

February 2020 | £5.50

Greenkeeper

International

BTME 2020

Whether to shout about their achievements or provide support to those in need, our annual exhibition was defined by BIGGA members who are willing to communicate

Just OUTSTANDING

BIGGA AWARDS

Hazel Grove's Michael Davie headlined BIGGA's annual awards ceremony after working tirelessly to support greenkeepers across the country

IN THIS ISSUE:

Stress: stepping away from the edge | Camberley Heath: course photography | Lamlash: meet the other Jim McKenzie | How to train: best practices for training your team | Insight: using light to manage shade



WE'RE DELIGHTED with the **QUALITY** of **CUT** and the **BACK-UP** WE GET

DAVID DALY, Golf Course Superintendent
HOGS HEAD GOLF CLUB

Jacobsen. Built for your success



From breathtaking performance and a drive to innovate, to people and support you know you can trust, everything we do is built for your success.

Experience what complete dedication feels like. Experience Jacobsen.

→ **BOOK A TEST DRIVE NOW AT:**
jacobsenbuilt.com

JACOBSEN®



BIGGA Patron
Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE

BIGGA President
Colin Webber

BIGGA Chairman
Scott Reeves

BIGGA Vice President
Gordon Moir

BIGGA Board Members

Stuart Taylor (Vice Chairman), Anthony McGeough, Andrew Laing, Tom Smith, Steve Lloyd, Chris Sealey and Richard Whyman

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer

Jim Croxton | jim.croxton@bigga.co.uk

Head of Finance and Operations

Steve Wragg | steve@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Services

Tracey Maddison | traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk | www.bigga.org.uk
Tel — 01347 833 800

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

Editorial



Editor
Karl Hansell
Tel — 01347 833 829
karl@bigga.co.uk
[@karlhansell](https://twitter.com/karlhansell)

Production



**Design & Artwork
Production**
Libbie Waddleton
Tel — 01347 833 817
libbie@bigga.co.uk

Sales



**Business
Development Manager**
Lauren Frazer
Tel — 01347 833 832
lauren@bigga.co.uk
[@Lauren_BIGGA](https://twitter.com/Lauren_BIGGA)



**Business
Development Executive**
Gavin Rees
Tel — 01347 833 810
gavin@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel — 01778 391 000

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

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that 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

© 2020 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited

Welcome



BTME 2020 saw the inaugural BTME Early Bird Run sponsored by Syngenta.

When hosting a major event such as BTME, there will inevitably be some trepidation as we rely on countless moving parts to fit together seamlessly.

BTME is our opportunity to showcase ourselves to the turf management world and once again everyone associated with BIGGA did themselves extremely proud.

This was an event where we acknowledged the challenges that we face with open eyes. We understood the difficulties we must overcome and we armed ourselves with the tools that we will require to achieve this.

There may be some way yet to travel, but there were definite signs of progress.

I was pleased that when visiting the Queen's Suite and the other Continue to Learn venues, I spotted a number of new faces. There seemed to be a larger number of people who were taking part in Continue to Learn for the first time because their clubs were actively encouraging them to get involved. This isn't universal, but I'm thrilled that we're clearly making progress and golf clubs understand that if they are to survive, they



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

Golf clubs understand that to survive, they must have educated staff

must have engaged and educated staff.

These staff will be better equipped to progress their careers and as they do so, they'll spread that culture of professional development even wider.

The BTME Early Bird 5k Run certainly won't have been for everyone, I must confess I didn't manage to do it! But more than 100 people turned out and had a great time.

Harrogate's legendary hospitality is a key part of the BTME experience, but the turnout for the run was a

strong indication that the nightlife is only one facet to the show.

From CALM who supported the run to Andy's Man Club who returned to the BIGGA Stand, one sad element that recurred throughout the show was the shadow of stress and mental health. The recognition of BIGGA Award winner Mick Davie for his support of greenkeepers, the kind words of our former president Chris Sheehan and the general discussions around the place suggest the causes aren't yet going away.

However, the important thing is we're talking about these matters openly and that means we're a step closer to fixing these problems, which is heartening.

It was a great thrill to speak to so many people, whether exhibitors, visitors or BIGGA staff, who were attending their first BTME. Many were gobsmacked about what the exhibition offers the industry.

May I say a final thanks to the exhibitors for supporting the event, the visitors for attending and to our awesome team for making me incredibly proud with their tireless efforts all week.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Editor's Notes

Greenkeeper International editor, Karl Hansell



And just like that, BTME was gone in the blink of an eye.

For the BIGGA staff, BTME is our Open Championship. We gradually build up momentum throughout the year and the weeks preceding the exhibition are a blur of meetings as we try to make sure everything is organised and no stone is left unturned.

Like many of you, BTME is one of the highlights of my year. A huge amount of work goes into the hosting of the event and putting this magazine together in the week immediately afterwards is always a strain for the GI team. But at the same time, BTME never fails to remind me how lucky I am to work in this great industry.

I'm a golfer and as such I never fail to be amazed when I find myself sitting around a table with the course managers of venues that have hosted Opens, Ryder Cups or suchlike.

I'm not a greenkeeper, but if I was then I'd like to think that the friendships I've developed would stand me in good stead as I look to progress my career. I have to tell you guys, this doesn't happen in every industry. There's nowhere for journalists or graphic designers or car salesmen to go where they can speak to those at the pinnacle of their profession and gain support and advice and possibly even line up an opportunity to help out for a few weeks. I'm not going to go so far as to say greenkeeping is unique, but such accessibility and opportunity at your fingertips is certainly a rare thing.

So take the time to check out our BTME review within the pages of this magazine. There's a huge amount of content and to be honest, I'm amazed at how much we couldn't fit in this magazine. If you attended, you know exactly what I'm talking about. If you didn't, you certainly missed out. Luckily for you, BTME will be back next year and opportunities to get involved with the association run all year round.



BIGGA Photographic Calendar 2020:
February's image was taken at
Mortonhall by Shaun Cunningham

With thanks to our contributors

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



John Ross MG

Stress is a natural reaction to the pressures we face, but John explains how better work practices will relieve the strain



Ross Jones

Camberley Heath is one of the country's most photogenic courses and Ross explained how it comes together



Andy Wight

The Oaklands College tutor offers advice on how you can ensure your staff training is more effective



Abi Leighton

Abi joined the BIGGA team for the duration of BTME and helped us put together the round-up featured in this edition

From your Association

- 03
- Welcome**
An association update from CEO Jim Croxton
- 12
- Across the Board**
We hear from BIGGA President Colin Webber
- 14
- BIGGA Young Greenkeepers**
Lyle Davidson, The Carrick on Loch Lomond
- 18
- Membership**
The CGCS has launched a salary calculator
- 20
- Learning and Development**
Would you like to present at Continue to Learn 2021?
- 72
- Apprentice Corner**
National Apprenticeship Week takes place this month
- 82
- Ecology Roundup**
James takes a look at the Mulberry Tree at Normanton

Points of Interest

- 16
- Looking Ahead**
Get involved with a BIGGA event near you
- 68
- Around the Green**
Your regional and national member news
- 74
- Industry News**
What's happening in the greenkeeping industry?

Useful information

- 78
- Buyers' Guide**
Useful contacts for all your greenkeeping needs
- 80
- Recruitment**
The latest vacancies to help you advance your career

Features

- 06
- Talking Points**
Discussing stress and how we can handle it
- 24
- Camberley Heath**
Using photography to document progress
- 30
- Lamlash**
An introduction to island life with the other Jim McKenzie
- 34
- How to train effectively**
How to get the best out of staff training
- 36
- Insight**
Throwing light on how to manage shade
- 64
- Aquatrols**
Understanding the transition from winter to spring
- 66
- Rigby Taylor**
Tips for taking the guesswork out of irrigation
- 38
- BTME:**
All the news and discussion points from the biggest show of the year including:
BIGGA Welcome Celebration
BIGGA Stand
Early Bird 5k Run
Presidents conversation
Golf Course Construction Live
BTME Breakfast Club
Green Room Podcast Live

Where will your thoughts take you?

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



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



TALKING POINTS

How to step away from the edge

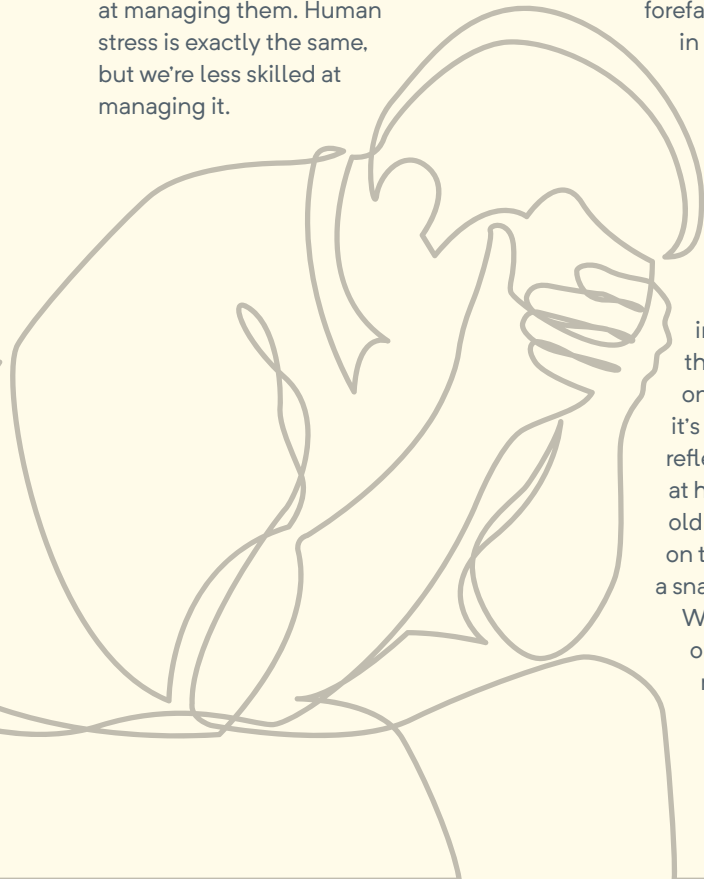
John Ross MG



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

There's no doubt about it, greenkeeping is a stressful profession.

In greenkeeping we often talk about turf being under stress. Stressed plants have an adverse reaction to a set of circumstances and we're very good at managing them. Human stress is exactly the same, but we're less skilled at managing it.



Ancient humans were hunter-gatherers and we're all still carrying the genetic message from our forefathers 2 million years ago in our brains.

When we talk about human stress, we're talking about a psychological state of tension.

Ancient humans were hunter-gatherers and we're all still carrying the genetic message from our forefathers two million years ago in our brains. It's in the 'old' brain that instinctive things happen. The old brain is doing all the things you do instinctively, such as breathing, heartbeat and temperature control.

The old brain can process seven million bits of information a second, while the new, civilised brain can only process about 6,000, so it's in the old brain that our reflexes happen. I have chickens at home and if I want to see an old brain at work, I just lay a hose on the floor. They've never seen a snake, but it scares them.

We're all hardwired through our old brain to have instinctive reactions to threats and dangers. The first thing that happens is your heart rate increases. You breathe faster and you turn off your

digestive system. You don't need your immunogenic system for fight or flight and so you stop producing white blood cells, making you more susceptible to disease in the long term.

The problem we all have is we live in a modern world that is chaotic and filled with pressure. Your ancient brain identifies those as threats and dangers, and tries to

work out whether you should fight or flight. Two hundred thousand years ago you would run away and find a place of sanctity, but you can't do that at work.

There's a drip, drip, drip of constant pressure and we can't escape it.

There are six work-based stresses. They are: demands of the job; control over the working day; leadership and support; relationships; roles; and change.

They are stresses because they threaten your ability to earn a livelihood and keep a roof over the family's head. Your response to them is the same as it would have been 200,000 years ago and that's why stress makes people ill.

How can we recognise stress in ourselves or other people?

Despite it being a mental strain, many of the symptoms are physical. There's high blood pressure, a high heartbeat, adverse cholesterol and the person can be too fat or thin due to comfort eating or avoiding food. They may increase their

The problem we all have is we live in a modern world that is chaotic and filled with pressure. Your ancient brain identifies these as threats and dangers.

smoking habit or indulge in escapist drinking. You may notice they are angry more at work or have reduced aspirations and don't seem to care anymore. They may self-harm or have low self-esteem.

Someone can be depressed, difficult to communicate with, they may have anxiety or be neurotic and unpredictable.

Perhaps they exhibit type-A behaviour

and they're over competitive, have to win and are always right. Their gift to you is they pass on their stress.

How many times do we agree to do things as course managers just to shut people up? That's a sign of stress.

Stress is a natural reaction, but when it comes to work, you learn to tolerate it to the detriment of your own health. So how can we cope with stress and stop that old brain overwhelming how we live our life?

There are strategies for coping and they involve taking control of your situation. Sadly, not everyone is capable of doing that and not every workplace is set up to do that.

The first potential solution is problem-orientated; where you deal with it at the source. The workplace needs to be set up to support those feeling stress and in many ways your employer has a legal duty to do that. Stress is a work-based hazard and there have been cases where stress has been identified as a source of illness and employees have won settlements. »



How should management work to reduce the six work-based stresses?

1. Demands

We've all struggled to cope with work demands. This relates to workload, planning and problems.

If the workload is the problem, look at resources, numbers and skill levels. If you haven't got the resources to deliver the product they want, you can't deliver it and it's unfair for that to be passed on to you.

When it comes to planning, management should consider what works. What are you doing well? Where can we improve and what can be prioritised?

It's amazing when you see a real management hierarchy in place. Questions are answered instantly and that de-stresses employees.

In golf we're really good at expecting more than the resources available to us can realistically produce. This is referred to as the 'expectation deficit'. The key to overcoming that is to promise low and deliver high. Don't promise the Earth, because you won't be able to deliver it and you might do yourself more damage in your attempts to.

I'm of the opinion that when we get our courses in incredible condition for a spring tournament, we're shooting ourselves in the foot. We all do it, instead of just saying 'this is what the course looks like' and preparing it to a sustainable level. There's no point pushing for two days a year at the start of the season, because all you do is disappoint your members for the rest of the year. We like doing it because we like to show that we can, but that just disappoints the members because 'you don't do it all the time'.

2. Control

Do you have control over your job?

Some of you will have and others won't. Unfortunately, some of you will have a general manager who thinks he's an agronomist and bosses you around.

The management standard for a well-run business is: empowerment; trust in people; and giving people responsibility. A manager should guide the business in one direction, rather than tell people who are qualified how to do their job.

Are you empowered? Lack of empowerment causes stress. Does the business have meetings and listen to people? Is there a two-way dialogue between the employer and employees? Are opinions encouraged?

I used to argue with my last deputy. I had so much respect for him and we would argue a lot because I really valued his opinion.

Is there appropriate consultation? Where you need help completing a task, have you got the courage and the honesty to put your hand up and say 'I need help'?

Do your employees have a path of progression in front of them? If someone is in a dead-end job it stresses them. If someone is particularly talented and they can't find a promotion, they just leave the industry and we end up with a reduced skill level. Not having a career path forces people away from a job they love towards something else.

If people feel unsafe in the workplace they feel stressed. Do you have a safety committee at work? Are we letting people know that we value them and we're interested in their opinion? When we have that information, do we act on it and provide a safe workplace?

Do you get to know your staff? That destresses the workplace because then they feel valued.

How many times do greenkeepers not get the praise they deserve? A good management standard is that we praise people, we say well done and we acknowledge people for their efforts. And you don't blame people for things that go wrong, particularly accidents. You can't blame someone for something they didn't mean to do.

All these things add up to de-stressing the workplace and making employees feel valued.

3. Support

When a problem arises, does the support structure exist? Perhaps machinery is breaking down or you're working with staff who aren't qualified or competent or quite as good as they should be. Is the support there and when you go to someone with a problem, do you get a rational response or do you get type-A behaviour?

Do managers have an open-door policy? Can you talk to them at any point and do they make time for you? Do you say that to your staff?

Crucially, is your problem followed through? Is it an exercise in hot air and paper pushing or is it followed through?



4. Relationships

I had some really poor relationships during my time as a course manager.

When there's a structure in place for managing relationships, they become much easier. That structure is your employment contract, within which there should be a complaints and grievance procedure.

Does your manager listen when you go to them with a conflict and do they investigate it? Is there a process in place for resolving conflict?

Good employers have conflict resolution written into their staff handbook. It should be embedded in the way the workplace runs.

Relationships are so important and it goes both ways. It's not just from your employer to you, it's also from you to your employer and from you to your subordinates.

The matter of integrity at a place of work is important. Is your employer confidential? If you say something to your employer will that stay with them or go around the clubhouse?

Trust is so important. Also important is a sense of parity,

with regards to whether everyone treated the same. People know when someone else is being favoured over them, they aren't idiots.

Does your employer admit when they've made a mistake? Do you admit when you make a mistake? If you've done something wrong, the best thing you can possibly do is apologise.

There is a 30% reduction in the follow up of complaints when people apologise. Does your employer apologise and admit mistakes?

Good employers have conflict resolution written into their handbook. It should be embedded in the way the workplace runs.

5. Roles

The management standard for de-stressing the workplace asks whether the role you are doing is well-defined?

I've worked with lots of golf clubs where the course manager is the course manager one year and the head greenkeeper the next.

In defining your role, do you know what your duties are and who you are accountable to? Are you managed respectfully?

Does your golf club lead from the front or do they just put work on you? Do they ensure you have the resources and everything you need to deliver the product they insist you deliver? Are they recognising when you need additional help?

I've no doubt that managing a big tournament is very stressful, but what we know for a fact is that extra help is needed if you're going to reach exceptional standards.

Finally, do managers take the flack when things go wrong or do they pass it down to the staff?

6. Change

This is significant in golf because you could have a new greens chairman or captain every year.

It's generally accepted that change in the workplace stresses people. When you're in private business, change doesn't happen that often because they need to have a consistent direction and a business plan. But we're in an industry where change can happen every year. We have to accept that's how it is, but things can be put in place that manage that.

Communication and keeping people informed is vital. »

We're in an industry where change can happen every year. We have to accept that's how it is...

If you are stressed, what can you do to help yourself?

We've looked at the problem-orientated responses, but let's look at the root cause to see if we can help you see beyond the fog of stress.

In the 'old' brain, thoughts create feelings, feelings create behaviour and behaviour influences thoughts. If we can intervene in that triangle by activating our new, 'civilised' brain, we can influence how we react to stressors. If you are able to remove the unreasonable elements from a stressor, you end up with something that's manageable.

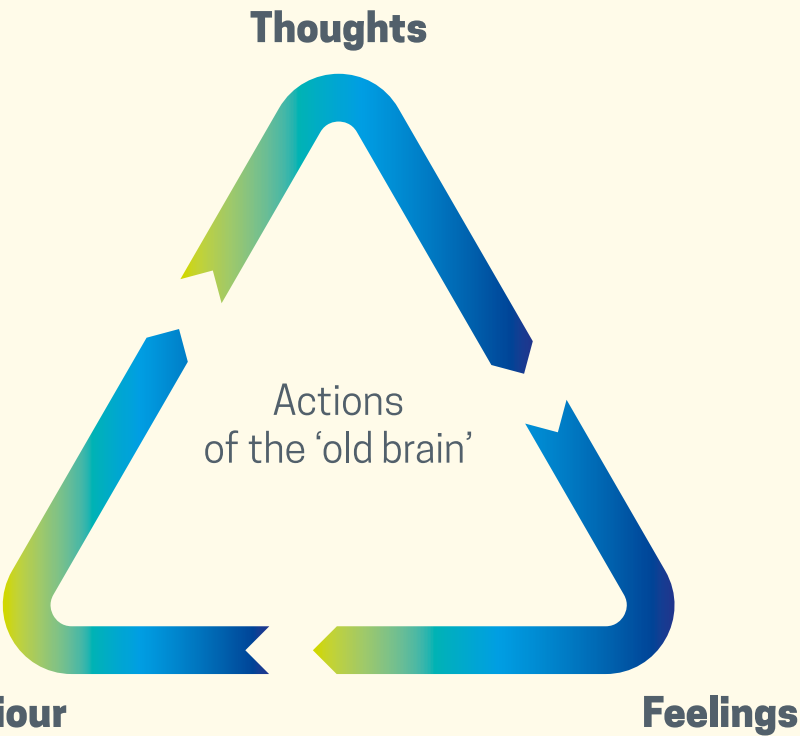
The way to success is by turning your brain around and changing how you react to stresses in the workplace.

Take criticism: we should welcome it. There's nothing wrong with constructive criticism and when you welcome it, you begin to rewire your brain.

Explain things in a rational way. Actually listen to what people say, rather than just waiting for your turn to speak.

Thank people when they speak to you and you'd be astonished at what happens next. If someone's criticising you and you're able to step back and say 'thank you, I hadn't thought of it that way, I'll go and rethink', they'll have nothing but respect for you. Always remember that they're coming at you from an angle of their own, caused by their own stressors. That angle may not be the same as yours, but they can both be right. If you understand that, you'll be able to find a compromise.

If someone criticises you, don't get defensive. Ask questions and find out why they feel that way. What would they do about it? You're asking them to expand



Behaviour

Feelings

on their opinion because it's very easy to say "the greens are terrible", but when you ask people what they would have done instead, you get them to expand on their point and so you learn more.

Keep responses simple and don't tell people things they don't need to know. They don't need to know about soil pH or water conductivity. Speak to people on a level they'll understand and don't baffle them with science because you gain nothing by that.

Always be positive, even about criticism. Don't let it get personal. If it gets personal, walk away. It's professionally unacceptable for things to get personal.

We are told that nerve damage is permanent. But in fact, it's now known that your brain is creating neurones all the time. You'll finish reading this with a different brain to the one you started with. You're joining neurones all the time. It's called learning.

When you change how you respond to things, after three months it becomes embedded. That means you're also capable of rewiring your brain to how you deal with stress.

Do you have a topic to discuss?

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

The BIGGA Excellence in Communication Awards are brought to you by



BARONESS[®]

IT IS ALL ABOUT THE QUALITY OF CUT

www.baronessuk.com



ACROSS THE BOARD

Colin Webber | BIGGA President | Portmore Golf Park

I was asked recently what it was like to become president of BIGGA.

The answer is it's totally and utterly surreal. I'm so honoured. Guys like me don't do things like this.

That's how I felt, but I've since been able to speak to my peers and they're as delighted as I am, especially the guys from Devon and Cornwall. My golf club is as grassroots as they come and people say that to see someone like me become president is just phenomenal.

Back in the summer of 2018, when I was first told I had been nominated to become the 2019 vice president and then 2020 president, I was having a very hard time. My dad had just died and I was struggling with mental health issues, as I had ever since having a stroke a few years before. So to be nominated by my peers for this role is incredibly humbling.

Going and chatting to people is something I've done for a long time.

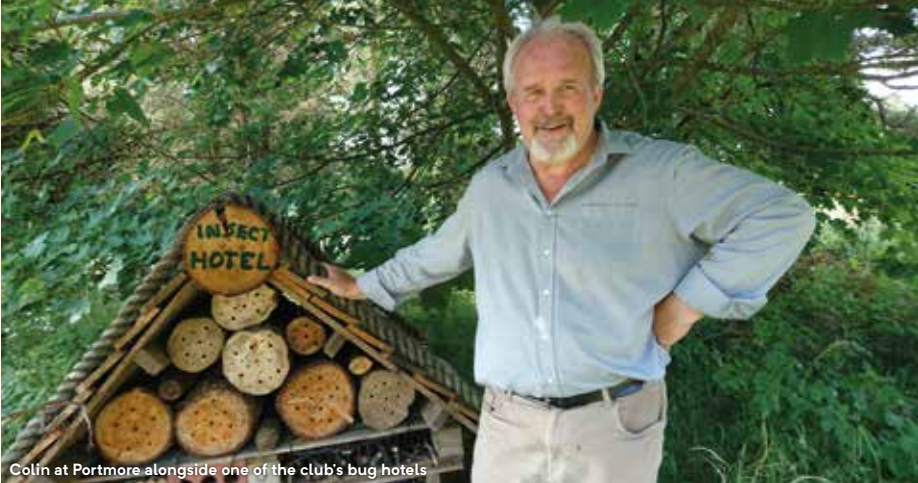
When you've been down a black hole, you're acutely aware of anyone else who is also in that. Just to have a relationship with someone where you can walk up to them, put your arm around them and say 'come on, let's have a chat', is one of the greatest things you can ever do.

In that sense, the network that BIGGA provides is brilliant.

Unfortunately, some golf clubs are really badly run and the bullying and intimidation of some committee members needs to stop. You get someone who thinks he knows everything about HR or running a course and there is no place for that lack of professionalism any more.

I've hated bullies all my life, so I'm not the right one to start being picked on.

One of the things that made me hesitant about taking on the role of president was the imprint I would make with all my travelling. Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas responsible for damaging the ozone layer and causing climate change, and I worked out that I



would generate around 4 tonnes of carbon just through fulfilling my obligations as president.

We have just extended our car park at Portmore and we planted a hedge around it. There's about 380m of hedge bank and I worked out that if I planted about 600 trees, that would offset my carbon footprint from being president. In total we're going to plant about 1,700 trees, so that should offset the carbon generated by BIGGA presidents for years to come.

Another thing I've done is the planting of a wildflower area right at the entrance to the golf club. That is something other clubs should think about doing as the boost to the business has been amazing. The seed cost about £800, but I bet it's been paid back six or seven times just in extra coffee and cake sales.

Make no mistake, we're a low end club at Portmore. In 2008, when the economy crashed, we lost 50% of our income, almost overnight. One thing I've learned is that financial stability is by far and away the most important part of any sustainability project. When the money man says 'stop spending', you should stop! It doesn't mean forever, it could be a temporary cash flow issue.

We started to look at every penny we were spending and it's amazing how

much you can reduce the amount of money that's going out of your business. You can literally turn the tap off.

We began rain water harvesting, using solar panels and recycling. I have two fewer wheelie bins than I used to have, just because we recycle so much.

But please don't get me confused with an eco-warrior, because that's one thing that I'm not. I'm really passionate about what we are doing to the planet, but do I go around hugging trees? No I don't.

But what we do is create a habitat where wildlife can grow and flourish.

There are parts of the golf course where you really don't need anything else there. We've got 11 lakes at Portmore and they're one of the best things we've ever done. We catch the water off the main road and use it for irrigation. We have different species of fish in the different lakes and there are some with no fish at all, where frogs and toads live.

It's just about using what you have to create habitats. Instead of building concrete walls as an entrance, we're now building bug hotels either side of the gates. It's something completely different and it's having a really good impact.

If you've got the right mindset, you'll find there are opportunities everywhere to make a positive impact.

HELPING US TO HELP YOU



BIGGA's Partner Programme aims to provide an array of career enhancing and defining opportunities for our members. Through their relationship with BIGGA, the leading companies in the industry are able to support our members through education, initiatives and awareness.



The support we receive from our Partners is critical in providing the significant series of benefits open to our members. Head to www.bigga.org.uk to find out more and to get involved.



BIGGA YOUNG GREENKEEPERS

Lyle Davidson | Deputy Head Greenkeeper | The Carrick on Loch Lomond



The association’s young greenkeepers embark on an exciting new beginning in 2020 as we look to create a fluid and more inclusive model that better represents the next generation of BIGGA.

With engagement at the forefront of our priorities, it is important to the group that we ensure that the products and services provided are relevant.

Throughout the years I've been involved in the industry it has looked at ways to demonstrate the professionalism of its members in progressing their careers. This has been undertaken through Continue to Learn, volunteering opportunities and other educational events during the year.

Initiatives such as FTMI or ‘So you want to be promoted’ fill voids in experience and that’s something the BIGGA Young Greenkeepers wish to help grow. With BTME only just in the rear-view mirror, we have looked at the development of the Young Greenkeepers Conference as a fantastic springboard to help us gain an insight into the wants and needs of the younger people in the industry and potential members.

We are extremely excited to follow the conference up on Thursday 5 March with our first designated Young Greenkeeper

STRI Day as the turf research group hosts sessions for us in its training rooms, laboratories and trial grounds, based in West Yorkshire. I'm looking forward to seeing new innovations and getting a behind the scenes look at managing the challenges of the future.

If you're interested, please get in touch as we'd love for you to join us. Further details are on page 16.

As part of the changes within BIGGA Young Greenkeepers, we have taken the decision to remove the formality of the committee structure and try to make a more dynamic and inviting culture that will help better represent what we are trying to achieve. This will hopefully encourage more people to get involved as it will allow for more flexibility. There are many benefits to being on a committee, but the idea of talking to a committee can be intimidating, whereas we want to remove people’s nervousness about getting involved.

When someone asked me to be on a committee, I had several questions. What do you want me to contribute? How much of my time is this going to take up?

And within the industry we all understand the negative connotations that come with committees.

But it is easy to make assumptions about others, leading to wrong conclusions and misunderstandings.

We want to promote a group that encourages discussions, ideas and opportunities and take the positives that this industry provides and tailor it to the needs of all members. This may be exploring new opportunities, such as online webinars that can fit around people’s busy schedules or looking at new ways to improve existing offerings.

We are open to any ideas, so please get in touch with Sandra Raper using sandra@bigga.co.uk

Going forwards, the group will have no chairman or designated positions, providing everyone who gets involved with the chance to develop their skills by hosting a meeting and sharing responsibilities. The level of commitment is down to the individual and what they would like to contribute.

So, the next time you find yourself assuming something of the Young Greenkeepers – even if it’s as simple as “Why aren’t they doing this?” – stop yourself and bring your question to us. Even if we confirm your assumption, you will have an informed understanding as a basis for further exploration and clarity.



Tough,
dependable,
and built
to last.



2 YEAR WARRANTY
AS STANDARD+
+ Conditions apply to 2nd year see dealer for details

RTV-X900: Highly capable and remarkably versatile

Whatever challenges the day brings, take them in your stride with the 21.6HP RTV-X900. Visit our website or talk to your dealer now to find out more about this RTV's incredible hill climbing power, class leading ground clearance and powerful towing/cargo capabilities (up to 500kg).

Contact your local dealer or visit our website for more details.
www.kubota.co.uk T: 01844 873190

For Earth, For Life

LOOKING AHEAD

BIGGA Young Greenkeepers on the road

Two education days are to be held in quick succession during March, with all young BIGGA members invited to take part.

On Tuesday 3 March, any BIGGA member aged 16 to 30 is invited to take part in the association's first BYG-exclusive education day at Blackwell.

The day will consist of interactive sessions and irrigation and machinery demonstrations.

Toro, ICL and Reesink Turfcare are all sponsoring the event, which will feature talks by ICL's Henry Bechelet and Syngenta's Glenn Kirby.

There will be a Toro

machinery demonstration and irrigation display by Reesink Turfcare, while Alex Brougham of Trentham Park and Ryan Neale of Blackwell will discuss career development and volunteering.

Former Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Danny Patten will then talk about the '10 minutes that changed his career'.

Call Ryan Neale on 07534 574 840 to book a place.


Two days later and the STRI has invited all young turf professionals to join them at the group's Bingley St Ives headquarters.

The free event will involve

a tour of laboratories and practical demonstrations, a tour of the trials ground, a virtual reality demonstration and a presentation on achieving tournament standards.

Accommodation is available on 4 March for £36 for a shared room.


To book a place, email your name and golf course to Sandra Raper using sandra@bigga.co.uk



Danny Patten will be among the speakers at the education day

Don't miss out

Download the BIGGA App or scan the QR code to see all the latest events in your area



Welcome new members

- Scotland & Northern Ireland**

Kevin Hunter, Faughan, GK; Craig Girdwood, Southernness, GK; Ian Butcher, SRUC (Elmwood), A; Jack Balfour, Bothwell Castle, GK; John Inglis, Boat of Garten, AGK; Kenneth Morgan, Trump Turnberry, DHGK
- Northern**

Adam Waite, Howley Hall, APP; Benjamin Lowery, Brough, GK; Daniel Hill, Keighley, APP; Dean Glover, Royal Lytham and St Annes, AGK; Joe Turner, Howley Hall, APP; Lee Evans, Chesterfield, AGK; Mark Kay, Preston, GK; Stephen Prinn, Steve Prinn Independent Assessor, CA; Wayne Melles, Brancepeth Castle, AGK

- Central England**

Alex Hudson, Kedleston Park, AGK; Arron Wolden, Kedleston Park, AGK; George Ramage, Kirtlington, APP; Harry Turner, Tydd St Giles, APP; Jack Dorrell, Enville, APP; Jean-Paul Bowers, Belton Woods, GK; Joshua Wilks-Hanley, Witney Lakes, APP; Matt Haynes, Newark, GK; Myles Wright, Kedleston Park Golf Club, AGK; Neil Brogden, Oswestry, A; Zac Room, Market Rasen, AGK;

- South East**

Benjamin Brown, Silvermere, AGK; Billy Harvey, Costessey Park, APP; Billy Bull, Royal Mid-Surrey, AGK; Christopher Norris, Silvermere, GK; Daniel Whyman, Diss, AGK; Gavin Acklan, Worthing, GK; George Jones, Gerrards Cross, AGK; Jimmy Holmes, Bourn, GK; Keith Fortt, Fairtop Waters, APP; Luke Moore, Ipswich, APP; Matthew Wright, Sandy Lodge, AGK; Matthew West, Silvermere, DCM; Nathan Wolfe, The London, GK; Robert Scullard, Dartford, DCM; Sam Moss, Weybrook Park, CM; Steven Peet, Diss, A; Steven Lewington, Sheffield Oaks, GK; Tom King, Royal Mid-Surrey, AGK

- South West & South Wales**

Jamie Ninnis, Tavistock, APP; Simon Lang, Long Ashton, AGK; Simon Kirwan, Stoneham, AGK; Tom Hicks, Clevedon, APP

- International**

Coley Penrose, Sankaty Head; Graham Blum, North Haven; Jose Tomas, Agullo, Lumine Golf; Kory Kopko, Turf Care Products; Simon Brown, Pitchfix / Mitchgolf

Get involved with a BIGGA event near you

National

- 1 BIGGA Young Greenkeepers Education Day**
Date: 3 March
Location: Blackwell GC
- 2 STRI BIGGA Young Greenkeepers Education Day**
Date: 5 March
Location: STRI, Bingley St Ives

Scotland and Northern Ireland

- 1 BIGGA Scotland Golf Industry Conference**
Date: 3 March
Location: Dunblane Doubletree Hotel, Dunblane
- 2 Indigrow Roadshow**
Date: 18 March
Location: Drumpellier GC

Northern

- 1 North Wales Seminar**
Date: 19 February
Location: Conwy GC

- 2 North West Conference**
Date: 26 February
Location: Leyland GC
- 3 Cleveland Section Education Day**
Date: 9 March
Location: Middlesbrough GC
- 4 Indigrow Roadshow**
Date: 17 March
Location: Abergele GC
- 5 Indigrow Roadshow**
Date: 19 March
Location: Ravensworth GC

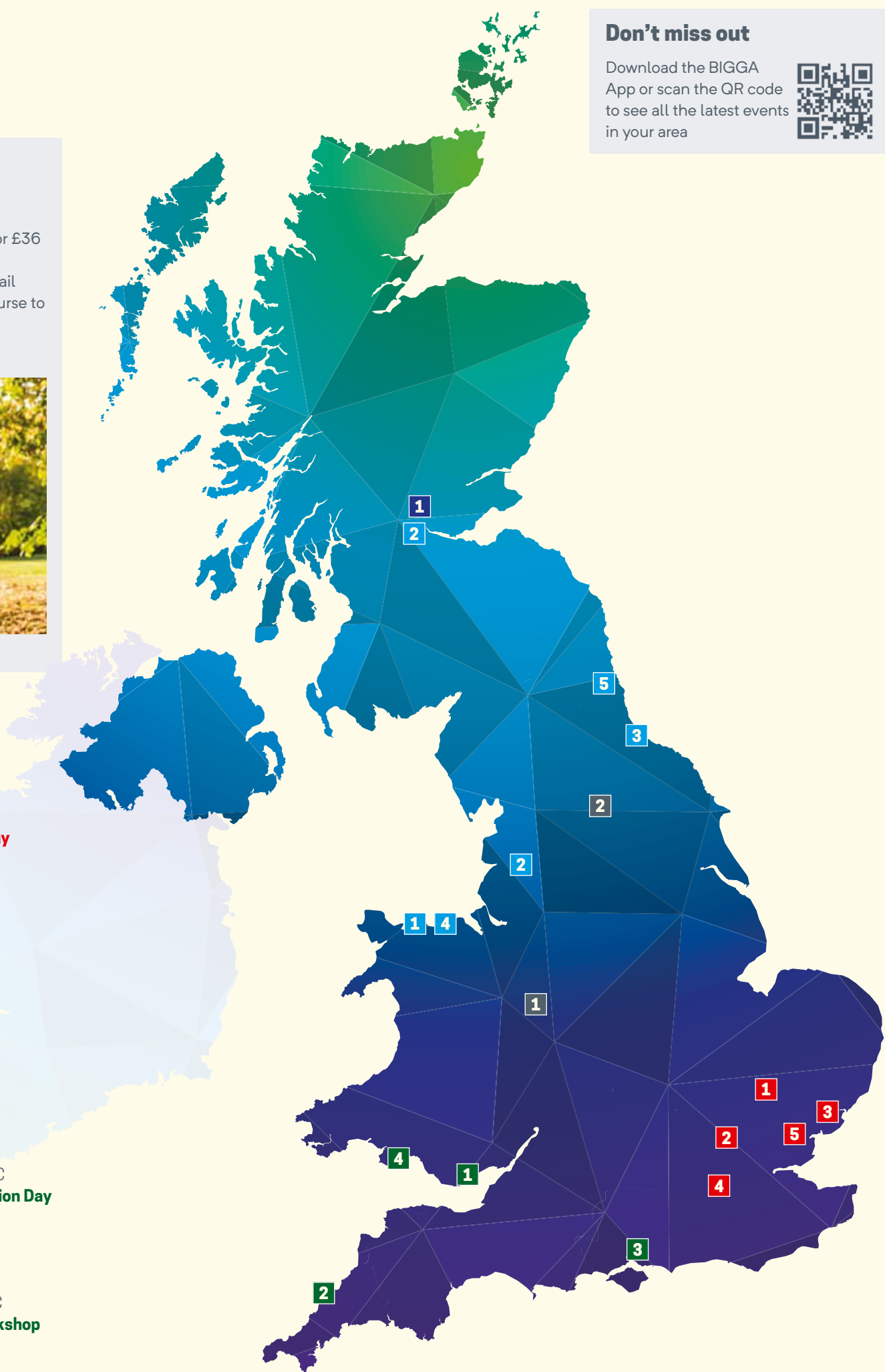
South East

- 1 Essex Section Education Day**
Date: 11 February
Location: Bernhard Academy, Haverhill
- 2 London Section Seminar**
Date: 18 February
Location: Oaklands College, St Albans
- 3 East Anglia Section Cutting Unit Maintenance Day**
Date: 26 February
Location: Ipswich GC

- 4 Regional Golf and Dinner Day**
Date: 6 March
Location: Walton Heath GC
- 5 Essex Section Education Mower Maintenance**
Date: 10 March
Location: Ernest Doe, Ulting, Essex
- 6 London Section Seminar**
Date: 18 March
Location: TBC

South West and South Wales

- 1 South Wales Turf Club**
Date: 11 February
Location: Glamorganishire GC
- 2 Devon and Cornwall Education Day**
Date: 20 February
Location: St Enodoc GC
- 3 South Coast Seminar**
Date: 25 March
Location: Boundary Lakes GC
- 4 South Wales Irrigation Workshop**
Date: 31 March
Location: Pennard GC



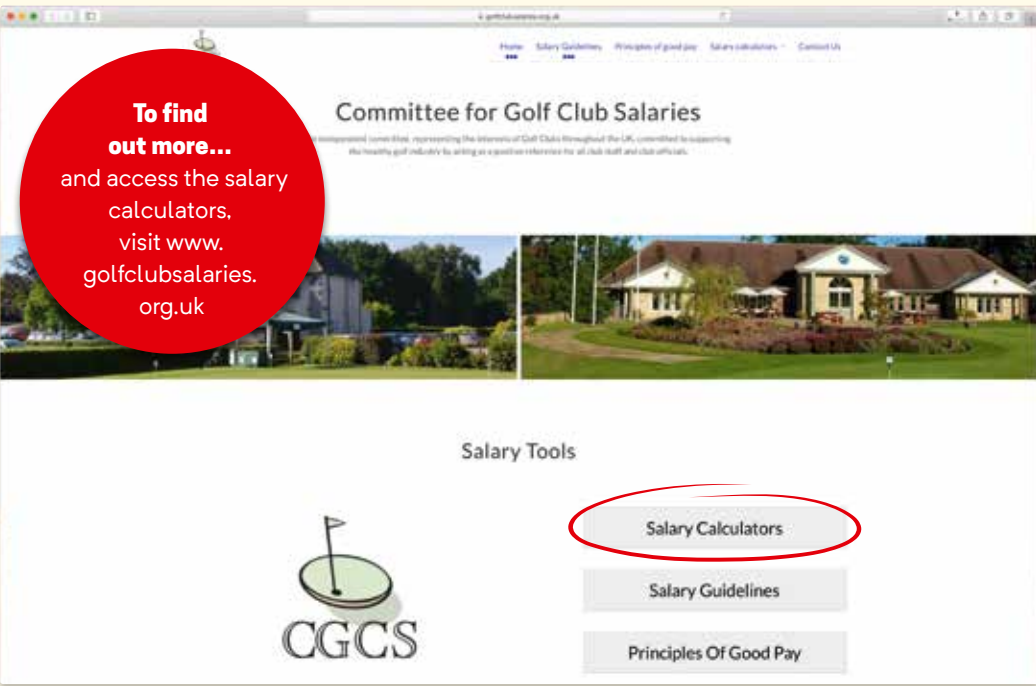
A	Affiliate Member	FA	First Assistant
AGK	Assistant Greenkeeper	GK	Greenkeeper
		G	Groundsperson
AHG	Assistant Head Groundsperson	HGK	Head Greenkeeper
APP	Apprentice	HG	Head Groundsperson
CA	College Assessor	I	International Member
CM	Course Manager	L	Life Member
DCM	Deputy Course Manager	M	Mechanic
DHGK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

How much should you be earning?

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries has announced it has made its biggest change since first being established in 1997.

Under the chairmanship of Eddie Bullock, the committee has moved away from the previously published annual salary recommendations. In its place, the committee has launched an online salary calculator system, which you can access to discover the official salary rates for your job role or for members of your team.

BIGGA's head of membership services, Tracey Maddison, said: "This was an original idea brought to the CGCS by Cameron Dawson, a former national captain of the GCMA and member of the CGCS. With input from both the GCMA and BIGGA, the



salary calculators have evolved into excellent tools that properly recognise the factors that go into determining salaries for greenkeepers and

club managers.

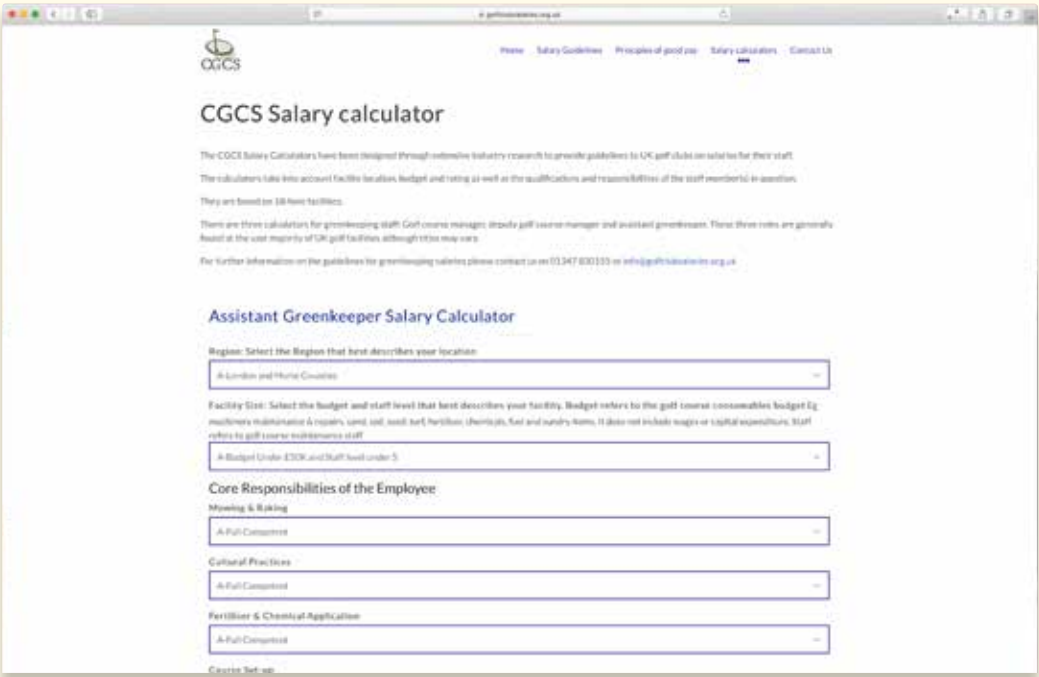
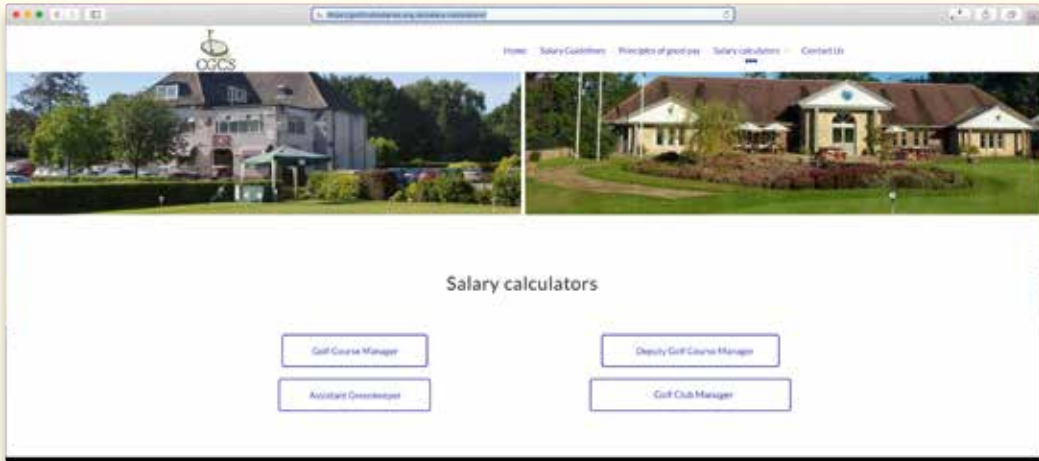
"The CGCS is delighted to finally launch them to the industry and we hope they are adopted as a matter of

urgency."

The salary calculators were established after substantial industry consultation with separate tools for course manager, deputy course manager, assistant greenkeeper and golf club manager roles.

They consider facility, location, budget and rating, as well as the qualifications and responsibilities of the staff members in question. The calculators are based on 18-hole facilities to produce bespoke and robust recommended salaries.

To access the salary calculators, visit www.golfclubsalaries.org.uk and either select 'Salary



calculators' from the option across the menu at the top of the page or scroll down to 'Salary Tools' and click on the box that says 'Salary Calculators', then choose the appropriate option. Although there are many job titles for workers on golf courses, there are three basic job types: greenkeeper, supervisor and manager. Some clubs may wish to continue to retain traditional job titles, such as first assistant, deputy head greenkeeper or deputy course manager. However, for the purposes of the calculator, these fall into the supervisor category. Similarly, head greenkeepers or golf course managers both fall under the manager category.

The calculators will be updated each year to match

“ The CGCS firmly believes that valued professional staff members are critical for golf clubs to perform.

changes in salary and to accommodate any appropriate changes to structure due to industry evolution and regulatory issues.

Tracey added: "The CGCS firmly believes that valued professional staff members are critical for golf clubs to perform. Many clubs have

already recognised the benefits of an engaged, motivated workforce, equipping key members of staff with the essential skills needed to set the golf club up for long term success. Membership of BIGGA or the GCMA can help provide greenkeepers and golf club managers with the necessary skills to help clubs achieve their goals."

For more information on the guidelines for greenkeeping salaries, head to golfclubsalaries.org.uk, call 01347 830 155 or email info@golfclubsalaries.org.uk

Scan the QR code to visit the website



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



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



Rachael Duffy
Membership Events Manager
rachael@bigga.co.uk



Gil Mason
Membership Administrator
gil@bigga.co.uk

To contact the Membership Team call 01347 833 800 and select (option 1)

Full Members Personal Accident Helpline
0113 393 6300

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0333 000 2082

Human Resources (HR) Helpline
0330 332 2636
BIGGAmembers@xactgroup.co.uk

SHAPE THE FUTURE AT BTME

Would you like to present at Continue to Learn 2021?

With BTME and Continue to Learn 2020 under our belts, planning for next year's programme is already well underway.

Each year Continue to Learn grows exponentially, covering a broad spectrum of topics and providing essential education for today's greenkeepers.

With over 250 hours of education and more than 90 of the industry's most engaging speakers covering topics such as; Implementing Stretchy Thinking, Being an effective deputy, Irrigation design, Identifying and managing turf diseases and golf course photography, there was something for everyone.

Sami Strutt, head of member development at BIGGA said "We are delighted with how Continue to Learn 2020 was received. We've had very positive feedback and the delegates thoroughly



BIGGA's Continue to Learn Team (left to right): Rachael Duffy, Elaine Jones, Deb Burnett, Alice Reeves, Sami Strutt, Jackie Sedgwick, Emma Duncan Moorwood and Ella Strutt were all on hand to assist the delegates

“...With a diverse audience, we try to ensure that there is something for everyone and we feel that we did achieve that this year.

enjoyed the variety of subjects and speakers that featured on this year's programme.

“With a diverse audience, we try to ensure there is something for everyone and we feel we did achieve that this year.

“Continue to Learn 2021 is already on the horizon. We welcome everyone to put forward a Proposal to Present or to contact us with ideas for subjects or speakers that particularly interest them. The Members Choice survey will once again help us to shape the programme, enabling us to deliver a programme that truly reflects what our members want to learn.”


Now we want your input on the programme for 2021.


If you would like to share your knowledge through workshops, seminars or other events please submit your proposal by visiting the BIGGA website or scanning the QR code.


Proposals will then be put forward to the BIGGA membership who will have the opportunity to choose which topics they would like to see. The proposals that receive the most votes will be included in the 2021 Continue to Learn education programme.


The closing date for submissions is 16 March 2020.



- 

Sami Strutt
Head of Member Development
sami@bigga.co.uk
- 

Stuart Green
Head of Member Learning
stuart@bigga.co.uk
- 

Deb Burnett
Special Projects Manager & PA to the CEO
deb@bigga.co.uk
- 

Jackie Sedgwick
Events Administrator
jackie@bigga.co.uk

To contact the Learning & Development Team call 01347 833 800 and select (option 3)




- 

Fiona Lyttle
Manager
01347 838 640
fiona@the-gtc.co.uk
- 

Emma Willis
Administrator
01347 838 640
emma@the-gtc.co.uk

www.the-gtc.co.uk

 /greenkeepers trainingcommittee

 @TheOfficialGTC

Scan the QR code to submit your proposal





BIGGA
CPD Continuing Professional Development

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

Les Howkins MG, The Richmond; Shaun Quinn, Colmworth; Craig Potts, Shirley; Anthony Girardi MG, Rockrimmon; Derek Grendowicz, Raevo; Will Curran, Beaverbrook; Samuel Amey, Basingstoke; David Edmondson, The Island Golf Club; Benjamin Williams, Royal Cinque Ports; Thomas Bird, Sutton Coldfield; James Bledge, Royal Cinque Ports; Simon Olver, Whitley Bay

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

Les Howkins MG, The Richmond; Andrew Wilson, Whitecraigs; Lee Carratt, Belton Park



How to CPD

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

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

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

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



Your club's most valuable asset is you

BIGGA members have access to free human resources help and advice to make your workplace a more professional and positive environment. Our advisors can help from the very early stages through to the conclusion of the matter with unlimited telephone and email advice available.

For further information and to contact the service email BIGGAmembers@xactgroup.co.uk Alternatively, call 0330 332 2636.



FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

BIGGA's Learning & Development Fund supports a vast array of educational opportunities for BIGGA members. From subsidies, scholarships and refunds of fees to seminars, workshops and conferences, the funds generated by BIGGA Education Supporters improve education in the greenkeeping industry every single day. We ask BIGGA members to continue to support those companies that are committed to supporting you on your career journey.



















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

The camera guys

Why photography is a major part of the Camberley Heath culture
Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Camberley Heath is a perennial favourite on BIGGA’s photographic calendar.

The Surrey venue is a fixture within England’s Top 100 courses and the mixture of heathland and parkland, coupled with photogenic water features and a mild southern climate make it among the most picturesque courses in the country.

Ross Jones, 34, has been at Camberley Heath

for four years. Prior to that he had a spell at Beaverbrook during the final stage of construction. He began his career at Worldham and also spent four years at Wentworth and a year working in the United States. He was head greenkeeper at Billingbear Park before joining Camberley Heath as deputy, where he was then promoted to course manager within two years. »

Photograph taken by Aidan Wright, greenkeeper, Camberley Heath

GI: You were head greenkeeper at Billingbear Park but chose to take a step backwards when joining Camberley Heath as deputy. Was that a calculated risk that you hoped would pay off in your career?

“It was a step back in terms of the position, but upwards in prestige of the course. I like traditional clubs like Camberley Heath, where it’s got a good heritage, good resources and a larger team. The deputy role felt like a similar role to the one I was doing at Billingbear Park because I was involved in the day-to-day running of the course. I had the vision to eventually get this role, but not within the first two years. “I’ve been doing a lot of learning over the last year.”

GI: How did the team react as you made the transition from deputy to course manager, after only being here a relatively short time?

“I don’t think there should be a big divide between management and the staff, so I still consider myself part of the team. You spend so much time with these guys that you’re almost like a mini family. As course manager, you really have to involve yourself with them as much as you can and keep them updated with everything the club is doing, so they’re a part of it. If people do something wrong, they’ll know about it, but for the most part you’ve got to operate as one unit. I’ve got a good deputy and he thinks the same way, which helps. “The first couple of weeks I sat everyone down and asked the team about things they would like to see improve, such as efficiency. Their opinion is as key as mine. I can have an overall say and opinion, but they’re the ones that have to implement it, so you should listen to the guys that do the job.”



Ross Jones became course manager within two years of joining the team at Camberley Heath

GI: You appointed internally when you became course manager, essentially moving everyone up a stage, so obviously you saw the talent that was available to you. But you were initially brought in externally. Did that cause any disruption to the team dynamic?

“One of the most difficult things to do is come into an existing team, with people who have been there a long time. When you are a new guy coming in and you have to tell them what to do, it is tricky. But you’ve got to stick it out and believe in yourself and that what you’re doing is correct. In time you’ll prove yourself and they’ll come

around, but it does take time. “I got my first deputy role at Tylney Park when I was 21 and to be honest I was probably too young. I went in there and it was a small team, but there were some older guys who had been there 20 years and that was one of the toughest points of my career. If the head man went away and I was in charge for a week, getting those guys on board was very tough, especially at that age. But that’s set me in good stead for now. “You’ve got to try and connect with people by being a chameleon. You’ve got to be able to get on with everybody and see things from their point of view, but also justify things you want to do. How

they react to you is a reflection on their personality and they have to respect the role.”

GI: For the second year in a row, images of Camberley Heath were chosen by BIGGA members for inclusion in the BIGGA desktop calendar. It’s a stunning piece of land. Is that something you’re aware of and try to enhance, or does it just happen?

“I think the advantage we have here is that the land is very undulating and we have a lot of high tees. You naturally find yourself drawn to these areas and it’s a very picturesque course. We have done some work to remove trees and open up the views. You look back at historic pictures and there weren’t many trees because it’s a heathland area. We’re trying to open those areas up so you can see the visual aspect of the course. “I always say to the guys that everyone gets caught up in the pressures of the morning of getting things done ahead of golf, but you really have got to take the time to stop and look back at what you’ve done. That’s

where you get your motivation from and it’s good to see the team taking photographs and posting them online or submitting them for the photographic competition. For me that shows an appreciation of what they’re doing and an enjoyment of the job. “Taking photographs also helps us keep a track of what we’ve been doing. The alterations to the course are so long term that you just get used to them. But then you look back at old pictures and you realise what a massive change you’ve brought about, so photographs really are key. “Our lake isn’t strictly a feature of Harry Colt courses and it was built much later. But when it’s being selected for inclusion in photographic calendars, you can’t exactly get rid of it!”

GI: Do the photographs your team post on social media help to build a better relationship with your members?

“Actually, one thing I’ve noticed on Twitter is people putting up their worst pictures, or images of drought or disease around the course. I



Charley Lacey’s entry into the 2019 BIGGA photographic competition shows a frosty morning set up on the 7th green

“You have got to take the time to stop and look back at what you’ve done

think you can get a false expectation of a club if every picture you post is calendar-worthy and so I think it’s good to put up some realistic ones every now and

then. Even during the drought in 2018, it didn’t matter whether you were a high-end club or not because it affected everyone and images on social media brought people together. “I’ve been greenkeeping for 17 years and when I first started, no one would speak between clubs. It was all closed doors and it was very competitive. Now, you’re talking to each other and getting advice off each other and it’s brilliant. Social media

is great because you can post a picture asking for advice and everyone seems to be happy to help. The culture has changed, whether that’s down to climate issues, chemical bans or the job just getting harder. But I think these days there’s a bit more of an inclination within the whole industry to help each other out, rather than compete against each other. For example, I sent my mechanic out to another course to help them fix a machine, when I »



Heather is more valuable to the heathland course than pine trees and the local council understands that.



The 17th fairway suffered from drought in 2018



By May 2019 it was well on the way to a full recovery



IN THE SHED

The Team

- / Ross Jones, course manager
- / Craig Sinclair, mechanic
- / Jordan Belony, greenkeeper
- / Chris Eggleston, greenkeeper
- / Charlie Lacey, greenkeeper
- / Trevor Lewis, greenkeeper
- / Aidan Wright, greenkeeper
- / Jonathon Mann, apprentice

saw on social media that they needed help.

“That’s why it’s sometimes a shame that the larger clubs have bans on social media where staff aren’t allowed to comment, because they have so much expertise that they aren’t able to share.”

GI: You mentioned how tree-lined you are now. How many of the trees are you looking to remove to restore the heathland characteristics?

“The issue we have is the whole course is protected by a Tree Preservation Order. It’s a bit of a headache, but we have a good relationship with the council regarding the trees.

“They see we do surveys and keep things as good as possible from a safety point of view, which is important when there are houses around the whole course.

“We take the approach with any woodland management we do that we’re going down the natural heathland route.

Heather’s more valuable than pine trees and the council understands that. When you look back at the heritage of the club, it’s all open heathland.

“They can see the direction we want to go and they’re happy for us to remove trees in certain areas, as long as it’s justified and we replenish the boundaries with pine trees.

“We have a heathland programme that we follow. The issue with anything like that is it’s a long, arduous process, and to get buy-in

from the committee you have to show improvement, which takes time. We only scrape a few out-of-play areas because the members here aren’t keen on the aesthetics. It’s a slow process but the members can see that it’s working. As long as it doesn’t overly affect the playability of the course, they’re happy for us to proceed with it.”

Continue the conversation:

@CamberleyCM

How to take good golf course photographs

1. Notice the light.

Sunrise or sunset are best as they cast shadows across the course and provide contrast and contours that are otherwise hidden when the sun is overhead. But these aren’t the only times when you can take good photographs, so be aware of the light at all times, including when the weather is changing




2. Provide a focal point for your photograph.

On the golf course, this will almost certainly be the flag. If there’s a certain hole you want to capture, walk in a circle around the green until you find the best background to the flag, where the light is just right




3. Use height.

By taking a picture from as high as possible, the entire hole will open up before you and you’ll see the shape of bunkers and greens better than at ground level. Use a ladder, climb a hill or, best of all, invest in a drone.




4. Take lots of images.

If you snap one photograph you may be lucky, but more likely the flag will be folded up so you can’t see your club logo. Take loads of images and you’ll have more to work with. This goes for different images around the course — keep snapping and you’ll have a better selection.



5. Use filters within reason.

Filters on Instagram or even professional photo editing are really useful tools. Every professional photographer does it to elevate their images, so you should too. But be careful not to over-process. You want to provide a realistic image of the course, not one with luminous green grass or completely divot-free fairways.



**12 GREENKEEPERS.
900 MEMBERS.
500 ACRES.
45 HOLES.
STIHL LIFE.**

Hard work is par for the course in maintaining Warwickshire Golf Club. But STIHL’s professional range of petrol and cordless tools provides everything the Grounds Team needs to get the job done right.

Built to make the toughest jobs as easy as possible, whilst being reliable and robust, you can count on STIHL tools whenever you need to use them.

With brushcutters, hedge trimmers, chainsaws and more, whatever challenges your team come up against, the STIHL professional range helps you achieve the perfect finish.

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL STIHL DEALER.
[STIHL.CO.UK](https://www.stihl.co.uk)



MEET THE OTHER JIM MCKENZIE

Lamlash Golf Club
Karl Hansell, BIGGA

There are two Jim McKenzies among BIGGA’s membership and their careers have taken them in very different directions.

One has ‘MBE’ attached to the end of his name, having hosted the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor Resort in 2010. He’s responsible for the maintenance of the grounds of a billion-pound empire including three world class golf courses.

The other is head greenkeeper at Lamlash on the

Isle of Arran, where during winter you can play all day by sticking £15 in the honesty box.

This Jim originally hails from Stewarton in Ayrshire, Essex, when he saw the job advertised at Lamlash. He packed up his life and his English wife and moved to the island, where they’ve lived for 25 years.

“Life is quiet here compared to the mainland,” said Jim, 58. “Put it this way, you don’t need to lock your »



Lamlash Golf Club

Jim McKenzie has been the head greenkeeper at Lamlash for 25 years

IN THE
SHED



The Team

- / Jim McKenzie,
head greenkeeper
- / Ryan Armstrong,
greenkeeper

The Equipment

- / Toro 3200D Triple
(1997)
- / 2x John Deere 220A
hand mowers (1999
and 2002)
- / GreenTek thatch-away
cassettes, Poa buster
units, topdressing
brushes (2007)
- / Second hand John
Deere 2653A Triple
(2008)
- / Toro 3200D no2 (1999)
- / 2x second hand
Ransomes Marquis 51
(2005)
- / John Deere 3235C-S
(2012)
- / Ex-demo John Deere
7400 (2015)
- / Ransomes Hyd 3)
- / John Deere 4520
(2005)
- / Ford 2120 with front
loader (1996)
- / Second hand John
Deere Gator (2012)
- / Charterhouse
Verti-Drain (2000)
- / Charterhouse Fairway
Slitter (1998)
- / Richard Long
Flexispread (2001)
- / Second hand Hardi
300L Boomsprayer
(2014)
- / Scout sprayer 60L
(2007)
- / Soil screen (2017)
- / Second hand John
Deere 2500E (2014)



car or lock your doors. In the summer months when it gets busier there's a lot more happening as there's a lot of holiday homes here. There's a ferry that takes an hour to get to the island and they always say it slows you down to the pace of life on Arran."

Jim maintains the 18-hole, par-64 course with the help of Ryan Armstrong, a qualified greenkeeper. The course measures just 4,510m, with 7,400m² of greens. It's a very small team, but with just 5,000 people calling Arran home, there's not much scope for expanding, even if Jim had the budget to do so.

"It used to be much easier to get staff," said Jim, who has been at the club 24 years. "But now it's getting a wee bit more difficult. It's difficult to get the younger generation interested in golf and many courses don't even have

“There’s a ferry that takes an hour and they say it slows you down to the pace of life on Arran

apprentices anymore.”

Lamblash is over 100 years old and has tight, intricate fairways, maintained by a fleet of John Deere machinery, like everyone on the island.

"We all use John Deere as Nairn Brown, which is based in Glasgow, brings over a mechanic and a rep to Arran every few months and goes around all the courses. That's the main reason why we have

those machines instead of anything else, because if we need parts or repairs, we can get them quicker from John Deere."

The arrangement means support for machinery is available, but purchasing materials off the mainland is another matter. With a maintenance budget of just £24,000, Jim has to keep an eye on spending. Twenty tonnes of topdressing may cost £400, but it then costs another £600 for the transport to get it there.

"We try to work with everything we have on the island," said Jim. "We can just about get some gravel over here, but most of the stuff we have no choice but to bring in.

"Fuel is quite expensive and we pay £1.40 per litre of petrol. When it comes to chemicals, we try to use as little as possible. We use fertilisers, but chemical wise we use the odd selective weedkiller, but that's about all.

"Our members have no idea about how much it costs to bring in the resources to maintain the course, but they do take notice if the fees go up. It costs about £380 to be a member here, but we do have a reciprocal arrangement with other clubs during the winter, as it gets quite wet here so members will go and play at another club that is drier."



The view across the course at Lamblash



agrovista
amenity



Introducing Agrovista Amenity

Your modern, technical
approach to professional turf
care and amenity solutions.



T: 0115 939 0202

E: enquiries@agrovista.co.uk

www.agrovista.co.uk/amenity

growing through
innovation

HOW TO TRAIN EFFECTIVELY

Are you working to the best of your ability?

Andy Wight, Oaklands College

To get the most out of staff training, it is worth putting a structure in place. That way you'll be able to ensure all the boxes are ticked.

- Training is a process that can be broken down into five stages:
- / Analysis — why is the training needed and what should it include?
 - / Design — design a programme that covers the above needs
 - / Development — create your training materials and manuals for the instructor and trainee
 - / Implementation — test out the training programme
 - / Evaluation — how did the training go? Did it have the required results? Did you miss anything?

Let's use the example of learning to mow a golf green to develop a mock training plan.

Analysis

- What might you want to include in your training?
- / The safety of the operator and others and laws involved. The need to protect yourself and others. The Noise at Work Act and need to protect hearing and issues surrounding hearing damage. PUWER and the need to ensure machine is safe for use.
 - / An introduction to the machine with the manual
 - / An introduction to the machine to cover hazards

- (blades etc) and checks (oil, fuel etc)
- / How to transport it. Hazards involved in transport and routes used (risks from golfers etc)
- / How to cut the green
- / What to do when things go wrong (oil leaks)
- / Cleaning and storing the mower and record keeping

Design

At this point the above analysis is used to create a training plan that can be followed by both the trainer and the



Working through the training plan ensures everyone understands correct mowing practices.

trainee.

Development

Experienced operators should have an input at this stage. The aim is to create a written training plan that identifies the tasks the candidate should be competent at and the knowledge they should have. There must be a checklist that can be used to illustrate this and a set of questions to test whether they have the level of knowledge required. Often knowledge can be demonstrated by doing a task, such as completing pre-start checks before use.

Implementation

Completing the training with the learner.

Evaluation

The training is evaluated by looking at the competence of the trainee. Can they carry out the task? Do they have the required knowledge? Has anything been

missed from the training plan?

Once a training plan and competence checklist are developed, they should be constantly reviewed for changes in equipment and work practices. A good training system has a number of benefits, including:

1. Produces a higher quality golf course
2. Reduces injuries

3. Reduces costs
4. Reduces damage to equipment and the course
5. Improves motivation and professional pride in staff
6. Protects the course manager in terms of legal duties to ensure staff are trained in the use of equipment.



Training can help ensure a high quality course

EXAMPLE TRAINING PLAN FOR MOWING GREENS.

The trainer must follow this training plan to ensure the trainee is trained and becomes competent in the following tasks:

1. Introduction to H&S legislation (HASAWA, PUWER, NAWR, PPEAWR) must be explained and understood.
2. Introduction to machine with handbook and risks of using the machine (blades etc) must be explained and understood.
3. Pre-use checks must be explained and understood.
4. Starting procedure must be explained and understood.
5. How to transport mower and routes, hazards involved in transport and routes used (risks from golfer etc.) must be explained and understood.
6. Procedure used to cut the green; checks to surface, how to cut, turn mower, flag removal and replacement, checks to green before/after mowing (initial operation will take place on a practice area under supervision again looking at hazards on the job). All the above must be explained and understood.

7. What to do when things go wrong (oil leaks etc.). Identification of mowing problems must be explained and understood.
8. Cleaning and storing the mower and record keeping must be explained and understood.
9. After the training has taken place competence (the ability to carry out the task) must be checked and confirmed. For this purpose a competence check list might be used. Once competence has been demonstrated both the trainer and the trainee should sign the training plan and a copy should be maintained as proof of training. Such documents can be very useful if accidents occur and claims of lack of training are made as contributing to the accident. Below is a very simple example of a competence checklist.

Competence check for mowing greens.

The trainer must ensure the trainee has gained the following skills and knowledge before he/she is signed off as competent to carry out this task

- without supervision.
- Skill competences to be demonstrated.
- / Able to select correct PPE for task
 - / Able to carry out Pre-use checks
 - / Able to carry out starting procedure
 - / Able to transport mower around the course
 - / Able to correctly and safely cut golf greens
 - / Able to correctly clean and store the mower
 - / Able to complete records correctly after use

Knowledge required.

- / Knows implications of H&S legislation (HASAWA, PUWER, NAWR, PPEAWR)
- / Knows risks involved e.g. cuts to hands/feet, noise, ball strike etc. and how to deal with these
- / Knows correct routes used (risks from golfer etc.)

Trials throw light on managing shade

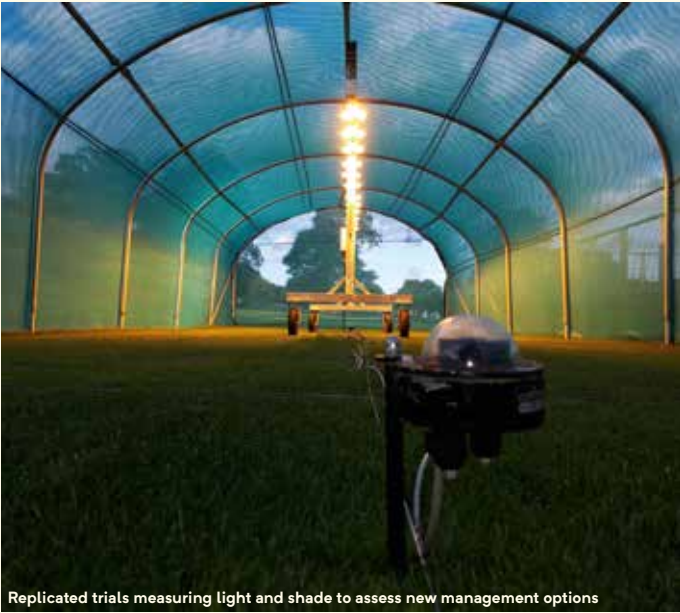
Results of new research, commissioned by Syngenta and ICL and undertaken by independent turf scientists at STRI in Yorkshire, has provided a valuable insight into the most effective use of growth regulators and nutrition to manage turf in low-light winter conditions, along with the use of supplementary lighting.

Artificial lighting has been one of the biggest technological changes and pitch investments for many sports clubs/stadia in the past decade. Its use has been widely recognised to counter shady stadium light and to maintain sward density and surface quality through low growth conditions. More recently, new advances have extended the technology's potential out onto golf courses, through transportable lighting rigs and new light sources.

But the science behind integrating lighting innovation into agronomy and turf

management programmes has been lagging behind the speed of adoption.

The trials demonstrated clear physiological differences for shaded turf supported by supplementary lighting, even at just eight hours per day. Primo Maxx II applications provided significantly greater turf quality, improved turf colour and reduced growth.



Replicated trials measuring light and shade to assess new management options

They have also given new indications on appropriate rates and timing for use under lights and low light conditions.

Replicated trials

A purpose built shade structure was designed and constructed at STRI Bingley, incorporating lighting rigs utilising high pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs, with the light spectrum selected to optimise plant growth.

The fully replicated STRI trial treatments compared Primo Maxx II at seven-day application interval, at an initial rate of 0.7 l/ha, and at 21-day interval at a rate of 2.1 l/ha for the first phase of the trial. Further treatments trialed tank mixes of the seaweed-based, WSF Seamax, with Vitalnova Blade.

Alongside untreated control plots, for phase one, each of the treatments were applied in the shade conditions with or without lights, with the HPS lights utilised for eight hours a day, five days a week. In phase two, from January to March, plots that had not initially received

supplementary light had lost so much coverage they were discarded as unviable; the trial continued under the shade with just the plots that had lights.

Trial results consistently showed better retention of turf quality with treatments under low light conditions, particularly at lower rates with more frequent application.

Furthermore, to follow industry best practice to tailor PGR rates to prevailing growing conditions, the application rate for phase two was halved, to 0.35 l/ha and 1.05 l/ha at seven and 21 day intervals respectively, from 31 October to the trial end in April.

Environmental data

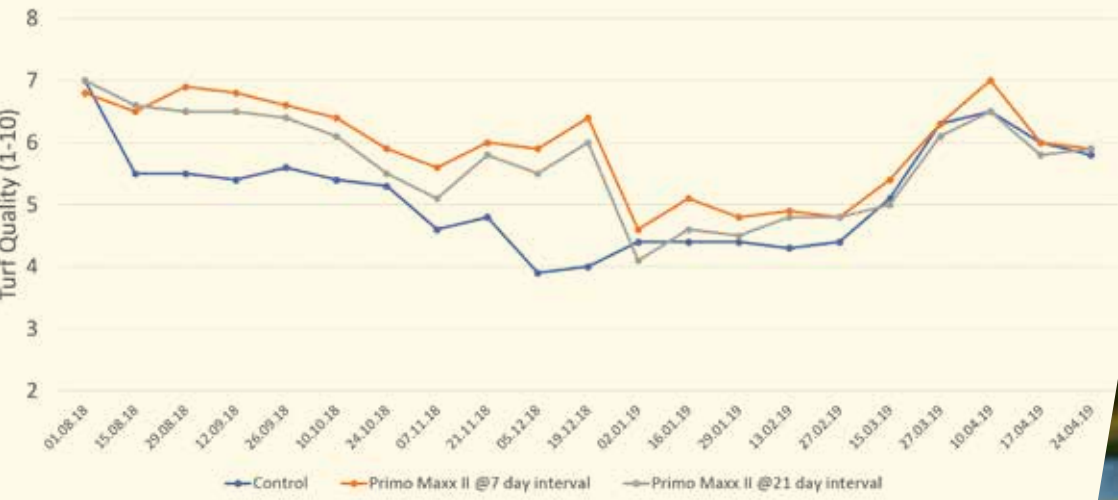
Monitoring the environmental data showed use of the lights increased temperature, measured at the turf canopy level, by an average 1.3°C from September to December and 1.0°C from January to March. Soil temperature in the top 40mm increased by an average 0.6°C throughout the trial.

More significantly, capturing light readings at the canopy level revealed a mean monthly daily light integral (DLI) of 11.8 mol/m²/day under the HPS lights from September to December, compared to 9.4 with no lights. In November, for example, the difference was 2.2 mol/m²/day without lights, compared to 7.4 mol/m²/day with supplementary light — an increase of over 230%.

From January to March, covering phase two of the trial, the HPS lights provided a mean monthly DLI of 10.7 mol/m²/day, compared to 5.6 mol/m²/day without lights.

Where Primo Maxx II was applied under the HPS

STRI score of turf quality (1-10)



Trial results consistently showed better retention of turf quality with treatments under low light conditions, particularly at lower rates with more frequent application.

lighting, with or without the nutrition tank mix, there was a significant difference in assessed turf colour consistently throughout the trial, compared to plots without the PGR. From an overall pre-trial assessment average score of 7.5 out of 10, the colour was retained at an average 7.2 across all PGR treatments in mid-December, compared to a drop to as low as 4.0 without the use of PGR in the same week.

An improvement in turf colour was reported in the plots not receiving Primo Maxx II following mid-winter and early-spring fertiliser applications.

The treatments at a seven-day interval also performed well in maintaining turf quality under the shaded conditions throughout the trial. When used in conjunction with the HPS lighting, there was little or no loss in quality right through to the end of phase one of the trial. Although there was a degree of quality loss in mid-winter, the treated plots were the first to recover back to the pre-trial quality scores

in the spring.

The tank-mixes of WSF Seamax and Vitalnova Blade did provide some benefits over the control, particularly with the seven day application interval, with the biggest positive differences at the difficult late January/early February timing.

Enhanced quality

Reflecting the enhancement in turf colour and quality, the average chlorophyll content assessment across the lighting trial showed a significant increase with all the Primo Maxx treatments. The highest results were consistently achieved from the seven day application interval, with up to 25% greater concentration of chlorophyll, compared to untreated.

It was also recorded that, with the improved growing conditions under the lights, the seven-day application interval of growth regulator maintained a more consistent height reduction and even growth curve, compared to the 21-day interval where

a bounce-back of growth between applications was evident. Typically, lower rates at tighter intervals showed higher levels of benefits through all the applications.

This work opens an exciting opportunity to investigate the benefits of PGR treatment on lower heights of cut turf, including rate and timing investigation.



'This is just the start'

Looking back at BTME 2020



Packed halls, exciting innovations and inspirational additions to BIGGA's world-leading education programme made BTME 2020 an incredible success.

Despite an unseasonably mild week keeping greenkeepers busy out on the course, 4,439 individual visitors made their way to the Harrogate Convention Centre for BIGGA's annual exhibition.

One hundred and fifty-five exhibitors packed into 4,880 square metres of exhibition space and showcased the latest technology and product developments, while more than 250 hours of education helped to prepare BIGGA members for what lies ahead.

"It's been a fantastic few days," said BIGGA chief executive Jim Croxton. "Massive thanks to all the exhibitors for supporting it and all the visitors for coming and I'm looking

forward to seeing everybody next year."

This year's show was marked by a whole host of inspirational new ideas. From the Green Room Podcast Live to the GEO's Sustainability Zone and STRI's live turf laboratory, there were more ways than ever before to interact and network with other attendees.

Across the following pages you'll see a roundup of some of the things that happened during an exciting week at BTME. There isn't enough room for everything that happened, but we hope it gives you a taster of what BTME was all about. The show will return for 2021 and we hope to see you there!

"Thank you all for coming to BTME 2020", said BIGGA chairman Scott Reeves: "It's been a tremendous show and I look forward to seeing you all next year, from 19 to 21 January for BTME 2021."

"I'll be taking part in some of the Continue to Learn programmes, including the volunteering seminar as I'm interested to see what's out there and hopefully do some more voluntary work this year. I've been coming to Continue to Learn for three years and I've seen a real development in my learning. The more information you get, the better you can improve your career."

James Proctor, assistant greenkeeper at Windlesham

"This is my twentieth time at BTME. It's great to keep in touch with the industry and any developments, especially networking."

Wayne Vincent, course manager at Cotswold Hill

"This is my first time at BTME. I'm expecting a lot of industry leaders across different areas. I'm taking the opportunity to look at areas of the golf industry that I don't know much about. It'll be good to have a look around as I'm interested in sustainability and I'll be trying to find aspects of that around the show."

Guy Stirling, intern at GEO Foundation

"We're moving to a new compound and we're looking for all sorts of resources that we will use. I always enjoy coming to BTME to see the stuff on the market and try out things that will hopefully benefit our golf club."

Mark Fry, course manager at Whittington Heath



BIGGA Welcome Celebration

The incredible dedication of BIGGA members was recognised at a dazzling awards ceremony hosted on the opening night of BTME 2020.

The traditional curtain-raiser of the exhibition is the BIGGA Welcome Celebration, sponsored by Campey Turf Care Systems and hosted by television presenter Naga Munchetty.

At the event, a number of awards were handed out to BIGGA members who have done extraordinary things throughout their careers, including one who provides support to those who encounter difficulties with mental health in their personal and professional lives.

Michael Davie, the course manager at Hazel Grove in Stockport, has tirelessly supported many BIGGA members and other greenkeepers. Having overcome periods of depression in his own life, Michael (59) established the "Greenkeepers mental health support group" on Facebook, where turf industry

professionals from all over the country can come together to support each other. In addition to this, Michael also hosts a regular meet-up in Manchester, where greenkeepers come together to discuss issues and provide a helping hand.

In recognition of the incredible effort he has put in to supporting his fellow greenkeepers, Michael was awarded with the Outstanding Contribution of the Year Award sponsored by Jacobsen. The award is one of three BIGGA Awards

“I’m exceptionally humbled to receive this, it’s totally unexpected and really amazing.

given out to members during the event, in addition to the Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year sponsored by Rigby Taylor and the Greenkeeping Project of the Year sponsored by Baroness and Kubota.

Reacting to the news that he had won a BIGGA Award, Michael Davie said: "I'm exceptionally humbled to receive this, it's totally unexpected and really amazing.

"I'm retiring from greenkeeping in a few months and I hope the extra time that gives me will allow me to develop the mental health side of things. I'm looking into how I can try and help as many people as possible, so this is just the start!"

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton said: "I take immense pride in the BIGGA Welcome Celebration as it is the

opportunity for our association to recognise the unbelievable hard work and dedication that BIGGA members all over the world demonstrate every day of their working lives. As we saw once again through Michael's story, it can become all too easy to get caught up in all the negativity that surrounds the golf industry. Yet the BIGGA Welcome Celebration is an opportunity to show that there are many passionate and hardworking greenkeepers who have dedicated their careers to ensuring this great industry has a strong and vibrant future. BIGGA is nothing if not a community where members can come together to support each other through the bad times and the good. Thank you to all our sponsors and to everyone who came along to support this brilliant event."

The BIGGA Welcome Celebration was kindly sponsored by

Campey
TURF CARE SYSTEMS
QUALITY GROUND CARE EQUIPMENT



“ It feels fantastic to win. You see what you're up against and it's just brilliant. I couldn't have done this without the golf club having faith in me.

Darren Anderson MG

Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year sponsored by Rigby Taylor

Winners: Grant Peters and the Parkstone Golf Club team for hosting the European Ladies' Amateur Championship

Finalists: Craig Haldane and the team at The Gleneagles Hotel and Golf Courses; Graham Brumpton and the team at Ipswich Golf Club



Greenkeeping Project of the Year sponsored by Baroness and Kubota

Winners: Darren Anderson MG and the team at Bromborough Golf Club

Finalists: Andrew Kerr MG and the team at Surbiton Golf Club; Robert George and the team at Thorndon Park Golf Club



Outstanding Contribution of the Year sponsored by Jacobsen

Winner: Michael Davie, Hazel Grove Golf Club



Innovation and Thought Leadership Award

Ian Pogson presented the Innovation and Thought Leadership Award to Ryun Holden of Golfclub Wylihof in Switzerland for "The Theory of Positivity", published in the July edition of Greenkeeper International.





**BIGGA
Photographic
Competition**

Winner:
Andrew Bate,
Hesketh Golf Club

“I’ve only been greenkeeping for 10 months and it’s just great to have seen how greenkeepers go about their work and capture it in photography.



**Amenity Forum
Sprayer Operator
of the Year**

Winner: Paul
Gater, Caldby Golf
Club

“It’s been amazing. It’s a journey I’ve been involved in for the past two years, so to come this far now, I’m over the moon. I didn’t expect it and to have come this far is unbelievable.



**Diploma in Golf Club
Management**

Ben Allen was recognised after becoming the first BIGGA member to achieve the Diploma in Golf Club Management

“It’s been a lot of hard work and sacrifice. I started it when my daughter was six months old and I’ve missed a lot of family time. Fitting the commitment of work in around jobs and at weekends is really challenging, but ultimately the work has paid off. It’s been a real pleasure.

CPD Milestones

Adam McColl, Andrew Laing, Andrew Riley, Antony Kirwan, Ashley Allpress, Callum Goodhind, Cameron Campbell, Christopher Brown, Christopher McGhee, Colin Powrie, Craig Berry, George Pitts MG, Graeme Roberts, Graham Burnett, Jake Boardman, James Cleaver, Joe Barnes, Joe Curtis, John Parr, John Reid, John Scurfield, Josh Dunn, Kevin Armstrong, Kevin Hensman,

Kevin O’Neill, Kevin Tigg, Kyle Cruickshank, Lee Strutt MG, Leigh Powell, Lyle Davidson, Matthew Aplin, Matthew Wharton MG, Paul Brown, Paul Selbie, Peter Dawson, Peteris Sadovskis, Richard Johnstone, Richard Sheldon, Sam Bethell, Sam Evans MG, Scott Aitchison, Sean Sullivan CGCS, Shaun Cunningham, Simon Lambert, Simon Olver, Simon Pyett, Stefan Carter, Steven Tierney MG, Stuart Adams, Tim Sethi, Tom Smith, Trevor Harris.



Life Membership

Chris Sheehan, West Derby Golf Club
Chris Whittle, Royal Birkdale Golf Club

Martin Forrester, Essex Golf & Country Club
Stan Shotton, Durham City Golf Club (retired)
Robert Needham, Hickleton Golf Club (retired)

“It’s absolutely fantastic. It’s the best feeling to be given this by your peers. It’s the most wonderful feeling in the world.

Stan Shotton

Master Greenkeepers

Sam Evans of Fulwell Golf Club; Robert Clare of Brough Golf Club; Robert Vaughey of Rolling Hills

Country Club; Andrew Sprunt of Florissant Golf Club; Matthew Gourlay of Colbert Hills Golf Course; David McGregor of Westwood Country Club

“It’s fantastic. We all passed in the spring and it’s only just setting in now.



“What I like about Rain Bird is the build quality of parts across the range. True backwards compatibility matched with quality of build and ease of service has seen us through the last 25 years without issues.”

Paul Kennedy | Head of Irrigation and Water Management
London Golf Club

The full range of Rain Bird Golf irrigation products is available in the UK from Rigby Taylor.

Order Line: 0800 424 919
Email: irrigationsales@rigbytaylor.com



*Registered Trademark of Rain Bird Corporation

The BIGGA Stand

The BIGGA stand was a major hub of activity throughout BTME, with members visiting the BIGGA team to discuss opportunities and benefits and talk about ways the association can help progress their careers.

Alongside the stand was an area of the show called 'Your Health Matters', where visitors to the show were encouraged to take care of their own personal wellbeing.

"All too often, we hear of BIGGA members who put the needs of the golf course ahead of their own, to the detriment of their health and their personal lives," said BIGGA's Tracey Maddison. "We want our members to know that their health comes first and anything else is secondary. That's why we're working closely with all these organisations to provide additional services to help our members stay happy and healthy."



Andy's Man Club

The guys from Andy's Man Club returned to BTME to continue to spread the message that 'it's OK to talk'.

Graham Halstead, spokesperson for the charity, said: "We're back this year to promote Andy's Man Club, a charity that helps guys talk. We want men to feel able to sit down and talk about their issues as they just don't do that often enough."

The club's doors are open every Monday night at 7pm across 26 locations in the UK and you can find more information online.

With suicide the biggest killer of men aged under 45 in the UK, the importance

of talking through your issues is one that can prevent serious issues spiralling out of control.

Andy's Man Club recently saw 800 men visit the club in just one night alone and Graham added: "If you come along, you don't have to talk if you don't feel ready. You can sit and listen, but it's a way to get things off your chest. As people visited our stand at BTME, we hoped they walked away knowing it's OK to open up.

Head to the Andy's Man Club website to find out more about the club and learn how you can start approaching any problems you may be facing."



Skcin highlights hidden sun damage

A UV damage camera was brought to BTME to reveal the hidden damage caused by the sun's rays.

Promoting the charity's 'Sun Safe Workplaces' scheme, Marie Tudor from Skcin and skin cancer specialist Louise Binns talked to greenkeepers about how to protect themselves while working under the sun.

Marie Tudor, CEO of Skcin, said: "The message is to apply sun cream of factor 30 or above, whenever the UV is above three. The UV index can be found on weather reports and sun protection should be applied liberally

every two hours, particularly on the ears and back of the neck."

The camera contrasted the skin's appearance under usual daylight conditions to its appearance under UV light. Louise Binns, a Macmillan nurse, told how the camera picks up any deposits of melanin or sun damage under the visible layers of the skin, detecting areas of sun damage that aren't visible in the mirror.

"Sun damage builds over time, so when you enter your 50s or 60s, you're at a higher risk of skin cancers," added Marie.



Perennial offers health analysis

Data collected by Perennial has revealed greenkeepers are at a risk of higher blood pressure and stress levels.

Perennial is dedicated to helping those in the horticulture industry to get through tough times by providing free confidential advice, support and financial assistance.

Kate Cooney, corporate development manager for the charity, said: "At the moment, we're pulling people out of the river because they're drowning. But we want to stop them falling in the first place.

"The earlier people come to seek our help, the earlier the interventions can be. That could be helping people with debt, health problems, stress or bereavement."

Alongside Perennial's Team Prevent, a kiosk was

set up to measure fat composition, hydration and blood pressure, revealing an overview of a person's health. Kate added: "While the results are kept confidential, we got a composite result at the end of the week that is helpful, because we're able to identify health risks to groups of people from the data collected."

Kate explained how data collected during the week of BTME highlighted areas of concern for those in the turf industry, mainly due to diet and lifestyle.

It's not all bad news though, as the results also showed BMI scores lower among BIGGA members than the UK average.



Action for Hearing Loss

Greenkeepers were advised to wear good quality ear defenders and buds and keep the volume low on their music to avoid losing their hearing.

Charity Action for Hearing Loss attended BTME to check visitors' hearing using a device that played tones at various pitches.

Sandra Wellburn, interim head of the northern region for the charity, said: "It's a great opportunity for us to be able to test hearing across different generations, so we

can catch the younger greenkeepers to help them know how to look after hearing but also chat to those who could use some guidance after years of machine use."

The charity found greenkeepers generally struggled to hear the lower tones sounded by the hearing device. This can be caused by prolonged exposure to noise and often goes undetected as speech can usually be heard as normal.



HIGH LIFT CAPACITY

DOESN'T MEAN EXCESSIVE HORSEPOWER



Well balanced compact tractors mean you can lift all you need without increasing the size and horsepower.

With superior lift capacities from 1270kg right up to 1600kg the ISEKI TG6 range of compact tractors offers all you need to run all your turf maintenance equipment without the need to increase the size or horsepower of your tractor.

With quality manufacturing and exceptional reliability, lightweight and highly manoeuvrable, the ISEKI TG6 compact tractors from 36hp to 65hp are ideal for maintaining all areas of a golf course.

Available with HST or a Dual-clutch IQ transmission which gives the control of a manual with the ease of an automatic. The ISEKI TG6 range offers precision and control when operating implements such as aerators.

Contact your local dealer to book a demo today!



01473 599266
www.iseki.co.uk



The participants of the BTME Early Bird 5k Run

BTME is renowned for its networking opportunities, which quite often go into the early hours.

Early starts often aren't on the menu, which is what made the commitment of more than 100 delegates and trade representatives who attended the BTME Early Bird 5K Run all the more special.

The run began at 6.30am outside the main entrance to the Harrogate Convention Centre, with BIGGA staff being joined by members of the mental health charity CALM, the Campaign Against Living Miserably.

For everyone who signed up to the run, Syngenta pledged to donate £10 towards the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Syngenta's Dan Lightfoot MG said: "I think it was the best thing that we've ever done as an event at BTME."

"I thought that it might be tricky to host an early morning run in Harrogate during January, but if we could pull it off it would be amazing."

"It was brilliant and we even had six people come and walk the route just to raise money for charity, which they

I think it was the best thing that we've ever done as an event at BTME.

Dan Lightfoot MG, Syngenta wouldn't have done otherwise. "That was amazing." The run raised more than £1,000 for BIGGA's charity, which supports members who encounter difficulties in their personal lives.

Ben Davis, who organises a regular early bird run on the streets of Harrogate, said: "It was brilliant, absolutely amazing. We raised loads of cash for the charity, which is brilliant, and everybody really enjoyed it. We're looking forward to hopefully coming back next year."

BIGGA's Jim Croxton called the success of the run "extraordinary", adding: "We had the idea a few months ago and wondered if we might get a couple of dozen people to brave the Harrogate streets after a busy night and more than a hundred turned up,



Ben Davis and Dan Lightfoot MG



Emma Kilby and Ellie Parry at the start of the run

which was brilliant."

Among the runners was a high proportion of trade representatives. With more responsibilities during the week than greenkeepers who attend, the trade representatives work hard throughout BTME and the run provided a rare opportunity for them to meet with other exhibitors.

Dan explained: "Much of BTME is about greenkeepers and developing relationships.

"That's the whole point of it and the trade often don't get chance to meet and bond."

"This was one event where a lot of the trade people could come together for a chat and share some banter, which is something you never usually see at BTME."

"We really hope that the run will become a fixture of BTME every year. We raised £1,000 for the benevolent fund this year, so next year the target has to be to raise £1,500 to £2,000."



BERNHARD
TURF HEALTH SOLUTIONS

KNOW BERNHARD? THINK AGAIN. THE EXPRESS DUAL 5500.



NEW 10.5" touchscreen



NEW Laser technology



NEW RFID technology



NEW Direct reel drive

The Express Dual 5500 is a truly connected reel sharpening system featuring our unique laser reel surveying system, 10.5" touchscreen, contactless cards and direct reel drive.

Find out more at expressdual.com

BUY BERNHARD. GET THE EDGE.

Golf Course Construction Live

An interactive approach was brought to BTME’s exhibition halls to engage younger audiences and highlight the community of BIGGA Young Greenkeepers.

For the second year running, Jack Hetherington from Boldon and Stuart Imeson from Dunstanburgh Castle brought Golf Course Construction Live to the Red Zone, building a USGA-specification green and a revetted bunker, using resources supplied by Border Sports Services and Tillers Turf. The aim of the live construction was to give greenkeepers a clearer understanding about techniques they perhaps haven’t seen before.

Jack said: “There are so many approaches and budgets at different clubs, that it’s difficult to know who to speak to about these things. “This is a chance for



Jack Hetherington (left) and Stuart Imeson prepare to build a bunker live at BTME 2020

“This is a chance for greenkeepers to come and see how it’s done in reality...

greenkeepers to come and see how it’s done in reality, rather than googling or watching a YouTube video.

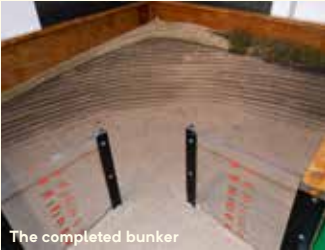
“We met the team from Desert Springs in Spain, which is a European Tour venue, and they stayed and talked to us for over an hour and a half. They weren’t sure

how to do revetted bunkers but wanted to bring them on to their course. We explained to them how to do it and they watched us demonstrate how to put the finishing touches to a bunker. For us, that absolutely knocked it out of the park.”

Jack and Stuart also hoped

younger greenkeepers would benefit from the demonstration, with Stuart adding: “Golf Course Construction Live is also about the art form of conversation. It’s good for younger greenkeepers to come and speak to us, because we are course managers and it shows them that managers aren’t monsters who you should be afraid of; rather they’re people who you can go to for help and advice.

“It’s good for us to see new faces and you never know, one day we might be interviewing someone for a job who we first met at BTME.”



The completed bunker

Young Greenkeepers’ Conference

BIGGA’s Young Greenkeepers’ Committee hosted its third national conference at BTME, with a couple of old heads returning to host the event.

Founding members Jack Hetherington and Stuart Imeson returned to the YGC for one day only, with the course managers bringing an interactive and entertaining dynamic to the conference.

“It’s amazing to think that it was just five years ago when Stu and I went to the first meeting of the Young Greenkeepers’ Committee,” said Jack. “We never imagined that we’d end up on stage in the Main Auditorium, hosting a conference.”

Topics for discussion at the conference included Sam Evans MG of Fulwell and Paul Armour of Dunbar talking about their career progression.

Dr Paul Miller discussed IPM, while panellists then

spoke about what course managers are looking for in a job application. The conference finished by discussing the benefits of social media in a professional context.

“We wanted to make it an interactive experience for the audience, because when it comes to younger guys, if there is just someone reading slides out on a stage, it’s too easy to switch off. We presented it more like a series of conversations than individual presentations and at one point we had eight people talking on stage.



“It was really interesting to hear from Sam Evans as he’s gone from apprentice to Master Greenkeeper in less than 10 years. He’s absolutely ripped through the industry.

“The format seemed to work really well because instead of getting one or two opinions, we got five or six.”

The conference was also used as an opportunity to announce the rebranding of the Young Greenkeepers’ Committee as BIGGA Young Greenkeepers. You can read more about the rebranding on the BYG page in this magazine.

EIGCA Drinks Reception

The European Institute of Golf Course Architects “went big” at BTME, hosting a number of events including a drink reception at the DoubleTree by Hilton Harrogate Majestic Hotel & Spa during BTME



It’s about obsessing over the little things, the details no one else sees. It’s never tolerating anything less than the best. Perfection is a mindset. And that’s worth being proud of.

Freephone 0800 085 25 22



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

WORK
DONE WELL.

MEET THE PRESIDENTS

Left: BIGGA Vice President
Gordon Moir
Right: BIGGA President
Colin Webber



Portmore Golf Park in North Devon and St Andrews Links Trust are worlds apart, both geographically and in terms of their stature within the golf industry.

But for 2020, the venues will be tied together through the roles of BIGGA President Colin Webber and Vice President Gordon Moir.

At BTME, Curtis Tyrrell CGCS MG got to know both a little better on the Green Room Podcast Live stage.

Curtis Tyrrell: Colin, you've taken an unusual route to become president of BIGGA. Can you tell us a little more about yourself?

Colin Webber: "I was a farmer, that's all I'd ever wanted to be. But then a huge hurricane ripped the farm apart, coinciding with economic pressures that almost rendered the farm unusable, so we had to do something else.

We came up with the idea of building a golf course and that's when I started my greenkeeper training, to gain

an understanding of what made a golf course successful. But then I fell in love with greenkeeping.

"I was on block release at college and the memories from then are just superb. There were 12 or 13 guys and at that time I was trying to

build a business plan for the bank. Greenkeeping was part of my research, because if you've never been in the industry, how do you know things such as how many tonnes of sand you need to build a green? Between us, all the guys had the answers and

they gave me the nuts and bolts of how to piece this thing together. After the help they gave me, I said I'd help pay them back and that's what I've tried to do ever since, passing on the experience and helping the guys in the section and the region."

CT: Tell us a little more about the course you built?

CW: "The course was designed by Hawtree. I could see a gap in the market for beginners, so we started by building a good driving range and then we built the par-3 small course. That way, we could start an academy going and start generating members who would be excited when we built the 18-hole course.

"We started with fescue bent greens, but I went to poa very quickly. Then I realised what a mistake that was. That's when the experience of BTME and the stuff that goes on here really started to kick in. The conversations I've had at 2 o'clock in the morning with Jack McMillan, Walter Woods, Billy Mitchell and

guys like that about what they used to do.

"By then I thought that going down the non-chemical route was what I wanted to try.

"If you talk to Jack and those guys, they didn't have the tools we have now, which are now being taken away again. Just talking to them about what they were doing when they were 16-year-old kids was such a huge insight.

"We were going backwards to go forwards. But also, the economy was up and down, so I wanted to maintain this business so we weren't so affected by economics."

CT: Gordon, you had quite a career. Tell us a little about yourself and how you ended up at St Andrews.

Gordon Moir: "I was brought up just outside Fraserburgh. My folks had a farm and just as I was coming up to exams at school I had discovered golf. I got a job as an apprentice greenkeeper at the golf club and they put me through college to Elmwoud. Very quickly circumstances worked in my favour; things at the club weren't going very

“ I was there 27 years, until I retired last year. Like Colin, I want to give something back because if it hadn't been for BIGGA, I would never have got to where I was."

BIGGA vice president Gordon Moir

well and the course manager and two other guys were fired one day, so I was the only person left. I ended up in charge because they advertised for the job and had no applicants!

"Like Colin, I was a member of BIGGA and used to go to golf events where I would seek out the course manager and ask questions. I couldn't understand why, as a links course, the greens at Fraserburgh were boggy. I learned Jim Arthur's theory and got him to come up to do a presentation to the members.

"We cut off water and aerated a

lot. It was a tough two years but the club stood strong. It would have been very easy for the club to fire me because the course was terrible, but in the middle of the second year, fescue started appearing on all these slits on the greens and we never looked back.

"In the meantime I'd got married and started a family and I wanted to go somewhere else. I'd gone for a few jobs, but then the one came up at St Andrews. I knew

Walter Woods through SIGGA so I thought if I applied I would get an interview and then bingo I got the job.

"That came as a bit of a shock.

"I was there 27 years, until I retired last year. Like Colin, I want to give something back because if it hadn't been for BIGGA, I would never have got to where I was."

CT: What are some of the issues that you see on the horizon for greenkeepers?

GM: "It's becoming increasingly difficult to recruit quality staff. Latterly, before I retired, it was tricky to get good, seasonal staff. I've friends in Australia and it's the same everywhere."

CW: "One of the best things I've seen recently is the Women in Golf initiative. I think we're up to 30 female members now. It's still less than 1% of the membership, but it's 50% of the population that we've never before explored. You look at the world of agriculture and there a lot of lady farmers out there. They're prepared to do the hard yards and it's not as physical a job as it used to be.

"Their attention to detail can be so much better than some of us guys, so I hope that we continue to see more ladies enter the profession."

“ From the help they gave me I said I'd help pay them back and that's what I've tried to do ever since, passing on the experience and helping the guys in the section and the region.

BIGGA president Colin Webber



Curtis Tyrrell, Gordon Moir and Colin Webber



BTME Breakfast Club

Greenkeeping isn't an exact science (yet) and BIGGA members at the BTME Breakfast Club took the unusual step of highlighting what happens when things go wrong out on the course.

Following the theme of "Cock-ups, disasters and calamities", Naga Munchetty was joined on stage by three course managers whose worst fears had come true.

Alistair Connell is now a consultant for Glasgow Life. But in 1996 he was course manager at Collingtree Park as the venue hosted the British Masters. What should have been the proudest moment of his career turned into a potential career ender for Alistair as a dramatic deterioration of the greens led to them being described by David Feherty as "scarier than my ex-wife".

"When I first went there I was a superstar on the block and we were the flavour of the month the year when everything went well," explained Alistair. "But when things go wrong, it's the greenkeepers' problem.

"It's not nice to be a greenkeeper when you're hung out to dry.

"I remember saying to Jack McMillan on the final day of the tournament, 'I've had enough, I'm going back to Scotland' but Jack said 'You're not. If you don't go up on the stage for the presentation, I'm going to throw you in the lake!'

Alistair realised that he had to maintain his professionalism even at this



Naga Munchetty and Neil McLoughlin

low point in his career as to do otherwise could harm the reputation of greenkeepers for years to come.

Sometimes, though, there's nothing that can be done to prevent the course being damaged. This was the case at both Deeside and Castle Stuart, where the course managers had to overcome appalling weather conditions.

Neil McLoughlin spoke about the flooding that occurred at Deeside when Storm Frank hit the north of Scotland in December 2015, while James Hutchison recalled what happened when landslides damaged the Castle Stuart course during the hosting of the Scottish Open in 2011.

"There were no words," said James. "There were three inches of rain in three hours. We had 40 greenkeepers going around the course and it was like painting the Forth

Road Bridge. They'd clear a bunker and within half an hour it would have refilled."

Incredibly, the greenkeeping team was able to clear the landslides from the course and although the tournament was reduced to 54 holes, play was able to resume on Sunday.

James added: "It was good to see that there were so many people who didn't need asking to come and help. The boys were working until midnight and they'd be back in at 3am the next morning. Sunday was

hard, but that's what brings you together and the team that was there feels like a family now.

"We learned that what you see is not always as bad as you think it is. We thought there was no way we would get the course playable, but things can be sorted out and the world's not going to end, so just work your way through it."

The BTME Breakfast Club was recorded and will be available for members to watch on the BIGGA website in the near future.

Golf Course Architecture and Management Forum

Hosted by Naga Munchetty, the Golf Course Architecture and Management Forum showcased collaborations between architects, course managers and their greenkeeping teams.



“It was good to see that there were so many people who didn't need asking to come and help. The boys were working until midnight and they'd be back in at 3am

James Hutchison, Castle Stuart

Past President's Farewell Lunch

Paid tribute to 2019 President Chris Sheehan for his extraordinary dedication to the association



BIGGA President Colin Webber



Rita and Jack McMillan



Martin Forrester, Finbarr O'Mahoney and Chris Sealey



Colin Webber speaking to Sam Bethell, George Barr and Tom Smith



Anthony Sheehan and Kate Wise



Paul Worster and Damian McLaverty



Linda Cleaver and Wendy Cole

ClearWater

Water Recycling Systems

A division of Acumen Waste Services

NEW! Credit Now Available

Making compliance that much easier

ClearWater ticks all the right boxes

- ✓ **A genuine biological water recycling system**
Not all washpad solutions recycle
- ✓ **Installed safely below ground**
Away from vandals and it looks good
- ✓ **Low operating temperature**
Well below 20°C and allays fears of Legionella developing
- ✓ **Large 5000 litre water capacity**
More than most offer and allows time for full treatment
- ✓ **Water Technology List Approved**
Means tax advantages under the ECA scheme
- ✓ **Only two moving parts**
Less to go wrong and minimal maintenance
- ✓ **Self-install option**
The only bio-system offering this; means huge

Call now 01977 529580
clearwater@acumenwaste.co.uk

New Products Area

Each year of BTME brings the latest releases of technology in turfcare.

For 2020, the show had a dedicated New Product Area in the Blue Zone, where companies were able to show attendees their most recent products.

Ernest Doe & Sons brought a lithium-powered utility vehicle, in a move away from lead acid towards a longer battery life and warranty and quicker charging times. Simon Jennings, golf car and utility vehicle sales manager, spoke of the positive response from customers:

“Initially people were standoffish because they were unfamiliar with lithium power, but they’ve been big in the field for five years now and have been very well received.”

BTME was also used as a potential growth market for companies like Hydro App Systems, whose Finn T30 hydroseeder and Profile ProGanics topsoil replacements are already successful in drier, arid countries. Director of the company, Oliver Brown, explained: “It’s a popular product in the Middle East due to its ability to retain

water. The year before last was a very dry year, but we were still hydroseeding through that period and with a little bit of light irrigation, you can get the seed to germinate. We’d like to try and promote that to the golf industry.”

Companies participating in the New Product Area were:

- / Pitchfix
- / Agrovista UK
- / Hunter Industries/KAR UK
- / Compo Expert
- / Velvit
- / Bionema
- / STIHL
- / Headland Amenity
- / GreenTek Solutions
- / TurfTrainer by HineCraft



New Products Award

There was a clean sweep in the New Product Area with STIHL’s BR 800 blower scooping both the most innovative new product and most wanted new product awards.

The leaf blower gained more than a third of the total votes in both categories.

STIHL’s Lee Ashcroft said: “Wow, we’re really proud that the product was so popular. I think first and foremost, many of the guys we’ve spoken to have been using STIHL equipment for a number of years, so it’s tried and tested and they put a lot of trust in it.”

Voting for the New Products Award was done by visitors to the show using the BTME 2020 smartphone application, with STIHL receiving 40% of the votes in each of the two categories that were available.



Master Greenkeepers

BIGGA’s Master Greenkeepers hosted a reception to welcome the most recent recipients of the award.



Kerran Daly MG, Andy Campbell MG and David McGregor MG



Rob Clare MG, Stuart Ferguson MG and Lee Strutt MG

Celebrating success at BTME

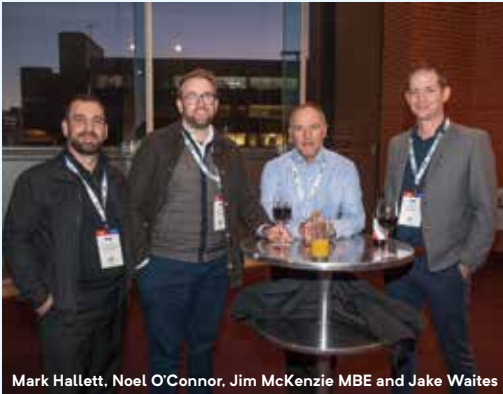
BIGGA hosted a selection of drinks receptions celebrating the success of its members



Karen Drake, Naga Munchetty and Heather Mulley



Wendy O’Brien, Lucy Sellick and Lara Arias



Mark Hallett, Noel O’Connor, Jim McKenzie MBE and Jake Waites



Naga Munchetty speaking at the volunteers drinks reception



Volunteers from across the association gathered to enjoy networking with other members



GKB MACHINES, TAKING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF CONTRACTING TO SUPPLY THE BEST POSSIBLE MACHINE SOLUTION. BE IT A NATURAL, SYNTHETIC OR HYBRID PITCH WE HAVE A MACHINE TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS.

WWW.GKBMACHINES.COM / TOM@GKBMACHINES.COM / 07495 88 36 17

Golf Course 2030

At BTME 2019 The R&A chose BTME to launch its Golf Course 2030 roadmap and at this year's exhibition, the governing body's Steve Isaac provided an update on the progress that has been made so far.

Steve, The R&A's director of sustainability, explained how Golf Course 2030 is a global vision and has attracted support in Scandinavia, Spain and Singapore. He also revealed that £650,000 is being provided to fund golf course sustainability projects.

Speaking to a packed room in the Queen's Suite during BTME, Steve said: "Golf courses can decide to carry on the same way they have been for the past 20 years and we will probably see the end of them in the next 50 years. Or they can adapt to change and meet the challenges we face. I hope that's the way we are going to progress."

One of the activities undertaken in the past year was an attitudinal survey. This uncovered that the majority of people working in the industry feel that golf is threatened by issues such as extreme heat and drought and the availability of products.

There is also a fear among greenkeepers that they will bear the brunt of any criticism if the appearance of the golf course suffers as a result of changes that are out of their hands.

BIGGA Life Member Paul Worster attended the update

and said: "I am very concerned. I think if we don't act, things will reach a tipping point where the golf course doesn't offer the same income and career in the way it has in the past. It's great to see greenkeepers right at the heart of the conversation."

Steve explained how golfer expectation is something that will have to be carefully managed going forwards and celebrated the PGA's support for the initiative as the PGA professional is often the first point of contact for the customer and so they should be informed of the changes that are taking place on the course.

Steve added: "BIGGA has probably been the biggest supporter of all for Golf Course 2030. It's great that people are showing the level of interest that the issues deserve."

"To any greenkeeper I would say get engaged in Golf Course 2030. Have a look at the information that's on the website. One of the things you can certainly do is review your golf course in the context of the challenges we have identified, so you can get an idea of what changes you may have to make in the next 10 years. We are already seeing more extreme changes in the climate and the greenkeeping staff, together with club management colleagues, need to review what the impacts have and will be on the course."



Sustainability Zone

You may have noticed the lack of single use plastic at BTME or how attendees were given cans of water to drink, rather than plastic bottles?

With sustainability on everyone's mind, BIGGA took steps to try and reduce the environmental footprint of BTME.

With this in mind, we invited the GEO Foundation along to show how golf and turf management can not only work with nature but benefit it too. Asking visitors to sign the Golf's Sustainability Pledge, the foundation pushed the focus onto conservation, resource efficiency and stronger community ties.

The GEO's John Kemp said he was pleased to be working alongside BIGGA with their golf course sustainability zone.

John added: "It was set up to ask some pretty big questions, - what is sustainability, why does it matter, and how can a golf course and its staff get actively involved?"

"There's so much happening in the wider world and indeed within the golf industry and we're starting to feel a pressures in specific areas. We need to be proactive about it."

Greenkeepers are more than aware products have been taken off the market

and pressure has been added from government and agencies. John sympathised with those in the turf management industry do a great job, but people are asking awkward questions of us. Our goal is to be able to help everybody say, 'we're a great industry, we're great custodians of landscape and you have to trust us.'"

The OnCourse Manager at GEO set out four key targets for clubs and John, who has worked globally as a greenkeeper and club manager himself, added: "A lot of countries are having chemical products removed and the greenkeepers don't have an alternative."

"The industry hasn't caught up with the changes in legislation so clubs are left in situations where they can't maintain their golf clubs to the standards they would usually expect."

"Through working with the GEO Foundation, golf courses can now get licenses so they become certified, which gives them access to use a product they wouldn't otherwise be able to use."

John hoped visitors to the sustainability zone would walk away knowing they already do fantastic work and that GEO is on hand to help.

Turf scientists bring laboratory conditions to BTME

The STRI Group brought attention to what the turf science of the future could look like, using technological innovations in a live laboratory within the BTME exhibition halls.

Dr Tom Young, a technology manager at STRI, explained how the team presented older innovations against newer ones to show how the industry has taken strides forwards.

"Our stand this year is very different," he said. "We've focused on where we see the industry going and we're really pushing the boundaries on what can be done to prepare playing surfaces."

Alongside test tube profiles of root zones, a method of efficient irrigation was introduced. Tom described the live demonstration as a technique to reduce water use: "We put blue food dye at the bottom of a tank and over the course of the day, the dye will be wicked up into the profile. The system shows how the water is captured rather than offloading it, storing it as a resource and using it to irrigate the root zone below."

Attention was drawn to a permavoid turf tee, which is a geocellular water storage unit that can be located



underneath grass. Tom continued: "You can reduce the amount of water you need and you can get better quality turf by irrigating from below as opposed to above where it evaporates."

"This kind of tee benefits greenkeepers as they can be much more effective with irrigation. But also, any water that falls in the area is captured so you can have a self-contained tee that has both drainage and irrigation advantages."





Proposal to Present

at Continue to Learn 17 - 20 January 2021

Are you interested in presenting an education event at Continue to Learn at BTME 2021?

Submit your 'Proposal to Present' through the link on the BIGGA website, scanning the QR code below or visiting: **p2p-btme-2021.cfp.lineup.ninja**

The BIGGA Membership will vote on all of the viable proposals. Proposals that receive the most votes will be included in the Continue to Learn at BTME 2021 education programme. Closing date for all 'Proposal to Present' applications is **16 March 2020**.

Continue to Learn at BTME is presented by BIGGA.

btme.org.uk  



BIGGA Excellence in Communication Awards with Campey Turf Care Systems

A new addition to the BIGGA calendar came to an exciting conclusion at BTME as the first winners of the BIGGA Excellence in Communications Awards were announced.

BIGGA teamed up with Campey Turf Care Systems to recognise the importance of communication for modern greenkeepers, with incredible prizes up for grabs.

First up was the prize for Innovation and Thought Leadership, handed out to the BIGGA member who had produced the most discussion-provoking article for Greenkeeper International throughout 2019, with a £750 cash prize and an all-expenses paid trip to Jacksonville, Florida up for grabs for the winner.

At the Campey Turf Care Systems-sponsored BIGGA Welcome Celebration, the winner of the award was revealed to be Ryun Holden of Golfclub Wylhof in Switzerland.

Accepting his prize, Ryun said: "I'm incredibly proud.

"Obviously, being the first winner of the award is something special as it's unique and one of those things that people can't take away from you.

"I honestly didn't expect to win, it's a total surprise, and I'm very much looking forwards to the trip to Florida."

You can read Ryun's feature and all the other articles submitted by BIGGA members on the BIGGA website in the News and Features section.

Two other awards were also up for grabs and these were presented on the Campey Turf Care Systems Stand on Wednesday at BTME.

The New Media award recognises the importance of social media and other digital platforms and the 2020



winner was revealed to be Dale Housden, head greenkeeper at Drayton Park.

Dale was praised for developing a popular and effective social media profile, even earning the nickname 'Golf Geek' online. His innovative use of digital platforms creates positivity and interest in greenkeeping among golfers, not just at Drayton Park but among a wider audience. You can find Dale on Instagram, Twitter and he has a YouTube channel.

The Outreach award seeks to acknowledge those BIGGA members who engage with their local community to promote their efforts within the golf club. Richard Mullen

of Banchory was announced as the winner of the award as he and the team regularly invite nurseries, schools and environmental groups to visit the golf course, where he teaches them about pollinators and the efforts of the golf club to promote environmental sustainability.

Both Dale and Richard received a £400 cash prize.

A little more about the 2020 Outreach award winner...

When did you begin communicating with the community?

Richard Mullen: "Banchory is one of the closest golf clubs

to a town centre in the UK, but if you ask 50% of people on the high street where the course is, they probably wouldn't know. Originally, we wanted to make people realise there is a golf course there to get them playing golf. The second part was the sustainable, environmental side of it. Once we got members on board and people involved, the sustainable side took over.

Could golf courses do more to play their part in their local community?

"We've got to get rid of this elitist, snobbish attitude, which unfortunately is still within golf. Thankfully, between governing bodies such as BIGGA, The R&A and Scottish Golf, we're losing that tag, but we need to do more.

"Four or five years ago, my daughters embarrassed me because I've got a big green space and they asked me what am I doing on the course for the environment.

"That came from my children and it kickstarted me into thinking, we can do a little bit more, and we've done it ever since."



PITCHFIX | At BTME and the PGA Show, "The Greenkeeper Pro" and "PickCup" demonstrate ways to reduce stress on the green



Pitchfix, exhibiting for the first time at BTME 2020, and for the eighth year at the PGA show, introduced their latest products to the world: the "PickCup" and "Greenkeeper Pro".

Designed to help the greenkeeping team save time and money, while improving the state of the greens, these ideas are a step in a new direction for Pitchfix.

Simon Brown, sales and marketing manager at Pitchfix, said: "The reaction from everyone at BTME was absolutely amazing. We gave away hundreds of samples of the PickCup and had hundreds of visits to our stand in an extremely busy three days. The Pitchfix team at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando also received an outstanding response and we're looking forward to the Golf Industry Show. Pitchfix strives to



provide products that are, efficient, affordable and save money while looking and feeling great."

The PickCup System:

Since its introduction in December's edition of Greenkeeper International, Pitchfix has gathered data on its use at golf clubs in the Netherlands, where the company is based. Simon explained: "Feedback from nearly every person I spoke to at BTME has supported our findings and we are confident that the PickCup is going to save time and money for everyone on the course by reducing

damage to the hole lip, and therefore the amount of times the pin position has to be changed. Golfers also love it because the hole condition remains better for longer and they don't have to bend down to retrieve their ball, what's not to like"

The Greenkeeper Pro:

Pitchfix has been working in conjunction with Jim McKenzie MBE, director of golf courses and estates at Celtic Manor and Colin Fulton, the head greenkeeper at The 2010 Course to develop the "Links" version of the Greenkeeper Pro. Simon added "Listening to our business partners and their feedback is so important to us, and constantly improving our designs and our products is what we do"

For further information, visit pitchfix.com or contact Simon Brown, the european sales and marketing manager, direct using simon.brown@pitchfix.com or call 0031 628506991.

Better greens with Pitchfix!



Article brought to you by



Green Room Podcast Live Stage

Every month, 150 million listeners tune into podcasts worldwide.

BTME members pulled on headphones to join that figure at the show's innovative feature, the Green Room Podcast Live Stage.

Curtis Tyrrell, the director of agronomics at Desert Highlands and host of the Course Reports Podcast, was handed the microphone and took the stage alongside guests, leading discussions on topics such as The Open at Royal Portrush and chatting about the European Tour.

Curtis, who was course superintendent at Medinah when it hosted the Ryder Cup in 2012, said he hoped the live podcast event would be a good way to connect golf courses.

He added: "This is a perfect mechanism to bring personal stories and experiences out to more people."

Curtis added the discussions are an effective way of reaching across generations in turfcare: "For younger people, podcasts are a common thing in their world and they are a great way to introduce the profession to them. Turfcare isn't a common thing that most people think about for a career, so this is a way to let them know about it."

Craig Haldane, golf courses manager at Gleneagles, joined for an episode to discuss The 2019 Solheim Cup. He said he believed the podcasts brought more life to BTME, adding: "When you've got a live event with an audience and a Q&A on stage, its



brilliant. Curtis is a good presenter and he's had a great career himself, so that means he really knows what he's talking about. It's always good to try something different."

Topics of conversation hosted on the stage throughout the show also

examined the future of the turf industry, such as water management and automated machinery. Craig Cameron, consultant at Trevisto Plant Solutions, said the live podcast event was a successful way of spreading information.

"I enjoyed the experience," he said. "It was a nice, informal way to talk about our new startup tech company. It's a great way to get your message out, be it Golf Course 2030 or what our company is doing with drones."

Curtis Tyrrell compared his own podcast against BTME's live production saying: "This is a little different to my normal podcasts, as they're done remotely over the computer. I'm usually interviewing somebody on the other side of the world or the other side of the country. We have the opportunity to edit and really take our time to put the episode together, whereas for BTME, we're just having a conversation in front of an audience. That's meant there's a little more pressure, but it's also been a really fun experience and I've really enjoyed being a part of the show."

“For younger people, podcasts are a common thing in their world ...

Curtis Tyrrell



Craig Haldane speaking to Curtis Tyrrell

TurfNet Drinks Reception

Members of TurfNet met on Wednesday 22 January for their annual BTME drinks reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel



John Kiger, Anthony McGeough and George Barr



Bruce Williams, Terry Plemmons, Matthew Gourlay MG, Arjen Spek and David Gourly



David Gray, Natasha Repinskaja, Gary McLaren and Patrick Wood

ClearWater prize draw

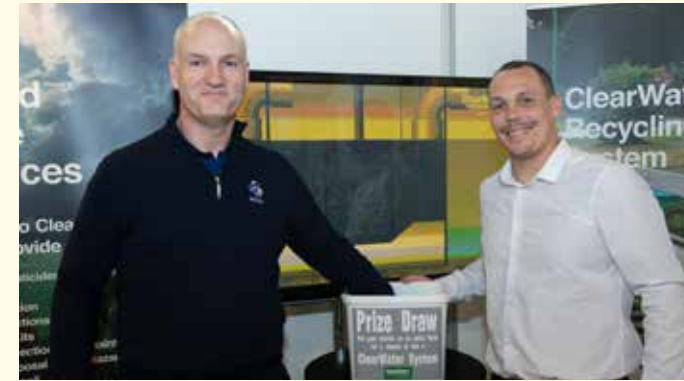
The Acumen Waste Services team hosted its annual giveaway on BTME Thursday.

BIGGA chief executive Jim Croxton pulled Trevose Golf Club out of the ballot box, meaning the club won a free ClearWater system.

Acumen's Matthew Mears

said: "It's been a brilliant show and we've notice this year the impact of what BIGGA has done year-on-year to try and improve the show."

"There's been a great footfall to the stand and a number of really good enquiries, which is brilliant."



Ronnie's a sole man

Joining workwear supplier Arco on its stand throughout BTME was former England cricketer Ronnie Irani.

The all-rounder was speaking about his range of Orthosole insoles and said he enjoyed his first visit to the show, adding: "The calibre of individuals coming round is great. Greenkeepers are on their feet all day and so it's been great to tell them how we can help. But for me, the show is phenomenal. The people who have been here and the knowledge and

expertise they've got is superb. It's the first time I've been to BTME and I must admit, if you've not been here before, you should come as it is really impressive."



Johnsons' double century

Johnsons Sports Seeds celebrated its 200th anniversary within the turf industry at BTME.

Derek Smith, amenity sales and marketing manager for the company, said: "We'd like people to walk away from our stand at BTME knowing we've stood the test of time as a company and we're very focused on quality results and saving money while being kind to the environment."

He continued the company was proud to hit a massive

milestone, looking back at the beginnings of the business in 1820 as a small local seed producer. Johnsons is now globally recognised with links to sports turfs such as Wembley Stadium.





Turf REWARDS

Sign up to get the best rewards for your club



"Turf Rewards is great, being rewarded for products that are already part of my program allows me to bring in something extra that isn't necessarily budgeted for."

Darrell Crowley
The Bradford Golf Club

[Learn more at turfrewards.com](https://turfrewards.com)

Benefit from better turf



Who had the best stand at BTME?

Visitors to BTME had the opportunity to vote for their favourite stands via the BTME app. There were three separate categories based on the size of stand and the winners were revealed as:

Best large stand: Aitkens (29% of the vote)

Steve Hardwick: "To win this award for the second year running has justified the time spent on planning it. We're happy with the position we've got in the show, it's a great spot and we're looking forward to coming back next year to hopefully make it three wins on the trot."



Best medium stand: Fleet Line Markers (28% of the vote)

Ian Courage: "It's all about the effort that you put in to things. We tend to try our best at shows, they cost a lot of money and we put a lot of effort in and this is a nice reward to be recognised for that."



Best small stand: Terralift UK (49% of the vote)

Rhys Norville: "I'm chuffed, absolutely over the moon. It's nice to be recognised obviously and BIGGA have been great from day one, getting us over the line. Football has been really good and lots of people new and old have come by the stand so it's been great. We'll definitely be back and we're already talking about next year's stand and how we can tweak it and make it a little better, so it's all positive."



Family's fortune after 18 holes of BTME prize win

The 18 holes of BTME challenge returned for the second year running, with visitors to the show encouraged to use the BTME app to earn a shot at a £1,000 cash prize.

By talking to representatives on each of the 18 participating stands, attendees to the show completed the digital treasure hunt, which concluded on the Ecobunker stand.

The winner of the £1,000 prize draw was Caroline Hine.

Joining Caroline was her husband Rodney and children, William (11), Wesley (14), and Alexis (16). From Scituate in Massachusetts, this was the family's first time at BTME, although Rodney had previously attended as part of the TurfNet delegation.

"We're incredibly thrilled to be here," said Caroline. "The kids have helped us out and we've been loving it."



BIGGA member Rodney Hine is golf course superintendent at Boston Golf Club and a part-time inventor, having developed the TurfTrainer brush system. "I think it's wonderful,"



added Caroline. "My kids are thrilled and they said it will help defer the cost of our trip, so it's wonderful. My daughter was incredibly organised and she took all her midterm exams a week early so she deserves this. I suppose we'll have to get them a nice souvenir from Harrogate each now."

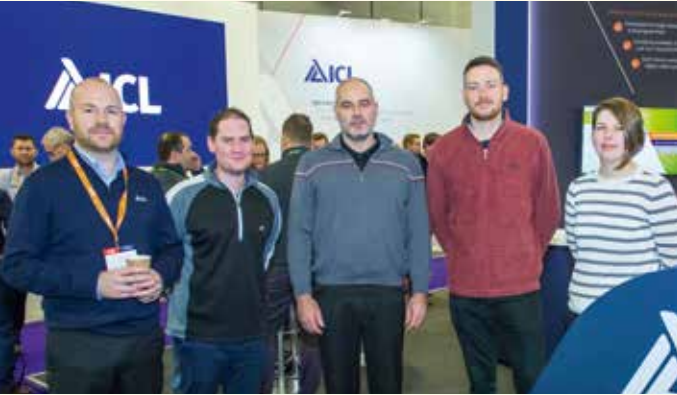
EcoBunker's Richard Allen said: "We're very pleased to have been able to offer this again and we're looking forward to next year. Originally it came about because the

layout of the show had changed and it gave people an incentive to explore the new halls. It's also a good incentive for people to learn about a wide range of products that they perhaps wouldn't normally go and get more information about."

Prize winners

1. Wesley Hine
2. Richard Hitchman
3. Michael Barnes
4. Anthony McGeough

BIGGA's thanks goes to the exhibitors who took part in the 18 Holes of BTME challenge: Arco; Aquatrols; M J Abbott; Aitkens; Profusion; Barenbrug; Lindum Turf; Bernhard; Campey Turfcare; Border Sports; Advance Grass Solutions; County Sports Services; Sports Metals; SIS Grass; Agrovista; Consolidate Turf; Symbio; EcoBunker.



ICL Scholars

Recipients of the ICL Scholarship found the experience has awoken their hunger for education.

John Milne from Rothies succeeded in gaining the sponsorship to attend BTME and said attending Continue to Learn seminars had proved very beneficial.

He added: "I came here to find out more about myself as a manager and there's been a lot of food for thought to take home and apply."

John had previously taken a break from greenkeeping for seven years and explained: "Returning and reaching this level, as head greenkeeper, has given me my appetite back for learning. I need to get my head in a book and study."

Fellow winner, William Curran from Beaverbrook, said the seminars he attended will shape his approach to greenkeeping, with increased demands and changes to the industry.

ICL's Ed Carter said the company is looking for enthusiasm for the profession when working out who to award the scholarship to.

"The purpose of the scheme is to give people a chance to attend BTME who otherwise wouldn't be able to, because maybe the club don't have the funds or don't share the same vision," he said. "We look for real passion showing through in the applications and somebody who's showing the desire to get ahead with their career but has constraints in terms of time, resources or money."

The other ICL Scholars were Thomas Tomlinson of Boldon, Melissa Winkworth of Goring and Streatley and Phil Worth of Macclesfield.



John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteers

The BIGGA members selected to take part in the John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme met at BTME ahead of their flights out to Florida in March.



Bernhard and Company

The delegates selected to attend the Golf Industry Show in Orlando with Bernhard and Company enjoyed a welcome drinks reception on Tuesday in the Harrogate Convention Centre's Main Auditorium,

following the BIGGA Welcome Celebration. Joining the 2020 delegates were BIGGA members who had previously embarked on the trip, which has been running for 18 years.



TRANSITIONING FROM WINTER TO SPRING

With the prospect of winter turning to spring, sportsturf managers can look forward to the benefits this change of season brings to their playing surfaces.

We have experienced milder winters in recent years and the timing of spring has become less predictable.

But the concept of longer daylight hours, warmer rainfall, combined with rising air and soil temperatures benefitting cool season grasses remains the same.

By definition, cool season grasses are types that thrive in areas with cold winters and relatively hot summers. These grasses grow best when temperatures are between 18 and 27°C, which is why they grow most in the spring and autumn. As you look to enhance and maximise the natural benefits of spring culturally, mechanically and

biologically, there are a number of products available to assist you at this key time of year.

As spring approaches you want to have the tools available to help your turf out of the winter doldrums and into spring vibrancy. Uniform soil moisture and balanced air to water ratios are critical in making sure your turf is healthy and has the greatest chance of a strong start coming out of winter dormancy.

Whether you need to “wake up” the rootzone to get your turf off to a good start or to seed or turf to repair winter damage, don’t let water movement issues get in the way of great turf. Starting a spring surfactant programme can help ready turf for play as quickly as possible by putting you in control of water movement in the soil profile.

Starting early ensures turf

How to complete a water penetration test

Using a soil probe, collect soil samples and air-dry them at room temperature for two weeks.

Cores must be completely dry to determine the degree of soil water repellency. Place water drops at 1cm intervals along the soil core, then

time how long they take to move into the soil core.

Severity of soil water repellency may be determined using Table 1.

The more severe the soil hydrophobicity, the more difficult soils are to re-wet, which precedes poor turf quality.

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

Table 1. Soil Water Repellency Classification. (Ritsemma and Dekker, 1996)

can rebound from winter and be healthy before the stress of summer heat, resulting in better turf throughout the year.

The symptoms associated with hydrophobic soil may not be expressed early in the year but the conditions that cause them may still be present in the soil profile. We know that hydrophobic soils are re-wettable and often this occurs naturally over the wetter winter months.

The taking of cores, drying them out and carrying out a simple water drop penetration test can indicate whether the hydrophobic-causing conditions have persisted through the winter.

If the cores exhibit a level of repellency, you will require a pre-treatment tool such as Aqueduct to address the problem before starting a regular preventative programme. An application made at 25l/ha in 500l of water can address these issues very effectively and significantly decrease the likelihood of hydrophobic problems such as localised

dry patch during a regular preventative programme in the hotter and drier months by creating a “clean” profile so that everything performs uniformly.

Whether your winter has been wet or dry, starting a surfactant programme early will help optimise air-to-water ratios in the rootzone for a better growing environment and healthier turf.

If it has been wet, Revolution will move excess water off of the surface and through the soil profile. If it has been dry, Revolution ensures rain and irrigation will get into the root zone so your turf gets the uniform moisture it needs.

This particular surfactant should be applied monthly at 19l/ha in 800l of water.

On non-irrigated areas, a penetrant, such as Dispatch Sprayable, can assist in spring recovery. It ensures quick, uniform penetration of any snow melt or precipitation that occurs, improves soil moisture levels as the ground thaws and potentially suffers from drying out.

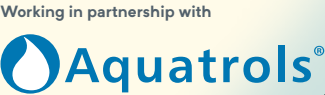
By creating a healthier rootzone it maximizes photosynthesis and root growth coming out of winter.

Also important is to ensure that you can optimise the health of your plant and soil using minimal nutritional inputs. This assists turfgrass in standing up to disease pressure and climatic stresses.

A bio-stimulant such as Attain can help to maximise the benefit of existing nutritional elements already present in the growing environment. This will enable turfgrass managers to support consistent and sustainable root growth.

In summary, spring is a key time for turf managers, the natural change in the weather is obviously the dominant factor, closely followed by sound integrated turf management practices.

At Aquatrols we believe we have a number of products that enhance and maximise the benefits of the onset of spring and can assist managers of sports turf at this key time of the year.



WDPT conducted on a soil core.

Taking the guesswork out of tees irrigation

Peter Robin, Rigby Taylor's irrigation product manager

Course managers will often spend significant time and trouble ensuring greens are in perfect condition.

Uniformity and coverage are carefully evaluated, yet few have their tees irrigation sorted to the same degree.

Tees can be all shapes and sizes, even on the same solenoid station. When you have different sized ladies, men's and championship tee on the same hole, it's no wonder people get dumbfounded when it comes to irrigating them. But maintaining the best turf cover can only be achieved if your tees irrigation system is up to the task.

So, let's talk about proper

“ This is an intelligent use of water

tees irrigation. To start with, we should only use a greens sprinkler to irrigate a tee block if it is greater than 15m wide.

For narrow tee blocks, we need a sprinkler that is specifically designed for the throw it needs to make.

Luckily, all golf irrigation manufacturers have pop-up sprinklers available that will irrigate much smaller areas.

If your tee block is 6m wide (regardless of length), you will need to install a pop-up sprinkler designed to throw 6m

radius. This is likely to be a ¾-inch BSP sprinkler and by choosing the correct nozzle you'll be able to get the right throw.

If another tee is 10m wide, you can probably use the same model sprinkler with a bigger nozzle in it, you just need to consult your sprinkler's nozzle chart (which can be found online) to check the specifics. This will increase the flow rate, but you're covering a bigger surface area and so the precipitation rate is roughly the same for both areas. This is called 'matched precipitation'.

Incidentally, smaller sprinklers have lower flow

rates. So even if you have twice as many sprinklers irrigating the tee area, you'll often be applying less water and with less wastage. More importantly, you will be applying the correct amount of water to your tee blocks, regardless of how big or small each tee is. This is an intelligent use of water.

Preferably, sprinklers should be installed around the perimeter of any given area. For a square tee block of 8m by 8m, plan to install a sprinkler in each of the four corners. Each sprinkler would throw 8m radius. If the tee block is 8m wide by 24m long, have one on each corner and then two spaced equally

down each side. Choosing the radius of throw to be the same as the tee's width isn't new and when sprinklers are spaced the same distance apart as their expected throw, it's called 'head-to-head' coverage and will generally maximise your uniformity.

It's important to have sprinklers on both sides of the tee to maximize uniformity.

This might seem like overkill, but it will provide good coverage and allow you to grow a uniform surface of turf. If they are just down one side, the side with the sprinklers will receive more water than the other side.

In a perfect world you would have all your different tee blocks (championship, men's, ladies) on separate solenoid valves, but generally this isn't the case.

When different blocks

have significantly different characteristics, such as shading from trees, drainage and prevailing winds, you might want to consider changing your pipework to divide the blocks into two or more solenoid stations. This can usually be achieved

relatively easily if you have a decoder control system. If you don't have your tees automated, then this is something you could consider as you incorporate your tees into your automatic system in the future. Divide your tees into blocks with different environmental or soil factors.

For tees that are less than 15m wide there are pop-up sprinklers (often with ¾-inch inlets) that are designed for smaller areas. They will save you water and offer a greater level of accuracy than a bigger greens irrigation-style pop-up sprinkler. Once the block is greater than 15m wide, you can use a 1-inch inlet pop-up sprinkler (or bigger), like your greens sprinklers, and just choose the right nozzle for the required throw. All this information should be available online if you look up your sprinkler model's specifications.

The same applies if you have other areas that need

irrigating, such as pathways, ornamental areas and gardens and bunkers.

There are even pop-up sprinklers with ½-inch bases that will accurately throw the water 4 to 6m radius, saving even more water and maximising accuracy of coverage. For the edges of your bunkers you can even use dripline, which can be buried under the surface of the turf around the perimeter of the bunker. It will supply the edges of bunkers with some water, preventing burn-off and dieback, while nobody needs to even know it's there. This can be installed onto its own solenoid valve (you must include a pressure regulator) and added into your irrigation system.

Working in partnership with

RT
rigby taylor



Rain Bird 5000 Plus series nozzles



Rain Bird solenoid valve with pressure regulator connected (150PEB with PRSD)

AROUND THE GREEN

Golf Environment Awards 2020 winners revealed

National

The winners of the 2020 Golf Environment Awards were announced at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate during BTME at a ceremony hosted by the STRI.

The awards were marking their 25th anniversary, having provided the platform from which the golf industry can demonstrate environmental excellence in all its forms since 1995.

STRI head of ecology Bob Taylor said: "The Golf Environment Awards were set up 25 years ago to showcase golf's positive environmental footprint among a backdrop of social negativity. It has been great to see the way in which such small beginnings have now swelled to what is a major movement, delivering and working towards ecological and environmental best practice throughout the length and breadth of the UK.

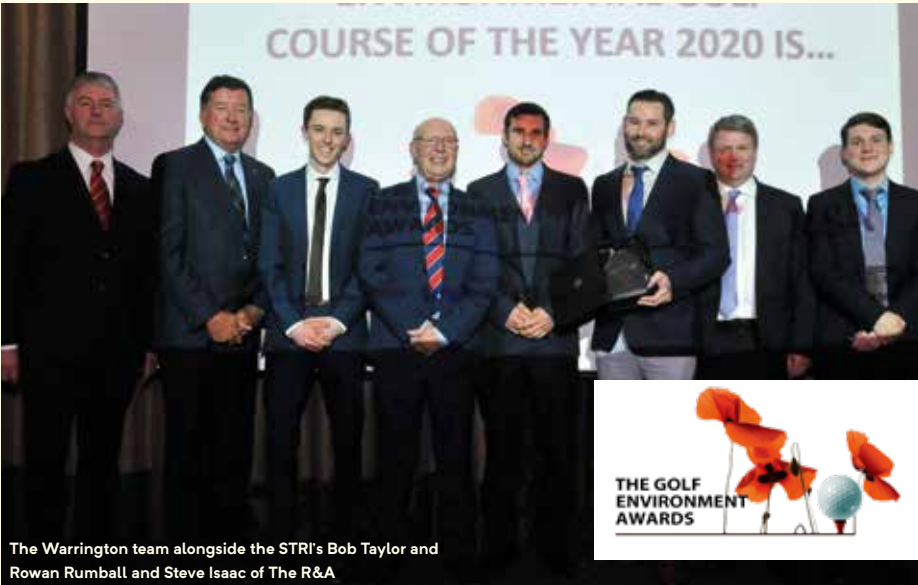
"I'm delighted to see there was so much passion for ecology and the environment in golf at the 2020 GEAs.

"Every year the awards get bigger and better in providing aspirations and goals to both individuals and golf clubs delivering sustainable working. Huge congratulations go to the winners and finalists of this year's awards. You are all doing sterling work and, in doing so, are becoming a valuable part of your local communities."

All finalists receive free entry into the Foundation Award in Amenity Horticulture course, recognised by BASIS, as well as CPD points. The winners also receive a European golf and environment trip to Portugal.

Entries for the 2021 Golf Environment Awards and all golf clubs, no matter their size or budget, are encouraged to enter and show off their hard work. Enter at www.golfenvironmentawards.com.

For more information, contact the STRI's ecology department on 01274 565 131 or email info@strigroup.com



The Warrington team alongside the STRI's Bob Taylor and Rowan Rumball and Steve Isaac of The R&A

Environmental Golf Course of the Year – Warrington Golf Club

The Warrington team has shown innovative and direct solutions to reducing damaging environmental practices. Warrington has shown a course can be sustainable in relation to inputs, environmental impacts and water usage, while also being ecologically diverse.

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year – Neil Sherman – Ipswich Golf Club

Neil is integral to the success of the golf club and has performed positive and interesting work in renewing the heathland characteristics of Ipswich Golf Club. He has an exceptional level of ecological knowledge.

Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year – Dundonald Links

Amanda Dorans and the team at Dundonald Links have created a partnership between multiple golf

courses and industries to create protected sites across Scotland, known as the Irvine to Girvan Nectar Network.

Through these efforts, they have achieved amazing results in boosting numbers of the small blue butterfly.

Operation Pollinator – Banchory Golf Club

Banchory Golf Club has gone from strength to strength during 2019, vastly increasing areas dedicated to wildflowers.

STRI ecologists saw a diverse range of invertebrate species that can only be explained by a course that has been managed appropriately.

Home Unions National Award – Market Harborough Golf Club

Market Harborough GC is the first winner of the Home Unions National Award.

The club management and greenkeeping staff have driven environmental and ecological conservation as a combined force.

Training committee gets approval for Level 3 plan

National

The Golf Greenkeeping Trailblazer group has received approval for plans to launch the Level 3 Advanced Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Standard.

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has approved the assessment plan, which will allow greenkeepers to achieve an advanced qualification.

The news follows the launch and success of the Level 2 Golf Greenkeeper Apprenticeship and GTC Trailblazer Chairman David Croxton said: "It is great news to hear the Government has

approved the Level 3. Having worked with employers and training providers in our sector, we believe we have developed two apprenticeships that meet employer requirements and will produce a skilled and knowledgeable workforce."

The Trailblazer group has worked to develop a suitable programme of education, training and assessment to meet the Level 3 Assessment Standards. With the support of England Golf and BIGGA, a pathway is now in place to enable the progression from Golf Greenkeeper to Advanced Greenkeeper.

Richard Flint, England Golf's participation and club support director, said: "England Golf is delighted the Government has approved the assessment plan. This shows the levels of progression for a greenkeeper and how their knowledge, skills and behaviours will continue to develop stronger golf clubs."

BIGGA's Jim Croxton said: "Reaching this point is an exciting time in greenkeeper education. This strengthens the professionalism of our industry and provides a structured programme of education for those looking at greenkeeping as a career.

Midland Section sponsorship

Central England Region - Midland



Reece Dabbs, Jim Moverley and George Nock

The Midland Section and Rigby Taylor sponsored three young greenkeepers to attend BTME.

George Nock and Reece Dabbs of Enville and Alex Cox of Patshull Park received two nights' accommodation and £150 each towards education.

George said: "The education we received this week was excellent and we wouldn't have been able to do it without the support from the Midland Section and Rigby Taylor. Myself, Reece and Alex would like to thank

them for everything they have done as this will really help us progress in our careers."



Rigby Taylor's Jim Moverley and Alex Cox

TWEET OF THE MONTH

Dale "Golf Geek"
[@GolfGeek6](https://twitter.com/GolfGeek6)



Thank you to @BIGGALtd and @CampeyTurfCare for the beautiful award for New Media. Social media has given me great pleasure to see activity at other courses plus so many new friends. It's a great industry! "A problem shared is a problem halved. It's good to talk" #golfgeek

Get in touch with our local Membership Services team

Scotland & Northern Ireland



Chairman
Robert Patterson



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

Northern



Chairman
Jack Hetherington



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

Central England



Chairman
Andrew Smith



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

South West & South Wales



Chairman
Steve Lloyd



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

South East



Chairman
Peter Smith



Clive Osgood
07841 948 410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



Kerry Phillips
07715 672568
kerry@bigga.co.uk

SHORT PUTTS

Benevolent Fund donation

International



The thanks of everyone at the association go to Jon Kiger after he donated £400 to the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Jon is an affiliate member of BIGGA and is also director of media sales and membership at TurfNet, which brings a delegation of American superintendents to BTME.

Education scholarships

Northern and Central England Regions

Two more BIGGA members will be supported in their education after being awarded Higher Education Scholarships.

Adam Brackley is deputy head greenkeeper at Heworth and is studying towards the HNC in Golf Course Management at Elmwood College.

Jamie Wright is a greenkeeper at Sunningdale and is studying the HNC online via distance learning.

BIGGA's Higher Education Scholarships are provided thanks to support from Textron Golf.

Golf's 'Sustainability Champions' revealed

National



BIGGA members are counted among the inaugural list of 'Sustainability Champions' revealed by the GEO Foundation.

The champions are honoured for their significant and measurable achievements in advancing sustainability in club and course management.

Jonathan Smith, executive director of the GEO Foundation, said: "Golf's positive contributions to the environment and communities come from the commitments, actions and results generated by real people across the sport, around the world. It is their voluntary leadership that is helping deliver stronger and

more sustainable businesses; changing the image of the game and delivering even more value to society. This is our way of recognising and rewarding them as individuals and will hopefully inspire many others to step forward and follow suit."

The GEO Foundation is encouraging others to get involved with the scheme to create a recognisable, public listing of sustainable golf leaders around the world.

Each champion is provided with a recognition mark and supporting materials to represent their important roles in the workplace and in their communities.

The R&A's Steve Isaac said: "Addressing sustainability

often requires behavioural change and investment in infrastructure. It takes courage for individuals at golf facilities to take the lead in promoting such activities to their managers and employers."

BIGGA's 'Sustainability Champions' are: Graeme Beatt of Royal Portrush; Craig Boath of Carnoustie; Amanda Dorans of Dundonald Links; Archie Dunn of Auchterarder; Janne Lehto of Hirsala Golf in Finland; Sean McLean of Prince's; BIGGA Vice President Gordon Moir; Richard Mullen of Banchory; Matthew Perry of Dubai Golf; Gavin Sowden of Woburn; and Steven Tierney MG of Golfpark Zurichsee in Switzerland.

Association mourns Steve Dixon

Scotland Region - East

The association was saddened to hear of the death of long time BIGGA supporter Steve Dixon during December, aged 61.

Steve was head greenkeeper at Kingsknowe and was a passionate supporter of the greenkeeping industry and education.

BIGGA's John Young said: "Steve was well known in BIGGA, helping to move the association forwards at all times. He'll be sorely missed."



ProSelect®

Selected by the pros to exceed expectations



ProSelect turfgrass seed blends, developed to exceed expectations.

The experts at ICL have carefully researched and selected every variety of grass seed in the ProSelect products for golf, sports and landscape. With an unparalleled eye for detail and performance, they ensure that all of the ProSelect products will exceed your expectations of durability, playability, disease-resistance and wear.

Find out more at www.icl-sf.co.uk



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2020



National Apprenticeship Week 2020 took place during the first week in February and we thought we'd take the opportunity to look at some of the trainees who are just setting out on their career in the industry.



Apprentice: Sam Amey
College: Oaklands
Golf Club: Basingstoke
Course: Level 2
Greenkeeping

How has your apprenticeship benefitted you?

I understand the many different aspects of greenkeeping and I know why I am doing the range of tasks I perform on the golf course. I am a qualified greenkeeper with a profession and the respect my workmates. I think the apprenticeship will open doors career wise. I'm more confident about speaking to my manager with suggestions and I feel he will listen to what I have to say.

What have you done while on the course?

I volunteered for the BMW PGA volunteer support team at Wentworth two years in a row. I really enjoyed the events and learned so much from taking part. I've applied for The Open and have my

fingers crossed that I will be accepted.

How was your End Point Assessment and did you feel well prepared?

I felt I was absolutely prepared and did really well in the exam. My tutor covered practice questions and carried out mock practical assessments to ensure I was ready. I found the practical exam quite a relaxing experience. I treated the Independent End-point Assessor like he knew nothing about the industry and used all my knowledge and experience in each practical task. It was great to be able to talk about my course and the work the team has done on it. I must have said the right things as I gained a distinction overall for the apprenticeship.

What's next?

I am now hoping to do my Level 3 apprenticeship and then my PA2 to go with my PA1 and 6 certificates.



Apprentice: Daniel Merrett
College: Pershore
Golf Club: Tewkesbury Park
Course: Level 2
Greenkeeping

How did you get into greenkeeping?

My previous employment had been working with animals since I left school. However, I have always enjoyed sports such as rugby and golf. I wanted a change of career and saw Tewkesbury Park were advertising for an apprentice greenkeeper, so I applied. Working and studying at Tewkesbury Park has been the best decision I have ever made. I have gained new skills both personally and practically, which have been good for my own confidence. The variety of courses has given me plenty of opportunities and space to practice using different types of machinery, along with learning about daily maintenance and greenkeeping practices. My colleagues have been

fantastic in helping me to learn and are always keen to answer any questions and share their knowledge. I also enjoy the humour among us and have really enjoyed being part of the team.

How do you find the academic side of your apprenticeship?

I attend Pershore College, which has several facilities that apprentice greenkeepers can benefit from, such as workshops and open spaces. The assessments have been testing and challenging, but with good time management can be completed steadily. My tutor regularly meets me and my head greenkeeper at my workplace to discuss my progress and set new objectives for the next visit. As my tutor has experience in the industry, he can offer advice and test my knowledge both in college and when at my workplace. I am really enjoying the apprenticeship and cannot recommend it highly enough.

Rob Walker
Head Greenkeeper
Bracken Ghyll

"Bracken Ghyll has employed apprentices for a number of years, with Ben Preston being the 10th we have employed. Ben came to Bracken Ghyll for a trial period to see if he liked the work and he took to it quickly, so we offered him a job. "Enrolling him at Shipley College has worked really well for all of us. The college's Tony Price was very easy to work with and he always replies to any questions we have promptly. He was extremely helpful in talking us through the process of Ben's apprenticeship. Ben visits college every Wednesday and Tony comes out to the



club every six weeks to check on Ben's progress and give us any feedback we require. "Ben has made a great start to his apprenticeship and has completed his first units to a

high standard. Overall, I'm really pleased with the decision to take Ben on as our apprentice and Shipley College as our training provider. I would not hesitate

to recommend anyone taking on an apprentice as it's so rewarding to see a young person develop their career and gain knowledge in the turf industry."

SUPPORTING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

At BTME apprentice members and training providers showed their support for National Apprenticeship Week, which ran from 3 to 7 February. If you would like more information on apprenticeships please contact The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC).



Christian Smith, Sandburn Hall, and Kevin Keenan, Filey



BIGGA's Kerry Phillips and Sam Stabler of Berkshire College of Agriculture



Kevin Booth, Sapey, apprentice Steven Holliday and Mark Cunningham, Bromsgrove



Brampton's Stephen Gibson and Matty Grainger



Will Curran



Sallyann Smith and Rob Ironmonger of YMCA Training

INDUSTRY NEWS

Ecology training introduced

BASIS and the STRI have joined forces to provide a new modular training course that will help greenkeepers, groundsman and amenity contractors to protect the environments in which they work.

At a time when climate change is high on the agenda, the Managing Ecological and Environmental Landscapes qualification is designed for professionals involved in enhancing the 'green' characteristics of a venue.

Speaking at the launch at BTME, Stephen Jacob, BASIS CEO, said the new qualification will provide a core module, followed by a choice of specialisms. There will be one for greenkeepers and another for professionals managing municipal landscapes.

He added: "The golf specialism will focus on an integrated approach to habitat management, regeneration and creation, all of which the sports turf



BASIS and STRI have introduced an ecology qualification

sector already recognises as vital to achieving environmental sustainability while continuing to maximise the enjoyment of golf.

"We're delighted to provide candidates with the opportunity to increase knowledge and understanding of their specific role, to provide the highest quality landscapes, while playing

a key part in protecting the environment."

The course has been developed with the STRI over the last two years, taking industry feedback into account to ensure each module is tailored to the particular needs of greenkeepers or groundsman and amenity contractors.

Dr Christian Spring, STRI research and operations manager, said the course will be delivered by a team of experts at the STRI and will combine classroom and practical learning sessions.

He added: "This new qualification is a fantastic opportunity for those working in the amenity industry to take the next step in their career and we look forward to the first intake later this year."

The first course will commence in autumn 2020, with further dates to follow. For information on dates and timings and how to get involved, visit www.basis-reg.co.uk/training

Biological leatherjacket control launched



Damage caused by predation of chafer grubs

Bayer has launched a patent-protected nematode control intended to help greenkeepers maintain quality playing surfaces.

Harmonix Tri-Nema brings together developments in nematode technology in an attempt to tackle leatherjackets and chafer grubs.

Neil Pettican, Bayer head of sales, said the solution targets the damaging pests during two critical periods of the greenkeeping season, adding that the treatment contains three nematode

species, which each use a different method to control turf pests.

"Additionally," he said. "They become more aggressive as they try to out compete each other to become the dominant species, increasing the effectiveness of the application and its capability to control the pests.

"With regulatory changes putting pressure on chemical solutions, alternative options will be fundamental in maintaining high quality turf. However, this nematode control solution will slot into an integrated approach, while helping reduce pesticide applications and therefore resistance."

Nematodes are sensitive to environmental factors that can impact their efficacy. With that in mind, applications are recommended in moist conditions, in low light and when soil temperatures are above 12°C.

Not only do chafer grubs and leatherjackets destroy turf by feeding on healthy roots, but the presence of their predators can have a negative effect on playing surfaces. As such, infestations can prove costly to a business.

RSPB partnership

The UK's largest conservation charity has created a position, funded by The R&A, which will advise golf clubs on the management of wildlife species.

The RSPB has appointed Marie Athorn as conservation advisor to The R&A. She has been tasked with creating a golf conservation network to connect course managers with ecological specialists and will deliver a training programme in order to foster best practice in wildlife conservation.

Marie said: "This is an amazing opportunity to bring together my passion for golf and my love for the environment. It is impossible not to notice the threats facing our wildlife and golf courses can play an important part in protecting and saving species here in the UK.

Beccy Speight is chief executive of the RSPB. She said: "Golf is a sport that combines a rich heritage with cutting edge technology and I expect to see our partnership embrace this as we look at how courses can provide desperately needed sanctuaries for the UK's wildlife."

Jacobsen launches three mowers at BTME



Jacobsen Eclipse 360

Jacobsen utilised BTME to launch the Eclipse 360 ELiTE, Eclipse 2 Lithium and AR730 range of mowers.

Exhibition attendees were able to experience the mowers for the first time.

Jacobsen was an early innovator of electric golf mowers, with the ride-on Eclipse 360 ELiTE showcasing the experience gained over more than a decade of innovation.

Ransomes Jacobsen director of international product development, Richard Comely, said: "BTME is always a significant exhibition in the golf industry calendar and it is the perfect place for us to launch these innovative new products. During product development, we were focused on the end user and their everyday needs, while also concentrating on the environment they work in.

"Electric-powered technology is becoming increasingly important for many reasons and we want to continue providing the industry with electric golf mowers that provide the performance and cut quality needed to produce a world class course.

"Harrogate is the ideal setting to welcome greenkeepers on to the stand and show them what we've been working on as well as listening to their thoughts on what they would like as an end user."

The Eclipse 2 Lithium features a floating head and Classic XP reel combined to produce a lithium-powered mower that has been utilised at Pebble Beach.

The AR730 is designed to cope with hilly terrain with sharp undulations while reducing the chance of scalping.

SPARE PARTS

Toro to buy Ventrac

The Toro Company has agreed a deal to purchase Venture Products, the manufacturer of Ventrac branded products.

Toro said the transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and is anticipated to close before the end of Toro's fiscal 2020 second quarter.

Richard Olson, Toro chairman and CEO, said: "This acquisition supports our growth strategy in the professional market with the addition of a strong brand and expanded product offering to our customers."

BIGGA Health and Safety Management System



Brought to you by Xact

BIGGA's online health and safety management system provides a comprehensive guide to all of the risks faced by greenkeepers during their day-to-day life.

For further help and information visit bigga.xactassist.co.uk



Turning batteries into fertiliser



Leigh Powell and Johnny Beck

Battery waste may help greenkeepers in the UK to improve the health of turf, following the launch of a liquid fertiliser product.

ZM-Grow extracts zinc, manganese and sulphur from used alkaline batteries to create a fertiliser for a range of crops, including amenity turf.

With limited recycling options for alkaline batteries, the process helps greenkeepers to be more sustainable and reduces the risk of toxic substances contaminating groundwater and the environment.

Johnny Beck, agronomist at Agrovista Amenity, said: "In excess of 10 billion alkaline batteries are manufactured in the world each year and just one can contaminate more than 160,000 litres of drinking water, should it not be disposed of correctly."

"Following trials at STRI, we've been able to launch the product at courses across the country, providing our customers with a highly ecological, organic fertiliser."

Manganese contributes to improving nitrogen uptake and photosynthesis, zinc boosts cell elongation and sugar consumption and sulphur builds protein.

Windlesham course manager Leigh Powell has trialled the product and said: "We are committed to reducing the use of non-sustainable products, so we are delighted that a fertiliser is available that addresses this."

The Green Room

On the podcast this month:

Episode 27: Former Ryder Cup superintendent and director of agronomy at Desert Highlands Curtis Tyrrell CGCS MG.

Episode 28: Introducing BIGGA President Colin Webber of Portmore and Vice President Gordon Moir, who recently retired from St Andrews

Agrovista Amenity launches at BTME

Maxwell Amenity and Sherriff Amenity, the professional turf and landscape division of Agrovista, have joined forces.

Agrovista Amenity, launched at BTME in January, brings together "two of the most experienced teams" in the amenity turf market and is the result of a long-term strategy for growth.

Head of Amenity John Marland said: "Agrovista Amenity has been built upon a commitment to innovation and the highest standards of customer service. There is a clear fit between our two businesses, as our services are highly complementary, so it creates exciting potential."

Maxwell Amenity was established 60 years ago and trades in the landscaping, amenity, and horticultural sectors, offering product supply, media, sports turf contracting and training.

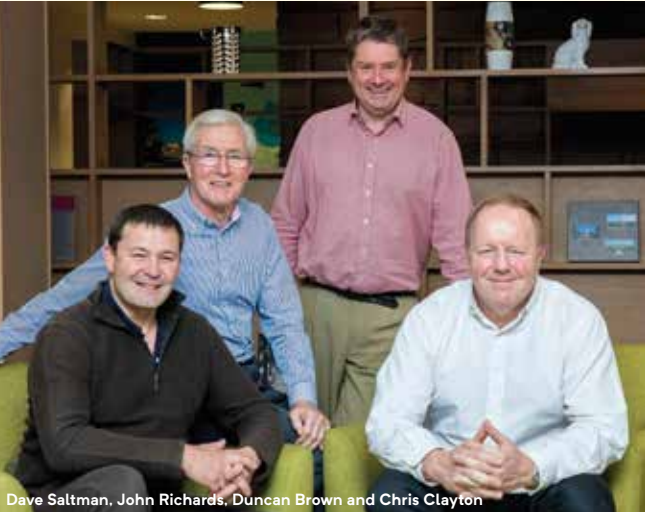
Managing director of

Maxwell Amenity, Dave Saltman, added: "We are excited about this new era as both our teams have highly-qualified and knowledgeable staff. Together with the greater research and product development support available, the new business will be a leading force in the professional turf sector, providing all customers with a

greater level of service."

John added that Agrovista Amenity is committed to offering improved customer interaction across on and offline platforms, through a modern, technical approach to amenity care.

Visit www.agrovista.co.uk for more information.



Dave Saltman, John Richards, Duncan Brown and Chris Clayton

Wild Waterhall

Campaigners calling for the rewilding of two council-owned golf courses in Brighton look to have achieved a victory.

The Brighton and Hove News reported how Labour and Green councillors backed the 'rewilding' of Waterhall.

An Extinction Rebellion petition for rewilding attracted 5,336 signatures and the campaign group's Ben Benatt said: "Let's seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"Business as usual is not an option. This is an emergency. "We need to act now."

However, Waterhall's club president, Budd Evans, told the local authority's committee that the course had wild areas and attracted a wide variety of wildlife, from deer to green woodpeckers.

He continued by saying that neglect of the clubhouse had led to a reduction in membership numbers.

"Attain is our go-to plant & soil conditioner this season."

- The Mendip GC Greens Team



 **ATTAIN**
Bio-Nutritional Liquid Extract
with Liquid Organic and Kelp Enhancement



"We tank-mix Attain with Revolution and you see consistency across the greens within days. It's a must-have combination for us."

- Allan Black, Royal Jersey GC

"Sward density and coverage have vastly improved since using Attain."

- Paul Hamilton, Ralston GC

All the talk is true, try Attain and see for yourself

Attain, derived from natural sources, is not just your average bio-nutritional. It has been developed using an innovative bio-extraction process which promotes optimal plant and soil health for all turf types, including greens, tees, fairways, and sports turf.

Benefits include:

- ✔ Promotes optimal plant and soil health for all turf types
- ✔ Maximise the benefit of existing nutritional elements
- ✔ Supports consistent and sustainable root growth

To learn more about Attain visit: eu.aquatrols.com/Attain

 **Aquatrols®**

INNOVATE. IMPROVE. INSPIRE.

eu.aquatrols.com |   

LOOKING FOR
A SPECIFIC
PRODUCT OR
SERVICE?

Visit the
BIGGA
Directory for
a comprehensive list
of products and
services.
www.bigga.org.uk or
scan the QR Code

Contact the
Sales Team on
01347 833 800 or
info@bigga.co.uk or
place your advert

BUYER'S GUIDE

Machinery Wanted

Invicta Groundcare Equipment Ltd

We buy used golf course machinery

Contact: Steve Dyne
Tel: 01474 874 120
Email: invictagroundcare@live.com

Irrigation

irritech limited
Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

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

Contact Roger Davy on:
01823 690216
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

lwsirrigation
YOUR ONE STOP SHOP

For all your golf, sportsturf and landscape irrigation needs.

Buy online at www.lws.uk.com

Tel 0345 230 9697 **RAIN BIRD**

Construction

Photo courtesy of Fulking Park
Reason Short Course "Signature Island Green"

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

GB Golf Course Services
Course Construction & Renovation Work
Green, Tee & Bunker Remodelling & Drainage Works
Artificial Greens, Tees & Pathways
Contact Graham Baker
T: 07977 547 591 | E: gbgolfservices@gmail.com

Turf

Lindum
taking grass a step further

We are growers of high quality turf grades to suit the particular needs of a golf course including greens, tees, fairways, bunker revetting, high traffic areas around the course, plus Wildflower turf & Sedum Mats.

2020 brings LT3 Creeping Greens to our range.
Nationwide delivery available

01904 448675 lindum@turf.co.uk
www.turf.co.uk [@lindumturf](https://www.facebook.com/lindumturf)

Waste and wash water

Waste2Water
BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

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

**NEW PRODUCT
OR SERVICE?**

To advertise contact
the Sales Team on
01347 833 800

**NEW PRODUCT
OR SERVICE?**

To advertise contact the Sales Team
on **01347 833 800** or info@bigga.co.uk

Explosive Performance

The only contact fungicide

Inspired by nature providing a long lasting protective shield against disease.



FOR SPORTS TURF PROTECTION – WE KNOW THE SPORE



Syngenta UK Ltd. Registered in England No. 849037. CPC4, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE.
E-mail: customer.services@syngenta.com Web: www.greencast.co.uk

Medallion TL® is a Registered Trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. Medallion TL (MAPP 15287, PCS 04188) contains fludioxonil. All other brand names used are trademarks of other manufacturers in which proprietary rights may exist. Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. For further product information including warning phrases and symbols refer to www.greencast.co.uk. Background photo credit: Mark Hollingsworth, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Whitley Bay Golf Course.

ICL Distributed in the UK and Ireland by ICL Ltd. Tel: 01473 201100
Email: prof.sales@icl-group.com Web: www.icl-sf.co.uk



ECOLOGY ROUNDUP

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)



Hiding in plain sight on a golf course in Yorkshire is a shrub so historically interesting that it has a famous nursery rhyme related to it.

The shrub in question could possibly be one of, if not the oldest of its kind in the UK, but it still bears fruits in the summertime. I am, of course, talking about the fabulous mulberry tree at Normanton in West Yorkshire.

History suggests the nursery rhyme 'Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush' originated at Wakefield Prison, where the female prisoners used to exercise around their mulberry tree by moonlight. That particular mulberry died in 2017 and was



Normanton's famous mulberry tree and (left) greenkeeper Oliver Durham

removed in its entirety two years later.

However, the original tree, which Wakefield Prison's cuttings were taken from, is still going strong. Care to take a guess at where the cuttings were from?

The answer is Hatfeild Hall or, as it's known today, Normanton Golf Club.

Both myself and Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's head of membership services, were given a guided tour of Normanton and the mulberry by none other than assistant greenkeeper Oliver Durham and the club's gardener, who just so happens to be Oliver's dad, Roy. The guys told us that Normanton's mulberry was thought to have been planted in the 17th Century,

when King James I had all his landowners purchase them from him.

With that in mind, Normanton's mulberry could be around 400 years old as it is known that black mulberries can give fruit for hundreds of years in the correct environment. By the looks of Normanton's bush, it has many more years of life left in it yet.

A quick and interesting fact about mulberries is they are either dioecious or monoecious and will sometimes change from one sex to another!

At the time of our visit, some of the mulberry's long limbs were touching the ground and starting to take root again; in the tree science industry, this is known as 'walking' and is a quite common phenomenon. However, Oli and Roy are going to prop the most severely cracked and heavy limbs up, so as to add longevity to the bush. This is a super idea and one which will give this rare flora a chance to live for many more seasons.



Oliver and Roy Durham with BIGGA's Tracey Maddison

Ecology
Roundup
is kindly
sponsored
by



MORE DETECTION FOR MORE PROTECTION




Get **MORE** advanced lightning detection with the **BTD-200** Lightning Warning System

The **BTD-200** Lightning Warning System is a complete, out-of-the-box, self-contained sensor that reliably detects the presence of all forms of lightning to a range of 35km.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Get **MORE** from your turfcare partner this year:
More products . More advice . More training . More finance

Member of Royal Reesink 
Reesink Turfcare UK Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Images shown for illustration only.



The Toro logo, consisting of the word "TORO" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters inside a red rounded rectangle.

The NEW Greensmaster® 1000 Series

For more consistent greens



Model shown:
21 inch Toro Greensmaster 1021



The legend got even better. Introducing the greensmower on another level.

The all-new Greensmaster 1000 series. Available as 18, 21 or 26-inch cutting widths – this re-engineered range of fixed-head greensmowers has been designed to eliminate variability in the pedestrian mowing process by allowing greenkeepers of all sizes and skill levels to work in perfect harmony with their mowers. Its innovative and unique telescoping loop handle and easily adjusted isolation mounts deliver the most consistent quality-of-cut and playability ever seen.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Get **MORE** from your turfcare partner this year:

More products . More advice . More training . More finance

Member of Royal Reesink 

Reesink Turfcare UK Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Images shown for illustration only.

