take them. It would be hypocritical for me to expect sports turf to be entirely "organic" and natural, when in reality if it needs help, it needs it. It's a high stress environment and is never as healthy as it could be if we allowed it to grow out and become unmanaged pastureland. The problem is that, like antibiotic resistance in the human body, we're finding resistance is growing against pesticides in turf.

You don't take paracetamol every day to prevent a headache, but you do take anti-malarial medicine if you're about to go to a country where there is malaria. It's the same with turf and although you shouldn't put down pesticides and fungicides every day, you should when you know pressures are going to be at

'If we can create an awareness of the science around these sustainable alternatives, that's not going to be a bad thing.'

Tamsin Williams



their highest.

At some point the disease will begin to build a resistance to whatever treatment you are using so you'll have to apply more and more product or find new products to treat it. Instead, this research is about reducing the amount you need to use and finding alternative ways of controlling things.

Tamsin: I think it's nice to make people aware that there are sustainable alternatives that can be used as preventative treatments, such as seaweed products. If we can create an awareness of the science around these sustainable alternatives, that's not going to be a bad thing.

Francesca: Obviously more work needs doing. It's not snake oil but it won't fix everything. However, being aware of the options is never a bad thing. As people get more aware and conscious of their environmental footprint — not just greenkeepers but also golfers who then come and ask the greenkeepers about their environmental footprint — it's nice to know what your options are so you can make informed decisions. Biological products are not a cure-all, but there are real benefits that we want people to be aware of.

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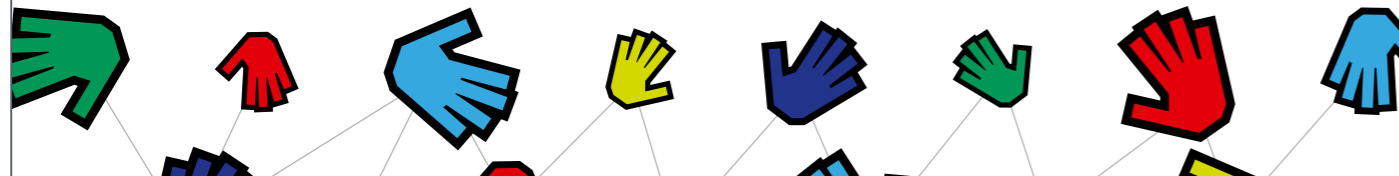
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24/7 natural turf maintenance

Supporting the microbial life within the soil

Martin Ward, Symbio

Growing chemically-managed sports turf in an artificial sand environment can stress the grass and turf manager in almost equal measure.

Plants will not grow without soil microbes, but sports turf rootzones often lack one or more of the microbial groups essential for healthy growth. Many of the chemical and physical processes employed by turf professionals today are effectively 'papering over the cracks' and masking the unhealthy symptoms associated with chemically managed grass, grown on relatively sterile rootzones.

Disease, thatch, dry patch, compaction, black layer, poor germination and rooting, nematode



An example of a 10-year-old USGA specification rootzone managed chemically with reduced aeration and soil exchange showing thatch build up and compacted soil

infestation, *Poa annua* invasion, high fertiliser requirement and poor drainage are all caused by a biological imbalance in the rootzone. These problems can be solved or alleviated by creating the correct balance between the biology, chemistry and physics in the rootzone. Biology drives the physics and chemistry in natural soils, creating friable, disease-free rootzones rich in humus to support healthy grass growth.

The aim of reintroducing naturally-occurring soil microbes, and the biostimulants that keep them alive and active, is to recreate, as far as possible on a sand-based rootzone, natural conditions for grass growth, thus solving or removing the problems greenkeepers have to manage on a daily basis.

There are five main types of soil microbes - bacteria, actinomycetes, fungi, protozoa and nematodes.

Symbio launched its first microbial products BLT and Green Circle for black layer treatment and nutrient retention in 1992. Symbio Thatch Eater followed in 1993, Mycorrhizal Seed Coat and Inoculant in 1998, compost teas in 2003 and Liquid Aeration in 2008. Each product has been constantly improved over the years as new microbes become available in commercial production

Symbio maintains a database of the



Humus rich, healthy 105-year-old green at Strawberry Hill after five years of applying microbes and biostimulants

What do soil microbes do?

- Bacteria recycle and solubilise locked up nutrients making them available for plant growth
- Bacteria, protozoa and nematodes convert the proteins and carbohydrates produced by photosynthesis back into plant food
- Fungi and actinomycetes degrade thatch and convert it to plant food and humus for a fast draining, friable rootzone
- Microbes employ four separate mechanisms to combat plant diseases and keep parasitic nematodes in check.

conditions, results and feedback from over 1,000 customers throughout the UK and Europe from Iceland to Greece to constantly refine and improve upon the benefits of creating and working with healthy rootzones.

Skilled greenkeepers can produce fantastic results using modern chemical and physical management, but the job is much easier if you have natural processes removing thatch, feeding the grass, improving drainage and fighting disease.



Improvements to rootzone and grass health at Knutsford before and after (right) the switch to biological management



Greenkeepers benefit from biologically active rootzones in many ways:

Disease prevention

Tens of thousands of bacteria and fungi live in the soil and most protect the grass against disease. They produce toxins that kill fungal pathogens, they use up excess nutrient that can feed pathogens, some eat pathogens and if the bad guys do get close to a target, plant microbes form a protective barrier around the root system. This is why many Symbio customers more than halve fungicide use within a few months of creating healthy microbially rich soil.

Thatch degradation creates friable rootzones

If fungi are not present, thatch builds up and has to be removed physically. Fungi degrade thatch, converting it to mostly inorganic humus. Humus is the foundation of healthy soil, creating root zones that are high CEC nutrient retaining, friable and fast draining but water retentive, with the correct balance between air, water and soil particles. Symbio Thatch Eater converts thatch to humus and nutrients, reducing the need for invasive hollow coring and heavy topdressing.

Perennial grass growth

Unlike *Poa annua*, perennial grasses need a healthy population of soil fungi and mycorrhizal fungi to grow. If you lose perennial grasses to *Poa annua* you know the fungal population in your rootzone is too low.

Nutrient retention and recycling

Bacteria retain and recycle nutrients and when eaten by protozoa and nematodes convert root exudates into ammonium and nitrate. Mycorrhizal fungi solubilise and make nutrients locked up in the rootzone available.

Microbes degrade thatch and unlock nutrient for plant growth. With nutrients made continuously available, you get more constant, natural growth without the boom and bust cycle of occasional fertiliser inputs.

Each soil microbe needs different biostimulants to keep them alive. Humic and fulvic acids, various types of seaweeds, complex and simple carbohydrates, liquid aeration, chitin, potassium silicate and organic fertilisers all produce different reactions to the plant and soil biology.

Working together with our partners



Chemistry lessons

The use of wetting agent pellets and irrigation tank tablets

Paul Morris, GBR Technology

Hand watering is widely used on parts of a golf course and can be especially useful around raised areas, including bunker edges.

The extended period of dry, hot weather in the summer of 2018 led to a huge increase in the consumption of wetting agent pellets to assist the effectiveness of hand watering.

The main function of wetting agent pellets is to lower the surface tension of the water that is applied through the hose and to assist this water to wet through the profile, rather than just run-off the surface.

Very dry soil becomes naturally hydrophobic and if you add to this a gradient, such as around a bunker,

it becomes easy for the water to just run off, rather than get through to the rootzone.

The Underhill Pellet Pro hose end applicator is a very well-made piece of kit and widely used. The pellet sits in a screw-on cup and dissolves slowly as water passes through. It's typical that one pellet will last for around six greens when used for top-up watering of greens. The formulation of pellets does vary somewhat, with different surfactants being used. Some pellets contain binders in order to solidify otherwise liquid surfactants, some pellets contain solid surfactants, which are cast into pots. The key point with a surfactant is that it can effectively lower the surface tension of water at very low addition rates. The reason being is that surfactants migrate to surfaces and will concentrate there. Measured statically, one part per million of a surfactant can reduce the surface tension of water from 72.8 dynes/cm down to around 50–55

'The key point with a surfactant is that it can effectively lower the surface tension of water at very low addition rates.'

Routine use of pellets around bunker edges and hot spots is standard practice. Top up watering of greens, assisted with pellets, is also very common during extended hot dry weather. Irrigation tank tablets may be used routinely to assist the wetting power of your irrigation system — or again reserved for deployment during extended hot dry conditions.

dynes/cm and one part per hundred thousand can achieve 40–45 dynes/cm (lower surface tension = better wetting).

Although a wetting agent pellet can help the water that is passing through it to wet better, it won't have a significant residual effect. If one 250g tablet lasts for watering six greens, you are applying only 750g of surfactant over 18 greens (normally about 1 hectare) — contrast that with a typical monthly residual treatment of 20 litres (around 20,000 grams) per hectare.

Hand watering can also be assisted

by using liquid-containing hose end applicators. In this case the screw on reservoir (typically around 1 litre in capacity) can be filled with a wetting agent liquid. A dial controls the rate at which the wetting agent is sucked up into the water flow and consumed. The rate the wetting agent is consumed does depend quite significantly on its viscosity and the dial will need adjusting to compensate. The system can work very well but operator variation can be quite significant due to the need to adjust the dial and it's variation with the viscosity of the fluid but you can dose quite high rates of surfactant in this way and give residual effects too.

In many cases, irrigation tank tablets are the same materials as the pellets, just in a bigger size — typically 3kg. They are normally either tossed into the irrigation tank or hung in mesh bags. If the tablets are hung

where water flows around them, they can dissolve as quickly as within one or two days. Left in a calm spot at the bottom of the tank, and they could remain for a couple of weeks.

If we look back to those surface tension reduction figures mentioned earlier — we might aim to get a concentration of surfactant in the tank of say around 1 part per 100,000. That means a 3kg tablet dissolving in around 300,000 litres or 300 cubic meters of water. The way to achieve this is through the positioning of the tablets so they dissolve at roughly the correct rate for the amount of water consumed. If you are using about 50 cubic meters a day — that's a dissolution rate of one tablet every six days. It will be approximate but at least you can ensure they are dissolving quickly enough to have a suitable effect.

Irrigation tank tablets, just like the hose end pellets, will be primarily affecting the wetting power of the water as it is applied rather, than having a residual effect.



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Insight

The science of modern greenkeeping

Anthracnose on a knife edge

Syngenta Turf Technical Manager Glenn Kirby reviews the latest research and techniques to minimise the risk of anthracnose outbreaks this summer.



New developments in turf management technology have allowed course managers to push boundaries in presenting consistently better playing surfaces.

But there is always the potential to move ever closer to the edge of failure.

There's immense stress on turf, from pressure imposed to meet players' demands combined with environmental conditions that include heat, sunlight and moisture. These are only getting ever more severe and for prolonged periods.

With increased stress comes the increased risk of anthracnose. Healthy turf, effectively managed under an integrated turf management programme, can withstand a high level of anthracnose pressure. However, if any of the stress factors impinge on turf health, it can rapidly succumb to disease outbreaks and damaging loss of turf quality.

Research shows that at warmer temperatures, typically above 22°C, short periods of leaf wetness could allow

anthracnose lesions to quickly develop.

Hot, humid weather and thunderstorms are a worst-case scenario for outbreaks. However, studies to calculate the curve of 'anthracnose severity index' clearly indicated that even at cooler summer temperatures, with an average daytime 20°C, longer periods of wet leaves could still initiate disease symptoms. Clearly, irrigation scheduling, switching greens and wetting agent programmes to maintain drier surfaces would help to minimise risks.

Trials have also shown a clear correlation between height of cut and the severity of anthracnose outbreaks (Table 1.)

It goes without saying that a clean cut with sharp blades minimises the leaf wound for disease ingress, as well as reducing stress on the plant. Reducing the frequency of cutting with a PGR programme further eases the pressure, with trials showing the chance

How do you spot and identify anthracnose?

With foliar blight infection the grass turns a tan yellow colour in irregular patches. Typically occurring in summer, it is often mistaken for drought, since the stress induced by drought can be a significant trigger for anthracnose break out. The presence of acervuli with hair-like setae is used to diagnose foliar blight under the microscope.

Basal rot, prevalent in cooler, wet conditions, begins as yellowing of older leaves on individual plants. The youngest leaf may become brick red in the later stages of development. The plant easily pulls from the turf and a black rot is visible at the base of the stem.

Visit www.greencast.co.uk for a new format Q&A of anthracnose.



Anthracnose basal rot



Anthracnose foliar blight

to alternate rolling and mowing can significantly reduce the risk of infection.

Furthermore, experience has shown that a Primo Maxx II programme through the summer can allow mowing height to be marginally raised without negative impact on green speed. Even easing from 2.5mm to 2.8mm gives 12% more leaf, with a real potential benefit for plant health and especially root retention through the summer (see May's Greenkeeper International for more details).

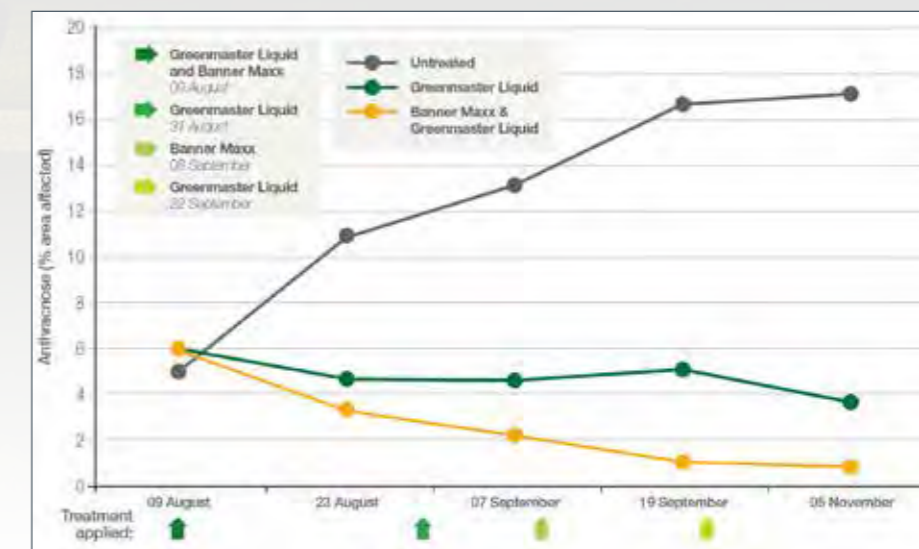
In research trials, topdressing has shown to be effective at reducing the incidence of infection, from better aeration and drainage.

Light verticut operations, to "true" up uneven growth when the plant is in a healthy condition, shouldn't cause problems; but getting too aggressive with modern verticut units and damaging the crown of the plant will enhance plant stress and could increase opportunity for infection.

New techniques for Ryder pigment technology, to protect turf from excess

Figure 1

Nutrition is a crucial element of maintaining stress free turf. The combination of fertiliser and fungicide was the most effective route to preventing effects of anthracnose, as well as maintaining better colour and turf health.



sunlight, could help alleviate some of the cause of summer outbreaks. However, while for the first time we have the ability to separate turf colour from nutrition, it is crucial to ensure plants still have sufficient fertiliser to maintain healthy growth.

Trials with ICL and STRI have shown the best results for summer anthracnose control involve the combination of adequate nutrition, along with well-timed fungicide applications when conditions for infection are forecast, or other stressful periods are anticipated.

The complex interaction of different stress factors on turf and climatic conditions does make

anthracnose difficult to predict. However, reviewing historic weather conditions and pinpointing when outbreaks have occurred on your course can help anticipate problems and, where possible, allow you to adapt management or adjust timing of potentially stressful actions to avoid these periods.

Turf managers have the tools to effectively prepare ever better surfaces to meet players' demands. The challenge is to not push it over the edge and take an anthracnose hit, while not falling off the back and losing acceptable condition.

Table 1.

Reduced height of cut is directly correlated to the incidence of anthracnose risk and infection

Height of cut (mm)	% of turf area infected			
2.8	4.2	36.8	51.7	61.8
3.2	2.6	32.2	48	53.6
3.6	1.1	28.8	40.5	44.5

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Here are the results from the inaugural East of Scotland Golf Championship, hosted by Ratho GC.

This has replaced the section's spring meeting and is designed to encourage more section members to attend as there are qualifying spots up for grabs for the Scottish Championship at Haggs Castle.

On the day the weather was kind and this was reflected in the scoring, with both the winner and runner-up of the scratch section returning scores under 70 and with Stableford scores from three players of 40 points or better.

The winners and qualifiers for the Scottish Championship were:

Scratch: 1st, Blair Shearer, 67; 2nd, Benn McLeod, 69 (on a 6 hole count back). Stableford: 1st, Graeme Davidson, 41pts; 2nd, Ross Prowse, 40pts. Trade: Kevin Brunton, 40pts.

Additional qualifiers were Colin McArthur and Peter Smith.

As always, there were some fun prizes with Ross Prowse winning nearest to the pin and the longest drive prize was picked up by Kevin Brunton. Well done to all the winners. The section would like to thank everyone at Ratho involved in making the day a success, including our championship sponsors Thomas Sherriff Ground Care and Ian Henderson Golf Finance. Most importantly, a big thanks to Ratho Course Manager Billy Hudson and his team as the course was in great condition.

The final piece of news is that former section Chairman Scott Corrigan is on the move. Scott is the new course manager at Cawder. Congratulations Scott, all the best at your new club.



Central
Craig Boath
@CraigBoath
cboath@carnostiegolflinks.co.uk



North
David Rumbles
@DavidR_EGC
davidrumbles@hotmail.com

Thank you to our section sponsors

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on around your section so get in touch with your section scribe

Alternatively, email your news to karl@bigga.co.uk

Around the Green

featured in the magazine please contact me in the usual way.



West
Scott McTaggart
@BiggaWest
scottmct@westsection.gmail.com

The West of Scotland Section Golf Championship was held at Cawder on 25 April. It was very well attended and everyone really enjoyed the day. I would like to thank Cawder for the courtesy of the course and their hospitality.

Results. Scratch: Gordon Sangster, 68. 1st class: winner, Dominic Dougan, 36pts; runner-up, John Brown, 35pts BIH. 2nd class: winner, Ally Eccles, 41pts; runner-up, Willie Lewis, 36pts BIH. 3rd class: winner, Niall Gibb, 33pts; runner-up, John Steel, 32pts. Visitor: Douglas Kelly, 28pts. Nearest the pin: Kenny Allen: Longest drive: Martin Scott.

Scratch champion: Gordon Sangster, Cathkin Braes.

Stableford champion: William Lewis, Williamwood.

Patron champion: Ally Eccles, DLF. Thanks again to everyone who played and supported the day and well done to all the winners.

I would also would like to congratulate Scott Corrigan on becoming course manager at Cawder. All the best from everyone in the section.



Northern Ireland
Phillip Snellin
@PhillipSnellin
phillsnellin77@hotmail.com

Here we are two months out from hosting the Open Championship and there is such a buzz about the country for it.

There are a ton of pictures online from Graeme Beatt and his great team and I can't wait to see the place on the course walk in June.

Below is the schedule for the things coming up this season and with the Northern Ireland Open in August, it's a great time to be here as a golfer and a greenkeeper.

A course walk is taking place at Royal Portrush prior to the Open on Thursday 27 June.

The golf championship will be held at Belvoir Park on Thursday 22 August.

An education day will be held at CAFRE Greenmount Campus on Tuesday 22 October.

Northern



Chairman
Jack Hetherington
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jack87heff@gmail.com



Membership Services Manager
Sandra Raper
07866 366 966 | @BIGGANorthReg
sandra@bigga.co.uk



Scotland, North: Neil McLoughlin thanks Andy Leel upon his retirement



Cleveland
Anthony McGeough
amcgeough@aol.com

What a difference a year makes!

This time last year I was waist deep in trenches trying to find and fix some broken irrigation pipes. All the time I was hoping for some rain and a break from the heat wave we had just entered! This year it is all hands to the pumps, the rough and fairways have gone mental, the seed heads are starting as the Poa wakes up and of course the usual rumblings and moans from the bar room judges and jury that the greens are slow!

To be fair, they were much faster last year. But this was mainly due to the massive irrigation failure and my greens resembling a test match cricket wicket! Still, I would much rather be cutting the grass on healthy greens than being in the same situation as last year.

Irrigation spares have been mopped up off social media from clubs and courses lucky enough to be updating their systems. For me it's a case of make do and mend for the foreseeable future and in truth, it wouldn't be RGC if it wasn't like that.

On a personal note, in case anyone is interested, I'm running my third Swaledale marathon in June and training is starting to ramp up with a few cheeky 19-milers under my belt. Last year nearly broke me, but I promised myself one more attempt at beating my personal best. Fingers crossed I don't sprain my ankle three miles in again and I remember that it's not necessary to disengage brain and sprint down the downhill sections. It ain't good, especially as I'm not getting any

younger!

At the time of writing, I'm really looking forward to the golf day at Saltburn on 4 June. A get-together will be just the job to share what's been going on and have a good catch up. If anyone would like to host a golf day, please do get in touch with Ian Pemberton.



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

The golf day at Warrington was extremely well-supported.

Thank you to all who attended and to Consolidate for sponsoring the day. Thanks also to Campey Turf Care for their roadshow events over the three-day period around the golf day.

Thanks also to Foley Company for their presentation and demo at the Turf Club. Our next golf day is being held at Ringway on 15 August. If you would like to book a place, please contact Gary Burgess.



North East
Paul Walton
@paul_walton20
paul_walton14@hotmail.co.uk

Sadly the golf day at Garesfield had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers.

This may be simply down to the time of year, but if anyone has feedback on the date, venue or start time, please do let us know by sending an email to the address above.

The next golf day is to be held at Boldon on 9 October. To book, simply contact Mark Hollingsworth. Bacon rolls

Thank you to our section sponsors

Section News

We want to hear what's been going on around your section so get in touch with your section scribe

Alternatively, email your news to karl@bigga.co.uk

Around the Green

will be served from 10am.

We send our best wishes to Jack Hetherington on his move to Boldon and to Jack Friar on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Alnwick.

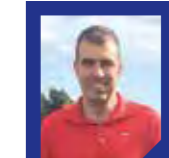
Please send any news you may like to share to the address above.



Yorkshire
Rob Gee
@Rob_Grn
robgee.03@blueyonder.co.uk

No doubt everyone is now flat out maintaining their courses!

Our next event is the invitation day at Otley on 24 July. Get your names down early as I'm sure this will be a popular event. Please remember to bring a club official or maybe a greenkeeper who isn't a member of BIGGA?



Sheffield
Adrian Keys
@SheffieldBigga
ajkeys79@hotmail.com

July sees the section summer golf competition take place at Hallamshire on 18 July.

To register your interest for this, please contact Rob Acheson.

Congratulations to Paul Hobson on his new job after he moved from Bondhay to Renishaw Park and also to Chris Hague who, 46 years after first starting at Lindrick, has returned to help out this summer.

Local golfing superstar and Birley Wood greenkeeper Rich Bee will be trying in his quest for the Open again this year. Follow Rich and his trials and tribulations as he tries to qualify. Join his boss Andy Unwin at the Open on Twitter (@beeboy).



North Wales
Eifion Ellis
@BIGGANorthWales
eifionellis9@gmail.com

I trust you are all well and your courses are in tip-top condition.

On 4 August a day is being held at Chester races.

The Christmas golf day is taking place at Prestatyn on 28 November.

Keep the communication channel open!

Central England



Chairman

Andrew Laing
07870 188 619 | @andrewmlaing
andrew.laing@gaudet-Luce.co.uk



Membership Services Manager

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

Around the Green



BB&O

Craig Earnshaw

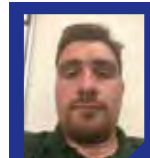
@craigdearnshaw
craig@harleyfordgolf.co.uk



Mid Anglia

Darren Mugford

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com



East of England

Robert Bemment

r088emo@hotmail.com

I would like to thank F&G Adamson's for the sponsorship of our May golf day at Elsham.

Big thanks go to Colin Hopper and his team for the great condition of the course. The winner on the day and

awarded full points for the sponsored (GKB) Nationals Championship is Freddie Moiser.

I would like to wish Elsham and Holme Hall golf clubs all the very best in hosting the English Seniors Men's Open Amateur Championship.



Midland

Glen Howard

howie8447@virginmedia.com

ICL are holding an education day at Tottenham's White Hart Lane, followed by a behind the scenes look around this unique stadium.

Please contact Andy Smith andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk to show your interest as places will be limited. Dates for the tour will be end of June, beginning of July.

We have had interest from some members for a social fishing match. Could all interested parties contact Gary Watkins from Droitwich GC on

coursemanager@droitwichgolfclub.co.uk. If we get enough interest, we will organise the event.



East Midlands

Paul Fowkes

@pazza20001
pazza20001@gmail.com

I hope you are all well and your courses are growing well.

Not too much to report on this month. As I write this, our first event of the year is a few weeks away and thanks go to all at Market Harborough for hosting us.

The next event in our calendar will be the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, which will be held at Rothley Park on Wednesday 24 July.

Rothley are the current regional and national champions and will take a lot of beating on their own turf. Roger will send all relevant documents soon.

Thank you to all our sponsors and if you have any news you would like to submit for Around the Green, get in touch.

South West & South Wales



Chairman

Steve Lloyd
07578 276 082 | @GreensMalvern
coursemanager@theworcestershiregolfclub.co.uk



South West

Seb Cavilla

@biggaswsw
southwestsection@bigga.co.uk

Firstly, an enormous thank you to Paul Worster from Minchinhampton and everybody else involved in our ecology turf club on the 21 May.

I was very disappointed to miss it myself, however when it is your fiancée's birthday, choice goes out of the window!

The weather was glorious, the education fabulous and the company brilliant. All in all, it was a fantastic afternoon.

Registration forms for our summer golf day will be reaching you soon. It's a great venue and promises to be a brilliant day. Save the date — 1 August at Long Ashton.

I won't be missing that one, so I hope to see you all there!



South Coast

Jim Fancey

@biggasouthcoast
hgk@southwickpark-golfclub.com

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our spring tournament at Shanklin and Sandown, but we will endeavour to rearrange another visit at some point in the future.

Our annual Greenkeepers versus Secretaries match at Bishopswood was held on 30 May. Hopefully I'll be writing next time about an emphatic win!

On the horizon we have our summer tournament at Rowlands Castle on 11 July. Spaces for this are likely to go quickly. As soon as we release the registration details, please sign up for what will be a great event.

If anyone has a story or achievement they would like me to publish please email the section or myself.



South Wales

Tom Howells

@BIGGASouthWales
howeller_@hotmail.com

Now the grass is growing like mad, there are plenty of things to be doing out on the course.

I'm sure you're making the course the best it can be and making sure all the irrigation is ready and waiting for when you need it to spring into action!

Around the Green



Membership Services Manager

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



The South West Section met the locals at Minchinhampton



Saunton is hosting the Boys Amateur during August and is appealing for volunteers

The summer golf day will be coming up soon and the event will once again be shared with the South West Section. More information to follow shortly.

Anything you want putting in Around the Green, don't hesitate to get in touch and let me know!



Devon & Cornwall

Neil Rogers

@buckaroo14
nrogers@advancegrass.com

By the time you read this, the committee will have met and will be well on the way to confirming fixtures for the next season. I will report back in next month's report.

Tracey has asked me to appeal for volunteers for an event at Saunton and if you can help, please follow the instructions below.

Saunton is hosting the very prestigious R&A Boys Amateur Championship from 9 to 18 August and requires significant greenkeeping support of at least 14 individuals to enable the course to be presented in tournament condition.

With 252 of the world's best under-18

male golfers competing in the event, both of Saunton's 18 hole courses will need to be presented in immaculate condition throughout the week. If you would like to volunteer to assist on any of these days (as little or as many days as you can give would be fantastic) to help us prepare for this global event, it would be very much appreciated.

A range of greenkeeping tasks will need to be covered. All equipment will be provided, but volunteers will need to bring their own work clothes and PPE (safety boots essential).

Saunton also requires at least one greenkeeper with 'machine setting skills' to assist the resident golf club mechanic throughout the duration of the event.

All volunteers will be provided with food and refreshments throughout, however accommodation will not be provided.

If you are able to support and gain some invaluable experience along the way, please contact Saunton General Manager Jon Sutherland, either by email using jon@sauntongolf.co.uk or by phone on 01271 812 436 with your name, contact details and the dates on which you are able and willing to help.

Cameras at the ready?

BIGGA's annual photographic competition is back, with a brand new Apple iPad up for grabs for the winner.

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



South East



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Around the Green



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Kent
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Just a reminder that this month's golf day is on 27 June at Bearsted. Make sure to check your emails and confirm your place with Barry Bradshaw. Those of you that are not receiving our emails please find us on our BIGGA Kent Facebook page and get in touch to update your details. Look forward to seeing you there.



East Anglia
Mike Virley
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mikevirley@sky.com

We started the year with a windy spring golf day at Southwold on 25 April — shame the Easter weather didn't last! Thanks to the green staff as the course was in great condition and despite the windy conditions there were several good scores and some very tricky nearest the pin shots. The sponsor of the day was Ernest Doe with Ross Stannard providing on-course refreshments. Southwold sponsored nearest the pin on the 18th.

Results: 1st, Michael Jordan, 39pts; 2nd, Terry Carver, 36pts; 3rd, Mark Broughton, 32pts; joint 4th, Mike Virley Tony Thacker and Jamie Gill, 31 points. Trade and guest: 1st, Rob Phillips, 36pts (on count back); 2nd, Mark Keysall, 36pts. Nearest pin: 1st, Mike Virley; 9th, Chris Gurton; 10th Mike Virley; 18th Graham Hurren. Nearest the pin in 2 shots on the 14th: Chris Gurton.

Also, thanks to the other trade for supporting and providing the raffle prizes. We also did a football card for the BIGGA Benevolent Fund which raised £20 and was won by Mike Virley.

Michael Jordan and Terry Carver qualified for regionals.

Aldeburgh are having an ecology-focused course walk on 30 May which would be very interesting as they

won a Golf Environment Award this year. There will be input from BIGGA's Ecology guru James Hutchinson and Aldeburgh Course Manager Mark Broughton. It is a free event and you get complimentary breakfast but places are limited so you will have to book via Simonandchrissey@googlemail.com.

Also a quick reminder that the website has lots of information and details about East Anglian Section. The web address is www.biggaea.wixsite.com/greenkeepers.

The next golf day is taking place at Rushmere on 20 June.



Essex
Wayne Wilson
@essexbigga
wayne@cmwequipment.co.uk

Our first golf day of the year was attended by 18 players at Braxted Park.

Thank you to Peter Keeble, the secretary manager, for allowing us the use of the course and thank you to all the greenkeeping team for all their hard work presenting the course.

The results were: 1st, John Tuffen, 39pts. The Essex; 2nd, Mike Bartlett, 38pts; Hartswood; 3rd, Andy Harding, 31pts CB, Boyce Hill; Trade, Matt Wise, 39pts; Nearest the pin on 3rd, George Butters; Nearest the pin on 17th, Kevin Myers; Longest drive, Callum Smith.

Our next golf day is at Forrester Park on Thursday 18 July from 12noon. The cost is £20. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 36 people so please get in touch with Andy Harding. The day includes a bacon roll and hot drink on arrival and a BBQ for afterwards!



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



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

On 10 April the section held an education day at Littlehampton.

There was a great turnout of greenkeepers from across the county. The afternoon started with a course walk with Stella Rixon from the STRI. Stella ran through the results of last summer's

drought, something that courses on the extreme south coast were hit with particularly. She offered tips on overseeding bare areas. The group moved on to a green and Stella showed how she measures moisture and firmness of greens. Everyone then went back to the clubhouse for a couple of very informative presentations. Syngenta and British Topsoil also spoke.

At the end of April it was all back again to Littlehampton for the spring competition. Well done to Michael and his team for the fantastic presentation of the course and a big thank you to the club for hosting us. The day started with a hearty fry-up for the field of 28 greenkeepers. The sun was out and it was a lovely warm, if breezy, day and there was plenty of sun block being used! The winners were: Div. 1, Michael Mead (local knowledge a bit of an advantage there!); Div. 2, Pete Smith; Div. 3, Rob Sewell.



Michael Jordan won the East Anglia golf day



Essex: Presentation for the golf day at Braxted Park



Sussex: The team from Littlehampton

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Assistant Greenkeeper Sandown Park Golf Centre

We have an exciting opportunity to join our small greenkeeping team at Sandown Park Golf Centre in Esher. Our parkland style setting has three 9-hole courses, grass practice tee and a 36-bay covered driving range. This is an ideal opportunity for an assistant greenkeeper looking to forward their career or looking for a new challenge.

The ideal candidate would have had at least one years' experience as assistant greenkeeper. NVQ's, spraying and chainsaw certificates are not essential but would

enhance the candidate's application. The ideal candidate would also have had experience of course renovation projects, have an eye for detail, be self-motivated and have a positive working attitude.

Permanent full-time position, 40-hour week, weekend working on a rota basis.

Send your CV and covering letter to: directors@sandownparkgolf.com



Qualified Greenkeeper vacancy Ilkley Golf Club

Located in the beautiful Wharfe Valley, with the famous Ilkley Moor as a backdrop, Ilkley Golf Club is one of the most picturesque in the UK.

We have an excellent opportunity for a qualified greenkeeper to join our well-established team.

This role would suit an enthusiastic individual, with a keen eye for detail, looking for the opportunity to learn new skills and be part of an experienced team in an enjoyable working environment.

A full copy of the job advert can be viewed on the BIGGA website, which includes candidates' requirements and details of employment.

Applicants should apply via email with a supporting CV to: The Secretary/Manager

E-mail: honsec@ilkleygolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for applications:

Friday 14 June 2019

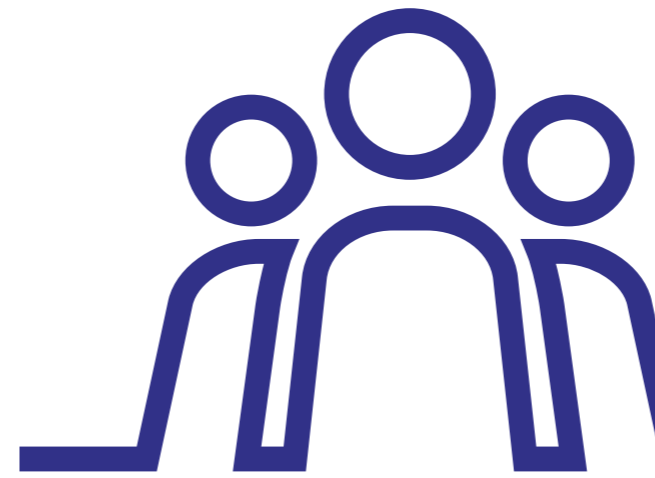


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From trainee vacancies to senior management roles, new greenkeeping job opportunities are added daily to BIGGA's online recruitment pages.

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

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



Here for you

If you notice your mental or emotional state getting worse, or you're worried about someone you know - help is available. You're not alone, so talk to someone you trust as sharing a problem is often the first step to recovery. BIGGA may not be the first place you consider asking for help, but help is at hand when you need it.

BIGGA's Counselling Assistance Helpline

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Completely confidential and provides you with support by telephone by specialist call handlers and counsellors — 0333 000 2082.

BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund

For the benefit of members when times get tough and need financial support by way of a grant, award or a payment. Details available through the members area of the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk

Perennial

Perennial is the UK charity dedicated to helping people who work or have worked in horticulture including greenkeepers. BIGGA works very closely with Perennial to help any member who needs free and confidential advice, support and financial assistance on 0800 093 8543 (general advice) or 0800 093 8546 (debt advice).

Call BIGGA House

and speak to a member of the Membership Team on 01347 833 800, visiting www.bigga.org.uk or by contacting your local BIGGA Membership Services Manager.



La Moye Golf Club

Founded in 1902, La Moye is an exclusive private members' golf club situated on the Island of Jersey in the Channel Islands. The 18-hole championship golf course is set in stunning natural surroundings and is a former European Tour and European Seniors Tour venue.

The club seek to recruit an experienced and highly-motivated golf course manager who, together with a team of eight staff, will be responsible for further developing our prestigious course to the highest standards.

Reporting to the general manager, the successful candidate will ideally have direct experience in links 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.

Following the recent completion of a multi-million pound clubhouse refurbishment project, the club has engaged renowned course architects Mackenzie & Ebert to conduct a full architectural review of the golf course. This will potentially lead to significant course improvement works, estimated to commence within the next 3-4 years. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate the following skills and attributes:

- Minimum of five years' managerial experience within a golf course environment
- Agronomic and environmental management of links courses
- Excellent management and organisational skills
- Project management experience
- Ability to motivate, lead and develop staff
- Excellent I.T. and communication skills including the use of social media
- Minimum of NVQ Level 4 in Sports Turf Management and Maintenance or similar

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Please apply in writing or by email, enclosing CV & covering letter, by no later than 30 June 2019 to: Richard Cutler, General Manager, La Moye Golf Club, St Brelade, Jersey JE3 8GQ richard@lamoyegolfclub.co.uk



Around the Globe



Erwan Le Cocq | WINSTONgolf, Germany

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

WINSTONgolf is a 45-hole golf course in north Germany.

The Links is an 18-hole course with USGA specification greens, while the Open is a push-up parkland course. The Kranich is a short 9-hole, par-3 course.

We are really famous for the Links course, a totally man-made extreme design. More than 1.3 million cubic metres were moved to build it.

How does weather affect your work?

Our location is very specific. We are situated close to a large lake, which stops most of the rain.

In summer it can be really dry and most of the greenkeepers are busy hand watering every part of the course. In winter, because of the snow, we mainly focus on the hard rough maintenance and all the course's equipment.

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

There aren't many chemicals available in north Germany and we use any that are available.

Tracking the disease pressure and being reactive is a big part of management. It can be really hard to achieve that in winter, when conditions are too bad to spray alternative products.

Machinery is not such a problem for us, but it does need to suit our extreme design.

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

We grow fescue on the Links and bentgrass and Poa on the Open and Kranich courses.

The fescue greens are more drought friendly, but tend to wake up later in the



The WINSTONgolf greenkeeping team

spring. The bentgrass and Poa greens require more watering, but recover much quicker too.

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

Greenkeeper training in Germany is close to non-existent.

When it is time for recruitment, the main problem is not getting any applications at all!

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

We are close to our golfers and feedback is very important for us.

I think they have a positive opinion about the team. They also understand that to keep the courses in the best condition requires heavier operations in the spring and they accept that.

Why do you choose to be a BIGGA member?

I joined BIGGA for many reasons.

I want to support the association that does so much for us, especially in regards to mental health support.

I also looked for the networking

opportunities and I enjoy BTME and Continue to Learn.

Greenkeeper International is also my favourite magazine as the information within it reflects my situation most closely (compared to American magazines).

What have you learnt through being a member of BIGGA?

I have learnt a lot through human interaction.

Sandra Raper has been really supportive and I have also met a lot of people, such as Lorna from BIGGA or other greenkeepers from Germany.

I have learnt a lot and get inspiration to adapt their experiences on to my course.

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

Don't wait for the opportunity to present itself: create your own.

Apply for opportunities again and again until you are successful.

And when you get to another country, learn the language, the culture and meet as many people as you can. The experiences will change you forever.

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TEES – SURROUNDS AND SPORTS GROUNDS



LM2700

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CUT

Models fitted with Baronesse cylinders are the "LM Series"

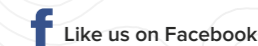
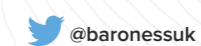
Baronesse has invested significantly in cutting technology. Most notably in its bottom blades and cylinder reels that have succeeded in achieving the highest-level of cutting quality and durability. Baronesse has always emphasized the quality of its products as a priority and has contributed to the goal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

B-ACT is Baronesse-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 Baronesse cutting units to adapt and perform on different turf conditions.

The Baronesse "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**.



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