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Greenkeeper International

Lucy Sellick's Raglan masterplan

The experienced course manager and BIGGA board member discusses the challenge of being charged with bringing the South Wales course back to life



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Greenkeeping**

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Looking back on the work of
members at Royal Portrush

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September 2025



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.

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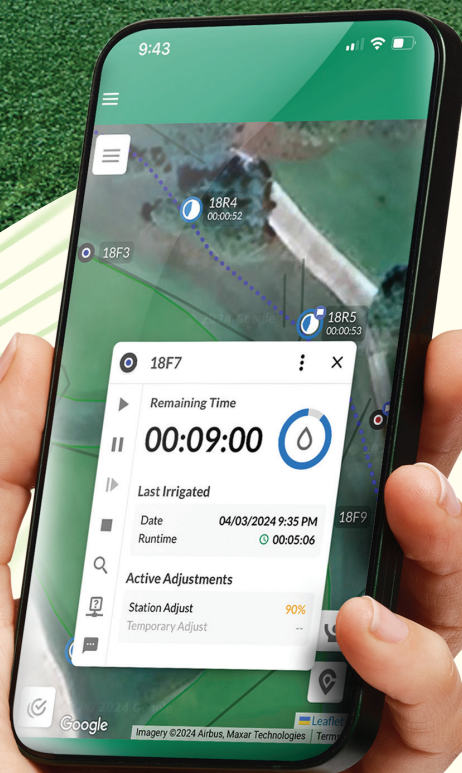
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First Cut

All you need to know from around our industry

- The Ganton greenkeeper building his own greenkeeping apps
- England's first Level 3 Advanced Sports Turf Technician Apprentice



“I’ve been fortunate to have a great career working for a great golf club”

‘I’ve done this all my life and loved it,’ says retiring Carlisle head greenkeeper

Carlisle’s long-serving head greenkeeper Anthony Naisbitt reflected on a “great career” as he prepares for retirement next month.

Having joined the club in 1988, Anthony will work the final day of his 37-year tenure in October. Although he confessed to having mixed emotions, he is proud of the job he has done at the Cumbrian club and is ready for the next chapter.

“I’ve done this all my life and I’ve loved it,” he said, having started at Darlington’s Blackwell Grange in 1976. “I’ve been fortunate to have a great career working for a great golf club, and I’ll miss it.”

During his time at the helm, he has overseen a major investment in

drainage, carried out a full bunker restoration project, and several tee extensions. However, it is the year-on-year progress across the course that has most pleased him.

The responsibility for continuing that trend will now fall to Kevin Irving, and Anthony is confident his successor represents a safe pair of hands.

“Kevin’s been here around 20 years,” he said. “It’s always a big step moving from being part of the team to being the one in charge, but I’m 100% sure he’ll be fine. He’s super keen, he’s got his own ideas and I think he’ll take the course and the club to the next level.”

With retirement beckoning, Anthony has plenty of plans to fill his days together with his wife.

“My grandkids live in Kent, so we’ll be visiting them more often,” he said. “We’ve booked a couple of cruises and the Masters is on my bucket list too. I’m not really bothered about the golf – I just want to see the course!”

Looking back on a working life dedicated to greenkeeping, Anthony summed up why it’s a great industry to pursue a career in.

“I’ve loved being outdoors and learning something new every day,” he said. “These days, the opportunities are incredible and you can work anywhere in the world. If you can find a club that values you, it makes it very rewarding. I’ve been lucky at Carlisle – we’ve grown together and it’s given me a wonderful career.” **GI**



Meet the Ganton greenkeeper building apps

A desire to streamline bunker maintenance at Ganton led greenkeeper Dan Freeborough to develop a custom app that is now winning admirers beyond his own club.

Dan had been walking around taking handwritten notes and thought there must be a better, more efficient way to do things.

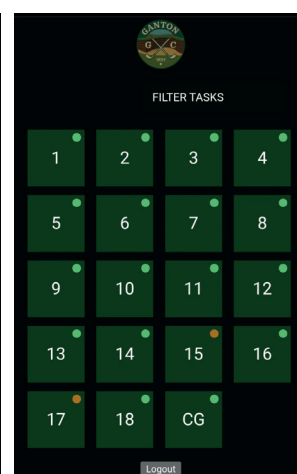
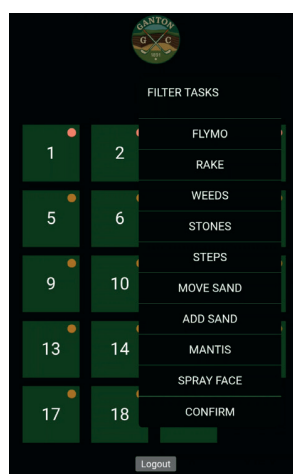
"There are 120 absolutely massive revetted bunkers," he explained. "I kept going round writing notes all the time, and my notepad was full of things that needed doing."

His interest in computers, combined with a colleague's mention of a coding course, inspired Dan to build his own solution – an app that took him two days to develop, and won instant recognition from Course Manager Simon Olver.

"Initially I put it together for my own use," he said. "Then I said, 'Oh, Simon, I'll show you what I'm using for the bunkers'. And he really liked it.

"I don't think this would have been possible anywhere else, to be honest. If anyone's got an idea and mentions it to Simon, that's it – he's all in with you 100%."

What started as a personal tool has



now grown into a multi-app system used at Ganton and trialled successfully at Hoylake.

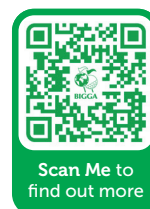
"The one that everyone seems to like the most is the snagging app," said Dan. "You choose where to assign the task, place a colour-coded dot to mark it, and you can add a photo to it. The feedback was amazing straight away.

"It's definitely saved us time. Before, we'd have things written on a whiteboard or just say, 'I've seen this issue on this hole'. Whereas now, you just open the app and say, 'Oh, there are a few red ones at that end of the course – we'll go there'. It's just more efficient."

Dan has even developed additional software to help other clubs set up their own systems. He explained: "I made a piece of software where they send me the maps, I click where I want the bunkers, and export it into the app. I can set a course up in about five to ten minutes now."

For Dan, who is working on new ideas for apps, the satisfaction is twofold: "I still like the greenkeeping, but I

enjoy the problem-solving too. There's a bit of a buzz when you have an idea and then see it come to life." **GI**





What's on this month

Dates for your diary

4 September

BIGGA Scottish Golf Championship – Western Gailes

8-9 September

Mental Health First Aid – Great Barr

9 September

Yorkshire Section Golf Day – York

9 September

Thank a Greenkeeper Day

9-10 September

GroundsFest, Stoneleigh Park

10 September

Golf Management Trophy – St Enodoc

17 September

West of Scotland Golf Championship – Whitecraigs

23 September

Turf Equipment Technicians Conference – Haverhill

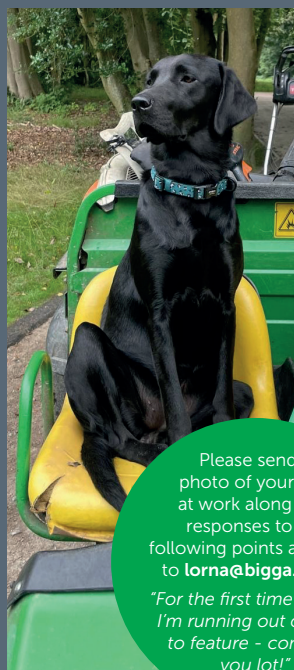
23-25 September

GCMA Advanced Management Certificate: Advanced Leadership & Emotional Intelligence – Oxford

24 September

Cutting Unit Set-Up & Sharpening Techniques – Haverhill

A greenkeeper's best friend – Meg



Owner: Mark Todd,
course manager
Course: Wildernes GC
Breed: Labrador
Age: 18 months
Favourite treat:
Everything
Favourite spot on the
course: Seated on the
Gator doing morning
inspections
Naughtiest moment:
Eating all the staff
sandwiches and
wanting seconds!

My dog is
happiest:
When seeing
the team first
thing in the
morning

Please send a
photo of your dog
at work along with
responses to the
following points as below
to lorna@bigga.co.uk.

*"For the first time in years
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to feature - come on
you lot!"*



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Pat makes history as England's first Level 3 Advanced Sports Turf Technician Apprentice

A pioneering Hadlow College student has become the first person in England to successfully complete the new Level 3 Advanced Sports Turf Technician Apprenticeship Standard and achieve it with distinction in all areas.

Pat West, head of projects at the historic Crowborough Beacon Golf Club in Sussex, passed his end point assessment, awarded by Lantra, marking a significant milestone for the sports turf industry and apprenticeship education in the UK.

The Level 3 assessment tested a broad range of Pat's advanced skills, knowledge and professional behaviours.

As part of the rigorous process, he was required to deliver a technical presentation, where he explored the turfgrass disease *Microdochium* Patch, conducting detailed research,

data collection and analysis to underpin his findings.

In addition, Pat completed a professional discussion supported by an extensive portfolio. This coursework demonstrated his contributions to projects across multiple areas of the golf course, showcasing the expertise and commitment he developed during his apprenticeship.

Reflecting on his experience, Pat said: "The examination process was extremely challenging but also hugely rewarding. To be the first person in England to complete this qualification feels incredible, and I couldn't be prouder of what I've achieved."

Pat's success is not only a personal triumph but also a source of inspiration for others. He has already arranged a return visit to Hadlow College to support the next cohort of

apprentices preparing for their own assessments, keen to share his experience and offer advice to those following in his footsteps.

Wayne Syres, skills coach at Hadlow College, expressed his pride in Pat's achievement: "I'm absolutely delighted for Pat. He has shown unwavering determination and a real passion for the industry. To be the first in England to achieve this apprenticeship is a fantastic accomplishment. I couldn't be prouder of his achievements or the future he has ahead of him."

Sarah Johnson, end point assessment project manager at Lantra, commented: "Congratulations Pat! on achieving your Advanced Sports Turf Technician L3 apprenticeship. You showed distinctive knowledge and skills throughout your end point assessment." **GI**



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From your Association

Representing the greenkeeping community

- The BIGGA members who helped prepare the course at the 153rd Open
- First Green: BIGGA's outreach programme and why you should get involved



In numbers: #ThankAGreenkeeper 2024

In the 24 hours following
#ThankAGreenkeeper Day...

#ThankAGreenkeeper
8th highest trending point on X among
UK topics
612 posts
9,396 engagements
2,064,327 reach

#ThankASuper
2,526 posts
46,635 engagements
6,620,164 reach

#ThankAGreenkeeper Day 2025 is coming

On Tuesday 9 September, the global golf community will come together once again to celebrate the incredible work of greenkeepers as part of #ThankAGreenkeeper Day.

Using the hashtags #ThankAGreenkeeper (in the UK) and #ThankASuper (elsewhere), this dedicated day of thanks is a social media movement seen by millions, and has a real impact on the working lives of golf course professionals. Gestures of support boost morale and foster a culture of mutual respect.

Now in its fifth year, #ThankAGreenkeeper Day has grown into a truly global celebration. Last year saw thousands of messages of appreciation shared across social media, with clubs, players and industry partners recognising the passion, expertise and hard work that goes into preparing courses day in, day out.

Justin Rose was among those to lend his support in 2024. The major winner and Olympic gold medallist said: "Greenkeepers across the world – thank you. Obviously, golf is an

incredible game but even better when we're putting on fast, pure surfaces.

"But listen, I know it's early mornings, it can be a labour of love, but we appreciate everything you do."

We encourage all BIGGA members to get involved. Whether it's through sharing photos of your team, telling your story or showcasing a project you're proud of, this is your chance to help raise awareness of the vital role you play within the game of golf.

On 9 September, let's show the world why greenkeepers matter. **GI**

The BIGGA National Board is comprised of the following members who volunteer their time to support the association: Kevin Fish, Antony Kirwan, Gordon McKie, Peter Moore, Lucy Sellick, Andy Smith and Jez Ward
BIGGA President Ronnie Myles, BIGGA Chairperson Steven Lloyd



Five myths about First Green – busted



If you've heard about First Green and thought, 'Sounds great, but it's not for us' – then this article from Jenny Bledge might change your mind

First Green is BIGGA's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) outreach programme that helps greenkeepers host hands-on learning sessions for school pupils on the golf course.

Children get to explore everything from soil science to water testing, learning about the environment, technology and greenkeeping – all linked to the national curriculum.

But I know from plenty of chats with members and golf clubs that there are a few common misunderstandings that still put people off giving it a go. So, let's bust some myths...

'I'm not a teacher – I wouldn't know where to start'

That's completely understandable, but you don't need to be a teacher. You already have the knowledge and experience to be the perfect guide. First Green isn't about lessons at a whiteboard, it's about sharing what you do in a way that sparks curiosity.

Simple activities often work best –

looking at soil profiles, testing pond water, building bug hotels. We've got plenty of ideas to get you started, and there's no need to overcomplicate things.

'Our club's not fancy enough for this sort of thing'

First Green is for every club, whether you've got 9 holes or 36, a championship course or a laid-back set-up. In fact, community-based clubs are often best placed to host young people who might not otherwise set foot on a course. Schools aren't expecting perfectly polished venues – just safe, welcoming outdoor spaces where pupils can try something new and explore potential careers.

'We just don't have the time, people or resources'

We get it – most teams are already stretched. But a First Green event doesn't have to be big. It can be as simple as a one-hour visit with a few

pupils and activity stations. Some clubs get help from the pro shop, junior organisers or members – and BIGGA is here with planning tips, templates and resources.

'But we're not looking to recruit new staff'

First Green goes beyond greenkeeping careers – it's about giving young people a hands-on learning experience, connecting them with nature, STEM and the wider world.

'It sounds great, but someone else will do it'

That someone is you. Just a bit of time and enthusiasm can have a big impact – on the pupils, your team and your club. **GI**

- Get involved by scanning the QR code



Scan Me to find out more



Duncan Sieling



Kyle Gauld

Learning from the best in the industry at the 153rd Open

The two BIGGA members chosen to help prepare the course at Royal Portrush for the 153rd Open as part of The R&A Championship Agronomy Programme have lauded the experience.

Duncan Sieling and Kyle Gauld had the honour of working alongside the host greenkeeping team and The R&A's Championship Agronomy Team at the Dunluce Links, which hosted the world's oldest major in July.

The programme seeks to identify potential championship course managers and agronomists of the future, affording them a career-defining chance to gain insight into tournament preparation at the highest level – and Duncan, deputy course manager at The Richmond, seized the opportunity.

"I applied for the programme because I wanted to learn from the best in the industry," he said. "I enjoy working tournaments and it was a great chance to get hands-on experience at a major championship with support from The R&A. It was a fantastic week working with Graeme Beatt and his team at Royal Portrush."

Duncan and Kyle were two among a cohort of 10 chosen for the inaugural edition of the

programme, which included an initial meeting at another Open host venue in April.

"The programme overall was a great learning experience," added Duncan. "I enjoyed the initial seminar hosted by The R&A and the course walk with Sean Mclean at Royal Birkdale. It gave the cohort a fascinating insight into how a course prepares for a major event a year in advance, as well as the changes the team have implemented."

Reflecting on this time at The Open, during which he was part of the fairway mowing team, Duncan added: "The standout moment was being able to play a small part in preparing what is one of the most spectacular golf courses in the world for The Open, although seeing The R&A Sustainable Agronomy advert being played on the live feed with myself and Kyle making a small cameo is also up there!"

For Kyle, a trainee greenkeeper at Whitecraigs whose duties included hand-cutting tees, his time in Northern

Ireland has provided a platform to further his career.

"I've always wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone and I thought this opportunity was perfect to do just that," he

“It was a great chance to get hands-on experience at a major championship”



“This programme has definitely reinforced my career aspirations”

said. “This programme has definitely reinforced my career aspirations and I hope to volunteer for more amazing opportunities, taking them head-on to gain as much experience as I can with a view to one day becoming a deputy course manager.”

Amid a busy time on the Antrim coast, Kyle still found the time to appreciate the beauty of his surroundings, soaking up an experience that meant as much to him personally as it did professionally.

“The standout moment for me would be the sunrises and sunsets – I’ve never seen anything like it,” he enthused.

“But another major highlight for me was networking and working alongside such a great team – that was a privilege.”

GI

The 2025 cohort

- Dean Baily, Heswall Golf Club
- Steven Connolly, Ansty Golf Centre
- Kyle Gauld, Whitecraigs Golf Club
- Jack Hall, Kilworth Springs Golf Club
- Adam Matthews, Minchinhampton Golf Club
- Geoffrey Seath, Broadstone Golf Club
- Duncan Sieling, The Richmond Golf Club
- Christopher Szoradi, The Manchester Golf Club
- Bradley Taylor, Beau Desert Golf Club
- Ethan Walker, Enville Golf Club

A photograph of a man wearing sunglasses and a blue polo shirt, with the R&A logo in the top left corner.

Apply for the 2026

The R&A has announced the roll-out of the R&A Championship Agronomy Programme for 2026. This is the second year of the initiative designed to give BIGGA members an unrivalled opportunity to be introduced to agronomy at the very highest level of the game.

Reserved exclusively for BIGGA members, the programme will select 10 individuals each year via application from 1 to 30 September 2025. Successful applicants will be matched with The R&A’s most prestigious championships, where they will work alongside The R&A’s Championship Agronomy Team and the host venue’s greenkeeping team.

They will be accommodated among greenkeeping



Championship Agronomy Programme

staff in the build-up to and during events such as The Open, Women's British Open, Senior Open and Amateur Championships. They will even be accommodated at team events such as the Walker Cup and Curtis Cup when they are hosted in Great Britain or Ireland.

Each experience will provide a special insight behind the scenes at what it takes to create world-class playing surfaces on the world stage.

As a welcome to the programme, all selected members will be invited to attend a pre-season 'kick-off' event at a Championship course where they will be presented with an introduction to fellow members and The R&A Agronomy Team.

The meeting will provide an overview of the upcoming

championship schedule and prepare the cohort for the next season.

Also, the non-actively engaged members at The Open will get a chance to witness the event on a two-day fully immersed visit.

Post-season, more events will be conducted after BTME, offering visitors a chance to unwind, rebuild and share their discoveries.

This is an invaluable professional development experience for BIGGA members wishing to learn more about Championship Agronomy at the very top level of sport. **GI**



Scan Me to
find out more

'A strong addition to the professional development landscape'



Steve Lloyd, Chair

The first cohort of the new Championship Agronomy Programme have gained invaluable experience that will stand them in good stead for the future



It's been fantastic to see the success of the inaugural R&A Championship Agronomy Programme this year. From all accounts, it's proving to be a hugely valuable initiative for those taking part, providing a platform for a tangible, career-enhancing experience.

Having followed the journey of participants like Duncan Sieling and Kyle Gauld at The Open, who you will hear from in this magazine, it's clear this scheme is about more than just being present in a major championship environment – it's offering hands-on experience working alongside some of

the very best our industry has to offer.

It'll be interesting to see how the programme evolves, but even in its first year, it's already a strong addition to the professional development landscape.

Another exciting development is BIGGA's partnership with GroundsFest, a show I have attended myself a couple of times and highly recommend. It's an outdoor show, which gives it a completely different feel to BTME. From a machinery and equipment perspective, the big advantage is that everything is there to be seen in action. Rather than sitting on something on

a stand, you can watch demonstrations, ask questions, and really get a feel for how something performs in real-world conditions.

It's also a good chance to meet people outside of the usual conference cycle, at a different time of year and in a different environment. Hopefully, this year we'll see more greenkeepers making the trip, as the benefits are certainly there for those who attend.

September also brings Thank A Greenkeeper Day, an event which has seen growing engagement across the world and continues to bring recognition to an industry that can all too often be

overlooked. We may not always feel comfortable giving ourselves a pat on the back, but we also shouldn't be shy in accepting praise when it comes our way.

As for life at The Worcestershire, it's been a strong season. Golf has been booming, with the prolonged sunny conditions allowing for plenty of play, though that does of course bring its own challenges. Recovery work will be vital heading into autumn and communicating that to members is key. But overall, it's proving to be a good year, and a reminder of just how rewarding this job can be. **GI**

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BIGGA at GroundsFest: Connecting members, creating opportunities



We are looking forward to BIGGA's first ever presence at GroundsFest this month and hope to see many of our members there.

Held at Stoneleigh Park, it is the ideal place for the greenkeeping community to connect, exchange ideas and mark the amazing work carried out across the industry in a unique indoors and outdoors environment.

You still have time to register for the two-day event which will take place on 9-10 September at the Warwickshire venue.

Our team will be on hand during the show to welcome you, talk about our numerous ongoing initiatives and hear your views on how BIGGA can continue to develop to support you and the industry.

"GroundsFest gives us a fantastic chance to connect with members at a different time of year and in a completely new environment," said BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton.

"We're excited to see greenkeepers at Stoneleigh Park this September."

We are also delighted to be supporting the GroundsFest seminar programme, with seminars that will give you handy advice, fresh tips and inspiration to take back to your course.

GroundsFest combines live machinery demonstration days with a vibrant outdoor setting, which we hope will be strengthened by our new partnership in the coming years. **GI**

About GroundsFest

GroundsFest is the largest annual, free, must-attend event for grounds staff, greenkeepers, landscapers, designers & architects, gardeners, local authorities, estate managers and contractors. The event combines indoor business and education opportunities with outdoor demonstrations. Whether you're involved in golf course and sports ground management, commercial grounds maintenance or large-scale landscaping operations, GroundsFest is your one-stop event for innovation, networking and staying ahead of the curve. After an action-packed day at GroundsFest, visitors can unwind and continue networking at the unique live music festival. Profits from GroundsFest are reinvested back into the industry to support education.



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Michelle Bertocchi (P)
Antonio Farina (P)
Pierre Fiard (P)
Rain Bird Europe

Tuukka Monttinen (I)
Brautarholt Golf Course,
Iceland

Central England

Ollie Rowell (APP)
Whittlebury Park

Lee James (APP)
Rookery Park

Olly Pollard (AGK)
Lingdale

George Burton (AGK)
Ramsdale Park Golf Centre

Mason Muckelberg (AGK)
Tadmorton Heath

Jacob Richards (AGK)
Studley Wood

Connor Edgcumbe (AGK)
Robin Hood

Owen Smith (AGK)
Calcot Park

Peter Billings (CM)
The Nottinghamshire Club

Mark Carey (GK)
Richard Shelbourn (GK)
Wollaton Park

Scott Smith (GK)
Mid Herts

Luke Taylor (GK)
Whipsnade Park

Ryan Bullock (HGK)
Professional Lawn Services

Thomas O'nions (S)
Avoncrop Amenity
Products

James Cassidy (CA)
Myerscough College

Northern

Louie Allen (APP)
Cookridge Hall

Gary Lovell (AGK)
Wallasey

Rebecca Oates (AGK)
Bondhay

Phil Dowson (AGK)
Gosforth

Mitchell Izzard (AGK)
High Legh Park

Alexander Vartan (AGK)
Stockport

May Fitzsimmons (AGK)
Southport & Ainsdale

Kai Higginbotham (AGK)
Luke Gray (GK)
Romiley

Matthew Stone (DCM)
Shaw Hill Hotel, G&CC

Russell Jacques (GK)
Newbiggin

Adam Cutts (GK)
Dore & Totley

Bradleigh Catelani (GK)
Alan Kopanski (HGK)
Chorlton-cum-Hardy

Steve James (GK)
Woking

Stephen Dutton (HGK)
Lightcliffe

Key

A	Affiliate Member
AGK	Assistant Greenkeeper
APP	Apprentice
ATP	Approved Training Provider
CA	College Assessor
CM	Course Manager
DCM	Deputy Course Manager
DHGK	Deputy Head Greenkeeper

FA	First Assistant
GK	Greenkeeper
G	Groundsperson
HGK	Head Greenkeeper
HG	Head Groundsperson
I	International Member
L	Life Member
M	Mechanic

P	Partner
R	Retired Member
RP	Regional Patron
S	Supporter
ST	Student Member
SUP	Superintendent

Robert Evans (HGK)
St Melyd

Andrew Lees (P)
Husqvarna

Daniel Butterfield (CA)
Myerscough College

Northern Ireland

Steven Connolly (AGK)
Adam Shields (AGK)
Brian Tomlinson (CM)
Casey Taylor (DHGK)
Christopher Mornin (FA)
Stuart McFall (GK)
Aaron Burns (GK)
Holywood

Scotland

Charlie Waterworth (AGK)
Dunfermline

Harley Bentley-Mackay (AGK)
Mortonhall

Kieran Boyle (DCM)
Gourock

John Boden (GK)
Morris Martin (HGK)
Trump Turnberry

Scott Bennett (HGK)
West Linton

Scott Macdonald (HGK)
Bridge of Allan

Eric Ableitner (P)
Rain Bird Europe

Ian McKenna (RP)
Joe Pacitti (RP)
Irrigate App

South East

Joseph Coady (APP)
Costessey Park

David Gallagher (APP)
Mannings Heath

Rory Watts (APP)
Sundridge Park

Eden Soto-Gradenigo (APP)
Strawberry Hill

Joshua Bryans (AGK)
Lexden Wood

Gavin Pryce (AGK)
North Foreland

Kumar Starkie (AGK)
Aldenham G&CC

Luke Brimfield Smith (DHGK)
Whipsnade Park

Chandler Jeffs (GK)
Rushmere

Craig Brindley (GK)
Colne Valley

James Motts (HGK)
Hazlemere

Christopher Miles (P)
Rain Bird Europe

Rhys Steele (P)
Husqvarna

South West & South Wales

Kieran Fosh (A)
Steven Powell (A)
Chris Herbert (GK)
Mike Blaby (GK)
Raglan

Luke Green (APP)
Ferndown

Harry Parker (APP)
Rodway Hill

Ellis Ladd (APP)
Newport

Matthew Bennett (APP)
Shirehampton Park

Thomas Blaine (AGK)
Launceston

Kenneth Bones (CM)
Downes Crediton



BIGGA

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Richard Johnstone MG, Royal Aberdeen

Daniel Smith, Dartmouth G&CC

Scott Macdonald, Bridge of Allan

Martin Turna, Royal Worlington & Newmarket

Oliver Pate, Worksop

Sam Evans MG, North Hants

Michael Cooper, Nizels G&CC



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Eric Foerster MG CGCS, TORV

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enquiries@spurkgolf.co.uk



Member Interest

Where we meet your fellow turf professionals and share their stories

- Achieving big results with a small team at Morlais Castle
- GTC Approved Training Provider college and training centre list



Grant Peters: Parkstone's tech-savvy course manager

Most greenkeeping equipment is stored in the shed, but some of the most important tools at Grant Peters' disposal can be found on his laptop.

Parkstone's course manager taught himself Photoshop and has become a dab hand at video editing - skills that are a key part of his communication strategy with members, at a club where the greenkeeping team are always on with one project or another.

While not every greenkeeper will have the time, confidence or interest to dive into digital creativity, Grant is keen to highlight just how valuable these skills can be when it comes to engaging stakeholders and explaining the 'why' behind course management decisions.

"Communication is a huge part of the job now - just as important as anything

we do with the turf," he said. "You've got to be able to explain what you're doing and why. The more clearly and concisely you can do that, the more easily people will understand.

"In my experience, being able to show people rather than tell them is the most efficient way."

That's what led him to learn Photoshop from scratch - enabling him to do his job more effectively.

"Nobody tells you that this sort of stuff is part of the job when you're starting out as a greenkeeper," he laughed. "I remember being in a committee meeting and someone asked if I had a before-and-after image. I didn't have one, so I thought, 'Right, I need to learn this'.

"There were a lot of swear words and

a lot of YouTube tutorials, but now I can put together visuals that help sell a vision instantly. A picture really does paint a thousand words."

Grant's video productions are one of the reasons Parkstone won BIGGA's Project of the Year Award for their 1st tee and putting green renovation.

"A one-minute video can take a whole day to shoot and edit properly, but I enjoy it and I know the members enjoy it," he said. "They appreciate being kept informed. It builds trust and shows them what's involved, highlighting the level of detail and thought we put into the course. It's about showing people the truth of what we do; that's never been more important. I'd encourage anyone with the opportunity to learn these skills to take it." **GI**

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Big results with a small team



Morlais Castle's Stewart Freeman reflects on producing award-winning work with what is a two-man team for much of the year in South Wales



The story of Morlais Castle's success is a shining example of what can be achieved through dedication, experience and teamwork – even if the team doing the work is small.

As head greenkeeper at Morlais Castle Golf Club in Merthyr Tydfil, Stewart Freeman leads a crew that, at its peak, consists of just four members. And yet, despite the challenges of limited staffing and a modest budget, the club claimed the BIGGA Championship Greenkeeping Performance of the Year Award – a testament to years of careful improvement and a frantic, focused final push to deliver a stage fit for the Welsh Team Championship.

"It was an honour to win it," said Stewart. "All the hard work over the

years made it worth it. After 40 years of learning from experienced head greenkeepers and just gathering knowledge, it meant a lot."

A life in the landscape

Stewart's journey into greenkeeping began almost by accident but was grounded in a love of the outdoors from an early age.

"My dad became a head gardener at a hotel in South Devon, and from the age of 11, I used to go with him," he recalled. "That hotel had a par-3, 9-hole golf course, and that's how I got into golf. I used to help cut a bit of grass, drive the odd tractor, and I stayed involved until I moved into farming."

By the age of 19, he'd stepped into

his first formal greenkeeping role at the Thurlestone Golf Club in South Devon. That was back in April 1985, marking the start of a career now spanning more than four decades.

"I'd held the head greenkeeper role before at Thurlestone for about 10 years, but things started to change – more staff, different responsibilities – so I stepped down," he explained.

After a spell as assistant to long-time colleague Victor Dyer at a nearby par-3 course, Stewart decided it was time for a fresh challenge.

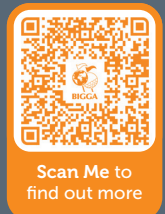
"In 2018, I fancied a change and applied to come up here to Morlais just as a greenkeeper. During the Covid period the position of head greenkeeper became available and I was offered it."

“I’m the only full-time greenkeeper during the winter months”

Stewart on entering the BIGGA Awards

I’d say do it – it’s been a huge boost for us and a fantastic experience. If someone nominates you, or if you think it’s worth putting yourself forward – go for it. When they rang to say we were in the top three, I was shocked. The awards day itself was amazing, and such a wonderful surprise to be named as winners. The benefits since then, especially how much busier the course has been, speak for themselves.

Nominations for the BIGGA Awards are open now, scan the QR code



Working within limits

With tight budgets and minimal staffing, Stewart set about making the most of the resources at his disposal. What followed was a steady transformation of the course.

“It was really about staying on top of cutting and looking after the greens. They’d been a bit neglected. I got straight into it, started cutting, spiking them, getting more air into them. I’ve always worked on a limited budget here in Wales, so I’ve had to work with what the club could give me.”

Creative thinking became a hallmark of Stewart’s approach. “We just kept going, patching up, maintaining, adjusting the way we cut the fairways. I started cutting them in half-and-half patterns to make things more

manageable.”

That approach was especially important given the size of the team.

“At the time, I only had three staff,” he said. “Right now, we’ve got two full-time, and two part-time though these are only for the summer period, so I’m the only full-time greenkeeper during the winter months.”

Rising to the occasion

When Morlais Castle was awarded the honour of hosting the 2024 Welsh Team Championship, it was the result of years of improvement. But turning that opportunity into a successful reality was an altogether different challenge.

“We had known we were to host the championships for a few years in

advance,” said Stewart. “At the time, it felt manageable and we just carried on as normal. But then we started building new tees and a new buggy path around the back of the 1st and 2nd. We started just before Christmas, and then the weather turned bad. That delayed us a lot. We were still working on it the week before the championship.”

Despite the delays, Stewart and his team, supported by a committed group of volunteers, kept pushing forward.

“It all creeps up on you – you think it’s months away, then suddenly it’s next month, then next week. But we had regular team meetings, we talked everything through. My brain is always planning ahead. If the weather changes, I just adapt.”

One of the unlikely heroes of the championship preparation was Stewart's wife, Tessa.

"I even had to get my wife involved – she's fully trained now," he laughed. "She can mow fairways, cut tees, change holes, rake bunkers – she's brilliant."

"During the championships, we returned in the evenings to cut tees, fairways and some rough, tidy up the course and check for litter. We were in early to change holes for that day and prepare the course for the day's play. All in all, it was a very busy period for our small team."

That dedication paid off. Feedback from players, visitors and fellow professionals was glowing.

"We had lots of positive feedback, especially from other local clubs. I got asked so many times if I'd move and be their greenkeeper. It was quite flattering. Sometimes I had to back off a bit, especially at social events in the evenings, because everyone was coming up to me!"

Looking ahead

Even after the event, Stewart's momentum hasn't slowed. Infrastructure continues to improve thanks to a little bit of luck and a lot of initiative.

"We've made significant improvements to the buggy paths and are continuing this project," he said.

Another pressing concern is water usage. With Morlais Castle reliant on mains supply, the club are seeking long-term solutions.

"We use mains water, but I try to limit it as it's expensive, and I don't want to overwater," he explained. "We are looking to find a more sustainable solution to our water supply issues such as borehole and rainwater capture schemes."

A career to be proud of

For Stewart, greenkeeping is more than just a job – it's a way of life. And his advice to the next generation reflects the wisdom of someone who has seen it all.

"If you like being outdoors and you're okay with early starts, it's a great career," he enthused. "The key is to get your head down, go to college, learn the trade. Find a good placement, somewhere with a friendly team like we have here. That makes a big difference. If you're keen, go for it."

With a major award under his belt and Morlais Castle enjoying increased footfall and praise, Stewart is rightly proud, but he remains humble.

"Like anyone, if I had more money, I could do more," he conceded. "But with what I've got, both budget and staff, I do the best I can. You just have to be careful and efficient. Having limited resources doesn't mean you should put a limit on your standards."

GI

My favourite hole

The second green. You can see Pen y Fan from there, the mountain everyone climbs in Wales. It's a beautiful backdrop, especially in the mornings or during winter. People are always up there taking photos when the sun comes up.



“My brain is always planning ahead”

T.A.S

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Education & Training

Askham Bryan College



Askham Bryan, York, YO23 3FR
Contact: Apprenticeship Department
t: 01904 772277 e: apprenticeships@askham-bryan.ac.uk
w: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Askham Bryan College is a specialist land-based college and university centre offering a large range of courses from foundation to degree level and beyond, which will set you up for a career doing what you feel passionate about. In addition to Level 2 Golf Greenkeeper, Level 2 Sports Turf Operative and Level 3 Advanced Sports Turf Technician, we can offer specialist short-course training and bespoke CPD events based on your business need.

Askham Bryan college is a great place to study and is graded as 'good' for teaching and 'outstanding' by Ofsted for its care provision and accommodation. The college prides itself on making all students feel welcome and providing a great learning experience.



Hadlow College



Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL
Contact: Anthony Stockwell
t: 01732 850551 e: AnthonyStockwell@northkent.ac.uk
w: www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is proud to offer Level 2, 3, and 5 apprenticeships, providing a clear path from entry-level roles to management in greenkeeping. These qualifications are designed to grow your knowledge, sharpen your skills, and maximise career potential. Step into an exciting future in the greenkeeping industry and build a career that works flexibly around you. Discover our new opportunities and take the next step in your professional journey. For a full list of courses, visit www.hadlow.ac.uk.

For further information please contact
anthonystockwell@northkent.ac.uk or
waynesyres@northkent.ac.uk



Myerscough College and University Centre



St Michaels Road, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY
Contact: Course enquiries team
t: 0800 652 5592 e: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk
w: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College and University Centre is the pioneering centre for sports turf and golf course management education in Europe. Courses are available at all levels, from introductory practical skills training to the postgraduate Masters Degree in Sustainable Golf Course Management. There are options for full time or part time online study. The foundation degree, honours degree and MA programmes are available online and have students enrolled from across the globe.

Apprenticeships delivery is across England and includes Golf Greenkeeper Level 2, Advanced Sportsturf Technician Level 3 and Golf Course Manager Level 5 with flexible start dates across the year. We also offer a wide range of industry short courses.



Plumpton College



Ditchling Road, Plumpton, East Sussex, BN7 3AE
Contact: Plumpton Business Services
t: 01273 892127 e: business@plumpton.ac.uk
w: www.plumpton.ac.uk

Plumpton College is a leading land-based further and higher education provider of apprenticeships and specialist training and assessments, supporting golf clubs and greenkeeping professionals across the South of England. The college delivers Golf Greenkeeping Level 2 and Advanced Sports Turf Technician Level 3 alongside a suite of LANTRA and NPTC-approved industry courses and assessments, delivered either at the main college near Brighton or onsite with the employer. Training is delivered by expert tutors with extensive experience of working in a commercial industry setting with excellent results for learners. Plumpton prides itself on its partnership with employers to develop the most appropriate learning programme to meet their business needs.



Cannington College



Rodway, Cannington, Somerset, TA5 2LS
Contact: Adam Collett
t: 07740 255973 e: colletta@ucscollegegroup.ac.uk
w: www.ucscollegegroup.ac.uk

Formed to drive economic growth, deliver cutting-edge skills, and transform opportunities for students and communities across Somerset, we're building the future of education, today. Cannington College delivers a range of land-based programmes, including agriculture, arboriculture, nuclear energy, golf greenkeeping, sports turf maintenance and animal management. It has an extensive, rich history, has trained generations of Somerset residents, and is well-respected in each of its primary industries. Cannington College offers unrivalled opportunities to get hands-on with the worlds of agriculture, animal care, grounds maintenance and horticulture. Our facilities include a 200-hectare farm, a cutting-edge Agricultural Innovation Centre, a golf course and living accommodation.



Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA)



Hall Place, Burchetts Green, SL6 6QR
Contact: Lawrence Jones
t: 01628 824444 e: Lawrence.Jones@windsor-forest.ac.uk
w: www.bca.ac / www.windsor-forest.ac.uk

Based on a beautiful 400-acre campus, BCA is one of the largest providers of greenkeeping qualifications in the country and has been delivering land-based and vocational education training since its establishment in 1949.

Our industry expert skills coaches deliver student focused guidance, support and training in an aligned approach that suits a work-based apprenticeship. BCA offers the Level 2 Golf Greenkeeping, Level 2 Sports Turf and Level 3 Advanced Sports Turf Technician standards. BCA also offers many short course programmes including PA1, PA2, PA6, chainsaw, brush cutter, tractor driving and first aid for those additional training needs.



As a member of the GTC, BIGGA works closely with training providers that enable greenkeepers to achieve qualifications required to progress their careers. Here are a selection of educational organisations offering training for greenkeepers.

Pershore College



Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3JP
Contact: Dave Courtts
t: 0330 135 7134 e: dbcourtts@warwickshire.ac.uk
w: www.wcg.ac.uk

A national centre for horticulture situated on a 60-hectare site near Evesham. Pershore College (part of WCG) offers the very best in land-based learning.

Land-based apprenticeship standards available at Pershore College include: Arborist (Level 2); Crop Technician (Container Based Level 3); Golf Greenkeeping (Level 2); Horticulture Supervisor (Level 3); Horticulture Operative (Level 2); Landscape Operative (Level 2); Land-based Service Engineering (Level 2 Engineer, Level 3 Technician); Sports Turf Operative (Level 2).

Pershore College also offers short courses in landscaping and horticulture as well as pesticides training: PA1, PA6 and more.



Oldham College



Rochdale Road, Oldham, OL9 6AA
Contact: Phil Lomas
t: 07912 485436 e: Phil.Lomas@oldham.ac.uk
w: www.oldham.ac.uk

Oldham College is first choice for greenkeeping apprenticeships in Greater Manchester and the surrounding areas. As a result of strong employer partnerships, the college supports apprentices in undertaking Golf Greenkeeping Level 2 and Advanced Sports Turf Technician Level 3 Apprenticeship standards. The college is also able to facilitate short industry specific courses, including Pesticide Application and Safe Use of Mowers. Our teaching learning and assessment team have vast experience in the greenkeeping sector, keeping up-to-date with current practices to ensure high-quality provision is maintained.

The team has first-hand experience of the End Point Assessment processes that assure apprentices have the best possible experience and opportunities to achieve.



Suffolk New College



Charity Lane, Otley, Suffolk IP6 9NE
Contact: Apprenticeships
t: 01473 382600 e: apprenticeships@suffolk.ac.uk
w: www.suffolk.ac.uk

Our Suffolk Rural campus at Otley benefits from an extensive number of regional golf clubs where we offer a high quality educational experience for trainee greenkeepers, amongst an offer of 40+ apprenticeship standards. Our industry experts deliver Countryside Worker, Sports Turf Operative, Golf Greenkeeping and Horticulture or Landscape Operative routes as well as a wide range of business and professional services standards to support you in both attracting new talent and upskilling existing members of staff. Our workplace-based delivery model enables flexible start dates and assessment in the workplace. We also offer a range of short courses including pesticides encompassing PA1, PA2 & PA6 accreditation, chainsaw and first aid qualifications.



SRUC Elmwood



Carslogie Road, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5YT
Contact: Course enquiries team
t: 01334 658800 e: study@sruc.ac.uk
w: www.sruc.ac.uk

SRUC Elmwood is based in Fife just 10 miles from St Andrews. For those seeking an entry level qualification we offer Work Based Modern Apprenticeships at SVQ Level 2. For those looking to develop their managerial careers, the college offers SVQ Level 3 in Sportsturf, as well as our online Higher National Certificate/Diploma in Golf Course Management.

The curriculum is embedded with sustainability and enterprise, while offering an international perspective. We recognise the rapidly changing challenges facing the golf sector, their impact, and the opportunities they present to future leaders in the industry.



Bishop Burton College and Riseholme College



Bishop Burton College, York Road, Bishop Burton, HU17 8QG
Riseholme College - Showground Campus, North Carlton, LN1 2ZR
w: www.bishopburton.ac.uk | www.riseholme.ac.uk
Contact: Craig Malloy t: 07702 671614 e: Craig.Malloy@riseholme.ac.uk

Bishop Burton and Riseholme College are leading land-based colleges and universities, offering a range of courses from entry level to master's degrees, including apprenticeships, adult learning and part-time courses. Our Greenkeeping apprenticeships will prepare you for work as a greenkeeper. With strong industry links, you'll gain the experience, skills and knowledge required for the industry. During the course, you will prepare golf courses for play, apply turf treatments to produce quality playing services and maintain and renovate bunkers. You will also prepare and use equipment to maintain and renovate all turf surfaces. Mixing theory and practical, along with work experience, we'll set you up perfectly to work as an accredited greenkeeper.



Train Together Ltd



3 Gilmour Close, Leicester, LE4 1EZ
Contact: Brynne Roberts
t: 0116 235 8000 e: Brynne.roberts@traintogetherltd.co.uk
w: www.traintogetherltd.co.uk

Train Together is a specialist training provider delivering high-quality apprenticeships in Golf Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management, supporting the industry from foundation through to degree level. With a modern, flexible delivery model, our tailored apprenticeship programs are designed in partnership with sector specialists, ensuring relevance to the day-to-day operational needs of golf clubs. From nurturing new entrants into the profession to upskilling experienced staff, we offer a progressive pathway that supports career development. Together's innovative approach blends digital learning with on-site visits, expert mentoring and hands on assessments, providing a balanced, engaging experience for learners and employers alike.



Latest job vacancies

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

First Assistant Greenkeeper

Hollinwell (Notts Golf Club Ltd), Nottinghamshire



Hollinwell, home of Notts Golf Club and one of England's premier heathland courses, seeks a motivated First Assistant Greenkeeper. Reporting to the Course Manager, you'll support daily maintenance and development of our championship course set in over 400 acres of stunning Nottinghamshire heathland.

Essential: NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf (Level 3 desirable), PA1/PA2/PA6 certificates, machinery operation skills, course setup knowledge, full UK licence.

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Salary: Competitive, based on experience

Apply: Send CV and covering letter to Shaun Bullin (Course Manager) - coursemanager@hollinwell.co.uk

Closing Date: 10th September 2025

Course Manager

Drayton Park Golf Club, Staffordshire



Established in 1897, Drayton Park Golf Club is a traditional James Braid-designed parkland course, renowned for its classic layout and modern standards with USGA-specification greens. The course has seen significant investment in recent years, reflecting the club's commitment to excellence.

Key Responsibilities:

- Maintenance planning, course development, regulatory compliance and communication

What We're Looking For:

- Proven managerial experience
- Demonstrate the ability to produce and maintain an exceptional course condition
- Spraying and Chainsaw Certification

Salary: Minimum £67k. **Employment Type:** Full-time

To Apply: Please send your cover letter, CV and salary expectations to manager@draytonparkgc.co.uk by Thursday 18th September

Assistant Greenkeeper

Thetford Golf Club, Norfolk



Reporting to the Course Manager, the role requires the daily presentation of the course, project work and all other aspects of turf maintenance. The ideal candidate will be ambitious, enthusiastic and a team player. A proven track record of producing work to a high standard and a good knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices is essential.

Our ideal candidate will possess/demonstrate: Minimum Level 2 in sports turf management; minimum of 2 years' experience; PA1, PA2, PA6 spraying certification; CS30 & CS31 chainsaw certification.

Benefits: Salary £31,000 – £33,000 depending on experience and qualifications; pension; BIGGA membership; full membership of the club and facilities; uniform.

To apply please send an email including a covering letter and an up to date CV to secretary@thetfordgolfclub.co.uk

Assistant Greenkeeper

Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, London



Royal Wimbledon Golf Club are inviting applicants who are qualified to, working towards or wish to work towards level 2 in sportsturf. Further qualifications such as Level 3, spraying or chainsaw certificates would be an advantage but not essential as we welcome applications from any experience level.

Headline benefits;

- Salary and OT package in excess of £38,000 p.a.
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- BIGGA Membership.
- Pension scheme.
- State of the art welfare facilities and equipment.
- A friendly, unified and dedicated team.
- Located just off the A3, Royal Wimbledon is within easy commuting distance from a variety of locations inside and outside of the M25.

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

Your BIGGA Membership is going digital



My New Job



Ian Kirwan

After a successful first year at the helm, Ian Kirwan reflects on his time as course manager at Bramhall Golf Club



“The team have been great”

Ian Kirwan is enjoying life at Bramhall, with both the course and his team feeling the benefit.

From morale-boosting welfare facility upgrades to major projects that will leave a lasting legacy, he shares insights into the progress made and what comes next.

How have your first 12 months in the role gone overall?

The first year in post has gone really well. The course has improved, the team have bought into everything I've brought in, and the club have backed me on all fronts.

How well have you been able to establish a positive dynamic with your team?

The team have been great. They've really flourished under the change and embraced everything that's been asked of them. It's great to see them take pride in the product we are producing and feel part of a team. Little things such as making sure we all have uniform, we eat together as a team, welfare facilities are updated and upgraded, are all things I've brought in.

What have been the biggest challenges you've faced?

I've not really had massive hurdles or challenges to get

over up to now, although the last autumn/winter period of prolonged high disease pressure was tough, meaning that I had to ensure we got recovery as early as possible in order to get surfaces back to where we wanted them.

What tasks are top of your agenda right now?

We have two big projects ongoing at the moment – we're building a new par 3 hole to reconfigure the course from April 2026. This has been split into two phases, with phase 1 beginning early June, and phase 2 beginning at the end of September. This project will end up changing three holes and leave us with Bramhall's own 'Amen Corner'. The remainder of the year sees me ensuring both projects are completed to specification, and ensuring the grow-in of the new par 3 goes well enough to get the project open within deadline.

Anything else on the horizon?

Beyond that, the next big project will be the upgrade of our irrigation system which will see a lot of the work completed in-house. For areas we can't complete ourselves, we will work alongside contractors. This begins this winter period and will be phased over the next five years. **GI**



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Ian Coote and his team at Royston are dealing with an extended playing season, meaning a reshuffling of tasks



**What we do in...
September**

Club: Royston,
Hertfordshire

As we roll into September at Royston, we're still very much in the thick of the playing season as we have competitions running right through until the end of the month. That means we're managing things on a slightly different timeline.

Our club championship used to be held over a weekend in midsummer, but now it's been moved to mid-September and it's 36 holes in one day, so it's a bit chaotic. We've also got the medal winners final at the back end of the month, so although in years gone by this is the time we would've started renovation work, we're still in full competition mode.

That does have a knock-on effect. For example, I'd usually want to start cutting our long rough around now. Last year when we did that, I found nearly 600 lost balls – our rough is proper rough! But we don't want to make the course any easier for the club championship, so that job has to wait until the comps are out of the way.

That said, we have brought our greens maintenance forward this year and got that done in August rather



than the traditional second week of September.

With everything being fescue and no ability to irrigate beyond greens and tees, we want to maximise what growth we can get while temperatures are still decent. We're hoping that early start buys us a few extra weeks of recovery before things cool off.

The course and surrounding area are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. That brings plenty of positives, like the rare flowers we've had in abundance this year, but also a

lot of restrictions. Even putting a post in the ground can require permission from the Secretary of State! We're also heavily involved in maintaining large areas of grassland for the conservators, cutting and removing clippings across most of the site.

Once we do get out the back of the playing season, my team of four, plus our mechanic, are always keen to get stuck into the winter work. They love those projects as bunker building and tee renovations make a nice change from sitting on a machine cutting grass. **GI**

“We're hoping that early start buys us a few extra weeks of recovery before things cool off”



Hot topics for turf disease

Weather patterns are creating an increasing challenge for turf management. One of the biggest impacts is the implications for damaging disease effects



Author: Sean Loakes, Syngenta Technical Manager UK & Ireland

Issues associated with the changing climate have seen a wholesale shift in patterns of disease outbreaks occurring, along with influencing the range

of disease pathogens affecting turf. This season has amplified concerns with heat, drought and intense sunlight effects, which is all symptomatic of the general trend.

Increasingly challenging conditions demand a greater emphasis on the holistic approach to turf health and fungicide strategy that will mitigate the impacts and aid faster recovery.

Most turf disease pathogens thrive in the relatively mild and moist conditions that are increasingly prevalent

– encouraged by prolonged leaf wetness and the warm micro-climate of the turf surface.

Where early winter microdochium was once the primary scourge of surface quality, for example, typically milder and wetter conditions now keep the pressure on all season. Dollar spot that was once an occasional problem in the south of the country, now impacts for longer every summer, and is spreading further north each year.

“Turf disease pathogens thrive in warmer climatic conditions”

increased by 50% since the mid-80s, with nearly a third of all hours now above this temperature. By 2045, it is predicted to be 40% of hours in excess of 15°C.

Tracking and predicting weather patterns for individual courses will be increasingly important for future planning. Greenkeepers and turf agronomists will have to make significant adaptations to Integrated Turf Management (ITM) strategies to counter the threats and maintain surface quality.

If the trends continue, the pressure is only going to increase. Along with more favourable conditions for the disease pathogens, turf plants stressed by the weather conditions will be more susceptible to infection and slower to grow out the disease effects, leading to prolonged loss of surface quality and playability.

A historical approach of fixed routine fungicide applications, relying on the same products applied on calendar dates, have little value in tackling today's challenges. Fungi-

accuracy of predictive disease models and precision weather forecasting specifically for turf management.

New technologies, including the Syngenta Turf Advisor App, linked soil sensors to provide real time data of on-course conditions and plant health monitors, will help greenkeepers and agronomists make better proactive decisions for ITM actions, biocontrol treatments and fungicide timings.

Independent STRI trials with the AIM fungicide strategy - Ascernity, followed by Instrata Elite and the Medallion – highlighted the value of a preventative programme in holding early autumn microdochium infection below the critical 4% surface area affected right through the season, compared to up to 15% infection with the best curative option and over 25% of area affected in untreated areas.

Combinations of biostimulants and fungicides to create healthier plants, along with other turf health inducing attributes of Primo Maxx II PGR and Qualibra moisture management strat-

The damaging effects of prolonged hot weather on turf health have been clear to see.



Weather records reveal that the number of days below 2°C – effectively the stopping point at which disease development will be checked – are fewer and fewer each year. In the south-east, for example, in the mid-1980s more than one in 10 days averaged sub 2°C, but by 2015 that had halved to one in 20; and now typically less than 4% of days. Worryingly, if the trend continues, within 15 years in an average season there will be no days of disease stopping sub 2°C conditions.

Over the same time period, the number of hours over 15°C – at which disease pathogens are most active and importantly a trigger point for initial dollar spot development – has

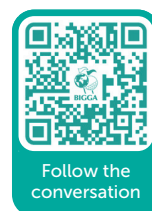
cide programmes now, and into the future, must be much more dynamic, proactive and more adaptable to the seasonal threats and real-time disease pressures – using the most appropriate products at the optimum timing.

One of the implications of the rising average temperatures is that recommendations for a new Syngenta turf fungicide active in development will see a longer application period, from early April to mid-November, to cover the extended disease risk period, compared to weather conditions in the 1980s or 90s.

Better forecasting of diseases and utilising weather data has developed hugely in recent years, with improved

egies, for example, can keep ahead of changing disease pressures.

However, even with effective ITM strategies and targeting specific biostimulant products to stress situations, in most situations more fungicide applications are going to be required to maintain the consistent level of disease control, compared to current conditions. Fortunately, greenkeepers have more fungicide products now available, and more effective options – along with further new chemistry from Syngenta in the UK registration system.



Pesticide-free golf course management



Martin Nilsson, head greenkeeper at Copenhagen Golf Club in Denmark, provides insights on how to maintain turf health with minimal inputs

Taking care of a nearly 100-year-old golf course without the help of plant protection products (PPPs) is a basic condition for our golf club. It is not something the club has adopted on its own accord.

The story of using PPPs on our golf course began to come to an end in 1999, when the Danish parliament decided to phase-out their use on publicly owned land.

Around 2003 or 2004, the use of herbicides and insecticides stopped, which left only fungicides to manage disease on greens curatively. In 2011,

we applied our last fungicide and have now been pesticide-free for more than 10 years.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site

I began working as the head greenkeeper at Royal Copenhagen in 2006. The brief from the present board of directors was to make the golf course ready for a pesticide-free future. The optics were on greens management. Weeds were an issue too, but greens were deemed more important. As the health and stability of the greens has changed for the

better, that focus has changed.

The golf club is situated in a public park, less than 10 miles north of Copenhagen. The park spans 1400 hectares and welcomes more than seven million visitors each year. It's a beautiful place with open pastures and mature woodlands with massive oaks, beeches and horse chestnuts.

The main attraction is the 2000 deer living in the park. It is possibly one of the most heavily protected natural and cultural heritage sites we have in Denmark, being both an EU Natura 2000 habitat and a UNESCO World



“The rate of success depends on your site-specific conditions and your resources”

A little about the club's history

The club was founded in 1898, which makes it Scandinavia's oldest golf club. The 18-hole layout is from 1928, but the architect is unknown today. The golf course was renovated in 2008-09 by Tom Mackenzie. The renovation left the existing push-up greens from 1928 more or less untouched beside adding some greens extensions and lifting and relaying the turf in order to tie into the new greens' surroundings. Bunkers and tees were renovated, added or erased depending on how they fitted our modern game. It is a wonderful place – worth a trip – but it is not an easy job to maintain a golf course to modern standards and expectations without plant protection products, an obligation to use fertilisers and water as little as possible, and with 2000 deer running around.

Heritage Site.

The park is managed by a forest directorate. The directorate jokes that the pecking order in the park is firstly the deer, secondly its human visitors, and in a distant third is the golf club. This fact is also part of the basic conditions. We have an obligation to minimise the use of fertilisers and water. There are no signs, benches or waste bins, only tee markers and flags.

Not an overnight success

Disclaimer: Pesticide-free management is not for all golf

courses. For some it simply may not be realistic, while for others it will be catastrophic. The worst-case scenario is an overnight shift to no pesticides, because it catches the golf course off balance. Moving from an equilibrium based on PPPs to one without is a long-term plan and the rate of success depends on your site-specific conditions and your resources.

When we start talking about pesticide-free turf management, the conversation begins with fungicides and disease management on greens, particularly snow mould and more

recently dollar spot.

This was also the case in Copenhagen. How do we move away from *Poa annua*-dominated greens to more disease-resistant grass species, in our case red fescue?

As time went on and the greens turned around and became less and less disease-prone in autumn and winter, the highest priority changed to weed management, firstly clover and plantains on greens and greens surrounds. Insects (mainly chafergrubs) are a pain, but we don't have any solutions.

We manage the golf course with a focus on red fescue as the dominant grass species. Given our site conditions, climate, resident deer population and current legislation, it's the right choice. That could change if any of these factors shift – for example, a worsening climate, the emergence of new diseases or the introduction of improved grass species. But for now, red fescue remains our best option.

We also use other grass species. On greens and fairways we use browntop bent, on some of our shadier greens we use creeping bent. Modern-type rye grasses are also used. Although we use other grass species, our agronomic decisions are based on the competitive parameters that the red fescue likes.

Know your fundamentals

If you want to be successful maintaining red fescue, the fundamentals need to be present:

- **Good drainage** – water needs to go away
- **Air** – you need sun and wind, not shade
- **Space** – red fescue doesn't like too much traffic
- **Good soil** – it can be USGA specs but native soil, like in our case, can also be good
- **Good irrigation** – a key parameter to make red fescue thrive
- **Proper, traditional greenkeeping** – this part is on you

Death is an integral part of our management. Some grass must die so the fescue can colonise and thrive. Disease actually helps, so does famine and drought. It is a delicate balance, because fescue is a slow coloniser and if you are too successful killing the other grasses, the golfers will disapprove. But if you are too afraid of having 'bad periods' then you will never succeed. To get things moving you must be outside the equilibrium for periods of time.

In the first five years of moving towards red fescue-dominated greens surfaces, the risk of disease damage was very high. After an additional five years it was medium/high, moving onwards to medium/low until today I would rate it low risk. Playability on greens is more or less year-round now and has been for years.



“Death is an integral part of our management”

You will need help. Most turfgrass knowledge is based on conventional turfgrass management and turfgrass research. There are many knowledge gaps when it comes to pesticide-free turf management. Find like-minded colleagues. You will feel alone. A group of likeminded greenkeepers creates an immensely strong network and pool of knowledge. Look for leads with non-conventionalist turfgrass researchers. Your issues will not be normal.

Points of difference

Below are some of the things we might do a little bit differently on greens. It is not rocket science. It's a combination of traditional greenkeeping, the disturbance theory, and minimum stress, low nutrition. The riskiest bit is if you do everything full-on from the very beginning.

- Topdress (if we do) on a 4-week basis. Follow the fescues slow growth pattern
- No aeration during autumn and winter
- No or very limited use of verticutting

- Stop mowing from mid-October, but still rolling
- Mow no shorter than 4mm
- Try to keep moisture levels around 15-20%
- Stop fertilising in early august (winter is coming)
- N-inputs 40-70 kg/year
- Zero phosphates
- If needed at all, only potassium during the first part of the season. Later, it can increase the risk of snow mould

The purpose of writing about how my team manage our course without the use of PPPs is not to say that all should duplicate us. The purpose is to inspire and to instill confidence in that it is possible to manage golf courses with lower inputs and even lower than you would comfortably say is achievable. It is possible to optimise downwards without dropping in quality. **GI**

This article was written by Martin Nilsson and is based on a presentation he gave at the Swedish Greenkeepers Association Conference in November 2024.

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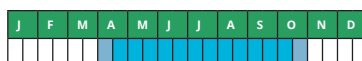
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Understanding your anxiety and how to manage it

Mindset coach Dave Cottrell shares practical strategies for managing anxiety – one of the most common and misunderstood challenges in mental health today

We can all be guilty of thinking about the worst-case scenario, but many people get stuck in this pattern and instead of preparing for potential problems, they become paralysed by them or bury their heads in the sand and hope it all goes away.

This is the crux of anxiety – a growing issue in the modern world, where pressures both external and internal are having a significant impact on mental health.

Here, Dave unpacks where anxiety comes from, how it traps us in a feedback loop, and most importantly, how to break free from that loop.

As someone who lives with social anxiety, I know how it feels to navigate through the many challenges it brings.

It may seem odd for someone in my position, where I regularly address rooms full of hundreds of people, to say they have anxiety, but it's the small talk that I find much harder.

Put me on a stage in front of a large crowd and I will confidently nail a big presentation but leave me at the bar afterwards in the same room, with the same people, and I can feel completely out of my depth.

That might sound like a contradiction – but it's a reminder that anxiety doesn't necessarily follow logic.

Strategic management

As greenkeepers, you understand that maintaining a perfect course isn't

about eliminating every imperfection, but managing challenges strategically. The same principle applies to managing anxiety.

I'm not a therapist or psychologist. I'm someone who's lived with social anxiety, who's spent years learning how to navigate the mental landscape as carefully as you tend to your greens.

I want to share how I've learned to manage anxiety and limit its impact on my life, as I believe the same steps can work for you too.

Understanding anxiety's mechanics

Anxiety is a physiological reaction to a real or perceived threat. The crucial word is 'perceived'. Most things we get anxious about aren't actually happening. Think of your comfort zone like a putting green. Anxiety can either shrink or expand it. Every time you avoid something, you're letting anxiety reduce your mental landscape. Every time you take a step, you're allowing growth. It's not about eliminating anxiety. It's about managing it. Some days you'll navigate smoothly, other days you might find yourself in a mental bunker. The tools matter more than perfection.

Interrupting the anxiety loop

Anxiety works like a positive feedback loop. Your anxious thoughts create anxious feelings, which trigger anxious actions, which then feed back into

more anxious thoughts. The easiest part to change is your actions. When I'm speaking and feeling anxious, I slow down. I take a breath. Suddenly, my brain catches up with my mouth. I'm not trying to get through the talk, I'm trying to get through to people. Slowing down makes everything you say seem 10 times more important. It helps you think better and deliver more clearly. Suddenly, the loop starts working in your favour.

Exposure therapy: Baby steps and happy dances

Think about learning to walk. When a child takes their first steps, no parent runs up and knocks their feet from underneath them saying, 'Don't bother until you can cross the whole room'. Yet that's exactly what we do to ourselves mentally.

I remember my breakthrough at a breathwork event. I was terrified, but I turned to the person next to me and simply said, 'Hi, I'm Dave'.

Afterwards, I celebrated. Not because speaking to someone is a massive achievement for most people, but because it was massive for me. The key is treating yourself like a child learning to walk. Cheer for yourself. Do a happy dance – literal or metaphorical. Bank that achievement. If you don't celebrate these steps, you might lose all the progress you've made.

“Anxiety is a physiological reaction to a real or perceived threat”



Dave Cottrell, lead trainer

Dave Cottrell is an award-winning mindset coach and a lived experience educator around mental health. With his own history of living with Type 2 Bipolar Disorder, Dave brings a unique and relatable perspective to mental health education.



Breathing techniques: Your mental reset button

Forget complicated breathing exercises when you're in full panic mode. If someone's hyperventilating, telling them to do square breathing is like asking a drowning person to do synchronised swimming. Instead, just take the next breath slightly longer than the last. Even a split second longer is a win. The 'physiological sigh' is a brilliant technique popularised by neuroscientist Andrew Huberman – two quick inhales through the nose, one exhale through the mouth. It's like a reset button for your nervous system. Square breathing is great when you're calmer – breathe in for four, hold for four, breathe out for four, hold for four. It distracts your mind because you're counting.

Reframing anxious thoughts

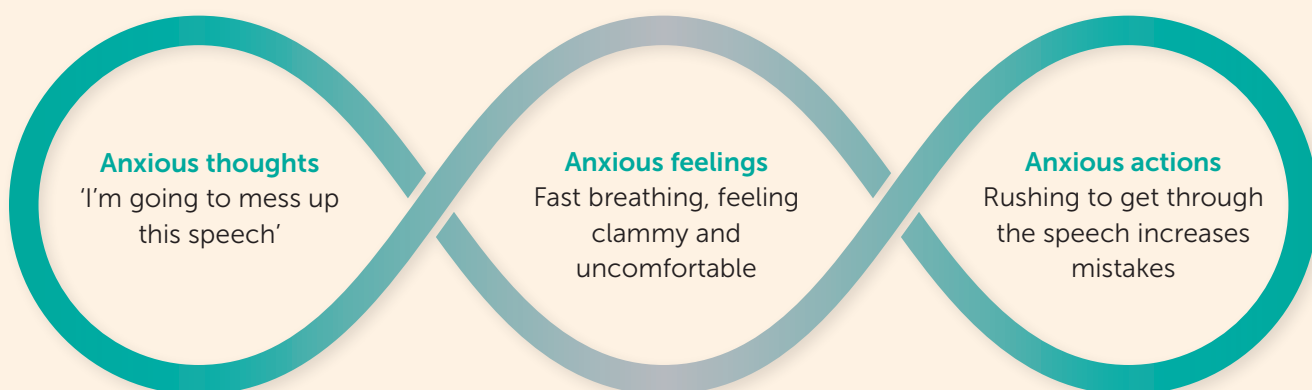
Your brain is a storytelling machine. It will manufacture the most elaborate worst-case scenarios. My mum once got sick on a plane and suddenly convinced herself she'd be sick on every future flight. We're so used to asking ourselves, 'What's the worst that could happen?', and then seeing that worst-case scenario in our head. When we see it, we feel it – even though it's not really happening. Instead, practice imagining the best-case scenario and you will go on to feel that too. Your brain will spin these incredible narratives that feel real but aren't. The key phrase is, 'So what if...?' – So what if someone doesn't talk to you? So what if you make a small mistake? Usually, the consequences are far less dramatic than your anxious brain suggests. **GI**

How anxiety grows

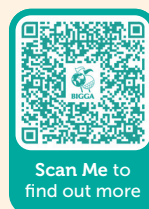
We feel fearful about a situation > We choose to avoid the situation > We feel short-term relief and convince ourselves avoidance was the right choice

How anxiety shrinks

We identify a part of the fear that is just outside our comfort zone > We do this thing, understanding it may be difficult > We congratulate ourselves for taking this step



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Author: Dale Housden — Olmix Technical Sales Manager UK & Ireland



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Waking a sleeping giant at Raglan

This South Wales club is thriving after being taken over by new owners – who entrusted Lucy Sellick with overseeing the revival of the course



When Lucy Sellick first visited Raglan Golf Club, the course was barely recognisable. The greens had been re-turfed and machinery dotted the landscape, but the site was essentially a construction zone. For most, the scale of the challenge might have been daunting. For Lucy, it was an irresistible opportunity.

A BIGGA board member and respected industry professional, Lucy had previously worked at venues like Celtic Manor and Saltford, before moving on to become head greenkeeper at Wenvoe Castle. Yet the prospect of bringing Raglan back from dormancy, reviving a once-thriving club with a proud local reputation, felt like a challenge worth embracing. It wasn't just about restoring what had been lost; it was about building

something new and inclusive.

Raglan is now privately owned by two local couples, who have committed to a long-term 'golf for all' vision. From the beginning, they placed their trust in Lucy to guide the redevelopment with the care and precision it deserved. With limited time and resources, she and her small team set out to do just that.

Nearly a year on, the results speak for themselves. Membership is booming, the course is in fine shape, and a strong community ethos underpins every decision.

Here, Lucy reflects on what it took to bring Raglan back to life, from the hands-on labour and logistical challenges to the pride of shaping something with real legacy.

The history of Raglan

First opened in 1994 as Raglan Parc, the club then offered an 18-hole parkland course, driving range, academy and clubhouse. It closed abruptly in November 2018 after the management failed to secure a lease renewal, despite attempts to buy the site. A new owner later took over with ambitious redevelopment plans, but progress stalled due to the pandemic and the collapse of investment. This year, with new owners at the helm, the club fully reopened, boasting a mature parkland course set in the Welsh countryside, offering a par 72 over 6,700 yards. The course is set within the historic deer park of Raglan Castle and features a number of ancient oak trees and boulevards of well-established trees. The clubhouse, partly constructed of stone from the castle, has been newly designed and welcomes golfers and non-golfers alike.

How did the opportunity to take on this project at Raglan come about?

I got a phone call asking if I'd be interested in a redevelopment project. The family behind the club had heard about my background, my time at Celtic Manor and that I'd built my first golf course, Virginia Park, while still attending school.

They asked for my CV on a Thursday. I sent it, and by the weekend I had a call asking if I could visit the site that Monday. When I got here, it was a construction zone. The bones of the course were there and the greens had been re-turfed, but they had a three-man team that wasn't quite getting them to where they wanted to be.

Three hours into that first visit, they asked if I was interested in the role. I said I'd go home and think about it. We had contract talks on the Wednesday, I was back on site that day, and I handed my resignation in at my old job on the Tuesday. So it all happened in under 10 days and I started in mid-September last year.

A lot of people might have seen it as a daunting task – what made you take the plunge?

There was definitely pressure, especially when they said they wanted to open on March 1st. Projects like this usually take 18 months to two years, and they were aiming for under 15 months, with me only having seven months to the opening date and a winter to get through.

But I wasn't intimidated. Their passion struck me. I asked them three questions: why they wanted to do it, whether they owned the land – because lease issues had been a problem before – and what the committee involvement would be.

Once I got those answers and saw the scale of their investment and their vision, I wanted to be part of it. Raglan has always had a great reputation and the layout is superb. The surroundings are beautiful. I was blown away.

Can you explain the ownership model?

It's two local couples – two sisters and their husbands. They





“Raglan has always had a great reputation and the layout is superb”



saw the land was for sale and decided to buy it. They admitted they didn't realise the full scale of what would be needed, especially in terms of machinery, but they wanted to reopen it to a high standard. They have a real 'golf for all' vision. It's about community, not just members – a local coffee shop vibe, a village feel. Golf for everyone.

How much say did you have in the course's look and feel?

At that first meeting, I said, 'It's your house – I won't tell you what colour paint to buy, but I'll tell you what paint is needed and how it should be applied'. They liked that approach. I treated it like I was looking after their investment, not spending for the sake of it.

They weren't from a golf background and only started playing after taking on the project. So they really trusted me – staffing levels, mowing styles, everything. I always gave them three options and explained which I thought was best and why. They've been hands-on from day one, helping with turfing, maintenance, even firming up greens and changing composition. The buy-in has been total.

What size of team have you been working with?

We're six now, plus one of the family who worked with us during construction. He still pops in a few days a week – loves the site. We also bring in contractors when needed.

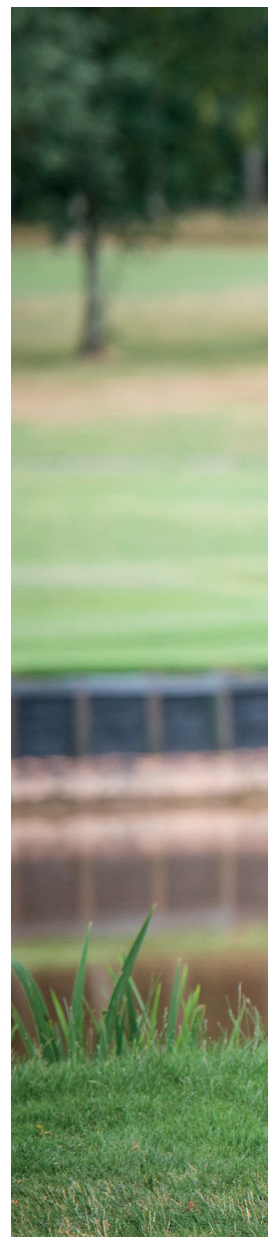
Were there any big surprises or setbacks along the way?

Not really. I remember saying in October that we'd hit a point where we needed to stop construction and focus on turfing and germination, but we kept pushing and ended up laying about 5,000 rolls of turf to hit our target. We missed the March 1st opening because of a clubhouse delay, not the course. In fact, around Christmas, I decided to build another five bunkers because we had such a kind winter.

When you did open in April, how were the nerves?

As greenkeepers, we always beat ourselves up. There were things I wanted to do, like overseeding in spring, but the weather didn't allow it. That said, by March we were pretty

“By the time we opened in April, we already had 200 members, and within three months we were at over 450”



much ready. The clubhouse delay gave us a chance to run guided tours in March. We expected three tours a week – we ended up doing two or three tours a day. The interest was huge. By the time we opened in April, we had 200 members, and within three months we were at over 450.

How much of what you've done would be considered restoration versus reimagination?

The layout remains the same. The front nine had been kept in reasonable condition, but the back nine had rewilded. We had to bring it back – robot mowing, silage cutting, drainage and re-turfing greens. We reworked bunkers, some removed, some added, and made similar changes with tees. With six months to work, we focused on what could be done well in that time.

Has the heavy lifting now been done, or are you still in development mode?

We've finalised our winter plan and I've presented our development roadmap to over 120 members. It shows where we were, where we are, and where we're going.

We're reconstructing three sets of tees and adding four more bunkers. It's about continuous improvement now. We've already installed nearly five miles of drainage, recut outlet ditches and exposed over 20 original drain lines and will add secondary drainage in-house when conditions allow.

You must be keen to make sure your team are getting their due credit amid all this work?

Absolutely. We recently hosted a tournament for the Gwent Boys and the attention to detail from the team was incredible. I make sure they know that the praise is for them. Yes, I beat myself up, but the positive feedback gets passed straight to the team and we do take time to remind ourselves of what has been achieved already and in a remarkable timescale.

Did your team already have the skill set for the scope and scale of this work?

Yes. Two of them had worked with me before and have been brilliant. We're now upgrading irrigation, and they have



The Raglan team - L-R - Lee Sellick, Keiron Cook, Lucy Sellick, James Townner, Chris Herbert

the experience for that. Another has a background in grounds and woodwork, so he's been great with sleepers and steps. One has a farming background and is fantastic with tractors. It's an unusual mix, but their skill sets complement each other perfectly.

Have 'off-course' elements like ecology and community engagement also been on your radar?

They were from day one. The village had a community event at the football fields and the owners wanted to take part straight away. Most of the people there weren't golfers, so we set up a golf net, ran competitions, gave out prizes. It was all about getting people involved. We've got a bike rack on the patio to encourage non-golf visitors, and installed a playground and mini golf so the site is family-friendly. We're also exploring grants for tree work and hedgerow planting on newly acquired land.

On ecology, we were really careful during the barn reconstruction, making sure we had the right bat licences. We've put up bat boxes and we've got seven lakes on site, so being good custodians is a big focus.

'Think like a project manager'

Plan meticulously – 30-, 60-, 90-day plans are essential. But also expect things to go wrong. The biggest frustration for me was delivery times, materials held up due to logistics. You need to think like a project manager. The weather's a factor too. We had a dry spell and used it to move materials, even if it meant dumping them in random places. It let us keep working when it got wet. Flexibility is vital. Also, communicate clearly with owners. They'll see 90 tonnes of soil piled up and wonder why, so explain the plan. Keep them in the loop. And don't neglect your team. Sometimes all it takes is a bacon roll or just being honest about the tough jobs. We all muck in and get it done.



Lucy with two of Raglan's directors



You've played a big part in reviving a respected facility. That must be satisfying.

It really is. The owners say the course was a diamond – we've just polished it. One of the team said we've woken a sleeping giant. That really stuck with me.

Right now, I'm sitting beside one of the lakes, just taking it all in. I'm really proud. We've made a lasting impression. **GI**

Being on the BIGGA board a 'win-win'

The owners spotted my BIGGA involvement on my CV and were impressed. They saw the value in the network I had and the advice I could call on. As a result, they signed the whole team up as BIGGA members. They support me giving up time to help improve the industry. That's always been my goal, to give back and help others. As a woman in greenkeeping, I also want to show what's possible. It's helped my professional development too. I've learned loads, especially in areas I was weaker in, like writing. And being on the board, seeing how people like Jim and Steve manage financials, has been eye-opening. It's a win-win. It helps me, and I hope it helps the industry too.

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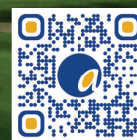
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The world of greenkeeping

From Italy to India and America to Australia, there are BIGGA members working all over the world

For Shane Buckley, greenkeeping has been a passport to see the world, but each new stop brings its own set of agronomic tests.

Having worked in countries including Cyprus, Slovakia and Bulgaria, he took up his current post at Royal Ostend in Belgium earlier this year, where he's overseeing an ambitious transition to reintroduce authentic links characteristics to the historic course.

You've worked in various places around the world – was that always part of the plan?

Not at all. I kind of fell into greenkeeping to begin with. There was a golf course behind my house in Ireland and I worked there during school holidays. When I left school, a full-time spot opened up and I took it. When the economic crash happened, and golf in Ireland didn't look too promising, I left that role and put myself through a greenkeeping course in Cork. After that, I got an offer to work in Norway for a season and it's gone from there.

How would you describe Royal Ostend and the project you've inherited?

It's an 18-hole members' club, originally opened in 1903. The course was destroyed during both World Wars and has been rebuilt and rerouted over the years. The most recent redesign was by Martin Hawtree in the 1990s. We've got

nearly 600 members, and the club is quite happy with that limit. We do about 20,000 rounds a year. It's Belgium's only links course, so we're focused on restoring that true links feel. That's something my predecessor had already begun and I'm continuing that process, introducing more fescue across all surfaces and reshaping bunkers to reflect that traditional links style.

Are the members fully on board with that vision?

Absolutely. There's a waiting list to join, and when people do get in, it's because they want to play links golf. The course offers something different to anything else in Belgium, and the membership understands and supports that. Our job is to deliver on those expectations. We recently held a course walk led by the local environmental ranger, where we walked hole by hole and discussed how certain areas are

About Royal Ostend

Royal Ostend is Belgium's only true links course. Situated along the country's North Sea coast, the layout combines traditional seaside characteristics with natural undulations and wind-shaped bunkering. First opened in 1903, the course has been redesigned several times, and now plays host to a committed membership seeking an authentic links experience.



Shane Buckley
Royal Ostend, Belgium



**“We’re focused
on restoring
that true links feel”**



managed, and the ecological impact of over-management. It gave members some context as to why certain zones are left uncut or allowed to go natural. Instead of assuming it's just something that wasn't done, they now understand the benefits to local biodiversity, and it's helped with buy-in to the overall vision.

What are the agronomic priorities and timelines?

It's very much a process, and while there's no firm end date, we're well down the road, especially with the greens and surrounds, which are now heavily dominated by fescue. The next steps include tee alterations because the overall teeing area is a bit small for the volume of play. We're also in an environmentally sensitive zone, so we work closely with local government agencies. They carried out a nature audit which gives us a blueprint for what we can and can't do. There are areas we leave untouched to allow wildlife to flourish.

Water is another factor. We have a limited annual amount we can use. At the moment, we rely on a borehole that feeds a small lake which further limits our capacity and in general it is inefficient. It means we often have to prioritise certain areas at the expense of others. The club has approved the installation of a new well point system that will feed storage tanks, providing a more reliable and sustainable solution.

What level of staffing do you have?

We've got six full-time staff plus myself, and just recently added a seasonal student. The full-time team is very experienced – one guy has been here 37 years, another for 26. They're really well trained and they understand links greenkeeping. Crucially, they also enjoy what they do. That makes a huge difference because they've bought into the vision for the course and are engaged in the process.

Would you recommend working overseas?

Definitely, it's been the best thing I ever did. I've met people and seen places I never imagined I would. Initially, it was about broadening my greenkeeping experience, working with different climates and grasses, but the personal side of it has been just as rewarding.

Do you still feel connected to the greenkeeping community and your fellow BIGGA members?

Yes, although it can be a little isolating at times without a neighbouring course down the road to pop into. I used to work at The Duke's in St Andrews, where you're surrounded by other greenkeepers and regular BIGGA events. Social media helps fill that gap. I still keep in touch with people I worked with 15 years ago. It's a very supportive industry – if you pick up the phone with a question, someone will always call you back. **GI**

The science behind wetting agent applications

By Stan Kostka PhD, Mike Fidanza PhD and Cale Bigelow PhD

Soil surfactants, commonly referred to as wetting agents by the turf industry, have become important tools for greenkeepers.

Over the years, researchers in the USA (universities of Michigan, Arkansas, Florida, Wisconsin and others) and in Europe (universities of Wageningen, Aberdeen, Swansea and others) have demonstrated that certain wetting agents increased soil water content under droughty environmental conditions and lowered soil water content during periods of excessive rain. Most of this work was on turf maintained in sand or sandy loam rootzones. For those wetting agents tested, does this mean they can physically hold or push water within the rootzone?

Pushers and holders

The perception is that wetting agents can 'push' water or allow water to penetrate through the turf canopy and into the rootzone or that they can 'hold' or retain water at the precise location in the rootzone where water is needed. Soil scientists tell us that wetting agents can not physically do these things and they defend their reasoning

in detail using complicated soil physics with mathematics and equations. Yet this perception persists. Could this be related to how wetting agents are applied, or the amount of thatch and organic matter in the rootzone, or rootzone soil texture (sand or mineral soil), or amount of water applied from precipitation and irrigation, or traffic from golfers and play, or various turfgrass cultural management practices and inputs? Obviously, there are many variables within an amenity turfgrass ecosystem.

Infiltration and hydration

Perhaps a more accurate choice in terminology is needed. Because of the chemical properties of wetting agents and how they interact with soil biological, chemical and physical

properties, wetting agents can improve infiltration and improve hydration of a turf rootzone.

To measure infiltration, a laboratory test is conducted in which naturally occurring hydrophobic (water repellent) sand is used. A drop of water is placed onto the surface of the sand and time is recorded for that water droplet to infiltrate completely into the sand (Figure 1). This is called

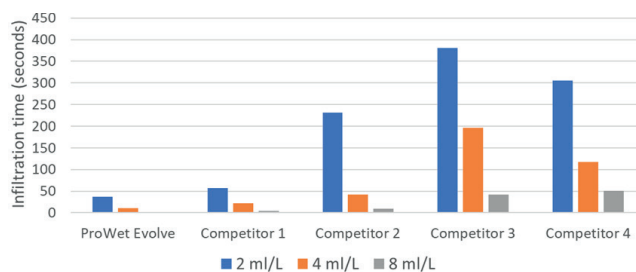


Figure 1. Wetting agents can improve infiltration, but not all wetting agents are the same. Water Drop Penetration Time = 3,600 seconds on the untreated hydrophobic sand. Note: dilution of 2, 4, and 8ml wetting agent/L water is the standard laboratory method to measure WDPT.



Poor infiltration on the top and slopes of the mounds

the Water Drop Penetration Test, but perhaps it should be renamed the 'Water Drop Infiltration Test'. If the water droplet infiltrates in less than five seconds, the sand is wettable; if the water droplet sits on top for six seconds to one minute, the sand is considered slightly water repellent; if one to five minutes, it's strongly water repellent; and more than five minutes, that's extremely hydrophobic and practically not wettable.

Uniform and consistent rootzone moisture conditions are highly desirable goals for managed turf, especially putting greens. Are we really talking about proper hydration of the rootzone? The ideal soil has 50% by volume of voids or pore space in between all those soil particles. A good balance of air and water among those voids is critical for turf roots and overall plant health and translates to better surface playing conditions.

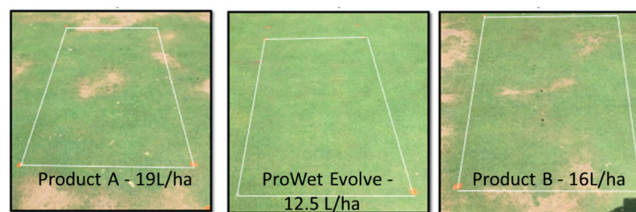


Figure 2. Wetting agents can improve rootzone hydration, preventing abiotic stress. Three wetting agents – Product A, ProWet Evolve, and Product B – applied to test plots in a creeping bentgrass green, prior to photo taken in July 2018 during heat and drought stress. (Photo credit: Dr. Cale Bigelow).

Field testing wetting agents at university locations gives us a first look at how the turf responds during drought stress to various product application rates and timings (Figure 2). Evaluation of wetting agents on actual golf course locations gives us a better look on a much larger scale (Figure 3).

Show me the science

Data is lacking on the nature and differentiation of products sold as wetters, water retainers and penetrants. There are many anecdotal claims but thorough, documented and replicated field research (either from university or industry researchers) to substantiate these claims is lacking. However, there are some wetting agents with data to support their product claims. When used properly, these products improve infiltration, mitigate water repellency in soils, enhance hydration and are now being understood to have some additional effects, ranging from enhancing certain soil directed pesticides and improving flushing of excess salts to helping overwintering survival and spring recovery.

Over the past two decades, wetting agents have moved from products used to correct localised dry patches to broader applications in sustainable water conservation and use in fine turf. However, marketing claims often outpace the science. Research continues to increase our understanding of what wetting agents can and cannot do, while understanding their mode of action and influence on rhizosphere dynamics

are the future. A foundation is being built to support science-based applications of these soil amendment compounds.

When considering a wetting agent, ask to see the supportive data and testing. Consider how the wetting agent will fit into your programme's biweekly or monthly applications. Stay tuned as there is more research being conducted to increase our understanding on wetting agent chemistry and wetting agent use in turf.



Figure 3. Wetting agents can improve rootzone hydration and turf recovery on an unirrigated golf course fairway. Left: ProWet Evolve applied at 12.5 L/ha on 7 July, 8 August, 1 Sept. Right: Untreated. Photo taken on 16 September 2021. Ludlow GC, Ludlow, England, M. Cleverley Course Manager (Photo credit: ClearSky Imaging).

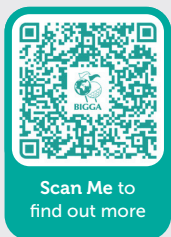
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Husqvarna at the AIG Women's Open: **How we did it**



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In the early hours before the world's best female golfers arrived at Royal Porthcawl, a quiet transformation was taking place. While the grandstands were still empty and dew clung to the fairways, a fleet of robotic mowers was already hard at work – silently, efficiently and with remarkable precision.

This year's AIG Women's Open marked a historic moment for turf care in the UK. For what is believed to be the first time, all 18 fairways at a major championship were maintained by autonomous robotic mowers. And at the heart of this was a close collaboration between Husqvarna and the home greenkeeping team.

A bold idea and a collaborative effort

The story began earlier in 2025 when Ian Kinley, course manager at Royal Porthcawl approached Husqvarna with a bold question: could robotic mowers handle the demands of a championship course?

Jonathan Snowball, head of business unit professional at Husqvarna remembers the moment well. He said: "Myself and Ian sat down in April and formed a crazy idea, which we called 'tournament support'. That led us to where we are today – with 15 CEORA robotic mowers cutting all 18 fairways and two Automower 580L EPOS helping elsewhere around the course."

The plan was ambitious, but with careful coordination, technical expertise and a shared vision, the team made it happen.

Precision in practice

Craig Stoba, pro robotics key account manager, explained how things worked at the event: "We run the robots overnight, starting at 1am. By the time the greenkeeping team arrives, the fairways are already cut and ready."

Each CEORA is cleaned, calibrated and fitted with fresh blades daily. "We change the blades every day to ensure the sharpest cut," said Craig. "We also use Husqvarna Fleet Services to monitor every machine's location, cutting angle and progress. It's key to keeping our schedule bang on."

This level of detail ensures that the fairways are not only cut, but presented to the highest standards – ready for the world's elite players.

Sustainability and turf health

Beyond the technical achievement, the CEORA brings significant sustainability benefits.

Trevor Mill-Irving, technical specialist for the North West and Midlands, explained: "There's no direct carbon footprint, no noise pollution and huge savings on fuel and blades. It's a massive benefit for greenkeepers."

Robotic mowing also reduces turf compaction, meaning less need for aeration and heavy maintenance. "Greenkeepers have more time to focus on intricate areas like greens and bunkers," Trevor added. "The grass stands up better, looks better and plays better. Members and players notice the difference."

A moment of pride

For Andrew Lees, global segment manager – pro robotics, the AIG Women's Open represents a career-defining moment. "We started our professional robotics journey back in 2018. Launching CEORA in 2022 enabled us to target the golf customer, but to be operating at a global golf major and maintaining the fairways is a huge testament to all the work that's gone on behind the scenes.

"To be here, not just attending but actively participating in the event by maintaining the fairways for some of the best golfers in the world, is a huge achievement. This is the start of a very exciting journey."

Teamwork and integration

The success of the operation hinged on a seamless collaboration between Husqvarna's technicians and Royal Porthcawl's greenkeeping team.

"We've integrated into their team," said Jonathan. "The robotic mowers are seen as additional team members – and yes, some have even been named!"

After their work out on the course was completed, a dedicated team of four Husqvarna technicians worked each morning to clean, calibrate and maintain the machines, ready for the following night's cut. "We're reducing contamination, ensuring blade sharpness and calibrating cutting systems to deliver the best possible cut," Jonathan added.

A glimpse into the future

For Husqvarna, the AIG Women's Open was more than a tournament – it was a showcase of decades of innovation. "This is probably the most exciting thing I've been involved with in my 16 years at Husqvarna," said Jonathan. "The team is energised and we're excited about what the future holds."

The success at Royal Porthcawl sends a clear message to golf clubs across the UK and beyond: robotic mowing is not only viable but transformative. "We can help your golf course achieve your ambitions in sustainability and solve cost and labour challenges," said Jonathan. "We have a team based all over the UK, ready to support and advise, and a network of dealers to provide the best service."

As Andrew Lees puts it: "The AIG Women's Open is a very high starting point, but it is only the beginning."

Turfgrass winter stress

Understanding cold acclimation to improve winter turfgrass performance

Whilst not known for extreme weather conditions, the UK climate can provide challenges for managing turfgrass surfaces during the winter months. Periods of waterlogging, limited light, disease pressure and fluctuating temperatures place significant physiological strain on turfgrass, particularly on intensively managed playing surfaces.

Cool season grass species such as fescue, bent grasses and rye grass are generally well adapted to cold weather conditions. Even so, turfgrass resilience to winter stresses can be improved by the grass plants own physiological responses to the onset of winter and by the various mechanical, nutritional and biostimulatory management practices that can be employed to support this.

Temperature, growth rates and stress resilience

Like all plants, turfgrass growth can be restricted by a reduction in any one of the key factors for growth: light, water, air, nutrients and the right temperature. During the winter months grass growth usually slows due to limited rates of photosynthesis in response to lower temperatures and light levels. Cool season turfgrass species reach peak growth potential at around 15-25°C and drops to around 20% when temperatures fall below 10°C. This reduced growth rate leads to a reduction in wear tolerance, a potential for diminished sward density and increased susceptibility to disease. In addition to reduced growth rates, low temperatures can also lead to degradation of cell components like chlorophyll, alter cell membrane strength, and affect osmotic regulation (Keough, 2016).

Adaptation to cold temperatures

As cooler weather arrives, plants undertake a process known as hardening, or cold acclimation, to enhance their ability to survive periods of cold temperatures. The acclimation process in cool season grasses is triggered by temperatures

consistently below 4°C and reduced light levels (Kvalbein, et al., 2017). This natural adaptation enhances plant tolerance to low temperatures, oxidative stress, and disease..

Turfgrass that has been stimulated into growth, for example through application of fertiliser or by increasing temperatures, is less tolerant of winter stresses than plants that have stopped growing due to acclimation. Winters in the UK, therefore, can be difficult for turfgrass to cope with because the temperature is frequently cold enough to reduce growth rates, and therefore reduce ability to outgrow disease and other stresses, but not cold enough to facilitate prolonged acclimation.

Supporting turfgrass carbohydrate storage

Maximising plant health and minimising the impact of external stress factors on turfgrass surfaces can be achieved by enhancing the plants own ability to withstand stress. In the context of winter stress, it is beneficial to undertake practices that increase carbohydrate storage prior to the onset of cold weather.

As part of the cold acclimation process, soluble sugars created through the process of photosynthesis are stored in plant cells providing an energy reserve which the plant can draw on when conditions are suitable for growth (Ostrem, et al., 2011). Applying biostimulants that contain carbohydrates can help to increase the plants carbohydrate content, improving cold tolerance and regrowth potential. Alternatively, plants can be encouraged to regulate carbohydrates more effectively through the use of signalling compounds such as trehalose-6-phosphate (T6P). Conversely, practices that result in decreased carbohydrate levels will reduce cold hardness and stress tolerance (DaCosta & Ebdon, 2023).

Other practices that can affect winter stress resilience through their effect on carbohydrate storage are outlined here as follows:

Key acclimatory responses in cool season turfgrasses include:

- Increased carbohydrate storage in roots and crowns, fuelling respiration during dormancy.
- Altered lipid composition of cell membranes, improving cold tolerance and cell stability.
- Upregulation of antifreeze proteins and antioxidants, reducing damage from freeze-thaw cycles.
- Downregulation of shoot growth, enabling energy reallocation to roots and structural protection





Nitrogen

Applying high rates of nitrogen, late in the growing season stimulates shoot growth. As a result, carbohydrates are required for the synthesis of amino acids and proteins, for respiration, and for cell division, reducing their availability for storage in the crown and roots. Reducing nitrogen inputs prior to the onset of cold weather supports a healthy C:N balance in the plant, resulting in an increased amount of carbohydrates for storage.

Potassium

Low soil potassium levels can reduce the ability of plants to store carbohydrates resulting in increased susceptibility to stresses. Potassium plays an important role in photosynthesis as it controls stomata functioning and CO₂ uptake. Lower photosynthetic efficiency results in a reduction in sugar carbohydrate creation and availability within the plant. In addition, potassium supports translocation of carbohydrates to the crown and roots, so lower concentrations of soil potassium can lead to reduced movement of carbohydrates to these storage organs. Management strategies that support sufficient soil potassium levels can improve carbohydrate creation and effective storage within the plant.

Soil moisture

Oxygen in the rootzone supports plant processes including respiration and photosynthesis. When rootzones are waterlogged, oxygen levels are depleted leading to a reduction in the production of carbohydrates. In addition, plants utilise stored carbohydrates to repair damage, resulting in a decrease in stored carbohydrates which rapidly weakens turfgrass leaving it vulnerable to external stresses including cold and disease. Management strategies that prioritise moving water away from the rootzone can be beneficial, particularly in areas that are prone to waterlogging. This can be achieved culturally by aerating as well as through well timed applications of wetting agents that will assist with water movement through the soil profile.

Thatch

Thatch affects the quality of playing surfaces but also has an impact on turfgrass health and functioning. Thatch is a layer of both dead and living organic matter that builds up between the crown of the grass plants and the soil. It acts like a sponge, holding water and nutrients near the surface encouraging shallower rooting plants which are less able to access deeper water reserves and have a limited capacity to store carbohydrates. Management strategies that reduce the build up of thatch promote both deeper rooting and an

increased carbohydrate storage capacity leading to improved ability to withstand winter stresses.

Returning to growing conditions

One of the key issues in the winter and early spring months is the difference in growth rates at low temperatures between different species. Whilst *Poa annua* can grow at temperatures as low as 5°C, both bent grasses and fescue require slightly warmer temperatures to trigger them into growth. This can lead to uneven playing surfaces, particularly as *Poa annua* moves into its reproductive phase in the spring. Plant growth regulators can be a useful tool in the late winter/early spring once temperatures are warm enough to permit their use. Prohexadione-calcium, for example, can be used early in the growing season, once air temperatures reach 7°C.

High moisture levels high in the rhizosphere can also favour *Poa annua* over other species as it is shallow rooting and therefore unable to take advantage of soil moisture once it has moved deeper within the soil profile. Use of management strategies to move water away from the surface can therefore favour the maintenance of true perennial grass species in the sward over *Poa annua*.

Perennial grasses can be supported back into growth through carefully managed nitrogen inputs early in the season. It should be remembered that whilst nitrogen requirements are likely to be low as plants emerge from acclimation, nitrates and then ammonium are the most available forms of nitrogen for plant uptake. Their efficacy can be further improved through the use of humates to increase movement of nutrients from the soil solution into the xylem and by amino acids to reduce the plants energy requirements to produce these itself.

Conclusion

Management of plant carbohydrates and C:N ratio is an important aspect of improving turfgrass quality and performance during the winter months. An effective management plan will integrate mechanical maintenance with nutrient and biostimulant applications to maximise plant and soil health, enhance disease resistance and improve spring recovery.

- DaCosta, M. & Ebdon, J. S., 2023. *Major winter injuries of cool season turfgrass in New England: Understanding, prevention and recovery*. [Online]
- Keough, J. T., 2016. *Physiological and metabolic factors associated with cold and freezing tolerance and induced recovery in cool season and warm season grass species*, New Jersey: The State University of New Jersey.
- Kvalbein, A., Espervig, T. & Waalen, W., 2017. *Turfgrass winter stress management: Golf course managers' handbook*, STERF.

Autumn armour: Building resilience against Microdochium



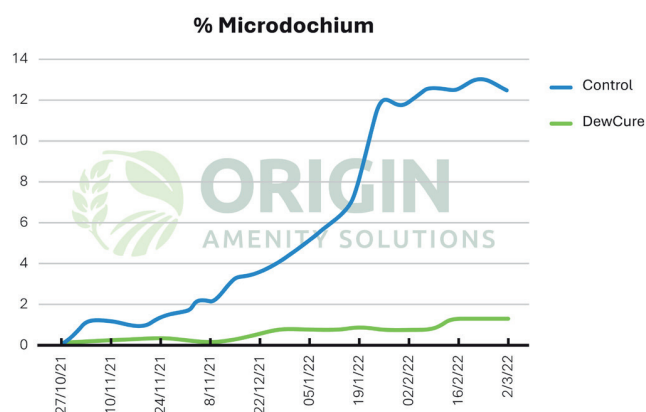
Author: Kelly-Marie Clack, UK Technical Manager, Origin Amenity Solutions

When it comes to Microdochium management, we aim to optimise plant and soil health moving into the autumn. Following a challenging summer with increased abiotic stress from heat and drought, it is important to get your plant and soil prepared for disease challenges.

Microdochium is a fungal disease that can live in the thatch layer without causing turf damage until conditions are conducive. Mild and humid conditions, as well as long periods of leaf wetness, are ideal conditions for fungal development.

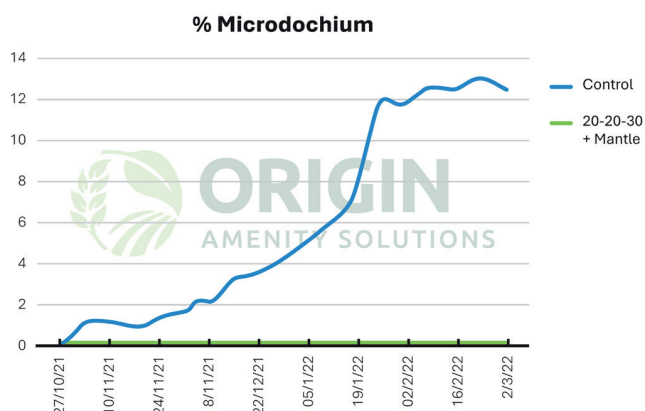
Surfactant technologies that improve vertical movement of water through the soil profile and reduce surface tension will help water to penetrate, reducing water sitting around the crown of the grass. This technology can also help improve surface hardness following high rainfall events.

When dew is reforming on the leaf following mechanical removal or mowing, dew-cure products can be applied to reduce periods of leaf wetness and guttation fluid forming on the leaf.

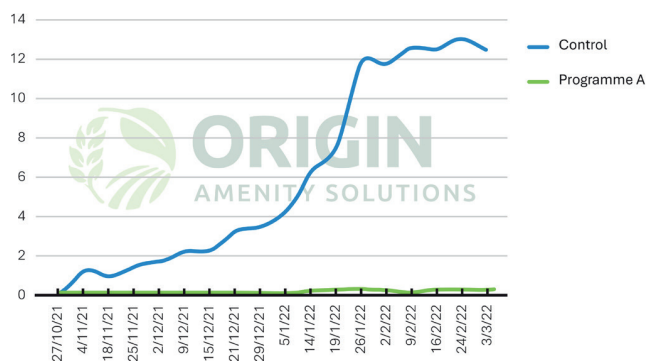


Moisture management and nutrition management are key when creating a plant that is less susceptible to disease. Research has been carried out on the OAS 20.20.30 +

mantle for nearly 20 years. OAS 20.20.30 + Mantle (10kg) contains nutrients for a strong and healthy plant that applies 5.8kg of nitrogen per application and calcium to strengthen the plant cell wall. Iron and other trace elements reduce the pH of the leaf surface to deter the pathogen. Phosphite, salicylic acid and Harpin stimulate the plant's natural defence mechanism. During high disease pressure, increase the Mantle application rate to 20kg per ha.



Microdochium Percentage 2021/22 Throws Technology Centre, Essex



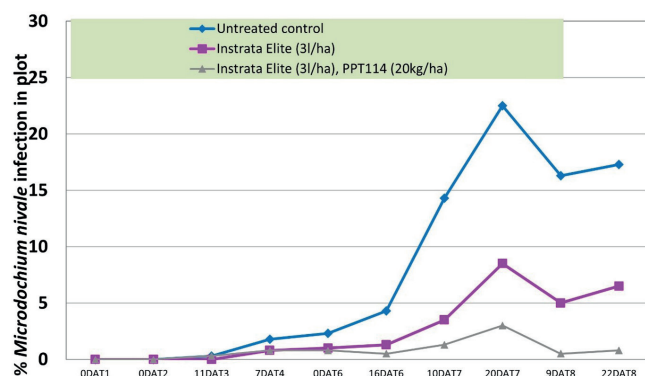
Following a summer of increased turf stress, research has shown that the turf can be more susceptible to autumn diseases such as Microdochium. Applying a fungicide programme to surfaces can reduce the possibility of the fungus spreading and creating surface scars that can be difficult to recover when soil temperatures are low.

Following trials at the STRI and OAS Throws Research and Technology Centre, we have created a fungicide programme to work alongside the nutrition and water management plan.

TREATMENTS	App. 1	App. 2	App. 3	App. 4
Programme A	10l/ha Fluopyram + Trifloxystrobin (Exteris) 20l/ha Trimate 2l/ha Option	2l/ha Fludioxonil (Medallion) 2l/ha Option 0.5l/ha Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin (Dedicate)	10l/ha Fluopyram + Trifloxystrobin (Exteris) 20l/ha Trimate 0.5l/ha Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin (Dedicate) 20l/ha Magnet Velocite	2l/ha Fludioxonil (Medallion) 0.5l/ha Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin (Dedicate) 20l/ha Trimate
Programme B	10l/ha Fluopyram + Trifloxystrobin (Exteris) 20l/ha Trimate 2l/ha Option	1l/ha Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin (Dedicate) 1.25kg/ha Eland Pyraclostrobin (Eland) 2l/ha Option	10l/ha Fluopyram + Trifloxystrobin (Exteris) 20l/ha Trimate 1l/ha Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin (Dedicate) 20l/ha Magnet Velocite	3l/ha Fludioxonil (Medallion) 1l/ha Tebuconazole + Trifloxystrobin (Dedicate) 2l/ha Option

Programme A and B both reduce Microdochium development from September until March to less than 2% disease. Tank mixing fungicides can also help to reduce the risk of systemic resistance to fungicide actives.

The addition of adjuvants to fungicides can also improve the efficacy of the product. In a trial carried out at STRI we can see that PPT114 increased the efficacy of Instrata Elite in reducing Microdochium nivale. We recommend using PPT114 a maximum of 4 times per year as a companion mix with fungicides.



It's all about balance – not too much or too little of anything. This can include aeration, topdressing, nutrition, and water - ANYTHING!

Promoting plant and soil health through good aeration practices and organic matter management, a balanced soil moisture and nutrition management (not forgetting your soil pH) is extremely important for autumn disease management. The use of biostimulants will aid in plant recovery following summer stress.

Recording and reviewing weather forecast information, as well as using historic weather data from your site, will help build your disease programme. When the weather conditions are conducive (disease pressure is high), reduce leaf wetness duration, and a solid preventative fungicide programme will help to reduce disease infection.

For more information on the 20-20-30 tank mix and how it can benefit your turf management programme, contact Origin Amenity Solutions at **0800 138 7222** or email sales@originamenity.com

Getting the most from your surfactant programme



Jaey Goodchild is an Agronomist at The R&A

With demand for water increasing across all sectors, and weather systems bringing more frequent extreme or sustained dry conditions, it's essential we use water as efficiently and responsibly as possible

In the pursuit of consistent turf quality and optimal playing conditions, water management remains one of the most critical challenges for turf professionals.

Modern surfactants offer a powerful tool to improve water use efficiency, particularly on golf course playing surfaces where uniform moisture distribution is essential to maximise plant health and performance. To unlock their full potential, it's vital to understand how to select the right product and apply them effectively.

Surfactants, or wetting agents, are designed to reduce the surface tension of water, allowing it to move more freely through the soil profile. They can help overcome hydrophobic conditions that can develop in sand-based soils, especially during dry periods and they can aid percolation in

move through the profile to reach throughout the target depth. Applying them with too little water can result in product remaining near the surface, where it may have limited benefit.

Additionally, surfactants can be bound up in the organic matter of a thatch layer, which further raises the importance of using high water volumes with the correct spray nozzle selection during application.

Equally important is the timing of applications. Ideally, surfactants should be applied ahead of rainfall or followed by irrigation. This helps drive the product deeper into the rootzone, where it can influence moisture retention and distribution more effectively. Without this follow-up, it's common to see treated areas where only the top few millimetres are wet, while the soil beneath remains dry — a

hasn't penetrated far enough, and adjustments to application volume or timing may be needed.

Not all surfactants are created equal. Some are designed for initial infiltration, while others focus on retention or redistribution of moisture. Most wetting agent technologies will achieve some level of result in average years, but differences across manufacturer's formulations and production methods can see variations in performance, which may turn out to be crucial when the pressure is on. Consider the specific needs of your site — whether you're managing dry, sandy soils or a moisture-retentive site — and select a proven surfactant that aligns with your goals. Consulting with your agronomist or supplier can help ensure you're using the right product.

In conclusion, surfactants are a valuable part of any integrated turf management strategy, but their success depends on thoughtful application. By ensuring proper water volumes, timing applications with rainfall or irrigation and regularly testing soil response, turf professionals can maximise the benefits of their surfactant programmes — leading to healthier turf and more efficient water use. **GI**

“Surfactants, or wetting agents, are designed to reduce the surface tension of water, allowing it to move more freely through the soil profile”

heavier soils when there is an excess of soil water. By improving water infiltration and distribution, surfactants can support healthier root systems, reduce localised dry patch, and enhance the overall resilience of turf.

The key to successful surfactant use lies in following application guidelines closely. One of the most important aspects is ensuring adequate water volume in the tank mix. Surfactants need sufficient carrier water to

clear sign that the surfactant hasn't reached its intended depth.

A practical way to assess whether your surfactant programme is working is to take a soil core and test for hydrophobicity at different depths. By applying a few drops of water to the core at various levels, you can observe how quickly the water is absorbed. If water beads on the surface or takes time to soak in (>60 seconds), it may indicate that the surfactant



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

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Find out more



20-20-30 Tank Mix

A highly effective, non-pesticidal *Microdochium nivale* management strategy

Pesticide legislation and a changing climate has radically altered how we can manage *Microdochium nivale*. OAS' 20-20-30 Tank Mix combines **Turfite® Elite**, **Liquid Turf Hardener** and **Seamac® ProTurf Fe**, together with **Mantle®**, to provide an extremely effective solution when building your IPM strategy against *Microdochium nivale*. It works by:

- Changing the leaf surface environment to make it harder for the pathogen to grow on and into the leaf surface.
- Stimulating the plant's natural defence mechanism.
- Improving plant health/growth by stimulating root and shoot development and chlorophyll production.



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