

# THE COURSE SPECIALISTS

HOW THE NAUNTON DOWNS TEAM GO THE DISTANCE WITH TWO DISTINCT TURF MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Beaches, beers and Barbados

One Master Greenkeeper's Caribbean adventure

#### Essex Section's quarter century

We meet stalwarts Martin Forrester and Andy Harding USPGA Championship

The 'tournament junkie' in charge at Southern Hills

## How much light do greens need?

How to quantify light requirements for putting greens

BIGGA National Championship Scan the QR code to register for this year's event



# Making light work





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I have voiced my frustration in these pages about the way individual golf clubs can treat their employees with generally no comeback.

In some other sports all clubs have to adhere to strict codes of conduct, meaning all volunteers are formally trained and the club stands to be severely punished if any of those volunteers misbehave.

But in golf, particularly the private members' sector, it is possible for a well-meaning club member to be thrust into a position engaging directly with skilled staff but with no advice, guidance or training at all. If this goes wrong, and sadly it does, it can impact on employees' lives significantly, bringing stress, heartache and sometimes employment loss. Influencing this group of individuals is difficult as they are not accountable to anyone except the membership of

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# WELCOME



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

their club and very often most club members are not at all engaged with the governance of their facility.

Improving the way golf clubs engage with greenkeepers is probably BIGGA's primary objective and it was a key topic at our most recent board meeting. Thank you to the more than 1,000 members who completed our workforce survey as the data this provides will give us a vivid picture of the challenges the industry currently faces.

This will enable us to do two key things. Firstly to demonstrate clearly to the golf industry the challenges we are facing and secondly to provide a benchmark that we can utilise to measure progress in future years.

**BIGGA** continues to engage closely with the game's governing bodies with regard to this and I know this is having a positive impact in some cases. We also work increasingly closely with the Golf Club Managers Association whose members can experience very similar challenges but are also better placed to effect change. We are also endeavouring to engage more directly with golfers, most recently through a partnership with Chair Network, an organisation set up specifically for volunteer committee members in private member golf clubs.

Lifestyle Counselling 0333 000 2082

Human Resources 0845 646 1332 bigga@hrservicesscotland.co.uk

**BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund** benevolentfund@bigga.co.uk

# **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

#### Editor's Notes

Greenkeeper International editor. Karl Hansell

We recently enjoyed a team building session at BIGGA, which included all staff being asked three guestions - What did you want to be when you grew up? What's your favourite snack? What's your favourite song?

It probably won't come as a huge surprise, but every one of us who stood up said something very different to what we do today. That's not meant to be a knock on BIGGA, far from it, but none of us had pursued the career that we dreamt of as schoolchildren - few of us had even tried going down that path.

For me, I wanted to be Dr Alan Grant from Jurassic Park (the first bit of the film where he's doing palaeontology and it's all 'oooh' and 'ahhh', not later when there's running and um, screaming).

Could greenkeeping ever be a career that captures a child's imagination early on in their education? Would getting pupils out to golf courses inspire them to not only pursue a career in the outdoors, but also strive to do better things for the environment? And could golf's public image be vastly improved as a result?

This month's magazine is once again filled with a wide range of golf courses maintained by passionate, hard-working and knowledgeable course managers. As is so often the case, they are all white, middle-aged men. At what point does this become a real crisis?

BIGGA recently undertook a major workforce survey among course managers and head greenkeepers. The answers are fascinating and we'll be presenting you with some of the data in July's magazine.

What can we do to ensure a healthy and vibrant greenkeeping industry in the future? As always, I'm eager to hear the thoughts of BIGGA members.

Oh and my other answers? Chorizo straight out the fridge and Always the Last to Know, ironically enough.

#### From Your Association

03

14

20

Welcome: BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton provides an update on the association's activities.

#### Across the Board:

Chester-le-Street's Jack Hetherington has recently joined BIGGA's board of management.

#### What's On: There's a BIGGA event near you, so why not get involved today and maximise your membership?

Around the Green: Meet **BIGGA** Scotland's first president and hear about a charity bike ride.

#### **Championship Performances:**

Meet the greenkeepers hosting England Golf events throughout this season with Leaderboard Photography.

Tee Break: Our regular puzzles page helps you keep your mind active during a quiet lunch break.

ICL Scholars: This fantastic education opportunity for BIGGA members returns at Continue to Learn 2023.

History of Greenkeepers' Associations: In 1976 BGGA mourned the death of two stalwarts, including a former Irish Open champion.

#### Education

**Z**6

30

82

**Future Turf Managers** Initiative: Jacobsen is inviting 20 BIGGA members to take their career to the next level.

Apprentice Corner: What should you be on the look out for when assessing the quality of turf on your golf club's greens?

**Ecology:** The latest insight from BIGGA's sustainability expert James Hutchinson looks at wildflowers.

#### **Practical Greenkeeping**

Sustainable Golf:

Royal Liverpool's innovative solution to sourcing sand saves tonnes of carbon from being released every year.

#### Member Interest

34

**Essex:** To mark the Section's 25th anniversary we spoke to the head greenkeepers at Essex G&CC and Boyce Hill.

USPGA Championship: Last month Russ Myers hosted a major at Southern Hills in Tulsa. Oklahoma.

#### In-Depth

52

Insight: Why anthracnose discussed disease in turf management.



## LOOK OUT FOR...

#### Education

06







Keith Ratcliff MG: Keith is a Master Greenkeeper with over 29 years' experience on golf courses around the globe, including 14 years in the Caribbean.

#### Member Interest



Shaun Kench: There's a fascinating project underway at Naunton Downs, where Shaun and his team have constructed a golf course around a world class horse racing facility.

**Researching biostimulants:** A closer look at research that has taken place, with much not available to the public.



36

**Overseeding:** Nine tips for saving costs when overseeding golf greens,

according to GreenTek.

## 74

look at the 300-year

ryegrass.







#### **Practical Greenkeeping**

Meet the Managers: In anticipation of The Open heading to St Andrews for the 150th instalment next month, we speak to Director of Greenkeeping Sandy Reid.



#### In Depth

36



Zach Nicoludis: The USGA agronomist presented research that will help you quantify the amount of light your putting greens require and adjust your practices to suit.

Bayer: Bayer Environmental Science explains how time, investment and science are helping combat stress in turf.

DLF Johnsons: An in-depth cultivation of perennial



Industry News: News from around the turf management industry, including an emergency authorisation.

#### Useful Information



**Recruitment:** Take the next step in your career with the latest vacancies.



68



As an area manager for the company, my primary responsibilities included the management of a handful of golf courses, three Sport England National Sports Centres and the Football Association's newly appointed training facility, St Georges Park near Burton-on-Trent.

The year had been going well, having attained Master Greenkeeper certification in January, attended the GCSAA conference with the BIGGA delegation in February and a couple of months later, with thanks to my team, we achieved a British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) principal award for the National Sports Centres.

I now needed a new challenge and a phone call was about to provide that: "Fancy a job in Barbados?" said the voice on the other end of the line.

"It's a bit far," I replied, "No thanks".

COSTA RICA

Another phone call but with my wife this time and she wisely pointed out that I should consider the job, adding that I may regret the decision not to go for the rest of my life.

Jim McKenzie recently wrote in Greenkeeper International about turning down the opportunity to work abroad as one of his biggest regrets and therefore he would encourage young greenkeepers to grasp the chance if offered. And so, even though I was well into the wrong side of young, I found myself jetting off to the Caribbean for an odyssey that would last 11 1/2 years.

#### **Getting there**

Barbados, in the sunny Caribbean Sea, remember the song? It is 4,020 miles away from London Gatwick and takes an 8-hour non-stop flight to get there, but not on Coconut Airways! To work in the Caribbean as a non-national you will need a work permit and be prepared to jump through a few hoops to get it. A medical, criminal record check, character reference and also evidence of all your academic and vocational gualifications are required. You will also require medical insurance and a few thousand Barbados dollars

HAIT

Guadeloupe (France)

JAMAICA

 $(\$2.70 = \pounds1)$  for the work permit which hopefully you have agreed in your contract.

Prior to leaving my current job, I went to Barbados for a week's reconnaissance and to agree personal terms and conditions. By 1 August 2008 I had taken up the position of assistant

Another phone call but with my wife this time and she wisely pointed out that I should consider the job adding that I may regret the decision not to go for the rest of my life.

superintendent at the Royal Westmoreland Golf Club. The 18-hole golf course is situated on the west coast of the island near Holetown and was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jnr in

# ACARBBEAN

**TALKING POINTS** 

**ODYSSEY** 

How one greenkeeper swapped the Home Counties for Barbados

DOMINICA Martinique (France) ▲ SAINT LUCIA **BARBADOS** SAINT VINCENT AND GRENADINES GRENADA COLOMBIA

Keith Ratcliff MG

the 1990s. The Tifway 419 Bermudagrass fairways and tees, together with the Tifdwarf greens, ran parallel to the rather expensive villas on the Westmoreland estate.

Warm season grass and C3 photosynthesis? I was on a steep learning curve having only previously worked on cool season grass in the UK and Croatia.

#### Off to work

Being close to the equator, Barbados receives approximately 12 hours of daylight with the sun rising at around 5.30am and setting at 6pm or thereabouts. There are some slight seasonal changes to this but work starts at 6am for an 8-hour shift or more if required. With the exception of excessive rainfall, tropical storms and hurricanes, golf is played 365 days a year. Therefore work and high standards are required all year round.

Bermudagrass (Cynodon dactylon), though not native to Bermuda, is widespread throughout the Caribbean as the climate is ideal, it thrives in heat, is drought tolerant and flourishes in sunlight. While the chemical, cultural and biological practices are generally the same for cool season grass, there the comparison pretty much ends. There is no grass dormancy here. The extreme nature of the climate and the vigour of warm season grass requires an unremitting and high input maintenance programme. »





Thatch and grain control, together with frequent light topdressings are vital to provide firm fast greens and well-manicured tees and fairways. Fertiliser inputs are required throughout the year due to the leaching of nutrients from the high levels of rainfall. The little-and-often approach is key here. Granular applications to greens are carried out every 3-4 weeks supplemented with foliar feeding every 10 days. Tees would receive monthly light granular applications while the fairways, with a much higher CEC, would receive up to three granular applications a year.

A combination of organic and synthetic products would be applied to greens, providing around 300kg N/ha/ year. I can hear the groans now: "300kg of N a year on greens?" Indeed so, but in this climate it is still a sustainable practice, both agronomic and economic.

Fortunately in the Caribbean we can still rely on a variety of pesticides to combat the weeds, pests and diseases. Weeds such as Goosegrass, which I regard as a warm season Poa annua, Crabgrass, Hurricane Grass, Nutsedge and Spotted Spurge can all be controlled

with a variety of pre and post-emergent herbicides. MSMA (monosodium acid. methane arsenate), metsulfuron-methyl and halosulfuron-methyl are just a few of the active ingredients at our disposal.

Cutworm are an issue, especially after aerating greens. They are a moth larvae

and a perennial pest. Their presence in a golf green is destructive and their habit and damage caused is not dissimilar to the leatherjacket. An application of imidacloprid or carbaryl followed by some irrigation would control them.

Fire ants were a concern during my time in St Kitts. The golf course there was 100% organic, which would require an

**C** The golf course there was 100% organic which would require an innovative and unique approach to turf management.

innovative and unique approach to turf management. The ants not only gave a nasty bite, but would build their nests within the green profile and cause an uneven putting surface due to mounds on the putting surface and the subsidence of nests in the rootzone. The solution was to inject carbon dioxide into the nests using an air injection lance connected to an old scuba tank

containing the gas.

The incidence of turf disease was never a serious issue although Bermuda decline, which is caused by the presence of Gaeumannomyces graminis, would sometimes appear in the Tifdwarf greens. Brown patch (Rhizoctonia solani) would develop in Zoysiagrass during the latter part of the year, possibly due to the slightly lower temperatures and heavier morning dew frequently encountered at the higher elevations on the Apes Hill golf course in Barbados. Disease pressure was often short lived and controlled with cultural and chemical practices.

Working on a golf course as remote as Barbados is from the United States and South America does present logistical problems. Prior planning and preparation is fundamental wherever your golf course is, but ever more so on a Caribbean island. Bulk deliveries of fertiliser would be shipped in from Florida twice a year while our topdressing came in 3,000 tonne loads from Guyana, South America. Two companies on the island would provide a limited stock of fertiliser and chemicals which came in handy at times. Surfactants and soil amendments would sometimes be ordered from the UK if costs were favourable. Similarly the workshop manager would bring in containers of consumable items and spare parts at least once a year. Global freight companies could be relied upon to quickly deliver last-minute

replacement parts.

Budgets and staffing levels are high given the presentation levels required. An operating budget of US \$2 million and a greenkeeping team of 40+ are not uncommon. During construction and grow-in at Apes Hill we had a team of 70!

#### It never rains but it pours

There is no winter or summer in the Caribbean. Instead there is a dry season from December to June and a wet season from July to November. Temperatures throughout the year average around 28°C with annual rainfall in excess of 2 metres. The wet season brings in the tropical storms and hurricanes and it is not uncommon to get 130mm of rain in a few hours during this period.

On 2 July 2021 Hurricane Elsa was the first hurricane to hit Barbados in 65 years. Only 70mm of rain fell as Elsa passed through but strong winds uprooted trees and many parts of the island were without power and water for several days. Golf courses did not escape damage. The Apes Hill golf course which was still under construction and growing-in received significant damage. Sand-capped fairways, sprigs, plugs, sod and drainage systems were simply washed away. We got off fairly lightly considering some families lost their homes. The damage to the course was compounded by the 270mm of rain which fell in the days following Elsa. A total of 322mm in 15 days!

While working in St Kitts in 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria landed within two weeks of each other. Maria would cause US \$12 million of damage to the island and go on and cause over 3,000 deaths in neighbouring Caribbean islands and the United States.

#### Fire and brimstone

Mount Soufriére is an active volcano on St Vincent and suffered an explosive eruption in early April 2021. St Vincent is approximately 100 miles due west of Barbados and soon there were volcanic clouds dropping ash over the island. The greens at Apes Hill, which were now growing in, with some being cut at 3mm, were covered in a layer of ash that needed to be removed. While the ash contained some beneficial micro and macronutrients, the very fine particle size and depth of the ash was impeding water infiltration and the greens were also becoming chlorotic. A combination of leaf blowers, brushes, hose pipes and the

unwanted ash with a wetting agent applied to flush the greens. Greens were later aerated to further improve water infiltration and percolation.

#### Sprigs, plugs and sod

A number of Zoysia and Bermudagrass cultivars can be grown from seed but sprigs, plugs or sod is by and large the preferred option. It is generally quicker and more practical to establish turf from sprigs that are initially shipped to the island in refrigerated containers. In a construction phase you would establish a turf nursery from these sprigs and once ready harvest your own sprigs, plugs and sod from it.

The portion of a plant that includes a short piece of stolon or rhizome, roots and leaves is called a sprig. To establish turf from sprigs is straight forward enough





vere covered in a laver of ash



but time and labour intensive. Lightly scatter the sprigs over an area and then cut them into the soil using a disc harrow. Don't let them dry out and then wait!

Fairways and putting greens are typically sprigged using the appropriate grass. Sprigging is more cost effective than using plugs and may establish guicker, washouts permitting.

Plugs are small pieces of sod 3-4 inches square. The closer the plugs are spaced the quicker they'll get established and spread. If properly cared for plugs will spread about 1-2 inches per month.

Sod is an American term for turf. The sod is most commonly used in areas that are more likely to wash out such as bunker faces, green and tee surrounds.

#### Remuneration

Remuneration for golf course superintendents reflects the degree of responsibility and challenges faced when working in the Caribbean. Salaries usually include additional benefits such as annual return airfares, housing allowance and a vehicle. Income tax and national insurance is deducted at around 23%. Salaries are paid monthly into a local bank and international wire transfers can be made with approval from the Central Bank.

#### **Creepy crawlies**

There are no snakes on the island the imported mongoose killed them off many years ago — but there are centipedes large enough to give you a nasty bite. They like to hide in irrigation



controllers so open those lids carefully.

West Indies

Cockroaches are harmless enough but have a habit of hiding in your work boots so it's a good idea to check your footwear before putting them on. Sand flies, the size of a pin head, are annoying as they bite away at your ankles, but the biggest threat comes from the mosquito. This insect is responsible for dengue haemorrhagic fever and the Chikungunya virus which I was unfortunate to catch a few years ago.

Be aware also of the threat from the sea. There are sharks in the Caribbean but in Barbados they are generally confined to the east coast. Lion fish are a deep water threat if diving but stonefish and scorpion fish are poisonous fish that blend in well with the coral reef and can be easily stood on.

#### Living the dream

Having put the hours in at work you could be forgiven for having a 'cold one' at a local rum shop or beach bar at the end of the day - but the 4.30am alarm call the next day will generally curtail your indulgence. You are after all there to work even if many people are there on holiday. Food shopping is expensive but if

you're prepared to shop around you can still find some bargains and even some

familiar items from the UK on the shelves. Restaurants are numerous and range from 5 star fine wining and dining to venues where you can indulge in

macaroni pie, pig's tails or stepper soup which is made from boiled chicken's feet! When driving around the island be

prepared to 'go with the flow'. They drive on the left here but there the similarity with UK driving ends. The locals are courteous drivers and will give way to pedestrians, vehicles and black-bellied sheep at the drop of a hat. But be aware that they will also stop without warning in the middle of the road to have a chat with a friend. A chorus of car horns are constantly heard as a means of saying hello or to say thank you for giving way.

Indicators and brake lights would appear to be optional extras while hand signals are still widely practiced. But what a nice bunch of people. The aforementioned black-bellied sheep are routinely seen on the highways looking for new pastures to graze.

Barbados is roughly 24 miles by 12 miles wide but direction signs are scarce off the beaten track and sometimes the only direction clues available are the 'To the City' signs. These bus stop signs will eventually get you back to Bridgetown

and familiar surroundings. I have used this method many times coming back from the 'hash'. (See below).

Socially it's a great place to be. Scuba diving and golf is readily available while the Barbados Hash House Harriers (the running club with a drinking problem, or

Cockroaches are harmless enough but have a habit of hiding in your work boots so it's a good idea to check your footwear

vice versa) meet up every Saturday. Live televised football is readily available in any number of sports bars on the island and if you like your cricket then there is the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown. Golden beaches and the warm Caribbean Sea on the south and west





# BIGGA NATIONAL **CHAMPIONSHIP**

Enville Golf Club 10 - 11 October 2022

Enter online at www.bigga.org.uk or scan the QR code



coasts are a big attraction too with a variety of water sports available.

My Caribbean odyssey sadly came to an end in December 2021 but if you ever get the opportunity to work there or anywhere else abroad go for it. If it's not what you were expecting then home is never too far away. Would I go to the Caribbean again? In a flash — I'm just waiting for another phone call.





# ACROSS THE BOARD

Jack Hetherington | Northern Region | Course Manager | Chester-le-Street

My name is Jack Hetherington, I'm course manager at Chester-le-Street and at this year's AGM I joined the National Board of BIGGA as the Northern Region director.

My relationship with BIGGA began in 2014 when I seized the opportunity to skip a day at work in favour of a tour at St James' Park stadium. where Newcastle United play.

l expected to skive off work and enjoy a tour of my boyhood club, but what I wasn't expecting was the engagement with peers and the start of a journey that would change my career.

I'm an incredibly competitive person - I'm not sure if that's a blessing or a curse yet — but upon my first interaction with my peers I created a number of measuring sticks that I would use to reflect upon the progression of my career.

I pride myself on the ability to be honest with myself and not allowing the judgement of others to mean more than my own knowledge and experience. I consider this to be a much-needed talent if you become a course manager. However, this isn't any good if you lack the self-awareness to know what you need to do to improve yourself.

At St James' Park I met Stuart Imeson, a local course manager who was three years younger than me - I was still an assistant at the time! It was clear that he knew what he was doing and all I had to do



At each event l attended l would create new measuring sticks none of these people were aware that was tracking their career and trying to keep up with them!

was keep up. We kept in touch, our aims aligned and over the years we've helped each other, and ourselves, a great deal.

At the core of that journey were opportunities created by BIGGA and at each event I attended I would create new measuring sticks, based upon the BIGGA members I met. None of these people were aware that I was tracking their career and trying to keep up with them!

A combination of the people I have met in this industry, the opportunities provided by BIGGA and my own stubborn, competitive nature have resulted in a career path far greater than

the one I was on before my involvement with BIGGA.

Eight years have passed and I still use BIGGA as a tool to progress my career. At the moment, my relationship with the association is very much about what BIGGA can do for me, rather than what I can do for BIGGA — as I suspect it is for most people. Given time, I hope that relationship balances out and eventually it becomes more about what I can do for BIGGA, to give back to the industry that has offered me so much.

When I was approached to join the BIGGA National Board, I had to ask myself 'what's in it for me?' I have been a course manager for

seven years and have operated on three different golf club management boards. I had attended a couple of BIGGA's National Board meetings and it was clear to me why I couldn't pass up the opportunity. Golf club boards vary greatly in their professionalism and their desired outcomes.

From meeting to meeting this can sometimes lead to frustration, especially when you're giving your all out on the course and that isn't recognised. But the level of professionalism within BIGGA's National Board, such as how they communicate, operate and navigate issues, is an excellent example of an effective board. Working alongside them is

providing me with an education so that I can be the consistent standard within club boards I operate on. I feel success in club board meetings has a massive impact on success managing the course and so they are very important.

I'm fairly confident that without BIGGA I would have achieved success within this industry. But I know for a fact that it has been a lot more fun and a smoother journey because I engaged with the association as often as I was able to.

l intend to continue using BIGGA for self improvement opportunities and would recommend anyone to do the same, regardless of your ultimate ambition.















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.

The BIGGA Partner Programme provides an array of career enhancing and defining opportunities for our members.

Through their relationship with BIGGA, the leading companies in the industry support our members through education, initiatives and awareness. Head to www.bigga.org.uk to find out more. Thank you to the organisations detailed below for their ongoing support of BIGGA and its members.









# WHAT'S ON

#### **BIGGA Scotland** Golf Tour

#### When: 20 June and 23 June Venue: Irvine, Auchterarder

The BIGGA Scotland Golf Tour continues this month with two more events taking place around the region.

BIGGA members from across Scotland are invited to participate in the events, not just those in the Sections where they are taking place. Each of the golf events also act as qualifiers to the BIGGA Scotland Tour Championship. which will this year be held at Royal Dornoch on 25 August. Spaces to the championship are limited and only available to players who win through from the seven qualifying events.

The events are open to all BIGGA members, excluding the Legacy Club Championship, which is restricted to over-55s.

Local members will be given priority to enter events in their area, but entries are invited from members anywhere in the region.

The cost is £25 per entry, which includes catering, prize fund and participation in a wild card draw.

All entries are to be received through the BIGGA website and places must be paid for in advance of play.

For more information contact BIGGA Scotland & Northern Ireland's John Young on johnyoung@bigga.co.uk.

## **GET INVOLVED WITH GREAT EVENTS IN YOUR REGION**

4 Northern Conference

Date: 17 November

Date: 8 December

Location: Coxmoor

1 Mid Anglia Golf Day

Date: 13 June

2 Midlands Golf Day

Date: 30 June

3 BB&O Golf Day

Date: 13 July

Date: 28 July

Date: 10 August

Location: Mill Ride

4 East of England Golf Day

Location: Normanby Hall

Location: Beedles Lakes

**South West and South Wales** 

Location: Crane Vallev

1 Devon vs Cornwall Golf Day

2 BIGGA South West Turf Club

South West and South Wales

Location: Somerset County

**1** South Coast Golf Day

Location: Honiton

Date: 5 October

Conference

Cricket Ground

Location: Clevedon

Date: 8 November

Date: 22 June

Date: 7 July

3

**5** East Midlands Par 3 Completion

Location: Berkhamsted

Location: Cleobury Mortimer

**Central England** 

Location: Elland Road

**5** Sheffield Section Christmas Golf Day

#### **Scotland and Northern Ireland**

- **1** Ayrshire Shield Date: 20 June
- Location: Irvine 2 The Scottish Legacy Club Championship Date: 23 June Location: Auchterarder
- 3 Northern Ireland Golf Event Date: 19 August
- Location: Donaghadee 4 Scottish Golf Tour Championship Date: 25 August
- Location: Royal Dornoch 5 BIGGA Scotland Greenkeeper Industry Career Day Date: 5 October
- Location: Auchterarder 6 Northern Ireland Education Day Date: 20 October Location: Belvoir Park
- 7 Scotland and Northern **Ireland Conference** Date: 15 November
- Location: Stirling Court Hotel Scotland & Northern Ireland Awards Lunch Date: 7 December Location: Stirling

#### Northern

- **1** Sheffield Section Summer Golf Day Date: 5 July
- Location: Matlock Yorkshire Section Summer Golf Day Date: 7 July
- Location: Cookridge Hall **3** Sheffield Section Autumn Golf Day Date: 22 September Location: Wortley
- More events are listed on the BIGGA website

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



4 BIGGA South Wales Turkey Trot Date: 7 December Location: Pennard

#### **South East**

1 East Anglia Section Golf Day Date: 8 June Location: Aldeburgh 2 South East Conference

Date: 9 November Location: The Wentworth Club

#### National / Online

1 The Open Date: 10-17 July 2022 Location: St Andrews Links 2 BIGGA National Championship Date: 10-11 October 2022 Location: Enville Golf Club





78



# **AROUND THE GREEN** Ronnie appointed Scotland's president

#### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Buchanan Castle's former course manager Ronnie Myles, who retired on 29 May, has been appointed the first president of BIGGA Scotland & Northern Ireland.

Ronnie has spent 50 years greenkeeping, with the last 15 years as head greenkeeper at the Drymen club.

"I am extremely honoured and proud to accept such a wonderful accolade from my peers in the industry," said Ronnie.

In a busy career, Ronnie has also worked at clubs in East Kilbride, Erskine, Scarcroft, Cathkin and Helensburgh. At least 12 of the staff he has trained have gone on to become head greenkeepers themselves.

Gordon McKie is chairperson for Scotland & Northern Ireland and said: "It



is with great pleasure to appoint Ronnie to this new role and Jim Paton as vice president. Both bring valuable experience and knowledge that will benefit our board and region."

Taking over from Ronnie will be his two deputies, Chris Prior and James Macdonald, who both become joint course

managers.

Ronnie said: "I wish them all the best for the future as they both absolutely deserve the opportunity. They will be ably supported by John Steel and our newly recruited 16-year-old, Tom Bruce.

While Ronnie is happy to be standing down knowing the course is in capable hands, his days won't be quiet.

"I'm not completely retiring," said Ronnie, who is moving to Stirling to be nearer family. "When you work for 50 years it would be impossible to sit back and do nothing. I'm taking on a part-time

role with a club in Stirling that will keep me busy at least 20 hours a week."

#### Jeff planning on epic cycle to raise funds in Dave Everett's memory

#### South West & South Wales - Devon & Cornwall

Jeffrey Mills, who retired in March this year after 22 years as course manager at Taunton and Pickeridge, was hoping to complete a fund-raising marathon cycle ride around Devon and Cornwall.

With a sporting career that included captaining Exmouth Rugby Club's first team for seven years, throughout May Jeff intended to visit as many golf clubs as possible in the two counties, covering more than 40 miles a day.

In total, Jeff is cycling between 500-700 miles to raise cash for four charities, including Somerset Mind and Pete's Dragons, a charity that supports bereaved families. The loss of his colleague and friend of 30 years, Dave Everett, prompted Jeff to train for the cycle ride in memory of Dave and in support of his family. Dave was working at Taunton & Pickeridge last year before his tragic suicide.

The challenge will take Jeff around three weeks to complete and he has been collecting fourball golf vouchers from as many clubs as he can, to auction off for the charities.

If you would like to donate in support of Somerset Mind, Pete's Dragons, the British Heart Foundation or the Alzheimer's Society, use the following links: / justgiving.com/

fundraising/jeff-mills1



(British Heart Foundation)
/ justgiving.com/ fundraising/jeff-mills2 (Mind Somerset)
/ justgiving.com/ fundraising/jeff-mills3 (Pete's Dragons) / justgiving.com/ fundraising/jeff-mills4 (Alzheimer's Society) Donations can also be made by contacting Rose Jarvis at Taunton and Pickeridge on O1823 421 537.

#### Deadline approaches for sprayer usage register National



Time is running out for golf clubs to register as users of sprayer equipment.

UK law dictates that any organisation that uses or applies professional plant protection products (PPPs) or adjuvants must register with DEFRA prior to 22 June. This includes golf facilities and applies to all organisations, no matter the size or business structure. The requirement is governed by the Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020 (OCR) and failure to register is breaking the law. This legal requirement is being backed up by increased inspections and will be enforced.

Head to the BIGGA website and download the 'Form to register as a user of professional PPPs and adjuvants' to stay legal.

## Salary survey thanks

#### National

A survey undertaken by BIGGA to gather information relating to the state of the greenkeeping industry has gathered more than 1,000 responses from golf clubs all over the UK.

BIGGA will be taking the next few weeks to analyse the data and draw up some conclusions based upon the feedback we have received from members.

Our thanks go to those who took part in the survey, which will help BIGGA and the golf industry gain a greater understanding of the challenges that face the industry and help devise a strategy to overcome these difficulties.

Some interesting early responses from the survey

include 45% of golf clubs currently having full time vacancies, although 55% do not advertise the salary on the job vacancy and 80% have never used a temporary recruitment agency.

Almost 50% of recipients said that when recruiting new staff, it is "extremely difficult" to find suitable candidates, but 53% say there are happy to work in the greenkeeping profession.

Look out for a further breakdown of the results in the July edition of Gl. We'll also be sharing the information with the other governing bodies in golf and hopefully this research will prove a useful benchmark that we can utilise to measure progress in future.

Glamorganshire landmark

#### SW&SW - South Wales



Glamorganshire's deputy head greenkeeper Martyn Taylor has celebrated 40 years working at the club.

Martyn, 58, was given a plaque in recognition of the anniversary.





Name: Ellie Breed: Goldendoodle Owner: Dan McGrath MG Location:

St Lawrence College

Favourite treat: Cheese

**Favourite place on site:** In the woodland chasing squirrels

**My dog's naughtiest moment:** Rolling in fox mess, a regular occurrence

**My dog's happiest when:** Going from job to job in the truck or JD Gator

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

#### Scotland & Northern Ireland



Chairperson Gordon McKie



Region Director Stuart Ferguson MG

#### Northern



Chairperson Jonny Roberts



Region Director Jack Hetherington

#### **Central England**



Chairperson Andrew Smith



Region Director Andrew Laing

#### South West & South Wales



Chairperson Dan Kendle



Region Director Lucy Sellick

#### South East



Chairperson Andy Harding



Region Director Antony Kirwan

#### Sheringham golf day South East - East Anglia





#### The East Anglia Section's first golf day of 2022 was held at Sheringham on 21 April.

The day was well-attended by 68 members, who all had a wonderful day in good weather and on a superblypresented course.

The Section's Chris Gurton said: "Our thanks go to Ricky and all his team for providing us with a fantastic golf course."

The day was won by Steven Curtis with Richard Matson and Rob Boyce in second and third respectively. Thanks also go to GKB Machines and Toro for sponsoring the day.

The Section's next golf day is taking place in June at Aldeburgh Golf Club..

## Upminster golf day

#### South East - Essex



Essex hosted the first of a series of events intended to celebrate the section's 25th anniversary on 28 April.

Taking place at Upminster, thanks were given to Andy Cracknell and his team for preparing the course for an enjoyable day's golf.

The winner on countback was Simon Bartrum with 39 points, while Andy Toomey came in second and Paul Kelleher third.

The next golf day will be in July at Frinton. The education event due to be held in May is being rescheduled for later in the year.

## Isle of Purbeck visit for South Coast Section

#### SW&SW - South Coast



The South Coast Section's first event of the year saw a number of members visit Isle of Purbeck for a course walk and talk hosted by David Langheim MG and David Field, deputy head greenkeeper at the Dorset club.

The Section's Jim Fancey

said: "A great day was had, looking around this amazing site and hearing about some exciting future plans." Congratulations are also

sent to Graham Hastie, who has been appointed head greenkeeper at Knighton Heath in Bournemouth.

#### Members on the move

#### South East - London

Martin Dearlove, the course manager at Grim's Dyke is spreading his wings and applying his trade over new pastures at Maidenhead.

The Section's David Fisher said: "This is a wonderful parkland course set just up from the Thames in Berkshire. This is an exciting proposition for Martin and one that's I'm sure he will relish."

Wes Lenihan, who has been the course manager at Ealing for many years, is also about to embark on a new adventure. He has been offered the head greenkeeper position at Walton Heath, working under the guidance of Michael Mann. David added: "This is a

fantastic opportunity for Wes and a perfect stepping stone to further his career.

"We wish the pair of them all the very best in their future roles."



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#### Key to membership

Α	Affiliate Member
AGK	Assistant
	Greenkeeper
AHG	Assistant Head
	Groundsperson
APP	Apprentice
ATP	Approved Training
	Providers
CA	College Assessor
СМ	Course Manager
DCM	Deputy Course
	Manager
DHGK	Deputy Head
	Greenkeeper
ED	Partner & Education
	Supporters
FA	First Assistant
GK	Greenkeeper
G	Groundsperson
HGK	Head Greenkeeper
HG	Head Groundsperson
I	International
	Member
L	Life Member
М	Mechanic
S	Student Member
SUP	Superintendent
R	Retired Member

#### **SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND**

Ben Anderson, Strathmore Golf Centre, FA; Scott Grier, Crow Wood , AGK; Peter Moffat, Wooler, HGK; Wallace Wilmot, Royal Portrush, GK

#### NORTHERN

Michael Archer, Ponteland, GK: Ryan Binns, Roundwood, HGK; Brendan Buckley, New Mills, APP; Craig Cooper, Husqvarna, ED; Hannah Cooper, Husqvarna, ED; John Grey, Wallsend, HGK; Sean Horsfield, St Melyd, GK; Thomas Jackson, Fulford, AGK; Ryan Lamb, Wallsend, DHGK; Dennis Lartey, Hesketh (The), AGK; Adam Little, Wallsend, AGK; Daniel Makin, Wallsend, AGK; Jake Moore, Marsden Park, G; Carl Morris, Bolton, GK; Richard Osgerby, Shipley, GK; Daniel Peel, Baildon, AGK; Richard Scott, Garforth, CM; Craig Stoba, Husqvarna, ED; Steve Wilkinson, Hole Zero Golf Ltd, A

#### CENTRAL ENGLAND

Gregory Compton, King's Lynn, AGK; Harry Ferrison, Northamptonshire County, AGK; Ellis Fletcher, Woburn Golf & Country Club, AGK; Martin Greene, Sudbrook Moor, HG; Samantha Hodge, British Sugar Sports & Turf, ED; Julian Mackay, Mowsbury, AGK; Christopher Martin-Jones, Donnington Valley, DCM; Sam Norman, Abbey Hill Golf Centre, AGK; Adam Olliver, Weybrook Park, G; Ian Sallis, P S Marsden (Lawnmower Services) Ltd/ Pro-tine, A: Zachary Stevens, Scraptoft, AGK; Madeline Townsend, British Sugar Sports & Turf, ED; Michael Walker, Rothley Park, GK

#### SOUTH EAST

Spencer Armstrong, Reigate Heath, GK; Louis Ayres, Hurtmore, CM; Darren Booty, CMW Equipment Co Ltd, A; Joseph De Rosa, Royal Wimbledon, AGK; Mason Foster, Westgate & Birchington, APP; Thomas Good, Hampstead, AGK; John Hudson, Flackwell Heath, AGK; Andrew Hurst, Hurtmore G; Tobias Loasby Anning, Malden, AGK; John O'Shea, Coombe Wood, APP: Casey Phillips, Royal Worlington & Newmarket, AGK: Jason Sarna, Brighton & Hove, CM; Alex Wilkes, Husqvarna, ED; Owen Wood, Mid Kent, APP

#### SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Christian Bennett, Waterlooville, GK; Georgie Harper-Manning, Waterlooville, GK; Thomas Kley, Wareham, HGK; Sam Lawrence, Trevose, AGK; James Walker, Husgvarna, ED; James Webb, Skylark Golf & Country Club, AGK; Owen West, Royal Porthcawl, GK; Michael Wood, Crane Valley, AGK

## SOMEBODY TO LISTEN

When times get tough, and you need someone to talk to our confidential and independent, professional telephone service

The service provides immediate emotional support, advice and



Retirement for Phil, 65, will include continuing to work two days a week as a greenkeeper at Saltburn in

looking forward to spending more time with his family and racing his pigeons.

Saltburn head retires after 38 years

Alan Reed, 51, is taking the reins as head greenkeeper, having joined the club as a YTS apprentice aged 16. Alan completed 13 years as an assistant greenkeeper and 20

years as first assistant.

The Section's Anthony McGeough said: "Our best wishes go to both Phil and Alan from everyone at the club, the region and BIGGA."

The club has recently invested £500,000 in course improvements.

North Yorkshire. He is also

**Northern - Cleveland** 

Philip Walshaw, head

service at the club.

greenkeeper at Saltburn, is

retiring after 38 years of

#### 



# **CHAMPIONSHIP** PERFORMANCES

BIGGA has teamed up with Leaderboard Photography to celebrate the greenkeeping teams that are hosting England Golf events this summer



**INCREASE GREEN SPEEDS THIS SEASON** WITH TurfRx NUTRITIONALS





Aquatrols<sup>®</sup>

Redox









	1	2	3			4	5	
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9						10		
11				12			13	
14			15		16			
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	20					21		

#### SUDOKU

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

(Easy	r)							
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			2	5				
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	8						9	3
		5			3			1
				8			6	
			1		6	2		4

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#### CROSSWORD

Enter your answers on the grid to the left.

Across

- 6 Issue a foreboding statement (4)
- 7 Come into (7)
- 9 Suppress (8)
- 10 Predecessor of the C | S (1,1,1,1)
- **11** Brushes off (4–9)
- 14 Where doctors went (7,6)
- 17 Two-masted sailing ship (4)
- 19 Trips (8)
- 20 Dull cops air dissent (7)
- 21 Requirement (4)

#### Down

- 1 Observe and remember (4,4)
- 2 No kidding! Mute about a group of countries (6,7)
- 3 Largest Saudi city (6)
- Nearby, on a country road (6,3,4) 4
- Airport guesses, for short (1,1,2) 5
- One of the Indian majority (5) 8
- **12** Texas tea (3)
- 13 Made accessible again (8)
- 15 Foxed (2,3)
- 16 Origin (6)

3

1

9

18 Indictments (4)

# THE SAVINGS SOON ADD UP

ある回 BIGGA Xtra Benefits saves you money on all of life's essentials. Scan the QR code to find out more. 回警察路 This month's highlights include:

#### Save over 85% on transactions abroad\*

BIGGA members can benefit from hassle-free holiday spending thanks to Currensea. Save at least 85% when spending in foreign currencies. As an added benefit, Currensea also offers £15 cashback to all members when you order a Currensea card an account, regardless of the amount spent.



#### **Discounts on all your Holiday Extras**

Holiday Extras, the UK market leader for holiday add-ons, is offering BIGGA members an exclusive discount. Specialising in the essential extras that every traveller needs and with savings of up to 13%<sup>1</sup> on Airport Parking, 10% off Airport Hotels, 10%<sup>2</sup> off UK Airport Lounges and 10% off Airport Transfers, Holiday Extras is dedicated to getting you into the holiday mood before you fly. Book online, where your discount will be automatically applied.

Save up to 13%\* on selected travel extras

"Terms and conditions apply



#### To take advantage of these and other fantastic deals, log in to the BIGGA website and click on Xtra Benefits

roducts at Aberdeen, Belfast International, Birmingham, Exeter, Gatwick, Glasgow International, Glasgow Prestwick, Heathrow, Leeds Bradford, Luton, N selected UK lounges. Discounts are not obtainable on International lounges, discounts will be unavailable at 1,903 lounge at Manchester and all Lounges at Leeds Bradford Airport. BIGGA Xtra Benefi is managed and run on behalf of BIGGA by Parliament Hill Ltd of Britannia House, 21 Station Street, Brighton BN1 4DE who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for nor ent insurance mediation under registration number 308448. Details can be checked on the Financial Services register by visiting the FCA's web site at https://fca.org.uk/rec

FIND THE ANSWERS ON P82
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MEMBER BENEFIT BIGGA Benefits

#### Great gadget cover



#### **Big savings Apple products**

AirPods, iPod, iPad, Apple Pencil (2nd Generation), AirTags.



Regional Diary Steve Dudley-Brown,

Central England

#### Before joining the BIGGA team in February this year I was course manager at Beeston Fields Golf Club.

I have been working in greenkeeping since leaving school at 16 and I have broad experience working on all ranges of golf courses, not just in this country but also in New Zealand and Australia.

The new role has been a big change for me, not being on the tools and working mainly at my desk at home. When I have been on the road visiting golf clubs it's very pleasing to meet so many amazing and passionate people helping our industry.

We have had two golf days, the first in the East Midlands at Kibworth and the second in BB&O at Harewood Downs; both had a great turn out. It's great seeing greenkeepers discussing and networking before enjoying the courses, both in great condition. The Midlands had an education day at Edgbaston with Greg Moore and Dave Conrad from Plant Food Company discussing how to get the most from your soil analysis'. It was very informative and included a great course walk from Jacob Fields that showed everyone the good and bad things he has been dealing with.

Finally, I would like to invite anyone who would like to get more from their BIGGA membership to get involved. We are always looking and needing support and courses to visit.

Steve: greenkeeper at heart and here to help.

24 | Greenkeeper International | June 2022 | @BIGGALtd

#### MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

# ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship

Each year BIGGA Partner ICL Turf & Landscape invites five BIGGA members, who have undertaken a selection process, to attend the Continue to Learn education programme.

ICL and BIGGA appreciate that the valuable career-development opportunities provided by Continue to Learn are not available to every greenkeeper due to the cost of education, travel and accommodation. The ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship seeks to provide a level playing field for BIGGA members who would otherwise miss out.

The exclusive scholarship for BIGGA members is worth approximately £500 and comprises three nights' hotel accommodation and a comprehensive education package.

Applications open on

Applications open 1 July 2022.

Scan the QR code to find out more

Wednesday 1 July 2022 The deadline for applications is on 31 July 2022

The application form will be available on the BIGGA website at https://www.bigga. org.uk/education/ scholarships/icl-continue-tolearn-scholarship.html

You can also scan the QR code to get involved. For more information about

Continue to Learn and BTME 2023, head to www.btme.org.uk

Ed Carter, national sales and development manager, ICL

"The ICL Scholarship gives us a chance to meet turf managers who are up and coming or looking to progress their careers, it allows us to speak to a captive audience and to understand what it is that they're doing or looking to do in the future. It's a bit of a cliché but it's an opportunity

for us to invest in people's careers. Sometimes, if people can't get here otherwise, they'd be missing out, so we believe that providing a platform for them is crucial. No matter how time pressured they are to produce turf surfaces, there's still a real benefit to coming and learning and networking and seeing what's happening in the

#### What did the previous scholars think?

industry."

Abigail Lake, greenkeeper, Frilford Heath

"I'm very new to the industry and I really want to learn and meet as many people as I can and just enjoy it, so this scholarship is incredibly helpful. It is an

amazing industry to be involved in." Laura Sayer-Hall "After the two-year break it was just really good to get back to BTME, see old friends, meet new ones and just get back into learning, so we can all get our professional education back on track."

#### Jeremy Ward

"As somebody who has attended BTME since I was a young greenkeeper, Continue to Learn is just developing all the time and the knowledge that is available is getting bigger and bigger. As a show BTME is developing, things get shinier, larger and better;

the whole idea is for greenkeepers to come and try something a bit different compared to what we do on a daily basis."







#### **Your Local Membership Services Team**

Scotland & Northern Ireland



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

#### Northern



**Roger Butler** 07525 593 359 roaer@biaaa.co.uk

#### **Central England**



Steven Dudley-Brown 07866 366 966 steven.db@bigga.co.uk

#### South West & South Wales

**Tracey Walker** 07841948110 tracey.walker@bigga.co.uk

#### South East



John Pearson 07591588493 iohn.pearson@bigga.co.uk

#### **Ecology & Sustainability**



James Hutchinson 07767 242 863 iames.hutchinsor @bigga.co.uk

#### **Meet your Membership Administration Team**



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

**Gil Christon** Administrator gil@bigga.co.uk



Janette Pascall Administrator janette@bigga.co.uk



The Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI) is an opportunity that is available to Full members of BIGGA who are engaged in CPD and are looking to take the step into a management role.

Working with professional trainers. mentors and staff from Jacobsen and BIGGA. the 20 successful candidates leave FTMI with a clear understanding of what the future holds and a realistic overview of the expectations that come with the role of manager.

#### FTMI is an intensive training programme covering:

- / Presentation skills
- Communications /
- / Presenting a professional image
- / Interview techniques
- / Successful CVs
- / Stress awareness
- / Building a budget
- / Becoming a leader



Scan the QR code below for an insight into FTMI. FTMI was established in 2013 by BIGGA and

Jacobsen, a BIGGA Partner. The intention was to educate up-and-coming

greenkeepers to help them on their journey to becoming course managers. Since its inception, nine cohorts have progressed through

the initiative, with over 180 BIGGA members counting themselves as FTMI araduates.

FTMI is sponsored by Jacobsen, which celebrated its centenary in 2021. This coincided with the challenges of COVID-19 but, keen to host this valuable opportunity for BIGGA

members, the programme transitioned into a series of online events.

Utilising video calling software, the educational content during 2021 actually doubled, giving the FTMI Class of 2021 over 40 hours of classes, mentor sessions and peer-to-peer engagement.

With a desire to bring the class together, an in-person event was hosted at Jacobsen's lpswich headquarters in October, when restrictions allowed.

The team building day was led by FTMI mentor Craig Haldane, who returns in the role in 2022, and was a great success. The sheer joy of all being in one room after months of online classes was clear for all to see and brought the graduating class's

experience to a fitting conclusion.

A thorough review of FTMI in the months since has enabled the initiative to be updated, with a refreshed format for future candidates.

Commencing in late September, the Class of 2022 will experience a new hybrid education programme, combining the best parts of both the in-person and online events.

Twenty BIGGA members will be selected for the FTMI Class of 2022, with applications open between Wednesday 1 and Thursday 30 June 2022. To apply, scan the QR code, follow the link or visit the BIGGA website.

#### What does this year's programme look like?

#### September 2022:

Welcome event with a factory tour and education, taking place at Ransomes Jacobsen in lpswich.



**October to December** 2022: Online classes and mentor sessions.

January 2023: Two-day management class and graduation during BIGGA Welcome Celebration, taking place at BTME in Harrogate.

#### Mentors

Key to the success of FTMI is the participation of mentors, who are experienced members of the greenkeeping profession and outstanding managers in their own right. Each mentor is appointed five







Scan the OR code and see what FTMI is all about

candidates for whom they provide support and advice. The mentors join the initiative for the duration of the event.

#### Leigh Powell, course manager, Windlesham Golf Club FTMI Class of 2013



One of the premier FTMI graduates in the Class of 2013, Leigh is the golf course manager at Windlesham in Surrey. He started his career at Bearwood Lakes and has 23 years' experience with several gualifications including NVQ Level 3 & 4 in Sports Turf Management. Leigh is passionate about self-development for him and his team and has a vast amount of tournament experience including a Ryder Cup along

with professional experience both in the UK and abroad.





#### Meet your Learning and **Development Team**





Officer sami@bigga.co.uk **Deb Burnett** 

Chief Operating

Sami Strutt

L&D Executive (BIGGA) leb@bigga.co.uk

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



www.the-gtc.co.uk



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#### L&D Diary

Deb Burnett Learning & Development Executive

May saw the closing date for not only Toro Student Greenkeeper of Year but also the Members' Choice survey for Continue to Learn 2023.

Members' Choice is a really good way of finding out what our members want to attend at Continue to Learn so thank you to everyone who took the time to fill it in.

The next stage is booking the speakers and putting the programme together. Scheduling multiple conference sessions, classes and seminars over multiple days and locations can be mind bending!!

We had a road trip in May to check out the venue and location for the Student of the Year finals this year. They are being held at the Goodwood Estate in West Sussex.

Having never been before, it was great to see the site and check out the areas we will be using for the prestigious finals.

What a beautiful area of the country!

Applications are now open for another fantastic member opportunity, the Future Turf Manager Initiative (FTMI) which is supported by BIGGA Partner Jacobsen. Have a read of the article in this magazine to see what it is all about. Taking part in FTMI can be a career changing opportunity, so if you are a first assistant or deputy, why not apply?

As always, if you have any queries about anything to do with Learning & Development, CPD, FTMI etc, give me a shout and I'll be happy to help.

Craig Haldane, golf courses manager, The Gleneagles Hotel



Craig is golf courses manager at The Gleneagles Hotel and has managed large workforces throughout his career. His experience in change management and creating the right workplace culture, combined with a passion for delivering engaging workshops, is inspiring.

Sam Evans MG, course manager, North Hants Golf Club manager, Wallasey Golf Club FTMI Class of 2014



Sam is golf course manager at North Hants in Hampshire. He began his career as assistant greenkeeper at Heythrop Park, moving on to Oakland Park then Fulwell as course manager. Sam is a graduate of the FTMI Class of 2014 and in 2019 achieved Master Greenkeeper certification.

John McLoughlin, course

FTMI Class of 2013

John is a graduate of the first FTMI, the class of 2013. Following his graduation, he became course manager at Warrington before moving to Wallasey in 2020. John's passion is to inspire and develop all staff to reach their potential.





	BIGGA	
Y.A	CPD Continuing Professional Development	

- / Paul Fowkes, Scraptoft
- / Neil Gilham, Reigate Hill / David Moreno, Burnham & Berrow
- / Michael Gibbons. Dunham Forest
  - Wallasey
- / Jack Mangieri, Luffenam Heath
- / Jonathan Smith, Cowdray / Noel Anthony Long,

members who achieved CPD Approved status this month:

/ Laura Saver-Hall.

/ Alan FitzGerald MG,

LedgeRock

Park

Congratulations to the following

Golfclub Breitenloo / Craig Berry, Leven Links

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

/ Alan FitzGerald MG, LedgeRock

/ Daniel Ibison, Preston

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

**LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT FUND** 

The BIGGA Learning & Development Fund supports an array of educational opportunities for BIGGA members. The funds generated by BIGGA Education Supporters help to improve education within the greenkeeping industry every day. Through this generosity, BIGGA members have access to subsidies, scholarships and refunds of fees as well as educational seminars, workshops and conferences. We ask BIGGA members to support those companies that are committed to helping you on your career journey.



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

**Apprentice Corner** 

Brought to you by the Greenkeepers Training Committee

# Inspecting, assessing and evaluating the condition of the golf course

#### The inspection and assessment of the golf course is a vital task for the golf course manager and their deputy.

It allows for the early identification of problems such as diseases before they can spread and create serious damage. Any threats to the quality of playing surfaces can be quickly fed back to the manager, allowing them to take steps to rectify matters.

In addition, it allows for the evaluation of maintenance practices, to see if operations are having the required effect. For instance, taking cores from greens before and after a series of operations such as deep aeration can help identify improvements in root depth. It is only when armed with suitable information that course maintenance practices can be justified. Detailed information about this can be found in the GTC Level Learning Materials, available to purchase from the GTC website.

#### Measurable limits for performance and quality

In general, sports surfaces may be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Degree of turf grass surface cover and grass type including height of cut
- I Degree of pest, weeds, disorders and diseases in the sward
- / Smoothness of the surface
- / Trueness of the surface
- / Speed of surface
- / Bounce of ball from surface
- / Water infiltration rate of the

surface (drainage)

- / Compaction level of rootzone/ Rootzone texture and
- structure (pH level, for example)
- / Degree of organic matter (thatch) in the sward
- / Root mass and depth/ Firmness of the surface
- / Firmness of the surface/ Light levels reaching the
- turf surface / Cleanness of the surface (degree of non-desirable
- debris, for example)/ Quality and presentation of cut surface including accuracy and quality of any
- markings / Water infiltration rate (speed of)
- / pH value of soil
   Each of the above can be allocated to one of the
- following areas:
  - Structural quality of the this i

surface (how and what the surface is made of) Presentation guality

(how good it looks)3. Playing quality (how

2.

well it plays) An example of an assessment method to

evaluate the golf course is the evaluation of grass cover.

This is done using a Quadrant frame, which is a 1m-by-1m square wire frame. These are used to measure items such as number of broad-leaved weeds or worm casts per square metre on a surface. They can also be used to assess surface grass cover. It is important that surveys are carried out correctly (random selection of areas is normal) or misleading figures can be produced. Optimum cover is 100% and this is addressed by

maintaining good turf health and ensuring damage is repaired as soon as possible. The height of grass cover is, of course, achieved by height of cut and for a golf green would range between approximately 3.5 to 6mm.

#### What is the purpose of assessing playing surfaces?

By assessing the properties of the surface, the sports turf manager can hopefully achieve the following:

/ A detailed account of the different playing performance characteristics of the surface and how they compare. For example, do some greens drain at a slower rate than the others and if so why and can anything be done about it?



- / Provide a benchmarking tool to understand what levels the course is currently at (how do they compare to others or national standards etc).
- Provide information to enable setting quality targets, such as providing the information needed to create a maintenance plan to bring the surface to the desired standard.
- Allow tracking of progress





to show improvement (or decline) in surface quality.
/ Provide clear and concise data that can be used to communicate performance and improvements to the users and management of the organisation.

The greenkeeper will need to know how to inspect, assess and report on the condition of the golf course and this could include the evaluation of playing surfaces.



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

 / Sean Meaney, Oakland Park Golf Club

www.the-gtc.co.uk









# ECOLOGY ROUNDUP

James Hutchinson | Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)



With the wildflowers going berserk, birds raising their first brood and butterflies on the wing, it may be a good time to talk about woodland management, grassland and other wildlife-positive stories.

Did you know that BIGGA offers woodland reports, where the emphasis is on creating more air and sunlight to the playing surfaces? We also offer advice on rough and woodland management and holistic methods of cleansing your waste water.

Did you also know that we can also send someone (me) to talk to your members about why you are introducing areas of rough or thinning trees?

If you are simply chopping trees down with no forward planning or professional report then I probably can't

help you. But if you're a BIGGA member and want further assistance with any of these things, then I may be able to help. We've also helped clubs with ecological notice boards, leaflets and that kind of thing.

Believe it or not, these are not things I have advertised much as I am guite busy. Almost all the reports we do have arrived via word of mouth, but I think it is only fair that all BIGGA members are made aware of the eco section's services.

In the interests of fairness, all 18-hole reports are priced the same (as are 9, 36, 54 and so on) at £1,250 plus VAT and an overnight stay. For this you receive an in-depth bespoke 18-hole document.

l kind of gave up on



sighting reports on this page as there were just too many to show you. However, take a gander at this beauty from a recent jaunt to Canterbury GC — it's a lovely turtle dove.

I also couldn't let this old girl slip by without showing you, it's a 900-year-old oak at Thorndon Park, modelled by Course Manager David Byron. I believe it is the largest and oldest on a golf course in the UK, although I am happy to be proved wrong!



# DIARY

Your MSM for ecology has been spending a good deal of time over the past month presenting to golf course member evenings.

Finding a balance between greenkeeping, golf and ecology is not easy to do. However, coming from a greenkeeping background, playing a little golf (really badly) and knowing a thing or two about ecology, I can sometimes build a bridge between all three, thus taking a little pressure off you guys.

Give me a call and I may be able to help. In the past month I've

had the pleasure of visits to Longcliffe, Luffenham Heath, Harrogate with my BIGGA colleagues, Boyce Hill, Canterbury, Pannal, Leyland, Allestree. Clitheroe and Stover, so it has been a busy month out on the road. And in terms of a wildlife diary everything is going mad!



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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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# Sustainability

# innovation in

# resource use

Royal Liverpool Golf Club's innovative solution to sourcing sand can save over 40 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere - and has biological advantages too.

Jamie Graham, GEO Foundation,

As is often the case with sustainability, long term, scalable solutions can be challenging to identify and develop. In the meantime, it pays to be as efficient and innovative as possible.

There is perhaps no clearer example of that than access to sand, with production and supply of virgin sands dwindling faster than new alternatives of recycled sand can be found.

It also helps if interim and long term sources can be as local as possible, to reduce carbon emissions in

transportation, and even better again if it can come with a biodiversity net gain.

A good example of this type of innovation, carried out in a way that is considerate to the environment, is the work carried out by Royal Liverpool Golf Club to source sand on site.

The GEO Certified club mined around 4.000 tons of sand after removing rank vegetation from their sand dunes, and in doing so eliminated the need for 140 articulated lorries to import it from Ayrshire to their course in Merseyside, England.



As a result of the project, staff at Royal Liverpool expect to save £132,000 over the next four years and could prevent more than 40 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere.

The project began when staff looked to install natural sand scrapes on existing rank vegetation areas, as they looked to give back to nature after the building of a new hole in 2019.

"We knew that a lot of sand could be taken from the area without making too much of a topographical impact," says James Bledge, the club's links manager. "So the decision was taken to take out as much sand as we could realistically store in our maintenance facility.

"The specification matches that of the course, and with sand and fuel prices rising and sand being a finite resource, it was the most sensible option."

#### Looking after nature

The club, which will host the 151st Open Championship in 2023, worked closely with Wirral Council, Natural England and the Cheshire Wildlife Trust to ensure the project didn't disrupt wildlife or the local ecology.

"All of these authorities are very supportive and Royal Liverpool Golf Club enjoys fantastic relations with all of them. There were regular visits from them during the project to ensure everything was going according to plan."

They ensured the area was free of nesting birds, while the thickness of the surrounding grasses meant any ecological life would have been minimal.

#### How long will it last?

Fairways at Royal Liverpool are dressed with around 800 tons of sand a year, with a further 200 tons being used to dress the greens, meaning the mined sand should last the club about four years.

However, topdressing was reduced significantly during the pandemic, and that's a trend that could continue should the future availability of sand continue to worsen

"As an industry we need to be sensible when it comes to nutrition and irrigation so organic matter accumulation is kept to a minimum and the need for sand becomes reduced," Bledge said. "Whether or not it can be eliminated is another question."

On the pathway to a more sustainable future for golf, what can your club do that is innovative in the use of materials and resources?

# **THE RULES OF COURTESY GOLE**

#### The guidelines are as follows

membership.

- / Only those with full greenkeeper membership should seek courtesy golf.
- / Courtesy golf is only given at the discretion of the individual golf club and is not an automatic benefit of
- / Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.
- / Members should always produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.
- / Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.
- / Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.

To verify a membership please contact the Membership Administration team on

# 01347 833 800

All suspected abuses of the card should be reported immediately to BIGGA headquarters. Complaints will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

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# **MEET THE MANAGERS:** SANDY REID

director of greenkeeping | St Andrews Links Trust

In this regular feature, Phil Helmn MG sits down for a chat with the leading course managers working in the greenkeeping industry today to find out what makes them tick

#### Next month The Open returns to St Andrews for its 150th instalment.

It is set to be a record-setting event with hundreds of thousands of spectactors, the world's greatest golfers and millions of viewers around the world all turning their attention to the Old Course's hallowed fairways.

Leading the team of greenkeepers that will produce the playing surfaces is Sandy Reid and Phil Helmn MG caught up with the 45-year-old.

#### What books should I be reading?

Anything that helps keep you away from looking at your phone. I generally read fiction and biography. I find reading any book helps my grammar, vocabulary and improves my creative thinking.

#### What's the best thing about your job?

Working with and learning from people who are good at what they do.

#### What advice do you have for someone new to the industry?

Put your best foot forward, work hard and listen to those who matter. You should be able to figure out who they are.

#### Is there a quote that motivates you?

One guote that does stick in my mind was from John Philp, Carnoustie Links superintendent from 1985 to 2012.

Sometime in the late noughties Kevin Stott, courses manager at Carnoustie, and I were in the middle of guite a physically demanding job, knocking in about 1,000 half-round posts along the ditch bank. John came to see us and we ended up chatting about some of the large mounds nearby and how they were formed. After him telling us where the sand came from and that it was done by hand, barrow and horse and cart Kevin and I responded with something like "that must have taken them ages" to which John replied "aye, but they did it though".

That is a phrase I often think of when people are reluctant to get stuck into hard work. Almost every time I talk to Kevin we use that phrase.

#### Who inspires you?

Those that guietly get on with the job and keep seeking to make improvements regardless of the challenges they are faced with.

#### How did you get to this position?

A love and understanding of the

game, working hard, doing the right thing and judging myself against my own expectations and not anyone else's.

I loved Carnoustie but St Andrews was the only place that I felt was a greater challenge so I was fortunate to get the role here three years ago.

#### What drew you to greenkeeping?

A family friend was head greenkeeper at Pitlochry and asked me as a 14 year old if I fancied working there in the school holidays. I did that for 3 years and decided I wanted to pursue greenkeeping as a career. Until then I thought I would follow my father into gamekeeping and deerstalking.

#### What did you study?

National Certificate in Greenkeeping on a one year full-time course at Elmwood College

#### Which has been more valuable in your career, your education or your experience?

Experience, although I did very much enjoy my time at Elmwood and remember most of what I got taught. I was too young to go the pub so that perhaps helped!

Other than my NC in Greenkeeping I don't have any other further formal greenkeeping gualifications, although I did complete ILM Level 4 Management 12 years ago.









#### What was your first job?

Assistant greenkeeper at Letham Grange near Arbroath, now sadly closed.

#### What skills have you found vital?

Get the little things right and the bigger things tend to look after themselves, so an eye for detail is important.

Being able to communicate accordingly with the variety of people that I have to deal with.

#### What are your next career steps?

They obviously don't come much bigger than leading the team at St Andrews so I'd like to think I can contribute here for a while, but you never know what's round the corner — I never thought I'd leave Carnoustie.

#### What has been your biggest success factor?

Seeking improvements that genuinely benefit the golf course and staff , without seeking thanks or for likes on social media.





#### What mistakes did you make early in your career?

As a young greenkeeper I called a colleague an idiot once, which wasn't even over something work related. Let's just say I've never done such a thing again!

#### Was there a career setback you faced which you later realised was an advantage?

As a 22 year old I didn't get an internal promotion to foreman of the Buddon Course at Carnoustie. While very disappointed at the time I figured out the areas I felt I could improve on, put my best foot forward and worked hard. Less than 18 months later I was promoted to deputy head greenkeeper of the Championship Course. I think that period helped build my resilience and focus.

#### What would you do differently if you could go back in time?

More forcefully put forward my case for topping some of the rough with a strimmer in advance of The 1999 Open!

#### What are your personal daily habits?

I struggle to leave the office these days but I try to take a walk or do an activity where I can get some reflection time. **G** I figured out the areas I felt I could improve on, put my best foot forward and worked hard and less than 18 months later I was promoted

#### What should I be doing to improve my career prospects?

Go visit other golf courses and other greenkeepers. I have never been to a single golf course for a game, a walk or a look round the sheds and chat with the course manager or staff where I haven't learnt something. You can't help but learn from such visits and chats.

#### Continue the conversation:

Phil Helm is on Twitter at @HelmnPhil



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# **STABLE EMPLOYMENT**

Having fallen into greenkeeping by chance, Naunton Downs' head greenkeeper Shaun Kench explained how drawing on previous agronomic experiences helped him deliver a unique project that combines golf and horse racing.

#### What was your journey to Naunton Downs?

I started off by mistake, really! I aimed to turn professional, but I damaged my back, which meant I missed that year's county season.

I lived near Heythrop Park, where they had started to build a new golf course, and a friend of mine who worked there asked if I fancied learning about the project. It struck me as a good potential fallback in case playing golf didn't work out and I was lucky enough to see the entire design and build process.

As a golfer they asked me design

questions, and how things might look and I loved every minute!

my way from assistant greenkeeper to first assistant.

When they were recruiting for a new head greenkeeper I was given the chance to run the course for a couple of months, which was great experience.

I then spent five great years at Magnolia Park, managing the 250-acre estate, before Naunton got in touch and I was appointed head greenkeeper. By coincidence, the day I accepted the job I found out I was being made redundant at Magnolia as the course was

closing, so I had some strange conversations over those days, but I landed on my feet!

Mike Hyde

I was there for eight years and worked

#### What's your remit at Naunton Downs?

Since we developed our horse training facilities, I've taken on responsibility for the entire estate including the golf course, all grass areas of the horse training facilities and everything outside the buildings.

I'm in charge of all groundcare on site and I manage the servicing and maintenance of the machinery, along with creating fertiliser and spraying programmes — as you can imagine we have to be very careful with the horses around.

#### On that note, tell me about the redevelopment?

Six weeks after I joined I was called into a meeting with our owners Ben and Sophie Pauling, who are National Hunt racing horse trainers. They told me they wanted to move their existing training facilities onto the Naunton Downs site.

The estate was run down and tired when they took over in January 2020 »





and it was the perfect opportunity for them to revamp the golf course, but also to bring that training facility on-site.

The plans meant losing two holes, but given my experience at Heythrop, I was asked to manage the build of two new holes from scratch, which was obviously exciting for my team and I.

We built a six-furlong hill gallop, and I was involved with Ben in locating that to ensure the horses didn't interfere with golf.

We replaced two par-four holes with par-threes, so we also took the opportunity to rework some existing holes we felt were underwhelming.

For example, we changed a 190-yard par 3 with a high, raised green into a par 4 and extended our 18th to a par 5, meaning we maintained the course yardage and the par of 71.

#### Is there anything else like this in golf?

I believe we have a unique setup. I know there are courses within horse racing tracks, but golf usually stops when they're racing. We have horses training onsite every day, and golfers can admire them as they play.

The training has minimal impact on golf — perhaps the odd pause as these machines come galloping through — but that's it, and it's some sight, I have to say.

We have horses training onsite every day, and golfers can admire them as they play.

#### What skills and experiences did you gain from managing that project?

I was lucky to gain the experiences I did at Heythrop, so when I was asked to manage our two new holes I was confident in my ability to deliver. It was a big responsibility, but it was

nice to have the final say on how things looked. The new holes are stunning and fit the Cotswold surroundings.

One thing I learned was making the most of the resources we have, by transferring the surfaces from the old holes and using them to turf the new ones. We removed the turf, rootzone and drainage layers from the original greens, and relaid them in reverse, which worked really well.

We had a bit of trouble when the storms arrived last year — some areas weren't draining – but using resources we already had on site made a hard process much easier.





#### What was the process of designing those new holes?

We're very enclosed – we're surrounded by roads and farmland - so we had to plan creatively to find the new space.

A key consideration was ensuring both holes fitted the feel of the existing 16. Every hole here has a view of the hills, so we wanted to incorporate that into the new holes.

We also have a few holes that run alongside and through the valley, so we routed one new hole to play across it, which we felt would be a bit different, but wouldn't feel out of place with the rest of the course.

We ended up using the end of the driving range, and the space we used for sand storage for the other hole.

We couldn't go outside of our land, so we just had to work with what we had. I brought a couple of golfing friends up to get their opinion and they reassured me about our plans.

#### Have you added architect to your business card?

Not yet! There are plenty of things I've done here since I started that I could add... I play off +2 and I love my golf, so I really enjoyed being involved in that side of the business and it is something I would consider pursuing in the long term.

#### What's your greenkeeping philosophy?

I like to be very methodical with my cutting programmes. I ensure we cut everything twice

obviously daily. I'm a stickler for presentation. I love



weekly, except greens, which are

ensuring golfers can stand and feel a wow factor, both from the tee and looking back from the green.

I'm very hands on and like to be out on course with the guys, so I try and keep office work to wet days.

l ask the team to come to me with ideas — I'm always open to suggestions. We have a small team, there are just four of us, and it's a very close unit and I'm always open with them. The product we produce is a »



testament to their work — it's a real team effort.

I always ensure any positive feedback and credit is passed on to the team and they know their work is appreciated.

#### How do you communicate with the membership?

I've always believed in a monthly communication to members - looking back at last month's activities and what we have planned. I'll be honest about how I feel about the conditioning, and what our improvement plans are.

It's easy to keep members and committees out of things, but if they get information upfront, it makes things easier for both parties to enjoy what they're doing — either playing or working on the course.

It's a two-way thing and I sit down with the club captains and our GM every three months. We discuss the upcoming diary, and I ask that they bring guestions from the members, so they feel invested in decisions. The system seems to work, and everyone respects it.

We have a lot of members' evenings where they will ask how they can help - divot parties, tidying bunkers and so on - which shows a great ethos at the club and that both parties are working well together. If members are willing to give their time I think it shows they're enjoying the course.

We're a tight knit team. We'll always go for a Friday beer to maintain camaraderie — and perhaps say things that need to be said - but when members want to be part of things too, it feels like we're in a good place.

l ask that they bring questions from the members. so they feel invested in decisions.

#### How do you maintain your motivation?

I think having that positive team ethos and camaraderie helps.

We all know there are tough days, it can get cold up here, so I try and ensure the team have someone to work with through the winter months. It's just about



solid teamwork and if you look after people, they'll look after you.

The club have a good benefits system, for example, everyone's BIGGA subscriptions are covered, which the team appreciate, and I try to get us out playing golf together when we can.

I try to maintain that give-and-take through the year, and it's fun to go to the horse racing too!

Of course, there are days you wonder, 'What am I doing this for?' when it is hammering it down and -8°C like it was a few weeks ago, but when you have a good team around you, it keeps you going. As a manager, to know they're happy

and I'm happy, is a great feeling.

#### Have you any specific challenges at the moment?

Acquiring machinery is a real challenge. We had a mower on order that has been put back to early 2023. It shouldn't affect what we're doing too much as our current machines are ok, but it's a concern going forward.

There also seems to be a lot of greenkeepers who simply don't want to carry on in the industry. We recently tried to employ a new greenkeeper to spread the load and we had a really limited response. It's a surprise and I wish people would give it a go, as sometimes you don't know the rewards of something until you get going - I love it.

#### What traits do you look for in new team members?

I always look for enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. We've just taken someone on, who was a golfer who wanted to volunteer and get involved, but his enthusiasm to take on whatever we gave him was fantastic.

#### What satisfies you most about leadership?

I love seeing people who want to learn and develop in the industry. I had a team member at Magnolia Park called Dan Anstiss, who joined us as an inexperienced first assistant. I worked with him on fertiliser and treatment programmes and suitable renovation works and it was great to hear he took his first head greenkeeper job at the end of last year.

He was kind enough to say a part of him getting that role was the support he'd received at Magnolia Park, which was great to hear.

#### How do you manage your own personal development?

I try and keep my head in the books to understand what is going on in the industry.

l attend as many seminars as I can and try and make sure I make the most of any chances I get to speak to company reps to understand what products are likely to become available.

I'm good friends with several local head greenkeepers and we always make an effort to get together and pick each other's brains.

I'd love to look at my Level 4 or further gualifications at some point, but with the current workload and a small team it's not feasible just yet.

#### What's the next step for Naunton Downs?

To be honest I think the next step is to get back to a little bit of normality!

It's been two years of hard work, planning, agreements and disagreements, so we're in a recovery period at the moment.

You can imagine the amount of construction we've had, having built a



100-strong stable facility, schooling lanes where horses can practice jumping and hill gallops, so there's plenty of areas that needed this late spring growth.

In the short term it's a matter of recovering those areas and in the long term we have plenty of areas that need attention to get them in the right place aesthetically.



For example, our putting green has never had irrigation, so we're planning

that, and trying to make sure people's first impressions are positive as it's a beautiful place.

I think a year of normality for our members is important too. They've adjusted to having expensive racehorses running past, so we're going to allow them some time to get used to all that and get back to just enjoying their golf. I think that will be welcome!



On the 25th anniversary of the Essex Section, we speak to founder member Martin Forrester

Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Martin Forrester is a stalwart of BIGGA's Essex Section. which this month celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Martin, 62, was awarded life membership of BIGGA at BTME 2020 in recognition of his commitment to the association and the greenkeeping profession. He was an original founder member of BIGGA, having previously been a member of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association (BGGA), then attended meetings to discuss the creation of the English & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (EIGGA) at Upminster Golf Club in the early 1980s.

Martin was then involved in the discussions to form BIGGA and a decade later played a role in the formation of the Essex Section.

"When you put it like that, it sounds like we're a bit of a militant lot down here!" said Martin, as he spoke to Greenkeeper International on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Section.

Discussions regarding the foundation of a dedicated Essex Section began in 1996, with BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver in attendance. At the time. Essex was under the same umbrella as the East Anglia Section, which stretched from Essex up to the north Norfolk coast. Covering such a large area meant a lack of unity between those in the north and those further south, so a proposal arose to split the section into two parts.

Around 60 members turned up for a meeting in Bury St Edmunds and the proposal was voted through at the BIGGA AGM, with the Essex Section coming into being in 1997.

The first Essex Section meeting was held at a pub in Chelmsford, when around 45 greenkeepers put forward ideas for the new section. Golf days were arranged and education evenings organised



Top: The Essex Section was victorious in a Toro Challenge Match at Upton Park in 2011 Bottom: Martin Forrester (far right) was awarded life membership of BIGGA in 2020

to take place at Writtle College, followed by a trip to the student bar.

The first Essex committee comprised Martin as education officer, Dougie Smith from Upminster as chairman, David Wells from Rochford as section scribe and Richard Pride from Thorndon Park as treasurer.

"They were the senior people who led the way," said Martin. "There have been some strong characters in the section over the years, that's for sure. We may not have always seen eye-to-eye and maybe some of us never got on at times, but that's the way life is, isn't it?"

For Martin, the opportunity to meet with other greenkeepers in his area has been a key component of his success at Essex Golf & Country Club, where he has spent the past 21 years.

Martin said: "I think it's important that local people can communicate through the

sections by putting on events. That way members can know what's going on in their area. "If you have a problem at

your club, it will be roughly the same in your general area, so sections make for good communication opportunities and a shoulder to lean on if you needed it, because you get to know people locally.

"You can develop comradeship with other greenkeepers and swap views.

"Obviously you get different types of courses, such as members owned, privately owned or council courses, and they're all run differently, but we greenkeepers are all in the same boat. We might be rivals, but being part of a section together is a good way of swapping ideas and getting to visit other golf courses to see what they're doing. Sometimes it's as simple as getting you out because it can be a lonely job and you get tunnel »



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vision on your own golf course. But if you go out and meet with other greenkeepers and see other courses, sometimes your course doesn't seem as bad as you think it is and you can talk over problems that you have."

Martin became a greenkeeper in 1977 and has stayed in the area due to family commitments - he has four daughters — and no real desire to move elsewhere. Over the years he has noticed that while education standards for greenkeepers have improved, engagement within sections has been on the wane.

"Our education events today are much more professional than they were.

"When I first started going, back in 1978. I was at Romford Golf Club. We would do our day's work, go home and get changed, then go to Romford station, jump on a train and go to London to hear a talk from

Jim Arthur in a room in a pub. "Now it's much more professional

"But as time has gone by, social media has reduced the need to meet and speak in person and people now do other things with their time. It's a shame in one way that people do other things, rather than being interested in

depends upon the interest of aolf clubs and whether the course manager encourages his entire team to sign up or not as this can be the difference between a club having just one BIGGA member or five or six.

"At the moment we are probably on a bit of a lull with numbers, but it's never been a years ago when I was that age.

"When I was younger, golf clubs encouraged you to go to events because they knew education was important and they would pay for you to go. I think as time has gone on, all of a sudden they stopped letting people go to events as part of their education. I think that has sometimes held back some of the youngsters from coming through.

"We've come a long way since I first started greenkeeping and I don't think people realise that. From when I first started, guys are more educated in what we do and they have more qualifications. We've come a long way in lots of ways, but I just hope the next generation has the same enthusiasm that we had.

Much has changed in the 25 years since the Essex Section was formed. But can the Section itself be adjudged to have been a success throughout it's lifetime?

"Those 25 years seem to have flashed by," said Martin. "If you asked me, 'have we achieved what we wanted to achieve on day one?' the answer is yes. The section has been successful and long may that continue.

"But would I be a bit worried about the future? I think I would be worried that maybe the youngsters are not coming forward as they were a few years back. But what I tell my guys is that you can't wait for things to happen, you have to make it happen yourself and you have got to go looking for education. We can put events on as a section, but if you don't go and grab it, then you're going to get left behind and won't progress." »

## You can't wait for things to happen, you have to make it happen yourself

sections and associations, but I don't think that's just in greenkeeping. For example, I was a football referee and it is the same there with fewer people coming forward to volunteer."

In the past Martin has found that engagement rises and falls in phases lasting five or six years. Often, this

straight line," said Martin. "There has always been ups and downs, but never big dips and highs, if that makes sense. "In the future I hope the

youngsters come forward and take over from us elderly ones with the same enthusiasm. I guess there are other things for them to do, so their lifestyles are different to 30







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BOYCE

#### Essex ecology in action

James Hutchinson

BIGGA's ecology expert James Hutchinson recently made a visit to Boyce Hill, where South East Region Chairperson Andy Harding is course manager.

Andy has been at the club for many years now, but still has a passion and enthusiasm that is admirable. His desire to do the best for Boyce Hill is inspiring and it was a pleasure to spend a few hours out on the course with him.

I'm sometimes asked when is the best time to plant a tree and I always reply '500 years ago'. But on a serious note, June is a good time as the ground temperatures are conducive to the symbiotic relationships that a tree needs to grow. It's important to note that trees drink a heck of a lot of water so keep them hydrated once planted.

If the soil turns hydrophobic then you've had it and the tree will probably cease to be, just like that turf you laid in February and forgot to water. An idea is to mix the newly dug hole's soil with compost that you have created from the course's waste — you do create compost, don't you readers? I mentioned '500 years ago' and Boyce Hill has a selection of

veteran oaks onsite, with some probably approaching 300 years of age given their height, girth, decay and general gnarliness. T

he club's website mentions many interest things, but I often find that trees are overlooked where a club's



history is concerned — some of the Boyce Hill trees were there a few hundred years before the course was even thought about.

You probably know my view on non-native poplar trees by now and I doubt whether this will change any time soon. Boyce Hill has an unhealthy number of poplars, which I have advised they remove over the next 10 years.

The great news is that the members are planting 100 trees to celebrate the course's 100-year anniversary.

I have to say that I've always been a fan of campion wildflowers and this is for many reasons: 1, they are an indicator species for ancient woodlands; 2, bugs love them; 3, they grow in shade as well as full sun: and 4. they look nice. They are also quite easy to grow, so if you want a wildflower meadow on your site. be sure to add this annual/ biannual into the mix. Boyce Hill has probably the best display of red campions that I have seen on my 450 course visits - great work, team!

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## Meet the 'tournament junkie' behind last month's PGA Championship

Dressed in a grey hoodie, Russ Myers appeared an unassuming host of a major championship when he met GCM editor-in-chief Scott Hollister. But when Southern Hills hosted the PGA Championship last month, it became clear there's more to 'tournament junkie' Russ than meets the eye.

Scott Hollister, editor-in-chief, Golf Course Management

#### If Russ Myers, 49, hadn't found his life's calling as a superintendent, chances are you'd find him on the sidelines coaching basketball. It would have been a career

choice that he came by naturally. His dad was a high school basketball coach and athletic director. While enrolled in the two-year turf program at State University of New York, Cobleskill, he served as a student assistant coach for the men's basketball team there. He even considered pursuing graduate assistant coaching positions after college before landing his first job in golf.

He still loves basketball and admits to studying the habits of those who patrol the sidelines. He's even met and spent time with several big-name college coaches, including the head coach of this year's NCAA national champs, the University of Kansas' Bill Self. It shouldn't come as a surprise, then, that those who know him best say I came back because I trusted the people that are running the club, and I honestly felt like this was a better opportunity for me and my family than the one I was leaving

you'll see as much coach in him as superintendent during this month's USPGA Championship.

"He approaches the job like he's a coach and emphasizes the team concept and the value of everyone's contribution," says Chris Wilson, the director of agronomy at Los Angeles Country Club who took over that role following Myers' return to Tulsa and was an assistant at Southern Hills during Myers first shift there.

"Nothing is ever off the table for Russ; if it needs to get done, he's going to try to figure out how. He takes every thought, every opinion into consideration. That doesn't mean he's always going to agree with you, but he's going to consider it, evaluate it and make the best call possible."

Russ knows the superintendent-as-coach notion is a bit of an industry cliché, but he doesn't argue that, in his case, it's appropriate. His top lieutenants at Southern Hills — including assistant superintendents Blake Willems, Doug Cocanour and Robert Frizzell, and equipment manager Roy Bradshaw — would be the first to agree with that, and Russ says he'll fully embrace it when the world's best golfers once again visit Southern Hills this month.

"I'm always amazed at how

those big-time coaches operate and what they can get out of their teams," Russ said. "I think they're good examples for superintendents. I know the coaching analogy isn't a new one, but it does make you think about how you react to situations, what kind of message you send.

"I want guys who will listen to you and follow you because they've bought in, they're interested and they know you want what's best for them and the golf course, not guys who are just listening because you happen to be the guy up front talking to them or the one getting all the attention. That's what I'll try to instill in our crew for the PGA."

Born, raised and educated in upstate New York, Russ spent time as an assistant-in-training at Augusta National, worked in the Florida Keys at Card Sound Golf Club and successfully led preparations for the 2007 PGA Championship at Southern Hills less than a year after »



taking the job there. He was also a "tournament junkie," as good friend and mentor Matt Shaffer dubbed him, travelling the country to volunteer at well over 100 professional golf events during his career. Add it all up, and Myers seemed destined to check at least a few more top-100 jobs off his list before calling it a career.

But when you watch Myers now as he makes his way around Southern Hills, well into the sixth year of his second stint at the club, you're left surprised that he ever left in the first place. The 26-year GCSAA member knows everyone, and they know him right back. He's as comfortable dealing with the club's top brass as he is the bartenders, waiting staff and clubhouse attendants. Southern Hills and Tulsa, it's clear, is his home.

There were definite personal reasons behind his decision to return to Tulsa. His wife Lindsay Patterson is a Tulsa native, and the couple now have a family (daughter Grace and son R.J.) that they didn't have when they first moved to Los Angeles.

"Like most people, I have a priority list, and my wife and kids are number one. The job is number two," Russ said.

But the job is still a doozy that has plenty to offer

I learned so much from working with Gil, Jim and Geoff about the architectural presentation, which gave me a broader understanding of the vision, of how what we were trying to do with the playing surface related to the overall experience

someone like Russ. Southern Hills is one of the crown jewels of Midwestern golf, a fixture in Tulsa since its founding in 1936. Shortly after his return, the Perry Maxwell design underwent a yearlong restoration by Hanse Golf Course Design, whom Myers had worked with on the North Course restoration at LACC.

And then there was the chance to scratch that tournament itch once again with a host of big events on the docket, including the one that takes center stage this month, the 104th playing of the PGA Championship.

"I came back because I trusted the people that are running the club and I honestly felt like this was a better opportunity for me and my family than the one I was leaving," Russ said. "From day one, my résumé has said that my goal is to manage classic, championship golf courses that provided me with unique opportunities. 'Classic' and 'unique' are the key words there. That's what I try to embrace, and that's what I've found here. That's why I came back."

#### A long, strange trip

The 18 holes that were the centre of the golf world last month bear only a passing resemblance to the layout that last hosted the PGA Championship in 2007. Credit that to the restoration work that brought back many elements of Perry's original work and the fact the 2007 event was played in August, with temperatures topping the century mark every day of tournament week, while this year's was in May. Preparing and contesting a tournament in the heat of an Oklahoma

summer presents a far different agronomic puzzle than a springtime event.

The real story, though, is how Southern Hills, Myers and his 54-person maintenance team (nearly 60 volunteers will join them for the PGA) got to this point and the trials and tribulations they faced along the way. It's a tale of tragedy, triumph and turf loss that has its origins in Russ's move at the start of 2010 to Los Angeles, where work with Gil Hanse, Jim Wagner and Geoff Shackelford on the restoration of the North Course awaited.

That Russ would move west ostensibly just to participate in a project such as this one would surprise anyone aware of his general distaste for golf course construction work. After his first significant project during his time at Card Sound, Russ would tell anyone who would listen: "I don't care if I ever do one of those again."

But he makes a clear distinction between construction work and what went on at LACC and, later, Southern Hills. "Anyone who has been through construction work knows the impacts that can have afterwards. Heck, you fix an irrigation leak, and you can see that thing for years," Russ added. "What we did in LA and then here was not that. I'm still a novice, but I learned so much from working with Gil. Jim and Geoff about the architectural presentation, which gave me a broader understanding of the vision, of how what we were trying to do with the playing surface related to the overall experience. That's what I enjoyed."

The work on the North Course — which will get its own major turn next June when it plays host to the 2023 U.S. Open — was completed in two phases and included work on fairway bunkers (completed prior to Russ's arrival), fairways contours, new greens that included the installation of subsurface hydronic piping and countless other touches intended to restore George Thomas' original design.

The work clearly captured Russ's imagination, Gil says: "Most of our discussions were focused on architecture and what we were trying to accomplish with the look and the feel, the detail work we were addressing. Jim and I just think the world of Russ and we appreciate how inquisitive and thoughtful he is about all this. He challenges us with concepts, ideas and he requires good answers. And really at both places, he's seen all the details, appreciated the intricacies and just made our work better."

#### Two for one

Despite perceptions to the contrary, Russ and Gil were not a package deal when the former returned to Tulsa in 2015.

The club was in the market for a consulting architect at that time following the end of a long partnership with Keith Foster in that role. And it did have Gil on its short list for a potential driving range and short game practice area project it was considering. That, however, was the extent of it when Russ began his second round at Southern Hills.

Things began to accelerate when the practice area idea was put on the back burner in favor of a widespread masterplan for the clubhouse. Russ gently pushed for a broader approach.

"I felt if we didn't at least include a long-term look at the golf course at that same time, we were going to commit a lot of resources to the clubhouse over several years, and the golf course might get tabled for a long time," he said. "I just interjected the idea of having Gil give his thoughts on the golf course from a master plan standpoint as well, and they ultimately did that."



Gil says Russ's role in cementing the relationship between Southern Hills and his design team can't be overstated: "He was someone who went to the club and said, 'Listen, I've worked with these guys at LACC, and that whole process of researching and understanding the original design is what we should be doing here'. He became a big advocate for the plan."

Originally, that plan focused on reshaping bunkers, recapturing fairway routings, removing trees to restore some of the property's original sightlines and uncovering creeks that had been covered up over time. At that stage, work on the greens was a consideration for another day.

But members soon warmed to the idea of adding a greens restoration to the menu, even if the new plan required the course to close, while the original one did not. One major disruption was better than two, the prevailing thinking went, especially when a fully restored yet modern test of golf would be the end result.

Architecturally, the greens work focused on expanding the edges of the putting surfaces and a restoration of the roll-offs in those areas,



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creating effects similar to what you might find on the greens at Pinehurst No. 2. "Golfers who get anywhere near the edges of the greens, the ball is not going to stay on," Gil said. "I think the recovery options are going to be very interesting." The agronomic part of the work included grassing with Pure Distinction bentgrass and a hydronic system similar to the one installed at LACC that allows Russ and his team to use cold or hot water running through pipes to affect the temperatures in »

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Beauty through productivity www.turfco.com the root zone. It's a critical tool in the successful

management of cool-season turf in a region known for its blistering hot summers.

"I was very open that I didn't care whether the work on the greens was included in the original plan, but if they were, we needed to put in the hydronics," Russ said. "My view on it was, if we went with ultradwarf (bermudagrass) and maintained them to the level we would have to. we'd probably have as much risk of losing the bermuda from winterkill as we would the cool-season bentgrass to summer heat. Adding the hydronics to the mix made it an easy call.'

#### Winter woes

Southern Hills closed its championship course in August 2018 and underwent 10 months of work. Two years later, the new digs would get their first test of championship golf when they played host to the Senior PGA

Championship, which would also serve as a practice round for Russ and his team 12 months before this year's PGA Championship.

The run-up to the event turned the situation into much, much more than just a dry run.

In mid-February 2021, Winter Storm Uri (as it was called by the folks at the Weather Channel) rolled across the continental U.S.. bringing snow, ice and bitterly cold temperatures to parts of the country unaccustomed to such weather. The storm was blamed for the widespread power crisis in Texas that left millions in the dark and significant turf loss and tree damage for more than a few Lone Star State superintendents.

Tulsa and Southern Hills were in the storm's crosshairs. too, but the impacts there were not as dire. At least that's how it appeared at first as Russ assessed the impact of the weather on his turf.



"I'd been through an ice storm here in 2008. We had snow or ice for 15 or 20 days and didn't have any problems," Russ said. "I probably thought we were bulletproof, or we'd just do whatever magical thing we did that time, and we'd be OK. I'd never had any turf loss during my career. We just didn't think much about it." They did remain vigilant,

though. Throughout the month of March, with the course still mostly dormant and the weather staying unseasonably cool and overcast, Myers and his team periodically pulled turf samples to see how they'd react under grow lights. They sought advice from sod growers, vendors and fellow superintendents. And through it all, they remained convinced that with time and a positive turn in the weather, they'd be fine.

Until, that is, early April rolled around, and Russ asked good friend Jeremy Dobson to stop by and offer his own take on the situation. Then the superintendent at The Patriot Golf Club in nearby Owasso, Okla., the late Jeremy was an assistant superintendent at Southern Hills during Russ's first stint at the club. If there was anyone who could see something that Russ didn't, it

would be Jeremy.

They checked out several spots on the course, and Russ awaited Jeremy's verdict. "I expected him to tell me that everything would be all right, but he didn't," Russ said. "He turned to me and said, 'I know you don't want to hear this, but I'd be sodding this right now.' I couldn't believe it. I said, 'You'd be sodding all this?' and he said, 'I'd be sodding a lot of it.'"

Dobson's reasoning? "He said, 'Right now, you've got nothing. If you leave it alone and you're wrong, you're done. If you start sodding now, at least you have something to work with,'" Myers says.

To test Dobson's theory, Russ paid a visit to a nearby sod farm, where he shockingly found far more green grass than he was seeing at Southern Hills. That and a subsequent conversation with longtime Oklahoma superintendent Mike Wooten convinced him that Jeremy was right: Sodding was the only path to having playable turf for the Senior PGA.

After Russ notified club officials and Kerry Haigh, the PGA's chief championship officer, crews got to work. For a month straight, they sodded from sunup to sundown, focusing mainly on fairways and areas around putting

greens. All told, they sodded just under six acres of turf. Early returns weren't positive; Russ said three weeks out from the tournament, those areas remained effectively "unplayable."

But a multipronged plan that included the use of covers, regular topdressing and strategic fertilisation not to mention a long-overdue break from Mother Nature — eventually paid off with green grass and more-than-playable conditions for the Senior PGA. "I'd never been through anything quite like that," Myers says, "but what these guys did was a pretty amazing accomplishment."

Kerry, whose relationship with Russ goes back to that first PGA in 2007, couldn't agree more. "Russ and his team did an unbelievably great job in preparing the course with all of those challenges," Kerry said. "He is an expert in the field of agronomy, extremely knowledgeable of the grasses and what it takes to bring out the very best in the golf course.'

#### Continue the conversation

Continue the conversation with Scott Hollister, GCM's editor-in-chief by email on shollister@gcsaa.org





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# **DE-STRESS OVER ANTHRACNOSE**

Anthracnose has become the most hotly discussed disease in turf management over recent seasons, according to the latest list of Top 10 Turf Topics raised with STRI.



Sean Loakes, Syngenta Turf Technical Manager UK & Ireland Anthracnose appears to be an increasing issue, resulting in more serious effects, over an extended season.

The pathogen itself is relatively weak and, even when present throughout the season, healthy plants are reasonably able to withstand infections. The problems arise when plants are weakened by stress or injury and less able to resist disease development. Often plants can cope with

Often plants can cope with one stress, but when multiple factors accumulate, the impacts of anthracnose can be both quick and catastrophic. What makes it harder to plan for is the effects of stress early in the season, may only become apparent with disease outbreaks later in the summer.

That has been exacerbated in recent years, when some of the stress factors imposed on turf have become increasingly more severe and prolonged. Those stresses can be both natural - weather related heat, light and drought or nutritional shortfall — or induced by necessary turf management practices. Reducing the intensity of mowing can be the first step in cutting stress on

the plant. That can be both the height of cut and the frequency of mowing. With a green cut set at 3.0mm, even going to 3.3mm gives the plant 10% more leaf area for photosynthesis and strength.

Trials have shown a tighter sward from a Primo Maxx II programme can have the same, or better, green speed cut at 3.3mm, compared to an untreated at 3.00mm. Furthermore, the slightly raised cut was showed significantly smoother ball roll, which in player surveys was more attractive to golfers than speed alone.

#### Cut height

Research in the US has shown raising the height of cut, from 2.8mm to 3.2mm, reduced the average incidence of anthracnose infection over the late summer by 18%. Cutting at a height of 3.6mm in the trials reduced disease by 36%, compared to the lower cut. Recommendations from that trial indicated the best strategy was to double cut and roll at the higher cut of 3.6mm, rather than reduce the height of cut.

Recent studies of mowing height have also revealed that modern heavier mowing units can result in actual cutting heights being lower than conventional units set to the same height on the bench. Using a prism gauge to check and adjust units to what is actually happening can avoid this problem, as well as checking the cleanness of cut that will also minimise stress. Greens in an effective

growth regulation programme also perform more consistently all day, reducing the need for a labour intensive late-afternoon cut. It can also facilitate more use of a turf iron as an alternative to mowing in some instances, which further reduces stress on the turf while maintaining speed and smoothness.

Maintaining adequate nutrition is essential to avoid stressing plants. All the studies have shown that turf under low nutrient management regimes is at far higher risk of anthracnose outbreaks. The actual amount required will be different for every situation, but trials have consistently shown 2 — 4kg N/ha per week is a good base to minimise the risk of attack. Alongside nutrition, STRI

trials with the biostimulant, Hicure, have shown when used in a regular programme during the summer months plant health was improved, which in turn led to a reduction in anthracnose pressure of around 40% lower than in untreated areas.

As an ITM strategy, the trials also showed that a

# Working in partnership with **Syngenta**.

**The science of modern greenkeeping** Find further insights at www.syngentaturf.co.uk fungicide treatment was extremely effective at preventing anthracnose developing — giving up to 93% control compared to untreated. When the fungicide programme was overlaid on top of the Hicure programme, the greatest levels of control were greatest and most consistent over the course of the season.

#### **Research results**

Further STRI research in 2021 reported the FR321 fungicide one box solution containing both Heritage and Medallion TL — kept anthracnose infection at 2% or less from the end of August and through September.

One of the 'additive' stresses, that may not have been sufficiently considered in the past, is light. Turf that is managed on the edge for nutrition, cutting height and moisture, for example, that is performing exceptionally, could be tipped over into high anthracnose risk category by excess light.

Studies have shown that once light hits over 600 micromoles per second, turf plants can no longer cope with all the electrons produced by all the photosynthetic activity. As a result, the electrons, or free radicals, produced and not utilised by the plant become physically damaging to the cells. If plants are already under stress from, other factors, that may be too much.

One option could be to back off on some of the other stress inducing factors, Alternatively, using the pigment Ryder, with a built in UV screen, could enable the plant to cope with the excess light.

Prolonged hot, dry periods that have become the norm do increase the risk of plant stress. It can be further exacerbated where irrigation is more frequent to counter dry conditions, when the high humidity and leaf wetness during hot weather are the perfect scenario for anthracnose to develop.

That makes irrigation scheduling and wetting agent programmes an essential part of any season-long ITM programme, to minimise the risk of anthracnose. Then, using turf specific weather forecasting tools, such as Syngenta's WeatherPro, can help to make decisions on short-term adaptations to avoid stress, and that could avert an outbreak.

#### **Continue the conversation**

Read the full feature at www.syngentaturf.co.uk

Science

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# **Current research** with biostimulants in turfgrass

Dr Gerald Henry, Athletic Association Endowed Professor. University of Georgia, with Karl Hansell. BIGGA

Although the use of biostimulants on golf courses turf has increased in recent years, minimal published research is available that describes their impact on turfgrass.

We've taken a closer look at some of the research that has taken place, much of which is not typically available to the public as most articles are published in scientific journals.

Biostimulants are substances or microorganisms, specifically called microbial inoculants. They stimulate existing biological or chemical processes within plants and other microbes that may be in the plants or in the soil.

Typically, biostimulants do not 4. contain many nutrients.

Biostimulants fall into four major categories, although some people are broader in their definition and believe that anything that benefits living organisms could be categorised as a biostimulant. However. the four categories I work with are: 1.

- Microbial inoculants - Free-living fungi
- Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF)
- Free-living bacteria
- Protein hydrolysates and amino acids
- Humic substances
- Humic acids
- Fulvic acids

Seaweed extracts

#### Potential benefits

The use of biostimulants can lead to the enhancement of turfgrass growth and quality by improving nutrient uptake, nutrient use efficiency or increasing the tolerance to abiotic stresses that include heat, drought and saline soil conditions.

#### **Review of biostimulants** research projects in turfgrass

Much of the research I mention below has been conducted by other investigators besides myself and you'll notice it has largely been conducted over the last 20 years, some published within the last couple of years or so. Unfortunately, there's isn't a huge amount of research published in this area, although there is a little bit more as you

move into other cropping systems like vegetables and agronomic crops.

When looking at each of the research projects, obviously some of these biostimulant products may not be available in the UK. Therefore, we'll include the ingredients so you may be able to find something similar that is available. You'll also notice that some of these projects may not be conducted on grasses that are typically grown or used on courses in the UK.

A Mueller and Kussow 2005 study, entitled Biostimulant Impact on Creeping Bentgrass, saw the application of five different biostimulants treatments, Flexx-Plus, Colonize T&O. Raiz-Mor and two experimental products. This study found that biostimulants did not alter enzyme activity or did so only temporarily. It

also found that turfgrass The next couple of studies guality was improved, with the that we are going to discuss effects lasting over 30 days concern protein hydrolysates per application and that the (PHs) and amino acids. PHs are nutrient status was not mixtures of peptides and impacted by biostimulants. amino acids manufactured

#### Figure 1: Soil Compaction Increase

(ISd)

Soil

C



at O days after initiation

This feature was adapted from a talk given as part of the Continue to Learn 2021 programme. BIGGA members can view it online now in the Members Area of the BIGGA website.



2.

3.



from protein sources. Most are sourced from animal-derived proteins procured through acid hydrolysis (leather by-products, blood meal, fish by-products). Others come »

#### 28 Days After Trial Initiation

Urea applied at 0 and 21 days after initiation. All other treatments applied

#### Figure 2 - Change in Root Biomass (g)



Urea applied at O and 21 days after initiation. All other treatments applied at O days after initiation

from enzymatic hydrolysis of plant-derived proteins (legume seeds, alfalfa hay, vegetable by-products). Hydrolysis is the chemical breakdown of a compound due to reaction with water.

These products are available as liquid extracts, soluble powders and in granular form. Some of the potential benefits are an increase in turfgrass germination, overall productivity and turfgrass quality.

Many investigators feel these products can help alleviate the negative effects of abiotic plant stress. They directly affect plants by stimulating carbon and nitrogen metabolism and interfering with hormonal activity.

Substrates such as amino acids could provide a food source for plant-associated microbes that help turfgrass acquire nutrients and water and withstand biotic and abiotic stress. They can also provide a food source for microbes that are associated with turf grass plants. These then help the turf grass plants acquire nutrients and water within the soil and that can help decrease some of the negative aspects when they are subjected to biotic and abiotic stresses.

The McCoy et al 2020 study, Impact of Amino Acids on Creeping Bentgrass, found that glutamate — a free amino acid ¬— can be rapidly absorbed into creeping bentgrass foliage intact, making it available to help seed germination, root architecture and pollen germination.

Another survey undertaken the same year by De Luca et al and entitled Effects of Microorganisms and Amino Acids on Perennial Ryegrass assessed the efficacy of three biostimulants on turf, Azobio, Rizobacter and Rizosan Eco. This study looked at how microorganisms and amino acids influence the growth of perennial ryegrass. It was conducted in a greenhouse in pots with a sand potting media designed to replicate a putting green. Each of the biostimulants increased turfgrass quality, even with the presence of nutritional stress.

The 2006 study, Biostimulant Influence on Bermudagrass Root Development, by Tucker et al, was a morphological research project and was conducted on a USGA-specification sand-based putting green. The biostimulants Panasea Plus and Plant N.O.G. were applied but did not produce as many beneficial results as others mentioned. However, not seeing results in one area of one specific turfgrass species does not mean you won't see results on others. The researchers saw that neither biostimulants influenced turfgrass quality, although the sea plant extract from the Panasea Plus led to an increase in root length by about 11% compared to the non-treated area.

The Xu and Huang 2010 study, Response of Creeping Bentgrass to Biostimulants Under Summer Stress, utilised the biostimulants CPR and TurfVigor and both improved turfgrass quality during summer. Both alleviated leaf senescence (turf depth, leaf tip dieback) by suppressing

#### Figure 3 - Fertility - Shear Strength (Roots)



chlorophyll loss and increasing canopy density. They also increased root surface area and biomass compared to non-treated areas.

The remainder of the research that I'm going to discuss comes predominately from our programme at the University of Georgia. Some of it will be a little different than some of the previous research, especially in the way we collect our data.

#### Biostimulant Effect on Rooting and Soil Compaction

This project was conducted on an athletic field on native clay loam soil that is utilised by students at the university for various sports, so it gets a lot of wear and tear and potentially a lot of soil compaction. The turfgrass species was Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass and we were trying to compare traditional fertiliser applications of a Urea 46-0-0 with other products that had biostimulant materials in them, namely a Sea3 soil conditioner that contains humic acid, molasses and kelp. This product is marketed as feeding and proliferating microorganisms that release tied up nutrients and improve compacted soils. We record a lot of data with

sensors and utilise the Toro Precision Sense 6000, which is a tow-behind device that

#### Figure 4 - Wetting Agents - Rooting Depth



takes a lot of data and can create maps. That means we're not just taking data from one section of a plot, but we're taking data over the entire research site, which gives us more accurate results. We then create maps with this data, which allows us to get an overall feel for how these plots are performing in response to some of the treatments that we're applying.

Figure 1 looks at the increase in soil compaction a month after we initiated treatments. You'll see there is a non-treated control treatment on the left. Next to that is urea, which is our standard fertility application, then two different rates of the Sea3 and finally a combination of the Sea3 plus urea.

The Sea3 product, regardless of application rates, decreased the amount of soil compaction that occurred over time. This helps the turf look a lot better than under some of these other treatments, but with the same amount of traffic.

If we then look at the change in root biomass, shown in Figure 2, you can see that in the non-treated check on the left and the urea, we had root loss over the 28-day timeframe. However, in response to the Sea3 and even the Sea3 plus urea, we saw a gain in root mass during that same timeframe. So as this field saw traffic and was compacted, we actually gained root mass compared to the non-treated and urea treatments.

#### Biostimulant Effect on Rooting and Soil Compaction

Another trial looked at the effect of biostimulants on rooting and soil compaction. This compared a typical fertility programme with urea with a combination of three products, Upplause, Rhizonify and Bioblend.

Using sensor technology and a shear strength tester gave us a lot of data. A shear strength tester measures the rotational strength of the turfgrass. It tells you how well rooted your turf is and how much pressure and force it takes to have that system give way and those roots tear and shear.

The minimal acceptable shear strength reading is about a 10 and on Figure 3 you can see that after 14 weeks, the Upplause, Rhizonify and Bioblend application every month got us above that minimum acceptable level.

The other treatments of urea at two different rates did not have that same impact and the results look similar to the non-treated control.

#### Wetting Agents

We were very impressed with the combination of products and the influence it had on roots. That got us thinking and we've since done a few projects with wetting agents on golf course putting greens, looking at rooting depth. We did research with several experimental wetting agents, which I'm not going to identify, but the first four bars from left to right on Figure 4 are all experimental wetting agents. The bar on the far »

amenity solutions



Don't let drought conditions upset the water-to-air balance in the rootzone.

#### Propel-R will:

- Reduce soil water repellency to zero
- Provide complete soil wetting
- Distribute moisture evenly through the rootzone
- ) Enhance prevention and control of Dry Patch
- Maximise irrigation efficiency
- ) Encourage and improve root growth
- ) Offer Liquid, Granule and Tablet options



#### Figure 5 - Wetting Agents - Total N Leaching



right has no wetting agent application at all.

Many people insist that wetting agents can be considered biostimulants, simply because they can have an impact on the health of the

#### turfgrass system.

When we looked at the rooting depth in millimetres, we saw an increase in response to all the wetting agents that we tested, compared to the non-treated plot. So what wetting agents actually do within the soil? Wetting agents increase the uniformity of moisture throughout the soil profile, retain moisture deeper in the profile and potentially decrease fertility leaching, which may increase the length

which may increase the length of time fertilisers are available to be taken up by the plant. We've done a lot of work in

the greenhouse, where we precisely apply wetting agents in water over a certain timeframe and we collect total nitrogen through a leaching system.

Figure 5 shows the results of one trial that we ran with various experimental wetting agents. All the bars received the same amount of fertiliser, with just the far-right bar not being treated by a wetting agent. What you see is that the wetting agents decreased the total amount of nitrogen leaching by around 30% compared to the fertiliser only plot. Wetting agents could therefore be an important tool, whether you consider them to be biostimulants or not.

#### Continue the conversation

If you have any questions regarding any of the information that I provided or if you want some of the publications, email me at gmhenry@uga.edu. If you want to follow me on Twitter, you can do so using ② @UGATurfgrass.

#### Research projects mentioned within this article

#### **Biostimulant Impact on Creeping Bentgrass**

(Mueller and Kussow, 2005. Biostimulant Influences on Turfgrass Microbial Communities and Creeping Bentgrass Putting Green Quality. HortScience.) Trial site: USGA sand-based putting green Turf species: 'SR1119' creeping bentgrass

#### Treatments:

- / Flexx-Plus Yucca wetting agent, bacteria, sea kelp, humic and fulvic acids
- / Colonize T&O Vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizae fungi, bacteria + carbon source, humic acid and sea kelp
- / Raiz-Mor Surfactant-wetting agent, seaweed and plant extracts
- / Experimental A and Experimental B Seaweed extracts fortified with glucose

#### Results

- / Microbial activity biostimulants either never altered enzyme activity or did so only temporarily
- / Turfgrass quality --- all biostimulants improved turfgrass colour, uniformity and LDS, with the effects lasting over 30 days
- / Nutrient status not impacted by biostimulants

#### Impact of Amino Acids on Creeping Bentgrass

(McCoy et al. 2020. Exploratory Study on the Foliar Incorporation and Stability of Isotopically Labeled Amino Acids Applied to Turfarass. Agronomy.)

- Trial site: 20cm pots grown in a controlled
- environment greenhouse Turf species: 'Penncross', 'Penneagle' and 'Pennlinks' creeping bentgrass mixture
- Treatments:
- / Foliar application of amino acid glutamate

#### Results

- I Glutamate is rapidly absorbed into creeping bentgrass foliage and it is utilised to produce γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA) and proline.
- / Glutamate is taken up intact and therefore amino acids applied to turfgrass foliage can be rapidly absorbed and serve as stable sources of precursor molecules to be integrated into the metabolism of the plant.

#### Effects of Microorganisms and Amino Acids on Perennial Ryegrass

- (De Luca et al., 2020. Effect of Nitrogen-fixing Microorganisms and Amino Acid-based Biostimulants on Perennial Ryegrass. HortTechnology.)
- Perennial Ryegrass. Hort lechnology.) Trial site: 16cm pots grown in a controlled environment
- greenhouse; sand potting media Turfgrass species: 'Esquire' perennial ryegrass

#### Treatments:

- Azobio Biological inoculant of the N-fixing bacteria Azotobacter vinelandii
- Rizobacter Biological inoculant of the bacteria Bacillus lichenformis, B. megaterium, A. vinelandii and Pseudomonas fluorescens
- / Rizosan Eco Free amino acids, ammoniacal N, Fe, Zn and polysaccharides Results:
- An application of Azobio increased turf quality for two to three months
- Rizobacter resulted in similar turf quality, but darker
- green colour compared to Azobio. Effects also lasted longer.
- / Rizosan Eco was beneficial to turfgrass, especially under nutritional stress. This plot showed better turf quality, darker green colour and more growth and yield than untreated turf.
- I Overall, biostimulants increased turfgrass quality even when in the presence of nutritional stress.

#### Biostimulant Influence on Bermudagrass Root Development

- (Tucker et al., 2006. Mowing Height, Nitrogen Rate and Biostimulant Influence Root Development of
- Field-grown 'TifEagle' Bermudagrass. HortScience.) Trial site: USGA sand-based putting green
- Turf species: 'TifEagle' ultradwarf hybrid bermudagrass

#### Treatments

- / Panasea Plus Liquefied sea plant extract
   / Plant N.O.G Cytokinin (kinetin)
- Result
- / Neither biostimulants influenced turfgrass quality
- / The sea plant extract (Panasea Plus) led to an increase

#### in root length > 11% compared to non-treated plants

- Response of Creeping Bentgrass to Biostimulants Under Summer Stress
- (Xu and Huang, 2010. Responses of Creeping Bentgrass to Trinexapac-ethyl and Biostimulants Under
- Summer Stress. HortScience.) Trial site: USGA sand-based putting green Turf species: 'Penncross' creeping bentgrass

#### Treatmer

- / CPR Sea plant extract, micronutrients and a surfactant, Contains N. K. Mg, S. Fe, Mn and Zn.
- / TurfVigor Microbial inoculant, kelp extract and macronutrients. Contains N, P, K, Fe, Mn and Zn.

#### Results

- I Both biostimulants improved turfgrass quality during summer
- / Both biostimulants alleviated leaf senescence (turf depth. leaf tip dieback) by suppressing chlorophyll loss and increasing canopy density
- / Both biostimulants increased root surface area and biomass compared to non-treated areas during the summer months.

#### **Biostimulant Effect on Rooting and Soil Compaction**

Trial site: Athletic field on native clay loam soil Turfgrass species: 'Tifway 419' hybrid bermudagrass

#### Treatmen

- / Urea 46-0-0 fertiliser
- / Sea3 soil conditioner Humic acid, molasess and kelp

#### **Biostimulant Effect on Rooting and Soil Compaction**

Trial site: Athletic field on native clay loam soil Turfgrass species: Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass

#### Ireatments:

- / Urea 46-0-0 fertiliser
- Upplause + Rhizonify + Bioblend Ammoniacal, nitrate and urea nitrogen, phosphate, potash, iron, manganese, zinc, calcium and wetting agent.

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# \$\$ F(0)R /IN(G (C(0)S) 잉티티 (이) 니 두 ( 데 있 티 티 시 ( S)

Fine turf grass seed prices are at an all-time high, having risen by approximately 30% between 2021-22.

But does this mean that you should stop overseeding your greens?

No, not at all! Your regular overseeding programme is vital for producing strong vigorous growth and to protect your desired species from the ever-intrusive poa annua.

The best way to offset the rising cost of grass seed is to optimise your overseeding method to achieve the best possible germination rate from the lowest sensible application dose.

Here are some top tips from GreenTek that experienced greenkeepers have used for many years to achieve the best results.

#### **1. COMMUNICATE YOUR PLAN**

Make sure your members understand the timing of your overseeding programme and that you will use the latest methods that keep disruption of play to a minimum. Explain the substantial benefit to turf quality that will result.

#### 2. MINIMISE YOUR THATCH LAYER

Get your thatch under control. Overseeding into an inch of thatch is a waste of time and money!

Most UK golf clubs have been using modern tungsten-tipped verticutters like Thatch-Away for the past 20 years and deep thatch layers are not now the pervasive problem that they were in the 1990's.

However, if you do still have an excessive thatch

layer, this should be treated from above with a mixture of scarifying and hollow coring and from below with biological methods that feed on the thatch and help to break it down.

This process takes time, so it needs to be ongoing well in advance of your overseeding programme. Also, ensure that there are no drainage issues.



#### 3. SELECT **YOUR SEED**

As a broad rule, parkland courses mainly overseed with bent, whereas links courses have traditionally overseeded with fescue, although we are increasingly seeing bent used on these as well. Your seed supplier should be able to help advise you on the best cultivars.

Some greenkeepers advocate a seed mix containing a broad variety of cultivars with different characteristics to provide a wide range of stress tolerance within the turf.

#### 4. PREPARE YOUR TURF

Prior to overseeding, limit irrigation and fertilisation. Soil temperature needs to be at least 9 to 12°C for fescue, although for bents 16 to 22°C is optimal. The traditional time for overseeding used to be in the autumn, but many greenkeepers are now preferring to do it earlier in the season, any time between April to October that the conditions are right.

Correct temperature is one of the three essential requirements for seed to germinate. The other two are soil contact and moisture.

#### 5. SOW YOUR SEED

Piercing the turf canopy to enable the seeds to make contact with the soil is essential. This can be done in a number of wavs.

In recent years, overseeder units mounted on a triplex mower have become increasingly popular. These have vibrating spikes which open up rows of neat holes into which the seed is precisely sown and then brushed in, enabling it to safely germinate within the little "plant pots". Providing the thatch layer is kept minimised, the preferred depth for sowing bent is at 2 - 5mm. Seeding rates for bents can be calibrated as low as  $5g/m^2$ , thus

giving substantial savings on this expensive seed.

Fescue is a larger lighter weight seed than bent, and dose rates can be set lower at  $3g/m^2$ . When seeding fescue the spikes should be set for deeper penetration of 10 - 12mm. Additionally, to further optimise germination of fescue you can do a pre-treatment of shallow hollow coring or solid tining to make additional larger "plant pots" of 10 - 15mm diameter. Some areenkeepers prefer to do this as deep as 25mm in order to give fescue seedlings space to grow to this height before they are mown.



#### 6. BRUSH IT IN

Many greenkeepers will include a light topdressing in their overseeding programme, working this into the surface with a drag brush or an astroturf dragmat. Chain link dragmats are not generally favoured as they tend to drag the seed across the green rather than down the holes.

#### 7. ROLL IT

A light rolling, preferably with vibratory rollers is an excellent additional treatment to shake the seed and topdressing further into the surface, and to minimise what is lifted off next time you mow.



#### 8. IRRIGATE

The general practice is to irrigate lightly immediately after seeding and nightly until a week after the seedlings become evident, then relax this but take care to ensure that seedlings don't dry out.

#### 9. FERTILISE

After overseeding, many greenkeepers opt for an organic fertiliser containing mycorrhizae to maintain turf health and vigour without any negative effect on playability from a flush of growth.

#### CONCLUSION

Despite the current cost of seed, overseeding remains an invaluable practice for maintaining the desired composition of grass species in your greens turf. Using modern rapid overseeding methods with minimal disturbance enables greenkeepers to do this process earlier in the season, thus optimising germination rates and making the whole operation much more cost-effective.

Working in partnership



#### **Read this for:**

/ Shade / Turf health / Research

How to quantify light requirements for putting greens

Zach Nicoludis, agronomist, USGA, with Karl Hansell, BIGGA

This feature was adapted from a talk given as part of the Continue to Learn 2021 programme and BIGGA members can view it online now in the Members Area of the BIGGA website.





I am based in Columbus, Ohio and I travel primarily throughout the Midwest and Upper Midwest of the United States, central and eastern Canada and I have also had the opportunity to go overseas and work with a few golf courses in South Korea.

My territory gives me the opportunity to see a wide range of golf courses in just about every growing environment. I get to see courses in Canada that deal with extreme winters, as well as work with golf courses in the transition zone where you can grow both warm and cool season grasses or some combination of the two across the golf course.



We all understand that sunlight is critical for the health of all plants. When it comes to direct sunlight, there are different ranges within the visible light spectrum that function differently. We are concerned with the range of 400 to 700 nanometers, which is known as Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) and is the portion of the light spectrum used by plants for photosynthesis.

#### How much sunlight does a putting green need to drive photosynthesis and maximise performance?

When a grass is in the shade, whether due to a tree or some other source, the direct sunlight is being diffused and we lose out on that beneficial PAR. We really want that direct sunlight to drive photosynthesis and promote turf health.

Time of day also matters when it comes to direct sunlight reaching the turf. An hour of direct sunlight in the early morning does not necessarily have the same benefits as an hour of direct sunlight in the early afternoon, but morning sunlight will accelerate the rate at which morning moisture is removed from the leaf surface so the turf canopy dries faster, which can help with disease pressure.

#### When is direct sunlight most effective for driving photosynthesis and how do we measure it?

When we maintain turf, we want to know how much PAR an area receives in 24 hours. This is referred to as the Daily Light Integral (DLI). It is expressed in terms of moles of light per square metre per day and outdoor it usually ranges from 5 to 60.

Each of the different turfgrass species that are maintained have different shade tolerance. Fescue performs pretty well in a shaded environment, while creeping bentgrass and perennial ryegrass require a significant amount of sunlight. Therefore, a shaded environment will

give a competitive advantage to fescues. Research conducted at Clemson

University and The University of Arkansas to determine the DLI for creeping bentgrass and bermudagrass

Research conducted at two different universities has guantified how much sunlight both ultradwarf bermudagrass and creeping bentgrass require.

At Clemson University research was conducted in 2005 to determine what DLI TifEagle bermudagrass maintained at putting green height requires. Through the research conducted by Dr McCarty and Dr Brunel we found that a DLI of 32.6 is required to promote healthy grass.

Travis Russel, Doug Carter and Mike

Richardson at the University of Arkansas conducted research in 2016 and 2017 on creeping bentgrass maintained at putting green height in the transition zone. They found that creeping bentgrass requires a DLI of 30.

#### How can this research help determine if putting greens are receiving adequate sunlight?

Now we have these numbers that have been developed at Clemson and the University of Arkansas, how can we take these and measure the DLI at a given golf course to determine if adequate sunlight is being received?

The first step is to acquire sensors that are capable of measuring DLI. These sensors are well worth the investment to be able to quantify how much sunlight a putting green receives. These would be set up on a putting green for a 24-hour period to quantify how much sunlight is





being received during the summer. The reason summer is chosen is because this is when the research was conducted and we want to measure DLI for putting greens at approximately the same time of year that the research was conducted.

When undertaking the data collection, it would be best to choose what would be considered an average day weather-wise for your area. If clouds typically move in during the afternoon, choose a day where the forecast is representative of an average day for your location.

There are obvious benefits to direct sunlight in the spring and autumn and

measuring during these seasons would be a good idea. But be aware that as the research was conducted in summer, the numbers may not directly relate and so you would be making judgement calls based upon your own experience. Direct sunlight in autumn helps turf produce carbohydrates as it enters dormancy for winter, setting it up for spring when dormancy breaks and soil temperatures rise in part due to increased sunlight levels.

situation where only part of a green is



Few golf courses have either 100% shade or 100% sunlight on their greens and it is very likely that you're in a

shaded. In this situation it would be good to measure the DLI in a shaded portion and a portion that receives more sun. This can help you draw conclusions about why the shaded area sometimes suffers. If there is additional stress due to it being an exit route for golfers, due to the contours of the green or if it is a turning point for a mower, then the additional lack of sunlight can have a serious negative impact on turf health, even though there are multiple factors at play.

#### How to calculate the percentage of shade

- / % sun = (DLI of shady location/DLI of sunny location) x 100
- / % shade = 100 % sun

The percentage of sun equals the DLI in the shady location divided by the DLI in the sunny location and then multiplied by 100. One hundred minus the percentage of sun gives you the percentage of shade.

Once we have these measurements it is possible to determine the action to be taken. If we're looking at creeping bentgrass greens that are at a DLI of 30 or above, probably no action needs to be taken, provided turf health is adequate.



But if we start to get below that, we need to evaluate what's going on at a particular playing surface and whether action needs to be taken.

Most of the time these discussions centre around tree removal and so a conversation must be had with the club regarding that. If the tree is located on an adjacent property and they refuse to remove it, you may have to look at other options, such as moving the putting green, which is a significant investment.

Another situation that is less likely but does come up from time to time is that structures or buildings can be a source of shade for putting greens. Obviously, this is a very different situation as it is highly unlikely that a building is going to move. But you may have a clubhouse that is located beside a practice putting green and so any projects, such as a clubhouse extension, could create additional shade on that surface. It is therefore important to consider all the options and make allowances to consider this, such as moving the putting green.

Along with the work that was conducted to determine the DLI, the researchers also evaluated the impact of plant growth regulators (PGRs) on turf shade tolerance. They discovered a positive relationship between the application of PGRs and the ability to tolerate more shade. That is not to say



Levels of damage caused by shade - image by Travis Russel

de-21474844147.html / Russell, R T, D E Karcher and M D Richardson. 2019. Daily Light Integral Requirement of a Creeping Bentgrass Putting Green as Affected by Shade, Trinexapac-ethyl, and a Plant Colorant. Crop Sci. 59:1768-1778.

#### Continue the conversation:

Zach can be reached at znicoludis@usga.org

but if you look at the research, you will

/ Bunnell, BT, LB MacCarty, JE Faust,

W C Bridges, N C Rajapakse and W C Bridges. 2005. Quantifying a daily

light integral requirement of a TifEagle

bermudagrass golf green. Crop Sci.

/ Hartwiger, Chris, Sunlight Assessment

is a Key to Success with Ultradwarf

Record. January 10, 2012, https:// www.usga.org/articles/2012/01/cours

e-care-made-in-the-sha

Bermudagrass. USGA Green Section

find mention of the potential impact

PGRs can have on turf health.

Further reading and sources

45(2):569-574.

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# Δ D 기(비 있 두 (옷) 티 있 로(옷)

Bayer Environmental Science explains how time, investment and science are allowing Signature Xtra and Exteris Stressgard to combat stress in turf

Since 2002 the UK has seen the ten hottest summers on record, and in the last decade (2010-2019) the average temperature has been 0.9°C higher than the long-term average (1961-1990), according to the Met Office. These increased temperatures are leading to a higher stress burden on turf.

Dr Colin Mumford, technical support manager at Bayer, says high traffic, exceptionally hot temperatures and longer lasting droughts can cause a decline in turf guality and the aesthetics of professional natural grass playing surfaces. Fine turf surfaces such as golf and bowls greens are particularly susceptible to a detrimental impact on the playability of these surfaces during prolonged hot, dry periods.

Extensive STRI independent trials, lasting two years and completing in 2020 showed that the damaging effects of heat stress can be reduced with applications of Bayer's Signature Xtra (for use in Ireland) and Exteris Stressgard.



The trials found that those plots treated with - Signature Xtra or Exteris Stressgard between June and August had the greatest turf density and a 10% better live ground cover, compared to the untreated plots.

So, how do these products work?

Throughout the year turf experiences a number of stresses. Each season brings its own unique environment, from days of intense sunlight and high UV radiation in the spring and summer, to damp shorter days in autumn and winter. These conditions contribute towards ideal environments for a wide range of fungal diseases to thrive and attack.

Luckily the formulation technology in Bayer's products is the result of years of R&D and investment, working to ensure that turf receives the protection it needs.

Both products lead the way in chemical makeup. Exteris Stressgard, for example, includes a succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor (SDHI).

The SDHI name is derived from the fact the product interferes with a molecule in the electron transport chain. In order to make energy, fungi move electrons through a chain of different molecules. At the end of this chain ATP is produced, a molecule that all living organisms use as an energy source, Exteris Stressgard halts this process, which leads to the death of the attacking fungi. Signature Xtra, which is available in Ireland, is the only true systemic

fungicide (Fosetyl-aluminium) and is the newest mode of action

for the industry in recent years.

Colin Mumford says, "It is important that turf managers rotate the different modes of action that are

available to them to prevent resistance building up within the pathogens. Signature Xtra and Exteris Stressgard have different modes of action, and give you control over your resistance management, disease and stress management, plant health, colour and density."

Signature Xtra and Exteris Stressgard are authorised fungicides that work directly on pathogens. Programmes incorporating them have also been shown to increase chlorophyll content, improve photosynthesis, encourage stronger, more vigorous plants with robust roots, as well as protect against harmful UVA and UVB radiation. These benefits promote stronger plant health, enabling the turf to better withstand attack from turf disease pathogens.

And, how did they come about? It's useful to highlight the size, scale and colossal investment chemical companies make into research and development of new products. It's nothing short of mind blowing-taking up to 8-12 years and between one to two hundred million pounds to get a new active ingredient through the system.

Whilst the Environmental Science business is being divested to Cinven this year, the products currently coming out of Bayer have been developed at the headquarters in Monheim, Germany and the USA by a dedicated team, working to find solutions for the turf and amenity sectors. This will continue after the divestment too.

The process of a new product usually begins with listening to the end user and then searching for the relevant formulation of ingredients and substances taken from a huge library where over eight million base substances are stored. Following the active ingredient discovery and characterisation, a series of other activities take place including safety

studies, intellectual property documentation, pest targets, use rates and patterns determination (including field testing), formulation determination, registration, marketing and manufacturing.

Research efficiency is vastly increased by the use of modern computer simulation (modelling tools) and sophisticated analysis to determine the structure and purity of potential new chemical compounds. This is only made possible through the availability of advanced networked information technology to process the huge amounts of data generated.

Chemical compounds then get sent to a number of laboratories where their spectrum of action is thoroughly investigated for fitness of purpose.

Strict testing criteria, which includes multi-year internal and external greenhouse and field testing mean that, after 8 to 12 years, only one in about 100,000 compounds synthesised finally develops into a commercial turf or amenity product.

A turf and amenity product can only be granted marketing authorisation if it has passed all the tests to show it will not pose an unacceptable risk to humans or the environment when used as directed. This includes the ability for an active

ingredient to break down in the soil, rather than leach into natural water courses and ground water.

Because of this ongoing investment new products will continue to become available and will give greenkeepers the tools they need to provide the excellent playing surfaces that we all enjoy.

To discover more about the formulation technology involved in Signature Xtra and Exteris Stressgard or about the STRI trials, visit www. environmentalscience.bayer.co.uk





# **AN IN DEPTH** LOOK **AT PERENNIAL** RYEGRASS



Perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne) has been cultivated for over 300 years - from farming food for livestock to the fine-leaved amenity ryegrasses we see today.

It is popular for both sports and fine turf applications because of its rapid establishment and good wearing gualities. Stuart Yarwood MG, northern regional technical manager for DLF Seeds explores the past and present of the species.

Perennial ryegrass leaves are largely parallel-sided, narrowing to a delicate tip that aives a fine. desirable finish.

The biggest identifier is the reddish base of the leaf and stem and while the upper leaf surface is dull with clear ribs, the underside is glossy with

prominent keel. Perennial ryegrass is ideal for overseeding because of its tolerance of a range of soils. Germinating in one to two

weeks. it also demonstrates fantastic shoot density with anywhere between 200 and 350 shoots per cm<sup>2</sup>.

One of the first true amenity types was Manhattan, selected from plants in New York around 1967. These were noted to be fine leaved and hard wearing. Examples of Perennial Ryegrass being used for amenity sports date back to the late 80's with Majestic from Mommersteeg incorporated into a mixture containing ryegrass, fescue and browntop bent, first used at Warwickshire CCC.

While it is one of the fastest establishing grass species, its 'Perennial' nature is not infinite. In year one growth is vigorous and dense, however from year two onwards they run out of puff and yield less. This reduced growth yield is why farmers

overseed each year to ensure livestock continue to be catered for. This diminishing growth habit also explains why ryegrasses are ideally suited to sports such as football, that undergo a full renovation each year to produce top class surfaces.

There is a movement towards using amenity ryegrasses on golf and bowling greens, where there is lack of growth or coverage from the native grasses or where the Poa annua is failing.

It can be an effective way of oversowing a nurse crop (utilising browntop bents also) until agronomic practices and growing environments can be improved to sustain finer grasses. Due to its non-stolon or non-rhizomatous nature, it is always advisable to sow ryegrass with a variety of red fescue or bentgrass species with a binding, tillering nature to help the ongoing recovery from wear. Like all ryegrasses, perennial rye does tiller and recovers quickly. However, it doesn't tolerate close mowing below 4mm and will require regular fertiliser applications, grooming and cutting, which could be to the detriment of the native finer grasses you may be trying to encourage.

All amenity ryegrasses should now be recognised as 'fine' and are marketed as such



in various ways by different companies. Interestingly they are all the same species of Lolium Perenne with no sub species. On the 2022 BSPB Turfgrass Seed list, only two points separate the finest and coarsest perennial ryegrass - scored on a visual basis. It is important to use the BSPB book as a guide to help you satisfy your turf requirements, using the appropriate headers to make your decisions — a bit like playing Top Trumps! Using the BSPB list,

cultivars ranked 7.5 and above for 'fineness of leaf' are almost indistinguishable from one another to the human eye and may be considered 'ultrafine'. When selecting the most



appropriate cultivars, think about your own unique requirements. You may require excellent 'cleanness of cut' as opposed to 'winter greenness' or interestingly, look for 'resistance to Red Thread' as an indicator to how much nitrogen fertiliser that cultivar will require to perform effectively. If it's susceptible to Red Thread, needing nitrogen to recover, then it would suggest it will require more nitrogen over its lifetime, making it more expensive to maintain.

Some ryegrass cultivars are also marketed as creeping varieties. This would be an ideal situation if a ryegrass could produce true stolons

before their first year of maturity, but the reality is most amenity ryegrasses are only capable of minor lateral spread that often takes years to achieve. Customers looking to achieve lateral growth on tees, for example, could instead consider rhizomatous species such as smooth stalk meadow grass or creeping red fescue in their mix.

With intense pressure on playing surfaces, many turf managers are looking to technology, manufacturers and seed breeders to assist in their preparations and recovery. One of the most significant developments in recent years is DLF's 4turf tetraploid perennial ryegrass.

The larger 4turf seeds contain more energy reserves for stronger, faster establishment and healthy plant development. When compared to traditional diploids, 4turf demonstrates better germination at temperatures as low as 4°C, providing an advantage for spring overseeding on tees and walkways.

The larger root system also means it is more tolerant to drought, more nitrogen efficient and resistant to environmental stresses. These qualities make it an excellent choice for mixtures destined for walkways, shaded areas or bunker surrounds.

Perennial ryegrass has come a long way since the initial amenity cultivars were developed. It has proven itself to be a versatile, hardwearing and attractive performer, found in leading sporting venues around the world.

Thanks to the long-term investments from seed breeders, you can be assured of guality cultivars - ensuring the continued success of your sports turf.



# **INDUSTRY NEWS** Emergency authorisation for grub control

An Emergency Authorisation (EA) for the use of the Syngenta insecticide Acelepryn to target chafer grubs has been granted for the 2022 season.

The EA now includes first class cricket outfields as well as specific areas of golf courses, racecourses and airfields.

"Over recent seasons the damage by soil pests has been of increasing concern." said Syngenta Technical Manager Sean Loakes. "Obtaining this EA enables turf managers to develop an integrated turf management programme to tackle the severe effects of these pests."

Chafer grubs cause damage to turf through extensive feeding on roots, which can be severe in localised patches. Surface stability where grubs have chewed through roots is of concern for racecourses. Furthermore, extreme damage can occur on all turf surfaces when badgers, birds and other foragers root through turf in search of the grubs. The EA permits application in situations where there is an acknowledged instance of economic damage or risk of bird strike on airfields and where the product has been recommended by a BASIS qualified agronomist.

Acelepryn users will be required to submit online stewardship records of treated areas.

Further trials are underway on golf courses and fine turf surfaces to refine the application timing, along with aeration practices and the potential to use Acelepryn in conjunction with effectively targeted nematode treatments.

Sean advocates that the best results have been achieved with applications at



the peak flight of egg laying adults, for the product to be in the soil zone to target early feeding larvae.

He said: "Keep surfaces irrigated where possible prior to application, to attract pest larvae towards the surface. It's important to ensure the soil profile is not hydrophobic at the time of application. Apply at higher water volumes, above 600 l/ha, using the white O8 XC Nozzle to help the spray reach the soil surface."

A further EA has also been submitted by ICL on behalf of the turf industry for the treatment of leatherjack infestations later in the season. The regulatory system only permits a 120-day use period, which requires a separate submission for leatherjackets.

#### Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year open for entries

#### The search is on to find the UK's most professional sprayer operators in the turf and landscape amenity sector.

The Amenity Forum's Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year awards highlight best practice and experience in the challenging role of ensuring accurate application on all amenity surfaces.

Sponsored by Syngenta and ICL, in association with BASIS, the awards seek to share top tips and advice that will raise standards of spray application across the amenity industry.

The winner will be

presented at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration at BTME, along with a prize of a weekend break for two at a luxury hotel of choice.

Two runners-up will receive £100 Machine Mart vouchers.

Barry Browne, ICL Landscape & Industrial Sales Manager, said: "The entry process itself will stimulate thought and understanding of the issues around application, including the need to create integrated solutions using a full range of tools and tactics."

To enter the awards visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ PWB729D Government clarification that golf clubs can use red diesel

#### A representative of HM Revenues and Customs has clarified the situation regarding the use of red diesel by golf clubs.

BIGGA has been contacted by golf clubs that have experienced difficulties in obtaining red diesel from fuel suppliers who think they can only supply a golf club if it is a registered community amateur sports club (CASC).

To clarify the matter, BIGGA contacted the Government for further information. A representative of HMRC has provided additional information, explaining that the legislation and guidance both make it clear that golf clubs can continue to use red diesel in agricultural vehicles, special vehicles, unlicensed vehicles and mowing machines.

CASCs are also entitled to use red diesel in certain machines and vehicles. However, there is no need for a golf club to be registered as a CASC to be able to use red diesel. Driving ranges are also treated as golf clubs.

If you continue to encounter difficulties accessing red diesel, please contact BIGGA and a member of the team will be available to help.

#### From childcare to greenkeeping

A dramatic change of careers

paid off for SRUC student Ben

Matthews. after his tutors

unanimously named him the

winner of this year's HNC Golf

**Course Management Student** 

of the Year Award, sponsored

Born in London, but raised

by John Deere and Scottish

in Canada from the age of

three, Ben moved to Scotland

in 2014. He worked in health

and social care for 20 years

Rewards for UK

ICL and Syngenta have

2022, with BIGGA

launched Turf Rewards for

membership added to the list.

opportunity for customers to

earn points from purchases

that can then by exchanged

against a selection of

items and learning

opportunities.

agronomic or turf related

items already on offer, new

rewards for 2022 have also

include an SGL TurfPod with

one year's subscription or the opportunity to join or renew

These great new rewards

join popular offerings such as

Machine Mart vouchers and

agronomy tools including the

TDR150 moisture meter and

the Davis Vantage Pro2

Weather Station.

your BIGGA membership.

been announced. These

Turf Rewards provides the

With an extensive range of

turf dealer Double A.

New Turf

before realising it was time for a change.

Ben said: "I had been helping children in crisis situations as an advocate, ensuring they had a voice. It was amazing work and I loved it, but I started to burn out -1couldn't switch off from worrying about the children I was working with."

It was a chance sighting while passing the SRUC campus one day that led to him pursuing a career in golf course management.

"I've always been a fan of golf and although I've never been any good, I do enjoy playing it," Ben said. "I was driving past the SRUC Elmwood campus one day and they had a big banner outside that read 'have you thought about a career in greenkeeping?'

Ben has since secured a position as a seasonal greenkeeper at St Andrews.

#### Toro to support Women in Golf



The Toro Company has announced its support of The R&A Women in Golf Charter by becoming a signatory of the industry-wide initiative.

The Women in Golf Charter aims to create a more inclusive golf culture by enabling more women and girls to realise their potential at all levels of the sport. To achieve this, the charter requires the support of national golf federations, businesses and organisations.

#### 78 | Greenkeeper International | June 2022 | @BIGGALtd

## DLF among climate friendly

#### DLF Seeds has been recognised as one of the top 20 most 'Climate Friendly Companies' of 2021 in a recent list compiled by European Seed Magazine.

Particular mention was given to DLF's RadiMax facility in Denmark, which is the world's largest open-field root screening facility. The facility is leading the way in the research and development of sustainable varieties to tackle drought, which is a serious climate threat.

Years before the climate agenda hit the breeding companies, DLF took the bold move of assembling breeders and scientists from across the public and private sectors in the pursuit of advancing seed breeding to suit future climates. DLF now supplies customers with deep-rooting and drought tolerance.

Judson McNeil, president of The Toro Company Foundation, said: "We have built a legacy of giving back by actively leveraging our expertise, resources and business partnerships to increase interest and engagement in the golf industry, specifically among women and girls. Furthering our efforts through official support of The R&A Women in Golf Charter reinforces the ongoing commitment to bringing more diversity to the game of golf."

As a proud supporter of the Women in Golf Charter and also a founding partner of The R&A's new community golf facility at Lethamhill in Glasgow, Toro will be providing annual apprenticeships to women and minorities to encourage further career development and diversity in the golf industry.

#### GreenMech growth

In order to deliver improved regional service and support to customers, GreenMech has announced updates across its UK dealer network.

The changes will see an extension to the existing territories of Vincent Tractors and Burdens Group, together with the appointment of B&B Tractors to provide new cover to the counties of Derbyshire and Staffordshire and Hopkins Machinery, who join the network as a service support dealer for South Wales.

Sales Director Martin Lucas said: "Service is a critical part of the GreenMech offering, meaning we are always reviewing our distribution partners to ensure the very best support for our customers. We are confident these changes will enhance our aftersales offering and extend our reach."

#### Liam Rowlands joins ICL



ICL has appointed Liam Rowlands as a technical area sales manager covering South West England and South Wales.

Liam arrives with good knowledge of the industry after working as a greenkeeper for 12 years. Upon leaving school he began his career at Abergele under Darren Anderson. He then went on to work at Chester, The Grove and Golfpark de Turfvaert in the Netherlands.

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#### **Assistant Greenkeeper Eaton Golf Club**

Eaton Golf Club is a successful and vibrant members' club located near Norwich city centre. We are looking to recruit an Assistant Greenkeeper to join our highly motivated team working to maintain and improve our well-respected course.

We are seeking an enthusiastic, ambitious individual to who is prepared to work hard in a team environment whilst developing their skills and experience. Applications will require a minimum level 2 qualification in Greenkeeping/Sports Turf. Chainsaw and spraying

certifications are desirable but not essential. We offer a competitive salary, staff bonus scheme and other benefits

#### How to apply

If you're interested in the role, please submit your CV along with a covering letter to General Manager, Matthew Bacon at manager@eatongc.co.uk



#### **Head Greenkeeper Greenway Hall**

A great opportunity has arisen for a Head Greenkeeper wishing to make the step up to manage the maintenance and further development of our golf course and facilities. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running and upkeep of the golf course. You will need to display the leadership and management skills to look after a small team under your guidance. Leading from the front, this is a hands-on role, and a brand-new fleet of front-line machinery will be at your disposal.

The successful candidate will hold suitable professional qualifications in Sports Tur management.

Salary dependent on skills and experience. Please feel free to add salary expectations on application.

#### How to apply

Please apply with a covering letter, CV, and references to: simon.lvnn@areenwavhall.co.uk



#### **Head Greenkeeper** Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club

A great opportunity has arisen for a greenkeeper wishing to make the step up to manage the maintenance and future development of our golf course.

You will be responsible for the day to day running of the course. Leading from the front, you will be required to manage the dedicated team of greens staff and communicate your plans to the comm

You will ensure that the course is maintained to a high standard working within an agreed budget, be responsible for the maintenance of machinery, be highly competent in trade skills and demonstrate an understanding of H&S regulations.

The successful candidate will hold suitable professional qualifications

#### How to apply

Please apply with a covering letter, CV, and references to secretary@harwichanddovercourtgolfclub.com

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#### Greenkeepers **North Shore Golf Club**

#### Rare and exciting opportunities available for those seeking new skills and experience within Greenkeeping!

North Shore Golf Club is a 27-hole private golf club situated on Auckland's North Shore (New Zealand). In addition to being one of the busiest clubs in the country, the club is about to embark on a significant cool to warm season turf conversion of all Fairways and Tees surfaces over the next 3 years.

We are offering a chance to gain rare experience for qualified greenkeepers with an attractive salary. Assistance with NZ working visas available, no accommodation offered but assistants in locating accommodation available.

#### How to apply

Expressions of interest should be sent to simon@nsgc.co.nz and include a covering letter and CV

80 | Greenkeeper International | June 2022 | @BIGGALtd



#### **Qualified Greenkeeper**

Bromborough Golf Club is a beautiful par 72 parkland course set within 150 acres of Leverhulme estate on the Wirral. The club are seeking to recruit a greenkeeper to join our award-winning greens team in the daily maintenance of the course and machinery.

#### Position Criteria

/ Minimum of 3 years experience / S/NVQ level 2 or equivalent / NPTC Pesticide: Pa1, Pa6, Pa2a

#### / Knowledge in modern irrigation system maintenance / Knowledge and experience in golf course machinery setup.

#### Position Details:

/ Full Time- 40 hour week / 20 days annual leave plus bank holidays / No accommodation is available.

#### Benefits

/ BIGGA Membership / Encouraged to attend educational days or further education

/ Excellent rate of pay in line with qualifications and experience

#### How to apply

Please apply in the form of covering letter and CV to: Darren Anderson (Course Manager) Email: gm@bromboroughgolfclub.org.uk Website: www.bromboroughgolfclub.co.uk



MOOR PARK

"Est 103

range of Golf Course maintenance

/ A keen eye to detail and insist on

exceptional standards of quality

of bed knife and reel grinders & reel

/ Certification in operation and maintenance

Please apply in writing by sending your cv

ideally with a cover letter to Course Manager

- Stuart Bertram, stuart, bertram100@

equipment and plant.

mowers

Hours and Salary

/ 40 Hrs Per Week

/ 32k to 40K

googlemail.com

#### Head Mechanic Moor Park Golf Club

#### Purpose

To carry out maintenance and repairs of all golf course equipment, vehicles, and machinery

#### Desirable

/ Previous position of Golf Course Head Mechanic / City and Guilds gualifications or NVQ

gualified to level 3 in Mechanical engineer

/ Toro Turf Care Mechanics Certified

Essential

/ Proven knowledge of maintaining a wide

#### **Deputy Head Greenkeeper Roehampton Club**

#### 18-hole parkland golf course renowned for its excellent presentation and super-smooth greens all year round.

We wish to employ a deputy head greenkeeper to strengthen our team at the Roehampton club.

The club is looking for a highly motivated individual with proven experience in golf club management

The successful applicant will need to be hardworking and reliable, also a team player with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to lead by example. Deputising in the absence of the head greenkeeper. Construction and tournament experience desirable.

AMPTO This is a full-time position including weekends on a rota basis. Competitive salary.

#### How to apply

Interested candidates should forward a CV and cover letter to the Head Greenkeeper David.howe@roehamptonclub.co.uk Closing date for application is 20 June 2022.



#### Sunningdale Golf Club are recruiting for an assistant greenkeeper. The successful candidate will be working as part of a world class team benefitting from ongoing training and support. On a day to day basis you will contribute to the maintenance and development of the golf course, its practice facilities and the surrounding estate and be part of our Tournament teams.

Sunningdale Golf Club is widely regarded as having two of the best and most beautiful courses in the British Isles, both ranked in the world top 100. The Club has a proud history of hosting tournament golf, having recently held the Seniors Open 2021, with several major events scheduled including the Curtis Cup in 2024.

#### How to apply

Email jobs@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk or visit www.sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk/careers



SUBBINGDALE COLE CLUB

#### **Head Greenkeeper** Westgate and Birchington Golf Club

Westgate and Birchington Golf Club is looking to recruit a head greenkeeper. We are looking for an ambitious head greenkeeper who is driven to maintain the course to the highest standard and continue to improve the playing surfaces.

/ Minimum of 3 years' experience as a (desirable)

#### with some mechanical skills (desirable) / IT skills (essential) / Ensure health and safety practices are in

/ Construction experience (desirable)

#### Skills set

/ NVQ L3 in greenkeeping or sports turf management (essential)

deputy or first assistant (essential) / Pa1. Pa2. Pa6 spraving(essential) / Cs30, Cs31 chainsaw (desirable) / Experience with irrigation system

#### place (essential)

/ Good working knowledge of machinery

Remuneration will be based on skill level and experience.

#### How to apply

Send CV with covering letter to: office@wabgc.co.uk Applications close 30 June 2022



#### **Deputy Head Greenkeeper Burnham on Crouch Golf Club**

Burnham on Crouch Golf Club is a modern and forward thinking members golf club overlooking the crouch estuary in Essex. Our clay based golf course benefits from superb drainage and a new irrigation system.

We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced and qualified deputy head greenkeeper to join the team. The deputy head greenkeeper will report to and support the course manager in training and managing the team of green staff and ensuring that the golf course is maintained and presented to the highest standards.

#### Salarv

£26,000-£28,000 per annum depending on experience and gualifications

#### How to apply

Please apply via email with an up to date CV and covering letter to simon@burnhamgolfclub.co.uk by Sunday 19 June



#### **Technician East Horton Golf Club**

#### Are you more than a mechanic? We're looking for a technician with ambition

We're also expanding our commercial mechanical and ground-keeping service, based out of East Horton Golf Club.

Your first responsibility will be to look after East Horton's agricultural, golf, ground-care and garden machinery. There's also an opportunity for you to help us to market those services to clients such as councils, sports clubs, farms (if you have your own client base, bring them with you and increase your earning power).

#### This is what you can expect from us

/ Competitive salary (£32–40k) / The opportunity to help build and manage a commercial mechanical services business

#### How to apply

All applications will be dealt with in the strictest confidence Contact James Bastian - 07733261752, james@easthorton.com



#### **Head Greenkeeper Uttoxeter Golf Club**

#### Uttoxeter Golf Club is an eighteen-hole parkland golf course (opened in 1970).

The role of head greenkeeper is a key role within the golf club and through leading a team of experienced greenkeepers / groundsman you will ensure that the standards of the golf course are always maintained and improved upon. You will be required to have a detailed knowledge of agronomy, plant pathology, entomology and chemistry. Knowledge of soil science is also desirable. In addition, you will support the course director in identifying and developing any plans for future development of the golf course and associated areas.

#### How to apply

Applications with a brief summary detailing suitability for the role via email to admin@uttoxetergolfclub.com



#### **Turf Equipment Mechanic and** Seasonal Greenkeeper (6 Month)

Lake Karrinyup is seeking applicants for two holiday visa will be offered visa assistance if important roles within the course maintenance team.

These positions are a fantastic opportunity for a suitably qualified individual to experience working at a private members club at the high end of the Australian golf industry but also provides a chance to enjoy Fraser Brown, course superintendent on the fantastic lifestyle that living in Perth offers. Perth is the sunniest city in Australia and enjoys long warm summers which allow you to take advantage of the world class , beaches and outdoor living.

Ideally the successful applicants will be eligible for a working holiday visa, however those applicants not eligible for a working successful.

#### Expressions of interest

Please submit applications including resume and cover letter or any questions to: fraser@lkcc.com.au. Visit www.lkcc.com.au



#### **Assistant Greenkeeper Royal Blackheath Golf Club**

The Club has recently completed a major redevelopment of the course, including the redesign of all bunkers, new tee and green complexes and a significant tree management programme.

We are now looking to recruit ar experienced greenkeeper with a reputation

for excellence to join our enthusiastic and professional team

#### Key requirements include:

- / Proven experience minimum 3 years greenkeeping
- / Good attention to detail and a passion to achieve excellent results
- / NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping or above

/ Spraving or chainsaw licences are desirable but not a necessity

The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary with many additional benefits.

#### How to apply

Applications and CV should be emailed by 1 July 2022 to gm@rbgc.co.uk for the attention of Club Secretary Mark Hickson



#### **Course Manager** Lexden Wood Golf Club

#### In the heart of the Essex countryside lies Lexden Wood Golf Club formally known as Playgolf Colchester.

The course has recently been overtaken by new management and a major course redevelopment is planned to be carried out over the next 5 years.

Our 18-hole golf course has USGA specification greens and is perfect for all seasons. Boasting spectacular views, the golf club also has a driving range, with 24 bays which Trackman is being installed in July and a 9-hole Par 3 which is being planned on being developed into one of the top short game areas in Essex.

Lexden Wood Golf Club offers relaxation and rejuvenation as well, with saunas, sports injury clinic, gym facilities and a restaurant.

#### How to apply

Please contact Ryan Allen CCO by email with CV at ryan@golfcatcher.net Closing dates for applicants 24 June 2022



## **HISTORY OF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS**

#### 1976

#### April brought news of the death of British Golf **Greenkeepers Association** (BGGA) president Carl Bretherton at 84 years of age.

Carl was a top-class amateur golfer who had won the Irish Open in 1919 and represented England from 1922 to 1925. He was then non-playing captain of England from 1932 to 1934.

He was an advisor to local authorities on their municipal courses, the vice president of the National Association of Public Golf Courses, president of Warwick County Union for



40 years and president of Handsworth Golf Club from 1936 go 1976.

Carl played a role in the formation of the Board of Golf Research (BOGR) in 1929 and was on the board of the BOGR and STRI for the rest of his life.

In short, he was a man devoted to golf and one of those individuals who realised and appreciated the role the greenkeeper played in golf.

He was very much a hands-on president of the BGGA for most of his term as president, from 1955 to 1976 and attended most AGMs and tournaments.

The new president of the BIGGA was Tom Scott, editor of Golf Illustrated magazine.

The BGGA also mourned the death of Phil Hazell, a vice president of the BGGA, also at the age of 84.

Phil had spent his entire career at Ransomes, reaching 51 years' service with the company. His obituary detailed how he had worked hard on behalf of the BGGA and was seen at all the major golf functions, helping with

#### the organisation.

During this year the East Midland Section decided to withdraw from the BGGA. However, almost immediately a new section was formed as the East Anglian Section.

Another section was formed in Kent and gradually more were being formed to take cognisance of their areas.

down the larger sections and how far members would have to travel, reducing costs. Most of these sections held lecture evenings through the winter and two or three golf events during the spring, summer and autumn. Quite a few also held dinner dances around Christmas.

In many cases this broke

TEE THE ANSWERS BREAK Across: 6 Warn

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Read Elliot Small's History of Greenkeepers' Associations on the BIGGA website



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FASTER

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