



BIGGA

Inform | Innovate | Inspire

February 2023 | £6.50

Greenkeeper

International

**PART
01**

THAT. WAS. AWESOME.

Reflections on a record-breaking BTME

Volunteering

Why it's important not to be limited by your everyday working environment

Student Awards

Nominations have launched for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards

Parkstone

Restoring the heathland characteristics of this south coast gem

Royal Dornoch

A major course reconstruction is bringing the club into the modern era

BTME 2024 Register now for next year's show, taking place 23 to 25 January 2024



Greenmaster[®] Pro-Lite[®] Cold Start



Gets
greens going



The original no nonsense spring starter

Greenmaster Pro-Lite Cold Start is proven to initiate early season growth. Kick-start spring recovery from winter play or aid recovery from renovation work with the readily available nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.



www.icl-sf.com



The magazine for BIGGA members

Greenkeeper International exists for you, our members. Since 1987 BIGGA has helped thousands in golf greenkeeping to progress their careers, find inspiration and get involved in our varied and vibrant community. This magazine aims to reflect the passions and preoccupations of our members and we'd like you to be involved. Please drop us a line, send us a picture or post on our social media pages (the details are listed below).

CONTACT US

By email

Membership enquiries, including changes of address
membership@bigga.co.uk
Letters and editorial enquiries
info@bigga.co.uk

By post

BIGGA, Coxwold House, Easingwold
Business Park, Stillington Road,
Easingwold, York YO61 3FB

Phone

Membership services
01347 833 800

On social media

Facebook /golfgreenkeepers
Twitter @BIGGALtd
Instagram @bigga_hq

THE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton
Chief Operating Officer Sami Strutt
Chief Financial Officer Steve Wragg
Editor Karl Hansell
Editorial Assistant Lorna Taylor
Design and Brand Executive
Libbie Waddleton

SALES AND COMMERCIAL

Head of Business Development
Lauren Frazer lauren@bigga.co.uk

Business Development Manager
Gavin Rees gavin@bigga.co.uk

PRINTING

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

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

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £60 per year, Europe and Eire £75, Rest of the World £100. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961— 6977

© 2023 British and International Golf
Greenkeepers Association Limited

Download a free version of the calendar
for your computer's desktop today



February's image was taken by Tom Wright of Clevedon
and was the winner of the Greenkeeping category in the
BIGGA Photographic Competition

WELCOME

I chose to come and work in
this industry nearly 12 years
ago for two main reasons:
firstly, because I believe the
cause of greenkeepers is
hugely beneficial for the sport
as a whole, including every
golfer and club staff member.

But secondly, because I'd
always admired the passion
and dedication greenkeepers
bring to their role. I hoped the
passion I had for this sport
would find a suitable home in
this industry and I'm
continually delighted to say it
absolutely has, well from my
point of view anyway!

All this was brilliantly
borne out last month in
Harrogate at what was a
generally joyous BTME. A
brilliant turnout by exhibitors,
visitors and educators alike
made those few days in
January very special.

I would like to express my
gratitude to everyone who



Chief Executive Jim Croxton

attended BTME 2023 and
made it the festival of
greenkeeping we know it is.

In all my years attending
trade shows, I've never seen
such creativity among
exhibitors and it made for a
wonderful visitor experience.

I would also like to pay
tribute to the fantastic team at
BIGGA, who managed to
compress 12 months' work and
preparation into 10 and
delivered a pretty flawless
event. Every one of them
plays a crucial role in one

aspect or another and to
watch them go about their
business so professionally and
passionately was a joy.

It was also wonderful to
make key announcements,
such as our partnership with
GCSAA on First Green, which
I believe will have a positive
impact on getting more
people into the trade.

In the next few weeks we
will appoint our project
manager for our workforce
initiative, which will give us
the capacity to really get
many projects moving.

We can now look forward
to what is bound to be a
challenging year across our
industry. But it is heartening to
know that the many
thousands of people who
came to Harrogate left with a
spring in their step, along with
potential solutions to all the
various challenges they came
to BTME hoping to solve.

We are here to support you when you need us

Full Members Personal Accident Helpline
0161 687 2178

Health and Safety Advice
advice.support@citation.co.uk

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0808 181 9194

Lifestyle Counselling
0333 000 2082

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

BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund
benevolentfund@bigga.co.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Notes

Greenkeeper International editor, Karl Hansell

I joked recently that BTME is the one time of the year when everyone I would like to chat to is gathered in one place, but it's also when I have the least time to speak to them!

Incredibly, this was my fifth BTME as part of the BIGGA team and while each has been a completely different experience, this was the first time that I actually felt relaxed in the surroundings of the Harrogate Convention Centre. One reason for that is that I work with an incredible group of very talented people who all worked hard — I won't say tirelessly, because we're all exhausted come Thursday afternoon — to present the show and record it for members to reflect upon in the years to come.

BTME and Continue to Learn are no longer just a week in Harrogate. The legacy of it lasts all year around and you'll be able to revisit much of the learning that took place on the BIGGA website and in this magazine in the coming weeks and months.

The other reason I enjoyed BTME so much — and this is reflected among many of my colleagues — is that BIGGA members never fail to make us feel like part of the wider community. As we scurry around the halls to one event or another, it's wonderful to be stopped by members who recognise us. We enjoy that experience as much as you do, so thank you for being so warm and welcoming.

CONTENTS

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION

- 03 Welcome
- 12 Across the Board with BIGGA President Andy Smith
- 16 BIGGA and GCSAA have introduced the First Green scheme to the UK
- 18 Around the Green: Meet the winners of the Golf Environment Awards 2023
- 22 Tee Break: Try your hand at our puzzles page
- 63 Recruitment: Matthew Wharton MG CGCS offers his career insights
- 64 Recruitment: The latest job opportunities
- 66 History of Greenkeepers' Associations: In 1985, change was in the air.

EDUCATION

- 24 Your chance to take part in the prestigious Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards

- 30 Apprentice Corner: How should you set out tee markers?

PRACTICAL GREENKEEPING

- 30 Insight: How early season water management can help the course later on
- 32 ICL talk us through their latest innovation, a biodegradable coating for fertilisers

MEMBER INTEREST

- 34 Parkstone: Grant Peters gives us a tour of this heathland venue located on the south coast.

- 40 Royal Dornoch: In the run up to their 150th anniversary, we check out the major changes being undertaken to enhance the course

- 46 **BTME:** Our run-down of this year's gathering of the greenkeeping community in Harrogate features news of the winners of the BIGGA Awards 2023. There's also a look at some of the fantastic events that took place, including fascinating talks and networking events.

IN DEPTH

- 60 Origin Amenity Solutions: Reviving the course at Moray
- 61 Baroness: A Q&A with Andrew McIntee of Pollok
- 62 Industry News

MAJOR INDUSTRY SURVEY LAUNCHED

Workforce and Facilities Research 2023

BIGGA members are being invited to participate in an important industry research programme.

Following on from the workforce survey that BIGGA published in July 2022, we have teamed up with Sporting Insights and other leading bodies in golf to gather more information annually. The research will provide an annual snapshot of key workforce and facility data across the golf industry. This will enable the key organisations in golf to provide leadership, guidance and direction as needed. The research is being carried out on behalf of The R&A, England Golf, Golf Ireland, Scottish Golf, Wales Golf, BIGGA, The PGA, GCMA and ATP. The survey closes at the end of February.



Scan the QR code or visit the BIGGA website to get involved.



MORE CONTROL SPEED & PRECISION

Ready for next level irrigation?
Introducing more control than ever before.

Toro's Lynx Smart Module and Smart Hub is the latest irrigation innovation providing the flexibility of a satellite controller with the cost savings of a two-wire system. It makes irrigation smarter and provides ultimate control, adding extra precision, speed and simplifying maintenance. Choose LSM and take your control system to the next level.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk



Effective water solutions for all landscapes
Irrigation . Pumps . Water Aeration . Lightning Detection and More



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



VOLUNTEERING

A tool for career development

Steve Chappell, superintendent at Royal Bled, with Karl Hansell, BIGGA

Read this for:

- / Think outside the box
- / Invest in yourself
- / Make connections

In this feature Steve Chappell shares his experiences of volunteering and explains how those have influenced and shaped his career to date. The feature also looks at 'alternative volunteering' away from tournament golf and gives examples of how some creative thinking can benefit your CV and your career, moving you onwards and upwards.



The City & Guilds phase 2 class of 1990/91, featuring a young Les Howkins

How volunteering impacted my journey

I started as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1988, which means I have over 30 years' experience in the industry. I still love my role and the quality of life greenkeeping has given me.

I've been fortunate enough to manage golf courses across all spectrums of ownership and management, including a couple of construction and grow-in projects and one major refurbishment. I've been involved in the acquisition and sale of golf clubs, which has been both interesting and

stressful at the same time. I've hosted European Tour events and was the host superintendent for The Ryder Cup in 2014.

But there is absolutely no doubt that I wouldn't be where I am today without investing in myself and getting into volunteering — and I don't just mean helping out at major events.

When I began my career at Bath Golf Club, I used to say that I got paid to just get a tan.

I wasn't career motivated and I didn't know where greenkeeping could take me, it was just a job that I enjoyed.

But things developed and

the club sent me to do my City & Guilds qualifications.

By the age of 24, the opportunity presented itself to become course manager at Woodspring in Bristol. This was a steep learning curve and I spent seven years there, which was a great experience.

By 2001, I had developed into the group golf courses manager for David Lloyd Leisure, which had three properties across the south of England. I'd got all my qualifications and construction and grow-in experience and I saw my career going in a clear route towards managing a European Tour venue. I began attending conferences, such as BTME,

and at one event at Myerscough College I met Jimmy Kidd, who was then the estates manager at Gleneagles and as such was a very influential person within the industry. He suggested that I needed to get tournament experience if I was to take the next step in my career.

Having spoken to Jimmy, he invited me up to Scotland the following year to work at the European Tour event they were hosting and it was a really interesting experience.

I went back again the following year, not just to do the tournament but also to shadow head greenkeepers Scott Fenwick and Peter Pattenden. It was really



My first tournament was the Scottish PGA Championship at Gleneagles in August 2001



At Neath, heathland regeneration and overall course improvements pushed the club forwards

interesting and I began to build some great connections, one of which enabled me to get out to Riffa Golf Club in Bahrain, which was managed by Gleneagles Golf Developments. I spent time there with the superintendent, Steve Johnson, and his deputy, Craig Haldane.

All of this I was doing off my own back by taking annual leave and paying for air fares.

Unfortunately my situation changed when in 2002 Whitbread bought David Lloyd Leisure and sold off their golf assets. I was made redundant and spent a year working with MJ Abbott, specifically at The Grove, which was a different kind of learning.

But greenkeeping was what I loved and I secured a position as head greenkeeper at Neath in South Wales. I was approaching 40 and began to rethink my career path. My hopes of managing a big tournament venue were seemingly behind me as I hadn't been able to make that step, so what was I going to do instead?

Getting involved with BIGGA was how I chose to direct these energies. I was section secretary in South Wales and was on the regional board for the SW&SW Region. I was getting some career fulfilment from that and I thought, if I can keep pushing Neath as a premium heathland project, »

Bath Golf Club, where I started as an apprentice in 1988. I love this picture as times were simpler then. In autumn we would walk around to cut greens and if there was any golf about (which in those days there wasn't at that time of year) we would just put the flag on a temp and carry on. Some change to today's all year round pressures!



The closing ceremony of the 2014 Ryder Cup

“Put simply, I wouldn’t be where I am today without putting myself out there.

- / of a volunteering team, even if it’s unrelated to golf, will make you a more attractive candidate
- / Sit on the committee of a club or association. Many golf clubs are committee run, so gain experience of the committee environment, such as by getting involved with sports clubs or parent/teacher associations
- / Manage a junior sports team as this will provide experience of administrative work
- / If you need budgetary experience, become the treasurer of a club or association
- / Spend time shadowing managers at other clubs to gain an insight into what it takes to operate at a higher level.

By visiting other venues you pick up so much information. I’ve picked up structural things like how a maintenance facility is managed or small, useful things like the use of drop down brushes on rollers for putting down light dressing

that has been applied by a hand spreader.
You’ll learn so much that you can’t gain any other way. If it all only helps by 10%, that can make a massive difference.
Finally, make sure you make an impression. For the

price of a round of drinks you can get 200 business cards.
I don’t care what your age or experience is, if you are at an event and you can give someone a business card with your information and your club logo on it, that will make an impression.
Over the years I’ve been fortunate to meet a lot of people and build relationships that have enabled me to visit some of the best and most iconic golf courses in the world. Put simply, I wouldn’t be where I am today without putting myself out there.
As hard as it seems, invest in yourself as it will pay off.
Promote and push yourself because it is your career and no one else is going to do that for you.

Make sensible choices and never be discouraged by what others say.
Use social media, but use it carefully and positively.
Most of all, enjoy the whole experience because it’s your life, so don’t forget to smile and enjoy the journey.

Continue the conversation

Steve is on Twitter at @CentenaryHGK



Steve with (left to right) Ryan Moy, Chris Tritabaugh and Jim McKenzie at Hazeltine National during the 2016 Ryder Cup

My partner Deb has provided much support and been there through some tough times



SEE YOU AT #BTME2024

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



HARROGATE
CONVENTION CENTRE
23-25 JANUARY 2024



ACROSS THE BOARD

Andy Smith | Course Manager | Shirley Golf Club | BIGGA President

What an absolute honour it is to be made president of our incredible association.

This is a position I could never have dreamed of having and I promise to represent the association in the manner expected of president.

I am fortunate to have had Gordon Moir as a role model and hope to fulfil my duties with the same dedication and standing as he did.

It was a busy week at BTME and my presidential duties started with a vengeance!

I met many well-wishers, including greenkeepers who I'd never met before, and that was a very rewarding experience. I ask you to please come and say hello if you see me at any time.

In my opinion, this was the best BTME I have attended, with an excellent trade show and first class education.

Well done to all of our hard working staff who always deliver for our members.

For me to take over as president from Gordon, who reached the very top in greenkeeping and is a well renowned figure within our industry, highlights to me that we are first and foremost a members' association.

My common ground with Gordon is that we are both greenkeepers who care for our industry and we both want to give something back.



At the BIGGA Welcome Celebration Andy took the stage alongside former BIGGA President Gordon Moir

“Support your local golf days and education events as the only reward the volunteers who put on these events seek is good attendance figures.

I would encourage everyone to get involved with BIGGA, not because one day you may be president, but because it is a wonderful organisation that helps so many people.

Support your local golf days and education events as the only reward the volunteers who put on these events seek is good attendance figures.

Use the resources that are available to us and network at events as making yourself known really will help to further your career.

This is my first column as

president for BIGGA and I look forward to updating you throughout the year with the activities that I have been undertaking, meeting BIGGA members around the country and representing the association at various other gatherings of the golf and sports turf industry.

Like many, we have had a busy winter at Shirley Golf Club, with a full winter programme. As always, the weather rarely seems to work with you and I'm conscious of the new season being just around the corner. The end of

February is always my cut off date for winter projects and as I have a great staff working with me, we are on target for all projects being completed.

My thanks go to the members and management of Shirley Golf Club for enabling me to undertake this opportunity and I assure them that I will also represent the club on an international scale.

Thanks also to my great team. Knowing I can confidently leave the course in their hands during my various absences is very reassuring. Finally, thank you to my family for enabling me to take on this wonderful opportunity. In particular my wife, Mel, who is always so supportive in everything I do.

Fingers crossed for a favourable spring and great season for everyone.

The BIGGA National Board is comprised of the following members who volunteer their time to support the association: Stuart Ferguson MG, Jack Hetherington, Antony Kirwan, Andrew Laing, Iain Macleod, Lucy Sellick and Richard Whyman

BIGGA President Andy Smith, **BIGGA Chairperson** Steven Lloyd

MEMBER BENEFIT:
ACCIDENT INSURANCE



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

BIGGA's Accident Insurance provides **full BIGGA members** cover for time off work due to an accident at home, work or even on holiday as well as one-off payments dependent on the type of injury.

If you have had an accident and need help please call 0161 687 2178





We are committed to the continual professional development of our members, working with the leading bodies in golf for the good of the game.



BIGGA's activities are underpinned by the generosity of our industry partners and supporters. BIGGA's various activities, initiatives, learning and development opportunities and member benefits are made possible due to the ongoing commitment shown by these companies, organisations and individual donors. From our supporters all the way up to our premium partners, our thanks go to all of them for their dedication to BIGGA and its members.



Individual Contributors:

Andrew Campbell | Greg Evans | Frank Newberry | Jon Kiger | Richard McGlynn





TURNING GOLF COURSES INTO CLASSROOMS

BIGGA and GCSAA introduce First Green to the UK



First Green is an innovative outreach programme that uses golf courses as hands-on environmental learning labs.

BIGGA is delighted to reveal that it has joined forces with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to introduce First Green to the UK, making resources available to golf courses and supporting them in their community outreach projects.

First Green coordinates outdoor STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) field trips on golf courses that allow students to perform hands-on experiments and tests.

Through First Green, golf course managers, head greenkeepers and local golf course representatives host students on field trips where they test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, design plantings, assist in stream bed restoration and are

involved in the ecology and environmental aspects of the golf course. The students are also introduced to many other aspects of golf.

As part of the multi-year agreement, the GCSAA will provide branding, training, insight and curriculum advice to assist BIGGA with establishing First Green in the UK. The two associations will share best practices and updates to ensure students

“While our number one goal for First Green is to support the education growth of students, we also contribute to golf’s sustainability by showcasing golf facilities’ focus on preserving the environment and creating interest in a golf-related career.”

Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO

will be part of programmes offering the best possible experience and learning.

First Green’s impact

The First Green curriculum benefits young students by helping them apply their classroom knowledge in an outdoor setting.

By understanding how STEM concepts connect, students find new inspiration in their schoolwork and the possibility of a career in golf or a STEM-related field, helping promote the profession of greenkeeping to a wider, more diverse audience.

Six benefits of First Green

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 APPLYING LESSONS</p> <p>Learning labs bring the classroom to life on the golf course</p> | <p>4 STRENGTHENING FUTURES</p> <p>More interest in STEM advances our youth, the economy and society at large</p> |
| <p>2 INSPIRING STUDENTS</p> <p>Sparking students’ interest in STEM through hands-on experiences</p> | <p>5 ADVANCING GOLF</p> <p>The future of the game depends on sustainability</p> |
| <p>3 BUILDING COMMUNITY</p> <p>Raising awareness of conservation brings people together</p> | <p>6 HAVING FUN</p> <p>Field trips to a golf course bring school lessons to life in new and engaging ways.</p> |

First Green was introduced in the United States in 1997 and is licenced by BIGGA with kind permission of the GCSAA and its Foundation.

Learn more at thefirstgreen.org or speak to a member of the BIGGA team by emailing info@bigga.co.uk or call 01347 833 800.

“The best part about First Green is that there are golf courses in practically every community in the UK and education days can take place at every one of them. This makes the programme accessible to kids everywhere, not just those in large population centres.”

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO



AROUND THE GREEN

Winners of the Golf Environment Awards 2023 announced



At a glittering ceremony in Harrogate following day two of BTME, the winners of the 2023 edition of the Golf Environment Awards were revealed.

STRI Group hosts the Golf Environment Awards (GEAs) to recognise, reward and promote outstanding individuals and golf courses for the time and effort they put into protecting and preserving their unique surroundings.

With the ever-increasing spotlight on environmental matters, it is fundamentally important for golf courses worldwide to assess what they can do to achieve environmental sustainability, protecting and encouraging habitats and biodiversity, while continuing to maximise the enjoyment of golf.

All award winners are rewarded with a grant to help fund further ecological and environmental projects at their clubs and entry to the Foundation Award in Amenity Horticulture Course.

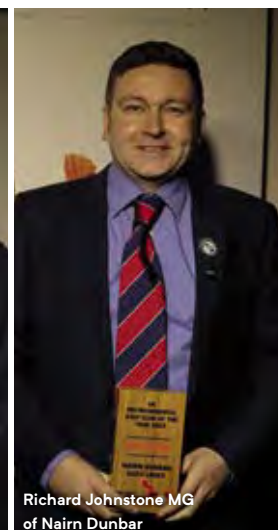
STRI Group thanks awards sponsors Aquatrols, BIGGA, Syngenta, Tillers Turf, Textron and The R&A.



St Andrews Links won Ecological Project of the Year



Rob Peers of Hever Castle



Richard Johnstone MG of Nairn Dunbar



Nick Lawson of Sleaford



Corhampton Golf Club won the Operation Pollinator Award

Operation Pollinator Award

For golf clubs who consistently deliver outstanding ecological habitat creation and management for pollinators.

Winner: Corhampton

Ecological Project of the Year

Golf clubs who have implemented a successful ecological project with clear objectives and targets that contribute to a better environment and are making sound progress in fulfilling the goals of the project.

Winner: St Andrews Links Trust

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year

Outstanding individuals who make significant contributions to the success of environmental and ecological management making a positive impact on the surrounding landscape and biodiversity.

Winner: Nick Lawson, Sleaford

Sustainable Project of the Year

Golf clubs that have implemented a successful sustainable project with clear objectives and targets that contribute to a more sustainable environment.

Winner: Hever Castle

International Environmental Golf Course

Golf courses outside the UK that brilliantly demonstrate efficient management across nature conservation, turfgrass, waste and water

Winner: Al Mouj (Oman)

UK Environmental Golf Course of the Year

Golf clubs in the UK that are leading the way in sustainability across nature conservation, turfgrass, waste and water.

Winner: Nairn Dunbar



Visit us at BTME
Hall 2, Stand 230

Getting to the root of your turf and soil health Penetrate the problem

Rigby Taylor Penetr-8 is a fast-acting soil penetrant, formulated to evenly disperse water through the soil profile, reducing surface wetness. Designed for use in all turf situations including golf and bowling greens, tees, fairways and sports pitches, it will support your Integrated Turf Management (ITM) programme.

- Non-phytotoxic solution
- Accelerate downward water movement
- Help maintain drier soil surface conditions
- Reduce puddling and anaerobic conditions
- Achieve a firmer playing surface
- Easily applied via boom mounted or pedestrian sprayers or by knapsack

In stock now



To find out more or to place an order, call **0800 138 7222** or email **sales@originamenity.com**

Our brands:



www.originamenity.com

WHAT’S ON NEAR YOU?

Scotland and Northern Ireland

- 1

BIGGA Scotland L&D Roadshow
Date: 22 February
Location: Bothwell Castle
- 2

BIGGA Scotland L&D Roadshow
Date: 23 February
Location: Kilmarnock Barassie
- 3

BIGGA Scotland L&D Roadshow
Date: 7 March
Location: Mortonhall

Northern

- 1

BIGGA Northern L&D Roadshow
Date: 1 March
Location: Birchwood
- 2

BIGGA Northern L&D Roadshow
Date: 2 March
Location: Campey (Macclesfield)

Central England

- 1

BIGGA Central England L&D Roadshow
Date: 15 February
Location: Berkshire College of Agriculture
- 2

BIGGA Central England L&D Roadshow
Date: 16 February
Location: Beedles Lake
- 3

Mental Health First Aid Course
Date: 20 & 21 February
Location: Edgbaston

South West and South Wales

- 1

BIGGA SW & SW L&D Roadshow
Date: 16 February
Location: Long Ashton
- 2

BIGGA SW & SW L&D Roadshow
Date: 28 February
Location: The Worcestershire
- 3

BIGGA SW & SW L&D Roadshow
Date: 9 March
Location: Stover

South East

- 1

2023 Greenkeeping Seminar
Date: 14 February
Location: Oaklands College
- 2

BIGGA South East L&D Roadshow
Date: 22 February
Location: Plumpton College
- 3

BIGGA South East L&D Roadshow
Date: 28 February
Location: Ingrebourne Links
- 4

BIGGA South East L&D Roadshow
Date: 2 March
Location: Windlesham

Lethamhill

Scotland - SW Scotland



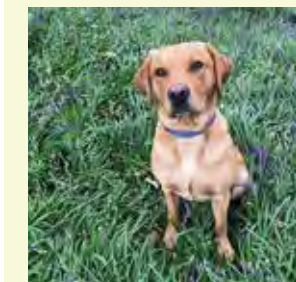
Scott Corrigan (left) will be part of this year's BIGGA Delegation

Scott Davidson is leaving The R&A Lethamhill project and moving back to Aberdeen as contracts manager with IDVerde, looking after the local authority golf courses.

Scott Corrigan is moving up to the head greenkeeper position at Lethamhill.

Stewart Carbray has left Bothwell Castle to take up a position with Agrovista Amenity. His deputy, Alan Boyd, now has the top job.

Steven Carmichael is working for Amazone Groundcare, having left the head greenkeeper position at Dumfries and Galloway. His post has been taken by Stephen Cairns, moving from Dumfries and County.



Name: Rudy
Breed: Fox Red Labrador
Owner: Callum Goodhind
Location: Prestbury
Favourite treat: Tuna
Naughtiest moment: Chasing pheasants and squirrels daily!
My dog is happiest when: Swimming and sticking his head underwater!



Beccs (left) and Jude got married at Norwich Castle

Shubrook wedding

South East - East Anglia

Congratulations to Beccs Shubrook, assistant greenkeeper at Royal Norwich, who married her partner Jude, a nurse, in December.

The couple have been together for 14 years and tied the knot at Norwich Castle registry office, followed by a honeymoon in the UK.

Our very best wishes to them both.

Ipswich award

South East - East Anglia

The team at Ipswich has added the Super Social Media Award for Conservation hosted by Golf Course Industry to its list of accolades.

The team will be honoured at the publication's 12th annual 'TweetUp' at the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show.

Haldane's new role

Scotland - Central



Craig Haldane has joined Bernhard and Company

Craig Haldane has become director of education for the Bernhard Academy.

The former golf courses manager at Gleneagles, Craig takes up his position at Bernhard and Company with 26 years of experience in the golf and turf industries behind him. After spending time in the Middle East, working in both Bahrain and Dubai, Craig joined Gleneagles in 2018.

"I'm delighted to be following my passion, which is developing both the industry and its people," said Craig. "My career has allowed me to understand the need for education to continue to move forward and the Bernhard Academy has a wonderful opportunity to provide that. To be given the chance to lead that process and develop these educational programmes is really exciting."

The Bernhard Academy is located in Haverhill with facilities at Moortown and Royal Norwich.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Key to membership

A	Affiliate Member
AGK	Assistant Greenkeeper
AHG	Assistant Head Groundsperson
APP	Apprentice
ATP	Approved Training Providers
BA	Business Affiliate
CA	College Assessor
CM	Course Manager
DCM	Deputy Course Manager
DH GK	Deputy Head Greenkeeper
FA	First Assistant
GK	Greenkeeper
G	Groundsperson
HGK	Head Greenkeeper
HG	Head Groundsperson
I	International Member
L	Life Member
M	Mechanic
S	Student Member
SUP	Superintendent
R	Retired Member
RP	Regional Patron

SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

Russell Callicott, Braid Hills, APP; **Scott Finlay**, Braid Hills, APP; **Callum Leith**, Beaverbrook, GK; **Gavin O'Mahoney**, North Berwick, DCM; **Sean Spence**, Prestonfield , AGK

NORTHERN

Owen Ashley, Hazel Grove, APP; **Glenn Carney**, Plassey, A; **Sam Dobson**, Headingley, AGK; **Steven Knowles**, Warrington, FA; **Morus Roberts**, Nefyn & District, DHGK; **Gareth Williams**, Hornsea, CM; **Matthew Wyld**, Worksop, DHGK

CENTRAL ENGLAND

John Berry, Radcliffe-on-Trent, GK; **Oliver Bott**, Trentham, AGK; **Alvaro Bueno**, Radcliffe-on-Trent, GK; **George Evans**, Radley, AGK; **Samuel Fennell**, Edgbaston, GK; **James Fenton**, Edgbaston, AGK; **Graeme Herbert**, Edgbaston, GK; **Jack Huntley**, Copt Heath, AGK; **Junaid Hussan**, Grundfos Pumps, BA; **Shawn Lake**, Wentworth Club, M; **Oliver Pate**, Worksop, AGK; **Adrian Robbins**, Edgbaston, GK; **Robert Rose**, Redbourn, APP; **Daisy Sterrett**, Redbourn, APP; **Martin Waters**, Buckingham, AGK; **John Yolland**, Castle Royle, GK

SOUTH EAST

Ross Adams, Beaverbrook, AGK; **Robert Allen**, Shirley Park, AGK; **Daniel Andrews**, Beaverbrook, G; **Michael Brindley-Jones**, Beaverbrook, AGK; **Charles Bruder**, Prince's, APP; **Ryan Coghlan**, London (The), APP; **Harry Cole**, Canterbury, AGK; **Michael Davis**, Fulwell, GK; **Matthew Dawson**, Leeds Castle, APP; **William Evans**, Tandridge, GK; **Jake Feinmesser**, Dulwich & Sydenham Hill, AGK; **Brendan Jackson**, Wentworth Club, AGK; **Ian Lauder**, Redexim, RP; **Paul Massey**, Lamberhurst, FA; **Caelen Nell**, London (The), FA; **Archie Norton**, Hadley Wood, APP; **Andrew O'Neill**, Redexim, RP; **Jamie Phur**, Betchworth Park, AGK; **Tristan Robson-Knights**, Dereham, HGK; **Ben Series**, Wisley (The), APP; **Peter Smith**, Potters Resorts Five Lakes, CM; **Kate Stillwell**, West London, CM **Neal Tregaskes**, Wildernesse, DCM; **Stephen van Rhyn**, Beaverbrook, GK **Ryan Warner**, Blacknest, APP

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

George Alexiou, Cannington, DHGK; **Dominic Cadiou**, St Clements, AGK; **Jack Griffiths**, Paultons, APP; **Ceri Jones**, Llandrindod Wells, AGK; **Matthew Langley**, Ogbourne Downs, AGK

INTERNATIONAL

Ben Ellis, The Courses at Andrews, I; **Charlie Friel**, Turfgrass.ie (Turfgrass Consultancy), A; **David Ibanez**, Surtec Sport Turf Management, I; **Tadej Meglic**, Royal Bled, I; **Pablo Munoz Vega**, Surtec Sport Turf Management, I; **Francesco Murdolo**, Costa Navarino – Troon Golf, I; **Kevin Whalley**, Walpole Country Club, I

INFORMATION ON COURSE?

BIGGA's Field Guides are the go-to reference guide for use while working on the course.

Identifying flora, fauna, pests and diseases commonly found out on the course this pocket sized guide is a must have for BIGGA members.

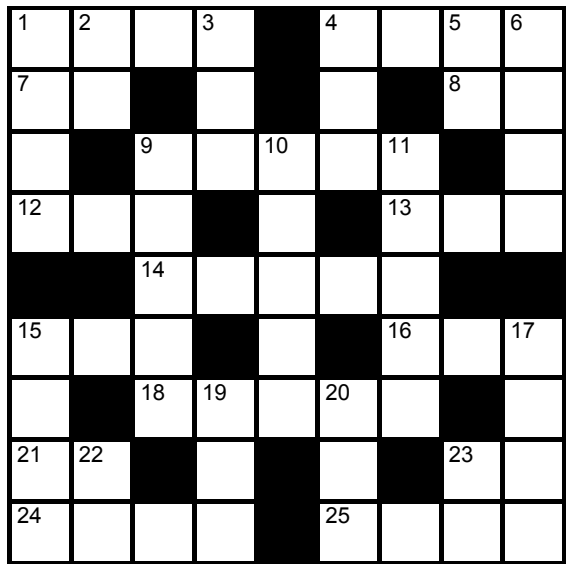


For further information and to download a copy please visit the members area of www.bigga.org.uk



TEE BREAK

FIND THE ANSWERS ON P66



NUMBER CROSSWORD

Solve the sums, then enter your answers in the grid to the left.

Across

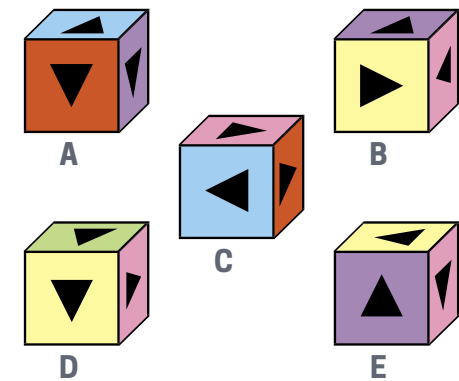
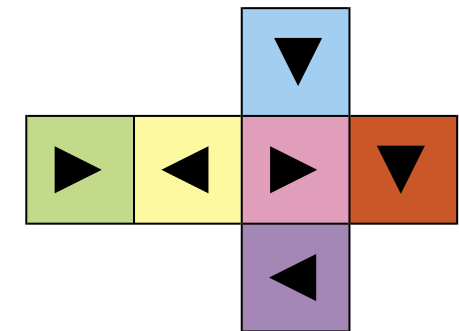
- 1 25 Across plus 3 Down plus 274 (4)
4 2 Down multiplied by 23 Down plus 12 Across plus 20 (4)
7 Months in five years (2)
8 7 Across minus 48 (2)
9 19 Down squared plus 1 Across minus 2 Down (5)
12 13 squared (3)
13 3 Down plus 4 Down minus nine (3)
14 10 Down minus 19 (5)
15 Square root of 10404 (3)
16 Square root of 12544 (3)
18 6 Down plus 17 Down plus 205 (5)
21 One sixteenth of 4 Down (2)
23 2 Down plus five (2)
24 4 Down multiplied by two (4)
25 11 cubed (4)

Down

- 1 1 Across plus 8 Across minus 102 (4)
2 21 Across multiplied by two (2)
3 12 Across minus three (3)
4 16 Across multiplied by five (3)
5 2 Down plus 21 (2)
6 96 squared plus 7 Across plus one (4)
9 9 Across plus 13 Across plus 17 Down minus 48 (5)
10 12 Across multiplied by 16 Across (5)
11 9 Down minus 1208 (5)
15 24 Across plus 111 (4)
17 24 Across plus 15 Down (4)
19 Inches in ten feet (3)
20 7 Across plus 23 Across plus 3 Down (3)
22 5 Down minus two thirds of 7 Across (2)
23 2 Down plus one quarter of 8 Across (2)

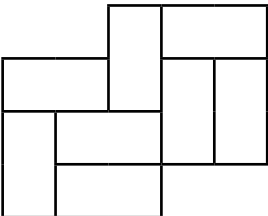
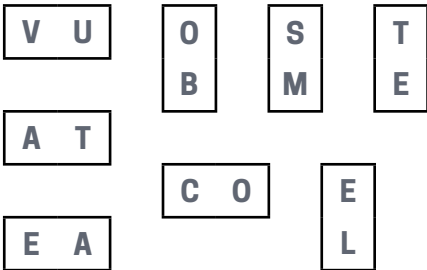
BOX CLEVER

When the box below is folded to form a cube, just one of the five options (A, B, C, D or E) can be produced. Which?



TILES

In this puzzle, the tiles must be fitted into the pattern so as to form four words reading across and five words reading down. No tile may be rotated!



THE SAVINGS SOON ADD UP

MEMBER BENEFIT

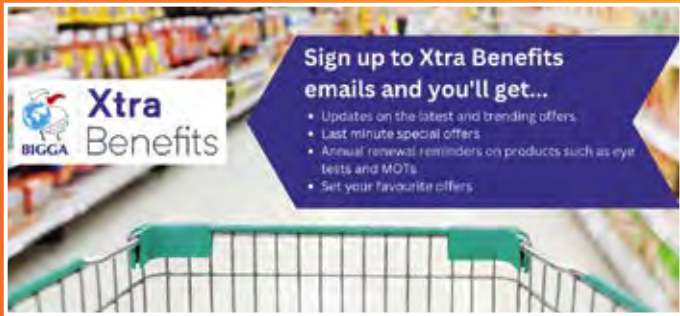
Xtra Benefits



Take advantage of this month's offers for BIGGA Members

Make sure you sign up to receive the latest offers from BIGGA Xtra Benefits

Keep up to date with the latest offers available to BIGGA members by signing up to our mailing list.



Get an extra 10% off storage

Get 50% off up to eight weeks' storage plus an extra 10% off for as long as you stay. Whether you're de-cluttering to sell your property quicker or have sold your home and need short or long term storage, you can get the space you need at Big Yellow.



Vision Express — Discounted Eye Care

BIGGA members can access a range of benefits from Vision Express. Get a free eye test when you spend £50 or more, and save 30% when you spend £50 or more on glasses, prescription sunglasses & contact lenses.



Exclusive Discount on the UK's Best Beer Subscription.

As a BIGGA member, you can use an exclusive discount to get £5 off your first three boxes with BREWSER. Access and choose from over 120 UK independent breweries each month, and they'll deliver their freshest craft direct to you. Pause and cancel online, anytime.



To take advantage of these and other fantastic deals log in to the BIGGA website and click on Xtra Benefits or scan the QR code



TORO STUDENT GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR



Applications are now open for 2023

TORO
STUDENT
GREENKEEPER
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS
2023



IMPORTANT DATES

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES:
31 March 2023
INTERVIEWS:
9 to 12 and 15 to 19 May 2023
NATIONAL FINAL:
4 to 6 September 2023

Win a once-in-a-lifetime Toro Scholarship with the Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards 2023.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards are committed to offering greenkeepers of all ages, backgrounds and experience levels a chance to excel.

Once-in-a-lifetime opportunities await the winning greenkeepers to further their career and network with influential industry leaders.

Being part of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards allows ambitious BIGGA members to meet and compete with the best greenkeeping students in the UK.

The finals of the awards will take place this September at Carden Park Golf Resort in Cheshire.

Student Award Prize

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner will receive enrolment in an internationally recognised 10-week turf management remote study course, The Winter Turf School (University of Massachusetts); a two-week work placement at a prestigious European golf course; an all-expenses paid trip to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show (USA); and a visit to Toro Corporate HQ,

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any greenkeeping student who is undertaking one of the listed qualifications below (at the time of application):

- Level 2 Work-based Diploma — Greenkeeper / SVQ
- Level 2 Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping

- Level 3 Work-based Diploma — Greenkeeper / SVQ
- Level 2 Diploma / National Certificate (NC)
- Level 3 Subsidiary / Extended Diploma Young Award students must be aged 21 years or under at time of application.

WHY APPLY?

- Acknowledged as the highlight of the student greenkeeper's year, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards provide the opportunity to expand students' experience by meeting and competing with the best
- Students win a 10-week scholarship turf management study course with The Winter Turf School (University of Massachusetts), a trip to the Golf Industry Show and a visit to Toro's factory in Minnesota
- Both categories could win two-week work experience placements at a prestigious European golf course
- All awards finalists will be given BIGGA membership for one year (following the expiry date of their current memberships)
- Finalists increase their skills and knowledge to enhance their professional development
- The opportunity to network with peers and build lasting relationships

R&D Centre and Equipment Operations in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The runner-up will receive a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME, including four days of education, five nights' hotel accommodation, travel and £125 expenses, plus a Toro training course voucher.

The endorser award winner will receive a trip to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in the USA including flights, hotel, education and show accreditation.

Young Award Prize

The Toro Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner will receive: a two-week all expenses paid work experience placement at Vidauban Golf Club in the south of France, plus a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME and a Toro training voucher for a course of their choice.

The Young runner-up will receive a trip to Continue to Learn at BTME including two days of education, three nights' hotel accommodation, travel and £75 expenses, plus a Toro training



“It was an experience above and beyond anything I could have ever imagined.”

James Gaskell, deputy head greenkeeper at Ripon City Golf Club and student award winner in 2022

voucher for a course of their choice.

The endorser of the Young award winner will receive a trip to Vidauban Golf Club at the end of their student's placement, including flights and hotel.

For further information and full terms and conditions, or to complete the online application form, please visit bigga.org.uk/education



Congratulations to the following members who achieved CPD Approved status this month:
/ Ross Trail, Kilmarnock (Barassie)
/ Craig Boath, Carnoustie Golf Links
/ Derek Grendowicz, unattached
/ Scott McTaggart, Sandyhills
/ Thomas Bird, Sutton Coldfield
/ Stefan Carter, Wentworth Club
/ Lee Connell, Wallasey

Congratulations to the following members who achieved their CPD Milestone this month:
/ Lee Strutt MG CGCS MS CSTM, Cabot Cape Breton

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



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

- / Cameron Bruce, West End
- / Tom Hayday, The London
- / Robert Hempstead, Chelmsford
- / Harry Johnson, Ealing
- / Scott Wager-Norris, The London
- / Patrick West, Sweetwoods

APPRENTICE CORNER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

SETTING OUT TEE MARKERS

This simple task is often incorrectly carried out by greenkeeping staff.

Players dislike tee markers that are not set out in the direction of play and it reflects badly on the professionalism of the greenkeeping team.

When supervising new staff in this task, it is important they are made of this fact and trained in the correct method.

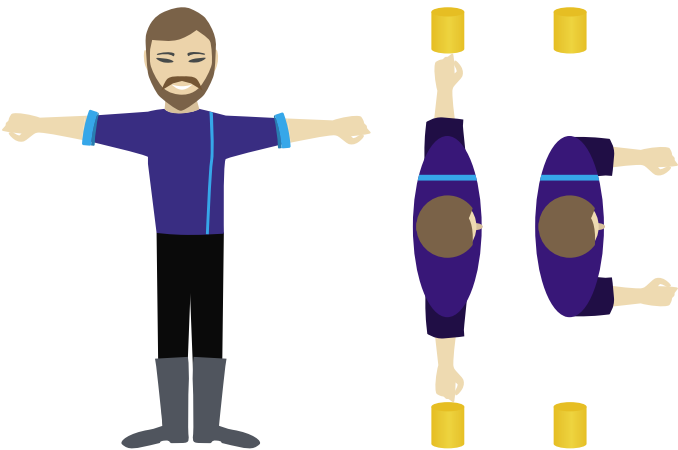
/ **Tee A** — markers set incorrectly, which results in the player not lining up with the line of play

/ **Tee B** — markers set correctly in the direction of play, so players now line up correctly.

One way of ensuring tee markers are in line with play is to use the 'arms out method'.

This involves the greenkeeper placing the tee

Arms out method



markers then standing in the centre of the markers and bringing their arms forward so both hands come together and point to the centre of the green or fairway.

They then move their arms

back until both are at 90 degrees from the body.

The arms should line up with the tee markers on either side, so keep adjusting the markers until they are in line with the direction of play.

Tee A – markers set incorrectly, which results in the player not lining up with the line of play



Tee B – markers set correctly with play, so players now line up with play



This information is taken from the GTC's Level 3 Learning Materials, available to purchase on the GTC website. The GTC produces Learning Materials to support apprentices with the knowledge required to achieve their qualifications. These materials are not exclusive to apprentices and are available to all golf clubs to help with best practice.

Topdress to impress



Did you know that BIGGA has a range of exclusive merchandise available to members?

Whether taking part in a turf club, golf day or any number of events, you can show you're part of the BIGGA family by sporting high quality clothing and accessories designed by leading golf brands Glenmuir and Sunderland of Scotland.

Order yours today at www.glenmuir.com/bigga



To see the range and order direct from Glenmuir, visit www.glenmuir.com/bigga

T: 01347 833 800 | W: www.bigga.org.uk

f /golfgreenkeepers | t @BIGGALtd | i @BIGGA_HQ





Ecology Diary

James Hutchinson, Membership Services Manager (Ecology & Sustainability)

What a fabulous evening we had at the STRI's Golf Environment Awards, taking place during BTME.

Being part of the judging panel and choosing the eventual winners was among the most difficult things I have ever done. All the finalists were brilliant, but we got there in the end.

I've already created blogs or features on the majority of the winners, so it is probably best to concentrate on the international winner, Al Mouj in Oman.

An eye watering 173 bird species have been recorded at Al Mouj and it is one of only about 20 courses to hold both GEO and Audubon certificates for their work with nature and the environment. It is without question a worthy winner of this award.

As for me, this was my final year as a judge. My time as a previous winner in some of the categories really changed my outlook on life. The awards gave me a chance to see courses in America and Portugal, along with approximately 15 social events, where I got to meet new faces and learn new methods of managing a golf course holistically.

For that, this overexcitable treehugger is eternally grateful.

Congratulations to all of this years winners and finalists and to everyone at the STRI, including awards hosts Meg Stone and Stella Rixon, for a brilliant event.



HOW YOUR CLUB CAN BE A CLIMATE LEADER

The effects and threat of climate change are getting stronger all the time and golf has an exciting opportunity and responsibility to make a difference by minimising greenhouse gas emissions, inspiring further action and raising awareness.

You have an important role to play and there is a method to make it easier by calculating the carbon footprint of golf operations and identifying areas for improvement. Measuring, tracking and reducing emissions is a challenge facing many sports and as more parts of golf commit to a net zero pathway with targets to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, it is time to begin to measure carbon emissions and pursue ways to manage and reduce them.

Four years of collaborative and scientific-based work have brought forward significant steps to demystify the process and bring climate action into the suite of credible and practical solutions, provided for the golf industry by GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf in partnership with experts

around the world.

Simple carbon footprinting is part of the OnCourse programme, giving you an easy way to measure, calculate, track and credibly mitigate carbon emissions.

Understanding your main points of emission are an important first step. Adding key data through OnCourse will provide you with your carbon footprint and key points of emissions.

With a picture of where you're currently at, it's then possible to find ways to reduce emissions through a range of actions including efficient energy use and more renewable energy.

This can include solar panels, sources of water, favouring products and materials with natural and recycled materials, avoiding single-use materials and waste to landfill, shorter supply chains, more sustainable travel and more local, seasonal, plant-based menus. Reducing emissions also means saving money, either immediately or a long term return on investment.

Carbon sequestration is the other part of the equation.

Within golf's landscape there are many ways to increase carbon sequestration, including maximising the ecosystem contribution of golf courses through naturalisation, planting more native trees and shrubs, adding or protecting natural wetlands or carefully managing turfgrass to maximise biological activity.

For most, even with carbon reduction strategies and sequestration opportunities, it's not possible to avoid all the carbon emissions altogether.

However, there are ways to credibly mitigate remaining emissions and support the most credible climate protection programmes to accelerate global progress to net zero emissions and build resilience for communities and ecosystems around the world.

Please get in touch with GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf by emailing hello@sustainable.golf to find out more about carbon calculators that are custom built for golf, an annual Sustainable Golf scorecard and carbon footprint and practical guidance for improvement.

PROVEN | POWERFUL | PROTECTIVE

ELiTE LITHIUM

SINCERELY *Take*

'EAU DE VIE'



The assessment of soil moisture deficit patterns has highlighted that our focus should be on early season intervention, when there is still some moisture available to utilise and conserve.

Sean Loakes, Syngenta turf technical manager UK & Ireland

For turf health, water is – quite literally – life, as water is an essential component of photosynthesis.

The hydrogen molecules in H₂O convert the carbon in CO₂ into glucose sugar (C₆H₁₂O₆) in the presence of light energy.

Without that efficient photochemical activity, plants will begin to shut down – with all the effects that has on turf health and playing surface quality.

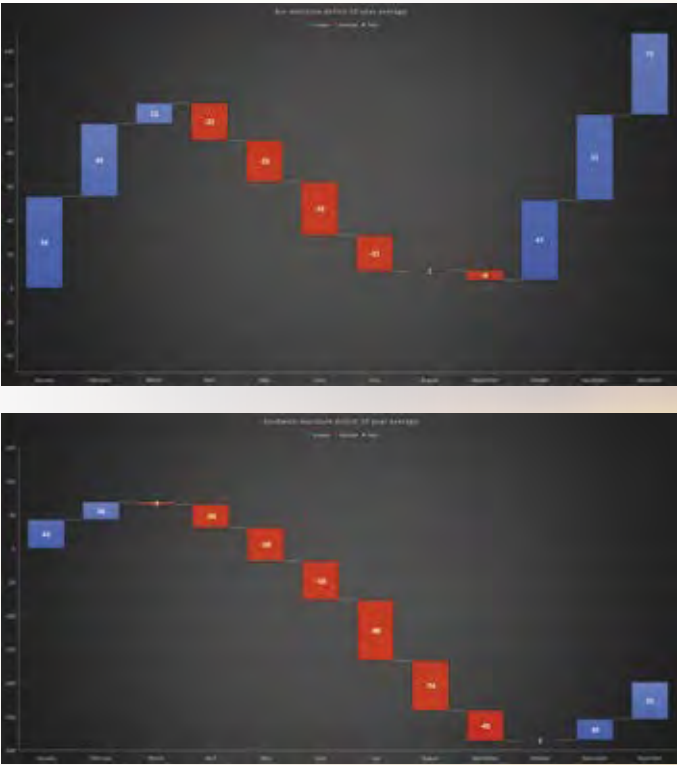
The question is, when do those effects start to kick in?

Although rainfall has been plentiful and, in many instances, excessive this winter, once a soil is at field capacity it can no longer hold more water.

Soil dry down will still start to occur when evapotranspiration begins to be greater than rainfall, which can quickly end up with soil moisture deficits.

Weather records show this will typically begin happening in mid-March in the south of England, through to mid-April in Scotland. The rate at which it happens will depend on the weather conditions and water

Fig 1. Moisture deficit for Ayr, Scotland (top) and Sandwich in south east England



(Note different scales and extent of deficits in each location)

holding capacity of the soil.

Although there will be some regional and seasonal variability for individual courses, the trend is clearly apparent (Figure 1 shows a 10-year average for two

contrasting sites).

With changing climatic conditions, it is particularly the early-season deficits that are becoming more pronounced earlier in the year, although they are also extending later

into the autumn.

Turf that could survive the occasional extreme is now being subjected to intense pressure and damage almost every season, coupled with increasing temperatures.

Investing in soil moisture management on fairways now could have one of the greatest paybacks in overall turf health and course condition through the year.

Greenkeepers' focus

Greenkeepers' focus and management efforts are better placed in delaying the soil moisture deficit until later in the season, thereby increasing the plants' ability to resist stress.

Using a wetting agent treatment to manage the moisture deficit effects could have profound implications for improved turf health and long-term fairway quality.

If photosynthetic energy generation continues to decline, plants start to draw on energy stores that were previously laid down – primarily as carbohydrates in roots. Root decline in summer is a natural response and well

documented, with research showing turf can lose up to 60% of root mass year on year.

Research trials at the European Institute of Turfgrass Science have shown the Qualibra wetting agent can hold over 20% more moisture at a soil depth of 6–8cm and 17% more at a depth of 10–12cm compared to untreated.

Research has shown wetting agent use encourages greater root mass, with deeper roots and better root retention.

Disease impacts

Anthraxnose has long been associated with a combination of stresses on turf plants over the summer, with moisture deficit being one of the primary factors, along with heat, light, nutrition and physical damage. Alleviating any of the stress points will help to reduce the risk, but moisture management should be on the priority list.

Over recent seasons, Dollar Spot has been reported as an increasing issue. The pathogen thrives when underlying soil conditions are dry, but leaf surfaces are wet with dew or rain. Historic disease risk records for the past three summers reveal, even in drought conditions, spikes of Dollar Spot pressure.

“Turf that could survive the occasional extreme is now being subjected to intense pressure and damage almost every season, coupled with increasing temperatures

For fairways, an integrated turf management approach can minimise the risk, but where there is a history of damage or Dollar Spot symptoms break out, Instrata Elite has a label approval for control.

Pest targets

Research is also showing that soil moisture management could have a significant role in the success of soil pest programmes, particularly on fairways.

Maintaining soil moisture in the upper parts of the soil profile has been shown to effectively hold pests in the Acelepryn target zone, where most of the product is retained in the top 6cm.

Furthermore, a film of moisture around soil particles is critical for beneficial nematode survival and movement to seek out larvae pests.

Hydrophobic soils

The double whammy is that plants that have suffered the worst root decline over the moisture deficit period are then less able to make best use of rainwater when it is replenished and less able to take up nutrients to power regrowth.

Research at the Nordic STERF institute has shown that additional root mass generation triggered by a growth regulator programme extended through the autumn, created plants that were stronger and better able to withstand the effects of microdochium patch through the winter.

An early start to the

wetting agent programme on fairways could prove instrumental in delaying the onset of soil moisture deficit effects and better manage available resources.

Not only will fairways stay looking greener for longer, but the improved plant health it signifies could help better performance right through the season.



Working in partnership with
syngenta

FIND FURTHER INSIGHTS AT
WWW.SYNGENTATURF.CO.UK

ADVERTORIAL

THE FUTURE IN MIND

ICL’s new biodegradable coating for controlled release fertilisers

Henry Bechelet and Dr Andy Owen, ICL

ICL’s newest biodegradable coating, eqo.s, is set to be one of the most important innovations since controlled release fertilisers (CRFs) were introduced on the market over 50 years ago.

CRFs are an essential part of sustainable turf management and one of the most efficient ways of providing nutrition for turfgrass. The technology of CRFs provides a steady nutrient release over extended periods to match the plants’ needs with minimal losses. CRFs ensure that turfgrass is never short of nutrition, can grow consistently, and nutrient losses to the environment are significantly reduced in comparison to conventional fertilisers. Additionally, the use of a CRF reduces the number of applications that are needed through the season.

eqo.s: the first of its kind

eqo.s technology is the first coating technology that biodegrades quickly once all nutrients are released. It is one of the biggest ICL innovations in recent years, but users will not notice any difference in performance from the previous coatings. The new eqo.s coating shows reliable release patterns, high quality results and it is fully biodegradable with a superfast breakdown once all nutrients are released.

Compliant and future-proof

The eqo.s innovation is a step into the

“eqo.s technology is the first coating technology that biodegrades quickly once all nutrients are released. It is one of the biggest ICL innovations in recent years

future for ICL. Driven by an innovative mentality and a desire to comply with the new 2026 EU fertiliser legislation, ICL wanted to ensure that its products are completely compliant to the new regulations. ICL is proud to be upholding the highest standard of fertiliser quality and is leading the way in the turfgrass industry.

Research and testing

Like every product and technology at ICL, eqo.s is extensively researched and tested before being introduced to the market. The first laboratory tests were carried out at ICL’s R&D department. Additionally, the technology was tested in independent studies at Bangor University and in the field at independent trial stations throughout Europe and Australia. The trials have shown that CRFs with eqo.s are not so different from our

current CRF technologies in terms of use, consistency and turf quality responses. But the main benefit is that the fully biodegradable eqo.s coating breaks down quickly and is completely compliant with the new fertiliser regulations.

How does it work?

The eqo.s technology is coated nitrogen whereby the urea nutrient core is coated with a sulphur (intermediate) layer, topped by an outer coating layer. This outer layer is the critical one as it regulates the movement of moisture into the granule and releases the nutrients out of the granule. ICL is specialised in developing these coatings. The new eqo.s outer coating offers a 3–4 month longevity and once all the nutrients are released, the coating shell breaks down quickly.

What it takes to innovate

ICL’s R&D department has extensive lab facilities and is constantly working on improvements and new products. For the eqo.s development, many experts were involved in different phases of a process that took about 5–6 years; from screening formulation chemists, chemical

engineers and analysts, to agronomists and technical experts. It is a process of innovation, testing and then setting up the manufacturing and production processes and so takes a huge effort and commitment to bring to life.

Introduction of eqo.s in ICL’s CRF brands

The first eqo.s releases will be within the Sierrablen (standard size granule) and Sierrablen Plus (mini granule) ranges. Later this year, eqo.s will be introduced in ICL’s other CRF product ranges such as Sportsmaster CRF Mini, ProTurf and Landscaper Pro. With eqo.s you will be getting the best results but with technology that is better for the environment. ICL continues to produce products that perform but with the needs of the future in mind.

Working in partnership with



Read this for:

- / Tree management
- / Heathland
- / Water management



Willie Park centre in white suit along with oer 100 Labourers at Parkstone in 1909
No Better Place



Grant at Parkstone

Parkstone in Poole, Dorset is almost within touching distance of Poole Harbour and around two miles from the exclusive Sandbanks area.

The course was founded in 1909 by Lord Wimborne, who owned the surrounding Canford Estate. Course architect Willie Park was appointed to design a new 5,700-yard course over an area of mainly undulating heath and scrub woodland, which cost £8,660 to build.

A team of up to 300 labourers completed the work in just five months and it opened for play 11 months later under the stewardship of the first appointed greenkeeper, Charlie Hope.

Further amendments to the course continued, but the main change to the layout was completed in 1935 by James Braid. He was tasked with re-designing the course, utilising additional land where holes 8 to 11 are located.

The Braid layout remains largely the same today, although it has since been extended and is now close to 6,300 yards.

Over a century has passed since play began and the course now consists of a mix of heath, woodland and wetland within a designated SSSI site, while regularly playing host to numerous national and regional championships. Like many golf courses built during the era of rapid golf development,

Parkstone is now surrounded by properties of varying styles and sizes and enjoys a full membership and a healthy waiting list.

A change in direction

The view from the elevated position of the clubhouse is one that is both inviting and intriguing and gives you a taste of what lies beyond.

I met with course manager Grant Peters, who started by giving me a brief introduction, followed by an insight into the club's key objectives and a quick recap of what work had taken place prior to his arrival.

Grant said: "I was appointed in December 2015, having held a similar role at Linlithgow in Scotland for five years. I guess my first realisation was that being nearly 500 miles further south, weather and subsequent conditions were different to what I had »

Location: Dorset



THE TALENT POOLE

How Grant Peters and his team are returning Parkstone to its historic roots

Laurence Pithie MG

In January 2020 at BTME in Harrogate, the greens team at Parkstone was awarded the Championship Greenkeeping Performance Award in recognition of their outstanding work in hosting the Ladies European Amateur Championship the previous year. I met up with Course Manager Grant Peters to learn more about what led to this achievement and to gain an insight into the working practices at this delightful top 100 course.

previously experienced!

“I would need to adapt to a different environment and that meant reviewing at least some of the greenkeeping practices I was used to, to determine what would work best at Parkstone.”

Towards the end of the last century, the course had largely become tree lined and with diminishing amounts of heather. Around that period and to halt this decline, the club embarked on a plan of significant tree removal, working under the auspices of Natural England stewardship.

Around 2,000 trees were removed and since Grant’s appointment another 110 have been felled, with 35 or so more yet to be removed. This falls within an ecological plan that is supported by the STRI and Natural England and which ensures the site remains a SSSI.

Following the success of tree removal and heather regeneration, course architect Martin Hawtree was appointed to carry out a full course audit in 2013 and produce a masterplan of course development for the club to implement. This required a substantial investment and a more extensive work programme, started by Grant’s



1st green, reservoir and housing

“The thin covering of soil on many high wear areas had led to erosion and loss of grass cover’

predecessor, Steve Richardson.

The initial priority was to focus on the basic agronomics to the main playing areas of the course, which were now receiving greater levels of sunlight and air movement.

A Toro Lynx irrigation system was installed, including additional water storage and double row fairway sprinkler heads, as well as coverage to run-off areas and swales around the greens. Further investment in

machinery and to the compound infrastructure set the wheels in motion.

Great strides were made on improving the performance of the putting surfaces, along with tees, approaches and fairways, while all 36 bunkers were rebuilt.

Substantial areas of overgrown scrub were removed in addition to completing some smaller projects within a four-year period prior to Grant’s appointment.



Team Parkstone

Policy and diversity

Listening to the changes that had taken place previously, I was interested to learn what Grant’s remit was, where his priorities lay and if there needed to be changes within the framework of the club’s policy and objectives.

Grant explained: “My remit was to continue with the current turf management plan throughout the course and to focus on the issue of playability, namely drainage.”

The Parkstone soil is acidic, with a pH of between 5.3 and 5.6, varying across the course, and ranges from sand and gravel to a peaty sand above the areas of wetland habitat. Here a drainage ditch traverses the length of the course enroute to the sea.

“Low lying areas adjacent to this ditch can be affected during periods of intense rainfall and it’s these areas where drainage work was prioritised,” said Grant.

There was also the problem of organic matter accumulation on the fairways to alleviate.

Grant added: “The thin covering of soil on many high wear areas had led to erosion and loss of grass cover and

these also had to be addressed, as well as improving the network of paths by greens and tees.

Non-course issues such as invasive scrub and gorse are more of an ongoing issue that, if not controlled, would negatively impact areas of regenerating heather.

“Staffing levels and equipment requirements needed to match these objectives, while we agreed work programmes and timescales with the club to minimise disruption to play.”

Implementation

I asked Grant to detail some of the key work programmes he has implemented since 2016.

Starting with fairway drainage, to date the team has installed approximately 2,500 linear metres of mainly 80mm pipe on around 1.5ha of fairways. This work has primarily been on the 1st, 3rd, 8th and 9th holes, which are low lying, and was completed by Profusion at four-metre spacings. This has enabled them to keep the course open for play for as long as possible by quickly removing excess water from fairways that were prone to flooding or holding water.

The team also implemented a soil exchange programme that included coring, deep tining and sand dressing to lower the organic matter (OM) content. To help them achieve these



13th tee following renovation work



Fairway dressing

objectives, the team has two maintenance weeks in March and August for the work to go ahead. This includes coring at three-to-four-inch depth with 16mm tines at two-inch centres. Cores are collected via a Sisis Litamisa, with the work being contracted to ALS.

This is immediately followed by applying medium-coarse sand at 20 to 25 tons per hectare on wetter fairways using a hired Dakota trailed dresser.

After six years, the results have been dramatic, lowering OM content from 24% to around 7%.

Deep tining with 18mm tines at 175mm depth is carried out twice during autumn and winter, while fairway overseeding takes place every November, applying a three-way fescue mix at 15g/m², using a Charterhouse slit seeder.

On front approach and

run-off areas by greens, the team has implemented a similar programme to give consistency between fairways and greens. The only difference is that on high wear areas away from greens, the greenkeepers are using an ultrafine rye seed mix to give improved resilience.

Grant continued: “Work on greens has remained much

the same as before but with a few tweaks.

“We carry out a mix of aerifying work at varied depths using different tine sizes depending on the time of year and our OM test results. Our challenge is to maintain consistency and this we have achieved with OM and soil moisture content at our targeted levels. Our greens »

TRU-TURF

| tru:-tə:f | NOUN

The ability to assist perfection on greens surfaces by mechanical means.

- Reduction of disease in turfgrass without the use of chemicals.
- Create a true greens surface with no compaction.
- Increase greens speed and player satisfaction where and when desired.

TRU-TURF



Contact us for details of your local dealer
CALL: 0808 196 2222
WWW.DOUBLEA.CO.UK



A dull and uninteresting 9th green prior to renovation work

are currently Poa/bent and we are aiming to progress the surfaces to a greater bent/Poa ratio. This is being achieved by our overseeding programme."

The team uses a Blec Multi-seeder to create thousands of holes, applying 60% colonial bent and 40% creeping bent at 12g/m².

The Parkstone course has 1.6ha of putting surface, which requires 200kg of seed. Ten tons/ha of sand is applied afterwards and then drag matted and brushed in one operation to protect the seed.

The surfaces are then double rolled to restore surface smoothness.

"The efficiency of this work is down to good teamwork and having the right equipment to do so," said Grant.

More recently, the team has drained six greens using the PCD system, which is now called Hydrowick. This has been very successful and another two greens are scheduled this winter.

"On tees, work is less intense but similar in nature," Grant added. "The main difference is that we now overseed with an ultrafine rye mix to give better wear and greater disease resistance from dollar spot; this being more troublesome of late."

Other projects of note have been the redevelopment of

the 8th and 13th tee complexes and the re-modelling of the 9th green surrounds and bunker. Several worn walkways have been returfed near greens and tees and paths have been resurfaced, some with rubber-coated resin. Bunker faces have been re-turfed, some with heather included.

Environmental work has mainly been focused on the control of western gorse, which is cut and then sprayed manually with Blaster Pro, a woody herbicide. Heather regeneration continues where possible, along with ongoing scrub removal. This is all part of the ecological plan the team is working to.

In summary

When touring the course and listening to Grant explain the various work programmes

that have been implemented, it becomes evident that this is a considerable undertaking.

This level of work would not be possible without the support of the club and a dedicated greenkeeping team capable of working effectively to achieve the agreed objectives.

Much has been achieved and there is so much more that could be written, but two stories are worthy of mention.

Firstly, during the second lockdown in 2021, a few members volunteered their services to hand brush sand dressing into 18mm tine holes on every green following verti-draining. This work was a key part in improving drainage and firming up the putting surfaces. This was a great club and staff effort at a time when the course was closed for play, but the team had a strong desire to maximise the

opportunity.

Secondly and a year earlier, as the first lockdown was coming to an end in late spring 2020, Grant produced a video for the membership just prior to reopening for play. This took the form of walking over a small section of the course and giving a brief five-minute overview on course condition, work recently completed and what to expect. The content and course assessment of the main playing areas followed by the reassurance of transitioning the course back to normality was excellent.

This was an informative account that was well received and appreciated by the members who were keen to get back on their course.

Grant has a clear vision of what can be achieved and one that is shared by the club. The recognition of the team's effort in producing an outstanding golf course is testimony to their ability.

Parkstone is interesting, challenging, diverse and a wonderful place to play and enjoy golf. It comes as no surprise that the club's centenary book is titled No Better Place.

Continue the conversation

Grant is on Twitter at [@grnkeepergrant](#)



9th green after the work has been completed

Check out the Parkstone team on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/@parkstonegolfclubgreens7652/videos](#)



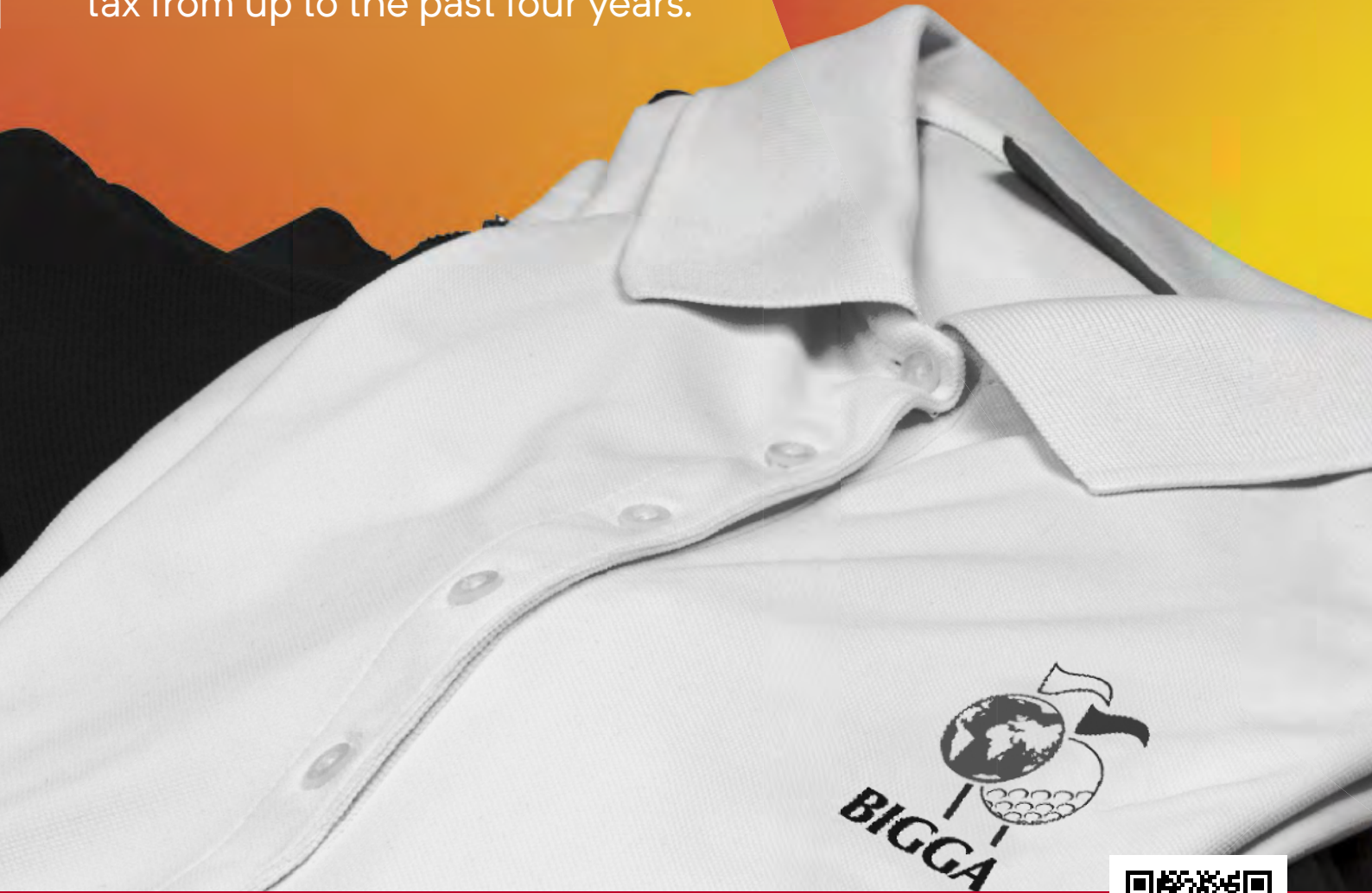
MEMBER BENEFIT:



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

DO YOU CLAIM TAX RELIEF ON UNIFORM?

If you wear work uniform, whether a simple polo shirt with logo or full attire like nurses or police officers, and have to wash, repair or replace it yourself, you may be able to reclaim £100's in overpaid tax from up to the past four years.



Visit: [www.gov.uk/tax-relief-for-employees/uniforms-work-clothing-and-tools](#) to find out more



KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOR'

Rebuilding one of golf's finest links layouts

Words by Gordon Bannerman

Photography by Matthew Harris

The remodelling work on the 8th hole

Read this for:

/ Renovation
/ Links
/ Architects

It's widely regarded as one of the finest links challenges in world golf.

While Royal Dornoch, in the Scottish Highlands, is counting down to its 150th anniversary milestone in 2027, documented evidence exists of a local aristocrat, the 13th Earl of Sutherland, being invited to settle an account for golf clubs and balls as far back as 1616.

Only St Andrews, in 1552, and Leith, in 1593, have traced a mention of golf back further than the attractive cathedral town on the Dornoch Firth, 43 miles north of Inverness.

A rich history includes the imprint left by Old Tom Morris himself in the latter half of the 19th Century, with another legend of golf course design, Donald Ross, installed as greenkeeper and the club's first professional before emigrating to the United States.

Custodians have never shied away from enhancing land hailed, in 1630, as "the fairest and lairgest of any pairt of Scotland; they do surpass the fields of Montrose and St Andrews".

But recent years have witnessed the most ambitious chain of modifications on the renowned Championship Course since the 1940s, when sketches provided by 1920 Open champion George Duncan paved the way to a

course enjoyed by generations of members and international visitors.

Tom Mackenzie, founding director with acclaimed international golf course architects Mackenzie and Ebert, and long-serving course manager Eoin Riddell are eagerly anticipating the final piece in an ambitious jigsaw designed to preserve and enhance Royal Dornoch's reputation as the preeminent example of the links golf genre.

Tom has enjoyed membership of the club since his parents retired to the town 40 years ago, with a spell as a greenkeeper under his belt, along with a season caddying on the European Tour, before going on to complete a degree in Landscape Architecture.

Neil Hampton, general manager at Royal Dornoch, admitted Tom, given his enduring ties to the club and town, was the natural sounding board when changes were being considered.

"Going back nearly 10 years or so we had a safety issue on the 3rd hole, with too many shots being hooked out of bounds, ending up in gardens beside the golf course and hitting roofs and tiles," said Neil. "It all came to a head when a ball missed a member's daughter by a couple of feet.

"She was waving to him »



Scott Aitchison and Eoin Riddell



New 7th green at Royal Dornoch

“It has given me a few headaches and sleepless nights, but we are proud of what has been achieved so far

playing the 14th when suddenly there was a huge bang as a ball ricocheted off the oil tank a couple of feet from where she was standing. “There was a genuine fear someone would get hurt. “At that stage we brought Mackenzie and Ebert on board for their professional advice. “Tom knows the course inside out and he has worked hand in glove with the very talented team we have here. “Having agreed proposals to amend the 3rd, we asked him to undertake a full review of both courses, the Championship and Struie.” Tom came up with several recommendations. That paved the way for changes which were adopted following an AGM in 2016.

A bunker was moved on the 1st and the tees on the 12th were relocated. Both were well-received. The major changes, however, were mapped out for the 7th and 8th holes.

Neil added: “We are always mindful we are custodians of a classic golfing links rated among the finest in the world. “But we firmly believe golf

courses should evolve and the work was given the green light with the future in mind as much as the present.” In 2020, following a delay triggered by the pandemic, Paul Lawrie, the 1999 Open champion and Honorary Member of Royal Dornoch, was invited to officially open the new-look par 4 “Pier,” stretching 485 yards off the blue tee. While enhancing one of the most photographed vistas in golf was a consideration, being asked to replicate precisely every nuance of the original green posed unprecedented challenges for Mackenzie and the Royal Dornoch greenkeeping team

entrusted with the refinements. “Trying to mirror the original 7th green was extraordinarily difficult,” confessed Tom, whose company’s current ventures include a string of Open rota venues and others scattered around the globe. “We have created a few greens that have been inspired by others – but I had never been asked to replicate an existing green on any of our other projects. “I must admit I lost sleep over that one, knowing if we got the angle of the green design wrong there would be a major issue. “Replicating the green was a deliberate decision to pay



Royal Dornoch greenkeeping team on 8th

homage to the original and this is as close to an exact replica as we could possibly get. “Eoin and the greenkeeping team have been fantastic. It was a real labour of love for them. “They were constantly going back and forth between the old green, which was still being played, and the new green to double check all the measurements. It was time well spent. “The challenge has been to improve these holes and enhance the overall experience of being at Royal Dornoch.” Eoin, who has been in post for 37 years, admitted: “Taking on construction work on a course as iconic as Royal Dornoch is a rare opportunity. “Like Tom, it has given me a few headaches and sleepless nights, but we are proud of what has been achieved so far. “We completed the new 7th hole while golfers were still playing the old one.



Tom Mackenzie on 8th hole

“It took three weeks to get the shaping right for the green after working on a vast mound of soil. Very precise measurements were being followed, down to the last millimetre. “First time visitors always reach for their cameras and phones for photographs on the 7th tee. But the views vanished until the second shot on the 8th. Now both holes are making the most of the fabulous views.”

Over the winter months, the focus of Tom, Eoin and his team has turned to completing major landscaping work on the 8th hole, Dunrobin. Hundreds of tons of gorse and turf were stripped from the top half of the hole and removed to be recycled on the courses in years to come. Where possible, soil has been taken from the site of a multi-use games facility being created for the local school. »

GREENKEEPERS' TOOLBOX

The Team






- / Course manager: Eoin Riddell
- / Deputy course manager: Scott Aitchison
- / Mechanic: William Nicholson
- / Greenkeepers: Alexander Richardson; Andrew Mackay; Andrew Rose; Connor Mackay; Craig Mackay; Craig Sutherland; David Mackay; Euan Macdonald; James Shepherd; Jamie Fraser; John Leslie; Liam Kemmett; Nick Turner; Paul Rooney; Steven MacLeod; Stuart Gillies

Location: Dornoch

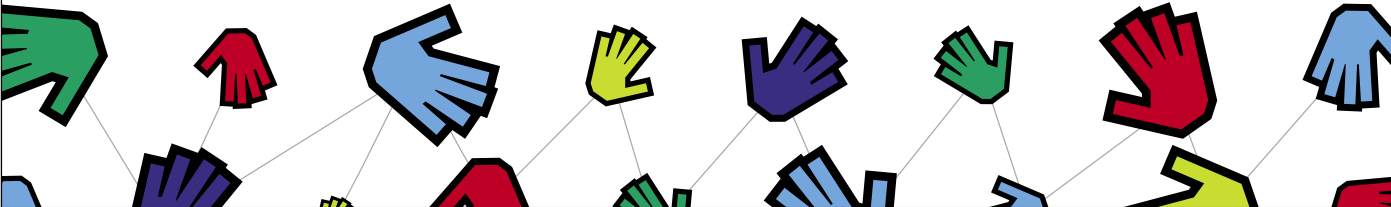


Here to lend a helping hand

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

-  **Help:** when you need it most
-  **Support:** through tough times
-  **Guidance:** on your welfare and development
-  **Financial Assistance:** during difficult times
-  **Care:** because YOU matter

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





Royal Dornoch staff working on new-look 8th hole

The removal of swathes of gorse that had blocked out sweeping panoramic views, the construction of five new tees and a re-aligned fairway are all designed to encourage the hole to be played as envisaged more than 70 years ago.

"When I first played the Championship it was firmly in the Persimmon era," said Tom. "Technology has advanced so much. Back then, it was difficult to drive over the brow of the hill. There was a decision to be made whether you wanted to stay on the top of the ridge with a clear view to the green or to face a long shot in from the bottom of the hill.

"Gradually it has been overwhelmed, with many players booming it down as far as possible. Unless you have a caddy or someone with local knowledge you have no idea that remaining on the upper level might be the better option. Traditionally, that's not what that hole was all about.

"It has been a combination of making the most of the glorious position on the golf course and restoring the hole to the way it used to be in my memory, let alone back in the

1940s when it was built. The shot into the green, dicing with that wall of death and seeing where your ball ends up, is exciting. Playing from the bottom of the hill, you miss out on the drama and have no idea what awaits you when you walk up to the green.

"It is exciting but ultimately it is all about what everyone else thinks rather than what I think of the project. The ultimate compliment is that players returning think something is different but they're not quite sure what it is.

"It's not about trying to make a statement. It is about making incremental improvements. Royal Dornoch is my spiritual home, without a shadow of a doubt. When something is emotionally close to your heart it brings a different set of responsibilities."

The Championship and the Struie Courses hosted the R&A Women's and Men's Senior Amateur Championships in tandem for the first-time last summer and the club welcomes the Scottish Amateur Championship and the

Vagliano and Junior Vagliano Trophies this year.

"The proposals were quite radical I suppose but the vast majority of our members embraced Tom's vision," recalled Neil.

"These are the biggest changes carried out on the Championship since the 1940s but the feedback we have enjoyed from members and visitors has been very positive.

"The 7th is certainly much-improved, and we are confident the 8th will also be enhanced by the changes being carried out over the winter."

The Dornoch team, with Tom a regular visitor, have made excellent progress on the 8th, Dunrobin.

"The first task was getting the shape we wanted to make it look and play right," said Tom. "It was pure gravel we were working with and that had to be covered with varying depths of sand, with a growing medium on top to allow the turf to thrive and to be able to look after it."

The greenkeepers have added to their skillsets to

ensure the projects have knitted together on time and to budget.

"We work very closely with Tom and his team. He has made regular visits to assess our progress," said Eoin. "We were delighted to be given the responsibility of making the changes to holes seven and eight in-house. We took ownership and that meant the guys undergoing training on dumpers and excavators. They lapped it up.

"Unlike the 7th, the 8th has closed until next season. Five new tees are being constructed and a new fairway created down towards the ridge. It is the final piece in the overall jigsaw.

"The views have opened up towards 1,302-foot Ben Bhraggie and the fairytale Dunrobin Castle.

"Already they are truly spectacular, and now you see the waves crashing in off the Dornoch Firth when the wind gets up. You couldn't see that before.

"The view from the top of the ridge will still be familiar to golfers but the outlook from further back was blocked previously by the gorse.

"Hopefully the changes will make golfers think on the tee. It will be a true risk and reward hole again. Do they really need to take a driver?


"The turf has been supplied by County Turf, who have dealt with clubs in this neck of the woods in the past.

"They know what is required for the climate here it has to blend with the existing fairway.

"The hole will be in play for the new season, although mats may initially be required to afford some protection. That will depend on the weather over the next few months.

"We are looking forward to seeing the finished article as much as any of the golfers making their way to Royal Dornoch this year."

Continue the conversation

Eoin is on Twitter at
 @EoinRiddell

MEMBER BENEFIT:
COUNSELLING HELPLINE



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

SOMEBODY TO LISTEN

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

The service provides immediate emotional support, advice and practical information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

To speak to our professional counsellors call 0333 000 2082