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Greenkeeper

International

TORO STUDENT GREENKEEPER AWARDS 2021

**Matthew Milligan
and Rhian Barton**

We meet the Rudding
Park and The Wisley
greenkeepers who
claimed the top spots at
our grand finals at Celtic
Manor Resort

BIGGA National

Royal Mid-Surrey
hosted our annual
golfing event, with a
play-off between two
familiar names

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BTME returns in
January and this
month we launch our
education programme
and registration

Gordon Child

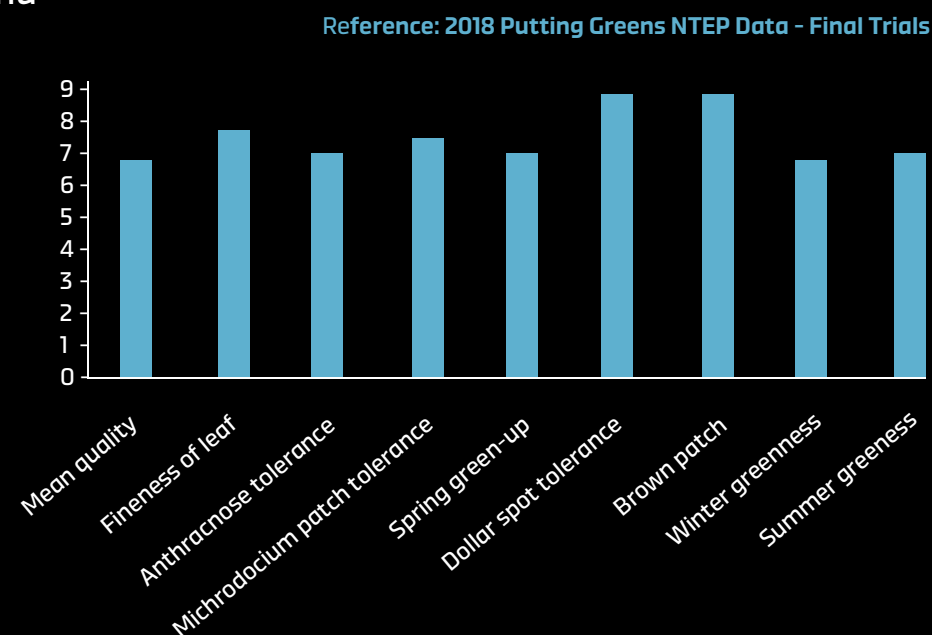
On the occasion of his
90th birthday, we
caught up with the
former BIGGA
Chairman



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Welcome



Matt Haynes was a very worthy winner of the BIGGA National Championship

When I first went to visit the primary school that my two children would attend, the headteacher made a statement that has stayed with me for more than 10 years: "We give our children the opportunity to be brave."

This ethos ran through this very small school of only 70 or so children, meaning there was always an emphasis on opportunities to perform, whether that be in athletic, artistic or academic situations. I loved the ethos and have no doubt it was beneficial for many of the children. Of course, there always had to be balance for those less inclined to perform and the school handled that well.

Recent weeks have very much provided our members with opportunities to be brave. It has been hectic on and off golf courses and in both settings performance levels have been very high.

We have seen immaculate golf courses on the professional tours, notably at Wentworth, where it was great to see a volunteer team embed with the home greenkeepers to drive up standards to the highest level.

Equally, the team at Royal



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

Mid-Surrey were brave in submitting their JH Taylor course to the mercy of BIGGA members for our own championship. Courses Manager Gavin Kinsella MG was quick to praise his team, in particular deputy course manager Matt Kitson, for the superb standards and it was interesting to hear how the team was empowered to make suggestions of ways to present the course. I was particularly taken with the presentation of the teeing grounds, which featured a mowing style I've never seen before.

The golf in the four-hole playoff was of the very highest quality. Matt Haynes' 5-iron to three feet at the 220-yard par-3 first hole was absolutely stunning and certainly showed him to be a worthy

winner. It's fair to say neither he nor opponent David Simpson missed a shot in four holes in front of a crowd of competitors and onlookers.

It was brilliant to attend the event as every competitor seemed delighted to be out and about playing the game in glorious surroundings. My thanks go to Royal Mid-Surrey for their hospitality.

Our team at BIGGA has also had some opportunities to perform recently too, with two of our flagship educational events, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards and the Future Turf Managers Initiative sponsored by Jacobsen concluding in quick succession. Both events were adapted to work in light of COVID restrictions and both ran brilliantly. My thanks to all of the team and Sami Strutt and Deb Burnett in particular. I know that they and all the judges were hugely impressed with the standard of candidate in both initiatives. My congratulations to our cover stars Matt and Rhian and to all who took the opportunity this year to be brave and further their careers by engaging with their association.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Editor's Notes

Greenkeeper International editor, Karl Hansell



Following the opening day's play at the BIGGA National Championship, there's a formal dinner where the participants sit down for a chat about how they did in the first round and to share stories about life back home.

This year I had the great pleasure of sitting beside Carl Rutherford, the general manager at Royal Mid-Surrey. Now I pre-warned Carl and I hope he doesn't mind, but I'm about to plagiarise something he said. We were discussing greenkeeping and its place within the overall club structure and how there's a common misunderstanding about what it is you all do on a daily basis. Sure, you're cutting the grass, but what are you actually doing? Cutting the grass is a mechanism to your true purpose, which is to provide your customers with an enjoyable experience, free from the stresses of their daily lives. In cutting the grass, you provide escapism and entertainment. You're quite literally making someone happier, and that's an interesting thought.

Likewise, Carl spoke about how when we go to work, there are two possibilities. Either you are draining your spirit or you're adding to it. When you go to work are you emotionally drained at the end of the day or do you feel energised by what you've learned and been able to achieve?

If it's the former, what personal responsibility can you take to change things? We're all responsible for the nurturing of our own spirit, while we can aid those of our team mates, so what will you do to improve your situation?

Professional development is one option and this month we're proud to launch registration for BTME alongside our incredible Continue to Learn programme, ahead of the conference taking place next January. If you want to boost your spirit and are looking for ways how, that's not a bad place to start.

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BIGGA Awards 2022

Nominations are now open for the 2022 BIGGA Awards and there's some incredible prizes. Turn to page 12 or scan the QR code to find out everything you need.



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:



Laurence Pithie
Laurence paid a visit to former BIGGA chairman Gordon Child to hear about his career and lessons he learned.



Ian Sumpter
Machinery maintenance expert Ian of Mow-Sure offers basic diagnostics and hydraulic fault finding advice.



Gavin Kinsella MG
Gavin and his team hosted the BIGGA National Championship and gave us a quick insight into hosting the event.



Glenn Kirby
Microdochium patch is on the rise and Glenn gives advice for putting a strategy in place to prevent it flaring up at your club.

DON'T FORGET: You can claim CPD credits for reading this edition of Greenkeeper International. Head to the CPD section of the BIGGA website to log your credits.



TALKING POINTS

Child's psychology

We catch up with former BIGGA chairman Gordon Child following his 90th birthday

Laurence Pithie MG



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karl@bigga.co.uk

Gordon Child is a former BIGGA Chairman and recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

He's also an active playing member at Churston in Devon, where he was head greenkeeper until retiring in 1996.

I contacted Gordon to learn more about his remarkable career and the role he played in the formation of BIGGA.

"I was born into greenkeeping, since both my father and grandfather were head greenkeepers at Ilkley and Dore & Totley respectively," said Gordon. My father was born in 1900 and after World War Two he took up the position of head greenkeeper at Ilkley. However, it was at Dore & Totley in Sheffield, working with my grandfather who was

born in 1878, that I first gained an insight into greenkeeping.

"I later attended a turf culture course that, fortunately, was only a bus ride away. I believe this was the only college offering a course in turf management in England at the time."

During the early years in his career Gordon became acquainted with Jim Arthur, the renowned agronomist, who had just began working with the STRI. Gordon said: "I

was amazed when he walked onto the course and could identify the different grass species growing on any green. Throughout my career I had the greatest respect for Jim and we became good friends and somewhat ironically both of us retired to South Devon."

In 1951 Gordon was called up for national service, joining the King's Regiment. Aged 20 and 21, he spent 18 months in Korea, joining troops from different countries. While

there he would meet a fellow greenkeeper named Bert Cross, who would later establish himself as a leading head greenkeeper in the Manchester area.

After returning to the UK and spending two more years at Dore & Totley, Gordon joined the team at Royal Birkdale, his one and only time working on a links course.

His first head greenkeeper position came at Blackburn, where he spent seven years before moving to Richmond in London in 1966. It was there he met Marion and they married in 1970.

"Greenkeeping then was fairly basic and would remain so until well into the following decade," said Gordon. "Initially, hours of work for greenkeepers were from 6am to 5pm during the summer, plus another four hours on a Saturday. In winter this was reduced to the hours of available daylight. Holiday entitlement was just two weeks per year.

"Apart from the larger and more affluent clubs, staff numbers were usually four or five. Greenkeeping facilities consisted of a shed or bothy where we ate our lunch around a stove and one or maybe two larger sheds for storing items of equipment, tools and some materials. Most had no electricity, water or toilet facilities and were indeed very basic.

"A decade or so previously,

many clubs also kept a horse either there or off-site, before it was replaced with a tractor. We walked everywhere and all items and materials were either carried or pushed in a wheelbarrow. It certainly kept us fit! Tractors were the only powered, driven items and this would largely remain so until the 1970s."

At that time, Gordon explained how irrigation was known just as 'watering' and was carried out manually until automated systems became standard. Watering was mostly aimed at targeting the drier areas of the greens, as opposed to using hose pipe and sprinkler to spray more generally.

Early greens mowers were either 'push' or petrol driven, with the latter set at 3/16 inch or 5mm. Deep spiking or hollowcoring was a manual task until the late 1960s and so was a very slow process. Gordon recalled how in his early days the greens would be fed with little other than sulphates of ammonia and iron mixed with sand and then spread manually.

At first the team provided their own clothing, although by the early 1970s they were supplied with waterproofs at St George's Hill and Moor Park. It was only after moving to Churston in 1981 that he was supplied with outdoor clothing and safety boots.

"Mornings on the golf course were very quiet and golfers were few and far between," said Gordon. "It was late afternoon and evenings when playing levels increased, along with weekends, which were the busiest times. Although there were lady golfers, playing numbers were low and in some clubs, their membership was not allowed. Greenkeeping and golf in general began to change as both revenues and play increased, while social changes within in the UK were gathering pace."

Gordon joined Moor Park in



Gordon and Marion Child

1976 and became responsible for 36 holes, six tennis courts, two bowling greens and the adjacent Rickmansworth municipal course. By this time greenkeeping was stepping up a gear and the team had triplex mowers to cut greens, triple mowers for tees and a Cushman for transport, along with various attachments for work on greens and tees. The 40-hour working week was now standard, along with three week's annual holiday.

Golf was also being more regularly televised, with more tournaments being held in the UK. Moor Park hosted the Uniroyal, Martini, Tournament Players Championship and the Bob Hope Classic.

"It was here I had the pleasure of watching a young Seve Ballesteros demonstrate an immense array of skills," said Gordon, who added: "Staging these tournaments, as well as maintaining a large and diverse site, brought about new challenges, especially as standards in course conditioning were on the rise. The added requirement of maintaining the adjacent municipal course was probably more of a

challenge since the expectations were often unrealistic. Like all head greenkeepers, I did the best I

could, but it meant juggling many balls and working long hours."

After five years and aged 50, Marion and Gordon opted for a change of lifestyle that would afford them more time to themselves and the family moved to Churston in south Devon, where he remained for the rest of his career.

Soon after relocating to Churston, Gordon became involved with the activities of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association, a precursor to BIGGA. After working closely with Billy Mitchell, Richard Whyman and Brian Sommers, he was elected chairman of the Devon & Cornwall section and later became a BGGA board member.

In 1985 the board members of the UK's three greenkeeping associations — BGGA, Scottish & International Golf Greenkeepers Association and English & International Golf Greenkeepers »

Gordon Child aged 17 after winning his first trophy at Colne GC in Lancashire



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Key life events

- 1931 Born in Ilkley, Yorkshire
- 1948 Started working part-time at Dore & Totley GC in Sheffield
- 1953-33 Diploma in Turf Culture, Leeds
- 1951-53 Served in Korea War with King's Regiment
- 1955 Royal Birkdale as assistant and then first assistant greenkeeper
- 1959 Appointed head greenkeeper at Blackburn GC
- 1966 Head greenkeeper at Richmond GC
- 1971 Head greenkeeper at St George's Hill GC
- 1976 Head greenkeeper at Moor Park GC
- 1981 Head greenkeeper at Churston GC in Devon
- 1982 Chairman of the BGGAs Devon & Cornwall Section and later board member
- 1987 BIGGA South West chairman and regional administrator
- 1996 Retired
- 1998 BIGGA National Chairman

Joe, who had been at the club a very long time, enlightened us that they would have been the club president's ashes, as that was his favourite place to sit and watch the golf!



Association — were invited by The R&A to St Andrews for a greenkeeping conference and to explore the possibility of forming one association. Gordon said: "It was there I met like-minded and forward-thinking course managers including Bill Lawson and Elliott Small, who put education at the forefront of continued membership, along with Walter Woods and Jack McMillan." Two years later and BIGGA was formed, with Gordon becoming one of the five regional administrators within the UK alongside Chris Kennedy, David Golding, Roger Willars and Norman Exley. Among the successes Gordon remembers from that period included the SW&SW Region launching Westurf, an outdoor trade exhibition held at Long Ashton in 1989. The event ran until 1997 and was well-supported by both trade and greenkeepers. Gordon also got involved with education, working closely with Nick Rigden at Cannington College to develop a nine-hole course. This gave students the opportunity to learn and participate in golf course management. When the Greenkeepers Training Committee was

formed, Gordon achieved the assessor certificates and was appointed education officer for the SW&SW. Shortly afterwards he was approached by City & Guilds to act as a moderator for the regions' colleges. Two years after his retirement, Gordon became BIGGA chairman and then in 2011, in recognition of his commitment to the industry, BIGGA presented him with life membership. Since Gordon's greenkeeping experience spanned five decades, I asked what he regarded as the biggest changes within the industry. He replied: "For me it has to be education, closely followed by mechanisation. The array of training courses, colleges and qualifications that can be attained has given every greenkeeper in the country the opportunity to educate themselves to a level that many years ago was unthinkable. We now have course managers who not only have degrees in plant and soil science, but also in business management, which can only be good for the future of our industry. "Manufacturers both here and in the US have risen to the challenge of continually introducing equipment that

allows us to tackle agronomic problems quickly and effectively, while raising the bar in the standards of mowing, not only on greens but also elsewhere on the course. "Customer expectations have also increased considerably, especially with televised events showing courses in pristine conditions, while allowing golf travel to exotic locations. The reality for many smaller clubs is that they are aiming for a general improvement in playing standards while producing a golf course that they can both enjoy and afford to play." Lastly, I asked Gordon about any amusing incidents he could remember and he recalled one anecdote. Gordon said: "During the days when we mixed our own fertilisers at The Richmond, I had an amusing encounter with Charlie Turner, an elderly greenkeeper who used to walk across the course on his way to work. One morning when he arrived, he asked me who had put fertiliser on the bank behind the 17th green? I asked him what made him think it was fertiliser and he said he had popped a wet finger in it and it had a taste like fertiliser. When the rest of the staff arrived, Joe, who had been at the club a very long time, enlightened us that they would have been the club president's ashes, as that was his favourite place to sit and watch the golf! Charlie's face was a picture." Since Gordon's retirement 25 years ago, he has enjoyed horse riding, playing more golf and having time for travel and visiting friends further afield. Although no longer in the saddle, Gordon is usually on the course at Churston at least twice each week. In his younger days he represented Lancashire, in 1950, playing to a handicap of +2. By the time he retired it had risen to 3 and he currently plays to 7.5. Not too bad for a senior citizen after a truly remarkable career.



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ACROSS THE BOARD

Scott Reeves | BIGGA Chairperson | Leyland Golf Club

As I have mentioned previously, during the height of the pandemic the National Board met regularly via Zoom.

While this served a purpose, we missed out on the benefits that come from discussion in person.

Therefore it was almost a pleasure to have our most recent meeting as a group, together in one room!

Certainly, from my perspective it made chairing things easier as I could read the room more effectively.

As always, it was a valuable session and we continue to make progress with both our post-COVID recovery work and with planning future strategies. I'm not sure we really are post-COVID yet to be honest, but I think you get the idea.

I was able to visit our current headquarters for the first time and it was so encouraging to see how our staff has adapted to the new working conditions.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards took place shortly afterwards and while I could not attend this year, it's quite clear that not only do we have some great talent coming through, this whole process can be extremely transformative for participants.

I'd thoroughly recommend having a go to anyone who is eligible as you never know what may happen! Likewise, if you're the line manager of a student greenkeeper, then nominating them can be a



As in-person events return and the world moves back to normality, registration has opened for BTME next January

fantastic way of recognising all their hard work.

We are now well into autumn, my favourite time of year. I know this is unusual for a parkland greenkeeper to say as we all have to deal with the dreaded leaves, but personally I love the changes in colour we see around us. It feels like we have had such a long summer and September was extremely dry in the North West until the final week. It has certainly been a feast or famine situation with rain, the predictions of extreme weather patterns proving true.

I think it's time to consider more coping strategies, especially around disease management, as the old ways of waiting for frosts just don't

work anymore.

I often think of Leyland as a good barometer for both greenkeeping and golf reasons as we do seem to be the archetypal 'average' club. This helps me to understand the needs of my fellow BIGGA members and also the issues concerning golfers.

One of the most pressing is recruiting staff, something that I know many of you are also experiencing problems with. It seems clear that we have to consider much more flexible ways of working and begin exploring possibilities such as job shares or more flexible hours, and not fixate as much on getting young people onto apprenticeships.

With regards golfers, it looks like many of the people

who have returned to the game or taken it up since lockdown ended could do with some education on etiquette, to put it politely. I thought I had seen it all, but some of the behaviour recently has left me gobsmacked! We have a role to play in letting people know when they have transgressed, and handled professionally it can be a good way of raising our profile as a profession.

It will soon be time to put my shorts away and resort to trousers and thermals, something that I'm sure will make the members at my club very happy! As winter approaches, attention turns to BTME and Continue to Learn. Registration opens this month and I hope to see you there!

HELPING US TO HELP YOU



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



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

BTME IS BACK

IN ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Registration
is now open. Visit
btme.org.uk to
find out more

BTME



BIGGA AWARDS 2022

On the opening night of BTME we'll be hosting the BIGGA Welcome Celebration. All BIGGA members are invited to join us for a fantastic evening as we recognise those champions who have done incredible work over the past few years, including Life Members, Master Greenkeepers and CPD achievers.

There is no cost to attend and the event will take place in the Main Auditorium of the Harrogate Convention Centre at 6pm on 25 January.

At the event we'll also announce the winners of the BIGGA Awards 2022 and you could be the ones standing up on stage, accepting some incredible prizes.

Nominations close on 30 November and we'll announce the finalists in December. Finalists will be invited to join us for the BIGGA Welcome Celebration at BTME, where we'll announce the winners in each category.

BIGGA members can nominate themselves or their team, while anyone else may also nominate someone for an award. The only requirement is that they are an active BIGGA member. For more information head to btme.org.uk



The three categories are:

Outstanding Contribution
sponsored by



BERNHARD

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

Greenkeeping Project of the
Year sponsored by



This award recognises those greenkeeping teams who have undertaken a specific project, completed within 2020 or 2021. Projects can be long term and can be construction, renovation or repair — the possibilities are endless.



Championship Performance of
the Year sponsored by



This award isn't just restricted to those clubs who host majors or European Tour events — although they are welcome to participate. A team may have done incredible work to get the course fit for professional or amateur events. Nominations will be considered on merit.

Prizes

For the winners, there are
some top prizes on offer:

**Outstanding Contribution
of the Year sponsored by
Bernhard & Company**

- / £500 donation to the winner's charity of choice
- / £300 Virgin Experience Days voucher
- / BIGGA Awards 2022 trophy

**Greenkeeping Project of the
Year sponsored by Baroness**

- / Full course photography

session including drone
footage from Carefree
Golf Photography worth
£1,000

- / £300 Virgin Experience Days voucher for the team to enjoy
- / BIGGA Awards 2022 trophy

**Championship Performance
of the Year sponsored by
Origin Amenity Solutions**

- / Ecology visit from James Hutchinson including full ecology plan

- / £300 Virgin Experience Days voucher
- / BIGGA Awards 2022 trophy

In addition, everyone who is nominated will receive an electronic PDF certificate stating 'BIGGA Awards 2022 nominee' that can be put on display at the golf club. Nominees will also receive a CPD credit.

Finalists will receive a framed certificate, given out at the conclusion of the BIGGA Welcome Celebration at BTME 2022.

Meet your Membership Administration Team



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It's time to register for BTME.

It's been two long years, but we're proud to invite you back to Harrogate this coming January.

BTME will be taking place from Tuesday 25 to Thursday 27 January 2022. With a massive range of exhibitors and a world-leading education programme in place, alongside Harrogate's renowned hospitality, we're anticipating that this event will be one of the biggest and best in BTME's 33-year history, and we hope you're able to join us.

The Harrogate Convention

Centre has been through a lot while we've been away, being transformed into an NHS Nightingale Hospital and then reverting to its original state, ready to welcome BIGGA members back through its doors for what promises to be an epic week of action.

Registration for the event is free and you can put your name down to attend now by heading to btme.org.uk.

We're also working hard to ensure the event is COVID compliant and you can find out more about what measures are in place to ensure your safety by heading

to the BTME website.

Over the coming months we'll be updating you about the events that are happening throughout the week, so keep a close eye on the magazine for all the latest information. You can also turn to page 28, where you'll find news about the incredible Continue to Learn education programme that our team has put together.

Register for BTME and start your journey to Harrogate today by scanning the QR code or heading to btme.org.uk



[illegible]

Head to BIGGA Facebook and Instagram now to cast your vote!



LOOKING AHEAD

BIGGA South West & South Wales Regional Conference

Somerset County Cricket Ground, Taunton, TA1 1JT

9am - 4pm, 10 November 2021 | what3words: ///ending.silk.tune
Cost (includes tea/coffee and lunch): £37 for members, £45 for non-members
Closing date to sign up and for payments: 1 November.

Join your colleagues and fellow BIGGA members from the SW&SW Region and further afield for our annual regional conference, taking place as an in-person event for the first time since November 2019.

Timetable of events

8.30am: Registration

9.05am: Lucy Sellick, BIGGA SW&SW Regional Chairperson 'Welcome'



9.15am: Update from BIGGA

9.45am: Glenn Kirby, Technical Manager UK & Ireland, Syngenta: 'Leatherjackets - the ongoing battle'



10.30am: Morning break

11.15am: Ged Collins, Arboricultural Consultant, Global Tree Vision: 'Surveying trees - assessing risk'



12noon: Lunch break

1.15pm: Jim McKenzie MBE, Director of Golf Courses and Estates Management, Celtic Manor Resort: 'The COVID Challenge'



2pm: Craig Haldane, Golf Courses Manager, The Gleneagles Hotel: 'Getting the best out of your teams'



2.45pm: Thank you and finish

Don't miss out

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



National / Online

- 1 ONLINE WEBINAR Building the Talent Pipeline**
Date: 16 October 2021
Location: ONLINE
- 2 ONLINE WEBINAR Golf Course Ecology 3**
Date: 18 November 2021
Location: ONLINE
- 3 Continue to Learn 2022**
Date: 23-26 January 2022
Location: Harrogate Convention Centre, Yorkshire
- 4 BTME 2022**
Date: 25-27 January 2022
Location: Harrogate Convention Centre, Yorkshire

Get involved with a BIGGA event near you

Scotland

- 1 BIGGA Scotland Golf Industry Conference**
Date: 16 November 2021
Location: Dunblane Doubletree Hotel

Northern

- 1 BIGGA North West Section Bert Cross Memorial and AGM**
Date: 24 November
Location: West Lancashire
- 2 BIGGA Cleveland Section Christmas Bring a Bottle and AGM**
Date: 8 December
Location: Cleveland GC
- 3 BIGGA Sheffield Section Golf Day and AGM**
Date: 10 December
Location: Waterfront Golf

- 4 BIGGA North East Section Golf Outing & AGM**
Date: 15 December
Location: Dunstanburgh Castle

Central England

- 1 East of England Golf Day**
Date: 7 October
Location: Waltham Windmill GC
- 2 Midland Autumn Golf Day**
Date: 14 October
Location: Olton GC
- 3 BB&O Seminar**
Date: 26 October
Location: Berkshire College of Agriculture

- 4 Central England Regional Conference**
Date: 11 November
Location: Woburn GC

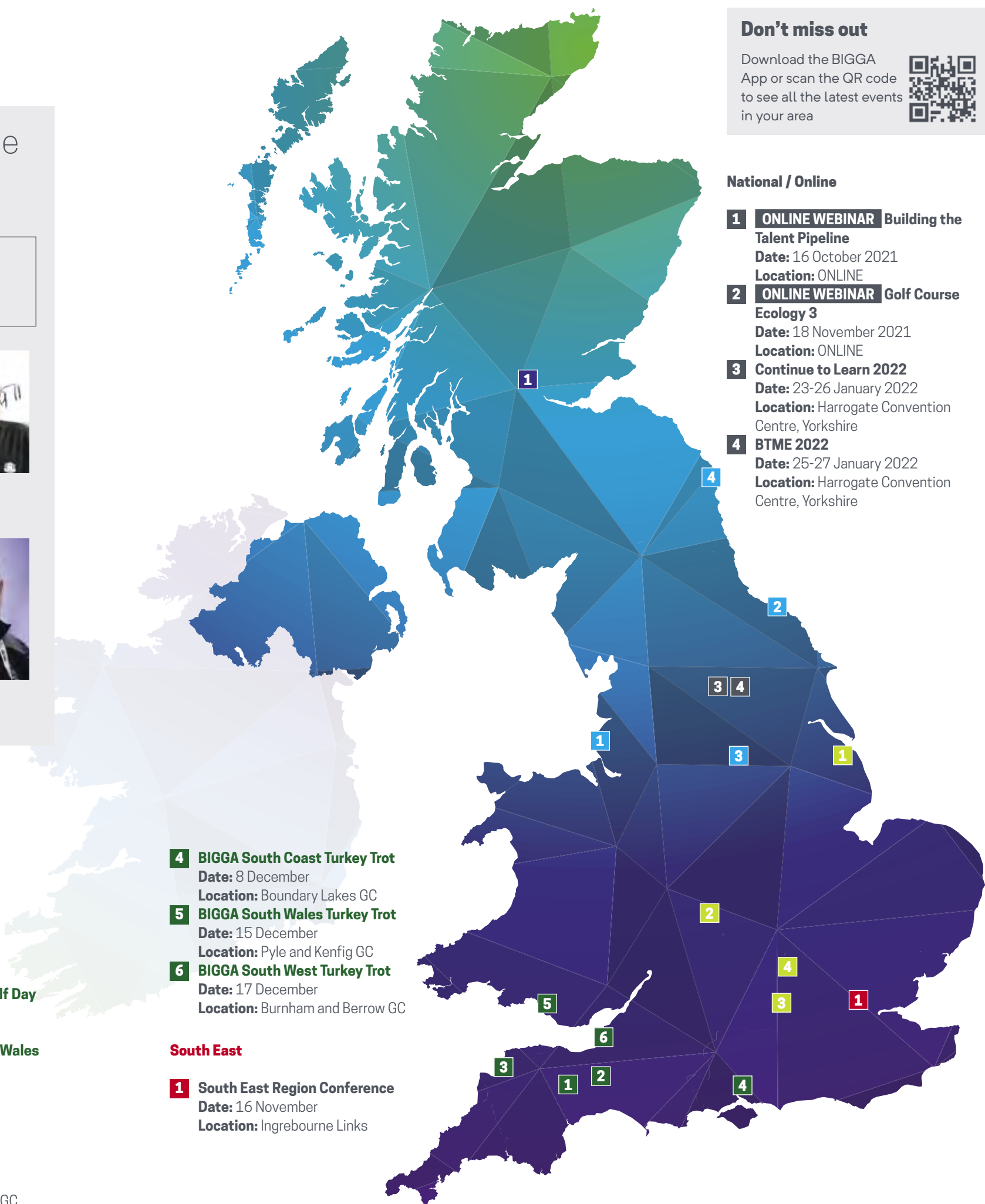
South West and South Wales

- 1 BIGGA Devon & Cornwall Golf Day**
Date: 13 October
Location: Tiverton GC
- 2 BIGGA South West & South Wales Regional Conference**
Date: 10 November
Location: Somerset County Cricket Ground
- 3 BIGGA Devon & Cornwall Turkey Trot**
Date: 8 December
Location: Royal North Devon GC

- 4 BIGGA South Coast Turkey Trot**
Date: 8 December
Location: Boundary Lakes GC
- 5 BIGGA South Wales Turkey Trot**
Date: 15 December
Location: Pyle and Kenfig GC
- 6 BIGGA South West Turkey Trot**
Date: 17 December
Location: Burnham and Berrow GC

South East

- 1 South East Region Conference**
Date: 16 November
Location: Ingrebourne Links



AROUND THE GREEN

Be a part of history with The 150th Open at St Andrews Links

National - Member Opportunity

It's expected to be the biggest Open Championship in history.

The 150th Open will take place at St Andrews in July 2022 and you could be there.

Sandy Reid, Gordon McKie and the St Andrews Links team will have the Old Course in incredible condition as the historic venue hosts The Open for the 30th time.

And you could be there too, inside the ropes and playing a role in the staging of this most historic of championships.

It's 162 years since Willie Park Snr and Old Tom Morris joined a field of just eight players for the first Open Championship at Prestwick in 1860. Since then, The Open has grown into a tremendous celebration of links golf, with a global audience of millions.

For the past 37 years The R&A has invited a team of volunteer greenkeepers to aid with the maintenance of bunkers for the duration of the championship. Beginning at St Andrews in 1984, the volunteers were first drawn from the membership of the Scottish & International Golf Greenkeepers Association and then BIGGA following its launch in 1987.

BIGGA's support team will assist with the presentation of the bunkers throughout the duration of the tournament and may also be called upon at short notice to help with other duties – as happened in 2015 when The Open was



Sandy Reid and the St Andrews Links team are looking forward to welcoming BIGGA members to the historic venue in July 2022

delayed due to heavy rain and flooding.

The R&A's Chief Executive, Martin Slumbers, said he expects the event to be a "momentous occasion" for golf, adding: "The 150th Open will give fans the opportunity to be part of a unique and unparalleled celebration at the birthplace of the game in St Andrews. We expect exceptional demand to be part of these celebrations."

Full BIGGA members can apply for a place on the support team by completing the form ahead of the deadline on 28 January 2022. Apply using the Member Opportunities section of the BIGGA website.



Sam Wood, a greenkeeper at Lingdale, had an unforgettable experience as he was selected to join the final match-up at Royal St George's this July.

It was Sam's first time joining the volunteer support team, as it is for many team members each

year
Sam said: "I would encourage anyone to apply for the support team as it was something I will never forget. I was walking down the 18th and the atmosphere was immense; that's the one thing I will remember forever."

FTMI Class of 2021 finally meets

National



The FTMI graduates of 2021 were finally able to meet following a summer of online learning. Opportunity sponsor Jacobsen hosted a graduation ceremony at its headquarters in Ipswich, with 15 of 20 graduates and three mentors able to attend.

Paul Dunn departs B&B

South West & South Wales - South West



The Burnham & Berrow team presented Paul Dunn with a painting of the 17th hole on the Championship course, which was always his favourite hole

Burnham & Berrow bid farewell to a loyal member of the team on 24 September as Deputy Head Greenkeeper Paul Dunn retired after 51 years' service.

Paul joined the club straight from school and became deputy head greenkeeper in 2006. He has

supported four different head greenkeepers during his time at the club.

"It will feel very strange without him," said Richard Whyman, head greenkeeper. "But we wish Paul the very best for his retirement."

Liam Pigden has been appointed as new deputy.

James Evans

Central England - Midland



Jodie Cadman and James Evans

Congratulations go to Little Lakes greenkeeper James Evans, who married Jodie Cadman at Hogarth Stone Manor on Friday 13 August.

Kimberley Yeldham

South East - East Anglia

After three years as deputy head greenkeeper at Barnham Broom, Kimberley Yeldham has been appointed head greenkeeper at Flempton.

Ian Brown

C England - East Midlands

BIGGA was saddened to hear of the death of Ramsdale Park greenkeeper Ian Brown.

Ian spent 21 years at the club and was a BIGGA member during that entire period.

Your Local Membership Services Team

Scotland & Northern Ireland



Chairperson
Gordon McKie



John Young
07776 242 120
john.young@bigga.co.uk

Northern



Chairperson
Jack
Hetherington



Sandra Raper
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Central England



Chairperson
Andrew
Smith



Roger Butler
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roger@bigga.co.uk

South West & South Wales



Chairperson
Lucy Sellick



Tracey Walker
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tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk

South East



Chairperson
Andy Harding



John Pearson
07591 588 493
john.pearson@bigga.co.uk

Ecology & Sustainability



James
Hutchinson
07767 242863
james.hutchinson@bigga.co.uk

Welcome new members

- Northern**
- Joe Adamson, Dunsicar, APP; Neil Allen, Doncaster, AGK; Ian Austick, North Yorkshire Ground Care, A; Charles Dixon, Walmsley, AGK; Matthew Dolling, Sandburn Hall, APP; Andrew Gowthorpe, The Oaks, GK; Harry Howlett, Hallamshire, APP; David Jacques, Hesse, GK; Max Knapman, The Wentworth Club, G; Nathan Taylor, The Wentworth Club, M
- Central England**
- Dean Cooke, Redditch GC, AGK; Luke Cordery, The Wentworth Club, GK; Ashley Elwell, Ross-on-Wye, APP; Ralfie Farnsworth, Matlock, AGK; Oliver Gratton, Norwood Park, AGK; Liam Irons, Berkhamsted, GK; Michael Jackman, March, AGK; Ben Luxton, Redditch, AGK; Cameron Macken, Lingdale, AGK; Lisa Morris, Shirley, AGK; Samuel Oliver, Redditch, FA; Donald Robertson, The Wentworth Club, HGK; Luke Rogers, Kings Norton, AGK; Geoffrey Smithdale, Collingtree Park, DHGK; Derek Warren, Mill Green, AGK; Paul Wathey, Norwood Park, AGK; Archie White, Mill Green, AGK; David Williams, The Wentworth Club, GK
- South East**
- Philip Bailey, Aldenham, DCM; Adam Barton, The Wentworth Club, GK; Simon Bartrum, Braintree, DHGK; Ethan Bishop, Hever Castle, APP; Harry Bradfield, Mattishall, AGK; Patrick Brown, The Wentworth Club, AGK; Daniel Collins, The Wentworth Club, AGK; Joseph Ferguson, The Wentworth Club, AGK; Lewis Gardner, Flackwell Heath, AGK; Joe Garner, The Wentworth Club, AGK; Jamie Gray, Moor Park, AGK; Holly Hirst, Hythe, APP; Joshua Jenkins, The Wentworth Club, AGK; Aleksej Kolosov, The Wentworth Club, AGK; James Maloney, Aldenham, APP; Nathan Martin, Bramford, APP; Mark Page, The Wentworth Club, GK; Charlie Rose, The Wentworth Club, AGK; Samuel Shorrock, The Wentworth Club, GK; Craig Stringer, The Wentworth Club, GK; Richard Tarbox, Moor Park, DHGK; Callum Waters, Berkhamsted, AGK; Jack Wyatt, Woking, GK; Gavin Yeoman, Woking, GK
- South West & South Wales**
- Liam Greig, Minchinhampton, AGK; James Jackson, Chichester, APP
- International**
- Adam Champion, Bears paw, I; Keith Gribbin, Tacit, A; Brendan Parkhurst, Cape Arundel, I

BMW PGA Championship

South East - Surrey



The BMW PGA Championship took place at Wentworth in September, with the greenkeepers snapping a photo with winner Billy Horschel during his victory celebrations.

Although BIGGA was unable to provide our regular support team due to

Steffens shines

South East - Essex

Orsett’s Cassidy Steffens shot 40 points off a handicap of +1 to claim first prize in the Essex Section golf day at Thorndon Park.

Cassidy narrowly pipped Callum Smith from The Essex on countback, with Sam Cook in third place.

Andy Harding, region chairperson, said: “It’s been great to be out again, playing golf and seeing so many faces. I’ve really enjoyed today and a big thank you goes to everyone who attended and to the greenstaff for presenting a great course.”

Other winners were James Hughes of Tuckwells, who won the trade prize. James Hodgeson and Callum Smith won nearest the pin. Callum also won longest drive.

The next event will be the Turkey Trot and AGM at The Essex on 2 December. Contact Andy Harding to book a place.

Jonathan Taylor

South East - London



Brocket Hall has secured the services of Jonathan Taylor, understudy to the highly-regarded Phil Chiverton at The Grove.

Jonathan will replace the experienced John Morehouse as Brocket Hall course manager and the section wishes him well in the role.

DOGS ON COURSE



Name: Lenny
Breed: Bichon/Cockapoo
Owner: Dale Housden
Course: Drayton Park
Favourite treat: Pork scratchings

Favourite spot on the course: 1st tee

My dog’s naughtiest moment is... Enjoys picking up the odd golf ball.

My dog is happiest when... he gets what he wants!

If you’d like your course mascot to be featured in GI, email Lorna Taylor on lorna@bigga.co.uk

COVID–19, a team of volunteers was able to completely integrate with the home team for the duration of the event.

Golf Courses Manager Dan Clarke said: “I would like to thank all the BIGGA volunteers that helped out during the BMW PGA Championship this year. After not being able to have volunteers last year because of the pandemic, it was great to be able to push the boundaries once again this year. The feedback from the players has been fantastic and the volunteers play a huge part in allowing us to achieve the standards we set.”

It is anticipated the BMW PGA Volunteer Support Team will return for 2022.

Brooks moves on

SW&SW - Devon & Cornwall

The section hosted a National Championship qualifier at Newquay, with Rob Cook and Tony Blyth, both from Perranporth, winning a spot.

At the event, former section chairman Jason Brooks informed everyone present that he was leaving Torquay to join Stover as course manager. The section wishes Jason well in his role.

Prestonfield

Scotland - East

After 18 months without an event, a section outing took place at Prestonfield.

Shaun Cunningham, who recently moved across the city from Mortonhall to take up the course manager role, presented the course in pristine condition.

The results were: 1st, Robert King; 2nd, Callum Marjoribanks; 3rd, Ian Cowan.

THE SAVINGS SOON ADD UP

With so many offers available to BIGGA members through BIGGA Xtra Benefits it can be hard to know where to start. Take a look at this month’s exclusive offers.



Check out your Health and Wellbeing Hub for BIGGA members

Health and Wellbeing, both mental and physical, are fundamental to everyone’s lives. We are able to provide a free content hub through BIGGA Xtra Benefits. The Health and Wellbeing Hub offers members advice and information about important topics such as stress management.



20% discount on experiences that help you relax with Virgin Experience Days

Life gets busy! We all need time out to recharge and relax. Why not treat a loved one, or even yourself to a spa day, yoga experience or even an online cycling coach! We have teamed up with Virgin Experience Days to offer you a 20% discount on over 2,500 experiences — including special offers!



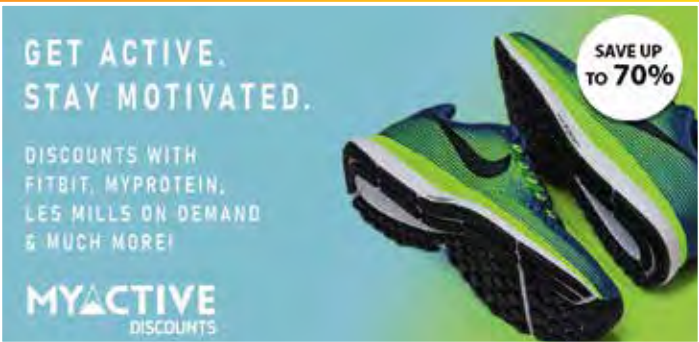
Savings on Cottage Holidays

Save up to 10% on cottage and short break holidays in the UK and Europe with CottageStayUK. They work with over 19,000 cottages and villas in the UK and Europe to give members maximum choice. So whether it’s a well-needed half term family trip, romantic break or a getaway with your friends, CottageStayUK can help you find the right property for your holiday at a great price*.



Get moving and save on wellness essentials with MyActiveDiscounts

MyActiveDiscounts offers BIGGA members great savings on things that get you active and healthy such as footwear, sportswear and nutrition. You can also save money on adventure days, travel, spa breaks* and more!



To take advantage of these fantastic deals visit the BIGGA Xtra Benefits Special Offers page!

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. See website for details. Offers subject to change without notice. Virgin Experience Days – Discount code cannot be used against their Excluded Range. BIGGA Xtra Benefits is managed and run on behalf of BIGGA by Parliament Hill Ltd.

WHAT A DAY!

On Tuesday 14 September social media was abuzz with messages of gratitude and support for the hard work of BIGGA members and other greenkeepers as associations all over the world united for the second international Thank A Greenkeeper Day.

The golf boom that began with the reopening of the sport has continued throughout 2021 and the role you played to get people active and enjoying their favourite pastime hasn't gone

unnoticed.

In collaboration with our colleagues in America, Canada, Australia, across Europe and all over the globe, we received messages from celebrities including Rafael Nadal, Annika Sörenstam and Tom Watson.

The R&A's chief executive Martin Slumbers sent a message, while England Golf, Wales Golf, Scottish Golf, the PGA and thousands of others also got involved.

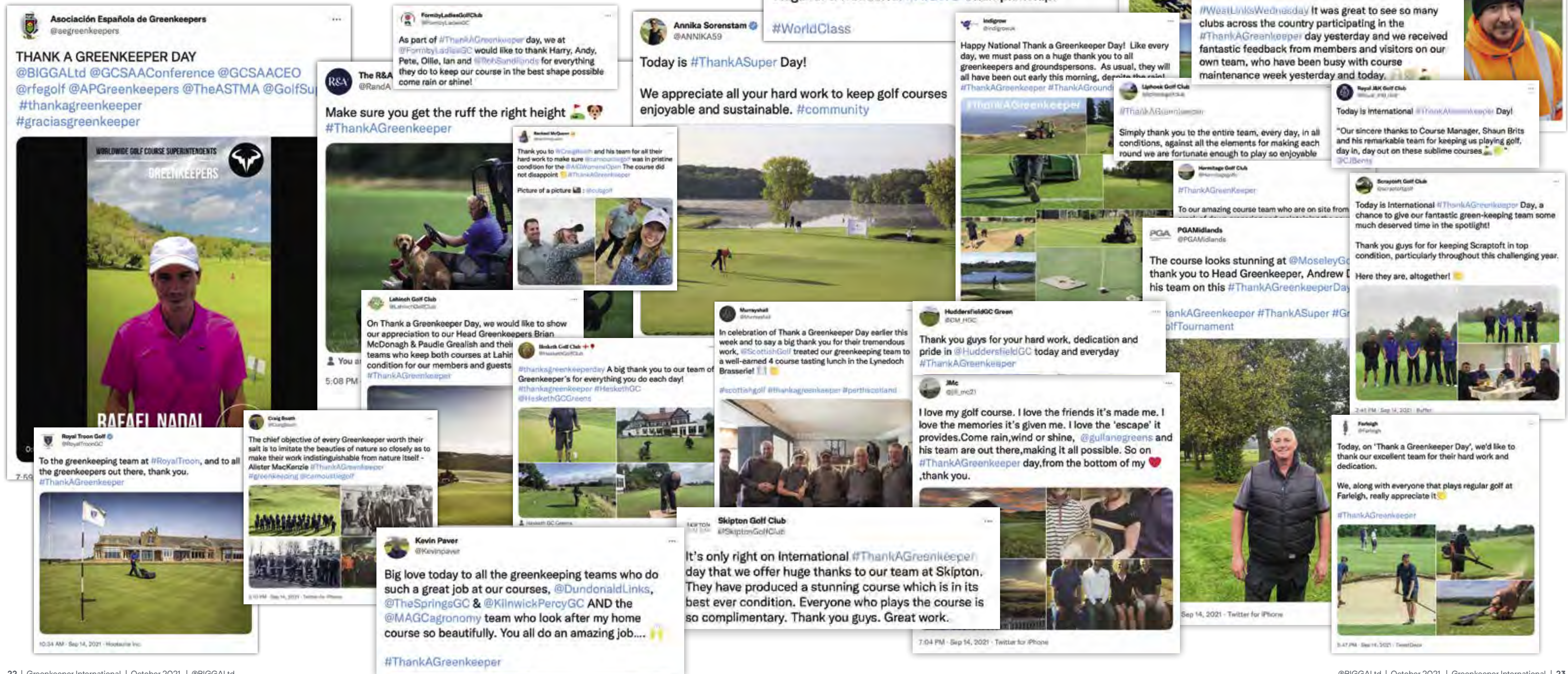
As Tuesday dawned,

#ThankAGreenkeeper was again trending in the top 10 of topics in the UK. That hashtag and the alternative #ThankASuper had a potential reach of 9 million social media accounts, bringing a tremendous level of awareness of the greenkeeping profession.

The messages were overwhelmingly warm, with 82% being positive and less than 1% negative, showing that the work you do is appreciated by countless golfers each year.

It was also great to see how the activities extended beyond mere social media messages, with some golf clubs offering gestures of thanks that included hot breakfasts or tokens of appreciation (a euphemism for 'cases of beer'). It all made for a pretty great day and I hope that you were able to be a part of it.

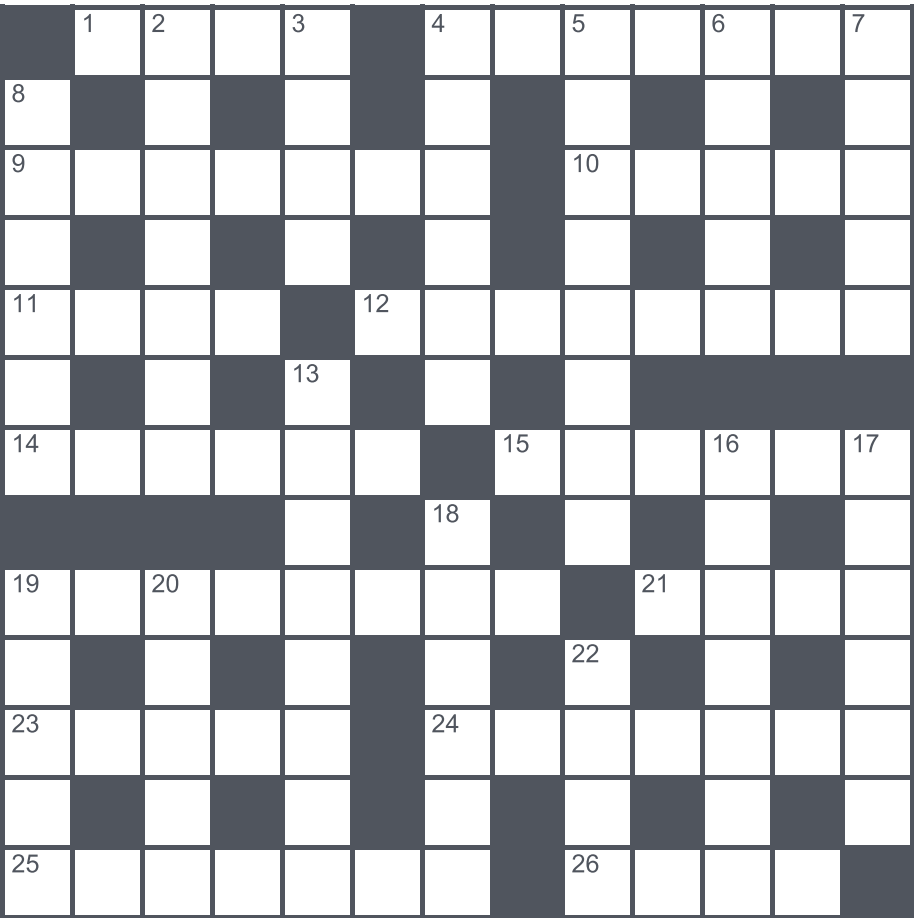
We're looking forward to doing it all again next year and we hope that you can get involved – contact us if you have any ideas!





TEE BREAK

**USE YOUR HEAD
IN THE SHED**
Try and solve our
perplexing puzzles



CROSSWORD

Can you solve the clues for this crossword? Enter your answers on the grid to the left.

Across

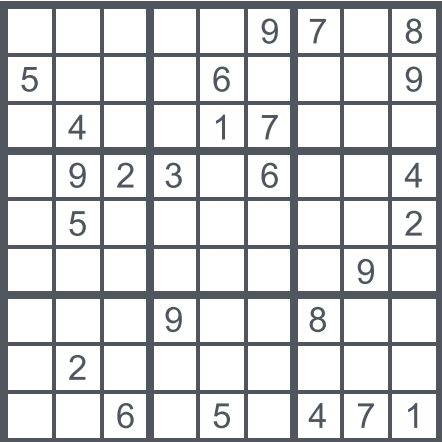
- 1 Thick slice (4)
- 4 Layered Italian dish (7)
- 9 Eyebrow darkeners (7)
- 10 German sea scourge (1-4)
- 11 Prepare for publication (4)
- 12 Saviour (8)
- 14 Permeable by liquids (6)
- 15 Capable of wounding (6)
- 19 Glove material clanks if disturbed (8)
- 21 Getaway spots (4)
- 23 Island in the Bay of Naples (5)
- 24 Burn unsteadily (7)
- 25 Good spot for a summit meeting? (7)
- 26 Deep black (4)

Down

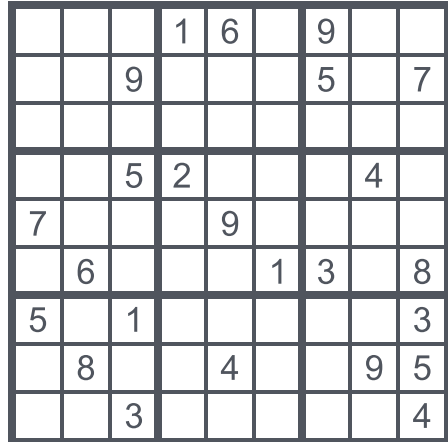
- 2 Taller and thinner (7)
- 3 Soft cheese (4)
- 4 One who pays the rent (6)
- 5 It's at home on the range (8)
- 6 Brush a horse (5)
- 7 Go into (5)
- 8 Maintenance (6)
- 13 Bright light of day (8)
- 16 Thai capital (7)
- 17 Dr tees off - could be a very large bunker! (6)
- 18 Fish out of water (6)
- 19 Series of changes (5)
- 20 Pass into disuse (5)
- 22 Designed by Issigonis (4)

SUDOKU

Fill in each row, column and set of squares with all the digits from one to nine
(Easy)



(Hard)



CHECK OUT THE ANSWERS ON P78



**INSTRATA ELITE
DUAL ACTION**

OUTSIDE

IN PROTECTION

CONTACT and SYSTEMIC action
against Microdochium

PROTECTIVE

CURATIVE

Powerful systemic difenoconazole plus fludioxonil
contact action delivers reliable control whatever
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Apprentice Corner

Brought to you by the Greenkeepers Training Committee

Did you know about the Greenkeeper's Code of Ethics?

A code of ethics is a document that may outline the mission and values of the business or organisation. The principles are based on the organisation's core values and standards.

This Greenkeeper's Code of Ethics was established to promote and maintain the highest professional standards of service and conduct among the members of the profession. Through adherence to this code, greenkeepers will gain for themselves recognition of individual integrity, responsibility and professionalism, while enhancing respect and goodwill for their profession.

The Greenkeeper's Code of Ethics

Members of the greenkeeping profession are expected to:

- / Set standards of personal conduct that will enhance the stature of the profession of golf course management;
- / At all times carry out their duties and responsibilities in such a manner as to reflect favourably on the profession;

- / Seek to use every opportunity to broaden their professional expertise for both personal development and the good of the profession;
- / Follow sound business and turf management principles in exercising the responsibilities of their post and sustainable practices;
- / Observe the highest standards of personal integrity in relationships with fellow greenkeepers, whether verbal, written or via electronic social media;
- / Pursue job advancement only where vacancies arise and not at the expense of a fellow greenkeeper and abstain from any action, comment or communication not founded on truth that is likely to harm the professional reputation or practice of another greenkeeper;
- / Give endorsements of any kind only upon satisfactory personal experiences of the item identified;
- / Refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value which might be deemed an inducement to find favour for a particular

- party or influence decisions in relations to that party and at all times avoid any exploitation of the industry or profession;
- / Actively seek to improve the public understanding and recognition of the profession of golf course management;
- / Report any evidence likely to be in violation of this Code of Ethics to the Greenkeepers Training Committee;
- / Adopt sustainable practices on the golf course, by adhering to the club's policies.

Sustainable practices on a golf course

Greenkeeping brings together the management of land, resources, and golfers' expectations to provide enjoyable golf on high quality playing surfaces. Greenkeepers are encouraged to recognise the need for sustainable golf, and this can involve reviewing work practices in:

- / Landscape and ecosystems;
- / Water;
- / Energy and resources;

- / Products and supply chains;
 - / Environmental quality;
 - / People and communities.
- Sustainable practices that can be carried out on a golf course include:
- / Encourage root depth and thus reduce the need for as much water;
 - / Finding alternatives to pesticides where possible;
 - / Introduce a recycling policy;
 - / Choice of grass species to reduce maintenance, disease resistance etc;
 - / Keep machinery well serviced and maintained;
 - / Increasing biodiversity of the golf course (creating more out of play areas).
- It is important to understand these guidelines because you could find yourself removed from the organisation for breaching the Code of Ethics. Also, writing derogatory comments about a fellow greenkeeper on social media could be deemed libel and you could find yourself in court and facing legal action. The same applies for derogatory comments about your employer, which could lead to disciplinary action or the prospect of losing your job.



This information is taken from the GTC's Learning Materials, available to purchase on the GTC website. The GTC produces Learning Materials to support apprentices with the knowledge required to achieve their qualifications. These materials are not exclusive to apprentices and are available to all to help with best practice. Head to www.the-gtc.co.uk for more information.



Meet your Learning and Development Team

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Deb Burnett
L&D Executive (BIGGA)
deb@bigga.co.uk

Fiona Lyttle
L&D Executive (GTC)
fiona@the-gtc.co.uk

Congratulations to the following BIGGA members who have achieved their Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping

Isa Adams, South Bedfordshire; **Matthew Beasley**, Cherry Lodge; **Matthew Briscoe**, Orpington; **Jamie Brown**, Calverley; **Jack Carvey**, Burnham-on-Crouch; **Aaron Cross**, Warley Park; **Owen Day**, Chalgrave Manor; **George Dyson**, Horton Park; **Tom Feasey**, Vale; **Simon Garcia**, Lewes; **Matthew Greenfield**, Pyecombe; **Jack Holman**, Middleton Hall; **Matthew Johnson**, Bearwood Lakes; **Joshua Keay**, Stratford Oaks; **Daniel Leighton**, Chelmsford; **Kasey McAlarey**, The Berkshire; **Ryan Minter**, Aldeburgh; **Joshua Price**, Centurion Club; **Joseph Ramsey**, Braxted Park; **Spencer Sheffield**, Glen Gorse; **Robyn Smith**, Windmill Village; **Adam Stone**, The Grove; **Jake Tayler**, Queenwood; **Nathan Wood**, Teesside.

www.the-gtc.co.uk

/greenkeepers trainingcommittee

@TheOfficialGTC

Continue to learn

BTME

W

More information is in your copy of the Continue to Learn programme that accompanies this magazine

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CONTINUE TO LEARN 2022

BIGGA's Learning and Development team is delighted to unveil the education programme for Continue to Learn 2022.

Since we last held Continue to Learn in Harrogate, during January 2020, Sami Strutt and the team have been working hard to provide learning opportunities for our members. They've also picked up a few tips and tricks along the way that will make Continue to Learn 2022 an incredible opportunity for BIGGA members to progress their careers and gain knowledge.

Sami said: "Following the successful transition to an online event in January 2021, we have taken the traditional Continue to Learn format and re-imagined it to streamline our flagship education event, continuing our commitment to provide world class education and development for greenkeeping professionals.

"In January 2022 Continue to Learn will return to its rightful home at the Harrogate Convention Centre. Make sure you book early to secure your place and we look forward to welcoming you back to Continue to Learn, BTME and Harrogate!"

Continue to Learn runs from Sunday 23 to Wednesday 26 January 2022.

Discounts are on offer and Turf Rewards from ICL and Syngenta can be used to book the education of your choice.

You can also take a moment to download the BIGGA App to keep up-to-date with all the latest information relating to Continue to Learn and BTME.

Bookings close: 14 January 2022

Book via the BTME website, btme.org.uk/continuetolearn

CONFERENCE



Spanning two separate auditoriums, the Conference will feature a wide choice of sessions over three days.

By purchasing a Conference ticket, you will have free rein to wander between the venues and select an education programme that is bespoke to your requirements.

Each day of the conference will kick off with a general session before splitting into two distinct programmes. At the end of the day we'll bring everyone back together for a final session.

You can purchase one, two or three-day tickets for the Conference and discounts are available for individual teams.

Where will it be held?

Main Auditorium and Queen's Suite Auditorium, Harrogate Convention Centre

Who is it for?

BIGGA members at any stage of their career are invited to attend, although you may find the majority of content is oriented towards those in a management position or preparing to take the step into management.

How do I book?

To book full price tickets go to btme.org.uk. For discounted tickets, speak to our L&D team on 01347 833800 ahead of the deadline on 14 January 2022.

What is the Conference?

Three days of short educational sessions running across two auditoriums

When does it take place?

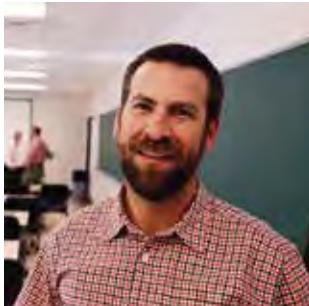
Monday 24 — Wednesday 26 January

Cost:

There are various tickets available, including discounted tickets. Check out your Continue to Learn brochure for more.

Key note speaker

Dr Ben McGraw, associate professor, Turfgrass Science, Penn State University



Dr Ben McGraw will be speaking on [two separate topics](#) during the Conference that will prove particularly interesting to BIGGA members. Ben has dedicated his lab to better understanding the biology and ecology of turfgrass insect populations in an attempt to move the industry away from an unhealthy dependence on chemicals to control insect pests.

[A very muddy situation: Managing problematic earthworms on golf courses without chemicals](#)

Earthworms aerate the soil, decompose organic matter and thatch layers and increase the availability of nutrients for plant uptake through deposition of nutrient-rich faecal matter (casts) within the soil profile.

However, their casts can be the bane of many turfgrass managers' existence!

As one of the most poorly understood groups of soil macrofauna, with no natural or synthetic compounds registered for their control, only cultural practices remain to decrease their casts, making the management of earthworms a very real challenge for turfgrass managers.

This session will look at the research that is being conducted at Pennsylvania State University to find solutions to discouraging earthworm casting in fine turf through cultural practices

[Leatherjacket management for the United Kingdom: what works and what is rubbish?](#)

Nematodes? Molasses? Sheeting? Acelepryn? Chemical restrictions in the United Kingdom have left many greenkeepers struggling to manage leatherjackets and seeking alternative management practices. This session will discuss the trials and research being conducted at Penn State University into cultural, biological and chemical control of the leatherjacket species *Tipula paludosa* and *T. olderacea* that are currently plaguing northern Europe.

Throughout the Conference there will also be sessions relating to The R&A's Golf Course 2030 roadmap, with updates provided on the progress of related projects.

“We have taken the traditional Continue to Learn format and re-imagined it to streamline our flagship education event

Sami Strutt, Head of Learning and Development

CLASSES

Classes are what you may previously have known as workshops, focus on sessions and career development sessions.

They may be half a day, a full day or even two days in duration, but they are learning opportunities based around a specific area of knowledge that you would like to improve upon.

Topics include: irrigation; renovation; strategic planning; cutting units; managing stress; managing teams; water efficiency; drought management; conflict resolution; recruitment; supervisory skills; fertiliser plans; mathematics; turf machinery maintenance; soil analysis; reading trial data; tree surveying; building a budget; positive thinking; identifying grass species; drainage; motivation; utilising data; personality profiling; health & safety; team building and many more.

What are they?

Two, one and half-day classes concentrating on a specific subject

When do they take place?

Sunday 23 — Wednesday 26 January

Where will they be held?

Queen's Suite in the Harrogate Convention Centre

Who are they for?

There are a wide range of learning opportunities available for BIGGA members at any stage of their career

How do I book?

Book your spot via the BTME website, btme.org.uk, before the deadline on 14 January 2022. Classes are expected to book up quickly, so don't delay.

Cost:

See individual class information in the Continue to Learn brochure.

SEMINARS

Taking place in the Blue Zone, these sessions will be an opportunity to gain knowledge without leaving the exhibition floor.

The 14 free-to-attend seminars will be hosted by exhibitors at BTME and headphones will be provided to all attendees so you don't miss anything.

What are they?

Free seminars hosted by a selection of BTME exhibitors will be taking place in the Blue Zone of the Harrogate Convention Centre. These silent sessions will take advantage of technology that will allow you to hear the presentations without leaving the exhibition halls.

When do they take place?

Tuesday 25 — Wednesday 26 January

Where will they be held?

The seminar stage will be in the Blue Zone

Who are they for?

All visitors to BTME are welcome to attend

How do I book?

No pre-booking is required. Seating is available for 120 attendees with standing room also available. Headphones will be provided.

Cost:

Free to attend. Check out your copy of the Continue to Learn brochure for more information.





BIGGA
CPD Continuing Professional Development

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

/ Jack Hall, Kilworth Springs

/ Jack Mangieri, Luffenham Heath

/ Michael Russell, Preston

/ Ryan Oliver, Forest of Arden

/ Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar

/ Christopher McGhee, Ballochmyle

/ Michael Budd, Richmond Park

/ Niclas Ericson, Affiliate

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

/ Daniel Ashelby, Reddish Vale

/ Sam Evans MG, North Hants

/ Scott Parnell, Saffron Walden

/ Richard Johnstone, Nairn Dunbar

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

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.









Expert Surfaces









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



ECOLOGY ROUNDUP

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)

It's here! It's finally here... fungi season has landed with a thump.

Fungi season is actually all year round, it's just that we only see them when the environmental conditions are right for the fruiting body to appear. The fruiting body is the brightly coloured fireworks you see on your golf course, usually in autumn.

The fungi itself winds its way through your sub- and topsoils, where it attaches itself to the grasses and takes nutrients from the products of photosynthesis. Fungi can't photosynthesise their own food, so take nutrients from anything that can, such as a tree or grass.

You may be thinking that fungi are parasites, and some are, but as a rule the fungi in your course's soils have a symbiotic relationship with the grass and, as a result, grow together in harmony.

The grass gives the fungi simple sugars and in return receives minerals that it cannot break down by itself — simple ecology that works a treat! Not only that, but fungi also eats its way through dead and decaying organic matter and recycles it back as usable material, such as compost or humus, which is the desired end result of composting.

We need to save the bees



— and so many other flora and fauna — but its worth noting that without fungi we would

be in a whole heap of trouble as dead material will keep stacking up (imagine that!)

These images are just a couple of examples of the fruits of fungi from various golf courses. Take a look at this whopper from Knutsford, or how about these from Crane Valley?

As always, send in those wildlife images and questions and I'll see if I can help!



Ecology Roundup is kindly sponsored by



Experience the Difference.



Don't forget You can read more from James on the BIGGA website. Visit www.bigga.org.uk/about/green/ecology-bulletin.html or scan the QR code



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MAINTENANCE 101

Having previously reviewed electrics, we can now utilise whatever experience and skill we have to start the fault-finding process.

These skills are transferable and we can use them in the same way when understanding and fault-finding hydraulics.

For instance, by understanding the interaction between electrics and hydraulics via solenoid valves, we can narrow a route cause down to either 'electrical' or 'hydraulics'.

HYDRAULICS

Basic diagnostics and fault finding

Ian Sumpter, Mow-Sure

Step One - Understand the functionality of hydraulics

I like to think of hydraulics and electrics in the same terms: flow, load and work. We require flow (current) to overcome a load (resistance) which creates movement (work).

Flow – Movement of hydraulic oil from the pump through the system back to the reservoir. It can be referred to as 'speed' in

that the more flow, the greater the speed a motor will rotate.

Load – Pressure in a hydraulic circuit is generated by the continuous flow of oil from the pump being forced against the movable surface area of a motor or actuator. When the pressure is high enough to overcome the resistance of the movable surface area, mechanical motion is generated, such as;

/ Motors to drive wheels or cutting units,

/ Actuators for steering or to lift/lower cutting units.

Hydraulic systems have remained in principle the same since Joseph Bramah was granted a patent for his hydraulic press in 1795. Tower Bridge in London has been using hydraulics since 1894 to raise the bridge. Its hydraulic pumps create 750psi (52bar) pressure using 1,273 litres of water per minute from the Thames. As long as there is flow, the correct required pressure and good components hydraulic systems work correctly.

Step Two – Understand turf machinery hydraulics and troubleshooting

As reviewed in last month's article, the electric diagnostic capabilities on modern turf machinery allow us to confirm or eliminate an electrical issue. This helps our hydraulic troubleshooting by eliminating electrics and allowing us to concentrate on a potential hydraulic

issue. As with electrics, it is important to have an understanding of schematics, (similar to wiring diagrams on electrics). This will help you to understand hydraulic systems and diagnostics. We follow the same process as electrics in that we need to break down the system on the wiring diagrams to the area we are troubleshooting. This allows us to disregard the systems that are working and concentrate on the smaller subsystem where the fault is likely to be.

To make life easier when diagnosing faults, I recommend using laminated A3 copies of schematics so you can see them much clearer. If they are also laminated, you will be able to use a dry wipe marker to trace the route you want to investigate and wipe clean when finished. Five minutes reviewing the schematics can focus us onto the correct subsystem and potentially save time, effort and money, resulting in a greater possibility of resolving the issue. »



Schematics can be found in the service manual and will include system pressure, recommended test gauges and where to plug gauges into the system via test ports. Based on our electrical knowledge we can view hydraulic flow as current. If we have flow it is similar to continuity on an electrical system. In some issues we would need to check hydraulic pressure. This would be similar to having continuity on our electrical system but checking resistance. A control valve, spool or cartridge-type solenoid valve directs flow to engage a certain function. These devices use very close surface tolerances between the spool and body to seal themselves. If these surface areas become worn or damaged the output device will not function correctly, even if the pump is in good condition.

Measuring clearance tolerance is impractical, so their efficiency of operation is determined by measuring the pump output (pressure), before and after the control device while under load.

Step Three – Common hydraulic faults

As most machinery sheds do not have hydraulic test gauges available, I want to focus on some common hydraulic issues that we can troubleshoot.

- Shock loading (operator abuse):** Caused by rapid engagement or violent change of direction of the circuit and typically identified by damaged/broken components or debris in the hydraulic oil. Good operator training and management will help to avoid these costly repairs.
- Heat stress/lack of lubrication:** caused by low or incorrect oil, blocked oil cooler or binding/overloaded mechanical components (such as blunt reels or brake drag). Overheating can typically be

“ If we have flow it is similar to continuity on an electrical system. In some issues we would need to check hydraulic Pressure. This would be similar to having continuity on our electrical system...

identified by discoloration of internal parts, scoring of moving parts, broken/ brittle O-ring. Good prestart checks, correct set up and using manufacturer recommended oils will help to avoid these issues.

Contamination: If caused by primary contamination from manufacturing, follow manufacturers’ recommendations for filter changes. With some systems the filter needs to be changed in the first few hours of operation.

If in-operation contamination, the

major sources are the pump and actuators, the hydraulic cylinder and the hydraulic motor. As the fluid comes into contact with the precision-machined surfaces of valves, motors and pumps, contaminant levels can keep doubling with every new particle generated.

Correct filtration and keeping to service intervals for filter changes is one of the best ways to prevent long term damage caused by contamination.

Cavitation: caused when a pump or motor is trying to push more oil than it is receiving. Travelling at high speeds downhill is the major cause of motor cavitations on turf equipment. This is identified by a thumping/knocking noise caused by a vacuum being produced on the feed side of the pump or motor due to a lack of oil.

The signs of cavitation are broken or shattered components. An obvious sign of pump cavitation is the delivery hose from the reservoir to the pump sucking in on itself.

For more information

To improve understanding of hydraulics you can access manufacturer run courses specific to brands, as well as the new accredited Lantra turfcare machinery maintenance modules I deliver.



Continue to learn

Ian will be running electric, hydraulic and mower set up courses at Continue to Learn in January 2022

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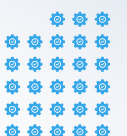

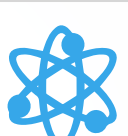



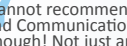






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HAYNES LAYS PLAY-OFF DEMONS TO REST WITH ROYAL MID-SURREY WIN

BIGGA National Championship 2021

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Location: Richmond, London



Only two players have ever contested a play-off at the BIGGA National Championship and at Royal Mid-Surrey, the same players did it again.

Repeating their actions at Gullane in 2018, three-time BIGGA National champion David Simpson and Matthew

“When I was drawn with David, I knew it would be tough

Haynes were inseparable after 36-holes, leading to a play-off taking place once again.

However, unlike at Gullane, this time it was Matthew, of Newark Golf Club, who secured the victory with some incredible golf that piled the pressure onto David and

culminated with a tee shot on the 1st hole to within three feet. He duly holed the putt for birdie and will now have his name engraved onto the BIGGA National Championship Trophy.

“I’m over the moon to have won,” said Matthew, 29, a former winner of the Lincolnshire Open. “When I was drawn with David, I knew it would be tough and that I had to play really well to beat him. But I’ve been in so many play-offs before that I know how to compose myself.”

The BIGGA National Championship returned for the first time since 2019 following its cancellation »

“I’ve been in so many play-offs before that I know how to compose myself

Read this for:

/ Playing golf
/ Networking
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Royal Mid-Surrey



BIGGA's
Champion Golfer
of the Year
Matt Haynes

PRIZE LIST

Gross – BIGGA National Championship Challenge Trophy

- / 1. Matthew Haynes (+16)
- / 2. David Simpson (+16)
- / 3. Ollie Browning (+20)
- / 4. Nick Roberts (+21)
- / T5. Christophe Prior (+24)
- / T5. Antony Kirwan (+24)
- / T5 (James Heels (+24)

Stableford – BIGGA National Championship Challenge Cup

- / 1. Matthew Clarke (65)
- / T2 Clive Moran (62)
- / T2 Graham Hurren (62)
- / T4 Andrew Ramsay (60)
- / T4 Chris Low (60)

Stableford Day 1

- / Division 1: Nick Roberts
- / Division 2: Chris Low
- / Division 3: Lewis Whatsley-Parsons

Stableford Day 2:

- / Division 1: James Heels
- / Division 2: Callum Robertson
- / Division 3: Matthew Clarke

Affiliate prize:

- / 1. Ryan Hyder
- / 2. Robert Welford
- / 3. Andrew Cornes

Regional cup winners:

South East: Nick Roberts, Graham Hurren, Liam Springett and Lewis Whatsley-Parsons



Andrew Ramsay, Frank Scullion and David Fellows

last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Royal Mid-Surrey had been due to host the championship last year and we're grateful to the club for enabling the event to be rearranged for 2021.

Strong winds and heavy rain early on impacted play on the opening day, although it

Royal Mid-Surrey's famous J H Taylor course was the location where the first post-war British Ryder Cup team practiced before heading to the United States in 1947



Barry Holt, Simon Ashford, Sid Arrowsmith MG (caddie) and Tony Blyth



Rob Cook, Gordon Moir and Christopher Prior



Steven Tierney, Tim Waite and Sam Waite



Ryan Hyder, Andrew Cornes and Rob Welford



Mark Blacknell, Lewis Whatsley-Parsons and Sergio Baselgia



Graham Hurren, Andy Bate and Leigh Mordy

brightened later in the day and the winds would ease for the second day's play. Sitting beside the Thames in West London, Royal Mid-Surrey's famous J H Taylor course — where the first post-war British Ryder Cup team practiced before heading to the United States in 1947 — provided a spectacular host venue for the National Championship. 1947 was also the first year the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association hosted a national championship, so it would have been appropriate for a Scotsman to win. David, of Crieff in Perthshire, had the opportunity to do so for a record-extending fourth time with a makeable putt on the 18th, but let the chance slide by.

Matt will now look to defend his trophy in 2022 as the BIGGA National Championship heads to Enville in the Central England Region for the 34th hosting of the annual event. »



David Simpson chips out of a fairway bunker on the 18th



David Simpson drives off on the 12th hole during the play-off



A handshake between Matt Haynes and David Simpson following Matt's winning putt



Matt Haynes drives off on the 12th hole during the play-off

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The Royal Mid-Surrey greenkeeping team with club manager Carl Rutherford (far left)

MEET THE MID-SURREY TEAM

While the golfers were out on the course, we sat down for a conversation with Course Manager Gavin Kinsella MG and deputy course managers Matt Kitson, who looks after the J H Taylor course, and Liam Mulkerrins, who is responsible for the Pam Barton course.

Look out for our full conversation in an upcoming

edition of GI, but first we spoke about what it meant to host BIGGA's largest championship.

GI: What does hosting the BIGGA National Championship mean to you?

Matt Kitson: We always had it in the back of our mind and we've had three weekends of autumn meetings, so the course was in a pretty good place anyway. Most of the lads were quite excited, especially after it being cancelled last year due to COVID. I certainly saw it as one of our biggest events this year.

We ramped up our operations and dialled in our eye for detail. We had a meeting on the 10th hole and I said that if anyone wants to try anything new for the competition, they're welcome to suggest ideas. We had one lad, Joe Balmer, who had just worked at the BMW PGA at Wentworth and he wanted to rake the bunkers in a different

“It was nice that people were thinking about what they could bring to the competition, to make it better.

style, towards the pins, so we did that. It was nice that people were thinking about what they could bring to the competition to make it better.

GI: Is there more pressure on you to deliver during this event because they're greenkeepers playing it, rather than golfers?

Gavin Kinsella MG: It's no joke that for some of our team, at the early stage of their careers, this will be quite a big deal. The national championship moves around the regions and the next time it comes back into this area, it won't be to us, so this is likely to be the one and only time we'll get it.

The difference here is you're being inspected by »



Course Manager Gavin Kinsella MG hand mows the 18th green during heavy rainfall on day one



Andrew Riley and Clive Moran on the 18th hole



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Ant Kirwan hits out of a greenside bunker on the 16th hole

“They’re obviously playing to win a golf tournament, but they should be sympathetic to the conditions that we experienced

your ultimate judges. They’re industry colleagues who are knowledgeable. They’re obviously playing to win a golf tournament, but they should be sympathetic to the conditions that we experienced yesterday during set up, so will understand that the course wasn’t 100% yesterday. They’ll understand why the course may be 10%

better today because we could be much more comprehensive with our set up.

But as much as that makes them incredibly friendly and engaging with us, it will also make them potentially our harshest critics.

We’ve formed a number of partnerships worldwide that mean we can send guys every year to Switzerland to support the Omega European Masters, we sent George Parsons out to Australia for nine weeks last year to work at Royal Adelaide for the Women’s Australian Open and we send guys on internships each year to Ohio State University, where they often work on PGA Tour events. But if you haven’t got that freedom to travel then you must find your inspiration wherever you can. Matt may in future end up at a European Tour course or an Open Championship venue and events like this are a stepping stones along the way that give



Handicap prize winners Callum Robertson and James Heels

“He was telling me how much better the course was yesterday than it was in spring. That was great because I hadn’t realised the difference

you an insight into tournament golf, especially when you’re setting up for what are probably some of the

most discerning and knowledgeable customers.

Liam Mulkerrens: For example, I played with Andrew Ramsay in the Surrey Bowl and he came here in May. He was telling me how much better the course was yesterday than it was in spring.

That was great because I hadn’t realised the difference as I’m here 365 days a year. But he was quite vocal about that and that was really nice. Everyone at dinner last night and having a drink before we sat down, all they were doing was just sharing experience.

That’s been the best thing and it’s what is amazing about the National Championship.



Team prize winners Liam Springett, Nick Roberts, Lewis Whatsley-Parsons and Graham Hurren (South East)



Liam Springett



Matt Haynes hits the winning putt on the 1st hole

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Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2021

New beginnings, a new generation and a fond farewell

Working in partnership
with Toro and Reesink UK



A spectacular new venue and a new generation of talented greenkeepers made the 2021 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards one of the most exciting in its 32-year history.

But it wasn't all brand new as a familiar golf club was represented among the winners, with Rudding Park first assistant Matthew Milligan securing the top prize. Rudding Park is the same venue that Jason Norwood was employed at when he won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 2019.

"I'm absolutely over the moon," said Myerscough College student Matthew, 26. "I came into this just happy to be in the final, but to actually win, it hasn't really hit me yet. I'm sure when I get home and reflect on the situation it'll sink in, but I haven't stopped smiling since they announced my name and I'm excited for what doors it will open. All the other finalists have been amazing so I think it was quite close, but to actually come away with the win is absolutely amazing."

“All the finalists showed how much promise there is and how much there is to celebrate in the next generation of greenkeepers

Joining Matthew in celebrating at the event was Rhian Barton, 22, who became the first female winner in over 20 years and just the third in their history of the student greenkeeper awards, following in the footsteps of Bridie Redican in 1993 and Sally Doherty in 1998. She is also the first female winner of the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

"I feel really good," said Rhian, who is also a professional golfer and has appeared on the LET Access Series. "It was a nice surprise because I'd worked hard but I didn't know what the result was going to be. I was really pleased when they read out my name because I thought it was such a close competition."

This year the finals were hosted in the championship surroundings of the Celtic Manor Resort, host of the 2010 Ryder Cup. Director of Golf Courses and Estate Management Jim McKenzie MBE welcomed the finalists to the venue with a walk around the famous Twenty Ten course. Jim then spoke to the finalists



The 2021 finalists at Celtic Manor Resort

about the experience of hosting the event, which famously became the first Ryder Cup to take place over four days following heavy rainfall, and offered advice on how to develop their careers.

Jim said: "Congratulations to the winners of the Toro Student Greenkeeper and Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards. We've been delighted to host you at Celtic Manor over the past couple of days and it's been great to see so much passion and enthusiasm from the young girls and boys. We're now looking forward to seeing how your careers progress!"

Candidates for the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, who must be aged 21 or under when nominated, undertook an exam and grass and seed identification challenge and then a hole walk, intended to test their knowledge in a real-world setting. The finalists in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year main category also completed the exam and identification challenge but were also required to answer an essay question and deliver a presentation about their careers so far. Matthew particularly excelled in the presentation section of the finals as he produced a mock >>

TORO
STUDENT GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021



David Cole with the 2021 winners Rhian Barton (left) and Matthew Milligan (right)



The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists were:

- / Leon Brant, assistant greenkeeper at Wrexham Park
- / Daryn Curtis, greenkeeper at Royal Mid-Surrey
- / Matthew McCreadie, greenkeeper at Daventry & District
- / Matthew Milligan, first assistant at Rudding Park
- / Michael Russell, greenkeeper and ecology manager at Preston
- / Craig Woodman, deputy course manager at Broadstone

The Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists were:

- / Rhian Barton, assistant greenkeeper at The Wisley
- / Greg Manson, apprentice greenkeeper at Mortonhall
- / Callum Marjoribanks, apprentice greenkeeper at Mortonhall
- / Ross McKie, apprentice greenkeeper at St Andrews Links
- / Will Pallister, apprentice greenkeeper at Cleckheaton & District
- / Cameron Shanks, apprentice greenkeeper at Bothwell Castle



David Cole

edition of Greenkeeper International that detailed his personal and professional achievements.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards were introduced in 1989, with an additional 'Young' category introduced in 2016. The awards did not take place in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the reintroduction in 2021 enabled David Cole to participate one final time ahead of his retirement as managing director of Reesink Turfcare in spring 2022.

David said: "We knew this year's awards were going to be special. Being back after last year's lockdown absence with a fantastic calibre of finalists in the grand setting of Celtic Manor Resort, plus a walk around the Twenty Ten Ryder Cup course

and after dinner speech, both by Jim McKenzie MBE, made it one to remember before we'd even conducted the finals.

"All the finalists showed how much promise there is and how much there is to celebrate in the next generation of greenkeepers so it is a huge achievement for the winners — Matt for the main award and Rhian for the young award — to have triumphed. I know both will make sure they maximise the opportunities presented by their educational, international prizes.

"However, the event was bittersweet for me as it is my last. I am leaving Reesink this spring, but to see two such worthwhile winners and especially to see Rhian, our first ever female Young finalist — let alone winner — makes it the perfect one to finish on."



The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Finalists

Winners of the main award receive a Toro Scholarship that includes a turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, a trip to the Golf Industry Show and a visit to the Toro factory. Should coronavirus restrictions prevent this, an alternative prize of equal standing will be organised.

The Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner receives a two-week work placement at Vidauban Golf Club in France, plus a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME.

Prizes are also given to the winners' endorsers and the runners-up in each category, with Craig Woodman of Broadstone and Will Pallister of Cleckheaton & District coming second in their respective categories. For Craig it was the second time he had finished as runner-up at the awards, having also done so in the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year category in 2017.

BIGGA Head of Learning and Development Sami Strutt said: "I was delighted to present these awards to Matthew and Rhian at the culmination of this year's awards. The competition began in March with a record-breaking number of nominations and concluded over the past two days with 12 outstanding finalists who all deserve to

be applauded for their knowledge, passion and dedication to the greenkeeping profession.

"The Celtic Manor Resort provided a breathtaking venue for this year's finals and we continue to be incredibly grateful

to Toro and Reesink Turfcare for providing this career-defining opportunity to our most ambitious and talented student members."

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards will return for 2022, with nominations opening in March next year.

To see two such worthwhile winners and especially to see Rhian, our first ever female young finalist – let alone winner – makes it the perfect one to finish on

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How martial arts and travelling through South America shaped Matthew Milligan's outlook on life

Getting to know the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2021

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

There's something special brewing at Rudding Park in Harrogate.

For the second competition in a row, a greenkeeper at the club claimed top prize in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards.

It can't be a coincidence that under the guidance of Head Greenkeeper Richard Hollingworth, first Jason Norwood in 2019 and now Matthew Milligan have won the prestigious award.

"Rudding Park has been really supportive of me," said Matthew, 26. "Even starting with my regional interview, they set up a Zoom interview to do a mock of it. Richard, my head greenkeeper, the managing director, Peter Banks, and Matthew Mackaness, a director, grilled me for about 40 minutes.

"They've just been really good at pushing me and said 'whatever you need, we'll help you', so they've been class."

"My tutor, Andy Kenworthy, has also been so supportive over the last few years. He

gives 100% to all his students and pushes them to be the best they can be. This is

apparent after Andy has been tutor to the last two Toro Student Greenkeepers of the

Year and also the 2019 runner-up James Dawson. I'm sure they would both agree with me and say they wouldn't have been able to do it without him. He has kept us driven and focused and we can't thank him enough. I'm excited to finish my Level 3 with one of the best tutors out there."

Although Jason has now relocated to the north coast of Scotland, taking up a role at Reay Golf Club, he was also in regular contact with Matthew and offered some advice.

Matthew actually blew the judges away by producing a mocked up edition of Greenkeeper International, which told his life story in a really imaginative way. That's now become a reality as Matt features on the cover of this magazine alongside the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Rhian Barton. It was the first time any of the judges can remember a finalist coming up with such a creative way of telling their own story and Matthew attributes the



Matthew Milligan

initial idea to his partner, Laura-Beth Richardson.

Featured within the 'magazine' was interesting information such as the fact Matthew used to compete alongside the British squad at the 2011 World Aikido Championships in London.

"I started when I was nine, with a friend of mine. We started doing regional and national tournaments and I did fairly well and got asked to train with the British team.

"It was awesome to see their drive and passion, although I went out of the competition in the first round!"

After leaving school, Matthew's first employment was at a call centre for a well-known car insurance provider. "I hated sitting in an office," said Matthew. "It was like a prison. I got invited on holiday but couldn't take the time off work, so I handed my notice in, went on holiday and then came back and worked in a bar, before getting a greenkeeping job at Wetherby Golf Club. I worked Monday to Friday at the golf club and Friday, Saturday and Sunday at

I hated sitting in an office, it was like being in prison



Matthew loves travelling to experience new places

the bar, which is what funded my travels later on."

Having won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Matthew will get the opportunity to travel once again as he'll represent the awards sponsors, Toro and Reesink Turfcare, and BIGGA at the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show in the United States.

Hopefully though, there'll be fewer muggings than the last time he was on that side of the Atlantic. Matthew explained: "Myself and two friends, we flew out to Cuba and then travelled down through South America for six months. We got mugged a few times along the way, just by being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"Once we were in Peru and we should have got a taxi back to the hotel, but decided to walk instead. A car pulled up and two lads jumped out and put a couple of guns to our heads and took our stuff.

"Luckily I kept a credit card in my sock so we still had some money to live with. It was just one of the things we expected when we decided to go; we »



Matthew with Reesink Turfcare's David Cole

Home location: Harrogate



knew we'd see a bit of bother and I'd do it again, it was worth it. I just like seeing new places and meeting different kinds of people and experiencing new things. I really get a buzz from exploring as seeing the same things all the time is repetitive, but seeing new places is exciting."

As a winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards, Matthew has opened new doors and he may now get the opportunity to travel as part of his career. It's something he and Laura-Beth have discussed, despite recently purchasing their first house.

"My girlfriend is studying primary education so she's going to be a teacher," said Matthew. "That's great for us because wherever there's a golf course, there's normally a school nearby. She's really supportive and she said she'd follow me if I decided to go somewhere, which is amazing." It would take the couple out

of their comfort zone, which is coincidentally something that the finals of the awards are intended to do — particularly as they took place this year in the grand surrounds of the Celtic Manor Resort.

Matthew reflected on the overall experience and said:

"The finals provide a new challenge and you grow from these things. Pushing people out of that comfort zone and making them a little bit vulnerable is a really good way of helping them grow. I think the toughest thing about the competition is that you



Matthew and Laura-Beth

I just like seeing new places and meeting different kinds of people and experiencing new things. I really get a buzz from exploring as seeing the same things all the time is repetitive, but seeing new places is exciting.

revise and you practice, but then doing it under pressure is a different experience. Practicing the presentation in front of your partner or friends is quite easy, but when you're doing it in front of a panel of judges, your heart sinks a little bit when perhaps you say something that didn't quite get the reaction you were hoping for. I think that was the hardest thing, just the pressure, because it's something we're not really used to."

In addition to a presentation, finalists must

also undertake a multiple choice questionnaire, answer an essay question and complete a grass and seed identification. The results are kept a secret so it is a surprise to everyone except the judges when the runner-up and winner are announced. But strangely, Matthew and Craig Woodman, who came second, sat alone on the front row, as if they knew what was about to take place.

"We actually joked about it afterwards," said Matthew. "We were walking down in »



Matthew sat at the iconic Machu Picchu in Peru

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Matthew and runner-up Craig Woodman sat upfront

front of the lads and Craig said 'where do you want to sit?' and I said we'd sit on the front row. I was actually going to nip on to the row behind and leave him alone, but I thought I couldn't be that mean, so I sat next to him. Then, when Craig got the runner-up I just thought, I haven't won it. But then when David was calling my name out he looked at me and said 'Matthew', and my heart stopped for a second because there was another Matthew. Then he said 'Milligan' and I can't really remember the rest!"

After so long kept apart due to the coronavirus crisis, the awards also provided an opportunity for the finalists to meet, while also demonstrating the strength of community that comes with being part of BIGGA.

Matthew said: "I'm really happy with the way all the lads have connected and developed a great friendship over just a couple of days. Ever since we got here, we have just had a laugh and relaxed and it was great. The industry is so

warm and welcoming and in the build-up to this event, I was phoning people that I've never even spoken to before and they spent half an hour just talking to me. It's just

amazing how everyone is so supportive of each other."

That culture of supporting your peers is one that Matthew is keen to continue throughout his career, as he

explained: "I think every young greenkeeper wants to be a course manager and build a team of their own. But the journey to get to that position is also really exciting. I want to explore the industry a bit more and apply for scholarships and FTMI and I'd love to volunteer at as many events as I can.

"I'd also love to talk to younger people and try and get them involved with the industry as well. You know, maybe go to career days and that type of thing to try and get young people involved in the industry. Before I became a greenkeeper I didn't really know what it was and I'd love to get involved with promoting it to young people and get awareness of greenkeeping out there a bit more."

Continue the conversation:

Matthew Milligan is on Twitter at @milligan_matt.

Find out more about the Toro Student Greenkeeper Awards by messaging us on WhatsApp at 07933 203 645.

“Before I became a greenkeeper I didn't really know what it was and I'd love to get involved with promoting it to young people and get awareness of greenkeeping out there a bit more.



Stimping greens at Rudding Park

From playing on the LET Access Tour to cutting the turf at Wembley

Meet Rhian Barton, greenkeeping's next superstar

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

There can be no doubt that Rhian Barton is an incredible and inspirational young woman.

A professional golfer who developed her talents as part of the Wales Golf system, she became a greenkeeper and moved away from her family and friends at a young age in search of better career prospects.

And returning to Celtic Manor not as a player but, for the first time, as a greenkeeper, Rhian showed the same level of commitment and dedication to scoop the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

"I want to work my way up," said Rhian when we sat down for a conversation the day after her award victory. "Then I want to become a head greenkeeper at an Open venue because the championship is so prestigious and to be in charge of a course that hosts a Major would be amazing."

It's a lofty ambition, but behind Rhian's softly-spoken exterior is a determination to succeed. It's a personality trait that took her as an amateur golfer to the European Young Masters and then the Junior

British Open. "That was just one boy and one girl from each country around the world, it was amazing," she explained. "I played with an

Egyptian boy, a lad from Uruguay and a girl from Czech Republic. It was held at West Lancs when The Open was at Hoylake and they took us to

go and watch The Open and meet all the players, it was amazing."

As a Wales Golf squad member Rhian played alongside Chloe Williams and Amy Boulden, who have since enjoyed success in the professional game. Aged 19 Rhian took the same step, turning professional and heading to Morocco for Tour School. She played on the Spanish Ladies' Tour and the LET Access Series until the finances of self-funding a professional golf career began to catch up with her.

"It's so expensive and every time you play, it's at least a couple of thousand pounds that you have to pay for yourself. When I was an amateur Wales Golf paid for it, but when you're a pro you're on your own. When I was young, it was just about having fun. But when it became about earning money to live it got really tough mentally."

That's when Rhian made the decision to swap the pro shop for the greenkeepers' shed. She continued: "I needed a job and greenkeepers finished early >>



Rhian Barton



Rhian with the Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award

Home location: Surrey



in the afternoon, so I could practice afterwards. But then COVID hit and I couldn't practice. I worked the whole way through and I loved greenkeeping more than I thought I would, so I've kept going. I love being out on the golf course and I've always loved being outside, so it just made sense."

After a little under two years at Carden Park, Rhian made another brave decision as she left her family in the north west and moved to The Wisley in Surrey.

All the finalists showed how much promise there is and how much there is to celebrate in the next generation of greenkeepers

"I've travelled with my golf since I was like 14, so moving away didn't seem that big a deal," she explained. "It was hard because I was alone but

the actual being away from home wasn't too bad.

"I wanted to work on a private members' club and not in resort golf, so I could get a



Rhian competing in Morocco



The Mill course at The Wisley

different perspective. I saw pictures of The Wisley and it was just elite; it is next level, amazing. There are 700 members, who each own a single share of the club, with play being exclusive to members and their guests only. We do a lot of heavy maintenance, which we didn't at Carden because it was too busy. At The Wisley we get the chance to learn everything because the members expect the best and you've got to give it them."

Away from her friends and family, Rhian found another way to fill her spare time — she became a matchday assistant at Wembley Stadium. Rhian said: "Because I'm interested in agronomy, I wanted to go and see what else there was out there. I got a trial at Wembley and my first ever football match was Manchester City versus Leicester for the Community Shield. I'd never been to a football match before, but

when the Wisley team got me into Wembley I was like 'of course I'm going to go!'

"Being a football groundsman is a lot different because it's one playing surface with all the same sort of grass — it's primarily ryegrass at Wembley. But it's also about teamwork and getting the job done so it looks pristine every single time the players go out. We divot before the match, at halftime and then after the match. I actually got to cut the pitch at Wembley for the first time for the England versus Andorra game.

"I like the idea of sports turf agronomy, but I think because I'm a golfer, I'll stay in golf."

Throughout her career as a greenkeeper Rhian has found herself in supportive working environments, where the culture of the club is angled towards professional and personal development. That will shape her career throughout her life, but in the



Rhian (far right) was part of the Wales team for the European Young Masters Team in 2015

short term it also meant she had a helping hand when preparing for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finals. "Last week the Church

team at The Wisley were divoting and they were testing me on my grasses," Rhian said. "We were stood on the fairway and they were going »

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Rhian with BIGGA president Colin Webber

“They’ve given me knowledge that I didn’t have. I was finding it tough to learn the grasses and they made it easier for me

‘Right, what’s that grass over there?’ ‘What’s that by the bunker?’ For example, I knew the name Yorkshire fog, but I didn’t know what it looked like, so they pointed it out and then when it came up on the course walk I could identify it really easily.

“It was really important because they’ve given me knowledge that I didn’t have. I was finding it tough to learn the grasses and they made it easier for me.”

Then, when it came to sitting at the presentation, waiting to find out who had

won the award, the competitive streak that had taken Rhian to the Welsh

national team was in full evidence. When asked what she was thinking when she was sat in the room alongside the other finalists with her eyes on the trophy, the answer was, “I wanted to win”.

Rhian added: “It shows that all the work I put into it paid off. If somebody had beaten me, it would have been because they did better and they worked harder. I know I tried my best and it paid off.”

For Rhian, the finals were

practically a home match, having spent so much time at Celtic Manor during her time as part of the Wales Golf Squad. But her iron will and determination suggest that even if she’d been on unfamiliar territory, she would still have blown the judges and the competition away.

[Continue the conversation](#)

Rhian Barton is on Twitter at [@rhianbarton99](#)



The Church course at The Wisley



Rhian at Royal St David's



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Wet outlook for disease attack



Understanding the interaction between leaf wetness and temperature will help assess disease risks this autumn.

Glenn Kirby, Syngenta UK Technical Manager

All summer long we've had reports of *Microdochium* patch infections rumbling on.

We now have to be prepared for the pathogen to be present this autumn – and get a strategy in place to prevent it flaring up.

The key consideration is that leaf moisture drives infection, while temperature dictates its speed and aggressiveness.

Research has shown that the *microdochium* nivalle pathogen is progressively more active at higher temperatures. However, it also needs moisture to thrive – which is typically the limiting

factor that prevents its development in summer.

In good growing conditions turf is both better able to withstand the pathogen pressure and outgrow symptoms by producing healthy new leaf. It's only when growing conditions are compromised that damaging outbreaks flare up.

As we now move into late autumn and early winter, leaves remain wetter for longer and growth slows, while it is still sufficiently warm for pathogen activity. Combined, that creates the ideal conditions for disease outbreaks to occur.

What we are looking to prevent is not based simply on disease development, but

Table 1: The combination of temperature and moisture dictates the risk of *microdochium* outbreaks and potential for damage

Mean Temperature °C	Moisture source	<i>Microdochium</i> pressure scale
<0		0
0–2		1
2–3		2
3–4	Coupled with records or forecasts of three rain events in any of six previous days	3
4–7		4
7–9		3
9–12		2
12–18		1
18<		0

when the damage it causes overtakes the turf's ability to recover.

The GreenCast disease risk forecast model pinpoints the highest risk of outbreaks when mean temperature falls to 4–7°C, coupled with three recorded or predicted rain events in any rolling period of six days. The model indicates that if the temperature is higher, the perceived risk is lower as the turf can cope more effectively, and if the temperature is lower the risk also declines as the pathogen is less active (Table 1).

The challenge has become increasingly difficult in recent seasons, particularly with

changing climatic patterns. Historic weather records show a mean daily temperature of 7°C is typically seen from an average high of 10–11°C and a low of 4–5°C – which has been the long-term normal October to November averages in England, or September to October in Scotland.

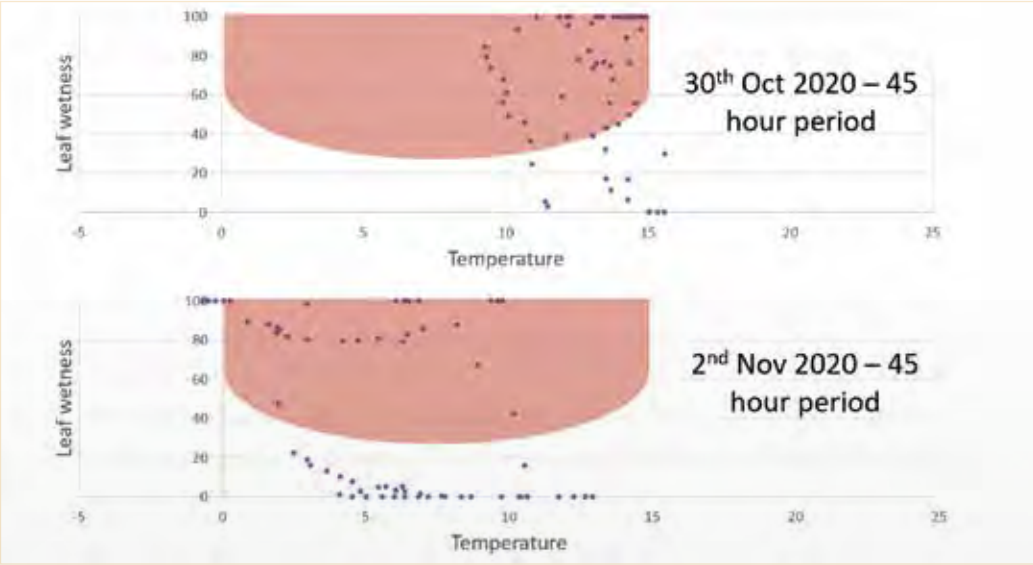
However, with warming autumn temperatures, we are seeing more autumn days in the high-risk 4–7°C range, coinciding with the extended leaf wetness of short days and low dew points. The long-term trend is for higher pressure later in the season.

In a proactive Integrated Turf Management (ITM) programme, the high-risk period is where the role of well-timed fungicide application can prevent the onset of damage.

Leaf wetness

As temperatures fall and day length shortens, the hours of leaf wetness correspondingly increase. Even where greens are being brushed or switched to remove surface dew at first light, that can be two to three hours later than earlier in the season.

Figure 1: As weather conditions change the disease pressure potential can also change very quickly



While rainfall is a key element of the moisture essential for *Microdochium* to develop, relative humidity is a better measure of the leaf wetness conditions conducive to disease. In early autumn, GreenCast records show relative humidity could typically exceed 90% before 8am on over half of days in October, even if it drops to below 40% by midday.

More accurate Weather Pro data that we can now utilise for disease modelling enables hourly assessment of both temperature and leaf wetness.

If we compare two 45-hour periods from last autumn, for example, (Figure 1) it shows the duration of hours in the high-risk red zone was over 50 per cent higher at the end of October, compared to a week later in November.

This detailed knowledge of pressure is crucial to optimise timing of actions for turf management, whether that be the need to apply a preventative fungicide, or to intensify your ITM actions to help lower disease pressure until the period of high risk has passed. Adopting effective ITM

practices is critical during these periods:

- / Remove surface moisture;
- / Manage growth through nutrition
- / Optimise air flow
- / Select an appropriate fungicide to turf growth rates
- / Ensure accurate application
- / Apply at the right time to counter disease pressure

The advances in more sophisticated predictive modelling enable more proactive decision making.

Continue the conversation
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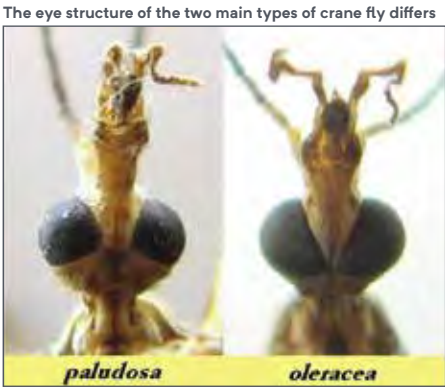


AUTUMN LEATHERJACKET MANAGEMENT

As leatherjackets pressures rise during autumn, the management options available to greenkeepers are limited

In most areas of the UK we have seen crane fly emerging in large numbers. Two species are emerging at this time of year. The traditional 'daddy longlegs', European crane fly, *Tipula paludosa*, has a one-year life cycle. The other species is the marsh crane fly, *Tipula oleracea*, which has two life cycles per year.

How can you tell the difference between these species? Take a close look at the image below and you'll see that the eye structure and position are different. Remember, each female can lay between 200 to 300 eggs. A range of interesting observations have been reported from those who used nematodes this spring to manage leatherjacket larvae populations. From applications made in March through to May, users have noticed that every 14 days or so dead, often red in colour, larvae were coming to the surface. This indicates that the nematodes were able to reproduce



Remember, each female can lay between 200 to 300 eggs

and complete their life cycle and then infect more leatherjackets. Some users have reported observing infection of up to six generations. The most interesting observation has been when adults emerge. They appear to be unhealthy and unable to fly, with many having what appears to be a fungal infection. This is being investigated further by several researchers. One of the most effective natural reduction measures of crane fly is desiccation of eggs. Generally, in years when we have low rainfall at emergence and egg laying, plus low surface moisture levels, there is natural mortality. Crane fly require moisture in the top 2-3cm of the soil profile to keep their eggs from desiccating. To date, this autumn has been conducive to low egg mortality, so it is expected that unless conditions change dramatically in late September or early October, egg survival will be high. Following the issues reported last spring, a wide range of different options are being trialled to find suitable management options for greenkeepers

Egg desiccation

Several generally inert materials, which are known to desiccate eggs or larvae, are being trialled. The challenge with these options is applying sufficient product to cause egg mortality. The other challenge is these are generally very fine, powder-type products, so application and visual impact is a challenge.

Garlic — EGC granuals (MAPP17230) is registered for nematode control in managed amenity turf. Feedback from users of granules indicated reduced leatherjacket problems. Further laboratory studies confirmed that at the registered dose, EGC granules demonstrated ovicidal (egg) activity and high levels of mortality on hatching leatherjacket larvae. Work is being carried out this year in the field to determine the dose required to achieve the levels of activity observed in the laboratory.

Eggs normally take 10 to 20 days to hatch and emerge as larvae. The larvae spread out and start feeding, initially underground on roots.

Larvae at this early stage, known as L1 and L2, are easiest to control with the products available, which are beneficial nematodes and, under the 120-day emergency approval, Acelepryn.

Nematodes

Two species are effective against crane fly larvae, *Steinernema carpocapsae* and *Steinernema feltiae*.

- / Nematodes need soil temperatures to be above 10°C to be effective.
- / Soils need to be damp prior to application, ideally above 30% moisture, with wetting agent in the profile.
- / Nematodes are applied live, so must get into the soil profile as quickly as possible.
- / Product needs to be irrigated in after treatment or applied in the rain.
- / Addition of a suitable wetting agent (make sure the wetting agent applied is not antagonistic to nematode activity) will aid entry and movement into the soil.
- / Can provide a useful solution to reduce populations prior to them causing problems.

Acelepryn

The product has been granted 120-day emergency approval, which allows applications up to the end of November 2021.



Close up crane fly eggs

- / Acelepryn is less impacted by temperature.
- / Ask your distributor to complete stewardship form.
- / Application should be made to damp soils after the third week in October up to the end of November. By this time, L2 larvae will be very active in the root zone.
- / Product needs to be irrigated in after treatment or applied in the rain.
- / Addition of a wetting agent can enhance movement into the soil profile.

To get the best from the product options available, to aid management of leatherjacket numbers, greenkeepers need to plan the approach they wish to

take this autumn. Map out areas that will need treating and prepare the areas to be treated well in advance of application. Simple steps include making sure moisture levels are optimum, cutting the grass prior to application to allow easier access to soil and using a coarse spray pattern with a minimum of 800 l/ha of water. If rain is not forecast, plan to irrigate the treated area to ensure

products are not wasted and left on foliage. Turf can cope with significant grazing from leatherjackets during the autumn. Good root development and a balanced feeding programme can pay dividends if we have a repeat of the April 2021 weather pattern next year. Spring management will be the subject of a future article.

Glyphosate supplies and pricing

The combination of several factors, detailed below, has led to a massive increase in the price of glyphosate-based products:

- / International trade dispute between China and Australia resulting in the Chinese government limiting energy supplies to non-essential industries
- / Hurricane damage in southern USA to Bayer (ex-Monsanto) glyphosate technical production plant
- / Global demand following the COVID-19 pandemic
- / Shortage of plastic containers

Between five and 10 times increase in shipping/container costs. This has increased rapidly over the past few months and with supplies very tight, availability is unknown. It is hoped that by the time the amenity sector requires these products, availability will be improved. However, be prepared for a significant increase per pack. Despite these increases, glyphosate-based herbicides will still be the most economic option for total herbicide usage and vegetation management.

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THE EVOLUTION OF THE TRACTOR

Charting the ancestry of the greenkeepers' modern workhorse
Article first produced by James de Havilland with additional reporting by Karl Hansell



Lloyds gang mower showing dual rims on the outer wheel sets.

Did you know that prior to 1947, golf courses would utilise horse-drawn equipment or – at the more affluent – classic cars adapted for use on turf?

It may seem odd to think it now, but tractors weren't seen on golf courses until 1947, when Brockhouse Engineering launched its BMB President tractor. Powered by a 29hp Morris 8 petrol engine, a new one would have set you back £239 in basic form, with a rear linkage and power take-off (PTO) coming as an optional extra. Considered light and powerful for its day, the President was a popular 'groundsman's' tractor, with many remaining in use into the 1980s.



This Austin 20 Tourer, pictured around 1931, was adapted for use on turf

For some, its main claim to fame was that it was a tractor that replaced the golf course horse. It's all too easy to forget that we relied on horse power to mow turf, with this form of power still prevailing into the 1950s or possibly even later in some areas. Turf overshoes were commonly fitted to help avoid damage to the ground.

In the image on the facing page, the leading gang set of the Lloyds gang mower has dual rims on the outer wheel

sets. This was to help boost traction to the unit in a turn, with the mower operator needing a great deal of skill when working in tight spaces and in less-than-ideal conditions.

Each generation of greenkeeper tends to see a pretty major development within their working life. One that has been largely forgotten is the dramatic change brought by moving from horse drawn equipment to tractor power. It is all too

“Older courses may well find the fairways were horse and gang mown more recently than many would think.

easy to overlook this massive change, with many not realising that it was not until after the end of World War II that the horse started to be displaced, not just on farms but in other sections too. Milk floats through to short haul carriers relied on horse power into the 1960s in many parts of the UK. As for mowing, older courses may well find the fairways were horse and gang mown far more recently than many would think.

Out of a desire to be less reliant on horsepower, some clubs utilised early cars. Believed to be based around an Austin 20 Tourer from the 1920s, this picture (above left) shows how the rear of the car could be completely reworked to provide a load platform for greenkeeping requisites and tools. The lugged steel wheels on the back axle appear to have been built using the original wheels and spokes. To achieve a lower forward speed, the rear wheels were also reduced in



BMB President tractor - an early favourite among groundsmen

diameter. With its windscreen and comfy-looking seats, this course-built 'utility vehicle' looks like a greenkeeping version of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and would have been the envy of all who saw it in action. Also note the size of the gang mower drive wheels. Probably geared for a horse's pace, they would have spun the cylinders at quite a pace when the 'car' was run up to speed.

Although the President was remembered as a typical gang mower tractor, there were others that were pressed into this role, typically drawn from the entry level range offered by the main agricultural tractor makers.

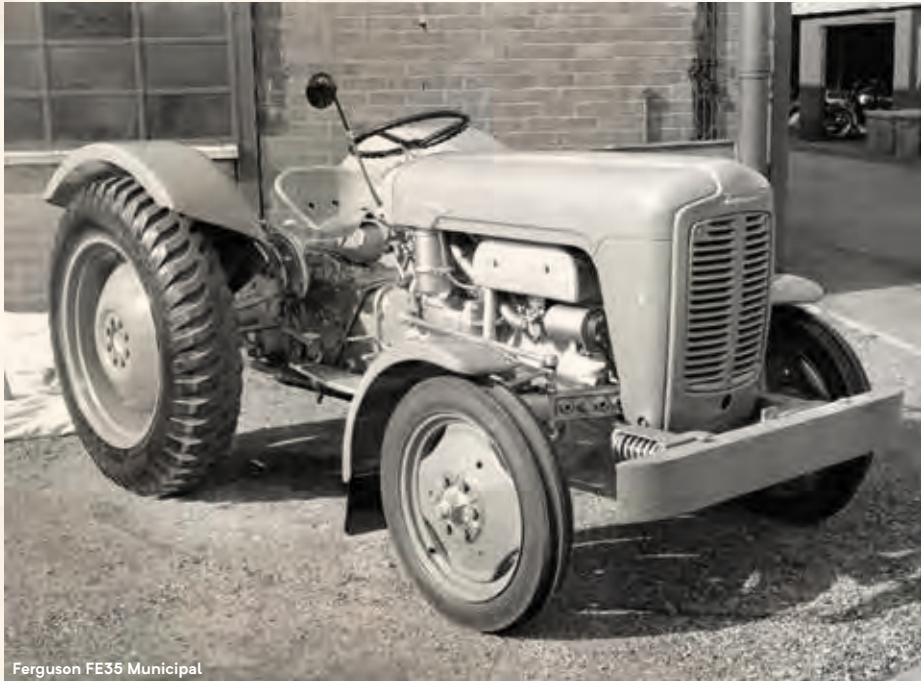
As farm tractors got bigger, the small tractor class was expanded by the introduction of Japanese-made compacts.

The Ferguson FE35 Municipal was later rebadged as the MF35 when the



A Ransomes 57 Mk 1 gang mower in use

“ This was the first tractor to feature a live PTO. This was a great advance as it separated the PTO from the tractor's forward speed.



Ferguson FE35 Municipal

brand was changed to Massey Ferguson in 1957. This was the first tractor to feature a live PTO. This was a great advance as it separated the PTO from the tractor's forward speed.

Also of note is the tractor's rear tyres, with this pattern doubling up for both industrial and turf use. When used on golf courses, tractors like this were often fitted with worn or road front tread tires.

The prominent ribs of a new agricultural tyre would damage the turf, particularly in a tight turn.

The Ford 3000 was manufactured at the Basildon tractor plant between 1965 and 1975, with eight forward and two reverse speeds. In its day the Ford 3000 was considered light and powerful for its size, with a good number being sold at golf clubs. In the featured image, the unit is seen powering a Ransomes 57 Mk 1 hydraulic gang mower. Hydraulic gang sets enabled Ransomes to meet the demand for wide-area cylinder mowers that could tackle longer grass, deliver high levels of productivity and still leave a decent finish.

Kubota entered the UK market in the early 1970s, with its light and genuinely compact tractors proving a hit with greenkeepers. But there were other reasons that made these models appealing, such as the wide choice of gear speeds and a tendency to be pretty oil tight. The tractor shown is a 16hp B7100, produced from the 1970s, with knife tine aerator working on a fairway.

Tyres that were purpose-developed for use on fine turf enabled tractors to be used for a wider range of duties, with ancillary equipment being developed to help exploit what the tractor had to offer.



Kubota B7100

“ Tyres that were purpose-developed for use on fine turf helped allow tractors to be used for a wider range of duties, with ancillary equipment being developed to help exploit what the tractor had to offer.



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“Driver comfort has also taken huge steps forwards, with sockets for charging electrical devices, air conditioning and heating and improved visibility. Tractors started out as a simple replacement for animal power, but have now become so much more.

The 45hp Massey Ferguson MF240 is a good example of how agricultural models were adapted to suit the needs of amenity and golf users, with the featured image dating from the early 1980s. The eight forward speed transmission would go down to 1.62km. Although the turf tyres fitted are narrow by modern standards, they were a real step forward.

The introduction of the 35hp John Deere JD4400 and JD365 trailed gang mower combination in the early 2000s moved tractor technology on significantly, with the introduction of hydrostatic drive, turf friendly tyres and a ROPS frame, among others.

Four-wheel-drive and power steering also made this model more versatile and user-friendly than earlier designs, while



MF 240 adapted for golf

also boosting operator comfort. In the modern era tractors often now feature an incredible amount of technology including cruise control and satellite-powered automatic steering systems — such as the StarFire and

AutoTrac Universal systems introduced by John Deere in 2001.

In 2019 Kubota's B2 Series introduced an innovative hydraulic bi-speed turn that activates automatically when the front wheel angle exceeds 35 degrees, allowing for smoother, faster and tighter turns.

Driver comfort has also taken huge steps forwards, with sockets for charging electrical devices, air conditioning and heating and improved visibility.

Tractors started out as a simple replacement for animal power, but have now become so much more. They are among the key multifunctional pieces of machinery on a golf course — truly the greenkeepers' modern workhorse.

When were horses last used at your golf course? What is the biggest innovation in turf machinery that you've experienced during your career? Let us know by emailing karl@bigga.co.uk



John Deere JD4400 and JD365 trailed gang mower combination

JOHN DEERE | GPS precision pays off

Using pioneering technology first introduced by John Deere on its agricultural tractors and other self-propelled equipment in 2001, the company's versatile compact tractor range can now be equipped with a StarFire satellite receiver and AutoTrac Universal automatic steering system.

This is designed to help operators achieve higher levels of accuracy and input cost savings when working with implements such as amenity turf sprayers, spreaders and drills.

Mike Ramsay of MC Country Services, who is based in Rushden in Northamptonshire, bought one of the first John Deere AutoTrac compact tractors in the UK from his local dealer Farol after seeing a top of the range 66hp 4066R at the IOG's SALTEX.

Mike offers a wide variety of professional grass and sports field maintenance services for customers across Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire.

He specialises in reseeding, spraying, mowing, fertilising, harrowing, soil aeration and hedgecutting, and up until his visit to SALTEX had been running a fleet of three compact tractors — one 35hp and two 50hp — on turf tyres to take the range of implements needed to perform each task.

"I was looking specifically to buy an extra tractor with more horsepower to join



the fleet," said Mike. "I was also looking at the latest GPS technology to help me do the jobs more efficiently and with more accuracy. I wanted to save both time and wastage of inputs through overlapping or misses, particularly with the sprayer, spreader and drill attachments.

"I went for the full GPS system with AutoTrac automatic hands-free steering, a GreenStar 4640 touchscreen display, SF6000 satellite receiver and SF3 signal plus JDLink telematics.

"Using JDLink I can get reports sent to my phone or PC straight after any job, just the same as with John Deere's bigger

agricultural tractors. For example, when I'm spraying, the system records wind speed, temperature, tank mix contents, application rates, you name it. Customers love it — I can send them the details straight away. The system's connectivity is fantastic for record keeping, accountability and traceability.

"Once the tractor has been set up for a particular job, you just set a constant speed and away you go — the only time you touch the steering wheel is when you need to turn around, but then the system finds the next parallel pass and away you go again. Hitch Assist is a fantastic system as well, I use it all the time — the implements are heavy, and this reduces the time taken to hitch them up by about 50 per cent.

"The tractor's GreenStar 4640 display controls all the main precision turf operations, including data capture and documentation, AutoTrac hands-free steering and sprayer Section Control. I also use the John Deere MyOperations app via JDLink, which is brilliant for monitoring and managing field work.

"Basically I'm very happy to sit in the John Deere all day, I just love using it for every job, and it's amazing how much time you can save doing them. I wouldn't have a tractor without AutoTrac now, not for the work I do."



Article brought to you by

 **JOHN DEERE**

FIND THE GAP

By Henry Bechelet, Technical Manager ICL

For most of us October will be characterised by decreasing light levels, declining day and night-time temperatures, increasing periods of turf leaf wetness and the slowing down of turf growth.

These are the perfect conditions for Microdochium patch disease. The disease pressure will be further heightened under the ongoing surface preparations (if we are still trying to cling on to playing qualities) or if we are undertaking late-season greens renovations that involve the application of topdressing. This is certainly the time when we need to be fully up and running with our integrated disease control strategies because the risk of significant surface scarring is both real and present.

Fungicides are usually a part of those integrated management strategies, but you may not be aware that their longevity can vary depending on conditions. This is important because you may unwittingly be running your disease control strategy for periods without fungicidal control.

The degradation of fungicidal active ingredients is a natural process that is largely governed by

environmental conditions. Factors such as UV light, microbial activity and the level of plant growth all play a part. Put simply, the warmer the conditions, the quicker the degradation and the shorter the longevity. This means that (in very general terms) a fungicide applied in September might give you two weeks of effective fungicidal control but you might get four weeks in December. In October we will be somewhere in-between and possibly looking at 2-3 weeks of effective control, depending on conditions.

This knowledge is important because we might be in the habit of treating the greens with fungicide during the autumn on a monthly basis. This is fine as long as we understand that the fungicide might run out before the month is over. This being the case, there will be a gap in the period of active fungicidal control before the next treatment is due. To be able to keep on top of the disease, you need to be aware that after the first couple of weeks your greens might be in danger of suffering a resurgence of the pathogen because the fungicide active ingredient has already

degraded (and we know that this resurgence will initially proceed unseen).

It is really important to understand that we might be running through the autumn with occasional gaps in our fungicidal protection, even though we might be applying fungicide on a monthly basis.

Our success at controlling the disease through the rest of the autumn and winter really depends on how we identify, manage and close down those gaps. This means we need to use all our ITM tools to slow down the potential development of the disease, especially at times when we think we might be running without fungicidal protection.

We know from our ITM trials that maintaining plant health with appropriate nutrition, managing leaf wetness with the use of specialist surfactants and the well-timed use of sulphate of iron can all help to create conditions that are less conducive for the development of Microdochium patch. These measures don't control the disease, but they are clearly shown to slow it down and so can be used to hinder the disease resurgence, which is particularly important during

periods when we do not have fungicidal control.

Now the effectiveness of these supporting ITM strategies at "slowing the resurgence down" will depend on how quickly the disease is wanting to develop. If the disease pressure is moderate, as is likely at this time, then our non-fungicidal ITM methods can still be meaningful, especially if deployed at the right time. If our nutrition, moisture management and use of iron are set in place to coincide with the onset of a period without fungicidal control then they might really help to keep the greens clear for a week or 10 days before we have to be seriously considering the application of our next preventative fungicide. It just depends on the levels of disease pressure at the time.

If the disease pressure is high when we enter a gap period then I think we must accept that our supporting ITM strategies will be of lesser value and we might be best making the next preventative fungicide application sooner than planned.

The point is that our autumn disease control strategy should not be calendar-based. Our strategy needs to be constructed around a realistic understanding of fungicide longevity and an ongoing sense of the disease pressure. We must have a good background ITM strategy in place to slow down any potential resurgence of the disease when we move out of full fungicidal control. These measures might be best focussed with specific

applications made to coincide with the advent of those periods when we might be running without fungicidal control.

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ICL

Catch up with Henry each month on the "On the horizon" podcast with Glenn Kirby from Syngenta.

On the horizon

with Glenn and Henry



Irrigation investment delivers impressive results

Close to the Malvern Hills yet only a stone's throw from the city centre, Worcester Golf & Country Club at Boughton Park is a sand-based parkland course designed by Dr Alister MacKenzie in 1927.

Specialist irrigation consultant Roger Davey, managing director of Irritech, carried out an evaluation of the inefficient, 30-year-old irrigation system in July 2018, identifying short-term solutions, addressing the pump house that needed immediate attention, as well as highlighting longer term requirements.

Recommendations were presented at the club AGM and well received. The club began researching different system solutions, visiting several courses locally and sought advice from independent agronomist Peter Jones. Irritech developed a full tender specification and in October 2019 the contract was awarded to North Staffs Irrigation, with work scheduled to begin in January 2020.

After a very good start, the UK went into lockdown in March due to COVID-19 and

“We’ve come long way in the last twenty years. Heads have improved but the biggest changes are in software. Today, irrigation is as important as a mower to a greenkeeper

plans were totally disrupted.

By the time restrictions eased, allowing work to continue, ground conditions made installation much more challenging.

North Staffs Irrigation Director Andy Hinchliffe explained: “30-degree temperatures turned the ground rock solid. Progress inevitably took longer and excavation required a digger, which meant even more disruption. We set up temporary hosepipes to allow turf to be watered. Three greens on almost solid clay ground were so dry that the surface had visibly cracked. In the end, we got there, helped along by good rapport between everyone involved. And now, the turf has fully recovered and looks amazing”.

The club's £400,000 investment included Rain Bird Central and single head control for 450 rotors with an advanced IC System backed by a GSP support plan. Rain Bird 751 Series rotors were installed on the 20 greens and surrounds and 950 and 551 Series rotors on all 18 tees.

The existing borehole supply for the lake was enhanced with a new pump providing a new tank feed.

The new system was finally commissioned in October 2020 and has been fully operational since March 2021.

Course Manager Karl Williams said: “I joined Worcester Golf and Country Club in April, right at the start of the season and just as we were starting to come out of lockdown. With members' expectations high, the pressure was really on. It was a harsh learning curve but our new Rain Bird irrigation system is a real asset and an absolute pleasure to work with. The biggest change it's made is using the same water volume we used on our greens but now, we also have tees and surrounds that are lush and green.

“It's operator-friendly, easy to use and when it's set up and running, I can go home on a Friday knowing everything will be working fine over the weekend. If there's a problem, I'll get an immediate notification and Rain Bird GSP support is very responsive. Having back-up is a key factor and knowing it's just an email or call away means getting something fixed straightaway and gives you peace of mind. At the moment, my deputy, Oliver

Kavanagh, and I operate the system but in future, we may look at one of the team having dedicated responsibility for irrigation.

“I've had fantastic support from Club Director Andy Baker and from members. As I'm in and out of the clubhouse, I talk to members about the exciting changes we're making. We all want the same – for our course to be the best in Worcestershire – and together, I do feel we're a driving force.

“My top tip, having been through two major irrigation system installations, is to talk to other course managers, pick their brains and, when choosing software, make sure you've got the best system back up and support in place.

“We've come a long way in the last 20 years. Heads have improved but the biggest changes are in

software. Today, irrigation is as important as a mower to a greenkeeper”.

Andy Baker offered some timely advice to clubs considering a system renovation or upgrade: “Get a consultant in to help, plan installation work during winter when ground conditions are more suitable and work in close partnership with your installation team. The renovation has given our reputation a real boost.

“With improved coverage, our MacKenzie course is efficient in terms of water use and looks very well presented; our members are delighted with the results. With climate change making rainfall so unpredictable, what we've done improves the course and has an impact on the future sustainability of our club.”

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Course Manager Karl Williams



3 classes of products for healthy turf this autumn

Alas summer has gone, but we still have the beautiful colours of autumn to enjoy! Keeping turf healthy during the 'disease season' can be a challenge, but three classes of products that can help (of course there are more!) are discussed below.

Iron products

To green up, harden-off and also keep moss at bay, iron is well used in the autumn. Ferrous sulphate is the most common, but what about the chelates? Chelated iron refers to iron combined with 'chelates' — molecules that form especially strong multiple bonds with iron and can stop it undergoing unwanted reactions to form insoluble precipitates.

Chelates can thus make iron more readily bioavailable for longer. Nutrient chelates are made in huge volume for agriculture. Citric acid is also a chelating agent and some iron

products contain this. Citric acid occurs naturally and its low pH can help with maintaining a suitable soil and tank mix pH — it does have significant chelating power too but certainly not as strong as EDTA and DTPA, which are often the ones used in agricultural nutrients.

So, what about those more powerful chelates? EDTA and DTPA products ensure much more protection to the iron atom — helping it to be more compatible in tank mixes for longer and protecting it from those unwanted reactions in the soil that can form very insoluble iron compounds.

Black layer is normally the presence of iron sulphide — formed in the soil from the reaction of iron compounds with hydrogen sulphide (generated under anaerobic conditions in the soil when sulphates are reduced to sulphides). Of course, we put down lots of iron and lots of sulphates on a golf green — so

with anaerobic conditions we have a ready supply of all the right ingredients for black layer formation! Avoiding anaerobic conditions can stop it, but it may be easier said than done at times. Use of a bit less iron and sulphate may also help.

Did you know that you can also use less iron for green up if you use a special class of silicone surfactant in your tank mix to dramatically aid the foliar uptake? With such an approach you can achieve the same results with half the level of iron — it's worth considering!

Dew dispersants

The use of dew dispersants is rapidly becoming much more common — as well as the obvious playability benefits for putting on a golf green early doors, they really do have a pronounced effect on fungal disease pressure.

Switching is recommended

as a cultural practice to reduce disease pressure, but the moisture has to build up first — with a good dew dispersant it's working all the time to keep moisture off the leaf! If you find a product that can work for up to two weeks you have the basis of an excellent and cost-effective programme. A good dew dispersant can also disperse rain too!

Penetrants

Most courses will drop monthly residual wetting agent programmes in the autumn (although a small proportion of clubs do use them year-round and see some benefits) and for some

then, penetrant wetting agents may have greater utility. Penetrant surfactants are generally smaller, more mobile, more water-soluble molecules and they have a more pronounced effect on surface tension than residuals do. Once in the soil, when rainwater comes along, the surfactant partitions across more readily and this can assist the water in its movement through the profile.

So, what are the benefits? In autumn and winter there is generally more rainfall — but more importantly there is less evaporation and evapotranspiration as temperatures are lower, hence profiles become more saturated. This leads to softer

“Did you know that you can also use less iron for green up if you use a special class of silicone surfactant in your tank mix to dramatically aid the foliar uptake?”

greens (making it difficult to take machinery onto them at times) but it also affects aeration and the health of the rootzone. Water sitting in thatch or saturating pore spaces leads to anaerobic conditions. Anaerobic conditions lead to an incomplete breakdown of plant material (and other substances in the soil) and the result is the generation of

some plant toxic materials, such as hydrogen sulphide and hydrophobic materials.

Aerobic conditions, on the other hand, favour a more complete breakdown, mineralisation and generate healthier rootzones. Tining and hollow-coring are vital mechanical processes that support the maintenance of aerobic conditions and drainage — additionally,

penetrant surfactants can also play a role and they do have genuine effects. Many dew dispersants do provide some penetrant activity too, but more effective dedicated penetrant products are available and they can be relatively cost effective. At times a penetrant can even be used to aid the removal of standing water in bunkers!

Continue the conversation

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Guilty plea for green-killing golfer

A golfer whose club membership was revoked following accusations of bullying has been given a three-month suspended jail term for causing £16,000-worth of damage to the club's greens.

Former miner Glen Newton, 55, pleaded guilty to criminal damage after he was caught on CCTV pouring weedkiller on to the greens at Woolley Park in West Yorkshire. Course Manager

John Rowbottom was able to apprehend Glen and pulled off his balaclava while also filming the incident, leading to Newton confessing when the police arrived.

Newton's membership had been removed by the club owners following clashes with club staff and other members.

We'll be catching up with the team at Woolley Park in an upcoming edition of GI to find out more about how they brought him to justice.



Kirkby Valley plan

Green Circle Leisure has unveiled a £20m masterplan to transform Kirkby Valley Golf Club in Liverpool.

Among the improvements will be a remodelled championship course, a new 9-hole academy course and teaching hub, a driving range, adventure golf attraction and purpose-built clubhouse and other facilities.

Green Circle managing director Craig Coley said: "Ever since we took over the operation of Kirkby Valley from Liverpool City Council,

we have been determined to realise the outstanding potential of the course and its location. The key to the success of our golf model is to provide both quality and variety. We're providing opportunities for people of every age group and ability level, alongside a welcoming and attractive family leisure and hospitality offer."

The vision has been designed by International Design Group and a planning decision is expected early 2022, with a 3-4 year build.

4,000-year-old coffin found in water hazard



A log coffin containing the remains of a man buried with an axe, thought to date from 4,000 years ago, has been unearthed during works to a pond at Tetney Golf Club.

The find was made by chance in July 2018 and

sparked a rescue mission that was supported by £70,000 of Historic England funding.

Historic England team leader Tim Allen said: "Bronze Age log coffins are rare and for them to survive after their discovery is even rarer."

Alnwick Castle

Northumberland Estates has announced plans to invest more than £500,000 into Alnwick Golf Club.

Among the improvements will be a new clubhouse and greenkeeping facility, as well as course improvements.

Northumberland Estates' Andrew Robson said: "Alnwick Castle Golf Club has worked very hard over recent years to increase membership. We

very much hope these new facilities will not only assist in attracting new members but will also provide the means to create new income streams through hiring out the improved hospitality areas for social events, bringing more people to the club."

The project is a joint endeavour by the golf club and owners Northumberland Estates.

Amenity Forum event

The 2021 Amenity Forum conference will be held on 21 October at The Pirelli Stadium in Burton-on-Trent, along with online options.

The title this year will be 'Facing the Future' and will focus on policy change and its impact. The event will commence with keynote

speakers from Defra, the Chemicals Regulation Department of HSE and the Environment Agency. There will also be a number of other expert speakers involved.

For more information or to buy a ticket, contact Kate Hopkins on admin@amenityforum.net

SALTEX just around the corner



Everyone at BIGGA wishes the Grounds Management Association the best of luck as SALTEX returns to the NEC this November.

SALTEX will be celebrating its 75th anniversary when the event takes place on 3 and 4 November. The exhibition will feature over 400 brands and in addition to the opportunities available on the show floor, one visitor will be presented with an Avant UK compact loader worth £30,000. SALTEX is the

longest-standing event of its kind, having been held almost every year since 1938.

Luke Perry, GMA's commercial and events director, said: "We can't wait to celebrate SALTEX's 75th anniversary with the industry. SALTEX 2021 will be one to remember because it will be the first time that the grounds management industry reunites on a grand scale since the pandemic. After a year out, it's finally time to say 'see you at SALTEX'."

DLF to invest £3.5m in facilities

DLF Seeds is to invest £3.5m in new mixing and distribution facilities at its main seed processing site at Inkberrow in Worcestershire.

This move comes on the back of a £3m investment at DLF's Scottish site at Broxburn, near Edinburgh, in 2015, which automated the handling of forage grass and clover mixtures in the agricultural market.

Tim Kerridge, managing director for DLF Seeds, said: "This investment will transform our current production facilities and bring much-needed additional capacity and efficiency to cope with the future market demands in the amenity, consumer, environmental stewardship, cover crop and wildflower markets.

The investment encompasses a fully-automated mixing plant for amenity and consumer



products, while freeing up existing mixing capacity to triple the throughput of environmental stewardship, cover crops and wildflowers.

Tim added: "This is a very exciting time for our industry, when we must invest to ensure our customers can continue to receive the highest levels of service and the quickest delivery times for their orders."

Work is expected to be completed by spring 2023.

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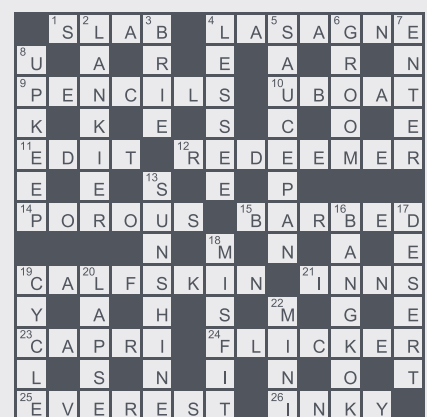
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Across: 1 Slab,
4 Lasagne, 9 Pencils,
10 U-boat, 11 Edit,
12 Redeemer, 14 Porous,
15 Barbed, 19 Calfskin,
21 Inns, 23 Capri,
24 Flicker, 25 Everest,
26 Inky.
Down: 2 Lankier, 3 Brie,
4 Lessee, 5 Saucepan,
6 Groom, 7 Enter,
8 Upkeep, 13 Sunshine,
16 Bangkok, 17 Desert,
18 Misfit, 19 Cycle,
20 Lapse, 22 Mini.

Easy

4	5	8	1	6	7	9	3	2
1	2	9	3	8	4	5	6	7
3	7	6	9	5	2	4	8	1
8	1	5	2	3	6	7	4	9
7	3	4	5	9	8	2	1	6
9	6	2	4	7	1	3	5	8
5	4	1	8	2	9	6	7	3
2	8	7	6	4	3	1	9	5
6	9	3	7	1	5	8	2	4

Hard

2	6	1	5	3	9	7	4	8
5	7	8	4	6	2	1	3	9
3	4	9	8	1	7	2	6	5
7	9	2	3	8	6	5	1	4
1	5	3	7	9	4	6	8	2
6	8	4	1	2	5	3	9	7
4	1	5	9	7	3	8	2	6
8	2	7	6	4	1	9	5	3
9	3	6	2	5	8	4	7	1

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1961-1962

HISTORY OF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS

1961

It was noted by the British Golf Greenkeepers Association (BGGA) that in the Ryder Cup held that year, that although the Americans almost always repaired their pitchmarks, hardly any of the British team did. A letter was sent to The R&A deploring their etiquette.

Jim Ellis was the first head greenkeeper at St-Nom-la-Breteche and supervised the construction of both courses. He was just bringing them into good order



1961 Jim Ellis was the first head greenkeeper at St Nom

when he met with a fatal car accident in France on his way back to England for the BGGA Tournament at Bridlington.

Earlier in 1961 the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association (SGGA) had finally achieved a breakthrough after 10 years of battering down the walls of officialdom erected by the Scottish Golf Union, the secretaries and golf clubs themselves. An announcement was made that an apprenticeship scheme would be set in motion with a four-year contract, a set scale of wages and a course at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI).

There would also be a scheme to improve working conditions for greenkeepers and it was announced that the Ministry of Labour would put greenkeeping on their official list in every Labour Exchange (Job Centre) in Scotland.

At an SGGA executive meeting it was reported that some clubs were advertising for head greenkeepers with the words 'no experience necessary'.



1962

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association. When you consider there were two world wars in that time, on top of all the usual obstacles new organisations face and the fact it was all voluntary work, then many people had to be congratulated in keeping the association alive.

What would the next 50 years bring? Every greenkeeper in the land a member? Wages and conditions comparable to other recognised trades? Greenkeepers being recognised for their skills in many aspects of turf culture

and being treated as an equal with the secretary and professional?

In the early part of 1962, after a lot of toing and froing, the Northumberland and Durham Greenkeepers' Association finally decided to re-join the BGGA, which was another fillip to the membership.

An interesting item from F W Hawtree suggested — light-heartedly, methinks — that a course he had visited on the French Riviera could be an ideal venue for the annual tournament when the Common Market leads the BGGA to become the European Golf Greenkeepers Association — obviously Fred's vision for the future!

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YES, BARONESS CAN STAY ON CUT EVEN WHEN WORM CASTS ARE PRESENT

Does your mower go off cut quicker than you'd like? Then demo a Baroness, we really do stay on cut up to 3 x longer than the competition...

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

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

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



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