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BIGGA

Greenkeeper International

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PART 02

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

BTME 2023

We thought BTME was the best ever, but we would say that, wouldn't we.

It turns out you agreed with us and this word cloud was generated by the phrases most commonly used alongside the hashtag #BTME2023 throughout the show. Thank you to everyone who came along and made this year's BTME one for the record books.

SIRA studio PHOTO VIDEO

Photography with thanks to SIRA Studio

BTME returned for the first time in January since 2020 and it's fair to say, we've missed you.

There was almost a carnival atmosphere in the show halls, with exhibitors embracing the BTME experience and creating more opportunities to interact than ever before.

BIGGA members and other visitors reciprocated in huge numbers, marking the event as one of the best attended in BTME's long history.

More than 4,100 individuals made their way to Harrogate, 10% of from overseas.

Most came to the show for more than one day and on social media, the hashtag #BTME2023 was viewed by 658,800 people, creating an incredible level of positivity that we hope continues into the coming season.

Jim Croxton, CEO of BIGGA, said: "To see buzzing halls and so many smiling faces and receive the excellent feedback we have, is testament to the outstanding work of the BIGGA team and wider community to put on this wonderful trade show and education programme.

"BTME gave us the opportunity to unveil some of the hugely-important work we've been doing behind the scenes, with initiatives like First Green set to shape the industry moving forwards.

"We're excited for what the year ahead has in store."

Over the following pages we've given a glimpse of everything that happened at BTME 2023. But it's impossible to capture it all and the only way to truly experience BTME is by being there. Fortunately, you can already register for BTME 2024 by scanning the QR code and signing up today.

BEST IN SHOW

Origin Amenity Solutions won Best Large Exhibition Stand

Each year BIGGA presents the winners of a public vote undertaken on the BIGGA App with the title of Best Exhibition Stand in three categories, based upon size.

This year the Large category was won by Origin Amenity Solutions.

Andy Russell, commercial director, said: "We're blown away by winning this award.

"It's been a fantastic show and the best for many years.

"The people coming through the doors have been absolutely fantastic and we've had a really good time. We've enjoyed it and we want to come back next year, so we're looking forward to that."

In the Medium category, Barenbrug blew visitors away with a replica clubhouse, complete with working fireplace and views of St Andrews through 'windows'.

Marketing Executive Maisie Jonas said: "Thank you very much for this award. We're really over the moon with it.

Chappell Enterprises UK won Best Small Stand

"We really wanted to try and do something a bit different and something we've never done before. Obviously people enjoyed it, which is great. We couldn't have done it without our stand developers, who are Image-Display in Norfolk."

The Small category was won by Chappell Enterprises UK, the recruitment firm exhibiting at their first BTME.

Managing Director Mike Chappell said: "We're absolutely delighted. We've really enjoyed the show — it's our first year exhibiting and we'll definitely be back next year, so thanks very much everyone."

Barenbrug won Best Medium Exhibition Stand

Sponsored by Origin amenity solutions

BIGGA WELCOME CELEBRATION

‘GOLDING OLDIE’

Former GTC director among the winners of the BIGGA Awards 2023

David Golding has been described as the unsung hero of greenkeeper education, but after being presented with the Outstanding Contribution Award sponsored by Baroness, that’s no longer the case.

The BIGGA Welcome Celebration sponsored by Origin Amenity Solutions also saw wins for Abridge Golf Club in Essex and Strathaven Golf Club in South Lanarkshire.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: “My congratulations go to the greenkeeping teams at Abridge and Strathaven for their wonderful achievements throughout 2022. Their accomplishments are testament to the ability of BIGGA members to exceed everyday expectations, with no small dose of imagination, creativity and hard work.

“Congratulations also to Davie Golding, a former colleague who I have long admired and who I was delighted we were able to recognise in this way. David was a crusader for the recognition of greenkeeper education standards and he was undoubtedly one of the most influential people in the history of the greenkeeping industry, in terms of bringing the professionalism of greenkeeper training forwards.

David Golding (left) alongside Adam Butler of Baroness

“At heart he was always a greenkeeper who believed that education was key to improving the profession for his fellow practitioners.”

In a career spanning more than 50 years, David drove educational opportunities for greenkeepers to new heights.

Possessing a passion for education and desire to improve development opportunities for his peers in greenkeeping, David’s encyclopaedic knowledge of the industry helped lay foundations that continue to bear fruit to this day, as proven with the recent establishment of the Level 5 greenkeeping apprenticeship and the continued development of the Level 2 and 3 qualifications.

The team from Abridge alongside Bernhard and Company’s Steve Nixon (far right)

On the same evening, the winner of the Championship Greenkeeping Performance Award sponsored by Bernhard and Company was revealed to be Abridge Golf Club.

Abridge is a private members’ club in Essex, where Course Manager Geoff Smith and his team were tasked with preparing the course for its first ever EuroPro Tour event in June and July 2022.

In hosting the EuroPro Tour’s PDC Championship, the greenkeeping team overcame challenges including one of the driest summers on record, the grow-in of a massive, newly constructed irrigation lake and working around general play during the continuing golf boom. PGA officials remarked they had never seen such dedication to producing a course for a championship and in his closing address, the CEO of EuroPro stated that Abridge was one of the best venues they had ever been to.

The other finalists in this category were St Annes Old Links and Minchinhampton.

Also revealed on the evening, the Greenkeeping Project of the Year Award sponsored by Sports Turf Data Solutions was presented to the team at Strathaven Golf Club.

In 2019 Strathaven was »

The Strathaven team alongside Adam Sedgwick (far right) of Sports Turf Data Solutions

DONALD STEEL LEADS PRAISE FOR GOLDING

Former golfer and noted golf course designer Donald Steel led the congratulations to David Golding, following his BIGGA Awards win.

Donald is also the former chairman of The GTC and worked closely with David for many years.

In paying tribute to David’s career, Donald wrote: “Conditioning of golf courses has improved out of all recognition in my lifetime, during which I have had the joy of working alongside hundreds of greenkeepers. The old timers were happy with their lot but yearned for something better for future generations. It has become a career with high level education, improved recognition and status and better working conditions to the fore. You are here tonight to honour the lifetime work of David Golding, who has been through the mill himself and done so much to bring all this about. Having had the delight of chairing the Greenkeepers’ Training Committee for seven years, I have seen at first hand the lengths to which he went. A large part of the incredible low scoring in modern golf is the result of his work. The search and surge for knowledge has in large part been his instigation.

“Many congratulations, David, on receiving your golfing Oscar. Nobody has deserved it more.”

forced to stop playing its 7th hole, to avoid golf balls entering a neighbouring property. Head Greenkeeper Stephen Hunter suggested redesigning the hole to become a par-3 that aimed away from the boundary of the site. In order to maintain the par of the course, Stephen also suggested extending the 9th hole to become a par-4.

The six-strong greenkeeping team carried out the design and construction themselves, with the project being completed in April 2022.

The other finalists in this category were Astbury Golf Club and Prestwick Golf Club.

You can take an in-depth look at the winning entries and all the finalists on the BIGGA website:

Nominations are also open for this year's BIGGA Awards, to be presented at BTME 2024, so get involved today!

Minchinhampton

Astbury

St Annes Old Links

Prestwick

Darren McLaughlan of Trump Turnberry, won Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year

Lucy Sellick of Wenvoe Castle was presented with the Women in Golf Trailblazer Award

BIGGA WELCOME CELEBRATION

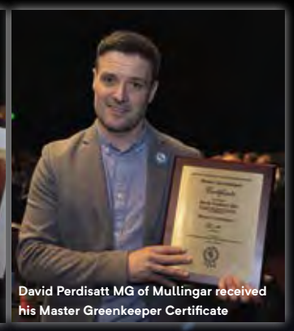
The BIGGA Welcome Celebration takes place in the Harrogate Convention Centre's Main Auditorium on the opening evening of BTME.

This year it was hosted by social media celebrity Jasmine, the Jazzy Golfer, and saw a number of prominent BIGGA members recognised for their achievements throughout the year.

Also acknowledged at the BIGGA Welcome Celebration sponsored by Origin Amenity Solutions was:

- Darren McLaughlan, course manager at Trump Turnberry, won the Amenity Forum's Amenity Sprayer Operator of the Year Award sponsored by ICL and Syngenta.
- David Perdisatt MG of Mullingar was presented with his Master Greenkeeper certificate.
- The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2022 winners, James Gaskell and Peter Pattenden, were invited onto stage to recognise their achievements.
- Joe Simpson of Ipswich won the BIGGA Photographic Competition 2022 and was presented with a framed print of his winning image.
- Lucy Sellick of Wenvoe Castle received her Women in Golf Trailblazer Award after being announced as the winner at the Women in Golf Awards in December.
- The BIGGA CPD Milestone achievers were presented with their certificates.
- BIGGA recognised the career of Richard Fry, former marketing director at Rigby Taylor and Origin Amenity Solutions, who retired recently.
- Also presented to the audience was former BIGGA President Gordon Moir and his successor, Andy Smith of Shirley Golf Club and retired member Andy Peel, latterly of Bull Bay, who received Life Membership at the BIGGA AGM (see opposite page).

Joe Simpson of Ipswich won the BIGGA Photographic Competition


David Perdisatt MG of Mullingar received his Master Greenkeeper Certificate

BIGGA AGM

BIGGA's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Main Auditorium.

At the meeting, retired member Gordon Moir, latterly of St Andrews Links Trust, concluded his term as BIGGA President and was succeeded by Andy Smith, the course manager at Shirley Golf Club.

We spoke to Andy last year for a chat about his career. Scan the QR code to find out more.

Retired member Andy Peel, latterly of Bull Bay, received Life Membership of the association.

Also remembered during the AGM were members and other key figures who died since the previous AGM: Vick Buck; Paul Foston; Anthony Horne; David James; Sandy Jones; Ross McLeish; Rob Reeves; Noel Smith; Malcolm Wheat.

For more information about resolutions made during the AGM, email info@bigga.co.uk

Gordon Moir (left) received a gesture of thanks following his year as President

Andy Smith (left) was appointed BIGGA President for 2023

Andy Peel was presented with Life Membership by BIGGA Chairperson Steve Lloyd

Andy Peel began his career at Trafford Borough Council and in 1994 he moved to Bull Bay on Anglesey, where he spent just short of three decades before retiring in 2021.

Following his retirement, Andy made a point of visiting every golf club in North Wales, to speak to the course manager, head greenkeeper and greenkeepers.

"The aim was just to go and say hello," said Andy. "I've always pushed the fact that we need to talk and that we're there for each other. If COVID has taught us nothing else, it's that is what we need to do."

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LANTRA AWARDS

BTME WELCOMES A VERY SPECIAL GUEST TO THE SHOW

In addition to the thousands of greenkeepers who made their way to Harrogate for BTME, BIGGA was also delighted to host a very special guest on the opening day, with the Claret Jug taking centre stage.

The famous trophy, presented to the winner of The Open each year, was on stage alongside St Andrews Links Director of Greenkeeping Sandy Reid and Richard Windows, The R&A's head of sustainable agronomy — championship venues, for the BTME Breakfast Session as they spoke about the agronomic and greenkeeping challenges that came with hosting The 150th Open at St Andrews.

Richard said: "Today's session provided a background insight into the agronomy of the championship itself, which is important because everybody can learn from it and employ those same sustainable practices at their course for whatever event they're hosting, or even for routine play.

"It was a brilliant championship with the golf course in superb condition and firm, fast and running, which was exactly what we wanted. It was a great occasion, working with St Andrews Links Trust and their superb team of greenkeepers."

"[Continue to Learn] is such a superb opportunity to network with some amazing educational speakers and it's certainly a highlight of the greenkeeping calendar."

Following the session, BIGGA members who had previously joined The Open Volunteer Support Team were invited on stage for a photo opportunity alongside the Claret Jug.

Royal Liverpool's James Bledge will be hosting the first Open of his career in 2023

Excitement building for this year's event

The presence of the Claret Jug gave James Bledge, links superintendent at 2023 host venue Royal Liverpool a glimpse at the trophy ahead of its arrival at the venue in July.

James, who joined Hoylake in January 2022, said: "It has been a lifelong dream for me to host something like this. I've worked my whole life and I was one of those people who, when asked what they wanted from their career, said I want to end up on an Open golf course. I can't wait until it's done and dusted and we've made a success of it, but I'm going to enjoy every minute up until then. With the team around us, we can't do anything but succeed, so I'm massively looking forward to it.

"I've been a proud member of BIGGA since I was 16, so it's a big deal for me to come to Harrogate and BTME. They do a great job putting on the education, I love the show, the place is buzzing and it looks like it may be the biggest BTME in history this year, so I'm proud to be a part of it alongside my work mates. It's such a great thing and long may it continue."

Richard Windows and Sandy Reid

Previous members of The Open Support Team joined the Claret Jug on stage

ACUMEN CLEARWATER HOSTED ITS ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW ON THE FINAL DAY OF BTME.

BIGGA President Andy Smith drew the name of Nicholas Street, course manager of Crews Hill, out of the box of entries.

Crews Hill will receive a waste recycling system courtesy of Acumen ClearWater.

BIGGA President Andy Smith alongside Acumen's Matt Mears

GREENTEK OFFERS 3-2-1 PRIZE DRAW

GreenTek hosted a prize draw, with three prizes of £300, £200 and £100 in Amazon gift vouchers up for grabs.

"We've had a fantastic show with lots of foot traffic and plenty of people interested in new innovations from GreenTek," said Mike Stott, sales manager. "Thank you to everyone who joined us at BTME and we look forward to seeing you at BTME 2024."

The winners drawn out by BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton were:

1. Stephen Curtis, Wensum Valley
2. Phil Richardson, The Worcestershire
3. Stuart Aho, Thetford

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton and GreenTek's Mike Stott

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CONTINUE TO LEARN

Taking place over four days, Continue to Learn 2023 presented over 225 hours of education, delivered by 88 speakers drawn from around the world.

Topics ranged from mental health and wellbeing, agronomy, water security and everything in between, with over 1,100 tickets sold.

Continue to Learn was well-supported by our members. In addition to two days of free seminars held in Hall 4 of the Harrogate Convention Centre, there were also four days of Classes in the Queen's Suite and two days of Conference content held in the adjacent Majestic Hotel.

If you're interested in speaking at Continue to Learn 2024, the Proposal to Present process is underway. Submit your expression of interest today on the BIGGA website.

"I've been speaking at events for 30 years and Continue to Learn is one of the more recognised conferences. The variety of information and professionalism really makes it a sought-after invitation for speakers.

Dr Frank Rossi, Associate Professor of Horticulture and the 'Grass Guy', Cornell University

"Continue to Learn is a unique opportunity and the class sizes give us great interaction with attendees. It lends itself to having a superproductive day.

Paul MacCormack, Superintendent and General Manager, Fox Meadow Golf & Country Club

"I think this is my 20th year coming here, so I've become a regular at this conference and it's always fun to see old friends. There are some years that are special and it's always a pleasure to be here in Harrogate.

Dr Stan Kostka, Visiting Scholar, Pennsylvania State University

ICL SCHOLARS ENGAGE IN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The ICL Continue to Learn Scholars attended Continue to Learn and BTME and were welcomed to the show by ICL's Ed Carter and BIGGA's Elaine Jones (pictured right).

The 2023 scholars were Michael Sparke of Kings Hill, Allan Spalding of Lundin, Nicholas Thorley of Saunton and Jarno Ruscoe of Ingestre Park. The fifth scholar, Patrick Brown, was unable to attend the meet-up, due to taking part in a Class at the time.

This year's scholars alongside ICL's Ed Carter (left) and BIGGA's Elaine Jones

Michael Sparke is deputy course manager at Kings Hill and said: "I've never been to BTME before and it's something that I've always been told to come to by college tutors. I was quite new to BIGGA until another course manager recommended it and the experiences you can get by being part of the association. Once I discovered what was on offer, I started applying for everything.

"For me education is massive. I always try and learn every day. I'm always asking questions about any side of the business, not just about greenkeeping.

"I want to know about everything so that when I get to being a course manager or a head greenkeeper, I feel well-equipped that I can confidently tell my team, 'this is what we're doing' and educate other people. The more you and your team know, the better your course is going to be.

"I wanted to mix it up and I had a look at the courses and made sure I picked ones that were right for me. My passion is the science side of it — that's what I like to learn and to have the opportunity to come and enhance my own knowledge has been amazing, I've really enjoyed it."

Our thanks go to ICL for providing this scholarship for BIGGA members. For more information about the ICL Continue to Learn Scholarship, head to the BIGGA website.

THE RYDER CUP AT CONTINUE TO LEARN

Joining the Continue to Learn: Conference line-up were two European greenkeepers who have a massive year ahead.

This September, Lara Arias and her team at Marco Simone Golf & Country Club will host the first Ryder Cup on Italian soil.

Lara said: "It's so important to keep learning every day. To be here is a great opportunity to talk with everyone and learn more about this industry.

"We are super excited to host the Ryder Cup at Marco Simone. It's been a long time since we began preparing the golf course and we have seen it through a full renovation.

"Not only are we doing the grow-in of the golf course, but we also built a full team.

"When we arrived at Marco Simone, we didn't have a team, so we are building it from scratch and that is very important for us. We could not host the Ryder Cup without the team we now have."

"We could not host the Ryder Cup without the team we now have.

At Continue to Learn, Lara was joined by Alejandro Reyes, course superintendent for the 2018 Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in France.

Alejandro has since become director of agronomy at TAS and at Marco Simone Golf Club, supporting Lara and her team in preparing the course for the event.

Lara Arias and Alejandro Reyes

The session gave attendees a behind-the-scenes look at challenges the greenkeepers have overcome in anticipation of this year's event.

Alejandro said: "It's unbelievable how BTME is growing. We see more and more suppliers and professionals from the turf industry. Before, I used to go around many shows to be able to meet everyone. But today, coming to Harrogate and BTME, we are able to meet everyone in one place, so congratulations for the organisation that BIGGA does.

"BTME is something that is very special."

Find out more about Continue to Learn at bigga.org.uk

MIKE'S FINAL SESSION

At Continue to Learn, Mike Astrop took charge of the final group session of his career.

Mike has worked with BIGGA at Continue to Learn and within the FTMI programme for several years and has been an integral part of the education provided in our industry.

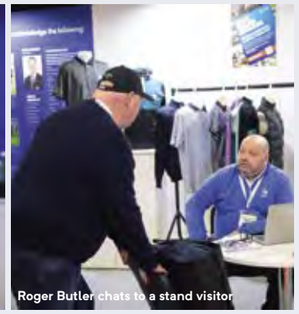
FTMI mentor Sam Evans MG said: "As an industry, many current golf course managers and turf professionals have been taught by Mike and on behalf of us all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his efforts, energy and lessons. Enjoy retirement and thanks again."

This final session was the conclusion of education for the FTMI delegates of 2022.

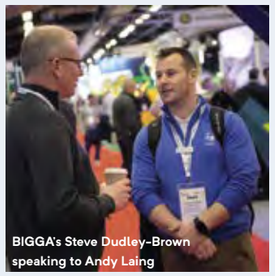
Mike Astrop's final session was with the FTMI Class of 2022

STAFF AND MEMBERS REUNITE ON THE BIGGA STAND

BIGGA's Elaine Jones, Gil Christon and Tracey Walker


Roger Butler chats to a stand visitor

Visitors to the BIGGA stand during BTME received the usual warm welcome, with staff keen to catch up with members who they hadn't seen for some time or who they had only spoken to over the phone or through email.


BIGGA's Steve Dudley-Brown speaking to Andy Laing

The stand was a hive of activity throughout the show and we were proud to host a book launch, golf simulator and prize draws, all bringing some entertainment to the stand, which sits at the heart of BTME.

Visitors were also able to show their support for the association by purchasing merchandise from our chosen clothing provider, Glenmuir.

The winners of the prize draws were:

- Day 1: Sam McCalla, Bonnybridge
- Day 2: Stuart Christon, Middlesborough
- Day 3: Darren Child, Holtye

To check out the BIGGA and Glenmuir catalogue, head to www.glenmuir.com /corporate/bigga

A nearest the pin competition also took place using a Golf Swing Systems simulator, with more Glenmuir swag up for grabs.

- The winner on Tuesday was Scott Parnell, first assistant at Saffron Walden.
- The winner on Wednesday was Rob Bemment, deputy head greenkeeper at Elsham.

A nearest the pin competition took place on the BIGGA stand

BIGGA STAND HOSTS TURF SCIENCE BOOK LAUNCH

Joining us on the stand was Continue to Learn speaker Mike Fidanza, professor at Penn State University, for the launch of Achieving Sustainable Turfgrass Management.

Dr Mike Fidanza said: "I'm so pleased that Burleigh Dodds [Science Publishing] invited us to contribute to this book series. There are over 100 titles and this was the first one in turfgrass science and management, so I'm thrilled to be part of that and I think it's a positive reflection of the turfgrass industry as a whole.

"Burleigh Dodds are based in the UK, so it's appropriate that we're able to officially launch this book in sunny Harrogate in January."

Mike Fidanza launched his latest book, with Noel MacKenzie winning a signed copy

The BIGGA stand hosted a prize draw at the show, where Noel MacKenzie of Sports Turf Consulting won a signed copy of the book.

Editorial Director Francis Dodds said: "As publishing professionals, what we try and do is gather together some of the world's leading experts to review the sometimes bewildering amount of research that's undertaken on a particular topic, with Mike acting as editor.

"We hope to make a real contribution to the industry, both for academics and turfgrass managers."

The book is available in print and digital formats and costs £165, although BIGGA members can receive a 20% discount by entering the code BTME20 at the checkout via www.bdspublishing.com until 28 February.

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SUSTAINABILITY AT THE FOREFRONT OF BTME CONVERSATIONS

A key theme of BTME 2023 – and the activities of BIGGA as a whole – is increasing awareness of the need to drive towards sustainable greenkeeping practices.

One of the key topics for discussion at the trade show was how greenkeepers and golf clubs will need to adapt to changing resource availability and the warming climate. Nowhere was this more true than on the Sustainability Zone, where BIGGA's James Hutchinson was joined by representatives of organisations who were on hand to offer advice about ways golf clubs can meet the challenges ahead.

Here's what the experts told us about their time in the Sustainability Zone:

James Hutchinson, BIGGA

"I'm BIGGA's ecologist and I help golf courses become more sustainable.

"One day I could be on a links talking about grassland management and the next I could be in a woodland looking at ancient trees, so it's a hugely diverse job.

"It's hugely important for people to come to BTME for a chat and to let your hair down, more than anything else.

BIGGA's James Hutchinson hosted the Sustainability Zone

"Everyone is relaxed and laid back so come and find any of the BIGGA team and we'll have a chat and a coffee and sort everything out."

Owen Jones, England Golf

"With over 2,000 golf courses in the country, it's very important that we acknowledge the fact that we take up a chunk of land and we need to manage that in a sustainable manner.

"The Sustainability Zone at BTME was a really great place to come and talk all things sustainability in golf. We can talk to greenkeepers, equipment manufacturers, chemical manufacturers and distributors about how we can all play our part in sustainability and making sure our game and the land we take up is managed in a great way for communities."

Junier Browne MBE, JBEL Environmental Services

"I've been talking to golf course managers about how they can futureproof their water supplies. A lot of clubs don't plan very well for climate change and water in particular, so they ask me to advise them on the type of things they can do to close that supply and demand gap.

"In 2022 we had the highest temperature ever recorded and that record will be broken every three to five years going forwards. If course managers and clubs haven't put a strategic plan in place for drought, they're going to find themselves unviable in future.

Clubs need to start planning for a water poor future, they need to put a strategic plan in place and the most important thing is take action because they're all just waiting for it to start raining and as we all know, that's not happening."

Marie Athorn, RSPB

"Golf courses have this amazing opportunity to contribute in a positive way to help nature recover. As the leading conservation charity in the UK, the RSPB is really seeing a crisis in nature, with lots of species in decline.

"With 3,000 golf courses around the United Kingdom, that is about 126,000 hectares of land across the country. If they were all managed with nature in mind, while still being good places to play golf, they could have a positive impact for nature across the UK."

EARLY BIRDS SET OUT ONCE AGAIN

For the third year running, BTME hosted the Syngenta Early Bird Run at 6.30am on Wednesday morning.

Runners were able to join the 5km route or, alternatively, those who weren't able to make it to Harrogate (or get up in time) could also contribute by signing up to the Strava HiCure Run Club and running 5km during BTME week.

For everyone who took part, Syngenta has donated £10 to the Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund, with the donation this year totalling £730.

The thanks of everyone at BIGGA goes to Syngenta for hosting this event and for supporting our charity, which works to help greenkeepers in need.

The Syngenta Early Bird Run started before dawn outside the BTME halls

BIGGA DELEGATION RECEIVES TICKETS TO AMERICA AT BTME

One of the highlights of BTME each year is the opportunity for the 10 members of the BIGGA Delegation to the GCSAA Trade Show and Conference to receive their tickets and itinerary for their upcoming trip.

With excitement building, the delegates get to meet members of the Bernhard and Company team who make this opportunity exclusively available to BIGGA members, while also gathering for a drinks reception attended by many of the 200 previous delegates.

James Bruder, head greenkeeper at Walton Heath, applied three times before successfully being selected for this year's delegation. He said: "It's one of those initiatives that BIGGA does that is fantastic for all the members. It's fantastic that Bernhard sponsors it and supports us through our education and I'm really looking forward to going out there, networking, meeting new people, learning and gaining as much as I can out of the experience."

This year's BIGGA Delegation gathered at BTME

Steve Nixon is director of worldwide sales at Bernhard and Company, which is committed to creating educational opportunities for greenkeepers, including the establishment of the new Bernhard Academy at Moortown golf club.

Steve said: "Anybody who knows Bernhard's knows we're all about education and [the BIGGA delegation] is an opportunity we can give these guys to see the latest and greatest machinery and techniques, meet some of the best golf course superintendents in the world and learn from them, while also passing on their knowledge of what we do on this side of the pond and try to help the industry in that way."

FTMI FIRST AS CLASS GRADUATES AT BTME

BIGGA was proud to host the official graduation ceremony of the Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI Class of 2022) on the Jacobsen stand.

This was the first time the graduation had taken place at the trade show but was made possible due to the post-COVID restructuring of the influential learning opportunity, with FTMI education now taking place in a hybrid of in-person and online learning.

Dunham Forest greenkeeper Michael Gibbons said: "I applied to move my career forwards and FTMI has already doing that. There's already things happening for everyone and we've had members take steps up, so it's a big tick on that box. We're all in exactly the same position, doing the same things, so it's great to have this support."

In addition to a site visit to Ransomes Jacobsen in Ipswich, the class also received four months of online learning, which allowed international members such as Rob Munro to participate.

The FTMI Class of 2022 graduated at BTME

Rob is first assistant at Cabot Cape Breton in Canada and said: "This was an awesome opportunity to see a completely different part of the world and network with some of the best in the UK. In North America, greenkeeper education is university-based, whereas in the UK it is focused on the trade specifically.

"It's great to see how things are done here and pick up on what is offered in the UK to try and be the best I can be."

The FTMI programme culminated in two days of learning at Harrogate as part of Continue to Learn.

ADVERTORIAL

How Moray's New Course was brought back to life with the help of Origin Amenity Solutions

When extreme hot weather coupled with little irrigation rendered the grass on the New Course at Moray Golf Club effectively dead and out of use, Golf Course Manager Kevin Thomson had a big problem on his hands.

The old 18-hole course at Moray in Lossiemouth, Scotland was established in 1889 and is a classic links with deep revetted bunkers, undulating gorse-lined fairways and smooth fast greens. It is a superb test of golf with seven par fours over 400 yards.

The newer 18-hole course, which opened in 1979, had no irrigation system installed and "had always been an issue" explained Kevin. He added: "With low annual rainfall, moisture levels were always a constant issue on the fairways. We have our own microclimate in Lossiemouth but the extreme hot and dry weather during the summer of 2018 caused untold damage and left the fairways in poor condition.

"We tried to overseed but without the irrigation to support this we were onto a losing battle. In 2022 the club had the finances available to install an automated irrigation system so in early September of 2022 we seeded with Origin Amenity Solutions R8 Grass Seed — an ultra-fine dwarf rye and fescue mix that is Germin-8T treated."

R8 grass seed is formulated by Rigby Taylor, who along with Headland Amenity, Symbio and Turf Keeper make up Origin Amenity Solutions. It is the chosen mix for golf, bowling, cricket and tennis clubs due to its ultra-fine leaved high shoot density and its tolerance of regular close mowing. It is fast establishing, hard wearing and improves tolerance to Red Thread disease.

"The results after overseeding were exceptional," said Kevin. "I chose the R8 grass seed mix because of the fescue content. Being a sand-based location, the fescue likes these impoverished conditions and does well. I knew from experience that I would get good results, but it was far better than I expected. The weather was exceptional – the temperatures throughout November really helped and the germination was fast. The results were astounding. Everything came together — the perfect storm if you like!"

Kevin has been at Moray for 35 years and held the courses manager position for the last nine of those. He manages a team of nine to maintain the high standards the courses are renowned for. He has been a long-term customer of Rigby Taylor, Headland and Symbio so when they all became part of Origin Amenity Solutions this was great news for him. He has been using the Symbio Compost Tea Programme for almost a decade and is a staunch believer in this approach.

Symbio compost teas are highly concentrated microbial solutions containing a wide variety of beneficial bacteria, fungi and other soil microorganisms that promote biologically active soils and healthy plants. Kevin added: "We spray on the fungi that contains the beneficial bacteria we need on the greens and in the soil. It massively helps with disease control. We get very little disease, significantly less than before we adopted this approach. As more and more chemicals are banned, I really feel that this is the way forward. It is definitely a longer-term approach, but I feel worth it. I saw significantly less autumn disease after a couple of years into the programme.

Discussing the method of seeding used to get such fine results, Kevin said: "Well, the grass on the new course was effectively dead. We scarified with a Terra Rake to rip up all the dead material. We then disc-seeded with pure fescue – the disc system places seed under the surface to improve the rate of germination, before finally pot seeding. This is becoming more common on many links courses whereby we effectively 'punched' holes into the ground and using a modified spreader with an attached seed tray, the R8 seed fell into the holes. The team topdressed with sand and topsoil before watering.

"We're really happy with the results. Irrigation is now installed, which will ensure we maximise turf playability during periods of drought stress or low rainfall and will improve nutrient efficiency. Now the golf course is where it needs to be I'm looking forward to maintaining it and seeing golfers enjoy it."

Working in partnership with

Origin amenity solutions

ADVERTORIAL

PLAYING THE LONG GAME WITH BARONESS

With Andrew McIntee, course manager at Pollok Golf Club

Justine Fourny, Marketing Manager, Hamilton Ross Group

Andy McIntee, course manager at Pollok Golf Club and Paul Denholm, groundcare sales manager at Hamilton Brothers, sat down for a chat about the Baroness six-piece machinery package the club purchased two years ago.

Paul: Can you tell us about the venue where we are today and about your role?

Andy: Pollok is built in a parkland setting on the south side of Glasgow. The course was designed by Alistair Mackenzie and we have around 700 members, with 600 playing members. I'm course manager and I've been here for just over two and a half years.

How has COVID impacted your business?

Andy: I think all golf clubs have benefitted from an increase in membership. Golf provided a safe space for people to enjoy the outdoors during the pandemic and I think it has a lot of benefits. It's a good source of exercise, provides a social setting and hopefully allows our members to relax and get away from everyday pressures. I take it as a compliment that people want to head out onto the course, even in not-so-nice conditions.

For us greenkeepers, every minute out there counts now, so we've had to change how we set up the course. We send the two fairways mowers out and it takes them about three and a half hours, whereas before, on a course like this, you were able to do it through the day with one member of staff.

We set the whole course up in about four hours and that's reminiscent of what you'd get in championship golf. Again, having the machines and the back-up is just a no-brainer. If I think back to what we had when I first came in, there were constant breakdowns.

COVID made it harder to get certain materials, but it taught us to look further ahead. Before we would have probably started looking at the next package six months before we wanted to purchase it, whereas now we have to think about it two years in advance.

What was the buying process like?

Andy: We bought six pieces of machinery: two fairway mowers; a rough mower; a five-unit semi-rough mower; a greens triple; and a surrounds triple. We worked together with Hamilton Brothers for about six to eight months, putting a machinery package together. When I first came in, the previous general manager had been talking to a few competitors, but I felt like it was only fair to give everybody a shot, considering it was going to be a big outlay for the club.

The important thing for me was that the team was involved in every part of the process. It's not just me picking machinery, because I'm not the one who's going to be using them most of the time. Paul came in, we organised some demonstrations and the decisions that came back were unanimous.

It was also obvious that we needed reliable and robust machines. We've got quite a rugged terrain here. There's lots of branches and sticks kicking about and ultimately you're going to hit some of those as you can't pick everything up. We've got 15 fairways and once you were finished cutting all of them, the cut when you came back in was as good as when you first went out.

When we were putting the package together, we had a Paul Lawrie professional event here, just after we'd demoed the Baroness fairway mower. It had done such a good job that we asked Hamilton Brothers whether we could get that machine back for the week, to help produce the quality of cut during the tournament. At the end of the day, as much as the greens, surrounds and tees are important, the area with the biggest visual impact is the fairway. What the golfers are looking at, it's the aesthetics, the finish on it, the turf quality and the difference was noticeable.

The machines arrived in January 2021. We haven't put a grind on them yet and we'll be going into our third cutting season with them next year.

Continue the Conversation

To find out more about Baroness in Scotland go to www.hamiltonrossgroup.co.uk

Working in partnership with

BARONESS Quality on Demand

Hamilton Ross GROUP

INDUSTRY NEWS

Origin Amenity joins patron list

Origin Amenity Solutions has become a member of BIGGA's Regional Patron Scheme.

Origin Amenity Solutions will attend and support BIGGA in its regional events across the UK, including a mix of seminars, education workshops and golf days.

Commercial Director Andy Russell said: "We are a resolute supporter of BIGGA and of raising the profile of greenkeepers within the industry. It is important that schemes like this exist to provide learning and networking opportunities for members and peers across the industry and I am proud to support the Regional Patron Scheme. National coverage

enables us to support events across all five regions."

Lauren Frazer, head of business development at BIGGA, said: "Origin Amenity Solutions is a Premium Partner of BIGGA and supports many of our events and initiatives.

"I am delighted that they are involved with the Regional Patron Scheme as it is always good to see a market leader and big brand name give something back and lend their support to such worthwhile schemes.

"Education and learning opportunities are essential for the professional development of our members and the Origin team has experience and knowledge to share."

ICL introduces 'revolutionary' technology

At BTME, ICL introduced a biodegradable coating technology for its controlled release fertiliers in the turf market, called eqo.s.

The coating for nitrogen is compliant with future EU fertiliser regulations, helping turf managers improve their nutrient use efficiency.

"Our CRF products are of the highest possible quality and the technology we introduce today, eqo.s, works similarly to previous coating technologies, but with some key improvements," said Dr Andy Owen, ICL International Technical Manager Turf & Landscape. "What makes it revolutionary is that the fully biodegradable eqo.s coating breaks down quicker and is completely compliant with future fertiliser regulations."

Agrovista Amenity becomes BIGGA Regional Patron

Agrovista Amenity is pleased to announce that it has become a gold member of the BIGGA Regional Patron Scheme for 2023.

As part of the scheme, Agrovista Amenity will participate and support BIGGA in a series of events throughout the year including seminars, education workshops and golf days.

Head of Amenity John Marland said: "As a regional patron, Agrovista Amenity is proud to support BIGGA and help create outstanding learning and development opportunities for greenkeepers."

Lauren Frazer, BIGGA head of business development, said: "Agrovista has been a valued supporter of BIGGA members for a number of years, helping provide development opportunities on a national scale, particularly through the Agrovista Amenity Academy.

"We are incredibly proud to welcome Agrovista as one of our first Regional Patrons, which will enable the team to support BIGGA members and contribute to the hosting of regional learning opportunities that we know many members find crucial for their development."

BTME 2023 news recap

During BTME 2023, a huge number of important industry announcements were made by exhibitors and other supporting companies.

Below is a list of just some of the product launches and other interesting events that took place:

- INFINICUT launched a new dedicated cutting unit
- Campey launched a new turf brush
- Redexim launched a trio of new machines
- John Deere launched battery walk-behind greens mowers
- GreenTek Solutions unveiled a Mega-Mix fertiliser mixing station
- The road legal Club Car Urgan went on show
- Kubota launched the online Kubota Group Solutions Hub
- Henton & Chattell announced they would no longer sell John Deere machinery
- DLF made sustainable seed formulations the focus
- A new era began for Lloyds & Hunter following Howardson Group's acquisition.
- Education and environmentally-friendly innovations took centre stage for Origin Amenity Solutions
- New Toro technology and sustainability topped Reesink's BTME agenda
- Jacobsen unveiled the industry's first lithium five reel mower
- TurfCare launched its new catalogue
- Durable CRF showcased the next generation of technology

Head to the BTME Digital Media Suite for further details

RECRUITMENT

MEET THE MANAGERS: MATTHEW WHARTON MG CGCS

Superintendent | Carolina Golf Club, North Carolina

Career progression is never an exact science and we all take different routes through our careers. This month Phil Helmn MG speaks to Matthew Wharton, a Class A Superintendent, Master Greenkeeper (#69) and the superintendent of Carolina Golf Club in Charlotte, North Carolina USA. Matthew is a regular speaker at greenkeeper conferences on both sides of the Atlantic and is a prominent influencer in the world of turf Twitter.

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

Matthew Wharton MG: Do not be afraid to ask why. Do not be afraid to operate new machinery. Do not be afraid to learn a new skill. Do not be afraid to fail, as it is in these moments that we learn and become better.

Phil Helm MG: Totally agree Matthew. When I started out as a teenager I tended to shy away from asking questions for fear of looking silly. Nine times out of 10 you will be seen as a stronger person if you have the courage to ask!

What is more important, education or experience?

Matt: My education helped open doors and my experience has helped me survive and persevere at the same facility for the past 18 years.

What was your first job?

Matt: String trimming creek banks and under/around trees at Lake Bonaventure Country Club for $3.35 per hour.

What skills did you develop early in your career?

Matt: I was always willing to perform any task. In my early days as an assistant, I enjoyed working hard alongside members of the team. You can earn a lot of respect and trust when you're willing to get in the 'trenches' with them.

What skills have you found vital to your job?

Matt: You will not last long in this business without developing good people skills. Look people in the eye and give your undivided attention when they need you.

This applies not only to managing the team but also gaining respect and trust of co-workers, superiors, members and owners.

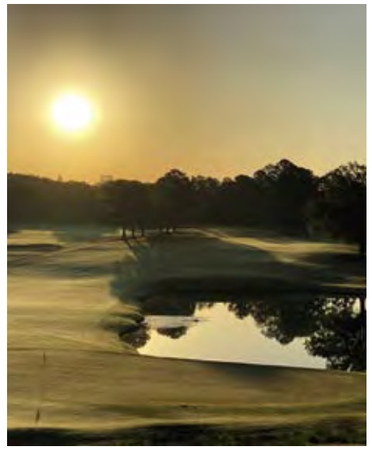
What has been your biggest success factor?

Matt: Networking. Get out and meet other greenkeepers, superintendents, course managers, and the like. It is still largely a 'who-you-know' business. Or perhaps, 'who-knows-you' would be a better way of stating it.

What mistakes did you make early in your career?

Matt: Like most golf course superintendents, I have killed more grass than I care to admit, but we learn from those trials and errors.

Phil: Snap, Matthew! I read with a



smile recently, a motto that said: "The master has failed more times than the beginner has tried."

Don't be afraid of failure!

What should I be doing to improve my career prospects?

Matt: Learn to be an excellent communicator. Learn to write well and to articulate what and why in a concise professional manner.

Even your casual communications, such as texts and social media posts, should be grammatically correct, because they reflect who you are as a person.

Phil: So true! Once upon a time just being good at nurturing fine turf was enough! Now, all good leaders must be excellent at explaining and educating those around them what is going on!

Article by Phil Helmn MG.
Connect with Phil
@HelmnPhil

Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Tehidy Park Golf Club

The ideal candidate will possess:

/ Experience in a similar role or working towards a supervisory position, with the ability to lead the team in the head greenkeeper's absence.
/ A minimum of 2 years' greenkeeping experience.
/ Recognised industry qualifications.
/ Have a sound knowledge of modern greenkeeping and a keen eye for detail.
/ Proven experience in the operation and maintenance of a variety of golf course machinery.
/ PA1, PA2 & PA6 qualifications.
/ Have flexibility in their working patterns and contribute to the weekend overtime rota

Benefits

/ Uniform provided.
/ Golfing and BIGGA membership.
/ Paid overtime.
/ A salary, dependent on experience and qualifications, in the region of £28,000.

To apply, please send a cover letter and CV to the general manager, Wayne Liggat: secretary-manager@tehidyparkgolfclub.co.uk

Head Greenkeeper
Ribby Hall Holiday Village

We are looking to appoint an experienced head greenkeeper at Ribby Hall Holiday Village.

Set in 130 acres of beautiful Lancashire countryside with amazing employee benefits on offer including free gym membership, on site discounts and personal uniform.

We have a full time vacancy offering 45 hours per week, paying up to £13.50 per hour.

The ideal candidate should have significant experience in a previous similar role.

Duties include grass cutting routine, machinery maintenance, maintaining turf health and managing a budget for equipment and materials.

How to apply

You can apply online now at www.ribbyhall.co.uk/careers/Head-Greenkeeper. If you have any questions, please contact HR on 01772 674590.

BROMBOROUGH GOLF CLUB

Deputy Course Manager
Bromborough Golf Club

Bromborough, a beautiful parkland course on the Wirral Peninsula, is seeking to recruit a deputy course manager.

We are four years into a course improvement plan with the replacement of bunkers, irrigation and drainage all completed in-house.

The team's dedication resulted in winning the BIGGA Greenkeeping Project of the Year award in 2020.

Essential skills/criteria

/ Minimum 5 years' experience.
/ S/NVQ level 3 or equivalent.
/ NPTC Pesticide: Pa1, Pa6, Pa2a.
/ Knowledge of modern irrigation system and golf course machinery

Details

/ 40 hour week
/ 20 days leave plus bank holidays
/ Weekend/Bank Holidays

Benefits

/ BIGGA Membership.
/ Further education, training.
/ Salary £29,000-£31,000.

How to apply

Apply with covering letter/CV to Andy Woolley, General Manager.
Email: gm@bromboroughgolfclub.org.uk
Closing date: 13 February 2023

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Vehicle Repair Shop Fitter

Position details

/ Working hours: full time, 37 hours, Monday to Friday
/ Contract: permanent
/ Salary range: up to £40,798 plus overtime.
/ Closing date: 28 February 2023

Roles and responsibilities

We are looking for a proven, time-served fitter to work as part of our repairs and maintenance team, within our modern vehicle repair shop.

You will be required to service, repair and maintain our grounds care equipment ranging from tractors and ride on mowers to strimmers, hedge cutters and chainsaws.

You will work as part of a team of five within the workshop.

We also look after our road going fleet where you may be required to assist occasionally.

You will have

/ A relevant qualification in the maintenance and repair of agricultural or grounds equipment.
/ Practical and working knowledge of repairs and maintenance of horticultural or agricultural items of plant, including welding.
/ The ability to repair and maintain both petrol and diesel vehicles.
/ A licence to drive Class 2 HGVs would be desirable but not essential.

Our benefits

We offer a range of benefits to support our staff including:
/ Pension scheme: we offer a career average pension scheme, providing generous benefits upon retirement, as well as a lump sum and pension for dependants.
/ 24 days' holiday rising to 30 days (depending on local government service)

For more information

For an informal discussion about this role please contact Stuart Newton on 07766 440 134.

We recommend you submit your application as soon as possible as we may close this advert before the stated closing date if enough applications are received.

How to apply

Please apply via the Job Vacancies page on Stevenage Borough Council's website: https://jobs.stevenage.gov.uk/StevenageBorough/JobDescription/A6tljb9JsUI

Seasonal Greenkeepers
Colony Club Gutenhof, Austria

We are looking for seasonal assistant greenkeepers to join our existing team in 2023 from March-November, with the possibility of a full time contract.

Candidates should have a minimum of three years' experience and a minimum NVQ Level 2 or equivalent to be able to apply for their VISA.

The successful applicants will be expected to join a very hard-working team, contributing to the maintenance of both our championship courses.

Help will be provided for your work VISA.

/ €2,500 per month depending on qualifications/experience
/ Accommodation available on site
/ Lunch provided during season
/ First flight over paid for
/ Free golf and use of clubhouse facilities
/ Uniform provided

How to apply

If interested please send a cover letter and current CV to Sean Baxter via email to: baxter@colonygolf.com

Assistant Greenkeeper
Wentworth Club

Wentworth Club, one of the world's finest private members' golf and country clubs, is looking for an assistant greenkeeper.

The role includes maintaining the highest standards on three championship golf courses, ensuring all areas are properly laid out and prepared for members and their guests. The candidate should be able to show an understanding of greenkeeping machinery operation and be able to maintain good standards of health and safety. It would be beneficial to have knowledge of irrigation systems, turf diseases and pests and machinery maintenance. Benefits include bonus, pension and employee perks like gym and spa membership, birthday leave, and discounts at retailers.

How to apply

For for information and to apply visit careers.wentworthclub.com

GOLFCLUB NIPPENBURG GMBH

Greenkeeper

We are searching for a new greenkeeper

Trend meets tradition! Only 14 km away from the city centre of the state capital Stuttgart and thus located in the midst of the Swabian economic power of Boss, Bosch, Mercedes or Porsche, Golfanlage Nippenburg is one of the most exciting golf projects of today.

A multiple venue of the German Open, the course is one of the most attractive addresses on the German golf atlas. Become a part of the team and help us shape the future of Golfanlage Nippenburg.

Your tasks:

/ Care and maintenance of the golf course and outdoor areas.
/ Mowing with various machines.
/ Overseeding grass, laying of sods, fertilisation, watering, scarifying, aeration and topdressing.
/ Assistance with construction and repair work.

Your qualities:

/ Training in greenkeeping, horticulture or agriculture.
/ Ability to work independently and carry out manual work.
/ Knowledge in handling machines.
/ Commitment, motivation, reliability and ability to work in a team.
/ Willingness to work weekends and holidays.

Your advantages:

/ Working in a sporting environment and in the great outdoors.
/ A young, friendly and motivated team.
/ Daily lunch including drinks.
/ Pay above the collective bargaining agreement.
/ Good working conditions and friendly atmosphere.

We would be delighted to meet you.

How to apply

Please apply to Elke Weishaupt: bewerbung@golfnippenburg.de

Assistant Greenkeeper
Royal Wimbledon Golf Club

Royal Wimbledon is inviting applicants who are qualified to, working towards or wish to work towards Level 2 in sportsturf.

Further qualifications such as Level 3, spraying or chainsaw certificates would be an advantage but not essential as we welcome applications from any experience level.

Headline benefits

/ Salary package between £32,000-34,000 p.a.
/ Opportunity for training, education and an encouragement for CPD.
/ BIGGA membership.
/ Company pension scheme.
/ State of the art welfare facilities and equipment.
/ A friendly, unified, dedicated and collaborative team.
/ Located just off the A3, Royal Wimbledon is within easy commuting distance from a variety of locations inside and outside of the M25.

How to apply

Applications should be made to Nicholas Paris, Course Manager at nickp@rwgc.co.uk

Golf Course Supervisor
Gog Magog Golf Club

The Gog Magog is currently recruiting for a golf course supervisor for each of our courses to aid in the delivery of high-level golf course preparation, development and delivery under the leadership of the estate manager and assistant estate manager.

The successful candidates will be responsible for:

/ Overseeing the completion of designated works and assisting with on course decisions regarding job procedures, work standards, and use of equipment.
/ Directly supervising the greenkeeping team for the purpose of managing the courses to the required standard.
/ Promoting safe working conditions and responsibility for instructing team members on correct methods.
/ Communication of work progress and status.

In return, The Gog Magog offers a competitive salary and enhanced benefits.

How to apply

To apply please send your CV and covering letter to Andrew Howarth, Estate Manager, andrewhowarth@gogmagog.co.uk

Qualified Greenkeeper
Rougemont le Château Golf Course

Rougemont le Château is looking for a qualified greenkeeper to oversee and maintain five new greens and five new tees created in 2022.

The main duties are simple mowing, watering and mechanical operations.
Short contract from 1 April 1 to 31 October 2023.

Benefits:

/ 40 hours per week
/ Remuneration of €1,600 net per month.
/ One week of vacation over the period.
/ Housing nearby €350 month.

How to apply

To apply please contact:
Olivier Thomas, Greenkeeper Manager: jardiniers.golf@gmail.com
Phone: +33 (0)659426826

Greenkeeper
The Mid Ocean Club

The Mid Ocean Club is excited to announce the exceptional career opportunity of greenkeeper. The Mid Ocean Club is in Tuckers Town, Bermuda and is an original 1921 Charles Blair McDonald/Seth Raynor Design. The club has hired Gil Hanse to begin a master plan evaluation which will be revealed in the spring of 2023.

Qualifications, knowledge, and skill requirements:

/ High school diploma or equivalent with a minimum two years' experience in a similar or related field.
/ Working knowledge of Toro or Rainbird irrigation systems.
/ Knowledge of golf course maintenance, fertilizers and chemical usage preferred.

How to apply

Email a current resume and two employment references to: kbrunson@moc.bm

Deputy Golf Course Manager
Thurlestone Golf Club

Thurlestone is situated in an Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This Harry Colt-designed course of links and clifftop terrain offers views of the surrounding area.

The Role

/ To assist in maintaining the golf course.
/ To act as course manager in their absence.

Your Responsibilities

/ To use machinery and equipment as instructed.
/ To keep abreast of all H&S regulations.
/ Personal career development is encouraged.

Work Performed/Duties

/ Presenting the course to the highest standards possible
/ Have a high level of knowledge/skill
/ Good management skills
/ Keep abreast of modern advances in green keeping
/ Be proficient in the use of earth moving equipment
/ A good understanding of irrigation systems

How to apply

Please apply via email with full CV to Simon Bawden at manager@thurlestonegolfclub.co.uk

Recruitment

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

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

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

1985

HISTORY OF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS

1985

At a meeting in January, the executive of the Scottish & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (SIGGA) agreed to spend £1,000 on setting up an office in the old ladies' clubhouse at Haggs Castle.

On 6 March the first executive meeting was held there. Talk of amalgamating with the UK's other greenkeeper associations were at their early stages and SIGGA was planning for the future if talks broke down.

The PGA made proposals to both SIGGA and the British Golf Greenkeepers Association (BGGA) with a view to amalgamation. The PGA approached the BGGA for talks about coming under the umbrella of the PGA and being based at The Belfry.

Meanwhile, the PGA spoke to other greenkeeping associations. In August a meeting was held between the SIGGA and the PGA. After SIGGA consulted their sections, their verdict was not to go ahead with a merger. It was believed the greenkeepers would be under the rule of the PGA and the offer was turned down.

An interesting aside to the PGA's proposal was how much some of the golfing press were against it. The proposal was for the greenkeeping associations to have an office and a secretary based at The Belfry and for this the PGA would charge the greenkeepers £10,000 per annum and the secretary would report to the general secretary of the PGA.

In an article, the Golf World slammed that PGA proposals as having "sinister undertones" and accused them of trying to form greenkeepers into a trade union.

Elsewhere, Ransomes held its fifth international tournament and also a two-day conference at St Andrews. The tournament had an exciting finish with Scotland being pipped at the last hole in the dusk by one stroke by Canada.

Scottish team, runners up in Ransomes International Tournament

TEE BREAK THE ANSWERS

Number Crossword

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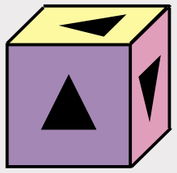
Box Clever



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Domino Placer

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Read Elliot Small's History of Greenkeepers' Associations on the BIGGA website

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