



Inform • Innovate • Inspire September 2023 • £6.50

Greenkeeper International



Lara Arias

We meet the course manager at Marco Simone as she prepares to host her second Ryder Cup

Members

Graeme Phipps celebrates 50 years of service at Moor Hall

Practical Greenkeeping

How drone technology can transform your approach to plant health

From your Association

Tommy Fleetwood leads the tributes for #ThankAGreenkeeper day



#lessstresswithbaroness
#japaneseexcellence

BARONESS
Quality on Demand

LM56GC PEDESTRIAN GREENS MOWER



THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF CUT IN THE INDUSTRY.

Baroness walk behind cylinder mowers are built to provide the highest quality finish on all fine turf areas. Golf Greens and Tees, Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts and Cricket Pitches. Completely gear driven, Baroness mowers are easier to maintain and more durable than mowers with other drive systems such as belts or chains.

FINANCE AVAILABLE WITH A 5 YEAR WARRANTY

We don't just provide the best cut for your turf! We'll also cut the lead times of your next piece of equipment from the competition.

Contact your local dealer to arrange demo –
www.baronessuk.com



 @baronessuk  Like us on Facebook



ADDRESS: Unit 5 Hatch Industrial Park, Greywell Road, Basingstoke, RG24 7NG **TEL:** 01256 461591 **EMAIL:** sales@baronessuk.com

Finance is restricted to business users only; available subject to status and credit acceptance, all applicants must be 18 or over. Terms and conditions apply. Finance packages available include; Hire Purchase, Finance Lease, Operating Lease and Contract Hire. Administration fees apply. This promotion is offered and arranged by Baroness Finance, a trading style of Buckingham Leasing Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN: 671552, Company Registration No: 4637226. Buckingham Leasing are acting as a credit broker and not a lender and may receive payment from the finance provider if you decide to enter into an agreement, this will be disclosed if requested. Registered address: Waterfield House, Wellmore, Foscott Road, Maids Moreton, England, MK18 1QQ.



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.

Contact us Email

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

Post

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

Phone

Membership services 01347 833 800

Social

[f golfgreenkeepers](https://www.facebook.com/golfgreenkeepers)
[@BIGGALtd](https://www.instagram.com/BIGGALtd)
[@bigga_hq](https://www.instagram.com/bigga_hq)

The BIGGA team

Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton
 Chief Operating Officer Sami Strutt
 Chief Financial Officer Steve Wragg
 Head of Communications Karl Hansell
 Editorial Assistant Lorna Taylor
 Design and Brand Executive Libbie Waddleton
 Head of Business Development
 Lauren Frazer lauren@bigga.co.uk
 Business Development Manager
 Gavin Rees gavin@bigga.co.uk

Publishers

Greenkeeper International is published on BIGGA's behalf by 18Players. For editorial enquiries, email Dan Murphy: d.murphy@18players.com

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2023 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited

Welcome

The Women in Golf Awards are only in their second year but are making a significant mark on the sport and I'm thrilled about the exposure they are providing for the incredible women in our sector.

BIGGA Board member Lucy Sellick won the Trailblazer Award in the inaugural year and this year our sector picked up three awards in total.

It was great to have the opportunity to sponsor an award specifically for the turfcare sector and Amanda Dorans was a deserving winner; she too has blazed a trail for many years.

A pleasant surprise was the Rising Star Award, won by 20-year-old apprentice greenkeeper Daisy Starling, who works at Lydd Golf Club in Kent. And the International Woman of the Year was awarded to Karen Proctor, who is known to many of us for her work with Jacobsen. It is particularly gratifying that such strong nominees from greenkeeping are being put forward and showing what talent and drive exists in our part of the sport.

This month another woman in turfcare is absolutely at the forefront of the business as Lara Arias leads the team at Marco Simone to provide the platform for the 2023 Ryder Cup matches.

The Ryder Cup is an event that

“ It is gratifying that such strong nominees are being put forward and showing what talent exists

transcends golf, attracting the attention of a much wider audience, and so Lara's role in it will, I hope, make significant waves and help in the drive to make our profession more widely appreciated.

Such awards and attention aren't about favouring one gender over the other and it was heartening that the women greenkeepers on the Women's Open support team were as eager to heap praise upon the men at Walton Heath as they were to gain attention for themselves.

When our profession is as inclusive as that, it's a wonderful place to be.



Jim Croxton
BIGGA Chief Executive

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



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.



54



BIGGA

Contents

September 2023

36



30



16



9



42



First Cut

09 • Birthday celebrations for greenkeeping stalwart

BIGGA founder member Bill Lawson at 90

12 • Women In Golf Awards

A full report on who won what at Walton Heath

16 • For the Love of Golf!

In an excerpt from his new book, Mark Davies recalls the task of making Celtic Manor playable for the Ryder Cup

From Your Association

22 • Thank A Greenkeeper Day

Tommy Fleetwood is backing the hard work

23 • BIGGA National Championships

Your last chance to enter our flagship annual event as we visit Saunton, in Devon

Member Interest

30 • Lara Arias

We speak with the Marco Simone course superintendent about her and her team's preparations for the Ryder Cup

36 • Graeme Phipps

It's 50 years and counting for the Moor Hall greenkeeper

Careers

42 • My New Job

We talk to Chris Low about his role at Coventry Hearsall

44 • Recruitment

All the latest job vacancies

Practical Greenkeeping

54 • Drone technology

How drones are transforming the approach to plant health

Leatherjacket Total Approach Pack

 Acelepryn®  AND  NemaTrident®

Working together for reliable
integrated soil pest control



Scan to find
out more

syngenta®

Syngenta UK Ltd. Registered in England No. 849037. CPC4 Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE. Email: golf.syngenta@syngenta.com
Acelepryn® and NemaTrident® are a Registered Trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. Acelepryn (PCS No. 06290 / MAPP 20149) contains chlorantraniliprole. **Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use.**
For more information including warning phrases and symbols refer to www.syngentaturf.co.uk ©Syngenta July 2023 C4B. 12737.

ICL Distributed in the UK and the Republic of Ireland by ICL Ltd. Tel. Web: 01473 201100.
Email: prof.sales@icl-group.com Web: www.icl-growingsolutions.com/en-gb/turf-landscape/



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



BIGGA

Premium Partner



BERNHARD



BIGGA

Supporter



agrovista
amenity





NOW IN STOCK



THE LEGEND GETS BETTER


Mow. Charge. Repeat.
With the greensmower on another level.

As quiet as it gets, the all-electric Toro Greensmaster eFlex 1021 is the quietest and most efficient greensmower you'll find. Harnessing the power of lithium-ion battery technology, this mower takes electrical efficiency to a new level, mowing up to 35,000 sq ft on a single charge. And with Flex suspension, it hugs the contours for that exquisite Toro cut.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk




New all-electric technology


Reduced noise

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



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





All you need to know from around our industry

- A greenkeeper's best friend – this month we meet Lexi
- All the dates for your diary in our what's on listings



Founder member Lawson turns 90

Bill Lawson celebrated his 90th birthday in July. He is a former chairperson of the EIGGA, founder member of BIGGA and is a widely known and respected figure across the industry.

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer Jim Croxton contacted Bill before The Open this year as he is a Hoylake resident, though he was unable to attend the championship in person.

"I recently enjoyed a conversation

on the telephone with Bill and it is wonderful that his enthusiasm for greenkeeping continues. He was keen to hear about what other BIGGA members were up to and was looking forward to watching some of the golf on TV. He sent his best wishes on to all BIGGA members." said Jim.

Bill served as course manager at Heswall Golf Club from 1965 until his retirement in 1997.

During his long and distinguished

career, Bill was a central figure in raising standards for education in greenkeeping. His efforts helped to elevate the profession to new heights and he has always been a staunch believer in the crucial role that BIGGA has to play in that.

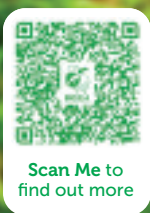
Several people who benefited from Bill's tutelage at Heswall went on to top jobs, underlining the impact he had on individuals and the wider industry. **GI**

“ Golf appears in often important contexts – acting as green oases in towns and cities; protecting coastal strips; and providing buffers adjacent to wetlands, in watersheds and next to nature reserves” – Roddy Williams, page 18

The BIGGA Calendar

Picture taken by Elliot Walters,
Robin Hood

Download the desktop
calendar by scanning
the QR code below



Scan Me to
find out more



Marriott Greenkeeping Academy is launched

Members of the BIGGA team were proud to attend the launch of the Marriott Greenkeeping Academy at Delta Hotels by Marriott Breadsall Priory Country Club.

Steve Dudley-Brown, membership services manager for Central England, and Karl Hansell, BIGGA's head of marketing and communications, were joined by Workforce Project Manager Jenny Bledge after being invited to attend

by Marriott Hotels and Myerscough and Bridgend colleges, who have collaborated on the launch of the new academy.

"We were proud to attend the launch of this academy and give the apprentices an insight into where greenkeeping can take you and how BIGGA can support you in your ambitions," said Karl.

The Marriott Greenkeeping Academy was launched to promote greenkeeping as



a career and to encourage more people to join the industry. Marriott Hotels has partnered with Myerscough College and Bridgend College to deliver the training for the academy. Another 10 greenkeepers are doing qualifications with Myerscough College.

- The inaugural apprentices

were: Joe Evans, Delta Hotels by Marriott Forest of Arden Country Club; Finn Dunk, Delta Hotels by Marriott Tudor Park Country Club; Thomas Marriott, Delta Hotels by Marriott Breadsall Priory Country Club; Callum Chick, Delta Hotels by Marriott St Pierre Country Club; Ben Currie and Finn Pollitt, Delta Hotels by Marriott Worsley Park Country Club.

A greenkeeper's best friend – Lexi

Owner: Craig Littlejohn
Club: Douglas Park

Dog name: Lexi
Breed: Border Collie
Age: 12
Favourite treat: Custard Creams
Favourite spot: 7th bridge
Naughtiest moment: Going into the bunkers after being raked
My dog is happiest when: Getting up for her walk on a weekend shift and having the course to herself



What's on this month



Dates for your diary

7 September

BIGGA South West & South Wales Regional Golf Management Day – Royal Porthcawl GC

7 September

BIGGA East Scotland Willie Woods Golf Tournament – Broomieknowe GC



Royal Porthcawl

7 September

BIGGA Sheffield Section Autumn Golf Day – Wath Golf Club

11 September

BIGGA BB&O Sand Martin Golf Day – Sand Martin GC

14 September

BIGGA South East Region Golf Day – Romford GC

14 September

BIGGA Yorkshire Section Autumn Golf Day – Woolley Park GC

21 September

BIGGA Kent Section – 'Taking your quality of cut to the next level' workshop with Tom Stidder – Wildernesse GC

21 September

BIGGA Central Scotland Golf Day – Falkirk GC

25 September

BIGGA National Championship 2023 – Saunton GC

28 September

BIGGA Surrey Section – 'Taking your quality of cut to the next level' workshop with Tom Stidder – Cuddington GC



Our programme of local and regional events is supported by regional patrons, whose generosity helps create opportunities for BIGGA members.

GOLD



SILVER



PREMIUM



CONNECT PLUS



CONNECT



Head to the BIGGA website for more information about local activities near you



Women in Golf Awards: Amanda Dorans wins BIGGA-sponsored prize



Prizes were awarded across 10 categories on a night of celebration at Walton Heath

Amanda Dorans took home the Women in Turfcare Award sponsored by BIGGA on a memorable night at the second annual Women in Golf Awards.

The event was hosted at Walton Heath, where 100 men and women from across the world of golf gathered to recognise the achievements of award winners across 10 categories.

Amanda Dorans, of Loch Lomond Golf Club, has been a champion of sustainability for the past 15 years, earning her one of the top prizes.

The Rising Star honour went to Daisy Starling, assistant greenkeeper at Lydd Golf Club, in recognition of her appetite, commitment and passion for a role she had to Google a definition for when she joined.

Karen Proctor was named International Woman of the Year. Based in Singapore, Karen has dedicated much of her 20-year career to supporting initiatives that help others address the gender imbalance in the industry, while helping to break boundaries in the region.

"What a night," said Nicole Wheatley, co-founder of the awards. "I feel like

we met some future industry leaders this evening.

"To see them shine on this stage gives me a huge sense of pride and confidence that golf continues to move in the right direction.

"I have no doubt the guests have gone away inspired, motivated and with joy in their hearts, just as I have."

The female members of the AIG Women's Open greenkeeping support team were also championed at a drinks reception, where they were asked questions and applauded for their efforts. They were: Beverly Blair, Southwick Park; Victoria Cavinue, Harborne; Tiffany Mills, Ryston Park;

Laura Sayer-Hall, Orkney; Melissa Winkworth, Goring & Streatley; Kimberley Yeldham, Flempton; Chloe Gallagher; Wendy O'Brien, Beaverbrook; Caroline Munro, Bonar Bridge & Ardgay, and Sophie Bulpitt, Hoddington Estate.

Nicole established the awards along with Ben Blackburn, with the pair having identified a need to create a platform that would connect, celebrate and inspire.

The awards aim to bring together women at all stages of their careers, from every sector, showing the diverse nature of the roles women hold in the industry. **GI**





The Great British Bunker Study needs you

Ecobunker is seeking BIGGA members' input to help the industry make better decisions about maintenance

BIGGA has partnered with Ecobunker to perform the UK's first national bunker survey.

The Great British Bunker Study will cover around 50 courses of all different types to provide a clear picture of the condition of bunkers across a broad spectrum.

Ecobunker, the leading developer of synthetic golf bunker technology, was founded by civil engineer and avid golfer Richard Allen (pictured above) in 2014.

He and colleague Llewellyn Matthews – who played in the 2007 Walker Cup for GB&I at Royal County Down alongside the likes of Rory McIlroy, Danny Willett and Rhys Davies – will be carrying out the study, with Richard set to deliver his interim findings at BTME next January before a full report is issued later in 2024.

“ Bunkers only cover 3% of the surface area but account for up to 30% of maintenance budget”

Summarising the aims of the audit, Richard said: “We are seeking to help those professionals who are engaged in golf course maintenance to make the best possible decisions about future investments in their golf bunkers.

“Although bunkers only cover an average of 3% of the surface area of a golf course, they account for around 25 to 30% of a club's maintenance budget – sometimes it's as high as 40%.

“Our expertise, combined with the insights we will gain from The Great British Bunker Study, will help golf courses make well-informed choices that can help save them money and provide better conditions for players.”

Richard, who first took a keen interest in this subject

in 2006, has led the way in the development of new technologies and methods for bunker maintenance.

He admits bunkers may have been an overlooked element of course management when he started out, but he has noted significant improvements and hopes this study will push the standards even higher across the board.

“The emergence of an array of new products into the golf bunker sector over a relatively short period of time is proof that attention really has switched to bunkers, and at Ecobunker we are helping people to get a better understanding of something that has in the past proven to be a bit of a blind spot,” he said.

“I'm passionate about golf and that's why I'm committed to finding solutions for golf courses.

“We've come a long way in terms of the products and technology available and we are always looking to push things even further forward.” **GI**



Scan Me to find out more

Add your feedback to the Ecobunker survey.

Apply to enter Ecobunker's study by scanning this QR code.

Our Open support team at Hoylake

Royal Liverpool's greenkeepers team did an amazing job presenting their course for the Open – and the BIGGA Open Volunteer Support Team were also there to lend our usual helping hand

Across 180 matches, BIGGA's volunteers were called into action 998 times to ensure all 82 bunkers remained in championship condition throughout the event. They delivered every single time – from Andy Bate who joined match one on Thursday morning through to Ashley Millar, who watched on as Brian Harman coasted to his first major championship.



"I was with Brian Harman and Cam Young in the final group out and it was a money-can't-buy experience coming down that 18th hole. Brian played extraordinarily well in these soaking wet conditions. Honestly the best experience of my life, except for my kids being born. I'd like to thank BIGGA for the opportunity – what a day."

Ashley Millar, Churston



"Approaching any green complex where there was a crowd, it was loud, noisy and although they weren't clapping my raking skills, it was something to behold. To hear those immortal words 'ladies and gentlemen, this is game number one' is just unreal. This is 100% worth every bit of effort and you need to apply for Royal Troon!"

Andy Bate was first out on Thursday morning, joining match one – local hero Matthew Jordan, Richie Ramsay and Branden Grace.



"I want to thank all the BIGGA greenkeepers who've helped out through the week and raked all the bunkers. I hope you've all enjoyed yourself and made some new friends and we'll see you next year at Royal Troon. Thank you!"

James Bledge, Royal Liverpool



"It was an absolutely amazing experience. You're so close to the players as they're hitting shots. As a golfer I was able to learn quite a bit from them and as a golf fan I was absolutely loving it for the buzz. I've never been to the Open before so looking around, the course is absolutely stunning and with the grandstands it just magnifies everything. Walking up 18, there's a little buzz at the back of your neck, which is absolutely incredible."

Lewis Whatsley-Parsons, Queenwood



"The highlight was being in Tommy Fleetwood's group on Friday and Saturday. The experience that I've got from this is invaluable and I would encourage people to put their name forward because it's such a good week."

Benn McLeod, Musselburgh

“Monty was pleading for us to get the course playable”



In this excerpt from his book, BIGGA member Mark Davies recalls the task of making Celtic Manor playable after a deluge during the week of the 2010 match



Captain Monty surveys the scenes at Celtic Manor

I don't know what time exactly the miracle happened, but the rain stopped surprisingly quickly after. Just before nine, we were all summoned to the barn. Jim's [McKenzie, Celtic Manor's director of estates and golf courses management] speech was the biggest call to Europe since Charlemagne.

He told us of meeting Monty by the stairs of the clubhouse and him pleading we get the golf course playable. So that is what we did. Without going too overboard, you could have put music to the moment as we grabbed squeegees, rakes, water hogs, anything. Any tool that may have been deemed useful.

When the spectators noticed we were out beginning repairs, it seemed to spur them on. A buzz began to grow, and everywhere we went, we were greeted with cheers and applause that turned me sheepish every time.

It was as if we and not the players were the heroes. I won't experience many more moments like this, I thought, as a long line of Minnesota Vikings passed us, clapping, in wonderful party humour as they have been all week. 'Dolphins!' I cheer and receive a few happy 'Boos'. Another

“ It was as if we and not the players were the heroes

great memory for me. It was non-stop, heads down, blinkered, and we smashed it.

Heading back out soon after, I see Noel on his hands and knees, rodding a sprigot drain to unblock the pipes to let the water flow again. I try to get his attention, but he's too busy to notice me before moving onto the next drain. Russell is helping, not in the usual smart suit but wellies and a flat cap. Others not generally associated with drainage problems also pitched in. Slowly the rain was fizzling out, which gave us an extra boost. Stands were beginning to fill up on the holes that were left to play. People strolled up the steps and stopped to look over the railings as the blue and yellow coated marshals strolled back into their positions. The crowd is ready, at least. Not quite us, though, yet. We still had the small matter of course setup.

I drive up to the ropes, duck under the player's walkway and lazily let the mower pull me up the runoff to the green. Across the river lies the most beautiful mansion in the most beautiful location. In the lead-up to the Ryder Cup, there was a rumour that it would be painted orange for a particular sponsor. Unless the Chuckle Brothers show up any time soon, I can't see us getting to witness that site.

I begin to stroll about the green, checking for anything that may damage my mower. It was then that I noticed two sets of tee pegs.



It didn't dawn on me that players may not have finished a hole, even if only putting out.

When the hooter signalling bad weather goes off, a player must stop where they are. With darkness and this format, you would have expected them to just complete the hole.

I'm now concerned with how to take the tee pegs out, cut over their locations, and then put them back in the same spot. After two cuts, there is a good chance the small hole created won't be visible.

Luckily for me, just as I'm about to begin the first cut and have taken the tees out – pointing to where they must return like small white arrows – Colin pulls up. He patiently waits and then puts the tees back in their correct spots.

The area had perked up by the time I finished my second cut, and I had to keep my wits about me as I made the short trip up to seventeen, my last green. Unlike eight, the seventeenth was packed. Driving the cart path was a nightmare as people made their way to the bottom end of the course, where the matches were about to resume. This is more like it. Whether it's the fact that we are approaching the business end of the week or merely that I feel right in the action.

For the first time, I'm not rushing about with a squeegee in hand, endlessly pushing water away from playing surfaces, or fixing bunkers without coming up for air.

For once, it feels normal, like the big sporting event experience I envisaged. I can almost hear the theme tune to Grandstand. With the St Andrews flag fluttering at the start of the intro, followed by iconic sporting scenes. All setting the sporting tone for Saturday, the holy day for people like me. **GI**



Scan Me to find out more

For the Love of Golf!: A Greenkeeper's Reflection on One of Golf's Greatest Matches is available to buy now on Amazon

Why golf is better with nature



Roddy Williams
joined GEO
Foundation for
Sustainable Golf in
2021 after more than
two decades with the
European Tour and
Ryder Cup

The changing of the seasons is a reminder of our sport's special intertwined relationship with the natural world – which we are celebrating in Sustainable Golf Week next month

As the golfing season rolls into September, and summer transitions to autumn in many parts of the world, nature orchestrates a transformation. Leaves change colour, the days start to get shorter and preparations begin for the cooler months ahead. It's a perfect time for golf – a time to embrace the changing scenery on the course and connect with both the sport and the ever-evolving beauty of the natural world.

Golf's relationship with nature is unique among sport, with landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity an essential part of the experience. Accordingly, with pressing challenges of climate change and ecosystem degradation, preserving and actively reviving nature holds significant importance for both golf and society.

Sustainable Golf Week, which tees off on October 9, focuses on the theme Golf – Better with Nature.

Last year, golf came together around sustainable golf to Reflect, Celebrate and Drive Further, asking important questions and sharing inspiring contributions and commitments.

This time, Sustainable Golf Week will explore

golf's role in fostering nature, including how we safeguard nature and prevent 'net negative' impacts and actively restore and enrich our golfing landscapes. More widely, we'll look at the



“The greenkeepers and course managers who steward the land have a wonderful opportunity to foster nature and boost biodiversity”

concept and criteria for Nature Positive Golf and how golf can champion the significance of the natural world to millions of players and followers.

With some 39,000 golfing landscapes globally, this is a huge opportunity and responsibility. Links, parkland, heathland and sandbelt courses can all be valuable habitats for flora, fauna and wildlife as well as popular sporting venues. Golf appears in often important contexts

– acting as green oases in towns and cities; protecting sensitive coastal strips; and providing buffers adjacent to wetlands, in watersheds and next to nature reserves. And with at least 50 per cent of the

land and the ecosystems within it, golf clubs and the greenkeepers and course managers who steward the land have this wonderful opportunity to foster nature and boost biodiversity in many ways, and we want to use Sustainable Golf Week to celebrate these examples.

These may include ecosystem enhancements and understanding the landscape, exploring the full potential of each site, using natural solutions or integrating with the surrounding ecology. Or activities around species conservation and knowing the wildlife priorities, focussing appropriate actions to protected, rare and other priority species and boosting overall diversity and richness of life on and around the course. Or steps for safeguarding the quality of the environment – including air, soil and water and minimising noise and disturbance.

I strongly encourage you to get in touch with GEO Foundation and find out more and how to get involved with Sustainable Golf Week to help to amplify these stories and further explore Golf – Better with Nature. **GI • Check out sustainable.golf/leaderboard and see what your club is doing.**

average golf course natural or semi-natural habitats, the positive impacts are considerable.

Examples can be found around the world, from planting wildflower meadows for pollinators to creating more naturalised areas that require less maintenance, and from using an integrated pest management approach to the use of fewer pesticides and herbicides to protect natural areas.

As custodians of this

Morris retires after 43 years with Mansfield Sand

The popular sales manager will remain close to sport in her retirement



The ever-popular Sharon Morris joined Mansfield Sand in 1980 and held multiple roles on her way to becoming golf and football sales manager.

Having originally trained to be an accountant, her long career has taken several unexpected twists.

Sharon specialised in sports turf and most of her

customers were based at football and golf clubs – ideal for a big sports fan and Nottingham Forest season ticket holder.

“I had so many different positions to start with because I wanted to learn absolutely everything about the business,” she said. “At some point I was offered the opportunity to get out

on the road and the rest is history.

“It has certainly been a very unique job and I’m proud of the career I’ve had.

“No one knew me at first, but now wherever I go everyone makes me feel so incredibly welcome.

“Special thanks must go to Mansfield Sand

Company and everyone I have worked with over the years, all who have contributed to making my 43 years so enjoyable.”

Sharon now plans to attend more games at her beloved Forest, while she and her partner will become members of Nottinghamshire Cricket Club. **GI**

SLF1 ELITE

SUPER-LIGHT FIVE REEL LITHIUM MOWER



EARN YOUR SLF STRIPES



- PROVEN, POWERFUL, PERFECTED CUT QUALITY
- +5.5 HOURS RUN TIME ON A SINGLE CHARGE
- LIGHT & AGILE FOR UNDULATING TURF
- QUIET, CLEAN HYDRAULIC-FREE DESIGN

Proven

Samsung Lithium technology with 60 million hours of use on the finest professional turf worldwide.

Performance

Lighter weight, with no hydraulic oil. Virtually silent operation and minimal vibration.

Traction

All-wheel drive takes on the most complex manicured areas.

Range

Jake's leading 508 amp-hour ELITE Li-ion battery. +5.5 hours of operation with each charge.

On-board charger re-powers overnight and fits with most universal electrical infrastructure.

Our most advanced on-board and remote-ready monitoring system lockable speed and frequency of clip controls.

CUT WIDTH
82"
(2.08M)

CUT HEIGHT
0.30" - 0.70"
(7.62MM - 17.8MM)

BLADES PER REEL
8 OR 11

CUTTING REELS
5X5" (12.7CM) DIAMETER X18 REELS

LITHIUM POWER SAMSUNG SDI
25.5 KWH
508AH

SMART ALL-WHEEL DRIVE



SINCERELY

Jake

For information and support:
www.jacobsen.com / +44 (0) 1473 270 000 / +1-888-438-3946



Actual operating power output may vary due to conditions of specific use. Run time will vary based on conditions of specific use, accessories, and terrain. NOTE: Specifications, while correct at time of printing, may change without notice.

© 2023 Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc.



From your Association

What BIGGA's staff and volunteers are working on

- Tommy Fleetwood is among the stars showing appreciation for your work
- There is still time to enter the BIGGA National Championships at Saunton



Experienced Paton takes on Scotland and Northern Ireland presidency role

Jim Paton has taken over the Scotland and Northern Ireland presidency from Ronnie Myles this year.

Jim brings vast experience to the role, having worked in the industry for more than 45 years.

He was previously secretary and chair of the Ayrshire Section, before moving on to serve as chair of the Scottish Region.

"I now look forward to being involved with the auld yins as a lot more of my contemporaries are getting to," said Jim.

"There are a lot of experienced guys who can help the younger guys if required."

Jim is now working part-time at Dumbarton Football Club but is keen to play his part in driving forward

the Legacy Group of members in Scotland and to help the association thrive.

Ronnie finished his tenure by thanking everyone for their assistance before wishing his successor all the best for his year in the role. **GI**



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

Tommy doffs his cap on Thank A Greenkeeper Day

Tommy Fleetwood is leading the way as BIGGA prepares to host #ThankAGreenkeeper Day 2023 on Tuesday 12 September.

"For all the greenkeepers out there – a massive, massive thank you," said Fleetwood.

"You make the game that I love enjoyable to play. I love playing golf and love seeing golf courses and you guys are such a huge part of that, so thank you for all your hard work and all the early mornings."

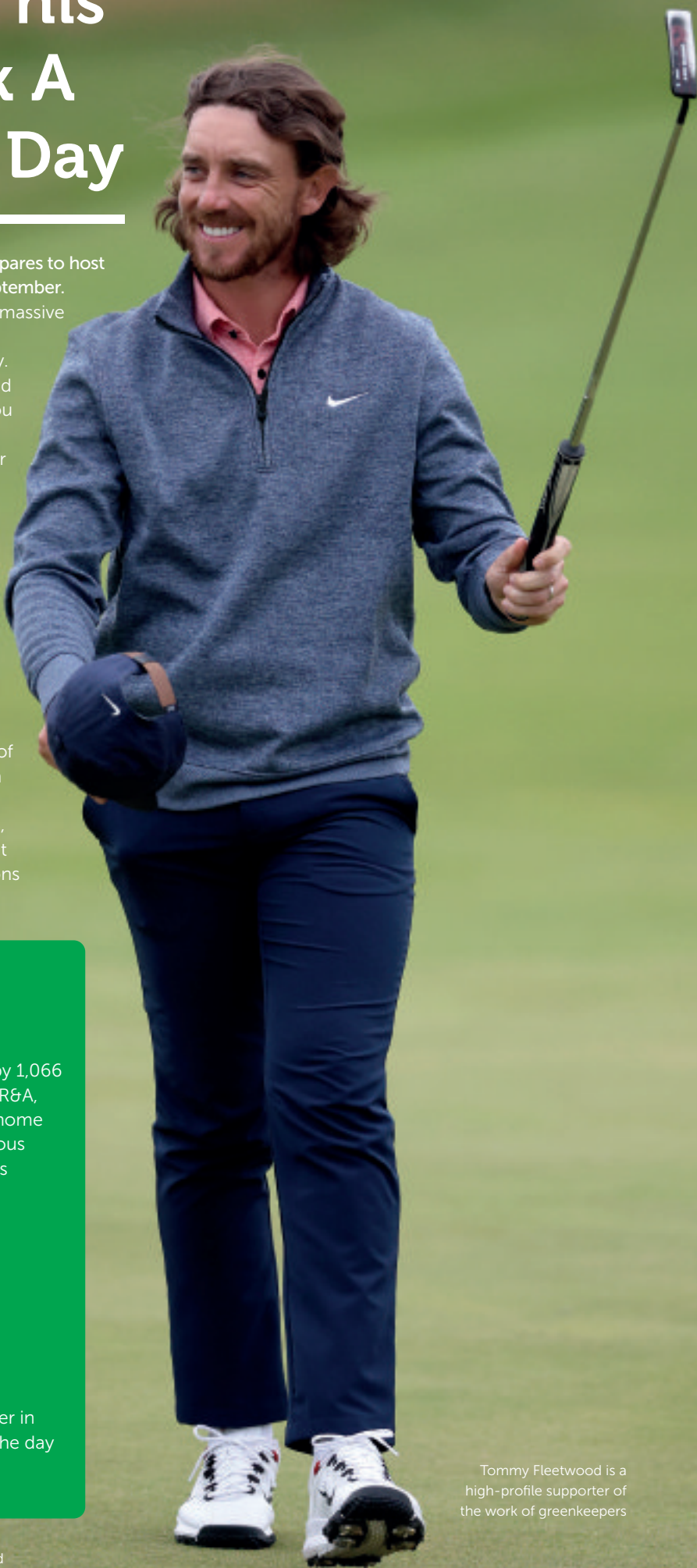
The annual event invites golf lovers to show their appreciation to the hardworking professionals who make the sport possible.

Greenkeepers strive relentlessly to provide healthy, scenic and enjoyable courses, all the while maintaining a focus on environmental stewardship.

The efforts of all those involved have led to courses using less water, employing sustainable management practices and expanding natural wildlife habitats on golf properties.

Utilising the hashtag #ThankAGreenkeeper, the day is a social media movement seen by millions of people far and wide, creating a positive impact on our golf course professionals.

As we approach Thank A Greenkeeper Day 2023, BIGGA will be working alongside our colleagues at superintendents' and course managers' associations across the world to make the day a success. GI



Thank A Greenkeeper Day 2022 in numbers

10,401,354

Impressions on social media for #ThankAGreenkeeper and #ThankASuper combined

1,947

Social media posts by 1,066 users including The R&A, DP World Tour, the home golf unions and various golfing media outlets

7,454,723

Impressions for #ThankAGreenkeeper alone

22,948

Engagements

8th

Trending position of the hashtag #ThankAGreenkeeper in the UK throughout the day last year

3,422,208

People saw #ThankAGreenkeeper posts on the day

Tommy Fleetwood is a high-profile supporter of the work of greenkeepers

Last chance to enter the BIGGA National Championship

BIGGA's golfing Major heads to Devon in 2023 with the spectacular Saunton Golf Club links playing host to our largest annual golf event.

The BIGGA National Championship – first held in 1987 – follows its usual two-day format, with members invited to enter now and be in with a chance of getting your hands on the BIGGA National Challenge Trophy (strokeplay) and Challenge Cup (Stableford).

Both of Saunton's championship courses are listed in the UK's Top 100 golf courses and BIGGA members will get to sample these historic links for an incredibly low price, with a gala dinner and lunch on both days included in the cost.

There are no handicap limitations in place, meaning BIGGA members of any golfing standard can participate,

and with entry costing just £100 including two rounds, lunch on both days and an evening meal, the event is an incredible value-for-money opportunity to experience one of the most historic courses in the South West. [GI](#)

For BIGGA National Championships (Monday, 25 September, 2023) tickets, via Eventbrite, scan the QR code below.



Congratulations to the following members who have achieved their **CPD Milestone**

Matthew Perks, La Moye

Marcus Davies, Wentworth Club

Anthony Kirwan, Romford

Congratulations to the following members who have achieved **CPD Approved status**

Stewart Marshall, Dudley

Matthew Perks, La Moye

Simon Ashford, Rhyl

Chris Naughton, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses

Gregory Compton, King's Lynn

Thibault Marcazzan, Adare Manor

Richard Johnstone MG, Nairn Dunbar



International
Jeffrey Johnson I
 The Minikahda Club

Peter Stephens, CGCS I
 Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club

Central England
Shaun Beaumont GK
 Norwood Park

Richard Berry AGK
 Peterborough Milton

Shaun Bullin DCM
Danny Cotterill GK
Lewis Horton GK
Michael Jarvis GK
Robert Turner GK
 Notts

George Cross AGK
 Woburn G & CC

Spencer Hack APP
 Overstone Park Resorts

Harry Rothera AGK
 Lingdale

Jack Sanders GK
 Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa

Northern
Liam Barrett AGK
 Stonyhurst Park

Abigail Birchall AGK
Andrew Brown AGK
Ian Brooks AGK
 Lymm

Lewis Edwards GK
 Padeswood & Buckley

Jacob Galante AGK
Peter Kavanagh AGK
Josh Underwood AGK

Matthew Underwood AGK
 Chester

Shawn Hall APP
 Burstwick Country Golf

Chris O'Connor GK
 Outlane

Harrison O'Connor APP
 Nelson

John Quinn CM
Robert Taylor G
 The Mere Golf Resort & Spa

Dan Whalley HGK
 Stonyhurst Park

Scotland
Derek Duthie S
Robert Ewing S
Gavin Speedie S
 Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd

Stuart Fergusson GK
Liam McAllister GK
 Trump Turnberry (Hotel & Golf Course)

James Henderson GK
 Carnoustie Golf Links

Scott Kelly GK
 Renfrew

Oran McGhie GK
 Duddingston

Sam McMahon AGK
 Hamilton

William Patrick HGK
 Millport

Daniel Reynolds GK
 Lenzie

Innes Roberts AGK
 St Andrews Links Trust

Welcome to our new members

Neil Ross AGK
The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses

Andrew Semple AGK
Machrihanish Dunes

 **South East**
Daniel Bell AGK
Grove (The)

Jason Chambers AGK
Royal Portrush

Ian Dean DHGK
Horton Park Country Club

Max Denny AGK
Aldeburgh

Dan Gibb FA
Cowdray Park

Davis Kiptoo GK
Harry White AGK
The Wisley

Stephen Levermore HGK
Orchards

Dominic O'Hara AGK
Fulwell

Matt Stewart GK
Cooden Beach

Michael Thompson GK
Shirley Park

 **South West & South Wales**

Alex Crosby AGK
Brokenhurst Manor

Robert Crouch GK
Barton-on-Sea

Key

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| A | Affiliate Member | FA | First Assistant | P | Partner |
| AGK | Assistant Greenkeeper | GK | Greenkeeper | R | Retired Member |
| APP | Apprentice | G | Groundsperson | RP | Regional Patron |
| ATP | Approved Training Provider | HGK | Head Greenkeeper | S | Supporter |
| CA | College Assessor | HG | Head Groundsperson | ST | Student Member |
| CM | Course Manager | I | International Member | SUP | Superintendent |
| DCM | Deputy Course Manager | L | Life Member | | |
| DHGK | Deputy Head Greenkeeper | M | Mechanic | | |

We're in safe hands with the next generation



Andrew Smith
President

I have seen first-hand the level of talent and work ethic in young greenkeepers and it has left me feeling inspired

If my experience is anything to go by, the future of greenkeeping is in safe hands with the next generation.

Last year, in my role as vice president, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards and I can honestly say it was one of my highlights. I'll be there as president this year and I'm really looking forward to the event at Carden Park in September.

I felt so inspired by what I saw at Goodwood in 2022 and the people I met – it left me with a strong sense of wanting to get back to work and do my best.

The presentations these young people gave and the way they spoke with such knowledge and passion was so impressive and, indeed, so reassuring.

It's a common trend for one generation to look down upon the next one coming up behind them, but I can't speak highly enough of the next crop of greenkeepers.

I'm thankful to work with a strong team of all ages at Shirley Golf Club and my approach to nurturing young talent is to provide them with opportunities for



growth and development.

In some cases, there is a reluctance to give youngsters a go because there might be a perception that they aren't capable – I happen to know that's neither true nor fair.

I like to put my trust in people and give them responsibility because you often find they will rise to the challenge. By exposing people to various tasks and duties, it affords them the chance to broaden their skills and become fully-formed greenkeepers

much sooner than they otherwise might.

This works for everybody – not only do they get a more varied experience and learn new skills more quickly, but as a course manager I then have a team who are more versatile, more engaged and have greater job satisfaction.

When you have that combination of factors, it's a much more productive and enjoyable working environment for everyone.

It's fair to say the industry has undergone significant

changes over the years – when I started out, they still had harnesses for the horses to pull the trailed gang mowers round the back of the sheds and leather shoes for their hooves so they didn't damage the turf!

As much as technology and our understanding of course management has developed, some things remain fundamental to the role, and for me the most important thing is to take pride in your work.

I've been doing this for 44 years and if I'm mowing a fairway, I'll never pull off that fairway without looking back to see what it looks like and I'll never move on unless I'm happy with it. No matter your age, or how long you've been doing it for, you have to live up to the standards you set yourself – come rain or shine, the job has got to be done right.

You'll find if you speak to anyone in the industry, and even those who have left, that most agree it's a wonderful profession. It's great to see that message is resonating with younger people and they are the ones who will set the standards in future – in fact, they're doing it already. **GI**

“ I like to put my trust in people and give them responsibility because you often find they will rise to the challenge ”



IT'S THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

// We needed a tractor to carry out a wide range of tasks, the TG6 had the lift capacity of 1,680kg and big 67hp engine so we could use all of the current implements. We now also run a blower on the front of the tractor along with woodchipper. The PTO switch on the outside of the tractor stops you having to keep jumping in and out of the cab, great feature for us. Front loader moves all our loose materials easily and the pallet forks can be attached to keep everything neat and tidy in the yard.

"It is a solid yet compact tractor which is perfect for getting to every area of the golf course. It has been invaluable since day one, the complete package and the best tractor we came across."

Pete Allen, Gerrards Cross Golf Club

**Contact your
Local Dealer
to book a
demonstration on
your site today!**

Sportsmaster[®] WSF SMX 20-0-0



Ammonium sulphate and SMX seaweed extract in soluble form to encourage **the development of healthy fine turf.**

A beneficial nitrogen source in the form of ammonium sulphate coupled with SMX – the effective and sustainable seaweed concentrate designed to initiate an immediate turf growth response.



www.icl-growingsolutions.uk   

Researched, formulated and produced in house by ICL



Member Interest

Where we meet your fellow turf professionals and share their stories

- Lara Arias tells us what it's like to prepare a course for the Ryder Cup
- Graeme Phipps celebrates half a century at Moor Hall



Time changes but standards never do – my takeaway from a stint at Fulford



Karl Hansell, BIGGA's Head of Marketing and Communications, talks about his growing appreciation for

greenkeepers and the work they do.

Mark Mennell had some words of wisdom for me as we raked a bunker on the opening hole at Fulford ahead of the first morning's play at The R&A's Boys and Girls Amateur Championship.

"Time changes but standards never do," said Mark, who has spent his entire career at Fulford and was the long-time course manager of the famous York venue, until stepping down for personal reasons.

It's mid-August and it's not yet dawn and I've offered to lend a helping

hand at the championship, despite having no practical greenkeeping experience whatsoever. I've been with BIGGA since 2016, but over the last three days I have developed a deeper understanding of greenkeepers than ever before.

Firstly, although the industry does suffer from a fundamental lack of diversity, there are countless personalities with their own ambitions, beliefs and working conditions.

Some are fortunate and work at clubs like Fulford, where they host elite championships and the team culture is open, warm and welcoming. Others work at venues where the team is just two people, with a budget to match.

How does BIGGA equally satisfy the

needs of these and all the others? It's a tough task and there's no wonder that occasionally, someone slips through the cracks.

Life is simple when you're raking a bunker as the sun comes up on a warm summer's morning, but it can't last and eventually it's back to addressing the challenge of how we make the world a better place for greenkeepers.

How we address these challenges is evolving but, like Mark, we've made a commitment to our members that we never let our standards slip.

Thank you to Carl, Mark and Matt and the rest of the team at Fulford for the invitation to help you out. The course looked phenomenal and it was an experience I won't soon forget. **GI**

Greenkeeper
Files

Lara Arias



With the Ryder Cup taking place in Rome later this month, we spoke to the course superintendent responsible for presenting Marco Simone to the world

The scale of the task facing Lara Arias when she arrived at Marco Simone Golf & Country Club in 2020 was daunting.

With the Ryder Cup heading to Rome, it was Arias' responsibility as superintendent to oversee a complete rebuild of the host course and make it fit to stage one of sport's biggest events.

Having worked on the greenkeeping team at Le Golf National for the 2018 Ryder Cup, she was ready for the challenge.

With the competition now looming on the horizon, Arias' work will soon reach its conclusion, but a new adventure is just around the corner as the 33-year-old and her partner, Marco Simone's Director of Agronomy Alejandro Reyes, prepare for parenthood.

What was the journey that led to you being a golf course superintendent?

All of this started for me when I finished my degree in forestry engineering and I was looking for options.

One day I was speaking to a golf pro and he started to talk about greenkeeping, which I didn't know anything about and I never thought it would be my future, but I was interested to find out more.

I entered a one-year programme in the south of Spain where you do an internship while you learn the knowledge of greenkeeping. I really enjoyed it and decided this was what I wanted to do.

After that I spent 18 months in the United States on a programme where I worked at three courses – Robert Trent Jones in Gainesville, TPC at Scottsdale and Quail Hollow during preparation for the PGA Championship.

Just before Marco Simone I was working in Seville at a really nice course called Real Club Pineda, and I worked at Le Golf National to prepare for the French Open and the Ryder Cup in 2018.

Can you describe the situation you were greeted with when you first started at Marco Simone?

When I arrived here the golf course was closed and under full renovation. I have basically seen this course from zero, from the grow-in, from the first seed.

Going back three years, we didn't have a golf course and it was our job to create one for the Ryder Cup, which is really special.

It was a challenge, but you cannot say no to a project like

this. To see a golf course go from zero to get to the stage where it will host a major event like the Ryder Cup is an incredible feeling for me and the team.

What have been the major landmarks on the way to having the course ready for the Ryder Cup?

Since 2020 with all the work we have done, we were able to first open the golf course for the members that year and later on for those paying green fees.

Then in 2021 we hosted the Italian Open for the first time, just one year on from the renovation and we have hosted the same tournament again in the last two years.

Now the full focus is on the Ryder Cup.

“It was a challenge, but you cannot say no to a project like this”

What can we expect from the course at Marco Simone for this year's Ryder Cup?

I think that we know how to set up the golf course to win the Ryder Cup now.

At Le Golf National it was a successful setup, we can definitely say that. All the journalists spoke about the golf course, about the greenkeeping team and about the superintendent, Alejandro Reyes, as another player for Team Europe.

If you saw the Italian Open last year, the rough was really high and that's important for us in how we want to set up the golf course.

Are there any specific challenges posed by the conditions in Rome?

It's true that we don't have the same conditions here as in Paris, because in Rome the summer is very hot, so maintaining a thick rough is more difficult.

If you asked me what the most important task is for me during the summer, it is to keep the rough alive. The Ryder Cup is at the end of September and that's a good thing for us because the rough will recover a lot that month.

The golf course will be closed so there won't be traffic, which is great, and the hottest temperatures are in August, which is when irrigation becomes really vital.

“ I think that we know how to set up the golf course to win the Ryder Cup now”



Lara's greenkeeping team

The greenkeeping team is super, super young. Like the course, they also started from zero. We have people from Ecuador, Salvador, Italy, Spain, France – and only 20% of the team have previous experience on a golf course.

They started to work with us and they started to cut greens for the first time, doing fairways, approaches and tees – it was all new to 80% of them.

Imagine the experience of seeing, in one year, the golf course under full renovation to hosting a tournament for 157 players at the 2021 Italian Open.

We also have many volunteers who helped us during the three Italian Opens we have hosted at Marco Simone.

They know the golf course very well now after those experiences, they know the greenkeeping team and the work they do.

It's really positive for the Ryder Cup that we will have a team of volunteers where 70 to 75% of them already know the golf course really well. This is going to make my life very easy during the tournament week.

One unavoidable challenge was COVID – how did that impact on your work?

Of course, the global pandemic meant the Ryder Cup was delayed by one year.

It was very difficult, but we didn't want to stop the project, so we kept working, but it was important to take care of our team. Even working outside, we didn't want COVID in our team.

For us, during the grow-in and the early stages, the focus was just on making the golf course playable – to be honest, I couldn't even think about the Ryder Cup.

We had one year to make the course ready to host the Italian Open. We were lucky we didn't have any heavy storms, as happened in 2019, because when you are doing

the grow-in and you get bad weather, it can be really damaging.

Later on, we had the time to switch our focus to maintaining the course to the highest standard for the Ryder Cup, identifying any areas of weakness and making sure it was as good as it can be.

What feedback have you had after the last three Italian Opens?

It was a great experience to host that first one in 2021. You have seen a course go from being under full renovation and in one year you have 157 players out there. Incredible.

You do get feedback from the players and from the tournament director and all that information you get after

the tournament week helps you a lot.

After 2021 and up until now we have modified a few things on the golf course because of things we learned.

We have identified the weak areas and improved them and for me as the superintendent it's very useful to have all this information about the course and how it plays from hosting three Italian Opens.

Have you thought about how you're going to feel when the first tee shot is struck?

I am going to cry a lot, for sure. It's going to be super special for me.

It has been such a huge challenge, there have been many problems and it has been difficult to make this possible, so it will be a big moment when it starts.

I have to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved with this project to make it possible.

As I have said to the team, when Ryder Cup week arrives, we must enjoy it. All the hard work will be done so it is a week to enjoy.

I really think, with all respect to the American and European teams, the winners of the Ryder Cup will be all the people involved in getting this course ready, because it was such a huge challenge.

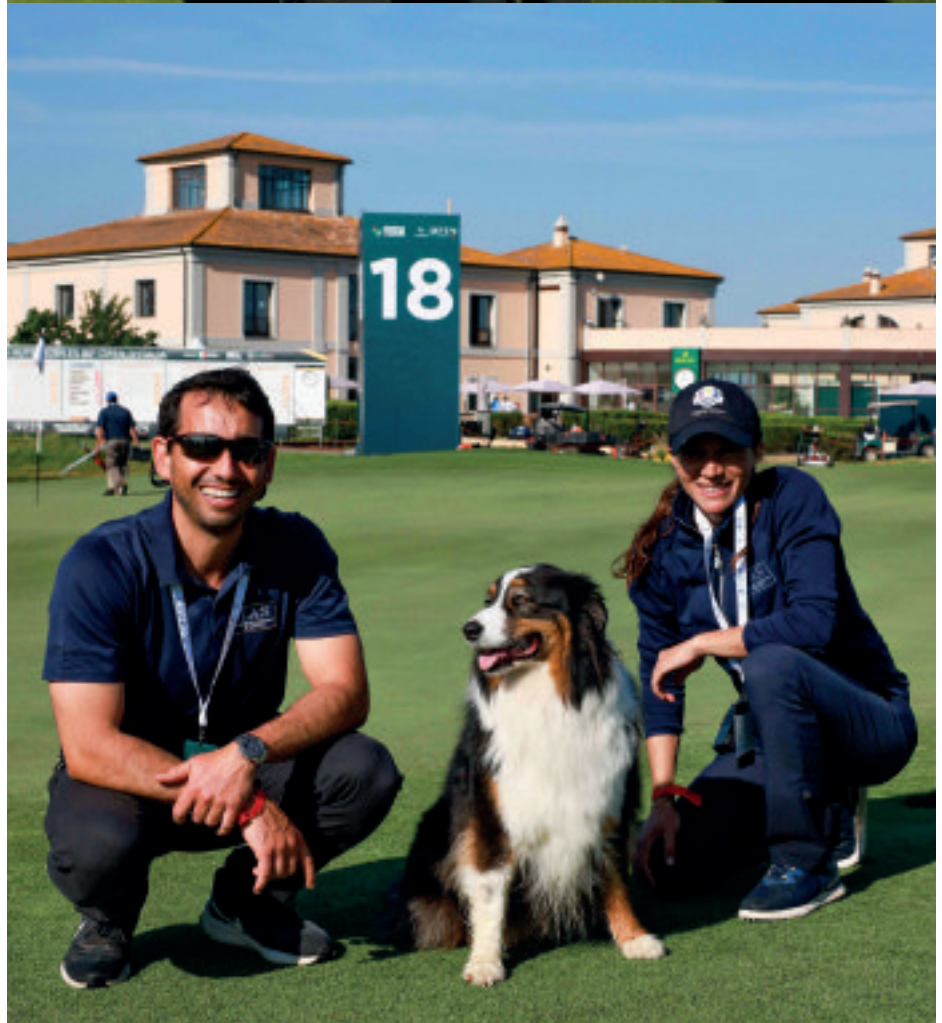
Millions of people will be watching around the world and many will have their say on the condition of the golf course – are you ready for that?

For these past three years I haven't thought too much about everyone on the outside, because this project has kept me very busy on the golf course.

It is not good for me to overthink things because I'll probably get nervous, but I have been too busy to think about it too much.

During the tournament week I'm going to be focused on the team and the golf course, but I will take a look at social media to see what people are saying.

Nobody wants to make any mistakes and we want to make



sure everything will be perfect. I will be keeping very positive. I know we have done our best so I will be very proud.

This is set to be a very special year for you as you are expecting your first child – when is it due?

The end of November/first week of December – I’m going to have a great belly during the Ryder Cup!

I knew I was pregnant before the Italian Open in May, but I didn’t want to go for an appointment during the tournament week because I wanted to be on site to make sure everything was okay.

But everything is going very well, I feel great and it’s going to be super special because the Ryder Cup means a lot to me. It’s the biggest golf tournament in the world, I met Alejandro at the 2016 Ryder Cup, we worked together at the 2018 Ryder Cup – the next year we got a dog and called it Ryder.

Now to be pregnant during this Ryder Cup, I don’t think it could be better. **GI**

**Timeline:
Marco Simone**

December 2015

Italy is awarded hosting rights for the 2022 Ryder Cup

August 2018

The redesign of Marco Simone begins

July 2020

The Ryder Cup is postponed, meaning the 2022 edition is pushed back a year

October 2020

The back nine is completed and reopened

March 2021


The full 18-hole course is completed

September 2021

The course hosts the Italian Open

September 2023

The 44th Ryder Cup will tee off at Marco Simone



I am going to cry a lot, for sure. It’s going to be super special for me”







Phipps brings up 50 years at Moor Hall

Moor Hall, in Sutton Coldfield, has been Graeme Phipps' place of work for half a century

Graeme Phipps was just 16 when he got the offer to work at Moor Hall Golf Club – 50 years later and he's still on the greenkeeping team and loving every minute of it.

After half a century at the Sutton Coldfield course, Phipps' enthusiasm for the job remains undimmed.

He tells us about his introduction to the job as a teenager back in the early 1970s and how he wouldn't swap it for anything.

How did you get the job at Moor Hall?

Well, it started back in 1973 with a series of phone calls. Moor Hall rang the careers office and they got in touch with my old school, Langley School, who rang my now late father. It was my dad who told me, 'I've got you a job at Moor Hall Golf Club'.

I went down there and asked when I would be starting and they said, 'Can you start tomorrow?', I told them, 'No problem', and that's where it all began. I went in on the Wednesday and started on the Thursday. I was 16 years old.

I used to come on the bus and my father would pick me up. When he passed away, I had a little motorbike for the six-mile trip to the course.

Was there any history of greenkeepers in your family?

Not at all – none of my family did greenkeeping.

My dad worked at the children's home, Princess Alice, near Sutton Coldfield. He got promoted to regional officer for the Midlands, so we moved out of Sutton to Tamworth and it was around that time I got the chance to start work at Moor Hall.

Did you know much at all about the job before you started?

I didn't know about greenkeeping.

I had just left school and I was unemployed for a few months before the call came with the chance to go to Moor Hall.

Before I started, I didn't really know what it was all about, I was just happy to have a job really.

I didn't want to be sat at home doing nothing, so I saw it as an exciting opportunity to get out there and do something with my life.

I also got paid £7 a week for it, so that was nice to have some money.

Which bits of your job do you enjoy the most and is there anything you don't like?

I like all the physical stuff – raking bunkers, doing the tees, mowing. I enjoy all of that stuff because I like being active. There's nothing about the job I don't like.

A lot must have changed since that first day?

The sheds here used to be an old air raid shelter and they've been changed and updated. The compost sand used to be in a big pile out the back of where I'm sat in this office, and that's where the toilet used to be too – an outside toilet it was.

It's all more comfortable and modern now. We also used to have four people on the team and now it's eight.

“I had just left school and I was unemployed for a few months before the call came with the chance to go to Moor Hall”

The wider industry must have also undergone a huge transformation as well?

It has changed a lot and a story like mine couldn't happen now. Back then, I could walk straight into the job at 16 and learn as I went, but you couldn't do that now – you need qualifications to get started.

I have the experience now but back then I didn't have any qualifications when I started.

Would you recommend greenkeeping to young people now?

I would. I think it's a great job and it's a lot better than sitting on the sofa playing computer games.

We have had young people here on work experience and I think they really enjoy it.

It's a job where you can go to college, get training and get the

Phipps' Scrapbook

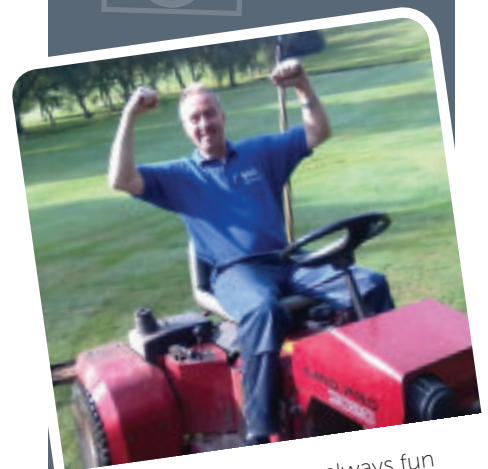
In his 50 years at Moor Hall, no job has proven too big or too small for Graeme.



He loves raking bunkers...



... and enjoys a cup of tea...



...while tractors are always fun



qualifications to set you up for a nice career. It's also lovely working out there in the summer. Okay, winter can be tough, but that's all part of it.

You brought up 50 years at Moor Hall recently – how did you celebrate?

It was a lovely occasion.

The staff and my family were invited to a meal in the clubhouse and there were recorded video messages from ex-colleagues wishing me all the best.

I'm also a big Tamworth fan and I work as a steward there on matchdays as my other job. They got me a

framed Tamworth shirt as a gift, which was nice.

How long do you plan to keep working?

That's the million-dollar question – I'm 66 now and they've said I can carry on as long as I want, so we will see. **GI**

What Graeme's colleagues have to say about their long-serving greenkeeper

"A unique achievement for a unique character. I have worked with Graeme for 25 years and his enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to the job is a credit to the club and himself. Well done Phippo." – **Wayne Ganning, course manager**

"Success in employing, or being employed, is by no means guaranteed but, for the past 50 years, Graeme has been an important and solid fixture at Moor Hall Golf Club, and I can honestly say the club would have been a poorer place without his outstanding work ethic, and an attitude that is, and has always been, so loved by members both past and present." – **Andy Hazeldine, club president**

"Congratulations to Graeme for his unbelievable 50 years of service at Moor Hall Golf Club.

To work in one job and one place for 50 years is something almost nobody will experience. Graeme's passion and enthusiasm for his job is witnessed on a daily basis and we are extremely proud to have him as an integral part of our greens team." – **Cameron Clark, director of golf**

"To find anyone that has worked full-time for 50 years, with hardly a day missed, and especially for just one employer, is a remarkable feat in itself. Add into the mix that job is as tough as greenkeeping and you start to understand the scale

of achievement that Graeme has attained. He is an integral part of the team, still going strong, does a great job and the golf club is extremely grateful." – **Mark Pegler, director of greens**

"Graeme is the life and soul of Moor Hall and when he is not there the place isn't the same. Graeme is hard-working and will never let anybody down when asked to do any task." – **Dave Healy, deputy head greenkeeper**

"Fantastic achievement Graeme – well done. Not many people can say they have done 50 years at one club, you should be very proud. You were a pain in the neck at times but a great worker." – **Ian Underhill, former colleague**

NEW NON-CHEMICAL SOLUTION FOR WORMCASTS

FLICKER-BRUSH

Available autumn 2023. Patent pending.



Unique flicking
action to effectively
disperse wormcasts



Shatters
wormcasts
without smearing



Multiuse brush for
dew dispersal and
topdressing



BOOK A DEMO



0113 267 7000

www.greentek.uk.com

GreenTek®

Trusted by the best in the game

sisis

Expert Surfaces

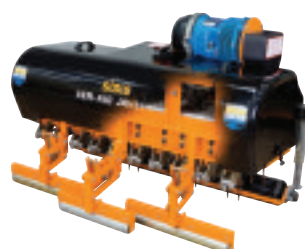
Surfaces maintained with expertise and passion



Pedestrian Scarifiers



Tractor-mounted
Scarifiers



Tractor-mounted
Aerators



Tractor-mounted
Brushes

sisis

Expert Surfaces

For more information or a no obligation demonstration
call **01332 824777** or visit www.sisis.com



PROUDLY BRITISH

MEMBER
RATES
OFFER

GCMA 

2023 CONFERENCE

November 12-14

Theme **TEAM CULTURE**

Leonardo Hotel and Conference Venue
Hinckley Island, Leicester

This year, the GCMA has collaborated with our dear friends at BIGGA to bring you an exciting offer. As the key conference theme revolves around **TEAM CULTURE**, we are thrilled to announce exclusive discounts for BIGGA members on all conference registrations in an effort to enhance the relationships between Golf Club Managers and Greenkeepers.

To take advantage of this offer, select the 'GCMA member rate' and type BIGGA where it requests the GCMA membership number during registration and your exclusive discount will be applied automatically.

Find out more and book your place today by scanning the QR code and visiting our dedicated website – we can't wait to see you there!



BOOK NOW



Careers

Jobs, expert advice and peer-to-peer support

- My new job: Chris Low returns to his roots at Coventry Hearsall
- All the latest greenkeeper vacancies



Robertson's delight at BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship award

Ryan Robertson of Turnhouse Golf Club has been awarded a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship supported by Jacobsen.

Robertson is studying SVQ Level 4 Sportsturf with GOSTA Training and was delighted to receive the scholarship.

"This opportunity provides me with

a chance to learn and develop new abilities," he said.

"It will also potentially push me out of my comfort zone to further my knowledge not only in all things greenkeeping, but also in a managerial capacity.

"I am grateful for the chance to learn from experienced professionals,

engage in hands-on training and access resources that will make a positive impact on myself and any members of staff I work alongside.

"This scholarship has opened the door to progressing my career in gaining the qualifications that will one day help me up the ladder." **GI**

Applications for the BIGGA Delegation to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show close on Friday 29 September. The BIGGA delegation is among the most respected initiatives in the profession and has propelled the careers of BIGGA members throughout its 22-year history. Apply today on the BIGGA website.



Chris Low

Chris Low was born in Coventry, where he now lives with his fiancée, Katie, and two children, Alfie, nine, and Archie, seven. He started his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Maxstoke Park and, as a lifelong golfer, is now returning to his roots.

"I have played golf since I was eight years old and was a member at Coventry Hearsall until I was 17," he said. "I spend a lot of time working on the course or playing golf. I also help manage my youngest boy's football team with training during the week and matches at the weekend."

Tell us about your latest role

As course manager, I spend most of the time on the course getting involved in all aspects of greenkeeping from raking bunkers to course construction. The course was struggling for grass coverage, so this is one of the main focuses for my first year in the position, with plans of overseeding and improving nutritional and wetting agent programmes. I'm confident I can improve the standards and provide a rewarding test of golf.

What skills are vital to your job?

Putting yourself into unfamiliar situations has helped me. FTMI in 2021 gave me a lot more confidence and drive to progress into management positions. Being selected for the BIGGA delegation gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of like-minded individuals.

What do you wish you'd known at the start of your career?

I wish I had known more about the other opportunities within the industry such as volunteering for big events. This is something I still haven't been a part of but would love to do in the future.

What has been your best career break to date?

Becoming deputy course manager at Olton. It gave me more confidence in my own ability. Working with Mark Smith allowed me to have a lot of insight into running a golf course to a very high standard. His attention to detail from his Belfry days certainly showed and this is something I have taken with me. **GI**



The course manager at Coventry Hearsall has returned to the club where he was a junior member having spent his career working in the Midlands

Chris on applying for a new job

Briefly describe the recruitment process for the Hearsall job

I was contacted about the upcoming opportunity as I had applied previously three years ago. I then went on multiple course walks and created a presentation which I gave to four board members of the club.

What were your new employers looking for?

The club were looking for improved course standards and motivation for the team. The course looked tired and under-maintained, so this is what we set our focus on improving.

Did you get asked any tricky questions?

The main questions were what I would do to improve the golf course, how would I deal with staff and what made me apply for this position.

I find the trickiest questions to answer are always staff and club policy related. I'm always concerned that they have a specific answer they want to hear. I'm confident in my greenkeeping/ agronomy knowledge as it is the day-to-day job.

How many people interviewed you?

I was interviewed by four members of the board – general manager, course director, club captain and director of HR.

Did you do any specific preparation which helped you win the role?

I feel prior course knowledge really helped and also walking the course on numerous occasions to get an idea of what jobs would be priority if successful.

Discussing salary expectation can be tricky. How did you handle the conversation?

I was always told never to bring up salary expectations unless asked. And I still stick by this now. Luckily, I was asked the question so just said what I would be looking for to move.

At any time did you get caught off guard? If so, what did you do?

I remember giving an answer to a question and then a few moments later backtracked to it and went into more detail. I just felt like it needed more information than I originally gave.

Prior course knowledge really **“** helped me – and also walking the course on numerous occasions before the interview”



The team at Coventry



Latest job vacancies

Senior Greenkeeper

Taymouth Castle Golf & Sport Club,
Aberfeldy, Scotland



A fantastic opportunity for an experienced and qualified greenkeeper to get involved in the 'growing in' of our major course renovation, opening again in spring 2025 and led by our Director of Agronomy, Steve Chappell.

You will be responsible for the smooth running of the course set up operations. Being hands on and leading by example you will have a keen eye for detail and be integral to the mentoring, training and development of our greenkeeping team.

You will also be able to continue your training and development with us on this project.

To find out more about this opportunity visit
<https://careers.taymouthcastleclub.com/jobs>

Greenkeepers

Taymouth Castle Golf & Sport Club,
Aberfeldy, Scotland



Our Director of Agronomy Steve Chappell, and our Golf Course Superintendent David Hay, are recruiting an agronomy team for our newly-renovated golf course here in Perthshire.

Exciting opportunities for greenkeepers who are prepared to go the extra mile supporting their team and who enjoy coming to work with a smile ready for another great day! Successful candidates will carry out turf maintenance; have a keen eye for detail and excellent service skills.

We can offer fantastic career development opportunities, including international work experience and many educational possibilities to support your continuous professional development.

If you are interested in our training opportunities, then please apply at: <https://careers.taymouthcastleclub.com>

Equipment Manager/Mechanic

Taymouth Castle Golf & Sport Club,
Aberfeldy, Scotland



We are looking for a mechanic to take responsibility for our soon to be extensive fleet of John Deere equipment. You will have responsibility for the full maintenance and serving of turf grass equipment, tractors, aeration attachments and utility vehicles. You will also be involved in the kit out and set up of our new agronomy centre workshop, opening in 2025.

This is a great opportunity to bring your extensive mechanical experience to set up this department, ensuring efficiency alongside high levels of service and safety. Desirable skills: Strong and diplomatic leadership qualities gained within a mechanical setting; A clear understanding of golf machinery, horticultural, heavy plant machinery, applicable legislation, regulations and best practice.

To apply visit: <https://careers.taymouthcastleclub.com>

Irrigation Technician

Taymouth Castle Golf & Sport Club,
Aberfeldy, Scotland



Part of our major course renovation includes the installation of an Adrian Mortram-designed RainBird IC Irrigation system. We are looking for an experienced irrigation technician to oversee installation alongside Ocmis Irrigation before working closely with the senior agronomy team to take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and operation including irrigation scheduling and daily data collection. The successful candidate will pride themselves on excellent levels of detail; possess strong communication skills and ensure a high-quality service for our members and guests. Desirable Qualifications: NVQ level 3 or equivalent in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management; PA1, PA2 and PA6A spraying certificates; Chainsaw qualifications; Full UK driving licence. We offer fantastic career development and support continuous professional development.

To apply visit: <https://careers.taymouthcastleclub.com>

Deputy Course Manager

Knole Park Golf Club,
Sevenoaks, Kent



The club is looking for an: Enthusiastic individual who has a fine eye for detail; Team player; Excellent communication skills; Lead by example; Creative with ideas; Open and honest; Help to drive high standards.

The club will offer: An attractive salary (38K-43K depending on qualifications and experience); Club pension scheme; Membership to BIGGA; Staff uniform; Staff lunches; Staff Bonus; Up to 48 hours per week; Weekend work on a rota system. Desired qualifications: Pa1, Pa2, Pa6; First Aid; Chainsaw Certificate (advantageous but not essential); NVQ Level 3 or higher; Minimum of three year's experience in a senior role.

To apply, contact Kris Durrant via email coursemanager@knoleparkgolfclub.co.uk. Job description available upon request. Closing Date: 8 September 2023.

Greenkeepers

Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate, North Yorkshire



An exceptional career opportunity has arisen for two Greenkeepers at Pannal Golf Club. Salary: £25-£28k per annum depending on experience and qualifications.

The candidates will be required to: Have minimum one year's experience working in a golf course environment; Show a strong work ethic and desire to develop their knowledge and skills; Communicate effectively with colleagues, members, guests and visitors; Have knowledge and understanding of health and safety theory and compliance.

Ideal candidates will possess: NVQ Level 2 or equivalent; Ideally knowledge of irrigation systems; Basic understanding of the game of golf. Would be an advantage, but not essential: NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping; PA1,2,6 spraying certificates; Chainsaw certificates

To apply, email Neil Horton, Golf Course Manager: neil@pannalgc.co.uk. Closing Date: 28 August 2023

From trainee vacancies to senior management roles, new greenkeeping job opportunities are added daily to BIGGA's online recruitment pages. Our website receives 1.6m page views per year and 55% of those are to our careers pages. Visit bigga.org.uk/careers to see our latest opportunities and find out more about advertising your position. Call 01347 833 800 or email info@bigga.co.uk

Assistant Greenkeeper

Sunningdale Golf Club, Berkshire



Sunningdale Golf Club are recruiting for an Assistant Greenkeeper. The successful candidate will be working as part of a world-class team benefiting from ongoing training and support. On a day-to-day basis you will contribute to the maintenance and development of the golf course, its practice facilities and the surrounding estate and be part of our Tournament teams.

Sunningdale Golf Club is widely regarded as having two of the best and most beautiful courses in the British Isles, both ranked in the world top 100. The club has a proud history of hosting tournament golf, having recently held the Seniors Open 2021, with several major events scheduled including the Curtis Cup in 2024.

Email: jobs@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk or visit www.sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk/careers

1st Assistant Greenkeeper

Muswell Hill Golf Club, London



We are looking to recruit a 1st Assistant Greenkeeper to join our existing team. This is a great opportunity for a qualified greenkeeper looking to advance their career.

Applicants should possess or be working towards the following qualifications: NVQ Level 3; PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates; Chainsaw license.

Be able to demonstrate: A minimum of five years golf course experience; Knowledge in the use and maintenance of all greenkeeping equipment; Strong attention to detail in presentation and H&S; Good time management and communication skills; A full and clean UK driving license.

We are offering: Competitive salary including O/T; Holiday entitlement; Pension scheme; BIGGA membership; Continual professional development opportunities; Uniform/PPE.

Send your CV and letter to Kyle Adams: coursemanager@muswellhillgolfclub.co.uk. Closing date is 18/09/23.

Course Manager

Thetford Golf Club, Norfolk



Thetford Golf Club is looking for a visionary Course Manager with the passion and skills to unlock the potential that exists at one of the finest courses in East Anglia.

The right candidate will be an inspirational leader with a proven track record of organising and motivating a professional team, dedicated to the delivery of excellence.

You will have extensive experience and knowledge of heathland courses and modern greenkeeping practices that you will leverage in the creation and upkeep of a 'must play' course. If this sounds like the opportunity and challenge you are looking for, then we would love to hear from you.

For information on how to apply, go to our website: www.thetfordgolfclub.co.uk/vacancies

Marathon ALGAE SPORT

The original Marathon.
Available again in the UK.



SCAN ME TO FIND OUT MORE



EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY

COLLIER

TURF CARE

'The Grass Guys'

Follow us on social media

Why should you buy from... COLLIER TURF CARE

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">We have 30,000+ square feet of warehouse space filled to the max</p> |  <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">We have 6 months worth of stock on selected lines</p> |
|  <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">We dispatch same day on a 2 - 3 day service. Next Day delivery available</p> |  <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">96% of customers recommended us based on our reviews.io page</p> |



We believe we are the **biggest** stockist of specialist branded products

99.9% of our deliveries arrive safely due to our careful packaging policy.

@BIGGALtd • September 2023 • Greenkeeper International • 45



BIGGA CONFERENCES 2023

BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

7 November, Somerset County
Cricket Ground

SOUTH EAST

8 November, Wentworth Club

CENTRAL ENGLAND

15 November, Villa Park

NORTHERN

16 November, Bolton Stadium Hotel

SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

22 November,
Carnegie Conference Centre



Scan the QR code to
book your place



YOUR CHANCE TO CELEBRATE YOUR TEAM'S SUCCESS

The BIGGA Awards recognise that high standards of quality and dedication are vital to the success of any golf course or championship.

They reward the innovation delivered by BIGGA members who are at the cutting-edge of their profession.

NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW FOR

GREENKEEPING PROJECT AWARD

**CHAMPIONSHIP GREENKEEPING
PERFORMANCE AWARD**

Sponsored by Bernhard and Company

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD





Practical Greenkeeping

Refine your skillset and expand your knowledge

- How to harness the technology of drones to help your course
- Apprentice Corner: A closer look at the various impacts of aeration



Stay up to date on machinery-based training and reap the rewards



Training is key to cultivating a productive work environment that is conducive not only to staff wellbeing but also business profitability, explains MowSure's Ian Sumpter.

It is not uncommon for investment in training to be considered purely as a cost, but in fact the return on that investment is often significant.

Managers should understand that staff development helps to raise standards and create desirable outcomes across the board.

Machinery-based training is a particularly important area to focus on, given the many tasks in greenkeeping that require the use of some form of technology.

As we move to hybrid and electric technology, the main area of weakness across all levels of technicians is understanding electrics. It's an area we need to get stronger in.

It is primarily the responsibility of the employer and management team to implement training, which is best delivered within a structured plan.

Such plans can help to identify the skills balance within a team and target any areas of weakness, ensuring maximum efficiency and productivity.

Training can be delivered by an external party or in-house but must be provided competently and to the necessary health and safety standards.

Keeping up to date on machinery-based training is a cost-effective way to keep machinery healthy, running

and safe for operators to use. Some of the machinery I come across when delivering end-point assessments for greenkeeping apprenticeships is dangerous and that should never be the case.

I was speaking to a greenkeeper recently who attended one of my four-day Lantra turfcare machinery courses. He told me that the training has saved him a lot of money as he now has the confidence to try to fix issues himself.

He has not had to call out a dealer technician in the past year and has fixed every issue. My teaching philosophy for greenkeepers is to start with the basics and see how far they get; generally nine out of 10 issues can be self-diagnosed and fixed. **GI**

Fuzz factors

As we move into autumn, the onset of heavy dews and shorter days for surfaces to dry out, hugely increases the risks of microdochium patch – as was formerly known as Fusarium, or colloquially, the feared fuzz

Misty mornings with heavy dew are often the precursor of disease outbreaks, but other factors have an influence too



Microdochium patches spread rapidly in conducive conditions



Working in partnership with
syngenta[®]

Find further insights at
www.syngentaturf.co.uk

This year's relatively cool wet summer has also created the conditions for higher populations of microdochium patch pathogen in thatch and soil, with the potential for earlier onset of disease.

Although typically associated with colder late autumn and winter temperatures, research has shown that the microdochium pathogen is more active at higher temperatures, providing there is sufficient moisture.

Lab trials indicate disease growth can be greatest at 15-18°C – temperatures at which in practice there would be little or no problem on turf surfaces.

That's because at higher temperatures the turf surfaces tend

to dry faster with limited duration of leaf wetness for disease to develop, even with irrigation. Furthermore, the conditions are better for active turf growth enabling plants to recover and grow away from damage, along with stronger turf plant health that makes turf more resilient to the disease attack.

The greatest danger occurs when

Read this for:

- Microdochium ITM
- New decision support app
- STRI trials results

conditions are warm enough for the disease to develop, but insufficient to support good turf growth.

That can be further exacerbated if any other turf health or growth factors are compromised, such as nutrient or moisture stress, excessive wear or poor rooting, effectively increasing stress on the plant and making it more susceptible to infection.

Disease models developed by Syngenta have used rainfall and temperature data to forecast potential pressure for microdochium to develop and create issues on playing surfaces.

The highest risk occurs at a temperature of 4-7°C, coupled with

three rain events in any rolling six-day period (Table 1). Lower temperature reduces the risk, as the pathogen would be slower to develop, down to activity ceasing below 0°C. The risk score is also reduced at higher temperatures, with greater turf resilience and reduced leaf wetness.

The model has proved highly successful and reliable in providing guidance on actions and timing of preventative fungicide applications.

However, the model is only a support tool for greenkeeper and agronomists' decisions. It evaluates a limited number of parameters, when in reality there are multiple 'fuzz factors' influencing disease development.

Now, the introduction of a new Turf Advisor app, set to be launched this season, will provide wider aspects of weather-related data that will enable better interpretation and implementation of the information, to further refine decision making.

One of the key factors here is leaf moisture, which by the time of early autumn renovations can start to be a real issue.

Furthermore, as night temperatures cool into late summer the air can hold less moisture, so humidity at the turf surface increases. At the same time turf plant transpiration decreases and guttation – the process by which water seeps out of the leaf through the stomata – increases. The combined effect is increased periods of leaf wetness.

Air temperature and wind speed will also influence how quickly surfaces are likely to dry, while soil temperature and turf growth potential will help to indicate the plants' resilience to disease infection.

The free Turf Advisor app will provide all these weather data options, with a customisable dashboard to select the appropriate factors and prioritise them for any individual golf course. Taken together, it provides a dataset to make more effective decisions on Integrated Turf Management practices that can better control the effects of disease and make better use of fungicide

Use data to make more effective proactive ITM decisions

Table 1. Pressure points for microdochium outbreaks

| Mean Temp °C | Moisture source | Microdochium pressure scale |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Below 0 | Coupled with records or forecasts of three rain events in any six days | 0 |
| 0 – 2 | | 1 |
| 2 – 3 | | 2 |
| 3 – 4 | | 3 |
| 4 – 7 | | 4 |
| 7 – 9 | | 3 |
| 9 – 12 | | 2 |
| 12 – 18 | | 1 |
| 18 | | 0 |

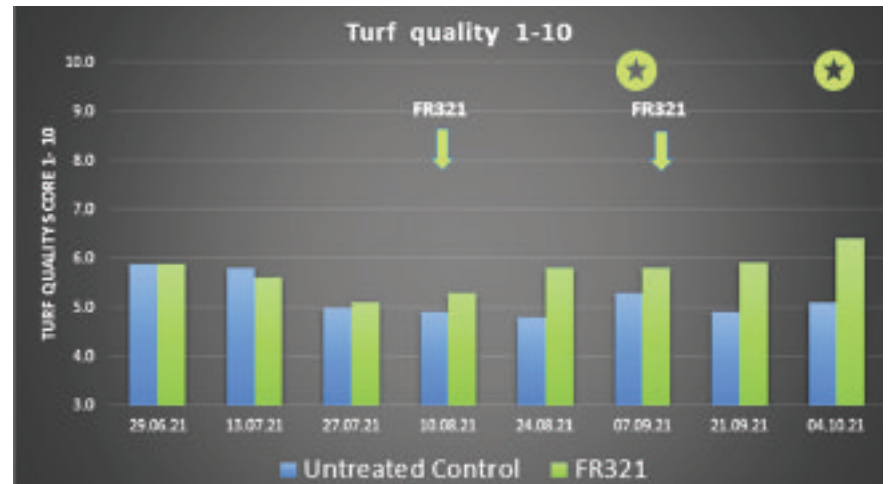


Fig 1: Evidence that using well timed preventative fungicide applications helps maintain turf quality and playability.

applications to deliver consistently better surface quality.

In STRI trials in Yorkshire applications of FR321 – combining both the contact action of Medallion TL and preventative systemic Heritage – were highly effective in controlling microdochium patch and showing corresponding improvement in turf quality right through the winter period.

The timing was designed to reduce the pathogen loading in the turf and protect the leaf with Medallion, along with getting systemic protection of Heritage into the plant whilst it was still growing.

When disease flared up, to double infection from 5% to 10% of area infected in untreated plots, between September and October, the two-spray fungicide programme controlled the outbreak and maintained a 10% improvement in surface quality throughout the trial (Fig 1).

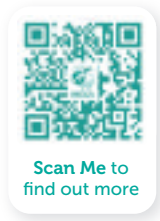
A 10% visible infection rate equates to over 50m2 of surface area affected on an average sized green, equivalent to a completely unsustainable 1000m2 of greens affected across the course.

Repeated years of Syngenta turf

disease trials at STRI have shown that starting the programme early to target peak risk timing makes a huge contribution to preventing microdochium patch developing through the season.

Furthermore, the increasing prevalence of extreme weather events with the changing climate – and periods of what would be considered unseasonable conditions – makes the greater understanding of weather influences on disease attacks even more important.

Having the information available ready to hand will ensure greenkeepers can be better prepared to adjust ITM strategies. **GI**



Author: Sean Loakes, Syngenta Turf Technical Manager UK & Ireland



Winter use of soil surfactants

Autumn and winter months bring plenty of challenges for turf managers. Golfers continue to have the same high expectations but with less favourable growing conditions, the turf manager's job typically becomes more difficult. The focus shifts from presenting high-quality, high-performing turf surfaces to managing drainage, disease and winter wear.

Surfactant technology has been available within the turfgrass industry for more than 60 years to deliver greater control over spring and summer moisture levels and for dealing with established dry patch. However, the benefits of using good quality turf surfactants in autumn and winter are less well publicised. The chemistry in these products can play an important role in autumn and winter turf management.

Optimising surface drainage

Approximately 89% of UK and European golf courses are situated on inland sites where soils are typically heavier and consequently more prone to compaction and poor surface drainage than their sand-based links cousins. So, for many turf managers, thoughts turn to keeping playing surfaces as dry as possible to extend the golfing season for as long as prevailing weather conditions allow.

Over the past few years, course managers in the UK and Europe have started using penetrant wetting agents to help improve surface infiltration and drainage rates more effectively through the late autumn and winter months. Aquatrols have made significant investment in research within this area, however the results have been less widely discussed.

Dispatch Sprayable has been proven

to work, with robust data from trials conducted at leading research bodies including Ohio State University and Cranfield University. The research provides evidence that the use of Aquatrols Dispatch Sprayable:

- Significantly increases infiltration rates of water
- Significantly reduces surface water run-off on sloped areas

The study conducted at Ohio State University to evaluate the effects of Dispatch Sprayable applications on water run-off was completed on a bent grass sward, mown at fairway height on a 4% slope with a loam soil profile. Run-off was collected following each rainfall event and research results proved that Dispatch Sprayable reduced run-off by 20% over control plots and consequently low-lying areas remained drier.



Aquatrols®

due to their fast-acting properties and consequently these products can scorch turf under certain conditions. However, the chemistries used in Dispatch Sprayable ensure that it is safe to apply at any time of year without any risk of turf damage.

Managing turfgrass disease

Turf managers routinely adopt Integrated Turfgrass Management (ITM) practices as autumn approaches through a combination of optimising plant health, controlling nutrition, reducing upper profile organic matter levels and the appropriate use of turfgrass fungicides as and when required.

Using penetrant surfactants such as Dispatch Sprayable within an ITM Programme will contribute to drier turf surfaces that in turn will be less vulnerable to Fusarium Patch disease activity. This approach during periods of high disease pressure can be extremely beneficial. As turfgrass fungicides become more limited both in turns of chemistry and persistence, alternative techniques such as this need to be adopted into the overall strategy for managing disease.

Use a soil surfactant alongside overseeding

For those who choose to overseed, careful planning is needed to maximise seedling germination and establishment as well as retention of the new grass plants long term. A proven soil surfactant will overcome water repellency, enhance water infiltration and ensure that irrigation water or rain wets the soil and seed evenly for faster, more uniform germination.

In an age of increasing costs, budget cuts and water restrictions, the demand to get the most out of introduced seed has never been greater. For autumn overseeding, use Aquatrols soil surfactants as a part of this process, helping maximise the benefits from introduced seed.

For the best results, soil surfactants should be applied two weeks before seeding to prepare the soil. A second application is beneficial three to four weeks after seedling establishment to ensure continued soil moisture uniformity.

On greens and tees consider Revolution or Primer Select whilst for fairways and roughs consider applying Dispatch Sprayable. These products are all safe to use on seedling turf without risk of scorch.

Summary of benefits of autumn and winter soil surfactant use

- Firmer, drier playing surfaces
- Used within an ITM programme, drier turf surfaces reduce potential for aggressive Fusarium Patch disease activity.
- Increased success of any overseeding work
- Faster, more uniform penetration of any rainfall and/or snowmelt
- Improved surface playability
- Reduced effect of frost conditions
- Improved soil moisture uniformity

The Aquatrols mission

Aquatrols is committed to pioneering new methods that advance soil and plant health for agriculture, turf and horticulture.

As autumn and winter weather conditions make the development and retention of high-quality turf surfaces on golf courses progressively more difficult, the use of surfactant technology can have a critical role to play in optimising course performance at this time of year. **GI**

For more information, please contact your local Aquatrols Account Manager.

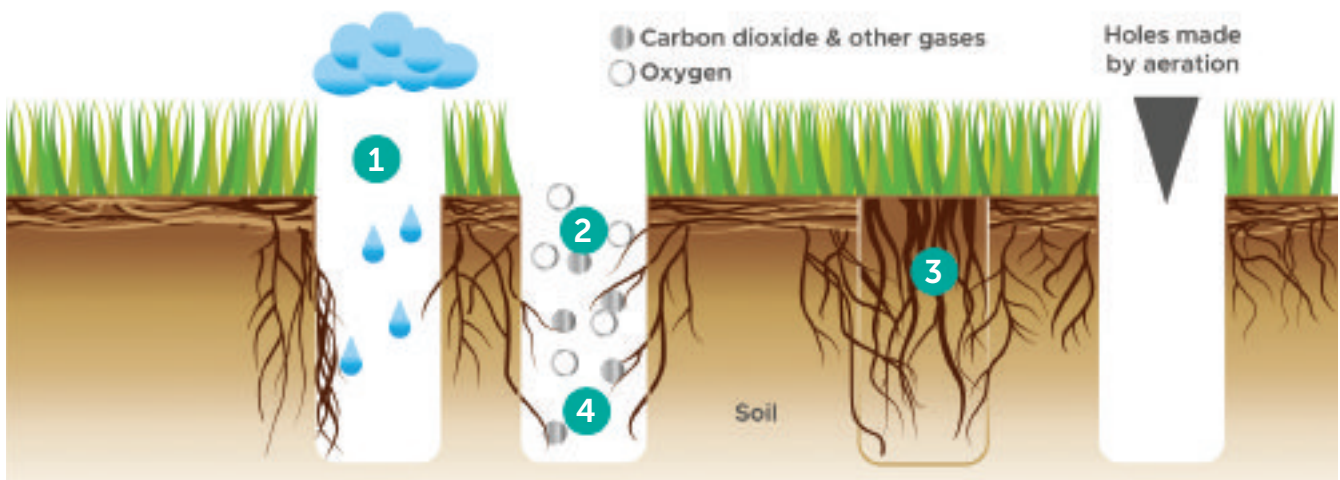


In the UK and Europe golf greens have often been cut into slopes and the catchment area for the green is much larger than the green itself. The green is having to cope with water running onto it from higher ground which may include the green surround, approach or fairway. The application of a penetrant therefore increases the amount of water infiltrating into the ground at point of contact and reduces run-off onto the putting surface itself, thereby helping to keep the green drier and in better condition through high rainfall periods. The benefits for a golf club using this surfactant technology are drier, firmer playing surfaces and a reduction in damage levels from overly wet, soft surfaces as well as from the impact of frost or snow.

Many wetting agents sold as penetrants contain anionic surfactants

Apprentice CORNER

Some of the effects of aeration on soil health and grass growth

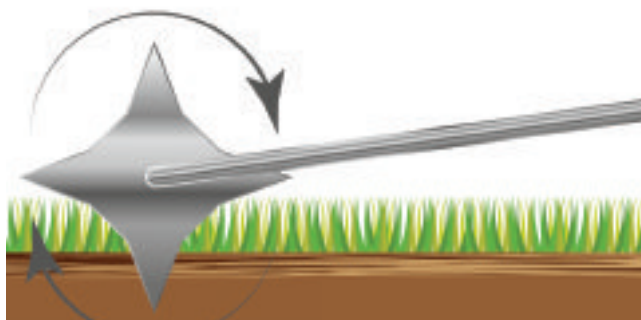


1. Better drainage – irrigation and rainwater can get into soil.
2. Oxygen can get into soil*.
3. Grass roots can grow down into

4. Carbon dioxide and other gasses can escape out of the soil.

* Oxygen will stimulate soil microorganisms, which will help breakdown any thatch present. Oxygen is also vital for healthy plant growth.

Slit tine unit being pulled by a tractor



Slit tine

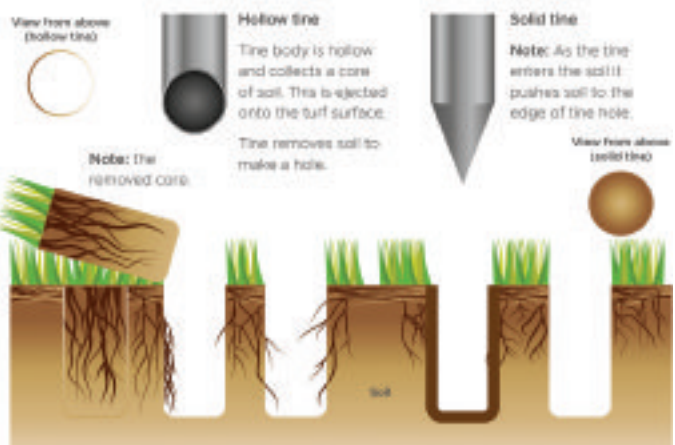
Blades pulled through the soil cutting through roots and the soil. This lets air into soil and improves root depth and drainage.

View from above



The slit tine leaves a thin slit on the turf surface, which does not interfere with play. However underground the blades cut through large areas of soil and roots.

The effects of aeration tines on the turf surface



How to dispose of aeration cores correctly

Aeration cores can be collected and recycled for composting on site. They are also sometimes used to repair bare areas or damaged areas out of play i.e. they are spread over the area, levelled, top dressed and left to grow. In some cases, the cores are left on the surface and then broken up with drag mats so the rootzone material is reused.




BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

PROUD TO HOST #BTME2024

REGISTER NOW



HARROGATE
CONVENTION CENTRE
23-25 JANUARY 2024



A revolution in plant health:
**The pioneering
role of drone
technology in the
turfgrass sector**

Dr. John Kaminski illuminates the multifaceted uses of drone technology that is dramatically transforming approaches to plant health in the turfgrass sector

As the digital revolution unfolds, its profound impact is being felt across a range of industries. The turfgrass industry is a shining example of this transition, with drone technology and camera system advancements heralding new methodologies for plant health assessment on a depth and scale never seen before.

Sky's the limit: Discovering the unseen potential of drones

Drones have opened up a world of possibilities. Their aerial capabilities grant us unique perspectives inaccessible through conventional means, such as cherry pickers or on-site inspections. The implications for golf courses are manifold and can greatly enhance their operation and management.

At a foundational level, drones can capture breathtaking images of your golf course, producing visually-captivating content that can be used for marketing, promotion of your facilities, or recruitment efforts for potential members and interns. In the realm of construction projects, drones offer a unique advantage, providing superior visualisations of piping arrangements or construction developments from an aerial standpoint.

Yet, the facet that genuinely kindles my interest is precision agriculture management. By harnessing the immense power of big data, machine learning and artificial intelligence, we can obtain critical insights into the health of our turf — insights that can shape decisive actions aimed at enhancing turf quality.

Demystifying drones: User-friendly software at your disposal

It's easy to be intimidated by the technical jargon surrounding drones. However, the reality is surprisingly user-friendly. A host of free software options have streamlined the use of drones, making this advanced technology accessible and practical.

With modern camera technology, we have the power to perceive our turf in novel ways. Most of us have encountered heat maps or colour-coded diagrams that distinguish between wet and dry regions. Today's drone-integrated camera systems can quickly map out an entire golf course on a large scale, supplying a wealth of data that can inform decision-making.

Furthermore, the stunning aerial images captured by

drones serve multiple functions, aiding in shade management by mapping out sun and shade patterns throughout the year. User-friendly software like DroneDeploy simplifies the process further, seamlessly stitching together your images to generate a comprehensive map of the course, complete with interactive 3D models that can be viewed from various angles.

The regulatory framework and safety considerations

As we discuss the multifaceted applications and advantages of drone technology in turfgrass management, it's vital not to overlook the legislative landscape surrounding drone usage. The ever-evolving regulatory framework can seem complex, but understanding and adhering to these rules is a fundamental aspect of responsible drone operation.

In the UK, drone usage is governed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). They stipulate that drones weighing more than 250 grams must be registered, and drone operators must pass an online theory test to obtain a Flyer ID and an Operator ID.

From a safety perspective, there are some key points to keep in mind. Drones must always remain within the operator's line of sight and are generally not allowed to fly above 120 metres (400 feet). Moreover, drones should not be flown within 50 metres of people, vehicles, buildings, or vessels not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft. Beyond legal and safety aspects, it's also important to consider privacy issues. Golf course operators should be aware of the implications of capturing images or videos in areas where individuals might have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Equally, drone pilots should be cautious about the potential for accidents and have a contingency plan in place should the drone malfunction. This includes having an insurance policy to cover any potential damage caused by a drone accident.

“With modern camera technology, we have the power to perceive our turf in novel ways”

As always, education is paramount in these situations. Understanding both the capabilities and the constraints of drone technology can ensure you get the most out of its usage while also respecting the boundaries set for safety, privacy and legality. By being aware of these factors, we can continue to harness the incredible potential of drones while operating within an ethical and responsible framework.

The early bird catches the worm: Leveraging early detection for effective intervention

Plant stress doesn't occur overnight. It's a gradual process that can be monitored and detected early with the help of advanced camera technology. By making necessary interventions before significant damage occurs, we can ensure the health and longevity of our turf.

Drones can fly as frequently as necessary, capturing a sequence of images over time that reveal how the turf is evolving. This early detection system can highlight areas requiring specific treatments, negating the need for widespread application of pesticides and fungicides.

Treading lightly on our planet: The triple benefit of efficiency, economy and environmental conservation

By harnessing drone technology for optimal turfgrass management, we can reap not only economic benefits but also substantial environmental advantages. If we can implement best practices utilising the technology at our disposal, we're not only boosting our economic efficiency but also minimising our environmental footprint.

While we still have a long journey ahead, we've already begun integrating GPS base maps with moisture sensors, irrigation systems and GPS sprayers. The potential for drones to carry higher payloads in the future paves the way for practical applications like spraying rough areas, minimising cart traffic and wheel marks in native regions.

Integration of drones with autonomous mowers and irrigation systems is fast becoming a reality. The opportunities are infinite and the next five to 10 years promise to bring about a seismic shift in turfgrass management. **GI**

A closer look: Unveiling the power of drone camera technology

Drone photography and plant health assessments predominantly utilise three types of cameras: RGB, NDVI and thermal imagery.

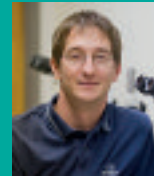
RGB, or Red-Green-Blue, cameras are your conventional cameras that capture images in a colour spectrum that mirrors human eye perception. They provide a clear, visual representation of the golf course's overall condition.

Taking a step further into sophistication, we encounter NDVI, or Normalised Difference Vegetation Index. This technology measures light reflectance across various wavelengths, offering a scaled (zero to one) measure of plant health. One signifies optimal health, while zero might indicate potentially unhealthy or dead turf.

The latest addition to the camera arsenal is thermal imagery cameras. These devices measure heat, delivering invaluable data about turfgrass temperatures, impacts of irrigation, drought stress detection and more.



“By harnessing drone technology for optimal turfgrass management, we can reap not only economic benefits but also substantial environmental advantages”



**About
Dr. John
Kaminski**

John is a professor and

associate department head of the Department of Plant Science at Penn State University. He also serves as director of the Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program at the institution.

Vastly experienced in the field of golf course turfgrass management, he has extensive knowledge on the subject of turfgrass diseases and has been responsible for or associated with the discovery of four new diseases on golf courses.

In addition, John is responsible for mentoring aspiring golf course superintendents in his role as director of the Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program. He also serves as co-advisor for the Penn State Turf Club.

Dr Kaminski was speaking at Continue to Learn at BTME.

BIGGA members can rewatch this session and other highlights from the education programme by



Scan Me to find out more

heading to the Members' Area of the BIGGA website.



Integrating bio-controls as part of a more sustainable future

The regulatory landscape around turfgrass chemistry is uncertain to say the least. Loss of active substances has been a hot topic for many years and continues to be one of the top challenges facing turf managers in the future. Whilst we cannot predict with any level of certainty what the future will look like, or the tools that will be available to combat turf disease, we can prepare now.

The future of turfgrass disease control will include many new technologies not yet available or developed. However, as of 2023, Envu are proud to bring the first bio-control fungicide to the UK. Harmonix Turf Defense is a natural turf fungicide based on a unique strain of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* (QST 713). The

patented strain naturally produces vast amounts of bioactive compounds during production. These compounds have fungicidal activity through direct contact with plant pathogenic fungi. The bacteria also prime turf to naturally defend itself against disease by activating defence genes, as well as creating a biofilm around the roots.

Where does Harmonix® Turf Defense play a role in disease management?

Conventional fungicides have, and will continue to play, a major role in our integrated management for disease control. However, the withdrawal of active substances is driving the need to reduce our reliance on them, and the shift in attitudes to managing disease in a more sustainable way has led us to this point.

After many years of dedicated research and development, we are now able to share this innovative solution with turf managers across the UK and many parts of Europe. When used as part of an effective integrated pest management (IPM) programme that incorporates good cultural practices and plant health, Harmonix Turf Defense can significantly reduce the number of conventional fungicides required and increase overall disease prevention and turf health.

Let's look at some research:

The following trial was conducted in the autumn/winter of 2022/2023, assessing disease incidence at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Bingley.

Hypothesis:

Applying Harmonix Turf Defense 21 days after an application of fungicide will allow fungicide application intervals to be extended to 35 days with no significant difference in disease control when compared to fungicides applied every 28 days alone and with HTD in-between at 14 days.

Treatments:

| | Treatment | Interval | Programme Period |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Untreated | • N/A | • N/A | • N/A |
| Conventional Fungicide only | 1. Exteris Stressgard @ Day 0 2. Exteris Stressgard @ Day 28 3. Dedicate @ Day 56 | • Fungicides every 28 days | • 56 days (8 weeks) • 56 + 21 days after final app' before re-application required = 77 days • 11 week total disease programme |
| Hybrid 28-day interval | 1. Exteris Stressguard @ Day 0 2. Harmonix Turf Defense @ Day 14 3. Exteris Stressguard @ Day 28 4. Harmonix Turf Defense @ Day 42 5. Dedicate @ Day 56 | • Fungicides every 28 days • Harmonix Turf Defense applied 14 days after fungicides (between application of fungicide) | • 56 days (8 weeks) • 56 + 21 days after final app' before re-application required = 77 days • 11 week total disease programme |
| Hybrid 35-day interval | 1. Exteris Stressguard @ Day 0 2. Harmonix Turf Defense @ Day 21 3. Exteris Stressguard @ Day 35 4. Harmonix Turf Defense @ Day 56 5. Dedicate @ Day 70 | • Fungicides every 35 days • Harmonix Turf Defense applied 21 days after fungicide (between application of fungicide) | • 70 days (10 weeks) • 70 + 21 days after final app' before re-application required = 91 days • 13 week total disease programme |

The Results: 2022/23 STRI Autumn Disease Trial – Microdochium Patch

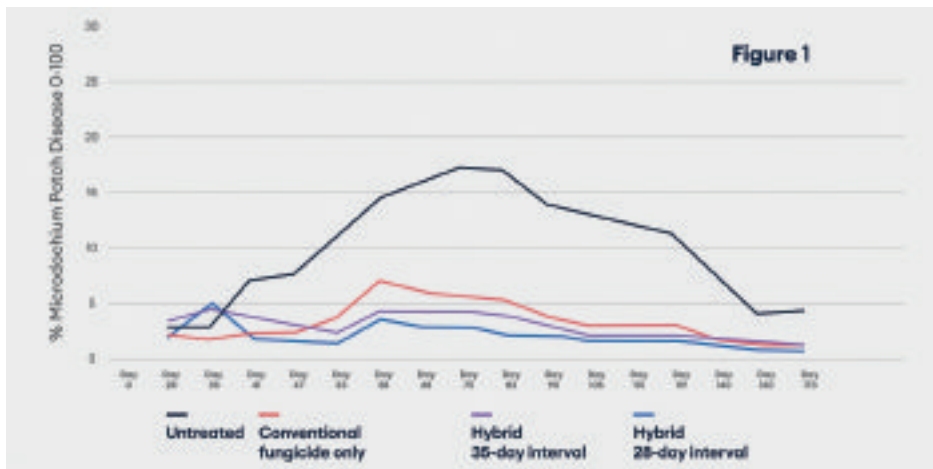
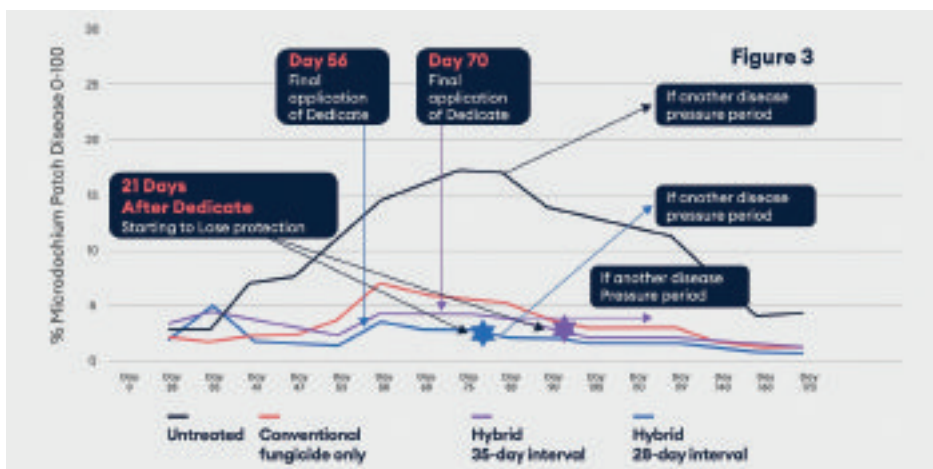


Figure 1 shows disease occurrence throughout the trial. Untreated control (black) developed good levels of disease to demonstrate efficacy of different programmes. The hybrid (purple and blue) showed similar levels of control when we include Harmonix Turf Defense in an integrated programme at fungicide intervals of 28 and 35 days. The addition of Harmonix Turf Defense alongside conventional fungicides had better disease control than conventional fungicide alone (red).



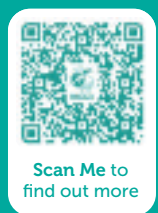
If we add in some additional information, figure 2 shows when the final application of fungicide (Dedicate) went down. The blue and purple stars show when we would expect to need to re-apply (21-28 days after application).



Although not observed in this trial, it is possible to model a second period of disease pressure in figure 3. If a second period was observed after day 83, it could be hypothesised that the 28-day hybrid interval programme would have needed to be re-applied. The 35-day hybrid programme would still be within the 21 days from the last fungicide.

Summary

This work highlights that Harmonix Turf Defense, when applied 21 days after a conventional fungicide can be used to extend the period between fungicides up to 35 days and achieve similar disease control as the same programme at 28-day fungicide intervals. Conversely, if the disease pressure is not high, rather than extend the period of control that the integrated programme (conventional fungicides plus Harmonix Turf Defense) achieves, it may be possible to reduce the total amount of fungicide applied, so that a normal period of control is achieved, but with lower fungicide inputs. It also shows that the addition of Harmonix Turf Defense into an effective IPM increased overall disease control compared to conventional fungicides alone. Over the coming months, we will continue to showcase other Harmonix Turf Defense research in an Integrated Pest Management programme including using significantly less conventional fungicide and alongside Autumn turf health packages. Keep a look out! If you can't wait for that, reach out to us today. Phil Logan, Envu National Account Manager UK and Ireland



TurfXtra™ Accelerate

Penetrant Wetting Agent and
Microbial Enhancer to **Accelerate**
Thatch Reduction

TURFXTRA ACCELERATE

TURFXTRA ACCELERATE is a speciality blend of penetrant wetting agent and microbial stimulant package, including trace elements and carbohydrates.

TURFXTRA ACCELERATE is designed to regenerate the existing micro-organism populations, which in turn will aid the decomposition of organic matter (Thatch Layer).

TURFXTRA ACCELERATE will encourage new root growth by stimulating mycorrhizal fungi that live in a mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship with the plant root system.

TURFXTRA ACCELERATE penetrant wetting agent will keep the playing surface firm and maintain correct air to water balance within the rootzone.

TURFXTRA ACCELERATE FORMULATION

CARBOHYDRATE PACKAGE – 11.25% CARBOHYDRATES (GLUCOSE, FRUCTOSE AND SUCROSE)

Sugars are the most important carbon and energy source for soil microorganisms. Glucose, fructose and sucrose within TurfXtra Accelerate are all different chain lengths of sugars which gives longevity as longer sugars chains take longer to be broken down by the microbes.

The most important functions of sugars in soil is to maintain and stimulate microbial activities in the rhizosphere and leading to mobilization of nutrients by accelerated soil organic matter decomposition.

This breakdown of the thatch layer also releases nutrients which become available to the plant, a process called nutrient recycling.

Penetrant Wetting Agent – Co-formulated blend of polyethylene glycols

Excess moisture retained in the thatch layer of the soil profile produces anaerobic conditions, which can limit the activity of thatch reduction microbes, as these microbes require oxygen.

The penetrant wetting agent removes the excess water within the upper thatch layer, whilst maintaining the correct air to water ratio within the rootzone.

The wetting agent within TurfXtra Accelerate will aid the solubilisation of any nutrients released as part of the thatch breakdown.

Plant Derived Nutrient Package

TurfXtra Accelerate contains Calcium (0.175%), Magnesium (0.125%), Phosphorous (0.025%), Potassium (0.875%) Cobalt, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Zinc. (All Approx. 0.01%)

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

TurfXtra Accelerate can be used at any time of the year. Watering in after application is optional but not required.

| Use | TurfXtra Accelerate | Water Volume | Area | Frequency and Guidance |
|---|--|--------------|------|--|
| Maintenance Programme | Initial Application 20lts Repeat application 10-20lts | 500 | 1 Ha | Monthly Basis |
| Heavy Thatch Layer Blacklayer Present Liquid Aeration | Initial Application 20lts Repeat Application 20lts | 500 | 1 Ha | First two applications at 14-day intervals, following applications monthly intervals |
| Tank Mixing | 10lts | 500 | 1 Ha | When Required |

Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd.
2 Millside Park, Crouch Lane,
Winkfield, Berkshire, SL4 4PX

01344 891730
sales@avoncrop-amenity.com
www.avoncrop-amenity.com


When the
finish really
matters.

NEW

FC Series Centre collect front mowers.

Versatility, precise cut quality and efficient collection,
guarantee the perfect finish every time.

Contact your local dealer for more details.

 www.kubota.co.uk



Kubota

Scan to find
out more.



For Earth, For Life
Kubota



AgriMetal. The best performing blowers on the market.
Makes keeping the course tidy an absolute breeze.

AgriMetal

SUPERI-AIR PERFORMERS



Lower
decibels
1-year
warranty

Engineered better, that's AgriMetal's tough-designed debris blowers and collectors summed up. High cubic feet per minute output, turf-sensitive design, lightweight aluminium impeller for welcomed quieter use on course and can operate on tarmac, too. Just better in every way.

reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Get **MORE** from your turfcare partner this year:

More products . More advice . More training . More finance



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



Learning today

Leading tomorrow

Earn
CPD points
as you
learn

Free to use online learning resource providing in-depth knowledge, product and turf management courses.



www.amenityacademy.co.uk



The new non-chemical solution for wormcasts

Wormcasts have become an increasing problem on sports turf since the banning of Carbendazim.

The new Flicker-Brush is the culmination of GreenTek's long experience in turf brushes and uses a unique flicking action to effectively disperse wormcasts, whilst minimising smearing in damp conditions.

The special brushes with extra long and strong bristles, are suspended on caster wheels, to just skim the turf surface. The tractor's forward movement causes the bristles to flex slightly backwards, then powerfully flick forward shattering the wormcasts. This shattering action prevents dragging the wormcasts across the turf surface, thus minimising smearing.

The Flicker-Brush is also extremely effective for brushing up nap for a cleaner, longer-lasting cut. During development trials, this enabled a reduction in fairway mowing from three to two cuts per week, resulting in substantial savings in manpower, fuel costs and mower wear.

At 5.3metres wide, the Flicker-Brush is also ideal for dispersing dew. Then, hydraulically folded in to 2.2metres,

it immediately becomes a very efficient topdressing brush. This all-round capability makes it an excellent investment, that both improves course conditions and also saves time and money. **GI**

- Shatters wormcasts without smearing
- Reduces mud build-up on mower rollers
- Saves blunting and regrinding blades
- Lifts nap for a cleaner cut
- Reduces mowing frequency by up to 33%
- Saves time, money and maintenance
- Ideal for topdressing and dew dispersal



Trusted by the best in the game



Avoncrop Amenity Products

Driven by quality | Proven by service

Discover the benefits of Micronised Silicon

Aquaritin Defend is proven to deliver exceptional Plant Health through the action of Micronized Silicon and 12 Essential Nutrients absorbed through Nano Silica.

When applied to golf and sportsturf, it promotes cell wall strength, plant rigidity, root development, water efficiency and colour response that does not look manufactured. Under biotic and abiotic stresses it presents barriers to environmental stresses and limits the susceptibility to pathogens and insects.

What is Aquaritin Defend?

Aquaritin Defend is an advanced Nano Scale foliar spray which combines a balanced mix of 13 plant nutrients in a single formulation. It contains primary nutrients (P,K); Secondary nutrients (Ca,Mg,S); Micro nutrients (Fe,Mn,Zn,Cu,B,Mo); and, in addition, Silica and Cobalt. The particle size is between 1 and 30 nm and each nutrient is absorbed on to nano-silica molecule preventing them from bonding with each other, with water, or the atmosphere. Nano particles allow for easier dispersal and integrated suspension in the tank and with micro droplets offer better coverage during application. Aquaritin Defend tank mixes easily with other Fertilisers, Fungicides and PGRs and is absorbed by the plant through the leaves within a few minutes of application. Significant benefits noticed by Turf managers when applying Fungicides.

Benefits of Aquaritin Defend

- Overall plant health with greater rigidity and photosynthesis
- Color response without surge growth
- Improve Fertiliser, Fungicide and PGR response
- Resistance against fungus and pests
- Defence against heat, salinity, radiation, drought, flooding and heavy metal stress
- Increased wear tolerance in high traffic areas
- No environmental damage through run-off

Applications

Maintenance Rate: 0.5ltr per Hectare once every two weeks to once every two weeks on greens and once every month on fairways and sportsfields.

Recovery Rate: 1ltr per Hectare two to three times a week until desired results are achieved.



AVAILABLE FROM:

Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd.

2 Millside Park, Crouch Lane,
Winkfield, Berkshire, SL4 4PX

01344 891730

sales@avoncrop-amenity.com

www.avoncrop-amenity.com

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.

**MEMBER BENEFIT:
LIFESTYLE COUNSELLING
SUPPORT LINE**



BIGGA
British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

To speak to our professional counsellors call 0333 000 2082

COLLIER
TURF CARE

The crucial role of product distributors

In a market where products journey from manufacturer to end user, distributors play an important role. These links of supply chains are pivotal in ensuring products reach their intended destinations efficiently, bridging the gap between manufacturers and consumers.

One of the most significant contributions of product distributors is the ability to extend market reach. Distributors possess the necessary networks, logistical capacity and market insights to navigate all areas of the industry. Distributors have a duty to offer a wide range of products with a single thing in common; inarguable data backed performance. End users will each have different

needs and preferences and distribution must ensure that all these needs are catered for.

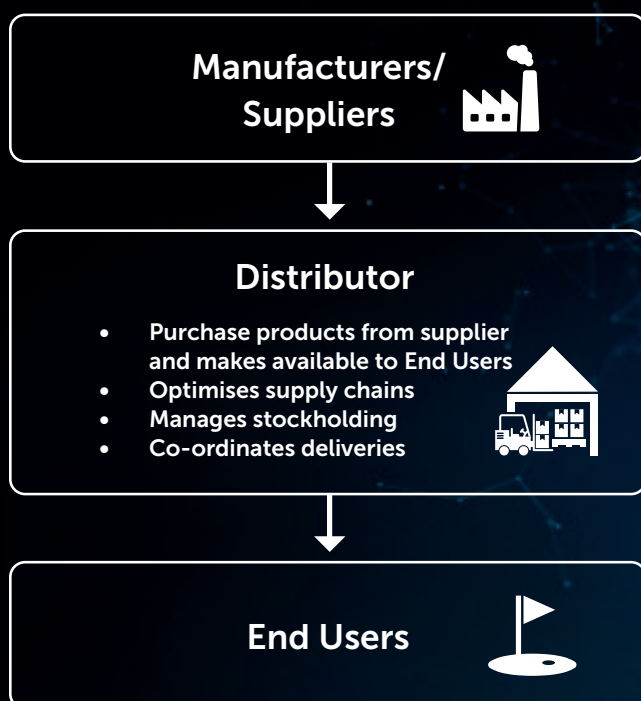
Market efficiency is another critical area where product distributors shine. By optimising supply chains, managing stockholding, and co-ordinating deliveries, distributors streamline the movement of goods. This not only reduces wastage and excess inventory but also ensures that products are readily available, meeting consumer demands promptly. Essentially, distributors contribute to a smoother flow of goods, preventing bottlenecks and enhancing overall market performance.

In an era where e-commerce and digital marketplaces are reshaping shopping behaviours, distribution should continue to adapt to ensure that end users have several seamless routes to market in addition to the traditional face to face template. This adaptability reinforces the importance of distributors as the link between traditional and modern landscapes.

Collier Turf Care truly knows what it means to be an effective distributor and believe that working closely with a few, select suppliers with whom we share an important set of core values, will result in each of our end users benefiting from the best customer experience possible. **GI**

Benefits of dealing with an effective distributor

- Qualified, technical advice
- Quality, proven range of products
- Stockholding to ensure quick and efficient delivery in a single drop wherever possible
- Online account management options
- Excellent customer service.





Heat



Drought



Excessive Rainfall

Combating summer stress in turfgrass

Targeted, proven solutions for the season ahead

More frequently, turfgrass is subjected to environmental extremes – heat, drought or excessive rainfall and humidity, which all impact on surface performance.

With a wealth of experience underpinned by R&D, the OAS technical team are on hand with solutions to help manage the impact of summer stress.

For more information or advice, please call **0800 138 7222** or email sales@originamenity.com

Ask us about:

- **Wetting Agents:** Optimise soil moisture and turf health
- **Biostimulants:** Improve tolerance to abiotic stresses and turf quality
- **Nutrients:** Ensure healthy plants and efficient recovery from play
- **Organo-mineral Fertilisers and Supplements:** High in humic acid to promote a healthy soil and healthy plant

Our brands:



Can you see the rough for the trees?



Dr Simon Watson works in the R&A Sustainable Agronomy Service as Senior Agronomist

In the second of a two-part series, we consider the importance of rough management on multiple levels

Whatever the ecological character of a golf course, the primary objective is to create roughs that reflect the character of the land upon which it sits. The rough should exist as a genuine extension of the land around it as well as a connection to it. Roughs need managing in such a way that they provide penalty for stray shots yet are not so punishing as to leave golfers frustrated by lost balls and slow pace of play.

Where a golf course is left unmanaged, it reverts to woodland through the process of ecological succession. Fundamentally, managing golf courses in the way we do arrests the process of succession. As such, trees tend to be confined to the less intensively-managed rough where they have been allowed to establish naturally. Of course, some would have been present before the golf course was constructed, while others have been strategically planted – or otherwise!

Not only do trees need to be managed correctly on golf courses, but they also affect management of other areas. The impact trees can have on playing surfaces

has been well documented elsewhere, but trees can also be problematic when managing grassland rough. The equipment required to manage grassland rough correctly usually features large and/or tractor-mounted units for cutting, scarification and collection, such as flail or rotary decks. Negotiating areas of grassland interspersed with trees with this type of machinery is awkward and time-consuming. Where the objective is to maintain,

“ Not only do trees need to be managed correctly, but they also affect management of other areas ”

establish or improve grassland rough, selective felling of trees will invariably be required to allow space for this machinery to be used effectively and efficiently.

Golf courses are also structurally diverse environments, from the intensively-managed greens through the different areas of rough and finally to a climax vegetation of trees and shrubs. The rough, particularly out-of-play rough, also has great potential to add to the

floral biodiversity of a golf course. Thinning out swards through cutting and scarification can result in a natural increase in wildflowers. There is also a more recent trend to sow areas of the golf course with wildflowers to add habitat and visual appeal.

For these wildflower areas to prove successful, consideration should be given to proper preparation of the ground, species selection and sowing. Avoid agricultural varieties

of seed, and select species appropriate to the course's soil type, exposure to sun, drainage and other local conditions. What is already growing on the course can be a useful indicator. A perennial mix containing 10 or more wildflower species and three or more fine-leaved grasses, such as species of fescue, will often

prove suitable for golf course rough. Since these areas are unlikely to be irrigated, autumn sowing is generally preferred. It might take two or three years to fully establish a wildflower rough through regular cutting and removing clippings at key times of the year.

Areas of rough on a golf course should not be thought of as areas to neglect. While the rough may well be considered a low maintenance area,

it is most certainly not a zero-maintenance zone. It is clear that golf course rough, managed in the right way, can add character, strategic play and biodiversity value, while accentuating the unique character of the course and making fine turf management less challenging all at the same time. **GI**



Our monthly column from The R&A's Sustainable Golf team shares news and insights on agronomy and sustainability themes. For more information on The R&A's Sustainable Agronomy Service please contact sustainablegolf@randa.org



TOUGH TURF

AUTUMN/WINTER PACKAGE

INCREASED PRESENTATION

IMPROVED WEAR TOLERANCE

TRIED / TESTED / TRUSTED



TOUGH TURF XCEL

As we head into autumn and winter, it's time to toughen your turf with Aquatrols' tank mixable Tough Turf package. These proven products work together to prepare your turf for protection against the variable weather conditions and increased disease pressures that come with the changing seasons.

Talk to your local Aquatrols Europe representative about the Tough Turf package today!



For more information about our products

eu.aquatrols.com | info@aquatrols.com | tel: 01233 633 267

BETTER DATA, SMARTER DECISIONS

PRECISION TURF TECHNOLOGIES

The turf- and grounds-care maintenance world is changing fast. Environmental considerations and operational efficiency present increasing challenges to you as a greenkeeper, turf keeper or professional landscaper. John Deere Precision Turf Technologies connect machines, grounds, and labour in real-time to help you make better decisions and run a more profitable and sustainable business.



JOHN DEERE

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE