GIGCOLOGICON STATES STA

Warrington Golf Club

How John McLoughlin and the team was finally crowned Environmental Golf Club of the Year

PERSEVERANCE

IN THIS ISSUE:

Trevor Foster: The greenkeeper who led The Open Irrigation Auditing | Water Resource Availability Maintaining Mental Health: Mick Davie and Heather Mulley BIGGA Virtual National Championship launch



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.

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BIGGA members generally work outside, close to nature and in relative solitude. In the COVID age, that's suddenly made greenkeeping one of the most attractive professions out there.

But that solitude is something which in the past has proved a double-edged sword, with the isolation proving difficult for some. The pressure of

maintaining a golf course to exacting standards, with a tight budget and a management structure that sometimes lacks understanding means that greenkeepers are, sadly, guite used to dealing with anxiety and stress. And of course the current economic uncertainty will have, for many, only added to those daily worries.

In this magazine we look head-on at the issue of mental health as we hear from some familiar faces about their experiences with mental struggles. One of those is Mick Davie, who will be familiar to many of you as the founder of the Greenkeepers Mental Health Group on Facebook and the recipient of a BIGGA Award in January. Mick's story continues to be an inspiration

WORK DONE WELL.



Welcome

- CHAMPIONSHIP



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

for anyone who has had their struggles with mental health.

The pandemic has challenged everyone so it's really important to recognise that you are not alone and there are many things you can do to help yourself. As a member of the association you have 6,000 colleagues who you can lean upon for support. If you're new to the industry and looking for someone to talk to, contact our Membership Services team and they'll put you in touch with someone in your local area.

I'm hugely proud of how innovative our team of BIGGA staff and our volunteers have been throughout the crisis.

They've been constantly looking for new ways to support members and you only have to look at the BIGGA website for details of these, including information about the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund, which is available for anyone who is experiencing hardship.

Our attention has turned in recent weeks to how we continue to offer the networking, education and social interaction our members normally have access to. With the lockdown measures being so fluid it is nigh on impossible to plan physical events with any certainty, so we are looking at alternative methods.

In these pages we're delighted to unveil the first round of activity, including our golf championship, autumn conferences and smaller 'Turf Club' style events. As ever we want to ensure these events are as attractive as possible to you, the member, so please take the time to engage with our polling and surveys to help us shape content and formats.

This crisis has highlighted the incredible sense of community present in our industry and we're determined to maintain and grow that togetherness, despite the strange and ongoing restrictions to normal life

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Editor's Notes

Greenkeeper International editor. Karl Hansell

Digital this, virtual that.

If you haven't noticed, the coronavirus crisis has only pushed us all further towards a digital world.

Throughout the pandemic we massively increased our digital offerings to members. Continue to Learn Extra has provided access to fantastic education from industry experts, while every week we've published an episode of our podcast and told you about all the great member resources on our website.

We're going to continue down this digital route and I'm delighted that some events that otherwise would have fallen victim to COVID-19, such as the BIGGA National Championship and our regional conferences, are able to take place in an exciting new format. They're genuinely going to be a lot of fun and you can find out details within this magazine.

But where does a printed magazine fit within this new digital world?

We enjoy printed media in a different way to digital. Magazines provide welcome relief from screen fatigue and you can pick them up and pass them around at your leisure.

Magazines can't be changed if you spot a spelling mistake, nor can they be deleted without a trace if the content is proved false. Under that sort of scrutiny. you can be more confident that what you're reading is based upon facts and, more importantly, the truth.

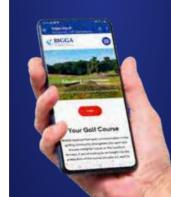
In years to come, when greenkeepers reflect on how the association navigated through this crisis, they'll look back at the magazines we've produced over the past few months. I hope they'll recognise an association that came together when things got tough. Members who, in the face of uncertainty surrounding their own futures, cast that aside in favour of helping their fellow greenkeeper.

Keep reading, keep up the good work and do get in touch with any ideas and suggestions you may have.

Everything in one place

Download and register with the **BIGGA App** to get guick and easy access to all your member benefits in one place.

Get it now on Google Play or the App store.



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Ways of coping with your turf's summer stresses to prevent a spiral of decline

come from if the mains system was turned off?

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:









James Hutchinson

BIGGA's ecology and sustainability expert visited the award winners at Warrington to hear about new ways of earning an income

Trevor Foster

Accrington & District's former head greenkeeper is one of the most talented amateur aolfers of his generation.

Adrian Mortram

Irrigation expert Adrian has worked at most of the prestigious golf courses in the UK and is a speaker at **BIGGA** events

Tony Hanson

Environmental Solutions International's Tony helps clubs achieve environmental compliance

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



TALKING POINTS

The first day back

How Castle Stuart welcomed golfers when the course reopened

Darren Skinner, greenkeeper, Castle Stuart



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!

When this all started, it was a shock for all of us. Our general manager asked for a meeting with all the greenstaff and basically told us half way through the day that all work was to stop.

At this moment we didn't know what was going to happen with the course or even with our jobs and we were all put on furlough. The whole situation just felt surreal and even after a week it hadn't sank in that this had actually happened.

I have a great relationship with our head greenkeeper, James Hutchison, so I was always in contact with him and kept in the loop about what was going on.

Our main panic was the golf course. Would it overgrow, taking weeks to get



it back to where it should be? This is normally a very busy time of year after we've put down a feed of fertilisers on our greens, tees and fairways. As soon as we got heat and moisture, the course was going to grow at fast rates.

After three days off I'd already had

enough, with my wife giving me chores and my being stuck indoors.

Luckily, our employers agreed to take two members of staff back to work and I was asked to come back, as was one of our younger members of staff, Ethan Ramsay.

We started back on the Monday with a task ahead of us — the maintenance of the course — that would normally take 12 members of staff to complete.

Our weekly job was basically to cut the entire time. There was no time to do anything else. Even with a full week of cutting, we weren't able to get around everything, so we had to prioritise what we could do.

This lasted until recently, when phase one of lifting the lockdown was introduced.

We have now taken back to work another four staff, which will give us the chance to get the course to where it needs to be. The Castle Stuart greenkeepers are renowned for their close eye for detail, so with golfing looking likely, there's a lot out there that needs to be done.

Bunkers, paths and any weeds were left to their own devices. These are the

most obvious things that will stand out to golfers, but they won't get the attention they need until we get our full team back. Tee edges and paths are overgrown and bunker faces have weeds growing out of the base and sides of them.

During the main growing season, we usually have a team managing our rough system and controlling weeds so we have clean fescue. Again, this is something we can't get to. Your everyday golfer probably won't notice these kinds of things, but it's us greenkeepers that do. It's these little things that make us stand out from the rest. I'm sure golfers will just be happy getting back out there and playing golf.

We opened the course for golf on Friday 29 May, but to two balls only and for locals. We offered limited tee times in an attempt to protect golfers and staff.

At our greenkeeping sheds we have introduced some things to try and protect us all from COVID-19. Each member of staff has their own personal bottles of sanitiser that we keep on us at all times and around the sheds at different stations we have sanitiser wipes, sanitisers and anti-bacterial cleaners.

We are never together at one time, keeping our 2m distance, and sometimes this means having lunch on the golf course on our own and at different times. This isn't so bad when the weather is

so nice, like at the moment, but most importantly it stops close contact in enclosed areas. Path adges will need restoring Our weekly job was basically to cut the entire time. There was no time to do anything else. Even with a full week of cutting, we weren't able to get around everything, so we had to prioritise what

we could do.









We also have protective gloves and face masks for when we need to work together or if there will be any golfers in the areas where we will be working.

We have assigned certain machines to individual people to stop us sharing machines and reduce any risks, but on the occasion when we need to share or use equipment or tools, the person using it will wipe it down after use and then the person who will use it will wipe it down before use.

On the golf course itself there are no rakes out there, so golfers will smooth off footprints with their feet. We are lucky »
 Talking Points
 How Castle Stuart welcomed golfers when the course reopened



that with the type of sand we use and open bunkers, the wind moves sand a fair amount and this covers up any footprints.

But golfers should understand that with these circumstances, they may not always have the perfect lie.

We have no bins or ball washers on the course, limiting any contact or risk to other people, so golfers are asked to take all their rubbish with them and to use the toilet before coming to the golf course.

All our clubhouse facilities will remain closed for the time being.

We have set up a one-way system at our practice facilities, with a maximum of three people using it at one time. We also have sanitising stations throughout the course, further protecting everyone.

The past eight weeks have been such a challenge for us. With the recent warm weather our growth has been fast and strong and trying to keep on top of that alone has been our biggest challenge.



We want to feature more articles from BIGGA members. To get involved email info@bigga.co.uk



Getting used to our new setup and not socialising with our team mates is something new for us. Socialising is part of what makes our team so strong. Working alone is something new for us, but it's the way things are going and something we





will need to do for quite a while.

Our main goal is to have the course looking the best it can. After all the work we have put in, we still have our greens, tees and fairway surfaces looking and playing very well, it's just the little things we can't get to. That will change and in good time we will be back to where we should be.

There will be many golf courses in the same situation as it has been a difficult, stressful and challenging time. But showing that we can get through this shows how strong the greenkeeping community is and how important it can be.

During the whole pandemic we had one or two volunteers help out, including our general manager who got out there and got his hands dirty. His young son, Calvin, even joined us to help get the course ready for golfers. That showed him some of the struggles that we face and I'm sure many others had a similar situation, to the point that their club managers have a better understanding of what has to happen out on the course.

There are few positives to come out of this entire situation, but that may just be one of them.

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ACROSS THE BOARD

Richard Whyman | BIGGA Guardian | Burnham & Berrow Golf Club

I was proud to be asked to return to the **BIGGA National Board, starting at BTME** in January, but how little I knew of what the year had in store for us.

After BTME came the wettest February in living memory, before a global pandemic coincided with the driest spring on record. It's been the toughest start to a year I can remember in my 45 years in greenkeeping, but doesn't it seem like we're saying that on an almost annual basis these days?

At Burnham & Berrow by the middle of June we had already used a full reservoir of water to irrigate the course. Water availability is going to become an increasingly important topic in the years to come and that's touched upon elsewhere in this magazine.

For BIGGA, too, this is a difficult time and we should be under no illusion as to the challenges the association faces at present. Yet it's BIGGA that can provide a sanctuary for anyone who feels overwhelmed by the current crisis.

As a Guardian of BIGGA, it's my responsibility to ensure that the National Board reacts to the situation in a way that honours our Articles of Association, while I can also offer guidance based upon my long association with BIGGA and reflecting upon similar situations that have arisen in the past.

When I started greenkeeping in September 1975, education wasn't anything like it is today and there were very few courses for greenkeepers. I would travel from North Devon to Moreton Morrell College in Warwickshire to get my education.

As an apprentice I was encouraged to get involved with the BGGA and when I was appointed deputy head greenkeeper at Lee-on-the-Solent I became an active member of the South Coast Section.

Returning to the Devon & Cornwall Section to become head greenkeeper at Bude & North Cornwall in 1984, I joined



the committee and was South West & South Wales Region Chairman.

In 2006 I was appointed National Chairman of BIGGA, a tremendous honour that coincided with a time when BIGGA faced a crisis not dissimilar to the one we face today.

At that time BTME wasn't in a particularly strong position and many of the larger manufacturers had decided to show at BTME every other year. But we stuck to our principles, improved educational opportunities and worked hard throughout the year, hosting a successful event and turning a corner. Each year since, BTME has gotten better and better and I hope that we'll be able to say the same this time next January.

Sadly, the future is uncertain for many in the golf industry. Some golf clubs are reporting surges in membership, while others are concerned about where revenue will come from if clubhouses must remain closed for an extended period. In these difficult times it is all too

easy to feel under pressure and that will manifest in many ways. A couple of years ago I endured a very difficult period; my grandson had been diagnosed with a brain tumour which was hugely challenging for all of us. When one day, while attending a Leeds United game at Elland Road, I received a call to say the golf course was on fire. I confess I broke down completely.

Things appear considerably worse when there appears to be no end in sight, but rest assured that we will recover from this and emerge stronger. The best thing you can do when the world gets you down is talk to someone and that's what makes BIGGA so important.

Everyone who reads this magazine will, at some point, have gone home full of stresses relating to work and that's where BIGGA can help. Whether talking to other members of your Section or speaking to BIGGA's Membership Services Managers, as a member of the association you'll always have someone to speak to.

HELPING US TO HELP YOU BIGGA

Partner





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'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.

BGGA VRTUAL NAT ONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



We're tired of COVID getting us down, so it's time to have a bit of fun by playing some golf.

Wherever you are, whatever your skill level, anyone can take part and be in with a chance of winning prizes while raising a little bit of cash for the Greenkeeper's Benevolent Fund.

There will be scratch and nett competitions as well as

all the usual categories with prizes for your first- and second-day's score. The best scratch score over 36 holes will win the title of first-ever **BIGGA National Virtual** Champion.

First rounds must be completed the week commencing 28 September, with round two to be played on Monday 7 October. We'll then host a presentation ceremony on 7 October at 7pm.

Players will be encouraged to join up with other members and play two rounds at a local course of their choosing on

two separate days in a one-week period. We anticipate the BIGGA National Championship will return in its regular format in 2021.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Firstly, register to get involved on the **BIGGA** website.

We'll need to see your latest handicap certificate, so email it to info@bigga.co.uk or send it to 07933 203 645 along with your name and membership number.

Once you've entered we'll email you an entry pack with further details about the event. We'll also keep you updated with others who are taking part in your local area.

You can play in groups of four or less, but make sure there's someone present to witness your score — preferably a **BIGGA** member.

Play wherever you are able, so long as you can play 18 holes. With a bit of technical wizardry, we'll determine the leaderboard based upon handicaps and course ratings.

As usual, there'll be great prizes given to each of the winners.

There'll also be Nearest the Pin prizes — all we need you to do is take a tape measure with you and nominate a hole on your round in advance (a par-3 close to 150 yards would be ideal).

Take a photo of where your ball comes to rest and measure it from the hole (to the front of your ball nearest the pin). Then post it on Twitter and

mention @BIGGALtd.

A longest drive competition will also take place for those who are able to get involved using range finders.

Keep up to date with our live leaderboard on the BIGGA website and stav tuned to our social media for the duration of the event - we want to see videos and images of you teeing off, of your best shots and anything else you get up to!

At the culmination of the event we'll have a live prizegiving and announce the winner on the BIGGA Facebook Page. And remember, this is all about having fun!







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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 01698 758 179 BIGGAmembers@ xactgroup.co.uk



The COVID-19 crisis has prevented face-to-face meetings from taking place this summer, but that hasn't stopped our members from accessing the great education offered by BIGGA.

Our Continue to Learn Extra webinar series has enabled BIGGA members all over the country, whether at work or furloughed, the opportunity to continue their professional development by accessing live webinars hosted by some of the leading experts in the turf management industry.

With large gatherings of people deterred for the foreseeable future, our annual regional conferences would not be possible in their regular format. With that in mind.

we're going to be expanding our Continue to Learn Extra programme to host a completely-online digital conference.

There's going to be key note speakers and regional break-out sessions with a programme of events completely designed by BIGGA members — you'll even decide when the event takes place!

BIGGA members will be able to access the programme of education at home or in the workplace, allowing teams to access the information together or in small hubs if the circumstances enable this

to take place.

With the event due to take

place in November, we're beginning the process of shaping what the conference will look like and we want your help. Over the coming weeks we'll be launching a member survey and a series of polls within the BIGGA Facebook group, where we'll ask questions such as when you would like the event to take place or what educational topics you would like to see.

These are strange times, but together we've all taken huge strides forward in our working practices and this new initiative will enable more BIGGA members than ever to participate in the leading education offered by BIGGA, while reducing the amount of time required to be away from the golf club.

If you have ideas for content or would like to find out more, email BIGGA Head of Member Development Sami Strutt on sami@bigga.co.uk



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(ONINUE () EARNEX RA:**VIRTUAL TURF CLUBS**

BIGGA has always been based on the concept of greenkeepers coming together to build friendships and share ideas.

Whether on a local or a national scale, it's all about members meeting up, sharing ideas, finding common ground and problem solving.

It may seem like that's not possible now, with restrictions on movement and greenkeepers incredibly busy catching up after the period of reduced maintenance.

Social media has enabled us to stay in closer contact, but there's nothing like a good conversation and so we're

going to host a series of Facebook Live conversations on the BIGGA Facebook Page, where you'll be able to hear about their working practices and ask questions.

You could be talking to prominent BIGGA members or leading groundsmen across other sports — let us know who you'd like to speak to.

BIGGA Sections are being encouraged to host their own virtual meet ups and we can provide the platform to host these events.

Who would you like to talk to? Would you like to host a virtual turf club? Let us know by emailing info@bigga.co.uk





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

Daryn Curtis, Royal Mid-Surrey; Joe Curtis, Gloucester; Wesley Saunders, Dunblane New; John Milne, Rothes; Ricky Jakes, Welwyn Garden City; Shaun Cunningham, Mortonhall; Rodney McKay, Galgorm Castle; Christopher Cobbing, Hainault; Mark Smith, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, Tom Smith, Golf Club Wylihof; Stefan Carter, Wentworth; Laura Sayer-Hall, Ardfin; Kevin Irving, Carlilse; Christopher Brown - Ardfin

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

David Byron, Thorndon Park; Thomas Jacques, Pleasington; Daryn Curtis, Royal Mid-Surrey; Wesley Saunders, Dunblane New; Shaun Cunningham, Mortonhall

Keep your CPD record up to date: www.bigga.org.uk/ member-homepage/continuing-professional-development



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/continuingprofessional-development.html

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.





BERNHARD











Charterhouse TURF MACHINERY



SOIL SCOUT









Sports&Turf



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

GREENKEEPER TRAINING

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

Employers should ensure staff are trained to the highest standards. There is a clear link between education and training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the professional development of their staff.

Askham Bryan College

Askham Bryan College, Askham Bryan, York YO23 3FR T: 07967 779 762 | T: 07814 446 607 W: www.askham-brvan.ac.uk

Askham Bryan College is a specialist land based college in York. We have some fantastic facilities on site including a golf course and several sports turf pitches. We offer Levels 2 and 3 in Golf Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, and Horticulture. We are currently working on delivering the new Level 5 Golf Course Manager Apprenticeship. Delivery for all courses will be online or classroom based. We offer a range of commercial courses including NPTC in pesticides and in a wide range of machinery.

Tyler Collins, current Level 3 Greenkeeping student said: "I can see why Askham Bryan is one of the leading agricultural colleges as the staff are so professional and helpful." Applications are now open for further information. Visit: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Email: christopher.hunter@askham-brvan.ac.uk bojan.jovanovic@askham-bryan.ac.uk Tel: 07967 779 762 or 07814 446 607



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

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East Durham College

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Apprenticeships are a cost-effective way to develop new and existing employees' skill sets and recruit fresh talent to help your business grow, whilst providing a life-changing opportunity for someone.

East Durham College's Houghall Campus offers outstanding training facilities to apprentices and a highly professional apprenticeship service to employers. Standards offered include: Golf Greenkeeper, Advanced Golf Greenkeeper, Sports Turf Operative, Horticulture Landscape Operative, Landscape

expertise. We also offer a range of accredited short courses to help build team competencies including PA1, PA2, Brushwood Chippers and chainsaw units Work Based Qualifications are available across the North East of England and North Yorkshire. For more information and advice on funding, please contact Business Development Advisor Hayley.Clifton@eastdurham ac.uk or call

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Hadlow College

Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 OAL Contact Name: Anthony Stockwell T: 01732 850 551 | E: anthony.stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk W: www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is delighted to be offering the new Level 5 Golf Course Manager Apprenticeship standard. This eagerly-anticipated qualification will expand your management knowledge, expertise and maximise your career potential. If you would like to find out more about this new and exciting qualification we would love to hear from you. Hadlow College also successfully runs the new

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For further information and advice please contact: anthony stockwell@hadlow.ac.uk wavne.svres@hadlow.ac.uk or stuart.franks@hadlow.ac.uk

Myerscough College and University Centre

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

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

nationwide apprenticeship opportunities in greenkeeper training, including the NEW Advanced Golf Greenkeeper Level 3



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Oaklands College

Oaklands College, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 OJA Contact Name: Andy Wight T: 01727 737 735 | 01727 737 000 E: andv.wight@oaklands.ac.uk | W: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Oaklands College has over 35 years of experience in delivering Sports Turf & apprentice is correctly prepared for their EPA Greenkeeping training. The college offers exam and practical Level 2 & 3 Apprenticeships and work-based gualifications in South East England as well as Level 4 Institute of Leadership and Management via distance learning.

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required for your apprentice to progress in

Pershore College

Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP T: 0330 135 7135 | E: poakley@warwickshire.ac.uk W: www.wcg.ac.uk/apprenticeships

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/ Horticulture Operative (Level 2)

HADLOW

COLLEGE



BIGGA's annual photo competition is back and you could win a Nikon COOLPIX W300 GPS digital camera

Time is running out to enter BIGGA's annual photographic competition. With an a Nikon COOLPIX W300 GPS digital camera up for grabs for the winner, it's an opportunity not to be missed.

To enter the competition, email high quality versions of up to five photographs, along with your name, membership number and club name, to comps@bigga.co.uk before the deadline on Monday 31 August 2020.



and Horticultural, as well as pesticides training: PA1, PA2, PA6, among others Contact Phil Oakley on the details provided. 🗅 WCG APPRENTICESHIP



Horticulture Supervisor and Arborist



Your Health Matters:

KEEPING IT TOGETHEF

How do you stay positive when the world around you is falling apart?

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for everyone's mental health.

A month into the lockdown a study by the Mental Health Foundation found that just 24% of people felt hopeful about the future. One third of people were worried about losing their jobs.

The greenkeeping industry has been hit hard by the pandemic and redundancies will happen. For those left behind, there'll be increased workloads and fewer prospects.

These factors are going to have an impact on mental health. In this feature, we spoke to a former course manager and a club manager about how they've overcome their own struggles with mental health.

This feature was recorded as part of the Green Room Podcast Live at BTME 2020.

Mick Davie, retired former head greenkeeper at Hazel Grove

Have vou ever looked at a tree and wondered whether it would hold your weight, if you decided to hang yourself from it?

When Mick Davie stood on the stage at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration at BTME 2020 to accept an award for his contribution to

Issues of mental health have come to the forefront more than ever in recent years and BIGGA is working to provide opportunities for our members to gain any support

they need, both through our partnerships with Andy's Man Club, the HR helpline we offer through Xact and our support for the governance guide for golf clubs.

Mick is just the type of

person we were trying to help. However, his struggles came to a head before these opportunities were made available and, if not for his own strength of will, he may not have been around to

stand up on that stage and accept his award. Had that been the case, who knows how many others would have suffered, without the support network he created.

"My biggest problem was

how the industry has evolved from when I first started in 1980," said Mick, 59. "Throughout my career, expectation became greater than the resources they provided. Staff and budget

SST ARAMAN

Read this for:

- / Personal health and wellbeing
- / Mental health
- / Support and advice

I found myself in a position where I would look at a tree branch and think, I wonder if that will take my weight?



levels were cut, while the expectation of the modern golfer became so great that they came to expect their course to look the same as they saw on television or social media, without any understanding of the funds it took to get them in that condition.

Prior to joining Hazel Grove, Mick had been an assistant professional at Abbeydale in Sheffield. He

moved into greenkeeping and was head greenkeeper at Ashton & Lea, near Preston.

Mick said: "I've had a great career and a great time, with just the occasional blip. Part of the problem is we all care deeply about what we're doing.

"Because we do, we put too much pressure on ourselves to present the course that the members want.

"To us, every green is a schoolyard and every blade »



of grass is a schoolchild. They don't all grow the same, they don't all feed the same. The difference for us is they can't tell us when they're ill and we need to have that knowledge so we can take control of the grass' lives. We're parents, doctors, everything to that golf course."

Like many clubs, the economic crash of 2008 hit Hazel Grove hard and it was then that Mick began a descent into a dark place.

"We went into austerity and had less money, my staffing levels dropped by half, my budget dropped and expectations rose," he said. "That led to work not being carried out that would have been otherwise. The greens in 2015 were poor because of lack of maintenance that I hadn't been allowed to do by the previous hierarchy. I found myself in a position where I would look at a tree and think 'I wonder if that will take my

The difference for us is they can't tell us when they're ill and we need to have that knowledge so we can take control of the grass' lives. We're parents, doctors, everything to that course.

weight?' which wasn't a great place to be."

Mick was having serious consideration about taking his own life and, in a somewhat symbolic gesture, it was an oak tree on the course at Hazel Grove that he had chosen as the place where he would do the deed.

Fortunately, Mick never took that drastic step and he came to realise that he wasn't the only one crying out for help.

He said: "I felt like an island, that I was very lonely and wondering if I was speaking a different language to everyone near me. I'm fortunate that I've got a wonderful family.

"I was averaging between two and four hours sleep a day and I would suffer from anxiety attacks and breathlessness.

"Then I attended a BIGGA stress seminar and I walked into a room and saw faces that I knew from prestigious golf clubs and I suddenly realised that I wasn't alone. From that

moment on, I thought this was a problem that needed addressing."

Mick established a support group in south Manchester, which meets monthly. After this proved successful, he established a Facebook group for greenkeepers that quickly gained in excess of 500 members from all over the world

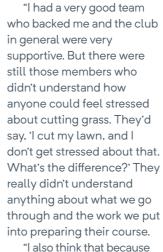
"When we meet, we have a chat and a whinge and a laugh at the same time," said Mick. "It's difficult to explain what's wrong unless you've actually been there in the first place, which is one of the things that make the group so important.

"We get people who leave and then come back and it's definitely helped people.

"The Facebook page I started by just putting out my story and inviting people to share theirs. It consists of motivational quotes, situations, other people put their thoughts on there. Some people just read them and get help just from knowing that there's somewhere to turn to. You can put whatever you want on there, with no judgement whatsoever. We're all in the same boat, we just need to speak out."

During 2020, in his 30th year at Hazel Grove, Mick stepped down as course manager to enjoy a retirement by the Yorkshire seaside at Filey. However, he continues to appeal to golf clubs to do more to support their staff and prevent them from getting to the stage where they need help.

"Fortunately for me, I did speak up, to the incoming chairman of greens," said Mick. "He took me to one side and began supporting me.



it's the leisure industry, they don't think they have to follow the rules of employment law.

"That's an area that needs to be addressed by the governing bodies, where there are sanctions if anyone doesn't pledge to follow a code of practice."



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 01698 758 179.





Enville GC

I've been in the golf industry for 17 years, starting as an admin assistant at Enville, which is a 36-hole private members' club in the Midlands.

I was made administration manager in 2012 and became general manager in 2016. In November 2019 I was awarded with the GCMA's Golf Club Manager of the Year award.

More and more I was hearing about staff not being treated as well as they could be. At private members' clubs you have a committee or board. Members have understandably high expectations of their clubs, but these are not always easily achieved by the professionals employed by that club. The reasons for this are well documented within the industry. Unfortunately, the board or committee at a private members' club don't always have the right skill set or time to manage staff well. This continued cropping up and it was clear it was an ongoing issue.

Boards change and with this personality clashes can occur. These can be managed professionally but so often they are At private members' clubs not, leading to unnecessary pressure on the you have a committee or paid employees of the club. board. Members have This was not the only factor understandably high affecting paid expectations of their employees. The economic climate clubs but these are not climate change and an always easily achieved by ever-competitive market also add to the professionals the stress levels within the industry. employed by that club. Where do you

turn? In early May 2019 | got in touch with Bob Williams, the then CEO of the GCMA. I was beginning to realise there were issues across the entire industry.

general managers, course managers and club professionals struggling and felt that something should be organised to offer support. Bob was having similar thoughts and had already been in contact with another general manager, Simon Smith, who had been through a

Heather Mulley, club manager at

very difficult time, come through the other side and was prepared to share his story in an effort to help and support others. Simon was brave enough to share his story at the GCMA Conference in November 2019. He received a really positive response and his story resonated with many of the delegates attending.

Working with the GCMA, we are very close to setting up a telephone help line.

This will be a place where problems and issues can be talked through. If you find yourself sinking, you can chat to someone who has been in a similar situation. That initial call may be enough but if it is not then we hope to be able to direct that person in the direction they need. It may be a legal team, a GP or chaplaincy service. We are very aware we don't have a magic wand to cure everyone's problems but it starts with someone just saying yes, we are listening to you.

At BTME 2020 I was invited to take part in The Green Room Podcast Live, discussing mental health issues. I was

joined by Mick Davie, a course manager already offering support to greenkeepers across the country via a Facebook page, and Simon Smith. It was heart-warming to see the industry on all levels tackling the problems out there. Later it was even better to see Mick receiving a life-time achievement award from BIGGA for his work with mental health awareness. Times

Time and time again I heard about

are changing.

The golf industry is still mainly male-based and although not always the case, men are notoriously bad at talking and getting their feelings out. I am a talker and over the years I relied on friends and family as my sounding board, which has really helped. Times have sometimes been tough and I have often spent a two-hour car journey with friends, talking about troubles at work. When I »



have got out the car it has been like a blanket of doom has been lifted from me. Talking about it is always a good point to start. It is all too easy to isolate yourself. We all love our clubs, we are passionate and we love every blade of grass. My club has been a huge part of my life, good and bad. I hope all my staff know my door is open. That drives me to want to provide help to others and make my club and the industry a happy and safe place to be a part of. I think everyone wants that for their golf club.

Continue the conversation:

You can join the Greenkeepers Mental Health Support Group on Facebook to get involved with the conversation and share your experiences.



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

NHS advice on mental wellbeing:

Find out about your employment and benefit riahts

You may be worried about work and money — these issues can have a big effect on your mental health. If you have not already, you might want to talk with your employer. Make sure you understand your sick pay and benefit rights. Having this knowledge can reduce worry and help you feel more in control.

Stay connected with others

Maintaining healthy relationships with people you trust is important for your mental wellbeing. Stay in touch with friends and family or reconnect with old friends.

Talk about your worries

It's normal to feel worried, scared or helpless about the current situation. Sharing your concerns with others you trust is OK and may help them too. If this hasn't helped or you can't speak to someone, there are helplines you can try instead.

Look after your body

Physical health has a big impact on how we feel. At times like these, it can be easy to fall into unhealthy patterns of behaviour that end up making you feel worse. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, drink enough water and exercise regularly. Avoid smoking or drugs and try not to drink too much alcohol.

Stay on top of difficult feelings.

Concern is perfectly normal. but intense anxiety can affect day-to-day life. Focus on the things you can control, such as how you act, who you speak to and where you get information from

Do not stay glued to the news

Try to limit the time you spend watching, reading or listening to coverage of the outbreak and other negative news, including on social media, and think about turning off breaking-news alerts on your phone. Use trustworthy sources and fact check information from the news, social media and other people.

Carry on doing things you enjoy

Try to focus on your favourite hobby or pick something new to learn. There are plenty of free tutorials and courses online that you can access.

Take time to relax

This can help with difficult emotions and worries and improve wellbeing

Think about your new daily routine

Think about how you can adapt and create positive new routines and set yourself goals. You might find it helpful to write a plan for your day or your week

Look after your sleep

Good quality sleep makes a big difference to how we feel, so it's important to get enough. Maintain a regular sleeping pattern and stick to good sleep practices.

Keep your mind active

Read, write, play games, do crosswords, complete sudoku puzzles, finish jigsaws or try drawing and painting.

Whatever it is, find something that works for you.

Head to the NHS website to find out more.

Summertime 'Rotor' Promotion



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Yes, 50% off^{*} your favourite golf rotors in the Rigby Taylor summer promotion

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The product:

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To take up this offer, just contact a Rain Bird participating contractor or a Rigby Taylor area representative. For the name of your nearest Rain Bird irrigation contractor or information on the Rain Bird range telephone: 01276 676833 (Opt. 1) E-mail: irrigationsales@rigbytaylor.com Website: www.rigbytaylor.com

*Discount only on orders received by 31st July 2020' Rigby Taylor Ltd is the appointed UK distributor of Rain Bird irrigation products for golf, sports fields and landscaping







The performance:

- 551 provides a smaller radius throw (50′, 15 metres) – ideal for tees and small greens
- 751 is your standard rotor for greens (70′, 21 metres)
- 9005 is a full circle rotor with Stopamatic feature
- 950 is the rotor of choice for large throws (90′, 28 metres)



Skin cancer is widely recognised as an occupational disease that can occur from repeated and long-term exposure to UV, a known carcinogen. When it comes to workplace health, prevention is far better than cure. Skcin, the UK's leading skin cancer charity dedicated to the prevention and early detection of the disease, runs a national accreditation programme called Sun Safe Workplaces. This helps employees fulfil their duty of care. Skcin has outlined below their top tips to ensure that golf clubs keep their greeenstaff and other outdoor workers safe in the sunshine.



4. IMPLEMENT SUN

CONTROL MEASURES

/ Engineering controls:

measures that reduce

exposure to solar UVR by a

/ Administrative controls:

exposure to solar UVR by a

procedure and the way work

measures that reduce

change in the work

/ Personal protective equipment: clothing and

and the hazard.

EMPLOYEES TO

WORK SAFELY IN

Raising awareness is

essential to the success of

a workplace sun protection

Further great work can

be done in educating

importance of checking

change and how to spot

symptoms of skin cancer.

Education is key to

of skin cancer and helps

their own skin health.

reducing the soaring rates

employees take charge of

employees on the

their skin for signs of

the early signs and

5. TRAIN

THE SUN

programme.

sunscreen are measures

that reduce exposure to

solar UVR by providing a

protection between workers

physical change to the work

PROTECTION

environment

is organised.

1. UNDERSTAND YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

The Health and Safety at Work Act makes it clear that there is a legal duty on every employer to ensure, as far as reasonably practical, the health of their employees. It also says that employers must provide "information, instruction, training and supervision" to ensure their safety.

Health and Work Regulations also require the employer to conduct a suitable assessment of the risks to the health of their workforce. That includes the risks from UV radiation. The law also savs that an employer has to remove any risk, or if that is not possible look at other ways of preventing or reducing exposure, including, as a last resort, the provision of protective equipment.

/ Training employees to

work safely in the sun: the

provision of information.

instruction, training and

/ Sun protection policy:

documentation of the

programme, including

further reduce exposure.

supervision for employees.

The Management of

2. IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE SUN **PROTECTION PROGRAMME**

In consultation with health and safety representatives and employees, employers should identify solar UVR exposure hazards and introduce control measures to reduce exposure. Employers should

implement a sun protection programme that includes:

- exposure risk to employees.
- and maintenance of protective measures.
- **3. ASSESS THE LEVEL OF RISK**

Risk assessment is a step in the hazard management process used to identify employees who have a high risk of in identifying what measures need to be implemented to help reduce UV exposure and the associated level of risk.

Sign up for the Sun Safe Workplaces national accreditation programme If you would like access to comprehensive resources to help you implement all of the above, along with training and awareness materials for employees. Register with the programme and go through the steps outlined to complete your accreditation. Visit: sunsafeworkplaces.co.uk

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS RESOURCES FOR BIGGA MEMBERS

With rates of skin cancer on the increase and exposure to UV radiation the primary cause of around 90% of all cases, BIGGA are committed to advising their members on the importance of sun protection and checking their skin for the early signs of change.

5 FREE AWARENESS PACKS TO GIVE AWAY!

We have 5 free awareness packs to give away to BIGGA members in the UK on a first come first served basis! Please email marie.tudor@skcin.org

Packs can also be purchased from Skcin's online resource shop, they cost £32 including delivery within the UK only. Visit: shop.skcin.org

Working with the UK's leading skin cancer charity Skcin who are dedicated to the prevention and early detection of both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, BIGGA are educating members on how to prevent skin cancer by adopting simple sun safe practices and urging them to swot up on skin surveillance by knowing their red flags when it comes to identifying suspicious lesions.

Skin cancer is the UK's most common and fastest rising cancer, with over 210,000 cases of non-melanoma skin cancers diagnosed annually in the UK. Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer is now one of the biggest killing cancers in the 15-34 age group and according to Cancer Research UK, 1 in 36 UK males and 1 in 47 UK females will be diagnosed with melanoma during their lifetime.

UV radiation from the sun is a known carcinogen, damage is cumulative, irreparable and can result in serious consequences. Greenkeepers and golfers alike are at greater risk of developing skin cancer due to the amount of time spent exposed to UV, particularly if they are not adequately protected.

/ Risk assessment: periodic assessment of the solar UVR / Sun protection control measures: the introduction identify changes that may

control measures in a written policy. / Monitoring programme effectiveness: a process to determine the effectiveness of control measures and

exposure to solar UVR and situations or work systems where high exposure to solar UVR occurs. This is an important step



It doesn't have to be a hot, sunny day for UV to cause skin damage either. UV radiation cannot be seen or felt, it is not related to temperature, it can penetrate cloud cover and cause DNA damage to our skin cells, that can lead to the development of skin cancer.

The good news is, skin cancer is almost entirely preventable and if spotted early enough is almost always treatable and curable. That's why Skcin and BIGGA have worked together to produce quality awareness resources providing Greenkeepers and golfers alike with a striking visual reminder of the importance of prevention and early detection with access to quality information to help them take charge of their own skin health and surveillance.

The awareness pack contains 2, sturdy, A3 Strut cards, that can be wall mounted or table top displayed and 200 copies of Skcin's Sun Safety and Skin Cancer Awareness booklets containing a wealth of information on: the risks associated with UV exposure, how to prevent skin cancer by adopting simple sun safe strategies and how to detect the early signs and symptoms of both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

I ATERAL THUR BUILDER

How a bit of creativity is bringing in extra revenue to Warrington Golf Club James Hutchinson, BIGGA

A part of my role at BIGGA is to develop features for Greenkeeper International.

When developing them about a golf club, I will spend time on their website, hoping to come across something of interest from a sustainability perspective. And so I was hugely pleased to find that Warrington Golf Club's website is littered with interesting eco stuff, including snaps of the course, the ponds and its woodlands.

As you'll be aware, golf clubs don't often celebrate their achievements in this way and so, ahead of my visit, it was looking like a good start — and things only got better. Warrington is one of those venues that has many

different characteristics, including parkland, woodland, heathland and numerous aquatic areas to go along with the scenic views around the top parts of the course. On a clear day, you can see most of Manchester, Cheshire and beyond.

The team has a passionate and forward-thinking chap called John McLoughlin at the helm, leading a crew of eight. You're probably wondering why I'm writing about Warrington though?

Well, the team took the overall winning position in this year's STRI Golf Environment Awards, so they know a thing or two about ecology and <u>sustainability</u>.

John said: "We have »

Willin Warrington Golf Club | Practical Greenkeeping



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



But do you know what? At Warrington I'm not seeing anything that other courses could not do

been finalists in the awards a couple of times, but this year, given the culmination of the past few years' ecology work, we peaked!"

That culmination John speaks of includes eco-piles, nest box projects and setting up a composting programme.

However, last year also saw them concentrating on the site as a whole, including water management, recycling clubhouse waste and energy usage that set the facility apart from the rest.



Along with this, WGC receives £400 per year from a clothes recycling scheme, where the recycled items are sent to places more in need than Cheshire.

About the aforementioned composting: the team creates approximately 60 tons of usable material per year from their excellent green waste recycling initiative. Leaves, grass clippings and many other minerals, such as sands and soils, find their way to the composting programme.

This is subsequently returned to the course, either beneath larger earth moving projects or to the sides of pathways prior to expensive rootzone being brought in.

This reduces the overall amount of haulage, which is approximately £30 per tonne in the North West. John mentioned that a saving of £3,500 per year can be made from this holistic project. Additionally, food waste

goes through the on-site

wormery – now that's just fab! To add to the growing list of goodies, the team has a herb garden, which the club chefs utilise, while a collection of beehives for honey is located next to a wildflower zone.

Golf Environment Awards

Nominations are open for the Golf Environment Awards 2021 until 7 August 2020.

The awards recognise those in the golf industry who are breaking the mould and highlighting the wide-ranging environmental benefits of golf.

Entrants may apply for awards in four categories: Environmental Golf Course of the Year; Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year; Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year; and

Operation Pollinator. This year sees the introduction of a new first prize. A £750 grant will be awarded to each winner to invest into environmental and ecological projects at the club.

I'm swiftly running out of superlatives for Warrington

John suggested that the

agronomy department is a

whisker away from sending

clubhouse not far behind.

zero waste to landfill, with the

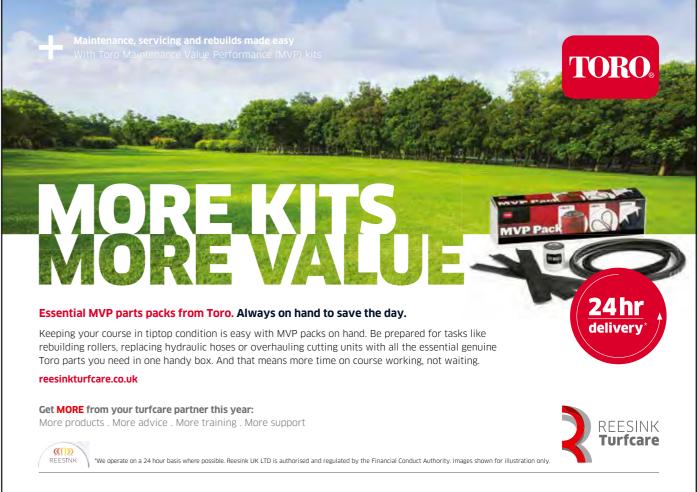
and its team!

For more information and to enter. head to golfenvironmentawards.

com









Plans are also in place to feed the clubhouse's water from a borehole, reducing the water bill by a whole bunch. The course's irrigation already comes from one of the ponds and with the UK's ground water regulations already guite tight where golf is concerned, Warrington is well placed to survive if the water companies decide to turn the taps off.

The club also has an agreement that nets them (forgive the pun) around £800 per year in pond rent from a local fishery expert.

The way this works is, the expert adds fish to Warrington's lakes, the fish then feed on the vegetation, algae and pond life and then, over time, begin to breed.

These fish are taken to other ponds when they get too large or plentiful for Warrington's, but it means the ponds are cleansed naturally by this method, keeping man hours to a minimum. John explained how the water

consultant tests the pH and water quality, then offers advice on the best way to manage the pond fringes -ahugely sustainable project in my eyes! »



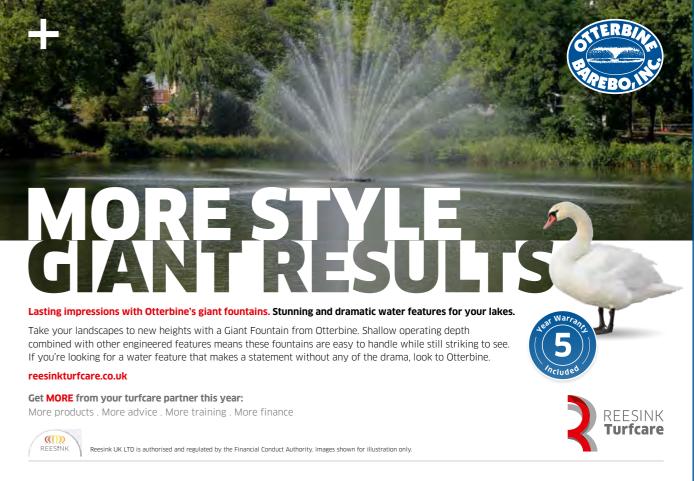
- / John McLoughlin, course manager
- / Ben Goodchild, deputy course manager
- / Andy Riley, first assistant
- / Malcolm Lawton, greenkeeper
- / Ian Illingworth, greenkeeper
- / Colin Dutton, greenkeeper
- / Michael Russell, greenkeeper
- / Joe Roberts. greenkeeper

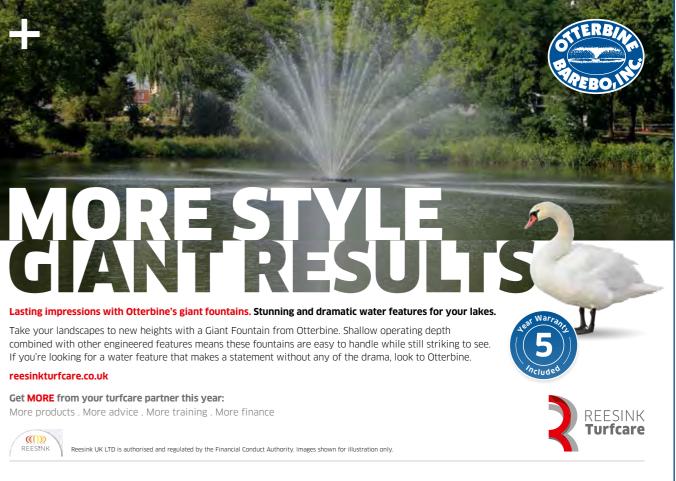




critter) which want to use it. I know there are tree creepers, nuthatches and woodpeckers on the course and I know that the population of these beautiful birds will rise given the fact the team are careful about woodland

management. In fact, those of you who attended BIGGA's ecology conference at BTME 2019 will remember the obscenely professional Andy Riley. Andy is an arboriculture specialist who now plies his trade at Warrington as their





The organic parts of the golf course appear to be taken care of, but what about the non-organic and less recyclable areas? Take a peek

Watch the webinar as part of the Continue to Learn Extra Series on the BIGGA website Visit www.bigga.org.uk/ event-listing.htm



C ... until engines come along that use either water or air to run on then we have little option but to use rechargeable batteries.

at this for forward thinking machinery management: / Lithium battery powered

- hand tools / Battery powered hand mowers
- / Hybrid triple mowers / All cylinder mowers maintain a contactless cut which ensures superior plant health following mowing

Operate an electric utility

vehicle which minimizes petrol usage

/ Introduced an automated mower around the maintenance facility in partnership with Stihl

I know the lithium has to come from somewhere i.e. out of the ground at great environmental costs, but until engines come along that use either water or air to run on

then we have little option but to use rechargeable batteries. With that in mind, great

initiatives all! Warrington has an eco-team in place to help with the smaller, but just as important, environmental

tasks. These tasks are Himalayan Balsam eradication, bird and owl box projects, a woodland ecology trial area. an insect and hedgehog hotel development and wildflower management.

While there aren't any veteran or ancient trees onsite. the team does leave decaying timber standing for the all-important saprophytic organisms (beetles, grubs and any other wood dwelling

eco expert greenkeeper what Andy doesn't know about woodland management isn't worth knowing, I reckon.

But do you know what? At Warrington I'm not seeing anything that other courses could not do. It's just that the greenies here have taken it to the next level and made it cost effective or, more importantly, the projects actually bring cash in to the club. This is surely what sustainable practices are all about.

I'm certainly not suggesting that Warrington are the only club in the land who does this kind of thing (I could probably name hundreds), but I am suggesting that they have built this thing up from nothing much at all and, as a result, have been recognised as the best in the UK at what they do.

Here's what Rowan Rumball, STRI Ecologist, had to say about it all when presenting the Warrington team with their well-deserved award: "If you are looking for a

golf course that has consistently shown innovative and direct solutions to reducing damaging environmental practices then Warrington is the cream of the crop. Warrington has shown me a course that is sustainable in relation to inputs, environmental impacts, water usage and ecologically diverse. They are well deserving of this award."

Enough said really, so well done to John and his team on hopefully inspiring countless greenkeepers elsewhere to consider new and innovative approaches that can save (or even make) golf courses a substantial amount of money.

Continue the conversation:

James Hutchinson @Ecology1BIGGA John McLoughlin @johnmac150 Warrington Golf Club @WarringtonGC Golf Environment Awards @golfenvawards

Coping with summer stress



This year we have already had to cope with immense climatic extremes, from prolonged rain and extensive flooding, to a period of weeks without rain through the key spring recovery period.

Climatic conditions, coupled with the artificial impacts imposed by management regimes for better playing surfaces, puts turf plants under almost continuous stress writes Syngenta Technical Manager, Glenn Kirby.

In summer, protracted hot and dry weather risks tipping the balance over the edge.

Research has repeatedly shown stress is a precursor of summer anthracnose (Colletotrichum graminicola) outbreaks, which STRI records show has been getting a progressively more serious issue over recent seasons.

GreenCast historic disease records provide a picture of periods of risk in previous seasons for any golf course in the UK and Ireland. It's a valuable tool to identify when and where infections could break out and, when linked to localised weather records, an indication of challenges for the coming months.

Moisture balance

Moisture is clearly one of the key factors of turf stress and maintaining healthy turf. Lack of water ultimately

impacts on cell functionality. Damaging leaf wilting has been linked to reduced amino acid availability.

Plant physiology research has shown leaf stomata shrink in size, or even close, when under moisture deficit. That would appear a useful mechanism to limit moisture loss. but also has the effect of

limiting CO₂ uptake – which has been shown to reduce photosynthetic activity. The whole interaction is

exacerbated by our continuously holding turf at an artificially small leaf area, in order to maintain desired playing surface quality. But understanding the process and the implications of the pressure we impose, can help with making mitigating management decisions.

One of the findings from this season's STRI Lockdown Trial has been how effectively turf drought stress could be held off through prolonged moisture deficit pressure with Qualibra wetting agent and limited irrigation resource, under a reduced intensity management programme.

Light touch

Met Office records declared May this year as the sunniest month ever in the UK.

While light is a key component of photosynthesis, extensive research in the development of Ryder pigment revealed too much light can be physically damaging to internal leaf function.

The research suggests that effectively adding a UV filter to the leaf surface, in the form of the Ryder pigment, can help to mitigate the damaging effects and stress of too much light, without impacting on the cell function.

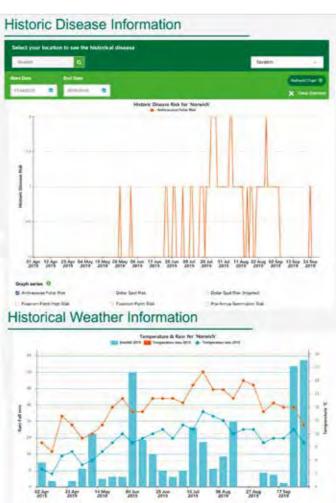
Nutrient uptake

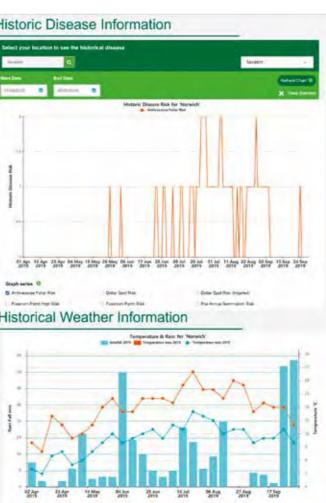
Syngenta research, in conjunction with ICL, has shown the combination of foliar nutrient, along with well-timed fungicide application, was the most effective route to limiting the occurrence and the severity of anthracnose attack.

The STRI replicated trial showed using nutrition alone reduced anthracnose infection from 17% or the greens area to 4%. Adding in the fungicide treatment as well gave an overall 94% disease reduction, to less than 1% of the surface.

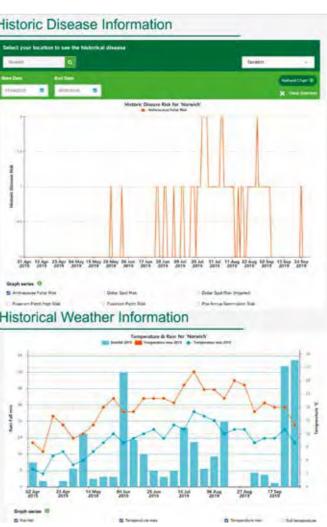
The trial also showed the liquid fertiliser and fungicide combination increased chlorophyll content in the leaf by up to 66%, along with improving the STRI turf health visual merit score up to 8.8,

Once turf gets into stressful conditions there can be a spiral of decline









The science of modern greenkeeping Find further insights at www.greencast.co.uk Insight

Syngenta.

from 3.0 or less in the untreated.

Rolling damage

The STRI Lockdown trial has also shown that, with an effective GDD-based Primo Maxx II PGR programme, there is the potential to ease off cutting frequency and still maintain turf quality and consistency — if your situation allows. If you normally set cutting height at 2.8 mm, backing off to 3.2 mm, for example, gives an extra 15% of

leaf area to deliver photosynthetic activity. The combination of PGR

with alternating days of cutting and rolling has shown it is possible to maintain consistent surface quality and speed, where conditions allow.

While it is often assumed that heavy play and physical plant wounding would exacerbate anthracnose infection and effects, one fascinating piece of research has shown that heavy foot traffic made no impact on levels of the disease.

Furthermore, it showed that wounding associated with repeated sand topdressing also had no effect on disease levels, as the added protection to the crown of the plant more than countered the downside.

Protein boost

Once turf gets into stressful conditions there can be a spiral of decline. As photosynthesis reduces, carbohydrate production is depleted; so less respiration and energy production limits N uptake from the soil and amino acid production grinds to a halt.

It's compounded by the fact that plants under stress, as photosynthesis slows from reduced green leaf, produce less carbohydrate to drive the Krebs cycle and manufacture essential energy.

This fascinating insight into turf leaf metabolism changes the way we may need to think about feeding plants. Directly providing the essential amino acids that can kick start the energy production cycle could be a future route to reducing the impacts of stress.

Science

IN ACTION

Turf

THE OPEN

When Accrington & District's head greenkeeper (briefly) stood on top of the world

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

The 1988 British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes is remembered for Seve Ballesteros capturing the Claret Jug for the third time and for being the first Open to finish on a Monday after heavy rain wiped out the Saturday's scores.

What's less remembered is that early on Thursday morning a little-known amateur from Accrington, who also happened to be head greenkeeper at the town's golf club, had briefly overtaken the famous Spaniard at the top of the leaderboard.

Trevor Foster and his wife Debbie have both retired now, having both spent 40 years working at Accrington & District Golf Club. Debbie worked in catering, while Trevor was employed first as assistant professional, then head greenkeeper, then bar manager.

In 1988, aged 28, he was a regular on the Lancashire county team and won both the Lancashire Open and Lancashire Amateur. During Open Qualifying at Blackpool North Shore he shot a course record of six-under and earned a place at that year's Open Championship.

"I wanted people to pinch me," said Trevor. "It's definitely the ultimate. I thought, I'm just a young lad from Accrington. I can remember my wife

asking me how I was feeling as we walked to the fifth tee and I said 'I wouldn't wish how I feel on my worst enemy'. I was so nervous it was a joke."

Trevor's wife, Debbie, would usually have been on the bag alongside him, but at that time she was heavily pregnant with their first son. In her place was 14-year-old Ryan Dône, who had been with Trevor all season and so he kept him on for this challenge. "People asked me if



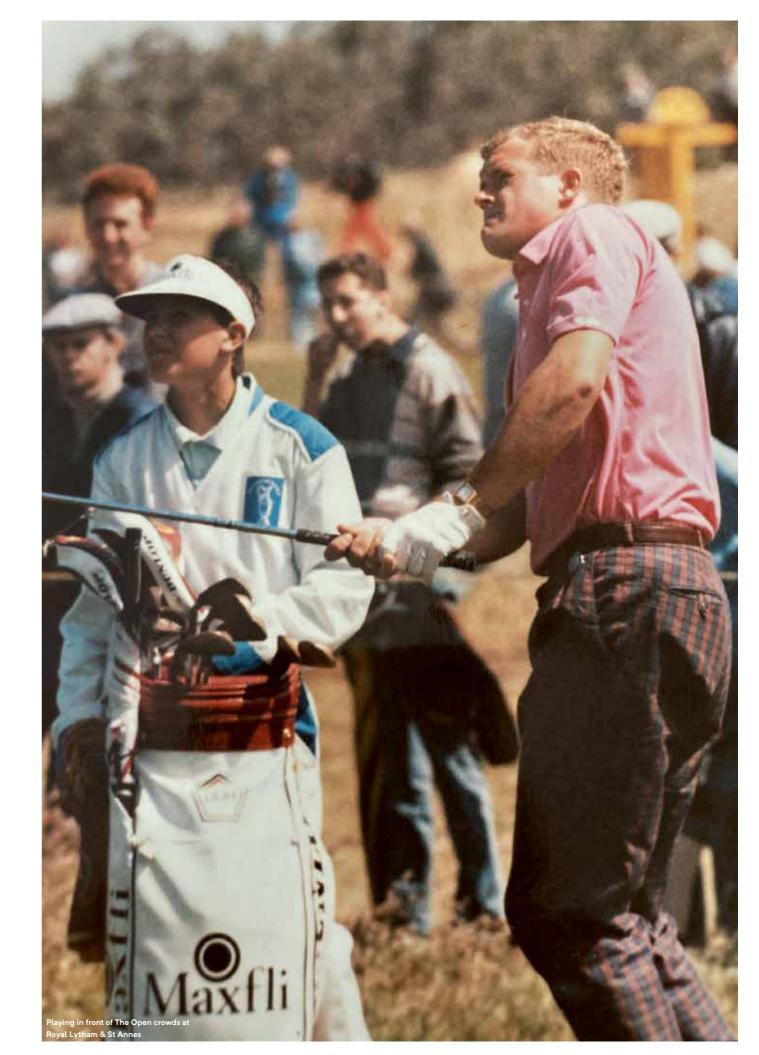
I would use a professional caddie, but I said no chance, Ryan is as excited as I am," said Trevor. "And he did brilliantly."

Ryan went on to become a PGA professional at Heysham Golf Club and for the past four years has been coaching Trevor, reuniting the partnership. During that time Trevor has won the Irish Seniors Amateur and the Seniors Amateur at Royal Porthcawl, both in 2018.

And in honour of his teenage caddie, Trevor and Debbie named the son she was carrying during The Open, Ryan.

After a nervous start at Royal Lytham, Trevor overcame the nerves on the 5th hole to hit his tee shot within 15 feet. In strong winds he lost his tee shot on the 7th, but made an eagle with his second ball to hold par — an incredible feat considering the conditions. Then, on the 9th, he holed out from 30 feet for birdie, taking him above Seve on account of having played more holes.

"I got this cold shiver down my spine," said Trevor. "It was the most amazing feeling and I've only ever had it once in my life. I just stood there and thought 'I've gone above the legend'. The only thing was, he knew it was a 72-hole competition and there was plenty of golf to be played!" »





BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Δ

It was the ability to overcome pressure that Trevor has credited for much of his success, as well as the determination to constantly improve. This mentality served him well both as a golfer and during his time as head greenkeeper at Accrington. "I was my own worst enemy because I

It was the most amazing feeling and I've only ever had it once in my life.

was always a perfectionist," he explained. "That means you end up working 70 hours a week, getting paid for 40. But I



never thought the course was good enough and I could always make it a bit better. That's where I've always been with my golf, just working that bit harder to get better. When I was greenkeeping I knew I could just spend those extra hours on the golf course and make it a bit better. That's how I've always been. I got a good name for my course for fast, good greens, and I'm passionate about what I do."

Although he's retired, Trevor still returns to the golf club to help out around the course. But sat in the Royal Lytham clubhouse in 1988, Trevor got the opportunity to meet a golfing great and talk to him about life as a Lancashire greenkeeper.

He explained: "We met Jack and Barbara Nicklaus and it was just amazing to be in people's company who are world famous. For them to treat you like you're just one of them, it was amazing. I'm just Trevor from Accrington and yet they were talking to me like I was one of their friends, it's unbelievable.

"Debbie told Barbara that I was a greenkeeper from a nearby club called Accrington and she said she'd keep an eye out for how I did and wished us all the best."

That appreciation for the hard work of greenkeepers is one that appears



consistent among those at the highest levels of the game. It helps that some have family who are greenkeepers such as Sam Torrance, who Trevor was level with on the scoreboard after the opening round in 1988 and whose father, Bob, had been a greenkeeper at Routenburn. But for others, there's just an appreciation of the effort that goes into maintaining a course to enable them to play the game they love.

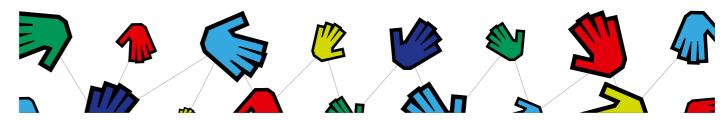
Trevor was reminded of this after qualifying for the Seniors Open in 2018 and playing alongside both Bernhard Langer and Sandy Lyle.

There to lend a helping hand

The official charity of BIGGA provides assistance to its members and their dependents, offering financial assistance and practical help during difficult times.



For more information on how the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund can help please call 01347 833 800 or email benevolentfund@bigga.co.uk



had a drink," Trevor said. "They're genuine, normal people and they realise the effort we greenkeepers put into the game they're so passionate about. You see that whenever someone wins an event and they thank the groundstaff for everything they do."

In playing alongside those two Major champions, Trevor was correcting a regret he had carried for 30 years, having turned down the opportunity to play a practice round alongside Jack Nicklaus.

"I bottled it and I've always said I'd take that to my grave," said Trevor. "So last year when I gualified for the Seniors Open I said to my wife, 'I'm playing with some Major winners'.

"I played alongside Bernhard Langer and he was one of the nicest guys I've ever played with, it was brilliant."

What separates the successful golfer from a competent one is a combination of greed and dedication, explained Trevor, and it's a lesson that carries over into the profession of greenkeeping.

"You get out of life what you put in," he said. "There are too many people out there who think they are naturals.

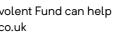
"They may be talented, but that will "I sat with both of them afterwards and only get you so far. »





Financial Assistance: during difficult times

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caddie. Rvan Dône

"You've also got to be a person who is able to handle pressure and the only way to learn that is by putting yourself in situations where you're uncomfortable, such as bigger events against people who are better than you.

"If you've got to walk down the last hole and make a four to win but you can only make a five, you'll never be a winner.

"You've got to be able to go out and handle that pressure.

"If it's a day you're swinging well, you'll handle pressure better. But if you're not swinging well and you feel pressure, you'll struggle."

The same could be said of greenkeepers who have gained the knowledge to be able to perform when conditions aren't ideal.

"To all the BIGGA members out there and officials, keep up the great work you do," he added. "To all the greenkeepers, keep going through the hard times because the good times overshadow the bad. You get a lot more pleasure out of it than you do suffering. It can't all be pleasure so grit your teeth and get through it, because it's a great profession to be in and BIGGA is a great organisation to be a part of."

Trevor, for his part, has passed on that ability to handle pressure to his daughter, Nikki, who is an England international and who played in the Ladies British Open at Carnoustie, making them the only father and daughter amateur pairing

to play in both the Men's and Ladies' Open Championships.

At Accrington & District, the club honoured Trevor with life membership at the age of just 42, after he played his 100th county match for Lancashire. He was only the club's second member ever to receive the honour, made all the more special as he was also head greenkeeper.

Back in 1988 the club was also cheering him on, with some members gathering along the 18th hole as he walked down it and starting an impromptu chant of "Foster for England".

"I wasn't right bothered about going back to work though, I wanted to play a few more days if I could!" said Trevor.

Unfortunately, his lead of the championship lasted just until the 12th hole. and he eventually finishing with 74, while Seve showed his class and shot 67.

A 79 on the second day meant Trevor missed the cut and by the Monday, when Seve was lifting that famous piece of silverware, Trevor was already back at the golf club.

However, he did have the opportunity to speak to his idol before leaving, having walked down the last three holes with Seve one day. But he wisely decided not to mention the fact he had briefly led the Spaniard.

"He'd have probably said to me, 'there's been a lot of people who have been ahead of me, but who never beat me!'" said Trevor.

You get out of life what you put in," he said. "There are too many people out there who think they are naturals. They may be talented, but that will only get you so far.

Greenkeeping's other golfing greats

While researching the History of Greenkeepers' Associations in the UK, which is now available to read on the BIGGA website. Elliott Small discovered that Trevor is far from being the only talented golfer to have a close connection with BIGGA and greenkeeping:

- / JT Dobson, East Renfrewshire GC. won the Scottish Amateur in 1925:
- / BIGGA Patron Sir Michael Bonallack won five Amateur Championships, five English Amateurs, four Brabazon Trophies and played in nine Walker Cups;
- / Former BIGGA staff member Emma Duggleby played in three Curtis Cups and won British, English, European, South African and Scottish Championships;
- / Sandy Pirie, Hazlehead GC, played in the 1967 Walker Cup;
- / Tom Craddock, former chairman of the Eire Section of BGGA. also played in the 1967 and 1969 Walker Cups, winning the Irish Amateur in the late 1950s:
- / Malcolm Latham, the former head greenkeeper at Hexham GC, was an England Boy International and in the 1970s played alongside Nick Faldo and others on the European Tour;
- / Stuart Taylor, BIGGA board member and course manager at Glasgow GC, was Scottish Boy Champion in 1977, and was a Scottish Youth International

alongside his twin brother, Alistair. If you've got a story to add to our History of Greenkeepers' Associations, email info@bigga.co.uk

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The interview: How do you manage the managers?

The GCMA's Bob Williams discusses the importance of

The Room

How many BIGGA members have had a run in with their club manager at one point or another?

building a culture of teamwork

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

It's almost inevitable, when two people are so passionate about the product they provide.

At the same time, we're all under incredible stress to produce the goods, meaning that sometimes tempers can get a little heated.

Karl Hansell sat down for a

conversation with Bob Williams, who this summer steps down from his role as chief executive of the Golf Club Managers Association.

Bob is a former club manager himself and we wanted to hear things from the other side of the table, for some advice on how greenkeepers can help their club managers and how the two can work together for the benefit of the club, especially during this difficult time.



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

The clubhouse is often associated with the clu ager, separating them from the rest of the team Inset image: Bob Willian



Bob: The GCMA got going in 1933 when a group of managers and secretaries met at Caddington Golf Club in London. The association for golf club secretaries grew and there are now 16 regions where managers work together to help one another out.

In 2005 we rebranded and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries became the GCMA. Presently we have around 1,700 members across the UK.

Unlike BIGGA, where you could have a number of members at a single club, the GCMA will usually only have one member at a club. Does that make the network you provide even more important?

I managed golf clubs for more than 20 years and the reality is it's one of the loneliest jobs you can have. There's usually only one manager at each club and I've always spoken about it being like working in a goldfish bowl because everyone is looking at you and wants a piece of your time.

That's why it's important to provide a platform for managers to speak to each other and meet on a face-to-face basis.

It's interesting that you talk about loneliness, but I wonder how many golf club managers regularly speak to their greenkeeper on a peer-to-peer basis?

Some of my best friends today are head greenkeepers who I worked with.

With them, I'd try and have a meeting every day. That meeting may only be 30 seconds long, it may be a minute or two, but I needed to know what the team were doing and what issues they had on the golf course. If I had a member coming to tell me the third bunker on the fourth fairway was out of play, I needed to be in a position to explain what was going on out on the course that day.

We also had a general agreement that on Friday afternoons the golf club manager, the course manager and the club professional would go for a course walk. We might play nine or six holes, but it gave us a chance to speak, to understand what was going on and what needed to be done in the next couple of weeks.

The course manager or head greenkeeper and the club manager have got to be friends and have got to understand one another. The ability to speak the same language is important to the success or failure of a club. If those »



two people can't work together then there's something wrong.

We talk a lot about educating club managers and committees about the work of greenkeepers, but would you agree that it's equally important for greenkeepers to understand the work of managers, to enable better two-way conversation?

The important word is 'team'. At any club the team has to understand what's going on. That team should also include the professional as they're in the shop window and often the first point of contact for the golfer, so they need to know what's happening on the course.

The issue of committees in private members' clubs is a totally different concept and that's where the majority of issues lie.

Committees come and go and that's something we're looking at with other bodies, how we can educate those volunteers. They are an important network and a good, willing volunteer is worth everything. But volunteers who just want to disrupt and become selfish for their own peace of mind, that's not good for any of us. It's about educating volunteers to work with the club manager, course manager and professionals.

If you get that team right, the course will flourish.

Greenkeepers often join the golf club environment at a young age and spend years learning management skills and the intricacies of running clubs. We think that many are well-placed to take the leap into club management themselves. Would you agree?

Yes and no. I've seen some very good course managers want to take the leap, but then they've sat in one of the training courses and all of a sudden they understand it's more complex than they thought it was.

The course manager has been used to working outside all day, while a lot of the time a club manager is sat in an office environment and making that transition isn't always the easiest.

There are some course managers who will become excellent club managers, like Michael Sawicki or Chris Lomas, but it's down to the individual.

As a course manager, sometimes you don't need to be a people person; you have your team and that's all you need. But in club management, you have to Representing a fundamental shift to the approach to professional education in golf club management, the three partner organisations of the Golf Club Management Partnership -GCMA, PGA and BIGGA have combined forces to create the ASQ L5 Diploma in Golf Club Management.

Suitable for, and open to all levels of skills and experience, this accredited golf-specific gualification is perfectly suited those looking to move into the club management profession.

The units of the diploma are:

- / Leading and managing people in a golf club
- / Managing change in a golf club

The course manager has to understand the politics of what the club manager has to deal with.

be a people person. You deal with 600 or 700 people all day, every day and, believe me, they all believe they're a better greenkeeper, better manager, a better chef than you.

It's about understanding how to work with these people to bend them to how you want them to work.

We know of golf clubs where the relationship between the club manager and course managers is strained and there's animosity. What would you say are the first steps to rebuilding that relationship?

That's an interesting question and maybe it needs third party involvement from a board member or somebody totally outside. If that relationship is broken down, then the club has a real issue and eventually the club will lose out.

The course manager may be very good and the club manager may be very good, but if the two don't communicate then that's a poor situation that needs to be addressed. It can't be swept under the table otherwise, at the end of the day, the golfer, the member and the club will falter.

The course manager has to understand

/ Managing the operations of a golf club

- / Marketing a golf club
- / Managing the finances of a golf club
- / Understanding personal and
- enterprising behaviours and skills / Keeping up to date with legislation of a golf club
- / Developing and managing a socially-responsible golf club
- / Managing innovation and golf in a golf club



the politics of what the club manager has to deal with. The club manager manages from the top down and from the bottom up and manages sideways. He will manage a board or a committee, which could have up to 20 people on it.

The course manager has to understand those politics and what the culture of the club is. They should understand the traditions of the club, but also understand that golf is changing and the club will have to adapt with it.

Think about what the strategy and business plan of the club is. Are you a traditional members' club at capacity or are you a thriving new club that needs to move forward and has identified increasing membership as its goal?

For the strategy to be right, the course manager, the professional, the club manager and the entire team all need to be singing from the same song sheet. If they're not, you've got a problem.

Not long after the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor, we took the whole team there so they could have a look around and see what they did differently to us. We took the cleaners, the administrators, the greenkeepers, everyone. We took them all to Wentworth as well and it gave them an insight into the entire working structure at a successful venue.

Those are the two best things I ever did and the team worked for me for a very long time. They were very loyal and had an idea of how things worked at high-end venues, both good and bad, and how they communicated with each other.

They saw what effective teamwork could achieve.

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In Depth:

Evaluating your irrigation system

Adrian Mortram, managing director, Adrian Mortram Associates

The 14th green at Royal Cinque Ports

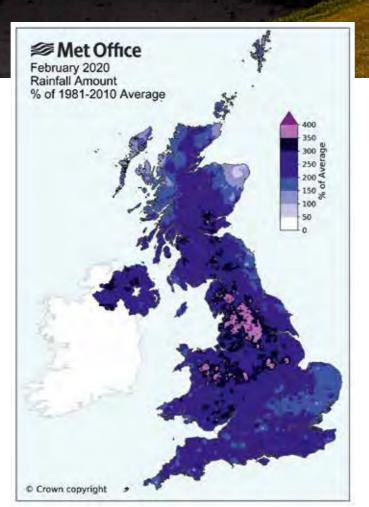
As I sit at my desk beginning to write this article on 1 June my wife has just left the house for another 12-hour shift on the COVID-19 wards at the hospital here in Norwich as lockdown measures are slowly being eased across all our nations.

On 1 June we have entered what is the UK's official meteorological 'summertime', which is supposed to be our driest part of the year.

However, it has just been the hottest and driest May since records began, where we had evapotranspiration rates recorded at over 6mm per day in parts of the UK and little or no rainfall. I am already hearing of irrigation winter storage reservoirs on golf courses that were full at the beginning of March nearly half empty.

All of this is off the back of the wettest winter since records began, with rainfall figures in February alone 200% above average in most parts of the UK. I am a believer. however. that nature always has a way of correcting itself and this seems to be expressing itself with more extreme periods of wet and dry. Is the new normal becoming more prolonged wetter and dryer periods?

It may seem a paradox that this change in weather patterns will in fact likely increase our need for irrigation rather than decrease it. We will need our practices on the golf course to be more resilient and efficient, using the maintenance tools available to ensure we can see ourselves through these periods. An irrigation system is just one of



these tools. In this article we shall focus on how you can evaluate your own irrigation system with a view to improving water use efficiency Irrigation really is often a case of out-of-sight

out-of-mind, which is sad considering it is the most expensive single item of maintenance equipment on any golf course.

There are four major steps to increase efficiency:

- / Prepare an objective analysis of each component of the whole irrigation system:
- / Record any problems, existing or potential, and check the conformity with current standards:
- / Assess each component as to their efficiency, both in the field and economically; / Compile a programme and

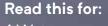
schedule of work to be

undertaken, involving monitoring of both cost and allowing for increased efficiency.

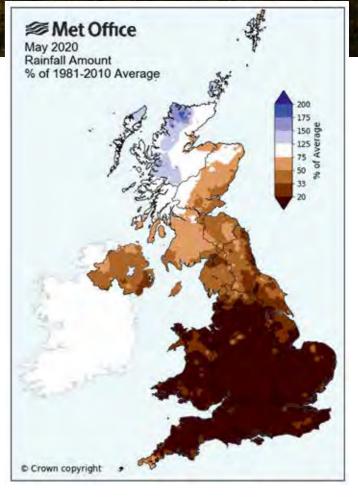
Having decided to prepare an evaluation, there are several components within the irrigation system which require attention:

- / The hardware components of the system. This includes water resourcing and its storage, power resourcing, pumping plant and transfer pumping systems, main line and lateral pipe work, control systems and associated cabling, isolation and solenoid valves and sprinklers;
- / The operation and use of the system;
- / The soil structure and turfgrass rootzone, identifying such factors as levels of compaction, »





- / Water usage
- / Irrigation auditing
- / Budgeting





infiltration rates and actual rooting depth of the sward;
/ Finally, it is necessary to identify the component species of grass present and decide on the desired future composition of the sward.

Taking each of the above in turn, let us consider where improvements and efficiencies can be achieved.

Does your water source and storage provide sufficient capacity during periods of dry weather? Are you making the most efficient use of electricity supplies? Does your pumping plant still provide the desired operating pressure to which the irrigation system was originally designed? Does your central control system operate efficiently ensuring accurate irrigation scheduling? Do your sprinkler spacings, flows, pressures, and radius of throw match manufacturers' standards?

In this regard, sprinkler spacing must allow for head-to-head contact as over spacing will cause poor distribution of water. To achieve this, the system must be operating at optimum pressure and the correct sprinkler and nozzle should be installed. Over time greens may change shape: they may be enlarged to accommodate more pin placements, aprons



may be improved and become

extra sprinklers may be added.

original design of the system

But do they conform to the

an integral part of the green,

and does the original design allow for extra capacity? If the answer is no then these additions to the system, these 'improvements', may in fact be degrading the whole system.

Sprinklers incorrectly installed will deliver uneven precipitation, resulting in excessive wet or dry areas. Sprinklers should also be selected to allow the correct arc setting and prevent excessive overthrow. The pattern of irrigation and areas to be irrigated should be a major consideration in your overall plan.

In your review of the system it is essential that you record the principal areas the club wish to irrigate: is it to be greens and tees only, or will aprons and surrounds be required? Maybe there will be a need for fairway irrigation in the future and if so, forward planning is essential, with increased pipe size considering a future increase in water capacity and requirements.

Arc settings and providing flexibility in control are critical in design. To change from irrigating the greens putting surface and surrounds with a single sprinkler on full circle to irrigating the greens putting surface and surrounds using two sprinklers (back-to-back) operating part circle with opposing arcs (say each at 180 degrees) will allow for finite control and a likely reduction on the overall water budget, provided the operating time of the sprinkler is summarily reduced. Where surrounds need to be watered, the use of back-to-back sprinklers in critical areas enables different quantities of water to be applied to the greens putting surface and surrounds and prioritising where water is applied during prolonged dry weather.

Pipe work integrity can be checked with relative ease by monitoring water lost in the system when it is at rest, provided that a water meter is installed — this is a simple monitoring tool that is a must for all clubs. Leakage from a damaged joint or split in the pipe can account for significant losses. A series of damaged pipe work joints leaking 10 litres per minute, for example, will waste 14.4 cubic metres per day and just over 3,000cu.m from April to October. This may represent a loss in the region of £3,000 per year, depending upon your water source.

The efficiency of the pumping system itself depends upon the correct selection and type of pump, pipe work, method of control and most importantly how well it has been maintained over the years. Individual pump impellers will wear, reducing operating pressures and performance throughout the system. Modern pump stations should also use 'variable frequency control', which enables a reduction in power consumption, wear and tear on the pump (and irrigation pipe work) and will only deliver the amount of water required by the system at any one time.

Finally, the irrigation central control system should be checked to ensure that all stations out on the course operate electrically and are capable of being individually programmed with their correct precipitation rates to allow for operation in millimetre application rather than time.

The central control software should be checked for correct data input, including spacings, nozzles, operating pressures, and sprinkler type. It should also be capable of 'repeatsoak' cycles to enable sufficient infiltration in poor or hydrophobic soils and allow easy alteration of irrigation schedules to adapt to our varying weather.

Correct operation and timing of irrigation application is paramount in the efficient use of an irrigation system.

Calculation of accurate sprinkler precipitation rates and associated operating time



is critical. The amount of water required depends on the evapotranspiration rate, usually between 2.5mm and 5mm per day dependent upon solar radiation, wind and temperature, of which typically between 50-60% is applied as irrigation. This can be delivered by natural precipitation but if levels are significantly below evapotranspiration, irrigation will be required.

Depending upon sprinkler set up, the operating times will vary. It is a fallacy to blandly say, "I operate my sprinklers for 10 minutes", as 10 minutes on full circle will deliver only half the precipitation as 10 minutes at half circle.

Sprinkler application rates must also be matched to infiltration rates and if the application rate exceeds the infiltration rate, ponding and surface run off will occur, wasting water. A 'repeat-soak' scheduling cycle is preferable.

Knowing how much water to apply was attained traditionally by maintaining a water balance sheet, which is in effect a profit and loss account balancing the loss (evapotranspiration) and the profit (natural precipitation and irrigation). Excess evapotranspiration over rainfall creates a deficiency, a »





percentage of which is replaced by irrigation. The point at which irrigation will be required depends upon the available soil moisture. It is not essential. in fact it is detrimental, to constantly lift the soil water to field capacity as some degree of soil moisture deficit is required to allow for future natural precipitation. The water holding capacity of a soil or rootzone depends upon the soil type and the available capacity will depend upon the depth of rooting of the grass.

Observation and analysis of the rootzone using a soil moisture meter, along with the installation of a weather station, should provide many answers to the successful and efficient management of water.

Provision of a compaction free rootzone by both surface and sub-surface aeration techniques will contribute to a deeper rooting sward and greater root biomass. A weather station. whether computer linked or not, will provide accurate data on both evapotranspiration and rainfall, enabling the provision and maintenance of a water balance sheet. The use of soil monitoring equipment for moisture deficits and volumetric content or salinity levels, whether standalone or linked into the central control system, are now essential elements to ensuring efficient use of water.

The use of wetting agents can also play a significant role in the efficient infiltration and use of water, as can the role of plant growth regulators.

In conclusion, while carrying out irrigation system evaluations, we now see many that are well past their use by date — the average lifespan of an irrigation system being 25 years, depending upon how well it has been designed, installed, maintained, serviced and upgraded throughout its life. To replace, or not to replace, is never a simple question. The solution usually lies in the choices available, which need to be looked at in the short, medium and the long term.

Be proactive, rather than reactive, in your thinking and ensure you plan ahead so you may not need to do everything at once.

Water will never be cheap and will inexorably increase in cost — indeed potable water may even be denied in the future — so it is imperative we use water efficiently. How can we plan our water usage for the future?

- / Follow best practice in cultural maintenance
- / Ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, water sources and storage can deliver the quantities required during dry periods

of weather

- Appraise the core elements of the system, such as water storage, pumping plant, pipe work, valves and control system to ensure efficient, reliable operation
 Clearly identify the areas to be irrigated and ensure the irrigation system can deliver
- to those areas. / Check sprinklers are
- positioned and working efficiently with correct spacings, operating pressures and nozzles and calculate accurate irrigation precipitation rates and run times
- / Utilise a weather station and soil moisture monitoring equipment to aid with accurate irrigation scheduling
- / Consider alternative sources of water

Continue the conversation: @AdrianMortram

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In Depth:

Turning off the taps

17 23 03 2 V

Where would your water come from if golf clubs were banned from using mains resources?

Tony Hanson, Environmental Solutions International

The past 10 weeks have shown all of us the importance of family, community and colleagues providing help and support during a truly exceptional event that has touched us all - some more than others.

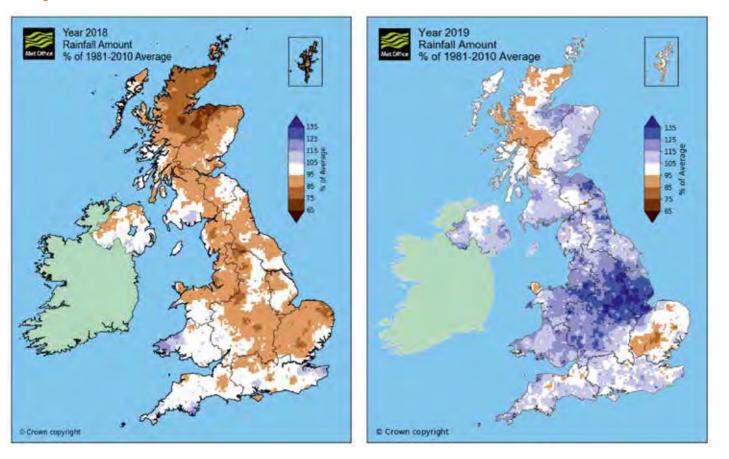
The impacts on golf as the industry tries to recover will be far reaching and long lasting. Many golf facilities had limited reserves to cover a long period of closure without significant hardship. The Government-based schemes and funding will hopefully help to cover much of the fixed expenses of operations and the return to golf appears to offer reason for hope with new members signing up and bookings apparently buoyant.

As the industry views the longer-term planning once more, it is imperative that water availability and broader environmental management is considered central to sustainable (environmental and financial) management to provide protection from climate change and increasing competition for resources.

Over the last few years Tony Hanson, managing director of Environmental Solutions International (Esi), has been spending an increasing amount of time working with clients on water resilience essentially securing their water supply to protect their future. »

national | July 2020 | @BIGGALtd

Average Rainfall across 2018-2019



If the last few summers and winters have shown us anything, it is that weather patterns appear to be changing, resulting in increasing numbers of named winter storms and flooding, along with longer drier periods in the summer.

Our most recent winter. of 2019/20. was the fifth wettest and fifth mildest on record. The UK then experienced the wettest February on record, with three named storms hitting the UK and 237% of long-term average rainfall that month.

But we can go from one extreme to the other very guickly. In more recent months, the UK experienced the fifth driest and the sunniest spring on record.

Unfortunately golf was temporarily stopped and we all stayed at home in response to the pandemic.

The BIGGA survey on irrigation last year provided some insight to the position of the golf industry with regards to water resilience — if we borrow from ecology, the best way to describe the golf industry is to say that it is now on the endangered list.

To explain we can look at the key points from the respondents to the **BIGGA Survey:**

/ Just under 50% of golf facilities rely on mains potable water supply for irrigation (water industry suggests 66% use mains)

If the water company figures are right based on metered supply, 1,100 out of the 1,900-plus golf facilities in England could lose mains irrigation

> 74% of irrigation systems are more than 20 years old

/ 74% of irrigation systems are more than 20 years old

In summary, we have an excessive dependence on mains water that is very visibly thrown on greens, tees and fairways and mostly old irrigation systems during summer periods when water companies and the Environment Agency are struggling to access and process sufficient supply for domestic use.

Morally it seems wrong that we would even consider using such high-quality water for irrigation. The country faces growing demands for water and with population increasing in future, surely this can only be seen as a reputational disaster for the golf sector!

Golf clubs shouldn't be reliant on mains water for their irrigation needs and clubs should explore all possible alternatives. There's plenty of help out there - from water companies, the **Environment Agency and Environmental** Solutions International.

I can almost hear you say, "but it rained all winter" and you are right, so what happened to the water? At present, most water companies currently have a good amount of water stored in reservoirs.

However, during the warm, dry, recent weather, water companies have faced record demand for water. On hot days and during peak usage times, customers

all around the country are using water faster than it can be safely treated and pumped through the underground network of pipes. As demand increases, this will inevitably reduce reservoir levels guicker than normal, as is already being demonstrated in some areas.

If golf clubs rely on mains water for irrigation then they are more at the mercy of external factors like the weather clubs risk losing supply during droughts, when there's temporary use bans, or at any other time from supply interruptions.

Having storage onsite gives golf clubs water security with a ready supply at hand. Clubs can continue irrigating using water from their own reservoirs and lakes, even when restrictions are in place, as this water is now theirs. Onsite storage really is key to increasing resilience and maintaining water supply through drought periods.

I saw many images of land drainage pipes being installed, cleared and un-plugged during the winter with water being channelled off golf courses and similar images of water courses and rivers allowing flood water to flow towards the sea.

Water companies' storage capacity is not based on the volume of rainfall, it is set by the volume of reservoirs and licence abstraction limits set by the Environment Agency.

Groundwater storage also provides a significant volume of water storage, although flows to springs and watercourses result in a natural loss, with the balance often accounted for from abstraction by water companies and industry. In truth many of the chalk streams in the north of London and parts of the south of England have been almost completely lost to over abstraction and many had only marginal flows even after the exceptional rainfall of 2019/20.

What about leaks? Our water infrastructure is old, costly to maintain and difficult to access (God bless the Victorians), while water companies have their supply price monitored by the Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT) to ensure it is not overpriced.

irrigation then they are more at the mercy of external factors like the weather

The price controls ensure water is cheap (for your £1500ml bottle of

According to the member survey BIGGA conducted in 2019, just under 50% of golf facilities rely on mains potable water supply for irrigation

If golf clubs rely on mains water for

Evian you could have 1,200 bottles of tap water from Thames Water) and the result is that budgets are tight and replacing all the supply infrastructure is too costly and disruptive. Also consider the accuracy of the leakage estimates in a system similar to an irrigation system; you can measure the influent at your pump set but unless you have meters at each sprinkler head to check the same volume comes out you have no idea where it has gone. It is only in the last few years that water companies have been installing meters to help fully understand consumption and >>





now hopefully with smart meters to look at real time data.

So, can we agree the water companies have a tough time, low budgets and the water supplied free to your tap is incredibly cheap?

The Environment Agency, among other things, has to manage competing demands for abstraction along with the environmental impacts of over abstraction on water quality, ecology and health.

The 2020 National Water Framework Strategy provides a balancing act of the competing demands following lengthy consultations in which Esi was involved.

Esi is also closely involved with a number of other water resource groups established to implement the national strategy at a regional level, drawing on knowledge and developing specific projects and stakeholder engagement programmes.

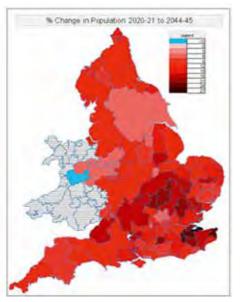
Population growth in the UK is happening fastest in the driest regions, such as the South East, London and East Anglia. These areas have existing water

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stress and erratic weather patterns and further population growth will only increase the pressure on the limited water supply.

The golf sector needs to plan for flood

Population change 2020-21



alleviation and self-sufficient irrigation, because a course can't survive without water. Water is a big vulnerability for the entire sector so planning needs to happen now, not in the future.

In terms of the investment calculation it is no longer sensible to look at mains water as your benchmark for the cost of supply. It is too easy to use the long return on investment as an excuse for inaction. It would be more sensible to think what you will do when mains water is no longer available for irrigation.

There is a very real risk that mains water for golf irrigation will not be possible in the next few years.

If the water company figures are right based on metered supply, 1,100 out of the 1,900-plus golf facilities in England could lose mains irrigation.

Do you have time to find an alternative before that day?

Continue the conversation: @tonyhansonEsi

RAIN BIRD | Rain Bird recommends use of key irrigation system features

After an exceptionally dry spring, Rain Bird Central Control users have the ability to utilise an important feature for managing course conditions and optimising water efficiency.

Alastair Higgs, golf district manager for the UK, recommends use of the evapotranspiration (ET) Central Control feature to save time, water and money by addressing the plant's needs based on exact weather and ground conditions.

He explained: "Different species have different ET rates and turfgrass can be irrigated to achieve different objectives, so use of the ET mode puts complete control of course conditions in the user's hands. It's important to ensure control system and in-field set-up is accurate.

"Inputting data from the field including spacing (shape, type and distance), rotor type and nozzle set-up, flow rate and arc details allows the Central Control to have an accurate precipitation rate for the station. In ET mode, the system will establish run times based on these rates and the ET percentage to be applied, so it's vital this information is kept up to date if changes occur in the field. It's also possible to run



part of your system in ET mode. Setting all areas bar the greens is a practice often used to allow you to focus daily attention and data reading to the greens, knowing your system is looking after the rest of your course in real time.

"When not using ET mode, the system will reference a standard run time.'

ET control and reporting is available to all Rain Bird Central Control users, including Stratus LT, Stratus II, Nimbus 2 and Cirrus.



TERRALIFT | 'Use your water better' says David Lowe



"Use your water better," says David Lowe, the head greenkeeper at Bawtry Golf Club.

David has 21 years behind him at Bawtry and said he finds the greens perform better if kept a bit moist against the dry winds and periods of little rain.

"Regular irrigation is important on our greens as they play better when they are kept a little more moist," he explained.

"We used to suffer regular wind burn and dry spots, which impacted on ball roll and aesthetics even after ample amounts of water. Wetting agents helped but never to the extent we hoped for."

In 2014 David had the irrigation water tested by Terralift and discovered that although it had an acceptable 7.2pH, it was a high bi-carbonate water.

"I introduced Quadrop irrigation additive from Terralift into my irrigation water and seeing was believing!" said David. "The dry spots reduced significantly, grass colour improved and even after rain the greens got greener in colour, which was a fantastic bonus when normally you would be waiting days for a change like that to occur when coming out of a dry period.

"Get your irrigation water fully tested, there is no better advice."

David went on to explain how the club backed off wetting agent use for a

number of years, until sinking a new 120metre bore hole that gained access to an aquifer. This water proved to have similarities to the existing 18metre deep source, but was different in that it has a 7.8pH with a lower bicarb reading, which responds just as well to Quadrop infusion. The club upgraded to a 48,000lt irrigation tank and now has enough water security to meet its needs. David added: "This investment in water security, storage and Quadrop treatment has allowed us to produce great greens with significantly less



trouble than when we were relying on water and surfactant use only. We can now irrigate our greens nightly with no negative impact and when our tee boxes and approaches need a lift the Quadrop irrigated water gets these areas back into condition rapidly.

"The amount of water required to do this has reduced as the water is now able to penetrate deeper into the root zone and is not as susceptible to wind and evaporation. The greens appear to stay hydrated for longer. We have introduced some wetting agent again as my confidence has increased in it doing the job it describes due to the improved and better irrigation water quality.

"Quadrop is a reliable and effective tool but we only realised we were missing it after we tried it! I hand dose the Quadrop solution into my tank daily when it is refilling. I intend to install an automatic dosing unit in the near future to give me more accuracy and save time.

"Water is a precious resource and we should all try and use it better."

For more information contact Alex McDermott Tel: 07969 305 164 or alex. mcdermott@quadrop.co.uk

Article brought t you by



AQUATROLS | Making the most of your essential irrigation



Ensuring the efficacy of your irrigation has never seemed more vital.

The long, wet winter we endured, followed by very little rain since the beginning of April, means the contributory factors of water repellency really start to add up.

There are various ways to tackle this problem with understanding hydrophobicity being top of the list, followed by assessing your situation and ensuring that your essential irrigation and applied product is actually getting into the soil profile.

What happens when water, either irrigated or from rainfall, can't get through that top layer? This is most commonly referred to as water repellency.

Causes of water repellency

Hydrophobicity in the soil profile is a wax-like coating that accumulates on soil particles and is a by-product of organic matter decomposition.

It can also be caused by plant root exudates and fungal hyphae and is exacerbated by wet/dry cycles.

Water repellency causes water movement problems in two ways:

- 1. At the surface, it impedes water's movement into the soil, sitting on top and evaporating or running off
- 2. Below the surface it can also disrupt water's ability to move freely through the rootzone. This results in uneven distribution of water and can also lead to preferential flow patterns where the

water takes the 'easy way' through the soil, straight down past the roots. Source: Paul Hallett, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

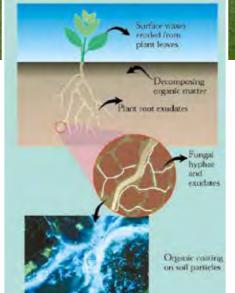
Signs and consequences

On sports turf, this translates to localised dry spots, irregular shaped patches suffering from drought stress, or puddles of surface water. If water repellency is preventing water from moving effectively through your soils, it's preventing water-soluble nutrients and other applied materials from moving effectively too. This not only prevents your turf from uniformly getting what it needs, but also increases the potential for loss of expensive inputs and can have a negative environmental impact.

Combatting water repellency

If signs of water-repellency emerge, surfactants can help break through the surface and deliver water and nutrients throughout the entire rootzone. Applying a wetting agent reduces run-off and becomes cost effective as you save water, fertiliser and other resources.

In addition to adding soil surfactants to your turf maintenance programme (both proactively and reactively), keep track of where problem areas occur year after year. It is to note that along with water repellency issues, stubbornly reoccurring dry spots can also be an indicator of poor irrigation coverage or a



larger problem beneath the soil.

Not all wetting agents are the same

While the basic science among wetting agents isn't all that complicated, it's important to remember that not all wetting agents are the same. New formulations and technologies have been developed in the six decades since Aquatrols introduced the world's first commercially sold soil surfactant. These advances have resulted in vastly different performance characteristics, depending on the type of surfactant chemistry and soil conditions.

Your local Aquatrols representative can help you to separate fact from fiction and find the right soil surfactant chemistry for your individual needs.



BAILOY | Data checked – next step, hydraulic tree

In our previous article 'Check your data - don't jump to replace your system' we covered the problems of incorrect station data in your irrigation database when compared to what is physically installed on site.

If your sprinkler data is correct and you are still having issues, the next step is to create a full hydraulic tree. A hydraulic tree is a representation of all the branches of mainline pipework.

Each sprinkler station is linked to its relevant branch enabling the controller to determine all the flow characteristics to co-ordinate and manage flow.

Having the correct sprinkler type and flow is essential but can still give you problems if the pipes supplying that head, or group of heads, are not able to deliver the required flow. If new stations, updated sprinklers and pipework have also been added to the existing system over time, the additional flow required is often not considered. The result is you may be exceeding the parameters of the original design and asking an existing pipe network to deliver an increased amount of water to more heads with larger flows.

BRITISH SUGAR TOPSOIL

The irrigation of tees, green surrounds and bunkers during periods of drought can be an unwelcome additional burden on greenkeepers' budgets. By selecting appropriate topsoil for the construction and renovation of green surrounds and bunkers and a soil-based topdressing for tee construction and repair, the requirement for additional irrigation can be reduced, helping to mitigate costs.

British Sugar TOPSOIL's Landscape20 is a BS3882:2015-compliant sandy loam topsoil. Derived from prime arable soil, Landscape20's additional reserves of organic matter result in a considerably slower percolation rate than sand-based material and it is this increased water-holding capacity that makes areas less reliant on irrigation in extended dry periods. The clay component in the soil

holds on to nutrients (N, P, K, Mg) and the microbes present in the organic matter make for a healthy soil, resulting in good grass establishment and growth.

Sports&Turf topdressing comprises a 90/10 blend of medium to coarse sub-angular sand with British Sugar TOPSOIL's BS3882:2015-compliant topsoil. When Sports&Turf is used to



Flow problems often lead to the By having a good hydraulic tree, the

controller being unnecessarily criticised and the leap to replace the complete system is again back in the forefront. distribution of flow is managed in a controlled manner allowing each head, or group of heads, to receive the correct flow and pressure required for the desired application. It will also decrease 'water hammer', which causes wear and tear on



construct and repair tees, the soil element helps to establish and maintain the sward; this becomes particularly important when dry conditions prevail.

As climate extremes become more commonplace, greenkeepers are faced with adapting established practices to better manage the implications of drought. Soils and soil-based materials can play an important role in helping them manage their courses, and budgets,

pipes, joints, valves and heads, therefore decreasing maintenance costs and overall downtime of the system. Contact us on 0044 (0) 208 897 0125 or visit our web site www.Bailoy.com

Article brought to you by



I Using soil-based products to optimise irrigation

through protracted dry periods. British Sugar TOPSOIL products are available in bulk and (subject to a minimum order) in bulk bags. www.bstopsoil.co.uk, tospoil@britishsugar.com, 0870 240 2314

Article brought to you by



Activating stress recovery

For greenkeepers and course managers, the spring of 2020 will go down as one of the warmest and driest on record, leading to a high level of stress being placed upon the turf.

This, combined with the COVID-19 crisis and reduced management practices, left many golf courses ill-prepared for the approaching summer.

However, almost on cue, when the Government allowed courses to re-open, more seasonal weather appeared and rain arrived.

Now, with more positive news arriving on the control of the virus and greenkeeping staff being called back from furlough, the catch-up can begin with intensive activity involving applications of



fertilisers, herbicides, plant

overseeding, increased

mowing and aeration, not

welcomed increase in play -

all of which inflict additional

Plant stress factors include:

Assisting this recovery

phase, turf managers could

look to the introduction of a

bio-stimulant programme to

at the same time activating the

plant's own natural defences.

Understanding bio-stimulants

Bio-stimulants are

target specific areas that

provide the plant with the ability to combat stress, while

forgetting, of course, the

growth regulators,

stress on the plant.

effective, organic-based products that contain substances or micro-organisms whose function, when applied to plants or the rhizosphere, can improve the health of turf grass, increase the plant's ability to tolerate stress, improve its efficiency to take up nutrients, stimulate root and shoot growth and stimulate the plants own defence mechanisms.

A bio-stimulant's main role is not to provide fertilisation or direct activity against pests or diseases as it does not directly provide a source of nutrients and it is not a pesticide.

However, bio-stimulants do enhance plant health through being used together or applied in a nutritional programme to either obtain synergy between the component parts or to just make applications more efficient and easier.

- / Bio-stimulants differ from crop protection products because they act only on the plant's vigour and do not have any direct activity against pests or disease. / Bio-stimulants operate
- through different mechanisms than fertilisers, regardless of the presence of nutrients in the product formulations.



Bio-stimulants on turf

One of the oldest and most common bio-stimulant applications to golf course surfaces is seaweed. Maxicrop pioneered this application and is still the brand most recognised for this use. Other brands, such as Seaguest, have also shown great results. Seaweed contains plant

sugars, proteins and alginates, together with plant hormones such as auxins, cytokinins, gibberelins and betaines.

Humic substances are another common component of biostimulant products. Both seaweed and humic acid are very effective in stimulating plant growth, increasing stress tolerance and enhancing microbial activity in the soil; in itself a valuable mechanism in maintaining and promoting plant vigour. When the plant is exposed to unfavourable environmental conditions and undergoing cultural stresses, levels of some hormones, such as cytokinins may drop.

Applications of bio-stimulants containing cytokinins or other plant hormones will help the plant to better cope under such conditions.

The role of amino acids

Amino acids are another source of bio-stimulants that assist the plant's ability to cope under particularly stressful situations. Under normal conditions a plant will produce sufficient amino acids for its everyday needs.

However, when a plant is under stress its ability to produce these essential amino acids and proteins is inhibited with the subsequent effect of poor growth and lack of plant-repair abilities.

The application of amino acids prior to, or following on

Image C: Nitrogen metabolism

NITROGEN METABOLISM Formation of Proteins, Enzymes Foliar uptake and Chlorophyll Amino-Form LX is absorbed through the Conversion to other leaves and roots, so Amino Acids Amino Acids are taken up quicker and are more readily available Conversion to **Glutamic Acid** mmonium (NHA) Root uptake Nitrates (NO₂)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF

from, stress periods allows the plant to maintain its vigour without expending energy by having to produce fresh amino acids when it is least able.

The functions of amino acids within the plant include: / Enhanced recovery from

- cold, wear and water logging / Increased photosynthesis and chlorophyll content
- / Stimulating root growth / Enhanced germination
- Amino acids also have important chelating properties,

being formed by combining with important elements such as iron, manganese, calcium, magnesium and copper, see

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Image E: Poor nutrient retention

mage C.

As a result, nutrients applied at the same time as a bio-stimulant containing amino acids, will be more readily absorbed by the roots and leaves and underscores the benefit when combining bio-stimulants with nutrients.

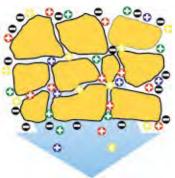
A study showed that a formulated amino acid product (in this case Amino-Form LX) enhanced uptake of iron and subsequently chlorophyll within the plant. In this study, A standalone liquid iron product with 8% Fe applied at 10 litres per hectare was compared with a complexed Amino-Form LX formulation containing amino acid with the addition of just 3% Fe, applied at 5 litres per hectare. Over a two-month period and three applications, the enhancement of the photosynthetic pigment chlorophyll was boosted by over 9% and a 25% improvement of carotene levels were achieved.

Humates

Products that contain humates such as Humivate and Humivate LX are also an excellent addition to the greenkeeper's stress relief programme. Products rich in humates have a powerful stimulating effect on beneficial fungi that can deactivate harmful pathogens, which could compromise the plant's immune system. Another major benefit is that humates assist the plant to use nutrients more efficiently. It can also expand

water-holding capacity and

Image F: Good nutrient retention



root-zone moisture retention. which in turn can increase the retention and availability of soluble fertilisers in the soil, for example, as in high sand content rootzones, or in soils with low humas levels. The graphics below show that applications of products containing humic acid gives the sand a negative charge, attracting positive charged ions in fertilisers, improving nutrient retention and longevity, see image E.

Poor nutrient retention in sandy soils and soils low in humas, see image F.

Nutrient retention improved with the addition of humic acid. Nutrients in the soil are adsorbed by plants through available moisture in the rootzone and therefore require liberation by soil microbial activity into the soil solution where, through osmotic processes, that can be taken up by plant roots.

Finally, bio-stimulants are not cure-all products. however by introducing them into the growing environment they can have a significant effect on the plant's ability to survive and thrive during conditions that are unfavourable to growth.

Continue the conversation: @rigbytaylor

Working in partnership with



The globe-trotting scholar

How Bill Whybrow has embraced every opportunity available to him, with a little support from Baroness and BIGGA



Bill Whybrow and his family have made a large impression on the association during the relatively short time he has been a greenkeeper.

Whether it's by winning the BIGGA Photographic Competition during his time at Royal Bled in Slovenia in 2018 or participating in the Open Support Team, Bill has embraced everything that the association has to offer its members.

He's also taken every opportunity to expand his horizons, using his greenkeeper training to work at golf clubs all over the world.

Helping Bill along in his journey was the Baroness Level 3 Scholarship Fund, which awards BIGGA members with up to 50% of the cost of their education, up to £1.000.

Bill was a recipient of this scholarship in 2019 after choosing to study his Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture (Sports Turf - Greenkeeper) via distance learning with the Berkshire College of Aariculture.

After conversations with Stuart Green at BIGGA, Bill was awarded the scholarship and became BCA's first international online student - the course began on 1 March and on the 15th he started his new job in the Netherlands at Oosterhoutse Golf Club.

After spending the summer season in the Netherlands, Bill was home just one week before he left to start a role in Sydney at the Australian Golf Club.

With fast internet connections. Bill was able to continue his studies despite being on the other side of the world. The only exception to that was a two-week period when the club hosted the Australian Open 2019, when there was no time for study!

Bill said: "I found the Level 3 was much harder to do online than the level



Continuing my course was hard, but I had the scholarship from Baroness, which helped me to keep going.

"However, while I was in the

2, which was work-based and done at my Essex club. I was able to see the tutor face to face and also received extra help for functional skills, so remote learning did provide a bit of a challenge. Netherlands and Australia I received video calls from Rob Phillips to guide me and show where to access information such as worksheets, research and guidance. Rob also gave me some words of encouragement, telling me to keep going, as did my parents and other supporters within the industry."

During his time in Australia, Bill witnessed first-hand the devastation



caused by the bushfires that caused so much damage to the country, while he was also in the country at the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Continuing my course was hard, but I had the scholarship from Baroness, which helped me to keep going. In the Level 3 there were a lot of areas that I had never covered, as this was a big step up from being a greenkeeper to managing a golf course with decisions, such as managing budgets, that I had not had to think about before."

Bill left Australia on 17 March 2020, two weeks before his contract at the Australian GC ended, due to the escalating situation in the UK. That gave him six weeks to complete the course at home in Essex.

He knuckled down at the dining room table, working and studying on the final few units that he needed to cover.

Finally, after a few final pointers from Rob over a video call, Bill submitted his final course work.

Just a few short days later and Rob again contacted him, this time with the fantastic news that the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) had judged that he had passed the Level 3 In Horticulture and Sports Turf.

"I was so pleased," said Bill. "I want to thank Rob for the initial talk on the course and for taking me on as a tutor at BCA.

"Thanks also to Stuart Green, all the BIGGA staff and Team Baroness for kindly making this scholarship available to BIGGA members. The money I received went a long way to paying for this gualification.

"I must also say thanks to the golf clubs that I have worked at during this period and to my mum and dad for supporting me throughout my greenkeeping career."

Next up for Bill is a role at Lucerne Golf Club in Switzerland, which he began on 11 May. He concluded: "I hope to now continue learning and building on this journey. There are always new things to learn and do."

For more information about the Baroness Level 3 Scholarship Fund, head to the BIGGA website or contact our Learning & Development team.

Continue the conversation:

@WhybrowBill @baronessuk

Working i partners



AROUND THE GREEN Sun sets on Day's career

South West & South Wales - Devon & Cornwall

Saunton head greenkeeper Raymond Day has retired after 41 years of service at the club.

Ray, 66, started at the club on 29 October 1979 when he ioined as assistant greenkeeper, having begun his career at Warley Park and Thorndon Park in Essex.

Just four months later he was appointed assistant head greenkeeper, before taking over the top job from Brian Summers in February 1984.

Saunton's general manager. Jon Sutherland. said: "Shortly after this promotion The R&A came to

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development at the Continue

its career-defining

three nights' hotel

to Learn education

scholarship.

Your invite to learn

with ICL Scholarships

Saunton for the first time when it hosted the St Andrews Trophy between Great Britain and Ireland and the Continent of Europe. At this time, the future of the West Course was in doubt, but Ray played a major part in bringing the course to maturity, including digging up and relaying all 18 greens in 1987. It is thanks to Ray and his staff that we now have two wonderful championship courses."

During Ray's tenure, he oversaw preparations for 22 maior tournaments. These included multiple British and English Women's amateur

programme, supported by

development, Sami Strutt,

said: "BIGGA is progressing

with its plans to host BTME

fantastic opportunities such as

understand that finances are

tight due to everything that

has happened this year and

that's what makes initiatives

such as the ICL Scholarship

applications is Friday 31 July

Member Opportunities page

in the members area of the

even more important."

The deadline for

2020. To apply, visit the

BIGGA website.

and Continue to Learn as

normal and that means

the ICL Scholarship will

return. BIGGA and ICL

fertiliser company ICL.

BIGGA Partner and specialty

BIGGA's head of member



championships and multiple English Men's and Senior amateur championships. In 2019 Ray was nominated by the STRI in the

Environmental Greenkeeper of the Year category, while Saunton was also a finalist in the Environmental Golf Course of the Year

Cavendish

Central England - East Midlands

A multi-vear renovation project is underway at Cavendish, to be completed in time for the club's centenary in 2025.

Under the stewardship of Course Manager Warwick Manning, course architect Jonathan Gaunt is undertaking a bunker

James Cleaver

Central England - Midland

Congratulations have been given to James Cleaver after being promoted to course manager at Stratford Oaks.

An FTMI graduate in 2019, James was previously a senior greenkeeper at The Belfry, before joining Stratford Oaks as deputy course manager.

remodelling programme in addition to improvements to tees and drainage to make the course playable year-round.

Jonathan said: "No golf course architect can achieve a great solution without full commitment of the course manager and his team and at Cavendish we have this."



New members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Grant Campbell, Duddingston, GK; Ian Fairweather Crieff, GK; Luke McKenzie, Duddingston, GK; Stuart Tragis, Duddingston, GK: Alan Lawrie, Royal Musselburgh HGK

Northern

Mark Bowman, Close House, GK; Daryll Curtis, Ferrybridge, HGK; Cameron Dale, Horsforth, AGK

Central Englan

Alan Barker, Tilsworth, CM; Anna Nilsson, The Belfry, GK; Anthony Bradbury, Sandy Lodge, AGK

South East

David Cargill, Flempton, A; Deidre Charleston. Symbio, E: Kevin Davies, Northwood, GK: Peter Cook Sandy Lodge, GK; Peter Hyman, Bank of England SC, G; Neil Cordery, Crowlands Heath, HGK

South West & South Wales

Neil Carter, Symbio, ED; Terry Onions, Rodway Hill,

International Petr Voracek A

	А	Affiliate Member	FA	First Assistant
	AGK	Assistant	GK	Greenkeeper
		Greenkeeper	G	Groundspersor
	AHG	Assistant Head Groundsperson	HGK	Head Greenkee
	APP	Apprentice	HG	Head
	CA	College Assessor		Groundspersor International Member
	СМ	Course Manager	1	
	DCM	Deputy Course	L	Life Member
		Manager	М	Mechanic
	DHGK	Deputy Head Greenkeeper	S	Student Memb
	ED	Partner &	R	Retired Membe
		Education		
		Supporters		



Name: Mollie Breed: Black and tan coonhound

Owner: Paul Staples Course: Broadstone

Favourite treat: Any of the lads' lunch

Favourite spot on the course: Third lake or the grass clipping bins

Stuart Greenwood

Scotland - East

Former Scottish Region **Chairman Stuart Greenwood** retired from his role at North Berwick during May.

With the UK lockdown in force, it was a subdued end to a career for Stuart. who had spent 30 years as course manager at North Berwick's West Links and 46 years in total in greenkeeping.

After being used to seeing the course busy at all times, Stuart told the Edinburgh Evening News that he had spent a long time considering retirement, before deciding the enforced closure of the course due to COVID-19 was as good a time as any.

"I felt it was a good chance when all that was going on and it was the main reason for my decision," explained Stuart (61). "[The course manager role at North Berwick] is a great opportunity for someone coming in. I always considered myself a custodian, looking after it for the next person to come along.

"It's about enjoying

Prince's celebrates opening of new hole South East - Kent



Sean McLean and the team at Prince's Golf Club in Sandwich are celebrating the completion of a major renovation project.

The team at the 27-hole property has concluded work with the opening of Smugglers' Landing, a new par-3 hole.

Around the Green | Points of Interest



retirement now, catching up with lots of jobs and playing a bit more golf myself, having neglected my own game for a number of vears."

North Berwick's general manager, Elaine McBride, said Stuart had been "an incredibly important part of the club" during his 30-year spell, adding: "We thank him for his contribution and commitment to the club over the years and wish him well in his retirement."

During his time as course manager Stuart hosted three Open qualifiers and a British Amateur, among other events.

Rob McGuirk, general manager of Prince's, said: "The last three years have been an important step in the history of Prince's and the transformation of the courses, under the guidance of Martin Ebert and our links superintendent, Sean McLean, has been spectacular." The three-year project was

undertaken by Mackenzie and Ebert and began with a 'reimagining' of the Himalayas nine, completed in spring 2018. Since then, course improvements have been completed on both the Shore and Dunes nine.

Get in touch with our local Membership Services team

Scotland & **Northern Ireland**



Chairperson Robert Patterson



John Young info@bigga.co.uk

Northern



Chairperson Jack Hetherington



Sandra Raper 07866 366 966 sandra@bigga. - o uk

Central England



Chairperson Andrew Smith



South West & South Wales



Chairperson Lucy Sellick



Tracey Walker info@bigga.co.uk

South East



Chairperson Peter Smith



Clive Osgood info@bigga.co.uk



Kerry Phillips info@bigga.co.uk

INDUSTRY NEWS

GCMA announces new CEO



The Board of the Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA) has appointed Tom Brooke as its new CEO, taking up the position in early September.

Tom will succeed Bob Williams, who announced he was stepping down from the position earlier this year after seven years in the role.

Tom is currently the MD of Glendale Golf, a position he has held for six years.

GCMA Chairman Phil Grice said: "With over 100 applicants for the role of CEO, many of which had a lot to offer. Tom was a leading candidate from the outset. Throughout the process his attention to detail and his progressive mindset became evident. We are in challenging times and strong strategic leadership is needed. Tom evidenced throughout the interview process this is a key attribute of his."

Tom is also vice chairperson of the UK Golf Federation and said: "I am absolutely delighted to be joining the GCMA as its new CEO. This is such a fantastic opportunity and I join at a particularly interesting and exciting time for the organisation. I'm really looking forward to getting started and working with the board and the team to focus on developing the service offering for the members, as well as broadening the appeal of the organisation."

STRI launches Project Pathfinder



STRI has launched 'Project Pathfinder', which forms part of the UK Government's emergency COVID-19 innovation strategy.

The project will provide sports facilities and green spaces affected by the COVID-19 crisis with stage one consultation advice for free between June and August 2020. If required, STRI will also deliver roadmaps to give facilities business plans to assist with their longer-term financial stability. STRI consultant Kelly-Marie Clack,

said: "Project Pathfinder will provide a lifeline to sports facilities who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our services will fill the gap in knowledge for facility managers who need to rapidly adapt to new financial and practical pressures.

"This is truly a unique opportunity to reach out and offer advice to all sections of our industry, regardless of budget or location."

The initiative is available to any sports or green space facility that is experiencing issues due to the COVID-19 crisis. This may involve advice on turfgrass maintenance practices with reduced staff, planning applications, potential cost savings, or longer-term options to put facilities on a stronger financial footing such as redevelopment or land sales.

By funding this project, the government has recognised the health and mental wellbeing benefits sports facilities provide to the UK.

To take part in Project Pathfinder, complete a short survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/stripathfinder

Invasive plant talks

ICL has completed a trilogy of online webinars that explored a range of invasive species.

Invasive species are an increasing challenge and Barry Browne, national sales manager, and keynote speaker Dr Dan Jones, managing director of Advanced Invasions, provided advice throughout the webinars.

Species covered in the webinars included Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed, Buddleja and Rhododendron.

Recordings of the webinars, along with guestion and answer sessions, are available to view on the ICL UK Turf & Landscape channel on vimeo.com

Barry said: "I'd like to think viewers come away from the webinars with a greater understanding of these invasive species. They will now be able to avoid using treatments that are not going to work."

Landbased training

Berkshire College of Agriculture has reopened its doors to landbased training under COVID-19 guidelines.

Due to industry demand, the college was able to restart some courses that are vital to the landbased and construction industries.

Gillian May, principal at the college, said: "BCA recognises its role in supporting our clients in this challenging time. We are acutely aware that many of them have not been allowed on worksites if they have not got the correct certificates of competence. We are keen to support land-based industries as much as we can and by running these courses it means we can help workers get the certificates they badly need to get back on site.

With courses such as ROLO. PA1. PA6/2. chainsaw maintenance. pedestrian and ride-on mowers on offer, the hope is that the college can support businesses with their transition back into the workplace by upskilling and refreshing staff skills and qualifications.

The value of golf's green spaces Jeff Anguige retires early



Playing golf and spending time in nature could be an important solution to the predicted "tsunami of mental health problems" following the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's the view of environmental psychologist Professor Jenny Roe, who said golf courses possess many of the natural features, including water, biodiversity, spatial variety and light patterns, that help reduce stress.

Head to growinggolf.com to read the feature from Jenny and to watch interviews from Syngenta Growing Golf.

Syngenta Global Head of Marketing Mark Birchmore

said: "At a time when the globe is facing the challenges of COVID-19, this is a timely exploration of the deeper value and benefits golf and its course environments offer both people and the planet.

"In a world where access to green spaces is becoming more important and more valuable than ever, this is also an opportunity for golf to reposition and make itself relevant to a larger, more diverse audience."

The comments come as many golf clubs report strong demand for play and membership following the period of course closure.

Amenity conference to go ahead



The Amenity Forum has confirmed that its 2020 Conference will go ahead on 15 October at the Kettering Conference Centre.

The conference will also be made available online to registered delegates.

Professor John Moverley, chairman of the forum, said: "We did consider delaying the event but we believe there are so many important issues

facing the sector, not least the ongoing review of the National Action Plan by the UK and national governments. "The conference has

become an important one and we can assure delegates that all precautions will be taken, but the offer of online access is a positive step."

The title of the conference is 'Amenity Management -Planning for the Future' and a range of high quality speakers has been secured to address the issues. Among the speakers will be a representative of Defra, providing up-to-the-minute policy statements.

For more information about the programme, contact admin@amenityforum.net.



Reesink Turfcare has announced the retirement of its national sales manager, Jeff Anguige, after 21 years spent working with the Toro UK distributor and its predecessor Lely UK.

Jeff, 63, began working in the industry 46 years ago, straight after leaving college, and learned the business by working at golf and grounds dealerships and turf machinery manufacturers

such as Ransomes.

In 1999 he joined Lely UK as national Toro sales manager. Jeff said: "Toro has been the constant in my working life at Lely and Reesink. Despite the current difficulties presented by COVID-19, I'm confident that Reesink. Toro and the turfcare industry has an exciting future. Yes, there will be many challenges ahead, but also plenty of opportunities."

David Cole, managing director at Reesink, paid tribute to Jeff and the role he's played within the company, adding: "Jeff has been at the forefront of the Toro equipment success for over 20 years and his focus and dedication will be challenging for the business to replace.

"I am sure the extensive colleagues Jeff has built up will want to join us in wishing him all the best for his retirement."



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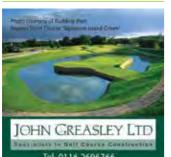
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LONDON

GOLF CLUB

Paul Kennedy | Head of Irrigation and Water Management

London Golf Club



Head Greenkeeper, **Richmond Park Golf Course**

£40,000 to £45,000 per annum + company vehicle

Glendale Golf is recruiting a qualified head greenkeeper to take responsibility for managing one of the UK's most popular golf venues, located with London's largest Roval Park. The main function of the role will be to lead the greenkeeping team and maintenance programme at our 40-hole, 280-acre estate.

A generous package will be offered to reflect respo sibilities, including up to £45,000 salary (depending on experience) and company vehicle.

Closing date is 31 July 2020. Email CV and cover letter to ion.dummett@glendalegolf.co.uk highlighting your motivation for the role, relevant experience

and ability to relocate, if necessary

Head Greenkeeper,

Castle Point Golf Course

Glendale Golf is recruiting a gualified Head Greenkeeper to take responsibility for

managing one of South East Essex's most popular inland links golf venues, located on the

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£28,000 to £32,000 per annum + company vehicle

A generous package will be offered to reflect responsibilities

Closing date is 24 July 2020. Email CV and cover letter to

bradley.wellmen@glendalegolf.co.uk highlighting your

including up to £32,000 salary (depending on experience) and

motivation for the role, relevant experience and ability to relocate,

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programme at our 18-hole golf course..

company vehicle.

if necessary.



Glendale

CASTLE POINT

Golf Course Construction Manager, Sherdley Park GC and Allerton Manor GC

Green Circle Estates are looking for a dynamic golf course construction manager to lead the practical delivery of multiple course construction projects. The ideal candidate will be able to work effectively as a team leader.

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projects with photographs to Bryan Joelson-Mulhall,

director of golf, using bryan@greencircleestates.com



Greenkeepers, Wentworth Club

Wentworth Club is one of the world's finest private members golf and country clubs, famous for its three outstanding championship golf courses. We are now looking for talented greenkeepers at all levels to join us.

You'll be responsible for maintaining the highest guality on one of our three 18-hole golf courses. You'll also get involved with the preparation and delivery of the BMW PGA Championship — the European Tour's flagship event.

Ideally you'll have two years' greenkeeping experience and industry recognised gualifications, but if you have a strong work ethic and a flexible can-do attitude, we'll

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Head Greenkeeper Wallasey Golf Club

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You will oversee the day-to-day maintenance of the course, management of the greenstaff and be expected to take a lead role in the strategic improvement and development of the golf course.

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Competitive salary, dependent on skills and experience Please apply, with CV and covering letter to: Robin Goodey, General Manager manager@wallaseygolfclub.com Closing date for applications: Friday 7 August 2020

Ambitious?

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

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

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

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

BIGGA's Counselling Assistance Helpline

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

BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund

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

Perennial

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

Call BIGGA House

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







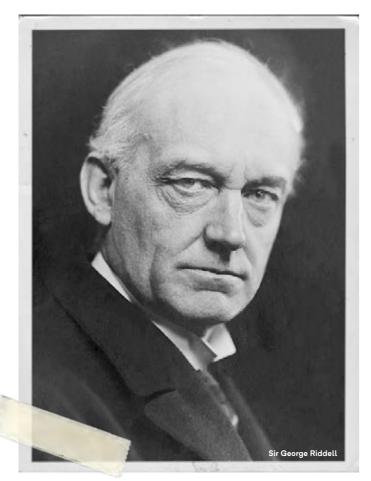


Helping people in horticulture Perennial

listory of Gree

1912-1919

History of Greenkeepers' Associations



Details of the Golf Greenkeepers' Association's (GGA) first 10 years are hard to find, but we do know that F G Hawtree was secretary from 1912 to 1922.



F G Hawtree (right) with J H Taylor

The first president of the GGA was Sir George Riddell, later Lord Riddell. Also known as Baron Riddell of Walton Heath, he was a very influential man who was involved as the liaison between the governments and the media in the shaping of the Treaty of Versailles. He was also the owner of the News of the World newspaper, signalling the start of a close relationship between greenkeepers and that publication.

We believe Hawtree and Riddell may have been

Practical knowledge teaches us to appreciate the fact that what may be quite the right thing to do in one place may be just the reverse in another, where the variation in local and climatic conditions makes a different mode of working essential...

introduced to each other by James Braid, who Hawtree worked closely with in golf course construction.

Riddell was more than just a keen golfer, he took a keen interest in the golf course itself and was one of the contributors, along with Bernard Darwin, Martin H F Sutton, Harry Colt and others, to the 'Book of the Links -ASymposium of Golf', published in 1912.

Writing within that book, W Kirkpatrick of Rye Golf Club, who had won first prize in Sutton's Annual Competition for Greenskeepers, said:

"Practical knowledge teaches us to appreciate the fact that what may be quite the right thing to do in one place may be just the reverse in another, where the variation in local and climatic conditions makes a different mode of working essential... It is difficult, if not impossible, for the man at a distance, and consequently with no local knowledge, to give an opinion of any real value..."

This is a poignant sentiment

in our world of social media and online discussions. Riddell was the first of

quite a number of individuals who realised the importance of the greenkeeper and was to serve as president of the GGA until his death in 1934.

After the formation of the GGA in 1912, a Scottish section was very quickly formed. In a photograph in the GGA Journal of 1913, Mr George Alexander of Prestwick is described as the Hon. Secretary of the Scottish section of the GGA.

The association was very active and a GGA journal from 1915 shows that education was an important factor for the greenkeepers of that time.

During that year greenkeepers were offered the chance to submit an essay to the journal on 'economy in golf course management', which was wholly appropriate considering the country was involved in The Great War.

It is interesting to note the use of the term 'golf course management' and not just 'greenkeeping'.

To continue the story visit the 'History of Greenkeepers' Associations' section of our website







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