

May 2020 | £5.50

Greenkeeper

International



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

IN THIS ISSUE:

Royal St George's
Wentworth Club
TPC Sawgrass
and many others



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

Freephone 0800 085 25 22



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

Official Supplier to



WORK
DONE WELL.



BIGGA Patron
Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE

BIGGA President
Colin Webber

BIGGA Chairman
Scott Reeves

BIGGA Vice President
Gordon Moir

BIGGA Board Members

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

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer

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

Head of Finance and Operations

Steve Wragg | steve@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Services

Tracey Maddison | traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

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

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

Editorial



Editor
Karl Hansell
Tel — 01347 833 829
karl@bigga.co.uk
@karlhansell

Production



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

Sales



Business Development Manager
Lauren Frazer
Tel — 01347 833 832
lauren@bigga.co.uk
@Lauren_BIGGA



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

Printing

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

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

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



ISSN: 0961— 6977

© 2020 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C017177

Welcome



Island GC, Dublin. Photograph by David Edmondson

I'd like to start this magazine on a positive note by saying I absolutely love this month's front cover.

It is a source of immense pride for me that although we are well into this horrendous COVID-19 crisis, so many of the things that are good about our industry have returned to the forefront. Uppermost is the sense of community that is the very essence of why BIGGA exists and why I'm so proud to be part of it.

As the situation first unfolded, it is fair to say one or two cracks appeared in our community. Many of us were uncertain, perhaps even afraid, of what would happen and a natural response to that is to get angry. You can't fight a virus with your fists and so we saw frustrations being vented in other ways.

However, I'm delighted that for the most part, the last few weeks have seen greenkeepers pulling together to work through this crisis with typical endeavour, initiative and innovation.

In our virtual BIGGA office we've been bowled over by the response to the work and initiatives we've been involved with. Thank you so much for



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

the many kind words and offers of support as they are truly appreciated.

The Continue to Learn Extra series of webinars is a case in point and we've had tremendous support in terms of people offering to host sessions, as well as excellent viewing numbers and feedback.

The greenkeeping community also remains strong internationally, as witnessed by ourselves and the GCSAA sharing online resources for the benefit of our members.

I must say I am hugely proud of our excellent team of staff, both those that are still working incredibly hard to support our members and those that we have reluctantly furloughed. The complete focus has been to do what is right for our members and the

Association and for that I'm very grateful to them.

Naturally, after so many weeks of course closure, the thoughts of the industry have turned towards golfers returning to the game. A huge amount of work has been done by all the organisations that run golf in the UK to coordinate communications to government and define conditions under which the game can be played safely.

We have played our part in that team effort.

A key part of golf's plan for re-opening is managing the expectations of golfers. Many will naively assume that courses will be immaculate after an extended closure.

Rest assured, we are working hard to ensure clubs manage those expectations and explain exactly what the COVID-19 crisis has meant for their course.

But safety must remain our utmost priority. This battle is a long way from over and we must ensure that greenkeeper health does not get jeopardised as the sport emerges from the lockdown.

I hope at this difficult time that all our members and their families keep safe and well.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Editor's
Notes



Greenkeeper
International
editor, Karl Hansell

At no time during this crisis have you been alone.

Sure, there are times when you've woken up exhausted despite a full night's sleep or you've found yourself in a quiet corner, taking a moment to collect your thoughts before heading out and putting on a brave face again.

Or maybe you've found yourself out on the course on a glorious, sunny day but there's been no one to share the experience with, while lunch just isn't the same without a bit of banter.

But you've never been alone, because you're a BIGGA member.

Social media has its uses and can help connect us. There are funny moments when you see someone's pet caught in the act of doing something ridiculous. We may even feel connected when someone tags us in a post and sets us a challenge. But in the end the negativity, misinformation and GIFs passed off as witticisms become tiresome, as does staring at a little black device, rather than having real conversations with those around us, including our families.

Through BIGGA, you're connected to something far greater than all of that.

You're part of a genuine community of more than 6,000 friends, peers and colleagues and a support structure that you may never realise even existed until things got really tough.

Right now, BIGGA's staff and scores of volunteers are working hard to find new ways to help all of us through this difficult period. There is no professional rivalry and no jealousy, just the sheer power of community.

This lockdown is tough for everyone. Jobs may be lost, courses may close. But if you didn't realise the network of support that comes as part of your BIGGA membership, I hope you do now.

And if not, call us for a chat.

You're a BIGGA member and you are never alone.



BIGGA Photographic Calendar 2020: May's image was taken on the 7th tee at Camberley Heath by Aidan Wright

From your Association

- 03
- Welcome**
An association update from CEO Jim Croxton
- 12
- Across the Board**
BIGGA President Colin Webber
- 14
- Membership**
Xact Group is offering training resources for members
- 16
- Learning and Development**
BIGGA and the GCSAA are sharing learning resources

Points of Interest

- 58
- Around the Green**
Your regional and national member news
- 62
- Industry News**
What's happening in the greenkeeping industry?

Useful information

- 64
- Buyer's Guide**
Useful contacts for all your greenkeeping needs
- 66
- Recruitment**
CV tips to help you seize that next big opportunity

Features

- 06
- Greg Fitzmaurice**
Transforming the fortunes of one downtrodden North Yorkshire course
- 20
- TPC Sawgrass**
What it was like being caught in America as the virus took hold
- 26
- Plant Growth Regulators**
Syngenta investigates the science and myths behind this useful tool for slowing growth

- 48
- Bunker renovation**
Things you need to consider before rebuilding your hazards
- 50
- British Sugar TOPSOIL**
Investigating alternatives to sand-based renovations
- 52
- Bayer**
Effective nematode application to combat pests
- 54
- Germinal**
Proactive overseeding as a method of disease prevention
- 56
- Rigby Taylor**
Using liquid fertilisers to aid with current restrictions

COVID-19 - The Response

- 28
- Royal St George's**
What is happening following The Open's postponement?

Everything in one place

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

Get it now on **Google Play** or the **App store**.



- 32
- Prestbury**
Reacting to the restrictions at the Cheshire parklands
- 34
- Wentworth Club**
The European Tour's home course was quick to adopt the maintenance restrictions
- 38
- Dunblane New**
Coping with the crisis at this Perthshire parkland
- 40
- Social distancing**
How golf could look when it restrictions are eased


The COVID-19 crisis is rapidly evolving and few can predict what will happen next. We hope that in the coming months you'll revisit this magazine and look back at how we all responded to the health crisis and feel pride at being part of a wider community, working together for the benefit of all.

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:



Greg Fitzmaurice
R&A Scholar
Greg was head greenkeeper at Heworth in York before moving to the Saltburn coast at Hunley



Paul Larsen
Head greenkeeper at the next Open venue, this year isn't going quite how Cure superfan Paul imagined it would.



Daniel Clarke
Prior to joining Wentworth, Daniel was assistant superintendent at Abu Dhabi Golf Club and worked at The Belfry



Rhydian Lewis
Rhydian co-developed the DURAbunker construction method and was a county golfer at junior level

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

Safeguarding the future of Hunley

Greg Fitzmaurice, Course Manager, Hunley



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!

Even before the Coronavirus hit, the modern world of business was tough. The golf industry is no different to any other and when it comes to the challenges ahead, sustainable management is going to be increasingly important.

Competition is high, people's habits are ever changing and with much economic and political uncertainty, it's hard to know what to expect from the future.

In addition, greenkeepers have seen resources reducing year on year, regulations becoming more and more stringent, expectations higher than ever and that's before we even start to think about the increasingly volatile climate.

Although there are some clubs that will remain quite robust to these pressures, the vast majority are finding it increasingly challenging and this has even been leading to some clubs closing their doors permanently.

This almost happened at Hunley back in 2009 when the business entered into administration. Fortunately, a buyer came in and saved the club from closure, but for the future of Hunley to be safe in the long term, change was necessary.

The hosting of a EuroPro Tour event in 2011 went well, raising the profile of Hunley and demonstrating that the place had potential.

I was appointed as Course Manager in 2013 and while in conversation with the new ownership, it was clear that our philosophies and ambitions aligned perfectly.

A new beginning

I remember my first visit well but in all honesty, I wasn't sure about taking it on, such was the size of the challenge ahead.

However, after attending a couple of interviews and meeting with Elliot Hamilton (CEO), I quickly bought into the ambition and enthusiasm he had. In the end when offered the position, I had no hesitation.

The site itself was ideal for my philosophy and I was excited about creating a really natural-looking golf course, with traditional playing characteristics that would also offer habitat for wildlife within the golf course setting.

Every area of the course operation needed attention, so I set about making plans to develop them all. This was always going to be tough as it had to be financially viable and we weren't going to be able to throw money at the project.

It's hard to believe it's been seven years already and it is difficult to tell the full story, but for the purpose of this article I hope to give an insight as to how things were implemented.

Greens

The aim was to transition from annual



The changes made to the bunkers haven't compromised the challenge of the course



Hunley Hotel and Golf Club

meadow grass-dominant greens to fine perennial grasses. This would be achieved by reducing both inputs and aggressive maintenance practices. Fescue and bent have now become the dominant species and, as a result, offer much improved surfaces for play as well as reducing resources required for their maintenance.

This is now the essence of sustainability, with no chemicals used, minimal fertiliser, water and top dressings. The cost of maintenance is very low and is of benefit to both the greenkeeping operation and the business.

Fairways, aprons & tees

The main problem with these areas was a lack of turf density and large patches of coarse ryegrass that were unsightly, as well as giving inconsistent playing conditions.

The graminicide Rescue was used to reduce the ryegrass and although there was significant initial cost, it was felt that as a means to an end it would be a worthy investment. Verti-draining was carried out every other year and selective herbicides used to control clover, but no fertilisers or other chemicals have been applied.

Surfaces are now much improved and as with the greens, only receive minimal amounts of maintenance and products annually.

Bunkers

On my arrival the bunkers were large and plentiful, with 94 on the course, including practice bunkers. Most flooded easily and almost all were washed out after heavy rain. They were so labour intensive that presenting them well was practically impossible.

My thoughts were to alter their style to small pot bunkers, although we would keep the catchment area similar to retain the impact on play. Many of the bunkers were also placed well out of play and often only penalised the less able golfer. These were removed, reducing the total number to 62 bunkers.

The challenge of the course hasn't been compromised and aesthetically they've gone down very well with the golfers. Resources required for their maintenance have reduced significantly, both in man hours and in quantities of sand used. Bunker condition is now much

improved, with the club's resources able to cope with the maintenance required.

Rough

When I arrived, almost all of the 250-acre site was mown, which really wasn't sustainable even in the short term.

It took almost three weeks to mow the rough, which was always long again by the time it was complete, leaving loose grass clippings everywhere. On top of that, mowing everywhere led to a rather bland looking course with no definition.

Allowing avenues of long grass to grow between the holes was a necessity to reduce maintenance, but it also improved definition. The problem with that, though, was that most of the rough was initially thick and lush.

The purchase of a flail collector mower allowed us to start to thin out the rough with the aim of promoting wispy fine grasses. These would provide natural aesthetics, without posing great difficulty in locating a ball.

In the first couple of years this was time consuming and led to complaints from golfers due to the difficulty of locating balls. Quite a bit of communication was required at this time.

As time went on though, the process of thinning began to improve the texture of the grasses. Today there are only a few areas that need to be cut frequently during the growing season and this is very manageable.

The impact, both on the look of the course and on the time saved in maintenance, cannot be underestimated. Where previously two of the staff spent all day, every day cutting the rough, we now have one person doing a couple of days every two weeks in peak season. »

Hunley Hotel and Golf Club

- / Located near Saltburn, North Yorkshire
- / A 27-hole club with three courses: Morgans, Jubilee and Imperial
- / Summer green fees: £40 for 18 holes



Three Barn Owls were raised on site



Making distance markers in house can help cut costs

We do spend two to three weeks in autumn, cutting and collecting all of the rough that comes into play before winter, but the benefits of this management is felt economically, environmentally and also in the quality of the course.

Equipment

Most of the machinery was in a poor state and the shed was bursting at the seams. As well as making plans for the future development of the course, it was important that we had the equipment required to carry out the necessary maintenance.

With little available capital, this wasn't

going to be easy, although a programme of replacement was made and used machinery would be the realistic market.

We also changed from predominantly

“...the key is to create the right environment for your staff, giving them the opportunity to develop so they can further their skills and career.

traction units by purchasing an extra tractor, which allowed us more flexibility. With several attachments being interchangeable, we were capable of carrying out various tasks with the different tractors simultaneously.

Each year we were able to make investments and over time things have gradually improved, allowing us to continue to improve standards.

Setting up maintenance schedules, keeping records and treating the equipment with care has seen it keep going for longer and become more reliable.

Irrigation and drainage systems are all managed in house and although a lack of resources can be frustrating, what it does do is increase the skill required to do the job and this is far from a bad thing.

When there isn't the money, you find another way. For example, tee markers and distance markers have been homemade at low cost but still offer a professional look. When you need a piece of machinery but don't have the capital, you have to be prepared to explore other avenues to find a solution. This could be finding a good used machine or changing management regimes to compensate.



Hunley Hotel and Golf Club

Staff

I learned early on in my management career that the key is to create the right environment for your staff, giving them the opportunity to develop so they can further their skills and career.

Although you might say that we have had successes and failures, I don't see any as failures. Ultimately if the environment is right then it's down to the individuals and I look to guide and encourage them as much as possible.

We have had some great staff that have moved on to become Course Managers, Deputy Course Managers and on to high profile clubs that host major competitions. In these instances it's nice to know we played a part in helping them progress in their careers.

We currently have an excellent team, all at very different stages in life, but who get on well together and enjoy the job and team environment. Some are taking on further education and some are learning on the job. It's important to accept that people develop at their own speed and in their own way.

There have been those who didn't work out as well, but not necessarily because

they failed. Often it comes down to the fact that greenkeeping isn't for everyone or that their ideas were just too different from that of the business. This can also be seen as a success, as with open and honest communication, it's easier to facilitate the wishes of each individual without compromising the business.

Communication

With so much change and particularly the nature of the change, communication with the golfers was key.

Monthly blogs on the website, with detailed explanation of work, and weekly updates through newsletter-style emails kept members up to speed. Importantly, and most-effectively, the most effective communication with golfers came from face-to-face discussions.

Course walks and open forums were hosted and these were very successful »

IN THE SHED

The Team

/ Greg Fitzmaurice

/ Peter Fenton

/ Gavin Kitching

/ Jack Dobbing

/ Neil Thomas

The Equipment

/ Toro 3250 x2

/ Toro 6700

/ Toro 3500

/ Smithco greens roller

/ Kubota 5040

/ Kubota L4240 & Loader

/ Iseki TH4335

/ Wiedenmann Super 500

/ Progressive TDR12

/ Toro Procore SR

/ Bernhards Express Dual Grinders

/ JCB 8050 Excavator



Fescue greens in January 2013



Fescue greens in 2019

Where will your ideas take you?

Do you use your passion for greenkeeping to inspire change, new media to engage with others or share your experience in the wider community? If so the BIGGA Excellence in Communication Awards with Campey Turf Care Systems are just for you.



BIGGA has teamed up with Campey Turf Care Systems to celebrate BIGGA members who make a positive impact on their working lives and the wider golfing industry through communication. With a trip to Florida available now is your chance to get involved.

- The Categories are:
- Thought Leadership and Innovation
 - Outreach
 - New Media

For more information visit bigga.org.uk or to enter email commsawards@bigga.co.uk



Early morning looking out to sea at Hunley Hotel and Golf Club

as they engaged people and allowed for questions to be asked freely. As time has progressed, there has been less need for them as members have become more understanding. We do still put on these events to keep these channels open and when required meet with members individually.

Managing expectations is essential and has played a big part in keeping golfers on board.

Administration

Creating a variety of systems has helped maintain operational efficiency, from simple checklists for machinery to detailed online applications for daily work programmes.

We're lucky to have a professional HR company to assist in Health & Safety and Employment Law and we have several specific software systems for budgeting and accounting.

Nature

All through the process we have had one eye on the environment and this actually goes hand in hand with sustainable management.

Making small changes to practices,

Do you have a topic to discuss?

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

creating new habitats on the course by leaving areas alone as well as constructing specific habitats ourselves has seen many successes.

Working with local organisations and communities has helped raise awareness and even encouraged people outside of the business to get involved and use the course to develop wildlife on site.

Many rare species have been found to be in and around the course and this too has helped us to tailor our management.

Summary

Having a plan is one thing and is very important, but it can only be brought to life with the hard work and help of many. The success at Hunley has been down to a togetherness from top to bottom within the business, with everyone buying into the project and doing their bit to make it happen.

Overall, we feel Hunley is becoming a living example of sustainability. However, there is always more to do and more that can be done. Although the future looks ever more challenging, one thing is for sure, I'm up for it and will continue to enjoy the journey!

Continue the conversation:
@Hunley_Greens

The BIGGA Excellence in Communication Awards are brought to you by



BIGGA Excellence in Communication Awards

with Campey Turf Care Systems

As a member of BIGGA, Greenkeeper International is your magazine.

Sure, there may be content from industry experts — both commercial and academic — as we attempt to bring you the latest innovations and turf science.

But at its heart, Greenkeeper International is all about you, the BIGGA member.

With that in mind, we've teamed up with Campey Turf Care Systems to provide you with an incredible opportunity to win a week in Florida and a £750 cash prize.

All we're asking is for BIGGA members to give us an insight into their daily lives by contributing an article for inclusion in the magazine and for our website.

The article can be on any topic of your choosing, we're leaving it entirely up to you. The key is that you talk about something that other BIGGA members will find interesting and that will perhaps spark a conversation.

Have you found a new way of doing something on the course?

Have you turned a traditional practice upside down and achieved success?

Do you have a story about a time you learnt something new that you would like to share?

Have you learned something outside of greenkeeping that you now use in the workplace?

Ryun Holden of Golfclub Wylihof won the top prize this year with a feature discussing positive thinking and ways of engaging with his club's membership.

We're open to any possibility. Just get in touch by emailing commsawards@bigga.co.uk or, for more information, contact Karl Hansell on karl@bigga.co.uk



ACROSS THE BOARD

Colin Webber | BIGGA President | Course Manager | Portmore Golf Park

I'm sat in my garden as I write this. We have used our garden more over the last six weeks than we have ever done.

It was the sunniest April on record, but there are no customers around and so we've done everything we can on the course; it's quite a surreal situation to be in. I'm looking after a 188-acre golf course and each of the 22 staff at the club, including five greenkeepers, are furloughed. The only help I have is my wife, Mandy, and my son, Josh, it's like when we first set this Portmore up.

In many ways I've enjoyed being back on the tools, driving mowers and diggers as I really enjoy that. I had a chat with Jim McKenzie and he's doing the same at Celtic Manor, where they've got two guys per course and that's it. It's inspirational to hear some of these stories.

When it became clear that the golf course would have to close, I just didn't know what we were going to do. This was a week or so before furloughing was announced and we were talking about reduced hours and wages as I wouldn't like to have laid anybody off. We've got a really good team that we've spent years building up, so it wasn't pleasant.

I had actually found five of the staff jobs at a supermarket, but then the furloughing scheme was announced, which was Heaven sent. I initially planned to furlough myself as well, but after the really wet winter we had, I needed to cut the grass. There were some areas of the course that hadn't seen maintenance since the autumn, so there was a considerable amount to cut.

The winter we had was horrendous and so the clubhouse was carrying a lot of the business' burden. We managed to come through leaner and meaner but relatively unscathed and were looking forward to the year ahead. But then events started getting cancelled, starting with Mother's Day, where we had 270 people booked to join us. With the

beautiful weather we had over Easter, in a usual year we would be really flying as a business now, but it wasn't to be.

The only money we have coming in at the moment is membership. Every spending decision now, we ask the question, 'is this needed for the survival of the business?' This is to prevent burning through cash too quickly as we may have very limited income for the next 12 months.

Thank God this didn't happen when we were building the place, when we were investing so much of our own money. You don't imagine that your business is going to be shut down, through no fault of your own.

We quickly secured a capital loan repayment holiday and I spoke to all my suppliers. Most of them have been able to help us, for which I'm thankful.

This isn't how I imagined my year as BIGGA President going, but I'm pleased that I have been able to speak to so many members over the phone, many of whom just want to call for a chat. I struggle with all the negatives and it has hit me hard. There has been at least one day when I've had a big wobble. Two or three years ago, I probably wouldn't have said anything to anyone, but the slogan 'It's OK not to be OK' comes to mind.

Talking to members, there were some courses that went all guns blazing to get projects done and we considered the same at the start, but we quickly realised that it wasn't in the spirit of fighting the threat of the coronavirus. It has been good to see so many people understand the importance of sticking to the essential maintenance guidelines.

I've been putting the finishing touches to a business plan to give me an idea of how much money we need to survive for the next 12 months. It's pure speculation, these documents always are, but I've been incredibly pessimistic because I'm nervous about what could



Showing appreciation to NHS staff alongside Nelly

happen. What if we see no Christmas or New Year's Eve parties? It will have such a huge effect on the staff, especially if furloughing stops.

This crisis will fundamentally change the way we do business. I'm going to look more closely at getting rid of our debt, so if something does go wrong, we're able to put the whole business into deep freeze, where there's nothing going out. It's important though to understand that different businesses are run in different ways and there is no right or wrong. Things are going to get really tough and business models will change.

In the South West we've got the lowest incidence in the virus, especially in our area. But I'm very worried that when movement restrictions are lifted, there will be a huge influx of people coming here for their summer holiday, bringing the virus with them.

As a member of BIGGA, use the services the association provides.

Educate yourself on what is available and gain some knowledge of employment law. So if someone tries to make you redundant or change your contact, you'll understand the implications of that.

Most importantly, please stay safe and be kind to each other.

HELPING US TO HELP YOU



BIGGA
Partner

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.



Experience the Difference.



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.

An opportunity for ONLINE LEARNING

BIGGA members can access a wide ranging suite of education thanks to the association's partnership with Xact Group

Xact provides the Health and Safety portal and HR Helpline for BIGGA members, but did you also know it provides an online e-learning service for greenkeeping teams?

This can be accessed whenever the opportunity arises, whether that be in day-to-day life or in exceptional circumstances, such as poor weather or when staff have been furloughed. In fact, training is permitted during furloughing so it could be a good opportunity to keep your staff engaged and developing while they are not able to work on site.

The range of training is

“This system is excellent as it can be completed as and when the team have time to do so

tailored to the golf industry and can be purchased in a block of hours and distributed throughout your team as necessary.

Richie Stephens is course manager at Ringway in Altrincham and said: “We pay an annual fee per man and I can access all the available courses for that price.

“We do the greenkeeping safety essentials course every two years as part of ongoing refresher training, but all staff can choose to do more courses in their spare time if they wish.”

Xact provides the person responsible for training, usually the head greenkeeper or course manager, with a management dashboard. This gives them the facility to create users, allocate courses and track usage.

Richie added: “This system is excellent as it can be



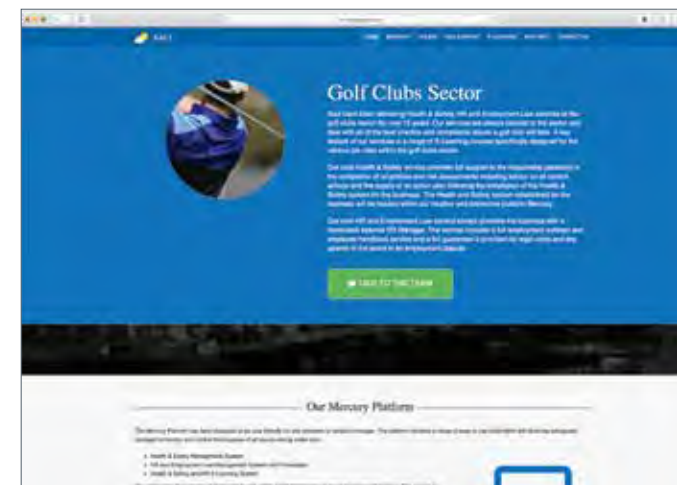
Training being undertaken by the team at Ringway



completed as and when the team have time to do so, giving a great flexibility to the required training when circumstances, such as adverse weather, or the situation we current find ourselves in with regards coronavirus and furloughing, affect the day to day work on the course.”

Continue the conversation

gtaylor@xactgroup.co.uk
richard.stephens@sky.com



Sector Specific Employee Training

All employers have a legal responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of employees. Xact's sector-specific e-learning system will help you to meet your obligations. The effectiveness, relevance to the sector and flexibility of e-learning will help golf clubs to promote a culture of safety in the business, reducing the likelihood of prosecution and personal injury claims.

Sector Specific Courses

- / Golf Greenkeeping Safety Essentials
- / Golf Greenkeeping Supplementary Mechanics Course
- / Golf Professional Safety Essentials
- / Golf Pro Shop Retail Safety Essentials
- / Golf Clubhouse – Administration Activities
- / Golf Clubhouse – Cleaning Activities
- / Golf Clubhouse – Event Management
- / Golf Clubhouse – Hospitality
- / Golf Clubhouse – Kitchen and Catering

All Other General Courses

- / Risk Assessment Essentials
- / Fire Marshal & Warden Safety Essentials
- / Asbestos Awareness
- / Legionella Awareness
- / Electrical Safety Awareness
- / Contractors Safety Procedures
- / Managing Health & Safety
- / Introduction to Health & Safety
- / Fire Safety Essentials
- / First Aid Awareness
- / CPR Awareness
- / Manual Handling Essentials
- / Hazardous Substances (COSHH)
- / Slips, Trips and Falls
- / DSE – Display Screen Equipment
- / Lone Working Essentials
- / Driving at Work Essentials
- / Working at Heights
- / Noise at Work

- / PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
- / Home Working Essentials
- / Food Safety Essentials
- / Stress at Work
- / Vibration at Work

HR Courses

- / Absence Management
- / Absences for Employees
- / Alcohol & Drug Awareness
- / Anti-Bribery & Corruption
- / Appraisal Skills – Managers
- / Appraisal Skills – Employees
- / Conduct in the Workplace
- / Contracts & Handbooks
- / Disciplinary & ACAS
- / Employment Status
- / Equality & Diversity
- / Flexible Working
- / GDPR
- / Grievance Policy & Procedure
- / Induction for Managers
- / Development & Coaching
- / Managing Performance
- / Recruitment & Selection
- / Social Media & Internet
- / The Right to Time Off

For further information

For full details of each particular course you can visit xactgroup.co.uk/sectors/golf-clubs/ or call Graeme Taylor at Xact on 01698 572830 or e-mail him gtaylor@xactgroup.co.uk

The suite of training courses is available at £30+VAT per person per annum, for this each person can access and complete each course at their own speed and comfort. As each course is completed a certificate is generated for your training file and can be forwarded along with your CPD claim to cpd@bigga.co.uk.



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



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



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



Gil Mason
Membership Administrator
info@bigga.co.uk

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

Full Members Personal Accident Helpline
0113 393 6300

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0333 000 2082

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

SHARING RESOURCES

BIGGA has teamed up with its colleagues at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to offer our members access to free learning opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BIGGA members can access a selection of online resources offered by the GCSAA, while members of the American association are able to check out a range of relevant educational offerings usually reserved exclusively for BIGGA members.

What's on offer for BIGGA members?

Agronomic

- / **ABCs of Irrigation System Design**
Ashley Wilkinson
- / **Cation Exchange Capacity: 15 minutes of information you can use**
Elizabeth Guertal PhD
- / **Fertilizer Calculation for Turfgrass Managers**
Alex Kowalewski PhD

Business

- / **Computerizing Your Shop: Fleet Management**
John Patterson
- / **Duties at the Desk: Purchasing and Budgets**
Roger Stewart Jr CGCS
- / **Economy vs Agronomy: The Business of Turfgrass Management**



Education underway at the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show

- John Blandon PAg ISSP and Matt Gourlay CGCS MG
- / **Building a Bridge, Not a Gap 2.0**
Paul Schell, director of golf, Eric Schomske, head golf professional, and Jeffrey Wuenstel, manager, Lake Shore Country Club
- / **How to Set Yourself Apart in the Golf Industry — The Art of Self Promotion**
Darren J Davis CGCS
- / **Improving Management and Communication**
Bill H Maynard CGCS

Environmental Management

- / **Calibrating Your Sprayer and Selecting the Right Nozzles**

- Aaron J Patton PhD
- / **A Greener Golf Course**
Jay McCurdy PhD
- / **Look at Your Irrigation System's Distribution Uniformity**
Steve Southard CGCS

Equipment Management

- / **Mowing Quality of Cut — three-part video series**
- / General Cut Issues and Diagnosis
- / Height of Cut and Frequency of Clip and Troubleshooting
- / Tools to See Cut Quality
- / **Turfgrass Equipment Operations and Management**
Gary Bogdanski

Leadership

- / **Becoming an Effective Manager**
Jodie Cunningham
- / **Leadership and Teamwork: A 360-Degree Approach**
Roch Gaussoin PhD
- / **Time Management and Goal Setting for Success Now**
Rick Capozzi

Some of the GCSAA speakers presenting for you



John Patterson



Bill Maynard



Darren Davis

How do I get involved?

Register your log in information using these steps to gain access to the educational content:

Step 1: Go to www.gcsaa.org. Use the pink Log in button in the top right hand corner of the webpage to create a username and password for the website.

Step 2: Email mrphelp@gcsaa.org. Provide your full name and state that you are a non-member who would like access to the allied international webinars. GCSAA will enrol you in a Welcome to My Learning Hub webinar, which will give you access to the content learning hub.

Please note: You won't be able to access the learning hub content until steps 1 and 2 are complete and you've received a confirmation email from GCSAA.

Step 3: Once you are enrolled, use your username and password to access free learning content in the 'Allied Association Webinars' section of the Learning Hub page. After logging into the website, select 'My Learning Hub', located in the Education tab on the homepage. Once you enter the Learning Hub you must login in the top right corner of the page.

What other online learning does BIGGA offer?



- / We've launched a series of webinars, called Continue to Learn Extra, which will be held on a regular basis.
- / Many of the education events, workshops and seminars that take place at BTME are recorded and available to watch, free of charge.

- / Find something to read using the TurfGrass Information File, the most comprehensive library of turfgrass literature anywhere in the world.

- / Refresh your practical knowledge by checking out our Field Guides.

- / Check out our How To... guides, which provide step-by-step guidance on a range of subjects.



- / The Agrovista Amenity Academy is an online learning resource with courses and lessons created on a range of areas of turf management.

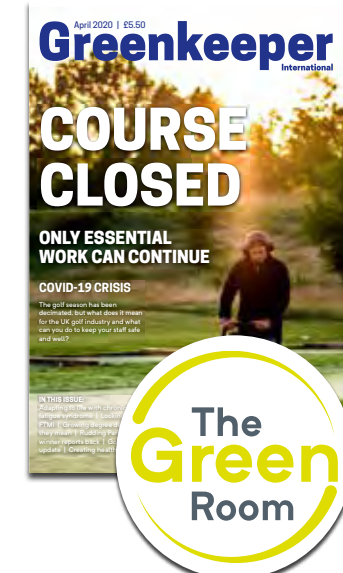


- / BIGGA members can access a wide-ranging suite of education thanks to the association's partnership with Xact Group.



MEMBERS' CHOICE SURVEY DEADLINE EXTENDED

We appreciate that you've got other priorities at the moment, so we've extended our Members' Choice survey until 24 May, giving you more opportunity to shape the education on offer at Continue to Learn. Head to the BIGGA website to find out more or scan the QR code to get involved and tell us what you think.



- / Download a digital version of Greenkeeper International. There's also a dyslexia-friendly version of the magazine available.

- / We've got more than a year's worth of episodes of The Green Room Golf Course Podcast for you to listen to.



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



Stuart Green
Head of Member Learning
info@bigga.co.uk



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

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




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



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

www.the-gtc.co.uk
/greenkeepers trainingcommittee
@TheOfficialGTC



BIGGA
CPD Continuing Professional Development


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

Jamie Wright, Sunningdale; Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar; Daryn Curtis, Royal Mid-Surrey; Tom Smith, Golf Club Wylihof; Stefan Carter, Wentworth Club; Martin Lothian, Turnberry; Gordon McKie, St Andrews Links Trust; Jonathan Wood, St Andrews Links Trust; Sean Sullivan CGCS, Briarwood; Oliver Claridge, Harpenden Common; Scott Corrigan, Cawder; Jason Norwood, Rudding Park; John Milne, Rothes.

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

John Milne, Rothes; Stefan Carter, Wentworth Club; Jason Norwood, Rudding Park.

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/continuing-professional-development.html



Your club's most valuable asset is you

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

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



FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

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



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



THE DAY THE PLAYERS STOPPED PLAYING

The story of The PLAYERS Championship 2020 through the eyes of BIGGA's volunteers

As The PLAYERS Championship got underway at TPC Sawgrass, there wasn't yet the understanding of just how massive an impact COVID-19 would have on the world we're living in.

Ultimately, the championship became one of the first victims of the global pandemic, being cancelled after the first round and setting the precedent for countless other sporting events due to take place this summer.

For six BIGGA members, this was due to be the trip of a lifetime as they flew out to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida with John Deere to join the agronomy team for the March hosting of the event.

But it wasn't to be and this is the story of the ill-fated John Deere TPC Sawgrass Volunteer Programme, in their own words.

Alex Brougham

"Although the experience was cut short, I have to say that working at TPC Sawgrass was a phenomenal experience and a memory that I will cherish. It wasn't just Pete Dye's course that made it a dream but also the people that put their heart and soul into setting up golf's unofficial fifth major tournament."

Edward Irvine

"Meeting the other guys at the hotel in Manchester the night before our flight, we were all thrilled to be heading over to work at what is known

affectionately as men's golf's fifth major tournament. As the only Scottish representative, I felt I had been bestowed with a badge of honour and was looking forward to participating with others from around the world."

Mark Tucker

"Once we touched down in Orlando, we were driven by John Deere's Marcus Morris to Daytona Beach. Daytona is mid-way to Sawgrass and makes an ideal place to stop over, refuel and rest up ready for the long 10 days ahead.

"While at Daytona, Yannick joined us from Cape »



The BIGGA and GCSAI volunteers



The 2020 volunteers were:

- Alex Brougham, deputy head greenkeeper, Trentham Park
- Ben Hunter, deputy head greenkeeper, The Richmond
- Edward Irvine, deputy head greenkeeper, Trump International Aberdeen
- Mark Tucker, head greenkeeper, Neath
- Peter Lewis, greenkeeper, Royal Liverpool
- Yannick Weber, assistant superintendent, Cape Kidnappers, New Zealand

Yannick, photographed by Darren Skinner

Kidnappers in New Zealand. “Now all the delegates were together, we gelled instantly and there was a real buzz about what lied ahead for us.”

Ben Hunter

“When we first got to Sawgrass we were taken into the biggest marquee tent I have ever seen, where we were given bags overflowing with The PLAYERS uniform and supplies for the week. On the first day we did a full day’s shift, to try and get used to the jobs we would be doing in the morning and afternoon shifts of tournament week. I was doing a debris sweep on tee complexes in the morning and then divoting fairways in the afternoon shift. We then had two practice days where we perfected our jobs, to ensure that when the tournament kicked off we could get round as efficiently as possible.”

Peter Lewis

“The TPC Sawgrass experience includes 10 days of work at the course, to help make The PLAYERS a successful event. On arrival at TPC Sawgrass we attended a

“ Hope dies last and it was great to see that everyone stayed positive

welcome meeting with Lucas Andrews, assistant director of agronomy. He informed us of our roles and his expectations of us. I was asked to hand cut the back nine approaches and greens, including the iconic 17th green, so I was really excited.”

Edward Irvine

“Stepping on to the 7,245-yard championship course for the first time was a truly memorable moment.

“Designed by course architect Pete Dye and PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman, the legendary track is spectacularly balanced for every level of golfer. From the impressive fairways to the greens, it is a course that I was pleased to be working on. “While I love my home course at Trump International in Aberdeenshire, the warm Floridian weather was a treat and a dramatic contrast to the fresh North Sea breeze that I was used to.”



Edward and Yannick

Yannick Weber

“I like to compare the course to a Formula 1 car as it represents the best our industry can get out of a product. It is the flagship of the PGA Tour and at this stage it felt great to have the course to ourselves, being able to take pictures from all angles and having access to the good spots before the crowds arrived.”

Mark Tucker

“My work partner was a Penn State graduate from Tennessee. At 5.15am we found our Gator and trailer loaded with two John Deere 180SL greens mowers, eight



Keeping cool with the gang



Talk about 'gang' mowing



Jordan Spieth and Edward

turning boards and a bucket for measuring clip yield. We then set off in a convoy to find the 10th green, where it soon became apparent that we would be expected to cut the green in the dark. It was daunting being given the responsibility of mowing greens, but add complete darkness into the equation and the pressure was raised to a whole new level.

“The mowers were fitted with lights and we placed the turning boards on the green, so there was no chance of taking a chunk out of the surrounds, which was a huge relief! Our supervisors were JB Workman and Tyler DaSilva, both Stadium Course assistant



Mark ready to fly out



Peter, photographed by Darren Skinner

superintendents. They were quite rightly keeping a close eye on us, shining powerful LED lights across the greens to show up any missed bits!

“It was a very surreal moment, cutting the 18th green on my first day, but it’s something I’ll never forget. I’m very glad the sun had risen at that point as I was cutting 6–12, which leaves about a foot of turning space between the green and the lake!”

Alex Brougham

“Being my first time working with the home greenkeeping team and setting up the course at a major tournament, I was a

little nervous. But this was definitely a good thing as it kept me focused and determined to do a good job.

“During the morning shifts I was asked to rake bunkers, which I quickly found out was a lot harder than it looks. The detail that is required is so precise because everything has to be perfect. To make sure the highest standards were met we had two of the home team, Kevin Langan and Blair Clark, guiding and checking the work of our front nine bunker team.”

Edward Irvine

“From Sunday to Wednesday, both morning

and evening shifts (5am to 8.30am and 4.30pm to 8.30pm) were dedicated to understanding our tasks in depth. We had to think about our schedule and getting the job dialled in so that when Thursday came, the first official day of the tournament, everyone knew the script. And we all did, it ran impeccably and we were off to a great start!”

Mark Tucker

“Wednesday evening was a real eye opener and something I had been looking forward to witnessing first hand — it was rough mowing day. At any ordinary club this is a pretty mundane task, but not at TPC Sawgrass, where it’s done with walk-behind rotary mowers. To see 40 greenkeepers set off cutting rough in unison, it was reminiscent of the Red Arrows, an awesome sight!”

Yannick Weber

“Soon the jokes about COVID-19 started to turn into real concerns. We started to realise this could quickly turn into an unpleasant situation. “The headlines on the »



Mark hand mowing the 18th green



The iconic 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass

newsfeeds and the social media posts were updated so fast. Hope dies last and it was great to see that everyone stayed positive and gave their everything to keep working hard in the hopes the tournament could take place. "During Thursday it was communicated that the tournament would be held without spectators. This was a big disappointment as the spectators are such a big part of the event, but we were pleased the event was going ahead. "But the global news kept getting worse and we started to feel the cancellation was inevitable."

Ben Hunter

"On Thursday everything seemed fairly normal. "The morning shift went well, but while we were all tucking into our breakfast, news came that there were to be no spectators for the remainder of the tournament. "The director of agronomy, Jeff Plotts, addressed all the team to explain what that meant. Our main question was would we be allowed to spectate ourselves or at least follow a group around with a rake so we could catch some of the action? A few meetings

later and the answer was a firm 'no'." **Mark Tucker** "At first we heard from some dodgy Twitter accounts, so we didn't really believe it. "But then as time went by an official announcement was made that the championship was cancelled. This was quickly followed by an email from Lucas asking us to report for a briefing at the normal time of 4.30am. So many emotions and thoughts were running through our heads at that point that it was hard to think straight, but it soon sank in that our time at TPC Sawgrass had come to an abrupt end. All the months of



Play was suspended after the opening round

tournament means no volunteers. The full-time staff went about their usual daily routines of course set up, while we were told we were no longer needed. They put on shuttle buses to take us back to the hotel and told us we were welcome to continue to use the hotel until the end of our stay, but we would no longer be required to help out on the golf course."

Edward Irvine

"They thanked everyone for their hard work and then we were hit with another surprise; this time it was a great one. We have been invited back to complete The PLAYERS next year! This was a fantastic gesture considering the circumstances and it changed from 'goodbye' to 'see you next year'."

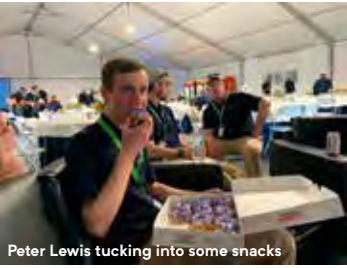
Ben Hunter

"Although our experience was cut short by this horrific virus, we all agreed that the days that we had out there were nothing short of amazing. We all learned so much, both on and off the course. We made great friends and are already planning a golf tour of the UK, visiting each other's clubs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank BIGGA, John Deere, the guys at TPC Sawgrass and, of course, my fellow volunteers for making this experience so memorable."

planning and excitement, only to prepare the course for one day of competitive golf, was devastating. "The Friday morning briefing was a surreal moment, with hundreds of people in disbelief that this was actually happening. Jeff addressed the group and explained the situation in detail, saying the main priority was getting the volunteers safely home to their families.

Ben Hunter

"The cancellation left the management team with a tough decision to make. In the end, their priority is to the golf course and while they appreciated our help, no



Peter Lewis tucking into some snacks



Some of the Florida wildlife

Cut time and costs of mowing turf

NOW AVAILABLE IN 20 LITRE PACKS

No.1 TO MEET PLAYERS DEMANDS
18% BETTER FAIRWAY LIE
12% IMPROVED BALL ROLL

PRIMO MAXX II GIVES THE COURSE MANAGER CONTROL ALL AROUND THE COURSE



Syngenta UK Ltd. Registered in England No. 849037, CPC4, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE
Email: customer.services@syngenta.com Web: www.greencast.co.uk / www.greencast.ie
Primo Maxx® II is a Registered Trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. Primo Maxx II (MAPP 17509, PCS 05401) contains trinexapac-ethyl. All other brand names used are trademarks of other manufacturers in which proprietary rights may exist. Always read the label and product information before use. For more information including warning phrases and symbols refer to www.greencast.co.uk © Syngenta March 2020. GQ 10895.
Distributed in the UK and Ireland by ICL Ltd. Tel: 01473 201100 Email: prof.sales@icl-group.com Web: www.icl-sf.co.uk www.turfrewards.com



Get all the answers to more Primo Maxx II questions at www.greencast.co.uk

PGR MYTHS BUSTED

Recent events have thrown the issue of labour availability for golf course management into sharp focus, particularly to maintain mowing regimes for turf quality and plant health. It has also increased scrutiny on every input cost and justification.

The use of Primo Maxx as a plant growth regulator (PGR), to reduce the burden of mowing through a period of reduced staffing and social distancing, has been a positive action, writes Syngenta Technical Manager, Glenn Kirby.

Repeated Primo Maxx trials, in the UK and around the world, have shown a typical reduction in mowing requirement and clipping yield of between 20% and 40%, depending on grass species and growing conditions. Alongside that, there have been the associated reductions in costs of mowing and machinery.

Furthermore, as one of the most intensively researched turf input products, its effects on plant physiology and turf quality have been rigorously investigated.

Can we increase rates to get longer PGR effects?

As Primo Maxx II naturally

degrades in the environment, which influences its suppression of gibberellic acid thereby reducing leaf growth, doubling the rate of application will not simply double the duration of regulation.

Trials at Wisconsin University in the US indicate that there was a threshold for PGR effect, above which higher rates gave limited further reduction in grass growth on bentgrass greens.

The trial did show that with turf maintained at a longer height of cut — at six mm compared to three mm — there was a consistently greater level of regulation and a 50% greater response of more regulation from higher application rates. That could influence results on greens currently being maintained at higher cut levels, or for applications on fairway turf.

Regular application, such as fortnightly treatments as

part of a programme, for example, has given the most consistent results, irrespective of the application rate. Research has shown there is more to be gained for consistent results and longevity by utilising effective intervals between applications, than by increasing the rates.

Will PGR effects be reduced as temperatures warm up?

The duration of Primo Maxx's effect is influenced by plant metabolic activity, which is a factor of temperature, and other growth conditions. As conditions warm up for faster growth, product degradation is greater and trials have shown more frequent reapplication would normally be required.

Models for PGR reapplication focus on temperature — through Growing Degree Days (GDD) — but assume all other factors remain constant for growth. Whilst that is typically true for

managed greens, for example, if other factors limit growth, such as lack of light, moisture or nutrition, then naturally occurring effects may influence required PGR timing.

That could also have an effect for less intensively managed surfaces being held until play can resume, or for fairway applications.

Does that change using GDD?

Research has shown that GDD can be a useful guide for PGR application interval — providing any results are interpreted and applied according to individual course conditions. (See last month's GI Insight — GDD explained)

Whilst most models indicate a PGR interval of 150 to 200 GDD, that was typically generated in the US in different conditions and grass species to the UK, often using different calculation parameters. In reality, each course would have a slightly different optimal GDD for PGR

“The use a PGR has been a positive action to reduce the burden of mowing through a period of reduced staffing and social distancing.

reapplication in their situation. A new Syngenta GDD calculator — providing data on more accurate hourly temperature changes, compared to simply maximum and minimum values — is set to provide an easy to use guide. It also has an informative predictive element, to forecast when elected GDD points are expected to be reached and enable more proactive decisions.



Primo Maxx rooting effects could help maintain quality on less intensively managed turf, keeping it ready to restore

Do we still need to feed with PGR application?

Since most PGR applications are made along with the nutrition programme that would normally be sufficient. Where nutrition may have been cut back during closures this season, there may be some transient yellowing effects on plants from PGR application, particularly if started at higher rates, but this should soon be outgrown and no long lasting effects.

Will turf quality decline in the autumn from PGR use all summer?

Research by STRI has shown prolonged use of Primo Maxx has no negative effects

on turf quality. Trials in the US have observed PGR use was effective in reducing the incidence of etiolated growth in some turf grass species.

Since the effect is regulating a naturally occurring process of gibberellic acid production in the plant, any changes in growth habit only occur whilst the active is present, and then gradually dissipate.

The only effect that may be seen is that when the Primo Maxx programme ends, the natural rebound effect has been noted to see greater compensatory gibberellic acid production. That can be effectively managed by the gradual withdrawal of PGR programmes, or as is increasingly practiced on greens, to maintain PGR use for longer in the autumn, albeit at lower rates and longer intervals.

COVID-19 THE RESPONSE



The Royal St George's team practicing social distancing

What are greenkeepers doing to look after their course during this difficult period?

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every level of our lives, including the golf industry. Over the past month we've spoken to BIGGA members across the country about how their working lives have changed and the impact on their courses. From the largest golf facility to the smallest, the coronavirus health crisis has impacted everyone. Over the following pages we've included just a small sample of some of your stories.

Royal St George's, Kent

PAUL LARSEN,
HEAD GREENKEEPER

It was supposed to be the biggest year of his career.

Two hundred thousand spectators were expected to descend upon Sandwich in Kent and the world's top golfers were going to contest golf's oldest major on the links. Paul and his team had spent years preparing, ahead of The Open Championship this July.

But then it all went wrong and as we try to find our feet in a pandemic-stricken world, Royal St George's course manager Paul Larsen has found himself working

11-hour shifts and turning back the clock to jump on a mower and keep things in a manageable condition.

It's not how he imagined 2020 going, but then, none of us could anticipate what the year had in store. When I spoke to Paul, we had just entered the fourth week of the UK lockdown and he had come to terms with the fact he would have to wait another year until his team could celebrate hosting Royal St George's 15th Open Championship.

By April each year, there are contractors moving onto the site of the host Open venue and grandstand construction is usually well underway. At Royal St George's the contractors were due to arrive the same week as the lockdown was announced and so rather than the links being filled with pre-event hustle and bustle, Paul and his reduced team have found themselves maintaining an eerily-quiet course instead.

"I was relieved when they finally announced that it would be postponed by a year," said Paul. "I think they were trying to find a way to play it this year and we heard loads of rumours, such as whether we could hold it in September.

"You know what, we could have, but it would have been difficult because of daylight hours. We also don't know whether all this is going to be finished by September. People's lives are at risk, the vibe wasn't right and for me and the guys, we thought the best situation would be to postpone it.

"We were pleased that we actually got it next year, because there was a rumour that we would just miss this year and we wouldn't have it at all, so in that sense, when they told us it was next year, we were quite pleased."

Even an Open venue isn't free of the economic pressures that come with the closure of the course and the restrictions on movement that came alongside the COVID-19 pandemic. The usual team of 15 greenkeepers and one gardener has been reduced to six, including Paul and a part-time mechanic, with the others furloughed.

"I don't want too many people at work," said Paul. "I want us to isolate, so we're all doing different things and we don't come into contact with each other. I'm doing 11-hour days myself because I live on site and I try and do as much as I can myself. »



Royal St George's Paul and his son, Elliott

"The good thing is I've learnt to do every single job again. I thought we were going to have a proper lockdown, so I geared myself up to have to do everything myself. I thought I'd better retrain myself and I've realised what are the good jobs and the bad jobs! Don't put me on a rough mower, because I cut the range last week and I hated it. I've got a guy who loves cutting the range and I can't wait for him to come back and start cutting it again, so he's in my good books!

"I have good and bad days, but I'm so busy that I haven't had time to think. I'm working 11 hours a day and when I get home, I've just enough energy to cook for myself and then I'm knackered and sleep like a log. The hardship for me is I'm not with my lad, Elliott. He lives with his mum and I haven't been able to see him for a month. We speak on the phone every night, but it's hard not being able to see him.

"Out on the course, in a weird way I've enjoyed it. The air's cleaner, you can see there's less pollution and there's no point coming home and watching TV, so I just stay out there working on the course. I haven't had a day off since I can't remember when."

On the Sandwich links, growth during April is already minimal, but this was further reduced by a cold north easterly wind at the start of the month. In the first month after the lockdown was announced, Paul cut the fairways just twice. This was done at a height of 14mm, while the greens were cut once in two weeks to a height of 6mm. Tees and aprons were cut to 9mm once every two weeks. Rather than cutting, hand watering is the priority to keep the turf alive.

Throughout his career, Paul has subscribed to a low input method of sustainable course management and it is

The hardship for me is I'm not with my lad, Elliott. He lives with his mum and I haven't been able to see him for a month.

his belief that this approach has helped ease some of the pressure.

"I'm lucky that I've got a sustainable golf course and you know what, now's the time that everything we've been doing over the last few years has come back to help me," explained Paul. "Last year I had a course rater come to me and ask 'why are you overseeding with fescue when it all died in the drought?' He told me fescue was a thing of the past and I should be using ryegrass. I said 'We may have had one bad year of drought, but that doesn't make us give up trying to get the best fescue we can on the fairways and we'll get it right again'. That is coming to fruition now and the course has needed less feeding, less work and we can survive for longer without essential maintenance on it.

"I take every day as it comes and as long as you're alive, you can deal with the other things. If they said you can't cut your course for two months, then you deal with it when you come back and if it isn't as good as it was when it was at its peak, the members will understand. I don't think everyone looks at it that way and it may have taken you 10 years to get the course looking how you want it. But you start again, because that's what we're paid to do.

"I think the world's going to change

now and when members come back, I hope they're just pleased to be playing golf again. The things they were moaning about, hopefully they'll think twice for the future and realise, 'I'm healthy, I'm alive, I've got a beautiful golf course, let's get on with it'."

Corhampton, Hampshire
IESTYN CARPENTER,
COURSE MANAGER

We have two staff working at present, myself and my deputy. We are doing 40 hours each per week and lone working, keeping 2 metres distance from each other when catching up. We use WhatsApp a lot for communication and the Life360 tracker for health and safety, which works well.

We are doing bare essentials and the update to the guidelines has enabled us to complete our winter projects. Our feeding programme is completely different to usual. I am using some slow release N with wetting agents to keep the plant ticking over. The bents look strong and the Poa looks unhappy!

The height of cut has changed on greens from 3mm to 5mm and the tees and aprons have been raised from 7mm to 9mm.

The outfield areas are not growing much on the South Downs at present so it leaves me enough time to get work completed. In general, I haven't seen much of change from not having golf traffic on the plant, but to be fair it's pretty stressed because of the dry weather. It is a massive help, being able to get work done with no golf though!

The difficult part is not knowing when we can open, but I feel very confident that we will be able to get the course back to its best, with a fast turnaround when the full team return.



Unbeatable package for enhanced productivity.



OPTIONAL
5YR EXTENDED WARRANTY
Kubota care
BASED ON THE HOURS YOU WORK*
*Conditions apply. See your Kubota dealer for details.

L2 Series: Maximum efficiency, comfort and versatility

An unbeatable package of class-leading features to make your day easier and more productive.

We put more into our L2 Series, so you get more out. Visit our website or your local Kubota dealer to find out more about our class leading engine, transmission, PTO technology, and our super-comfortable cabs. All combined with legendary reliability, service and reassuringly high residual values. Or carry on working harder. Your choice.

Contact your local dealer or visit our website for more details.

www.kubota.co.uk



Kubota
130th Anniversary

Prestbury Golf Club, Cheshire

MARK CROSSLEY, COURSE MANAGER

How many staff have you retained and what working practices have you implemented to keep everyone safe?

After gaining approval by the greens committee, the board of management agreed to retain half of my workforce. This equates to four from eight plus myself. The club took advantage of the furlough scheme, placing the remaining staff on 80% salary. We had started a split shift system while still at full staffing levels. However, I have not felt the need with a smaller team. Having said that, we have moved out of the mess room facilities and into the clubhouse to adhere to social distancing guidelines. We lost half our team and I thought that having our break together would help raise morale, while also enabling us to keep our distance from



Prestbury Golf Club

We seldomly close here at Prestbury, thanks largely due to the sandy subsoil. The course has been extremely busy throughout the winter period, with almost constant play.

each other. It's working really well at present. We also have adapted a one machine per person policy, where no other member of the team will use a machine that was previously used the same day. The same with buggy use — one person per buggy. I am generally the first in and last to leave so I am opening and closing the sheds.

What methods have you used to reduce the need for inputs and maintenance on the course?

I would usually select a granular fertiliser to apply in late February or early March (ICL Coldstart) to help aid recovery from spring renovations. Due to course closure, I did not feel the need to 'force' recovery so I have not applied a granular. Instead we started a little-and-often liquid feeding programme using Consolidate to maintain plant health. I have not used any plant protection agents, instead letting the plants own defences fight these stresses. I run a relatively low input regime, less than 80kg N, and keep greens around 20% moisture, so we are not producing much growth on the greens at all. I have kept heights of cut slightly higher than usual as I



Teamwork at Prestbury GC

am not focussed on playing quality at present.

How is your course reacting to a lack of play and a reduced maintenance schedule?

The closure is just what the course needed to help recovery from the constant traffic throughout the winter. We seldom close here at Prestbury, thanks largely due to the sandy subsoil. The

course has been extremely busy throughout the winter period, with almost constant play. Divots and worn areas are now starting to fill in due to the spring growth. The course is arguably better than usual at this time of year. All areas apart from the greens that is, which was mainly due to the initial guidelines not allowing for topdressing and aeration practices, along with a less intensive maintenance regime.

What will be the challenges you have when getting the course ready for play and how long do you anticipate these will take to be completed?

Due to reduced staffing and the first set guidelines on essential maintenance being extremely restrictive, the spring greens renovations are still to be completed. That was the major task facing us when the guidelines were

updated. The peripheries of the course, such as woodland edges, paths, bunkers and copses will be in urgent need of maintenance and repair. I am hopeful that with the standard of our playing surfaces at present, the course will be in its usual summer condition within two weeks of my staff returning. This is vital for the short and long-term health of the club.



Prestbury GC



Prestbury Golf Club from above

+

MORE STYLE
GIANT RESULTS

Year Warranty
5
Included

Lasting impressions with Otterbine's giant fountains. Stunning and dramatic water features for your lakes.

Take your landscapes to new heights with a Giant Fountain from Otterbine. Shallow operating depth combined with other engineered features means these fountains are easy to handle while still striking to see. If you're looking for a water feature that makes a statement without any of the drama, look to Otterbine.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Get MORE from your turfcare partner this year:
More products . More advice . More training . More finance

Reesink UK LTD is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Images shown for illustration only.

32 | Greenkeeper International | May 2020 | @BIGGALtd

@BIGGALtd | May 2020 | Greenkeeper International | 33

THE WENTWORTH CLUB, SURREY



DAN CLARKE, GOLF COURSES MANAGER

Wentworth during the BMW PGA Championship.
Photograph by Ash Youd Photography

Dan Clarke is Golf Courses Manager responsible for all 63 golf holes at Wentworth, the world-famous private members' club in Surrey.

Home of the BMW PGA Championship, we caught up with Dan to see how the pandemic is impacting the venue and to see where there's anything we can learn from the practices the team have put in place.

How are you adapting to the situation personally?

I live in Camberley with my wife and children. My father is in Birmingham and my mother and sister and my wife's family

are all based in Holland. We are already quite used to seeing each other over video calls so it is not really affecting us from that perspective.

We usually see my dad a little more regularly but he's currently self-isolating and is getting support from friends.

We talk daily now instead of weekly, just to make sure everyone is OK.

What's your working situation at the moment?

In the weeks building up to the eventual closure, the club had already set up a working committee with various personnel from within the

business. They met daily to work through scenarios and prepare for whatever course the virus or government guidance took. Once the guidance was to stay at home, we were prepared for it and immediately told all the team



Wentworth's Dan Clarke speaking at BTME 2020

to stay at home. Just myself and Kenny Mackay, director of golf and greenkeeping, were in the business. We took in all the course furniture and effectively closed off the courses.

On the back of the guidelines that were published by The R&A and BIGGA, we selected a skeleton crew to come in and undertake the necessary maintenance. From a budgeted team of 49 we reduced our team down to 10 greenkeepers, one mechanic, one irrigation technician and myself across all three 18-hole courses and our nine-hole course..

That's obviously a huge cut in the number of people. Are you doing anything to stay in contact with those who have been furloughed?

We use a HR system called Fourth. Alongside regular updates from the club, our general manager and the HR department, I was also able to set up a group for just the greenkeepers so I could share information with the whole team. I am fortunate that I have three head greenkeepers, one for each golf course, and individual staff conversations go through them. There are cases of staff who have underlying health

conditions and I am personally in contact with them too. We also encourage the team to call each other, just for a chat.

When it came to the furloughing process, it was a dynamic environment.

Furloughing has enabled us to retain people through this period so we do not have to make job cuts in the long run. Communicating that to the team was key in helping them understand the process.

We have one head greenkeeper, who travels in

from Bedford every day, and we decided that this probably was not an essential journey.

As it worked out, his wife works for the NHS as a frontline worker, so being at home means he can now look after his children.

With reduced maintenance and no golfers, what will be the long term effects on the course?

Having no play on the golf courses and not having to »

Bude & North Cornwall, Cornwall



JAMES LEITCH, HEAD GREENKEEPER

We have retained two members of staff with two others on furlough.

Because we are a links course, growth isn't really a problem. I haven't put a granular fertiliser on the greens, we're just using soil conditioners and raised the height of cut on the greens to 7mm and tees to 12mm. I hope this will be enough to keep the plant healthy.

I also use Revolution on the greens to help reduce the need for irrigation.

So far, the course is enjoying the rest after a hard winter. But we have noticed an increase in general public using the course. We struggle

keeping non-golfers off the course due to our positioning in the middle of the town and the public footpaths that run across the course

I think the biggest challenge we will have is convincing the members that we haven't been able to carry out work to improve course conditions because we are restricted on what we can do.

I have restricted what we do to comply with the essential maintenance guidelines, but I'm concerned we will be compared to other courses that have not been following the guidelines.




put the greens and other surfaces under stress has actually been beneficial to the course's overall health.

However, our maintenance weeks are scheduled in June and August, so we will need to make some decisions around that time in terms of the rollout of the works.

We are hoping that as the guidelines are updated, there is an opportunity for us to do some additional plant health maintenance work for the long-term benefit of the surfaces. For example, for our creeping bentgrass greens it is essential that we keep sand levels high to maintain drainage and keep thatch levels down as it is a very aggressive growing grass.

In a usual spring, if you were to take the lockdown out of the equation, we would be incorporating as much sand as

 Having no play on the golf courses and not having to put the greens or services under stress has actually been beneficial to its health.

possible using weekly topdressings, bi-weekly pencil tining and gearing up to a June hollowcore, with the aim of hitting our annual agronomic targets.

It is going to be a challenge when we reopen again. The Government is discussing 'exit strategies' and so of course we are exploring our own scenarios and what they look like.

We are asking ourselves questions such as "Will we need time to transition from this current period to a playing period?" "Do we need a week

or perhaps longer to do the necessary work?"

We have increased the heights of cuts on all the areas and we are reducing rolling and this will ultimately have an impact on playability of the courses.

When restrictions are lifted, how long would it take your team to get the West Course back to a level that you would be happy with?

It is hard to say, but we would probably need a solid week to get it back to where

we should be this time of year.

But obviously there's a question mark surrounding social distancing. Will we continue with staggered start times and adapt our shift patterns? It will depend on the guidance we are given.

We could potentially be looking at a longer period than that.

Our members are of course looking forward to getting back out on the golf course and there is talk of them building greens and bunkers in their own gardens! As a lot of clubs will know, many members are mad for the game and as soon as the opportunity comes they will want to get back out on the golf course.

What would happen if you weren't able to do any maintenance at all on the

course for a period of, say, three weeks or more?

For this time of year, that's a very challenging thought.

We would be spraying a lot of Primo plant growth regulator until the last possible moment to delay any growth. We would of course respect the guidance and after that it would take some time to reset the golf course.

I would expect that it would take at least three weeks to work on the course and bring the height of cut down gradually.

The bunkers on the West have liner but the other two are the original dug-out bunkers and they will require some attention.

The condition of the greens is also very much weather dependant.

Why can't you immediately go back to the original height of cut on the greens?

The rule of thumb is that every time you drop the height of cut, you do not drop



it more than 25%. You would probably drop it even slower than that and gradually work its way down.

The other side of that is with creeping bentgrass, the longer the leaf grows, the fatter it gets. If you bring the grass height down quickly you will lose a lot of density.

Ideally, we'd be looking at

lots of fine stood-up leaves, but if you let the grass grow then the fatter leaves will create more shade and thin out the surface.

A gradual approach to ensure health is key. Poa greens are probably a little more receptive, but tufted growth will bring about its own challenges.

When the guidance came out you responded quickly. Why is it important for the Wentworth team to strictly follow that guidance?

We are a world-famous club and we want to ensure that we show best practice across the board. We need to respect the Government's guidelines and also the guidelines that our industry recommends. It helps that we agree with what's been said, but we also want to be setting the right example.

Every year brings new challenges, whether its drought, heavy rain and now COVID-19. My focus has been ensuring our team are safe and that we maintain a world class product at the end of this period. Those are two very focussed points and this situation has put a pause on many of the other pressures and expectations we normally have. This is going to have an impact on people's lives and the golf industry as a whole and the key thing is to stay healthy and positive.



Hollins Hall Country Club, West Yorkshire

CHRIS WOOD, HEAD GREENKEEPER

I have 200 acres of land that take six of us to maintain in summer.

At the moment I'm on my own as the other lads have been furloughed and I'm only allowed to do 40 hours a week. We still have some staff in the hotel, so that's how I'm able to work alone. We have a system whereby I notify them of my status every 30 minutes.

I'm using plant growth regulator on the greens and tees, so I only need to cut these twice and once a week respectively for the time being. The other time is taken up by cutting the semi-rough over two weeks,

a day on the fairways each week and if I get any spare time I'll cut tee surrounds and approaches. I have been repeating that and it will continue until I get some of the team back.

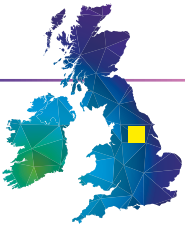
The course looks amazing. Tees and fairways are in great condition due to lack of play, greens are still at 6mm and I haven't applied a spring feed as I don't want them bursting out of the ground. We've had no rain for a month so irrigation is getting very important.

I'd hope to get at least a couple of weeks' notice before we open again. All

trees, walls and sleeper edges need strimming. The driving range has been completely left alone, so it resembles a jungle. Bunkers are starting to fill with weeds and a couple still need repairing from all the water damage. Hotel grounds have

also been neglected. I reckon we'd have the course back up to standard in a month, including expected green speed and firmness.

It's been really hard work but as long as there's a course to go back to, that's all that matters.



DUNBLANE NEW, STIRLINGSHIRE

WESLEY SAUNDERS, COURSE MANAGER

How many staff have you retained and what working practices have you implemented to keep everyone safe?

We are currently running two staff members, myself and my deputy. Two have been furloughed and two others left prior to all this happening, so we decided not to employ anybody.

My deputy and I are starting at the same time but using social distancing to keep ourselves safe. We work varied hours — five to seven hours a day — depending on what needs to be done, how we are feeling and what the weather is, all according to the essential maintenance guidelines.

My deputy and I have our own buggies and we have bottles of disinfectant scattered around so when we use anything, we clean it straight after we use it. We never work together on the same job.

What methods have you used to reduce the need for inputs and maintenance on the course?

With the reduced pressures of no golf, we are letting nature do her thing and only fertilising when needed.

I use plant growth regulators (Primo) all year round, so that is helping



Dunblane New Looking down 15th hole from the ladies' tee

during this period. But as we have little growth at this time of year, it's mainly for Poa seed head suppression.

I would usually be looking to apply a second granular to the greens now, but I'm holding off on that and will only apply when I need to. I would have applied a granular to the tees a couple of weeks back to try to encourage growth to aid in winter recovery, but we haven't done this so recovery on the tees is slow and the need to cut them is reduced.

Fairways have PGR (Primo) applied monthly from May to help with growth and we will apply this a month early to help slow growth a little more. Apart from that, fairways have an application of iron leading into the club championships, but that won't be happening this year.

Growth in central Scotland doesn't generally start to kick in until end of April and early May, so we are letting Mother Nature do her thing. If it's not important then it gets left until necessary, such as cutting the semi-rough or fertilising.

How is your course reacting to a lack of play and a reduced maintenance schedule?

We are the ones generally trying to push growth at this time of year, so I feel the course is benefiting as a whole from being left alone. The greens have been left longer and with this, plus the PGR and no golf, I am seeing a reduction in Poa annua and an increase in the bentgrass population.

There are parts of the semi-rough which are areas of high traffic that always struggle regardless of what

There are parts of the semi-rough which are areas of high traffic that always struggle regardless of what we do, but they are showing signs of growth, which is unheard of.

we do, but they are showing signs of growth, which is unheard of.

With the reduced maintenance, the bunkers are awful and there are rabbit scrapings everywhere and the weeds are out of control.

weather. If golf was to return in three to four weeks and based on where we are and what we are doing, I don't feel it will be too difficult or take too long — around one week — to get the course back into shape. A little refining and hey presto we're back to where we should be and golfers will be none the wiser.

However, if it is any longer than that I think we could be in a little trouble. The two of us would struggle to keep up with the growth and things could get out of hand. »

What will be the challenges you have when getting the course ready for play and how long do you anticipate these will take to be completed?

This will depend on when golf is allowed back and the

ProWet EVOLVE

Setting the new Standards of Performance for Soil Surfactant Technology

- Developed by the experts-Drs.Cale Bigelow, Mike Fidanza, and Stan Kostka
- Newest and most advanced Surfactant Technology available
- Extensively researched
- Globally trialled and proven
- Cost effective to use

Available exclusively from TurfCare



Mullacash North, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland, W91 F970.
Tel: Ire: +353 (0) 45 856 026, Tel: UK: +44 (0) 1425 472 102
info@turfcare.eu www.turfcare.eu



Dunblane New 8th fairway bunker

Dunblane New Looking down the 9th and 10th holes from the 10th medal tee

What could golf look like this year?

IS THIS HOW GOLF CAN BE REINTRODUCED TO THE UK THIS SUMMER?

There's a debate raging on keyboards across the country – as a sport that can be played individually with zero physical contact, could golf be among the first outdoor activities to be permitted?

These guidelines have been adopted in some areas of Europe and may be a vision for how social distancing measures could enable golf to return...

1. Play alone or in family pairs.

- / Only two-balls may be allowed, providing you're playing with a member of your household. In this situation, we may see instances of family groups playing together actually increase.
- / Otherwise, golfers must play alone.

2. Online tee bookings only

- / Online bookings enable tee times to be carefully policed and ensure fees can be paid without any physical contact

3. No loitering

- / Golfers must arrive five minutes before their tee time, change shoes in the car park and head straight to the tee.
- / Afterwards they must return immediately to their car.

4. Nine holes only

- / A nine-hole round constitutes about a two-mile walk and should take around an hour and a half, which is within the recommended guidelines for exercise
- / Nine-hole rounds also allow two separate sets of golfers to play the course, increasing capacity but keeping them distanced

5. Buildings such as the clubhouse, changing rooms, trolley area, bathrooms and professional's shop are all closed

6. 10-minute intervals between tee times

- / This ensures that playing groups are sufficiently separated

7. Practice areas including the driving range remain closed

- / Golfers may feel they aren't harming anyone by hitting 100 balls down the range, but someone will then need to collect those balls, increasing the time greenkeepers must spend at work.
- / The instances of touching surfaces will also increase, while hitting balls at the range also cannot be classified as exercise

8. Greenkeepers must always have the right of way

- / With increased pressure due to reduced staffing levels, greenkeepers need to work as quickly and efficiently as possible, to enable them to get home safely in a timely fashion each day

9. Bunkers are placed under GUR and golfers can take a free drop or choose to play from them

- / Rakes are put into storage, reducing the possibility of cross contamination
- / Relieves greenkeepers from the burden of daily maintenance

10. Course furniture

- / Ball washers and bins are out of use
- / Hole cups have been turned upside down and the flag must not be touched

For the latest information:

Keep checking in to the COVID-19 Hub on the BIGGA website for the latest news and updates relating to the ongoing crisis.

Moray Golf Club, Morayshire



KEVIN THOMSON,
COURSE MANAGER

We are a 36-hole club and we have retained only two staff and furloughed seven. We are following social distancing guidelines, wiping down machinery even though we aren't sharing any equipment and are working slightly reduced hours to avoid eating at work. To make up for the shorter hours, we're working Monday to Saturday.

Our height of cut remains high so we won't need as much nutrition and water to maintain a healthy plant. As far as maintenance goes, we are following the guidelines issued.

At the moment it's hard to say how the course is reacting as it's still quite cold here and very dry so there's not much growth, but our high-wear traffic areas are loving the rest, as are the fairways.

We should manage to keep the courses in fairly decent shape until play is allowed again, but it will be a little rough round the edges. The bunkers especially will need a bit of work. I'd say we would get back on track in about two weeks or so.



DON'T TOAST USE YOUR LOAF



WHETHER WORKING OR PLAYING THE GAME - BIGGA, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE UK'S LEADING SKIN CANCER AWARENESS CHARITY, SKCIN - ARE DEDICATED TO ADVISING OUR MEMBERS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SUN SAFETY.

As the warmer weather fast approaches, BIGGA members are urged to make sun protection, par for the course!

"The importance of sun safety cannot be underestimated", comments Marie Tudor from national Skin Cancer Charity, Skcin. "UV is a known carcinogen, damage is cumulative and irreparable and can result in serious consequences. Greenkeepers and golfers alike are at greater risk of developing the disease due to the prolonged periods of time spent outdoors and men in particular are less likely to consider sun protection, let alone put it into practice".

A YouGov survey, commissioned by Cancer Research UK, found that more than 50 per cent more men than women forget to protect their skin and, worryingly, 75 per cent more men than women are not worried about getting sunburnt.

BIGGA has been working with Skcin to raise awareness amongst members and provide life saving information, promoting best practice when it comes to UV protection and the importance of checking your skin for the early signs of change. UV exposure is responsible for almost 90% of all skin cancer cases and 4 out of 5 melanoma deaths, so prevention is most definitely better than cure.

Skin cancer is almost entirely preventable! Follow Skcin's Five S's of Sun Safety to avoid becoming a statistic:

1. SLIP ON CLOTHING

Clothing is one of the most effective barriers between our skin and the sun and should cover as much skin as possible.

2. SLOP ON SUNSCREEN

Apply a minimum SPF 30, broad-spectrum, UVA sunscreen to any areas of skin not covered by clothing. Reapply liberally, at least every 2 hours and more often if sweating/towelling.

3. SLAP ON A HAT

Wear a broad-brimmed sun hat to protect the scalp and shade the face, neck, ears and cheeks - the most common areas for skin cancers to develop.

4. SLIDE ON SUNGLASSES

Wear good quality wrap-around sunglasses to protect your eyes from UV damage.

5. SHADE FROM THE SUN WHEN POSSIBLE

Particularly between 11am and 3pm when UV penetration is strongest. Outdoor workers should also schedule works where possible to minimise direct exposure during peak UV hours and take breaks in the shade.

CUT OUT & KEEP YOUR
FREE MOLE RULER AND
ABCDE OF MELANOMA
DETECTION GUIDE



CHECK YOUR
SKIN MONTHLY
FOR SIGNS
OF CHANGE

• Skin cancers seldom hurt and are much more frequently seen than felt.
• Get to know your skin and what is normal for you, so that you can easily identify and record changes.
• Undress completely, make sure you have good light, use a mirror and get someone to help you to check hard to see spots.
• Make sure you check your entire body, even soles of the feet, between fingers / toes and under nails.

PREVENT SKIN CANCER
STAY SAFE IN THE SUN! | FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PREVENTION AND
EARLY DETECTION OF SKIN CANCER VISIT: www.skcin.org



CUT OUT & KEEP YOUR
FREE MOLE RULER AND
ABCDE OF MELANOMA
DETECTION GUIDE



DO YOU KNOW YOUR RED FLAGS?

**THE SOONER SKIN CANCER IS IDENTIFIED AND
TREATED, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCE OF AVOIDING
SURGERY, DISFIGUREMENT OR EVEN DEATH.
BIGGA MEMBERS ARE URGED TO LEARN THEIR RED
FLAGS WHEN IT COMES TO SKIN SURVEILLANCE.**

Skin cancer is the UK's most common and fastest rising cancer, yet it is the only cancer we can physically see developing in its early stages. Learning how to spot the early signs and symptoms, save lives.

The sooner a skin cancer is detected and treated the better and when it comes to melanoma, early detection is vital for survival. Melanoma is the least common but the most dangerous form of skin cancer, melanoma can grow quickly and spread to form new cancers elsewhere in the body.

"With 1 in 36 UK males and 1 in 47 UK females diagnosed with melanoma during their lifetime and cases rising faster than any other cancer, knowing how to spot the early signs is vital" comments Marie Tudor from Skcin. "Skcin are proud to have been working with BIGGA for several years now educating members about the risks associated with UVR, how to prevent the disease and how to detect the early signs and symptoms - enabling them to take charge of their own skin health and surveillance.

There are many types of both non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancers, with VERY different appearances and they are all much more frequently seen than felt. BIGGA members are advised to seek further information and guidance on prevention and early detection by visiting: skcin.org. Follow Skcin on facebook, instagram & Twitter: @SkcinCharity

Check your skin regularly (at least once a month) for any new, or changes to existing spots, moles, freckles or marks - and if in doubt, get it checked out! Here's some top tips on how to check your skin for signs of melanoma:

- Undress completely, make sure you have good light, use a mirror and get someone to help you to check hard to see spots. Get to know your skin and what is normal for you so that you can easily identify and record any changes.

- Make sure you check your entire body, for example soles of the feet, between fingers and toes, under nails, the scalp and eyes. Melanoma can form ANYWHERE on the body, not just on areas frequently exposed to UV.

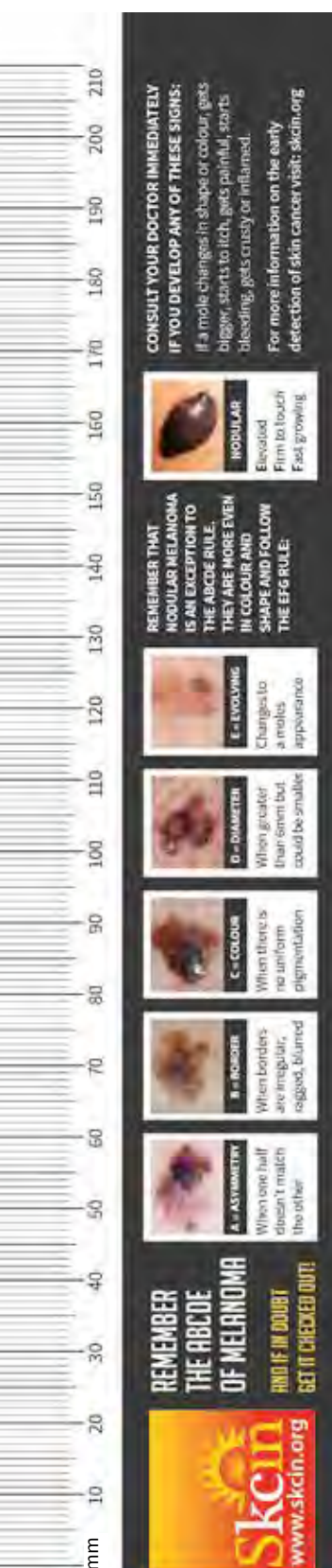
- Cut out the mole ruler (left) and use our **ABCDE** of melanoma guide to help you identify superficial spreading melanoma - the most common form of melanoma (approx 70%). But, be aware that there are exceptions to the **ABCDE** rule! For example 'Nodular Melanoma' - a particularly invasive and fast growing form that are usually elevated, firm to touch, even in colour, with even borders.

- The greatest indicator of any melanoma is 'CHANGE'. So, if a new, or existing spot, mole, freckle or mark is changing in shape, size or colour, starts to itch, gets painful, starts bleeding, becomes crusty or inflamed - **YOU MUST CONSULT YOUR GP AND/OR DERMATOLOGIST IMMEDIATELY.**

BARONESS[®]

STAYING SAFE AND THANKING OUR GREAT NHS

www.baronessuk.com



Open for Business

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, BIGGA has been here to lend a helping hand to our members.

We've provided support to hundreds of members all over the country and given them access to HR advice, legal support and a wide range of other benefits and resources that come as part of membership of the association.

Although coronavirus has forced the closure of golf clubs, greenkeepers are able to continue maintaining their courses, so long as strict guidelines are adhered to. To help make that possible, a vital network of suppliers are continuing to operate throughout this period.

Each of the organisations in this special feature are on hand to supply products and support in one way or another.


From BIGGA, to our commercial supporters, to every single golf facility, the COVID-19 crisis is impacting all aspects of daily life and no organisation is spared. However, by supporting each other, we're strengthening bonds and ensuring that when we emerge from this crisis, whenever that may be, the industry will be as well-placed as possible to recover in a timely fashion.

Baroness

BARONESS
Quality on Demand

Contact Name: Adam Butler
A: Unit 5 Hatch Industrial Park, Greywell Road, Basingstoke RG24 7NG
T: 07771 681 622 | E: adam.butler@baronessuk.com
W: www.baronessuk.com

We understand how COVID-19 has affected all our daily lives. In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government, Baroness UK has restricted our office opening hours to help protect our staff. However, we will continue supplying parts and technical backup during these tough times. To help support our customers we will be open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for parts deliveries through our dealer network. We understand that it's not only difficult at home and many of you are still having to think about the best ways in which to carry essential maintenance on your golf clubs. We wish you all the very best with this. From all at Baroness UK, we hope you all stay safe and well during this unprecedented time.



Reesink UK Ltd

REESINK Turfcare

A: 1-3 Station Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH
T: 01480 226 800 | E: info@reesinkturfcare.co.uk
W: www.reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Reesink UK is working hard to provide the best service during this period. Now, as ever, teams are working tirelessly in service centres, warehouses and across the supply chain to deliver for customers when it comes to service and parts supply. This is balanced with measures to protect staff and their families and therefore some changes have been made to working hours, which are now Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 5pm. The main office number is 01480 226800 and email address is info@reesinkturfcare.co.uk. These are supported by:
Spare Parts: 01480 226854
Toro Product Support/Warranty: 01480 226895
Irrigation Support: 01480 226872
Tractor Support: 01480 226922
General: 01480 226981/01480 226950
Accounts: 01480 226803



Jacobsen

Contact name: Morgan Schaffer
A: West Road Ransomes Euro Park, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9TT
T: 01473 270 000
W: www.ransomesjacobsen.com/europe-contact-us

We are continuing to support our dealers and customers throughout these times. We have taken increased health and cleanliness measures to ensure the safety of our employees and customers. Currently, we have available stock ready to ship and are committed to fulfilling orders for units and parts and accessories. Prior to the onset of COVID-19, we completed our annual Future Turf Managers Initiative training seminar at our facility in Ipswich, where we welcomed 24 upcoming turf managers to further their knowledge of the turf care industry. We're looking forward to getting through these trying times together.



Bernhard and Company

Contact Name: Angelique Crosnier
A: Bilton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7DT
T: 01788 811600 | E: support@bernhard.co.uk
W: www.bernhard.co.uk | @BernhardCompany

In line with the government instructions, Bernhard and Company has reduced its operational activities, but is providing emergency support to all customers in need of technical help or emergency parts. We will resume demonstrations and other promotional activities as soon as we feel it is safe for everyone. Please be confident that at Bernhard and Company we will continue to be as passionate as ever in the pursuit of excellence in turf maintenance. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact us at support@bernhard.co.uk or through our social media channels using @BernhardCompany.



Indigrow

Open for business with extended payment terms

Contact Name: Bradley Foster
A: The Old Bakery, Hyde End Lane, Brimpton, Berkshire, RG7 4RH
T: 07912 780 752 | E: bradleyf@indigrow.com
W: www.indigrow.com

We at Indigrow are all too aware of the impact coronavirus is having on the leisure industry and the financial burden it is causing. We are pleased to be able offer extended 90-day payment terms to all our UK customers on orders placed between 20 April and 30 May 2020. Payment for any goods ordered in May will not be due until August, giving you the opportunity to continue to maintain your facilities while lessening your financial worry until after your customers have returned. Indigrow is still fully open for business! Our sales and office teams are all working remotely and we've taken all necessary precautions within our manufacturing, warehousing and distribution facilities to ensure social distancing requirements are met, keeping our staff and customers safe. To place your orders on extended terms, call your local technical sales representative, email us on grass@indigrow.co.uk, or call our direct sales number on 07725962367. **Northern Technical Sales Manager,** Paul Foston — 07912780756

Southern Technical Sales Manager, Richard Lewis — 0771558861
Regional Technical Sales Representatives
Niall Gibb — 07483053210 — West Scotland
Greg McLellan — 07483053218 — East Scotland
Kevin Farrell — 07483053213 — North West England & North Wales
Andy Miller — 07483053217 — Northern England
Andre Erah — 07483053216 — Central England
Gary Stewart — 07483053214 — East of England
Ian Sellers — 07912780754 — Home Counties
Joe Russell — 07483082903 — South East England
Dan Hulbert — 07484548309 — Southern and South West England & South Wales
Take care and stay safe!



Rigby Taylor

Contact Name: Richard Fry
A: 1-3 Freeman Court, Jarman Way, Royston SG8 5HW
T: 0800 424 919 | E: sales@rigbytaylor.com
W: www.rigbytaylor Ltd

We're here to help...safely

Rigby Taylor would like to reassure customers that, within government guidelines, the company continues to provide products and associated technical advice to ensure the continuing maintenance and management of the country's sporting and landscaped surfaces. It is also important to know that for those who may require help at this time, the charity Perennial, of which Rigby Taylor is a Platinum sponsor, provides free and confidential advice, support and financial assistance to people of all ages working in, or retired from horticulture. Every one of you will be doing your part to save lives — we wish you and your families the very best at this difficult time.




Bayer CropScience Limited

BAYER Bayer

A: Bayer CropScience Limited, Environmental Science, 30, Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WB
T: 00800 1214 9451 | E: turfsolutions@bayer.com
W: www.es.bayer.co.uk | @BayerAmenityUK

Bayer is a global leader in providing innovative solutions to pest, weed and plant disease problems in the professional non-crop markets. The Bayer portfolio consists of turf fungicides, herbicides and practical tools such as the free-to-download Bayer TurfXpert app. Made up of former greenkeepers and groundsmen, the Turf Solutions team combines the expert scientific knowledge of Bayer with a practical understanding of how Bayer products can be integrated into turf management programmes.



John Deere

Contact Name: Golf & Turf Division Sales & Marketing
A: John Deere Limited, Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HT
T: 0800 085 2522 | E: 31enquiries@JohnDeere.com
W: www.deere.co.uk

While most retail showrooms are closed, John Deere dealers are operating telephone and online parts ordering and contactless delivery plus emergency service, maintenance and replacement machines, as far as it is possible, practicable and safe to do so in line with the latest advice. All aspects of the UK & Ireland parts business are working normally. The golf and turf range includes pedestrian and ride-on cylinder and rotary mowers, compact tractors and loaders, turf aerators, sprayers & spreaders, bunker rakes, materials collection systems and Gator utility vehicles, with flexible finance programmes continuing to be available from John Deere Financial.



ICL

AICL

A: Epsilon House, West Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9JF
T: 01473 237 123 | E: marketing.ukire@icl-group.com
W: www.icl-sf.co.uk

The current situation regarding COVID-19 is an extremely serious public health matter and as such ICL is committed to protecting the health of its employees, customers, suppliers, partners and communities. At ICL we are still open for essential business. We are following and adhering to orders, guidelines and procedures issued and published by relevant regulatory authorities and we have adopted appropriate steps and measures within our facilities to minimize the risk of coronavirus. Our technical and sales team are working full time and can be reached by telephone, email or video call. For all enquiries please contact your local ICL Technical Area specialist or contact us using the details above.



GIVE YOUR MOWERS MORE EDGE

Only genuine Toro EdgeMax™ bedknives get the absolute best from your fairway and greens mowers. Precision engineered with a hardened tool steel insert they last up to three times longer than standard bedknives without sacrificing quality of cut or turf health.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Get MORE from your turfcare partner this year:
More products . More advice . More training . More finance

 *We operate on a 24 hour basis where possible. Reesink UK LTD is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Images shown for illustration only.



24 hr delivery*

CUTTING EDGE
Exceeds industry standards

ENHANCED MOUNTING HOLES
Consistent depth on every hole

HEAVY-DUTY
High-carbon steel construction



Bunker Renovation

What to consider if you're rebuilding your sand traps

Rhydian Lewis, director of construction experts, Durabunker

The most frequent alterations to a course are the bunkers and Rhydian Lewis, director of construction experts Durabunker, reveals what you need to consider if your club is planning renovations...

We're thinking of renovating our bunkers. What should we be looking at?

Our advice would be to gather as much information as possible. When we speak to clients for the first time, we ask a

lot of questions before moving forward to discuss renovation options.

In the first stages it is critical a clear picture is built of the situation with existing bunkers. The objective is to assess needs, learn where the problems lie and make the correct recommendations. From our perspective, it is difficult to execute a successful renovation without building a clear picture and having the client acknowledge any existing problems. We discuss what their maintenance issues are and where they invest the vast majority of time and expenditure with their bunkers.

We ask what the membership feedback is regarding their bunkers, whether the club has an architect on board, whether certain bunkers are now redundant and out of play or whether they are too penal.

There is a very specific list of questions we use to yield the type of information we need. The picture we build is slightly different every time as no two courses are the same, but the methodology to reach the right decisions and achieve the desired end goal is almost identical.

Digging a little deeper and being more specific also creates a picture of current performance and a road map to a successful renovation project. An example of key information to glean from your course manager might be whether the bunkers suffer from washout, sand contamination, flooding, edge erosion,

stone migration, instability and so on.

After gathering the relevant information, we would then go on to recommend products that we feel would benefit the renovation and also ideas for bunker design.

What are the challenges of a bunker renovation in terms of design?

We've designed with high-end companies, such as Nicklaus Design, Robert Trent Jones II, and Greg Norman Design. As a result we have learned many lessons over the last 10 years. Course managers sometimes have their own vision of what they would like to achieve and input can also come from various other voices within the golf club, such as committee members, chairman of greens, club professionals and various other sources.

Our approach to design is always collaborative, but setting clear and agreed design objectives is fundamental to achieving a positive end result. We always try to encourage the development of a bunker 'masterplan'.

This is not always easy as clients are not always aware of the variety of bunker designs that exist or what can be achieved through the sensible use of different products on the market.

We often recommend an initial trial

phase is implemented, where just a few bunkers are renovated, which gives everyone the opportunity to assess both design style and products used.

In effect, this produces a template for a larger project. There is a lot of in-house design and we've seen good examples and plenty of very bad designs.

There are a lot of aspects to consider. Many course managers are understandably focused on reducing maintenance, but coupling that with

good design and producing bunkers that are pleasing to the eye and eminently playable is not always straightforward. To give just one example, we would ask 'what is the maximum gradient of sand face that you would envisage?' Sometimes we get a blank look, other times a vague answer and some rationale.

It's rare to hear relevant vocabulary, such as 'the angle of repose of sand'. That is the steepest angle of descent, relative to the horizontal plane, to which a material can be piled without slumping. At this angle, the material on the slope

face is on the verge of sliding. Once a flow of water is added to the mix, sand that is just about holding on will lose its battle against gravity and will not stay on bunker faces. This causes huge maintenance issues and time investment, not to mention appalling playing conditions for members.

So, if a client wants sand flashed faces, we would ask 'what sort of gradient are you thinking?' They may say 45 degrees and we recommend 30 degrees or less, so they are below the angle of repose of that sand.

With a good liner, it is usually possible to hold sand on slopes of approximately 35 degrees.

One design objective would be to agree a maximum gradient on any bunker face and not build beyond that.

We are continuously learning, but we do have a large back catalogue of projects, and with experience comes knowledge. The challenge of good design is multi-faceted, but knowledge is certainly power when it comes to a successful renovation.

If the course manager and in-house team can bring all those elements together, while still maintaining a golf course, they should be commended and utilised. Investing in good design, though, usually yields significant benefits. An architect is the obvious route, there are also companies, »

“Our approach to design is always collaborative, but setting clear and agreed design objectives is fundamental to achieving a positive end result.”



The work to renovate the bunkers at Waterlooille GC



This article was first produced by the GCMA and is reproduced with their kind permission

The design proposal for Waterlooville GC

ourselves included, who specialise in all things bunker, including bunker design. We would encourage clubs to explore all options.

Bunkers are not easy to maintain if they are not constructed correctly...

Preparation and design are key. If the design is wrong, you have a problem right from the outset. You can try to put product on it to help, and it may to an extent, but if the design is fundamentally flawed, you're pushing the proverbial peanut up a hill — even with the best products in the world.

The second point is to couple good design with the use of complimentary products, not only to safeguard the design, but to ensure minimum maintenance is required, making bunkers playable even in the most challenging conditions.

Thirdly, the execution is also extremely important. With sand washout, if the design template states 30-degree

maximum and certain areas of bunker faces are at 40, because the shaper has been a little careless and the team have

Preparation and design are key. If the design is wrong, you have a problem right from the outset. You can try to put product on it to help, and it may to an extent, but if the design is fundamentally flawed, you're pushing the proverbial peanut up a hill

not quality checked the work, then the time spent investing in good design will have been wasted.

How do you coach clubs on what type of bunker is best for them?

The key thing is honesty. We would love to go in and sell large amounts of product — the higher the bunker wall is, the more bunker edge product we sell. The larger the area of sand, the more

liner product we shift.

But that's not the right way to go about it. From a business and design point of view, we want bunkers to look right and sit into the golf course well. We want to reduce maintenance time and we want golf courses to make critical savings, gaining hidden value such as diverting staff time that traditionally was spent on maintaining bunkers to managing playing surfaces.

At Waterlooville GC, we reduced the area of sand by approximately 40% to 50% on some bunkers,

representing significant cost and labour savings.

Bunkers there were disproportionate to the size of greens and the amount of sand was overpowering the green complex. We discussed with the club the idea of creating more imaginatively shaped sand lines with crisp, clean edges rather than large sprawling masses of fairly generic form. It has worked well and the club is delighted with the results.

CAPILLARY CONCRETE | Capillary Bunkers

Has last season highlighted problems with your bunkers? Are you looking to renovate and need a long term solution to bunker drainage issues and sand contamination?

Then look no further; Capillary Bunkers from Capillary Concrete is the answer, proven worldwide our product is fast becoming the choice of Clubs, Superintendents & Course Managers due to its performance, ease of installation & long term lifespan, all that is backed up by our unique 10 year Insured Financial Guarantee.

Once installed, any contamination from the floor of the bunker is eradicated, washouts are minimised & the maintenance of your bunkers is dramatically reduced. Saving time and money that can be utilised elsewhere on the course, no more flooded bunkers and shovelling of contaminated sand back into place, just simply rake the sand back into place — if at all needed!

Supplied to the course already mixed all you need to do is transport the Capillary Bunkers Mix to the prepared bunkers and install, sound too easy? Not at all, we provide all training whether you chose to install with the clubs own staff or appoint a



Royal Norwich, Norfolk

contractor to undertake the works.

Don't just take our word for it: "Lining all the new course bunkers with Capillary Bunkers formed part of our long term strategy to maximise the lifespan of the sand, reduce maintenance after heavy rainfall and improve bunker presentation and playability" states Peter Todd, Estates Manager/Director, Royal Norwich.

For more information please contact
Email: neil@bordersportsservices.co.uk
Mobile: 07900 146215

Article brought to you by





TPC Colorado

Built To Last

- Synthetic Bunker Edging • Design & Build Service • Self Install Options
- Multiple Bunker Liners Including Rubber Crumb, Billy Bunker & Fabric
- Free Initial Consultation • Worldwide Client Base & Distribution

info@durabunker.com Tel: +44 (0)1656 336576 www.durabunker.com



Synthetic bunker edges & Seamless Liners exclusively available through Durabunker



Placing British Sugar TOPSOIL's Landscape20 by hand at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club



Landscape20 in place at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club

IS IT TIME TO THINK A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY?

Investigating alternatives to sand-based renovations

With the world's oldest golf courses being almost entirely links courses, it is no coincidence that very sandy materials have traditionally been used for the construction and refurbishment of coastal and inland golf courses across the world.

Sand undoubtedly provides a firm, level and well-drained playing surface and it would seem there can be no substitute for it where the construction and refurbishment of greens are concerned. Because it is inert it does not hold onto nutrients or water and this

allows the greenkeeper to manufacture the environment required through the addition of artificial fertiliser and the introduction of water through irrigation.

Notwithstanding the unprecedented and unexpected positive impact of the current pandemic on the global environment, our climate continues to change. For some time, scientists and consultants working in the industry have been looking at how golf course construction and refurbishment could be done differently in the future, using materials that are better suited to work with the vagaries of the climate, have a less detrimental impact on our environment and reduce annual costs.

The use of soil and soil-based products to construct, refurbish and maintain tees, bunkers and green surrounds is proving increasingly popular with greenkeepers and golf course consultants who have been encouraged by STRI research, feedback from scientists and industry case studies and testimonials.

A good soil is a mixture of mineral

particles (sand, silt and clay), water, nutrients (predominantly nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium), organic matter, air and living organisms. 'Virgin' or 'as dug' natural topsoil as a construction material for shaping course features (tees, bunkers etc.) is neither sustainable nor reliable. Not only are the world's soil resources being depleted at an alarming rate, but virgin soil is also a 'take it or leave it' material that may lack the right balance of the constituents listed above, affecting its performance.

BIGGA Education Supporter British Sugar TOPSOIL's products are sustainable, being derived from the prime arable soils that adhere to the sugar beet brought in to British Sugar factories. The soil is washed from the beet and collected in settlement ponds before being conditioned and blended. To comply with the British Standard for Topsoil BS3882:2015, each batch is sampled and sent to a UKAS and MCERTS accredited laboratory for a range of stringent physical and chemical

tests to confirm its composition and the absence of potential contaminants. TOPSOIL products have also undergone comprehensive replicated trials at the STRI.

Good grass establishment and growth, particularly in periods of drought, and the recovery of the sward following periods of heavy rain, make soil-based materials for course construction and refurbishment a very attractive proposition. The clay component in 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 and minimising the requirement for additional and expensive inorganic fertiliser. Soil also has a considerably slower percolation rate than sand and this increased water-holding capacity means that areas are less reliant on irrigation. And in terms of course design, soil's plasticity allows the creation of more interesting and challenging contours and features.

With all that said, maintenance remains key to the successful use of soil products and, where used, the ground must still be aerated on a regular basis to prevent compaction and puddling.

Perhaps, in this period of unexpected lockdown, there is time to look at doing things differently, working with the natural world's own resources in a sustainable, cost-efficient and environmentally beneficial way.

Continue the conversation:
@Topsoil_BS

Case Studies

Bury St Edmunds

At Bury St Edmunds Golf Club consultant Peter Jones of Peter Jones Associates selected British Sugar TOPSOIL's Landscape20 topsoil for the re-shaping and re-contouring of the entire green complex. One hundred and twenty tonnes were spread at a depth of 15-20cm over the course's natural sandy loam soil, which had been de-compacted and levelled using a purpose-built rake. Finally, a dwarf perennial rye grass turf was laid over the Landscape20. Throughout the entire operation the putting surface of each green was left intact.

Peter chose Landscape20 because of the success he had had with it on similar projects. He said: "The properties of Landscape20 allow you to create the shapes needed around bunkers and greens, and the naturally occurring nutrients within it result in great turf growth."

Peterborough Milton Golf Course

At Peterborough Milton Golf Course, 13 bunkers were re-shaped and five tees levelled with 174 tonnes of British Sugar TOPSOIL's Sports&Turf topdressing prior to re-turfing. Course Manager Steve Smail said: "Sports&Turf is by far the best product I have used in my years as a greenkeeper and I am delighted with how easy it is to use. The drainage and percolation rate it gives is second to none."

Working in
partnership
with

Sports&Turf

Nema' gonna give you up, never gonna let you down...



Top tips for making sure your nematodes don't run around and desert you

Both chafer grubs and leatherjackets can be extremely damaging to golf courses, not only because of the direct damage they cause, but also indirectly through predators feeding on them.

With very limited chemical options available for controlling these destructive pests, the use of entomopathogenic nematodes is being widely adopted throughout the industry.

We teamed up with Dr Colin Mumford, technical manager at Bayer, to give you advice on how to use them effectively.

1. Storage

Colin explained that nematodes usually arrive in a cardboard box with cool packs that ensure the product maintains a stable temperature during transit.

"I would recommend using the product as soon as you receive it, but this isn't always possible, so if you need to store it, keep it in the fridge at a temperature between 4 to 8°C," he said.

"Take the packets of nematodes out of the box they came in and loosely store them in the fridge. Try not to stack them if you can avoid it as this can sometimes cause crushing injuries to occur over time.

"If you have to store the nematodes in a smaller fridge where stacking is required, you may want to consider rotating the packs at least every 48 hours to avoid crushing injuries."

Targeting Chafer Grubs

To target chafer grubs and ensure nematodes deliver as effective results as possible, Dr Colin Mumford explained that the activity of adult chafer beetles should be closely monitored at this time of year.

"Over the past few years, we've seen that chafer beetles have been emerging six weeks later than normal, so it's important to continuously monitor for activity," he said. "This can be achieved by simply looking for the beetles, but to get a more definitive measurement I would use pheromone traps.

"The beetles are usually active for a couple of weeks, so look for the point when their numbers start to decline in

the traps. You should plan to apply the nematodes three-to-four weeks after this point, as the eggs they have laid would have hatched by then.

"By getting this timing right, the nematodes will be primed and ready to attack the chafer grubs at their most vulnerable when they are newly hatched or juvenile."

In very severe cases a second application may be necessary after two to three weeks to get control and Colin added: "Nematodes can be a very good option for controlling chafer grubs, but it's important to get the timing right to target the grubs when they are at their most vulnerable to maximise control."

“Nematodes can be a very good option... but it's important to get the timing right”

2. Preparation

"It's important to pick an overcast day with a soil temperature above 12°C to apply the nematodes as direct sunlight will kill them and cold temperatures will limit their activity," said Colin.

"Before applying the nematodes, the soil must be conditioned to be ready for the application. Irrigate the area the day before as this will ensure there is adequate moisture for the nematodes and it will help them move through the rootzone."

3. Application

"Remove all sprayer filters, for the obvious reason that the nematodes could get caught in the filters and cause blockages. Make sure that you also remove the filters from the sprayer nozzles as these can often be forgotten about."

Colin added that if you are using a hand lance, such as a knapsack sprayer lance, you should remove the filter within the lance handle itself.

"Fill the sprayer as you would for any other product, half filling with water, turn

on the agitation, add the nematodes and then fill up with the remaining water," he explained. Tank agitation is important as it helps disperse the nematodes throughout the solution.

Those who are using a knapsack sprayer, or a smaller capacity sprayer without an agitation function, should pre-mix the nematodes in a bucket of water before adding them to the tank.

"Some of the nematodes may stick to the inside of the packet so make sure to rinse this out and tip the washings into the sprayer tank," he explained.

It is important to use whole packs, if possible, as the nematodes in products with more than one species are not evenly distributed throughout the pack.

Colin said: "By using whole packs you'll be making sure that you are getting the right mix of nematode species in the application area.

"Bayer's nematode product, Harmonix Tri-Nema, contains three different species of nematodes and one pack will cover 1,000m², which is enough to cover two average sized golf greens."

"Within 30 minutes after applying the nematodes, turn on the irrigation briefly to lightly wash any nematodes remaining on the turfgrass leaves into the rootzone."

Continue the conversation:
@BayerAmenityUK

Working in partnership with



Bayer

Elementary turf management practices such as daily switching to remove dew are essential to keeping microdochium under control and should be carried out in parallel with preventative overseeding

Preventative overseeding

An essential disease prevention tactic

With the loss of fungicides such as chlorothalonil, propiconazole and iprodione removing the safety net of using curative chemicals to control turf diseases, greenkeepers must implement a series of linked management strategies to provide effective control against key threats such as Microdochium patch.

That's the advice from Richard Brown, amenity sales manager for Germinal GB, who recommends that, in addition to an acceptance that a certain degree of disease scarring is inevitable on golf greens, the future of effective disease management is reliant on frequent overseeding with resistant bentgrasses to replace susceptible species such as *Poa annua*.

Microdochium patch, caused by the *Microdochium nivale* pathogen, affects many cool season turf grass species, including annual meadow grass and perennial ryegrass, and especially *Poa annua*, and is one of the primary causes of

“A blend of varieties, such as those in Germinal's AberMajesty and ForeFront Greens blends, is preferable to a single cultivar as this will increase the sward's genetic diversity and give the over-seeded area a better chance of beating the disease.

disease scarring on golf greens. The pathogen over-summer in thatch or soil before infecting grass leaves in the autumn when cool (0-15°C) and damp conditions — which are also advantageous to *Poa* — prevail. In Scotland the disease can take hold as early as August, but with the UK's weather patterns no longer holding any predictability, there's the potential for the disease to strike at any time of the year.

“The loss of a number of key fungicide active ingredients has made the challenge of successfully

controlling microdochium patch significantly harder to achieve,” Richard said. “Despite this, the use of a few linked cultural and biological control measures can reduce reliance on fungicides and help greenkeepers to achieve appropriate levels of preventative disease control.”

Elementary turf management techniques such as daily dew removal and the prevention of excessive thatch build-up are key practices as *Microdochium* patch thrives in damp, protected conditions.

Richard explained that the battle against the disease will

be won or lost depending upon a greenkeeper's ability to increase the population of desirable grass species and reduce the amount of disease-prone *Poa annua*. He said: “It therefore makes sense to overseed using disease-resistant bentgrasses, which will create fire breaks between patches of susceptible *Poa annua*. A blend of varieties, such as those in Germinal's AberMajesty and ForeFront Greens blends, is preferable to a single cultivar as this will increase the sward's genetic diversity and give the over-seeded area a better chance of beating the disease.”

In terms of overseeding frequency, Richard advocates a policy of introducing new seed as often as possible throughout the year: “Rule number one is to bang new seed in, and keep banging it in. The primary goal is to increase the percentage of bentgrass on greens, but in *Poa annua* we are competing against a hugely prolific and

opportunistic seeder. In all but the most favourable years, overseeding once a year won't be enough to out-compete *Poa*, so a number of applications will be required.”

While the method of introducing seed is relatively inconsequential, as long as there's good seed-to-soil contact to enable seedlings to establish quickly and grow away with vigour, Richard warns that the timing of overseeding operations should be given careful consideration.

While overseeding during the traditional late summer window ensures good germination, it has drawbacks when it comes to tackling *Microdochium* patch as this timing can produce high levels

of seedling mortality due to low cut heights. In addition, the soft cell walls of the seedlings that do survive makes young plants more susceptible to attack from fungal spores just at the time when the threat of infection is at its highest.

In contrast, older plants are better able to resist the disease thanks to higher levels of cell wall lignin. Overseeding in spring will therefore give greens a better chance of withstanding the disease as the sward will be populated by older, more resilient plants when disease pressure rises in the autumn.

Similarly, cold-seeding (the practice of over-seeding in the late autumn or early

spring to build up a bank of seeds which will germinate as soon as temperatures rise) is also worthy of consideration as this will allow seedlings to establish that little bit earlier, therefore enabling the refreshed sward to get even further ahead of the disease.

Richard also advised that an appropriate fertiliser programme is essential: “*Fusarium* tends to develop when grass is growing at a slower than normal rate. Using a slow release fertiliser or feeding little and often with a conventional fertiliser will reduce excessive flushes of growth and limit the incidence of the disease. At the same time, the amount of iron and magnesium being fed should be increased to produce stronger, more resilient plants.”

Modern bentgrasses, which have lower nutrient and water requirements, are favourable as their ability to successfully tolerate a low input regime enables the sward to be managed in a manner which is less favourable for the

disease's survival. Richard said: “As well as their inbuilt genetic resistance, cultivars such as AberRegal and AberRoyal are resilient against *Microdochium* patch thanks to their ability to thrive in drier, less nutrient-rich conditions.

“Spring active varieties such as Musket, which gets away quicker in the spring and is therefore able to repair early season disease scarring, should also be considered.

“In this new era of fewer fungicides, overseeding several times throughout the year with a blend of disease resistant varieties is a necessity rather than an aspiration. Overseeding is set to become the cornerstone of disease prevention and a tactic that will enable greenkeepers to transform the genetic make-up, appearance and playability of their greens, as well as not having to rely on the use of curative chemicals.”

Working in partnership with

Germinal



Overseeding several times a year with disease resistant cultivars such as AberRegal will help to keep greens clear of *Microdochium* patch

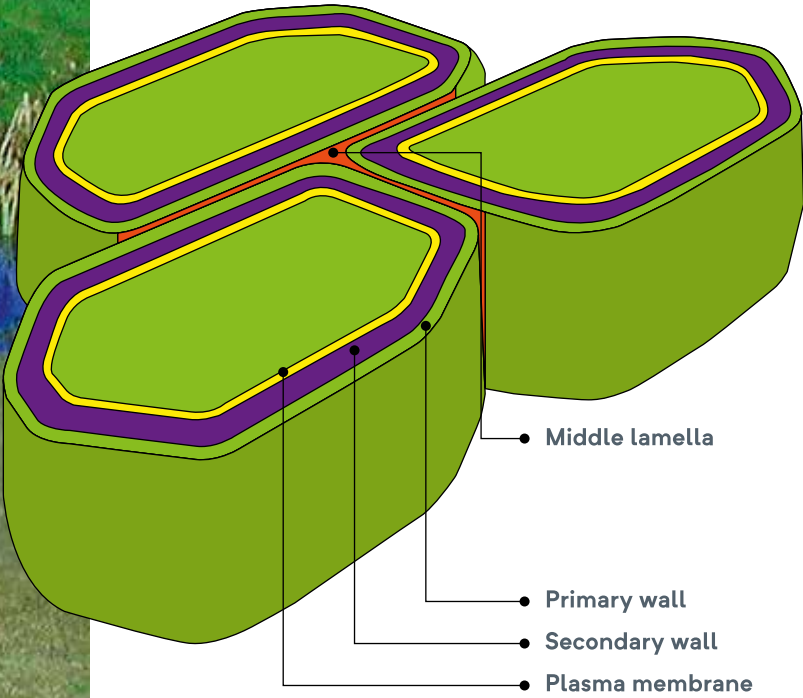
SPRAY, STRESS, AWAY'

Why liquid applications are essential during the current restrictions

Andrew McMahon, fertiliser product manager for Rigby Taylor



Image A: Calcium, with pectin helps form the middle lamella



the root where it takes up (depletes) nutrients. This is known as the depletion zone and when the humic acids arrive in the zone they bring nutrients and moisture for the roots.

When Humic acids are applied in liquid form it has also been proved that nutrient absorption through the leaf is also greatly enhanced, so when it is tank mixed with a macro nutrient package you are optimising plant uptake and health. Products that contain seaweed and amino acids are excellent bio-stimulants that can be tank mixed with humic and fluvic acids.

The longevity and uptake of nutrients is also improved, as is the efficacy of PGRs, herbicides and fungicides. Using products that tank mix with a PGR (Maintain or other products containing trinexapac-ethyl) enables course managers to follow the R&A guidelines of mowing greens no more than 3 times a week.

The use of complex carbohydrates (molasses), are an excellent source of carbon and sugars for beneficial microorganisms and, when added to a humic/fulvic product, improves the efficiency and uptake of

nutrients. Applying molasses in spring and early summer provides much needed carbohydrates for plant recovery and establishment.

Iron and calcium inputs in the current conditions will help improve disease tolerance, reducing need and expense of fungicides.

Calcium in conjunction with pectin helps form the middle lamella that cements adjoining cells together and provides strength and rigidity to the plant. See image A. Adding calcium will also ensure that root development is improved!

Using the right products can help produce the quality, stress free surfaces that is required in these difficult times, and tank mixing these products can help reduce man hours, fuel costs and nutrient input costs.

Continue the conversation:
@rigbytaylor

Working in partnership with


rigby taylor

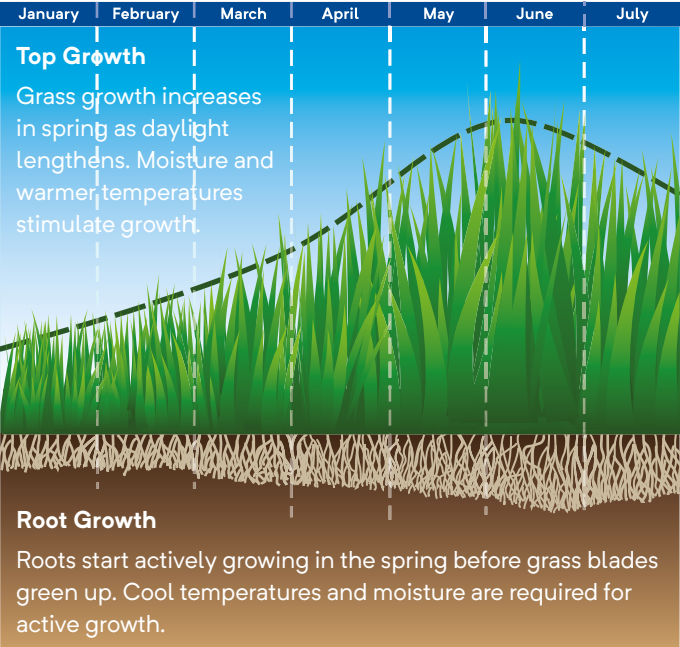
We're here to help...safely

The aim of all turf professionals is to produce the best playing surface possible year-round.

In a normal year this is made more difficult by

numerous biotic and abiotic stresses placed upon the plant, such as height of cut, high wear patterns, adverse weather conditions, disease and pest pressure.

Natural root development cycle



The present conditions are anything but normal! With the novel coronavirus closing down golf courses and other sporting facilities, the aim of course managers is to keep the playing surfaces healthy without promoting excess growth and reducing plant stress.

The R&A and BIGGA have recommended "mowing greens according to the rate of growth with a maximum of 3 times a week, and nutrient input should be carried out with the objective being to keep the plant alive, maintaining a full sward without promoting unnecessary growth". This means that nitrogen input, although necessary, needs to be low. The best way to apply low amounts of any nutrient is by using a liquid programme, which can be tank mixed with various micro-nutrient and bio-stimulant supplements. It

is possible to apply 1ltr of product evenly and accurately over a hectare, whereas it is impossible to apply 1kg of granular fertiliser evenly and accurately over the same area.

Deciding on an application rate that doesn't produce excess top growth requires knowing what nutritional input is needed and this is quite simple to determine. You will need to know the Specific Gravity (SG) and the analysis of the product(s) you want to apply. Your supplier should be able to give you this information.

The following formula will then help you:

Application Rate x Specific Gravity x Analysis ÷ 100

As an Example, NUTRI-LINK LEAF, part of the NUTRI-LINK system, has an analysis of 10-2-7+Te. The Specific Gravity is 1.2. If the application rate is 40lt/ha, the input will be:

Nitrogen
 $40 \times 1.2 \times 10 \div 100 = 4.8\text{kg/ha}$
Phosphorous
 $40 \times 1.2 \times 2 \div 100 = 0.96\text{kg/ha}$
Potassium
 $40 \times 1.2 \times 7 \div 100 = 3.36\text{kg/ha}$

When humic acid is applied in liquid form, nutrient absorption is enhanced



Get in touch with our local Membership Services team

Scotland & Northern Ireland



Chairperson
Robert Patterson



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

Northern



Chairperson
Jack Hetherington



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

Central England



Chairperson
Andrew Smith



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

South West & South Wales




Chairperson
Lucy Sellick




Tracey Walker
07841 948 110
info@bigga.co.uk


South East



Chairperson
Peter Smith



Clive Osgood
07841 948410
info@bigga.co.uk



Kerry Phillips
07715 672568
info@bigga.co.uk

AROUND THE GREEN

Tom O'Brien's passing

Northern - North West

BIGGA was saddened to hear of the death of former Royal Birkdale head greenkeeper Tom O'Brien.

Tom joined the profession in 1945 at Glasgow's Mount Ellen, where he worked his way up to head greenkeeper at the age of 23.

He worked in France, Menorca and elsewhere in Scotland before becoming head greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale in 1978.

During the 1983 Open

Championship Jack Nicklaus gave Tom the "nicest tribute of his life". After a practice round, the three-time Open champion told Tom the links were the best championship course he had played on since coming to the UK 20 years before. Speaking at the time, Tom said: "This is the nicest tribute anyone in golf has ever paid me. Coming from the master and a man who has given so much to the game it is overwhelming. I was only



doing my day-to-day job."

During 1993 Tom worked with Jeff Perris, then of the STRI, to rebuild all the greens at Royal Birkdale. He enjoyed the improvements for just one playing season before retiring in October 1994.

Walter Montross MG

International

Walter Montross, BIGGA's 27th Master Greenkeeper, died during April following a long illness.

Walter began his journey in golf course maintenance while attending Annapolis High School, working on the grounds crew at Annapolis Roads Country Club in 1968.

Upon graduating in 1975, he began a 36-year professional career, first as assistant superintendent at Washington Golf & Country



Club and then as head golf course superintendent at Springfield Golf & Country Club in 1979.

After 11 years, he moved to

Westwood Country Club, where he remained until retiring in 2011.

In 2000 he achieved Master Greenkeeper status. He was also a dedicated member of the GCSAA, serving two terms as President of the Mid-Atlantic chapter of GCSAA.

Walter is survived by his wife, Linda, his daughter, Tracy, children Tracy and Geoff and grandchildren Jackson and Josephine.

Sandiway's Brian Taylor retires

Northern - North Wales

BIGGA would like to wish Brian Taylor a long and happy retirement from his position at Sandiway.

Brian was course manager at the Cheshire golf club for 26 years.



Berkhamsted

Central England - Mid Anglia

Berkhamsted has achieved GEO Certified status.

The bunker-free club, which lives by the mantra 'golf as nature intended' is one of only 39 in England to be successfully evaluated by the GEO Foundation for the way it fosters nature, conserves resources and supports the community.



MORE DETECTION FOR MORE PROTECTION



Get MORE advanced lightning detection with the BTD-200 Lightning Warning System

The Biral BTD-200 Lightning Warning System is a complete, quick ready-to-run design, self-contained sensor that reliably detects the presence of all forms of lightning to a range of 35km.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Get MORE from your turfcare partner this year:
More products . More advice . More training . More finance



Reesink UK LTD is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Images shown for illustration only.



New members

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Christopher Salvin, Carnoustie, GK; Darren Simpson, Carnoustie, GK; Derek Murray, Carnoustie, GK; Garry Macdonald, Balnagask, GK; Kevin Riddoch, Carnoustie, GK; Paul Atkins, Carnoustie, GK; Mark Dodd, Gairloch, HGK; Ross Traill, Shiskine, AGK.

Northern

Alison Leslie, Whitby, A; Adam Colcombe, Longley Park, App; Adam Knipe, Pike Hills, App; Alexander Duncan, Hainsworth, App; Edward Johnson, The KP; Mitchell Boocock, The Manor, App; Nigel Lee, The KP, App; Ryan Jackson, Crow Nest, App; Ryan Parker, City of Wakefield, App; Tyler Broscombe, Huddersfield, App; Myle Davies, Heswall, FA.

Central England

Brad Chick, Newbury & Crookham, App; Craig Moss, The Vale, App; Jack Wright, Blaby, App; James Day, Woburn, App; Jamie Allen, Northampton, App; Matthew Chapman, King's Lynn, App; Ryan Jones, Forest of Arden, App; Shane Reeves, Handsworth, App; Michael Whitehead, Thorpe Wood, GK; Adam Cherry, Essendon, AGK; James Rodgers, Stocks, AGK; Luke Burrows, Rugby, AGK.

South East

Ben McDonnell, Prince's, App; Billy Sullican, The Shire London, App; Callum Holdway, The London, App; Callum Hulford, Tyrrells Wood, App; Chris Manley, Mid Kent, App; Dominic Minnis, The London, App; Dylan Offwood, Shirley Park, App; Fylnsey Wells, Pyecombe, App; George Dyson, Horton Park, App; Harry Goode, Kings Hill, App; Jack Morphy, Westgate & Birchington, App; Jed Shepherd, Fynn Valley, App; Kevin Purchase, Tyrrells Wood, App; Kieran Chipperfield, Haverhill, App; Kieran Langley, West Malling, App; Logan Pymm, Sheerness, App; Marc Mulholland, Chart Hills, App; Matt Ettridge, High Elms, App; Matthew Beasley, Cherry Lodge, App; Paul Penfold, Knole Park, App; Ross Waldron, Chigwell, App; Simon Branchett, Weald of Kent, App; Simon Head, Weald of Kent, App; William Watts, The London, App; Zak Banfield, Holtlye, App; Andrew Harwood, YMCA Training London, CA; Daniel Walder, Reigate Heath, GK; Matthew Frewin, Royal St George's, GK; Jason Taylor, Royal St George's, AGK; Mark Woolway, The Wentworth Club, AGK.

South West & South Wales

Callum Rice, Cricket St Thomas, App; Jake Jones, Manor House at Castle Combe, App; Jordan Mclean, Manor House at Castle Combe, App; Oliver Baldwin, Cotswold Hills, App; Craig Hendry, Barton-on-Sea, GK; Luke Jerram, Boundary Lakes, GK; Luke Bass, Rodway Hill, AGK.

International

Adam Evans, Frederikshavn Golfclub; Philip Mayes, Al Suliateen Agricultural & Industrial Complex; Thomas Jones, Fox Creek & Whispering Willows.

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

Steve Hardwick

Northern – North West

In March 2020, Steve Hardwick retired from Aitkens Sports Turf, where he had worked since retiring from his first career as a former First Division goalkeeper.

Steve came up through the ranks at Chesterfield, where he made his debut in 1974 and made 34 appearances. Watching Steve play was another recently-retired member of the North West's greenkeeping fraternity, Mick Davie, who was an apprentice at Chesterfield at the time.

Steve transferred to Newcastle in 1977 for a British record fee and spent five years playing with Alan Kennedy and Kevin Keegan. In 1977, a young Kenny Dalglish scored on his Anfield debut against Steve.

Steve then went on loan in 1978 to Detroit Express in the NASL, where he played alongside Trevor Francis and Alan Brazil.

Moving back to Oxford in 1983 was



Steve during his time in goal for Detroit Express

the happiest of his time in football, winning back-to-back promotions under the guidance of Jim Smith as Oxford became a First Division team. However, Steve missed out on a winner's medal due to injury in the 1984 Milk Cup final.

In 1988 Steve made his final transfer to Huddersfield Town and after over 100 appearances he retired in 1991.

Steve studied at Askham Bryan and gained a diploma in Horticulture, starting work for Richard Aitken Snr in 1995, where he became well-known across BIGGA's Northern Region.

Golf Environment Awards return

National

Golf clubs and greenkeepers around Europe are invited to apply for the Golf Environment Awards 2021.

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

The STRI's Sophie Olejnik said: "We are so excited to be launching the 2021 Golf Environment Awards and, despite current circumstances, we want to remain positive and celebrate all that is good in 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.

For the first time, a panel of judges, selected from across the golf industry, will help choose the winners from this year's entrants.

The STRI is also introducing a £750 prize, to be awarded to each winner to invest into environmental projects at the club.

Sophie said: "We're encouraging all clubs, however big or small, to enter. Entry is free and each entrant will be judged upon their own merits."

A shortlist of finalists will be chosen and each will receive a visit from an STRI consultant, who will perform an onsite ecological and environmental assessment. Applications are being accepted up to midnight on 7 August 2020.

Gary Burns

Northern – North West



Gary Burns

Beacon Park greenkeeper Gary Burns died suddenly on 18 April.

Gary worked alongside Billy Merritt at Beacon Park for 17 years, in the shop and on the golf course.

Golf was Gary's passion throughout his life and his wife, Ann, described how they met aged 15 and he had a golf club in his hand then.

Ann explained how Gary lived, worked, played and supported golf in all aspects of his life and had hoped to retire early and enjoy many more rounds. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Gronamic®

High quality organo-mineral fertilizers designed for all types of turf



- ✓ Range of nitrogen sources provide phased N release, allowing even growth
- ✓ Consistent granulation to ensure reliable performance
- ✓ Great longevity
- ✓ Organic and mineral nutrient sources

Gronamic, part of Turf Rewards turfrewards.com

For more information visit: www.icl.sf.co.uk | www.icl-sf.ie



INDUSTRY NEWS



Soil Scout sign up to support BIGGA members’ education



Innovative Finnish company Soil Scout has signed up as BIGGA’s latest Education Supporter.

Soil Scout is the invention of a 19th generation Finnish farmer, Dr Johannes Tiusanen, whose academic research is aimed at providing soil data for drainage control. With his friend, electronics designer Jussi Sirkiä, they created the world’s first wireless underground radio

transmitter to measure temperature, moisture and salinity.

The product enables soil professionals to make evidence-based and sustainable decisions based on true data from permanent out-of-sight sensors.

Soil Scout CEO Jalmari Talola said: “In recent years we have accelerated the route to market and built a strong team of employees, strategically offering global

support and sales coverage. We’re delighted that this arrangement with BIGGA will enable us to support the association in all its various fantastic activities, while utilising BIGGA’s fantastic reputation in the industry to increase awareness of Soil Scout.”

Adam Sedgwick is Soil Scout’s first non-Finland based employee and the international sales manager has been focussed on the creation of a reseller network across Europe and the wider world. In the UK, newly-authorised reseller Rigby Taylor has added the Soil Scout sensor solution to its portfolio.

BIGGA’s business development manager, Lauren Frazer, said: “BIGGA is a proactive and progressive organisation and we’re always on the lookout for new, innovative companies who share the same ethos as the association. I’m delighted that we’re able to welcome Soil Scout to the Education Supporter family.”

Research into lockdown turf management



A new research project is set to provide vital answers to the pressing questions of ‘Managing turf under lockdown’.

Crucially, the results will be reported as the trial progresses, enabling greenkeepers to make decisions over the coming weeks.

Sponsored by Syngenta, in association with ICL and the STRI, the initiative will give an insight into the implications of lower intensity mowing regimes on fine turf surfaces, along with some of the techniques to effectively manage growth.

Syngenta Technical Manager Marcela Munoz said: “At a time when many courses have been forced into actions to reduce mowing frequency, turf managers need answers to what the effects will be on turf quality for the future.

“Rapid reporting of the findings from the trial as they happen could help to make better decisions to maintain turf more efficiently and effectively through this period.”

The trials at Bingley in Yorkshire will be led by Dr Christian Spring and will deliver up-to-the-minute results of the effects on turf quality, along with suggested actions to maintain playing surfaces when normal service resumes.

Assessed weekly, the STRI team will provide a weekly trial update and advice of suggested actions from observations of sward height, uniformity, clipping yield, colour and overall turf health.

Weekly reports and videos from the ‘Managing turf under lockdown’ initiative will be available on a dedicated web page on the GreenCast website, www.greencast.co.uk and on Twitter at @syngentaturfuk

Sandilands reserve

The National Trust has bought a former golf course to create a 74-acre coastal nature reserve.

The £800,000 acquisition of the former Sandilands golf course in Lincolnshire represents the National Trust’s first coastal land in the Midlands and includes 1.2 miles of coastal land. The new reserve will form part of the Lincolnshire Coastal Countryside Park.

Sand dunes and wetland habitats will be restored to support wildlife, including migratory birds such as black-tailed godwit, spotted redshank and spoonbill and breeding birds like snipe, lapwing and oystercatcher.

Sandilands Golf Club opened in 1894 but was hard hit by the closure of the nearby The Grange & Links Hotel and falling membership. The course closed in 2018. At the time, former head greenkeeper Graham Ives said: “I have many fond memories of this place, being head greenkeeper from the 1980s to 2001. It’s very sad to see this fold. Bad times for all involved.”



ONE INNOVATION. DOUBLE THE POTENTIAL.

With the addition of the Cushman® Hauler® 800 ELiTE™, the ELiTE series now brings even more to your course, requiring less maintenance and the industry’s lowest cost of operation for utility vehicles. Now you can save over 35 percent on energy expenses for both fleet and utility vehicles while offering faster charging and consistent power that doesn’t fade over time. Try it on your course and see how the ELiTE series can transform your operations.

Cushman.com/ELiTE

ZERO MAINTENANCE

0

BATTERY CELL WATERING AND TERMINAL POST CLEANING

ROBUST BATTERY WARRANTY

5

YEAR UNLIMITED AMP-HOUR WARRANTY

TURF PROTECTION

22

kgs LITHIUM BATTERIES

VS.

169

kgs LEAD ACID BATTERIES

ELITE SERIES OF VEHICLES:

Cushman Hauler 800 ELITE

E-Z-GO RXV® ELITE

E-Z-GO TXT® ELITE

E-Z-GO Freedom® RXV ELITE

E-Z-GO Freedom TXT ELITE

LOOKING FOR
A SPECIFIC
PRODUCT OR
SERVICE?

Visit the
BIGGA
Directory for
a comprehensive list
of products and
services.
www.bigga.org.uk or
scan the QR Code

Contact the
Sales Team on
01347 833 800 or
info@bigga.co.uk or
place your advert

BUYER'S GUIDE

Machinery Wanted

**Invicta Groundcare
Equipment Ltd**

**We buy used golf
course machinery**

Contact: Steve Dyne
Tel: 01474 874 120
Email: invictagroundcare@live.com

Irrigation

Irritech limited
Irrigation & Drainage Systems

Specialising in:
• Existing system evaluation
• System design & upgrades
• Project management

Contact Roger Harvey on:
01823 690216
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

Lwsirrigation
YOUR ONE STOP SHOP

For all your golf, sportsturf and
landscape irrigation needs.

Buy online at www.lws.uk.com

Tel 0345 230 9697 **RAIN-X-PRO**

Construction

Profi courtesy of Building Plot
Profi Short Course "Squid Island Green"

JOHN GREASLEY LTD
Specialists in Golf Course Construction
Tel: 0116 2696766

Turf

Lindum
taking grass a step further

We are growers of high quality turf grades to suit
the particular needs of a golf course including
greens, tees, fairways, bunker revetting, high traffic
areas around the course, plus Wildflower turf &
Sedum Mats.

2020 brings LT3 Creeping Greens to our range.
Nationwide delivery available

01904 448675 lindum@turf.co.uk
www.turf.co.uk [@lindumturf](https://www.facebook.com/lindumturf)

Waste and wash water

Waste2Water®
BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE &
EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.
Tel: 01782 373 878
Fax: 01782 373 763
E-mail: info@waste2water.com
Web: www.waste2water.com

Spraying

Spindrift Sprayers
Specialists supply Kvaerner sprayers to
commercial businesses throughout the UK

We stock all Cooper Packer and Remond
sprayers, accessories and spare parts as well as
a large range of hoses.

Contact: Terry Hume
Tel: 01905 660 001
Email: info@spindrift.co.uk

**NEW PRODUCT
OR SERVICE?**

To advertise contact
the **Sales Team** on
01347 833 800

**NEW PRODUCT
OR SERVICE?**

To advertise contact the **Sales Team**
on **01347 833 800** or info@bigga.co.uk



Helping reduce damage

Reduces damage caused by Chafer Grubs, preventing secondary
damage caused by predatory non-targets, using a patented blend
of 3 nematodes.

Creating better playing surfaces

Better playing surfaces allow for a better playing experience with
any turf sport, while increasing safety to your client whether they
have 2 or 4 legs, in turn making life easier for turf managers

Non Chemical Solutions (e.g. Biological Control)

Alternative methods are playing a more important role within
integrated pest management (IPM) as we see the reduction
of traditional solutions from the market

Creating an effective CV

If you’ve suddenly found yourself at home, with extra time on your hands, perhaps now is the time to update your CV as you contemplate your next career move?

Preparing a winning CV

Busy employers make quick decisions about who they will interview, based on a good early impression from a CV. That makes the top of the first page of your CV really important, so here is where you should put the most effort

1.

Just beneath the heading ‘Curriculum Vitae’, write your name, address, contact numbers and perhaps a flattering photo of you, then follow this sequence:
2.

Write a short paragraph that summarises your key skills, experience and disposition in positive language
3.

List your major achievements, including any that are relevant to the job vacancy
4.

Give your career history with duties, responsibilities and dates, going back a maximum of 10 years. If you have something great to say from over 10 years ago, put it under ‘achievements’.
5.

Educational qualifications including NVQs
6.

Relevant vocational and technical training
7.

Licences, certificates and accreditations
8.

Hobbies, pastimes and family details

The ideal candidate

The ideal candidate for a job will have specific skills and personality traits that are listed on a document called the ‘employee specification’. You should ask for a copy of it before you apply for the job.

If the employer does not have the document, ask them what sort of person they are looking for. The specific answers can then inform all your answers at the interview and you’ll be able to present yourself as the ideal candidate.

Preparing for an interview

1.

Do some research, preferably by visiting your prospective employer
2.

Prepare for a wide range of good questions, and some bad ones
3.

Rehearse concise answers until you start to sound confident and natural
4.

‘Look the part’ and present yourself as cheerful and positive

Available Vacancies

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

Assistant Greenkeeper Coombe Hill Golf Club

Coombe Hill Golf Club, an 18 hole private members’ club that was built in 1911 by the respected architect JF Abercrombie and is situated in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey is looking to recruit an assistant greenkeeper.

Applicants should possess the following attributes:

- / NVQ level 2 or equivalent
- / Minimum 3 years’ golf course experience
- / PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates
- / Chainsaw licence
- / Knowledge in the use and maintenance of Toro equipment
- / Ability to produce and maintain high quality sports surfaces

This position is open to international candidates with the relevant British working visa. Coombe Hill Golf Club reserves the right to commence or complete the recruitment process at any time prior to the closing date. No accommodation is available with this position.

Please apply in writing or email with full CV to: Russell Abernethy, Golf Course Manager, Coombe Hill Golf Club, Golf Club Drive, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 7DF
Mob: +44 (0) 7464 542 047
Off: +44 (0) 2083 367 606
Email: greenkeepers@chgc.net
Website: www.coombehillgolfclub.com



The system of specially formulated liquid supplements that deliver turf health solutions to both leaves and roots



The solutions are here

Nutri-Link is specially designed as a system to provide synergistic benefits when combined together to supplement and support granular nutrient programmes. It offers many solutions to perpetual problems caused by changing weather patterns and intense periods of use.

- Nutritional and bio-stimulant mix options
- Enhanced root mass and depth
- Increased tillering and dense sward
- Rapid germination and establishment
- Enhanced and extended greening
- Improved surface presentation
- Heightened Abiotic/Biotic stress resistance
- Improved carbon sequestration
- Stimulates beneficial microbial activity

NEW
Nutri-Link
Multiple solutions to plant health problems

Six Nutri-Link products are available in 20, 200 and 800 litres for use on all sports grass surfaces. A fully illustrated leaflet is available.





SAME CUT LESS NOISE



**The new all-electric Toro eTriFlex greensmower.
Cuts the turf, as well as the noise.**

It's the quietest ride-on greensmower available, that's truly in a class of its own. Packed with new pioneering technology and powered by an innovative 48v lithium-ion Samsung battery set, the new eTriFlex 3370 also carries no hydraulic fluid and has all-electric components for traction steering, lift and cutting for a truly clean cut all round.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Get MORE from your turfcare partner this year:

More products . More advice . More training . More finance



Reesink UK LTD is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Images shown for illustration only.

