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## Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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## Welcome

### A WARM GLOW BUT NO MORE

Well, did you follow the Ryder Cup? After two days of listening to the excellent coverage on Radio 5 Live I succumbed and tracked down the Sky television coverage in my local health club for the final evening – for us poor terrestrial TV beings it does lose a little impact not seeing it live – and I thought it was wonderful.

A huge winning margin in the end but still just enough of doubt to keep us on the edges of our seats until Monty did what Monty does when he is representing Europe.

Almost as soon as Bernhard Langer raised the Cup aloft we got the same old question from the pundits and commentators. What will this mean for European golf? It was the same when we won curling gold in the Winter Olympics and when our mixed doubles did well at badminton in the Athens games.

What will this mean for curling and badminton? Would everyone be heading to the nearest ice rink, not with skates but with one smooth soled shoe and a broom, or badgering the local village hall to mark out a court and invest in a net?

It was the same when England won the Rugby World Cup. We were going to be getting more youngsters wearing rugby shirts bearing the number 10 practicing goal kicking than football shirts carrying the number seven honing their free kicks.

Well we're a year on from that triumph in Sydney but there are still far more Beckham shirts in the high streets of Middle England than the slightly thicker one's bearing the name of Wilkinson.

We all know that in the short term we get a nice warm glow from such wins but in the long term they mean very little indeed. In many ways rightly so.

If golf was going to receive a huge boost because Europe won the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills, in Detroit, the reverse would have to be true as well. If we'd been hammered 18.5-9.5 would golf have gone into the doldrums for a while? Would people have stopped turning up at clubs? Would people be selling their Pings and Calloways and looking to take up curling, badminton or rugby union instead? Would the revenue streams at clubs begin to dry up and cutbacks become the order of the day? Would jobs go? To begin with those of greenkeepers but then that of the Editor of Greenkeeper International because without a strong profession there would be no funding to produce a greenkeeping magazine.

Thankfully, for you and me, the answer is no.

Having 12 players, or in the case of the US 11 players and Tiger Woods, battling it out for points over a magnificently presented course provides huge drama and no little excitement but having our own futures dependant on the outcome is another matter all together.

Let's just enjoy the fact that for the moment we are on top and can send emails to our American friends with the short but pithy message "Na, na, ni, na na!"

Scott MacCallum  
Editor

### DARREN AND SIMON WIN SURREY BOWL

The Surrey Bowl knockout final was held at Foxhills Golf Club on September 1.

The finalists were Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham, of West Surrey Golf Club, both playing off 7 handicap, and John Mathis off 1 handicap, from Southwood Golf Club, and Brian Turner off 3 handicap, from Sunningdale Golf Club.

In a keenly fought final, on a lovely summer's day (at last), Darren and Simon eventually ran out the winners by 3 and 1.

Congratulations to Darren and Simon but also to the runners-up John and Brian because it takes two teams to make a final.

I would also like to thank Dave Langheim and Dave Wyborn the two Course Managers and all the staff at Foxhills for all their help with the event, and giving us a course in great condition considering the weather of late. Thanks also to Lee West for running the event, and good luck in the new job.

Lastly, and a very big thank you must go to Bob Norris of TYM Tractors who stepped in at the eleventh hour to sponsor this event, thanks very much Bob and I hope we will be able to continue with your sponsorship again for next year.

Anthony Freeman  
Surrey Chairman



Winners of the 2004 Surrey Bowl Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham (left) with runners-up Brian Turner and John Mathis.



Section Chairman Anthony Freeman (left) receives a cheque on behalf of the Section from Bob Morris of TYM, the Tournament's sponsors.

### ADDING A NEW FACE TO HQ STAFF

September saw BIGGA welcome a new employee. Steve Coates has joined the Association in the position of Assistant Accountant, where he will work with Tony Cocker.



Steve, 25, has previously worked at both DuPontSA, in purchase ledger, and at Pearsons & Ward, where he was a legal cashier.

Between these two vocations Steve was employed by Pocklington Coachworks. The firm built coaches and support vehicles for major Formula 1 teams including McLaren, Williams and Toyota, and also for Foggy Petronas, home of four times World Champion Carl Foggaty.

Steve studied at the University of Sunderland, where he gained a 2:1 in Geography and Business Studies. Currently he is studying for his AAT, where he is at the technician stage. An ambitious individual, after passing his AAT Steve plans to go for his ACCA.

Steve is engaged to childhood sweetheart Emma, and they currently live together in Pickering.

It's been an exciting month for Steve and Emma, as well as his new job they have also celebrated a new arrival to the family. Their toy poodle, Kerry, has recently given birth to pup Betty.

### RECYCLED GLASS 'PROVED' TO HELP

The Sports Turf Research Institute found that replacing traditional sand on the golf course with sand derived from recycled glass improves the chances of those drawn to the bunker.

The two-year project found that the recycled glass sand provides a better performance level with a firmer footing underneath. For golfers, it means less plugging of the ball, a steeper angle of repose and reduced slumping, say WRAP.

Laboratory tests carried out during the trial showed that the recycled glass conformed to all necessary performance requirements, it said, and is capable of complying with United States Golf Association specifications.

WRAP said the glass-sand also proves beneficial for greenkeepers when used as a top dressing around divots, as it can blend into the ground better than traditional sand.

Andy Dawe, WRAP's materials sector manager for glass, said, "The trial undertaken by the STRI has been successful, confirming recycled glass derived sand is a quality alternative to traditional sand."

"At the same time, it offers greenkeepers a sustainable quality product, as well as a way to demonstrate their environmental awareness and responsibility," he added.

WRAP – the Waste and Resources Action Programme – has targets to directly facilitate the recycling of an additional 150,000 tonnes of glass into higher value markets by 2006.



## NEW SCOTTISH DEALER FOR RANSOMES JACOBSEN

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, the Ipswich based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer, has confirmed that Fairways (GM) Ltd will succeed Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd as the distributor for Ransomes Jacobsen products in Scotland with effect from 8 November 2004.

The Fairways Group is an established, family-owned business based at West Yonderton, close to Glasgow airport. Its major subsidiary companies are: Sportsgrounds Ltd, Sportsgrounds Machinery (a division of Sportsgrounds Ltd) and Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd.

David Withers, Sales and Marketing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen said, "We are delighted to confirm the appointment of Fairways GM as our new dealers for Scotland with effect from 8 November.

"The Fairways Group is a well-run and very professional business and I have great confidence that they will help us with the continued growth of the business here in the UK.

"The experience of the group and their commitment to the turf sector will ensure the delivery of outstanding service to our customer base in Scotland. We warmly welcome them to our dealer network."

Managing Director of the Fairways Group, David Rae added, "This appointment is a significant step for Fairways and we are equally delighted to be joining the dealer network of such a major player in the international turf care industry.

"To ensure the smooth transition of service for Ransomes Jacobsen customers we are currently sourcing and equipping additional depots in the west and east of Scotland and recruiting and training staff in readiness for 8 November.

"We bring a reputation for outstanding service and after sales support and look forward to building lasting relationships with existing customers and new prospects."



David Rae, Managing Director of Fairways (GM) Ltd.

## NEW FUNGAL DISEASE DISCOVERED

The fungal disease known in the US as Rapid Blight has recently been identified on a golf course in the UK. Rapid Blight is a disease that was first observed in California in 1995 and has since been seen in 11 other States across the US.

Initial symptoms on affected turf include water soaking of the leaves in small, irregular shaped patches. As the disease progresses, the affected areas coalesce and the infected plants eventually die. The damaged turf has been described as looking like a cross between Take-All patch and Fusarium patch.

Initially, the causal agent of this disease could not be determined. However, in 2003, Dr Mary Olsen and her team at the University of Arizona, isolated a species of *Labyrinthula* from turfgrass plants showing symptoms of the disease and have since confirmed that this pathogen is the cause of Rapid Blight.

Until this identification, all known reported species of *Labyrinthula* have only caused damage to plants in marine environments and salt-water estuaries.

The *Labyrinthula* pathogen is unlike any other previously described turfgrass pathogen. It is not a fungus and shares few, if any, characteristics in

common with the fungi generally accepted as causing disease on cool-season turfgrasses.

In all cases to date, Rapid Blight has developed on swards that have been irrigated with water with high sodium and bicarbonate levels (high salinity). Bentgrass, meadowgrass and ryegrass all appear to be affected by this disease but so far, fescues have appeared to be tolerant.

Rapid Blight disease has now been identified as developing on several greens on one golf course in the UK, following receipt of turf samples for analysis by Dr Kate Entwistle at The Turf Disease Centre. Kate confesses that, "Identifying turfgrass diseases is always a challenge and sometimes, it can take a large amount of detective work to finally confirm the cause of any damage.

"With this disease, however, the challenge was much greater. I had identified the presence of this unusual organism in all of the infected plants removed from the turf sample, but I had never seen anything like it before, apart from in printed articles. I read more about this new disease when I had heard of it in the US.

"Subsequently, I contacted Dr Olsen for support and eventually confirmed that what I was looking at was in fact the causal agent of Rapid Blight. I would like to thank Dr Olsen for all of her help to date and look forward to working with her in the future to learn more about this new disease".

Kate, who is a visiting Fellow of Cranfield University (Silsoe), has contacted the University about this new disease and work is in progress to study the pathogen more closely.

Kate says, "Colleagues at Cranfield are as excited as I am about this new discovery and I would like to thank them for their support and encouragement in working on this new disease. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Course Manager for initially sending the sample to me for analysis and subsequently for his time and willing cooperation in providing maintenance details and information to support our studies. His help is very much appreciated".

Information is available on the internet about this disease and you can contact Kate on 01256 880246 or email her at [Kate@theturf-diseasecentre.co.uk](mailto:Kate@theturf-diseasecentre.co.uk)

### Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



## NEW NAME FOR ETT

European Turf Technology Limited has become Environmental Turf Technology Limited.

Managing Director, Richard Lawrence commented, "We have seen massive growth throughout the world.

"We have become the largest supplier of specialist turf nutrients to the Middle East and the Caribbean, as well as a major supplier to mainland Europe.

"This coupled with our commitment to a proactive environmental policy made the choice of a new name obvious."

# Tip of the Month

This month by  
David Hannam MG



In this new feature BIGGA's Master Greenkeepers will be providing their tips to help you in your course management.

Attention to small detail should be high on a greenkeeper's list of priorities.

One particular tool which assists toward this end are hole trimming scissors.

The not so unusual scenario is you start out with a full set, then by-and-by you begin to notice pairs missing, normally because they have been lost, left somewhere or simply just dropped off a vehicle.

After finally 'getting round to it' this is my solution to the 'keep scissors in place so they don't migrate' thing.

Select a 15cm piece of 19mm rubber hosepipe. Cut out a small access hole near the top to put the fixing screw through. Shape the ends to suit your mood.

Attach to vehicle at ergonomic point, taking care that the 19mm No 10 self tapper doesn't touch anything behind the fixing bulkhead.

Scissors held captive; no vibration - job's a good'n!



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## NORTHERN HOST GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY EVENT FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Golf Management Trophy event is an invitation team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs in the Midland and Northern Regions of BIGGA, and has been running successfully in the Midland Region since 1997; this is the first year the event has been staged in the Northern Region.

The format - which is a Fourball Stableford (best two to count) - is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to win equipment for the golf club plus individual prizes.

Teams comprise a greenkeeper, who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee.

This year's Midland Region events were held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on July 22, and Dunstable Downs Golf Club on August 12. 24 teams entered each event, with Chilwell Manor Golf Club victorious at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, and Brickendon Grange Golf Club being the victors at Dunstable Downs Golf Club.



Childwall Golf Club; (L-R) David McAvoy, Head Greenkeeper, Alan Rawlinson, Chairman, Peter Bowen, Manager and Jeff Randles, Chairman of Green.

The inaugural events in the Northern Region were held at Teesside Golf Club on August 12, when 10 teams entered, and Carden Park Golf Club on August 23, when 16 teams played.

The winning team at Teesside Golf Club was Hornsea Golf Club, and Childwall Golf Club won the Carden Park event.

A big thank you from BIGGA to the four host clubs this year and also to all the golf

clubs that entered teams.

Our thanks also go to Scotts UK Professional for sponsoring these four events, and plans are underway to run similar events at different venues in 2005.

■ If your club would like an invitation next year, please contact Peter Larter, Midland & Northern Regional Administrator, telephone number: 01476 550115

## UNIQUE CHANCE FOR STUDENTS

Garside Sands, part of Aggregate Industries plc, is offering Sports Surface Technology students the unique chance to compete for a new scholarship.

All potential full-time students wishing to enrol on the Cranfield MSc will be given the opportunity to gain a study scholarship provided by Garside Sands.

This offers an outstanding way for a student to develop their personal understanding of sports surfaces on this scientific course, as well as working closely with one of the leading suppliers of sports sands in the country.

The scholarship will cover student fees and contribute towards living expenses.

In return, the student will work with Garside and the University academics to develop a personal research project to further enhance existing research and development programmes already undertaken by the business.

Colin Parke, General Manager of Garside Sands, said, "We developed this initiative in order to better understand the specific needs of the different sports markets through closer liaison with key industry professionals.

"This will enable us to develop specialist product ranges that meet the exacting specifications of the sports industry as well as providing funding for the sectors future talent."

The scholarship will be open to any full time student accepted onto the MSc programme in Sports Surface Technology for the coming academic year - October 2004.



Barry Heaney, (right) receives his crystal rose bowl.

## TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR BARRY

The Sheffield Section have presented Barry Heaney with a crystal rose bowl in appreciation of his commitment and service to the Section and BIGGA as a whole.

Barry was presented with the crystal rose bowl at the Section's Annual Tournament, which was held at Sickleholme Golf Club in July.

Barry's long and loyal service to the Section, BIGGA and greenkeeping in general has seen him take on almost every role possible.

These include Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Chairman, President and, of course, National Chairman in 1995.

Barry has always emphasised the importance of greenkeeper education and training and thus he has also sat on numerous BIGGA training and

education committees.

He has recently retired from his post of President in order to enjoy his other interests and spend more time with his family.

"As Barry takes a less active role in the Association to allow more time for his family, we send him and his wife Joan our very best wishes," said Gordon Brammah, Section Chairman.

"Barry has worked extremely hard on behalf of the Association at Section, Region and National level and we have all benefited from his advice and vast experience," stated John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive.

"On behalf of the entire Association I wish him all the best for the future and hope he truly enjoys his well earned rest."



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For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

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# Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, gears up for the busiest part of the training and education year...

## Competition final, courses start and a time to book

My latest holiday has faded into the distant past as we gear up for the busiest part of the year in the education and training department.

The Final of the TORO Student of the Year Competition has just taken place, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition is nearing its final stages, Regional Training Courses have started and we expect bookings for Continue to Learn 2005 to start flooding in.

Added to these, are preparations for the British and

International Turf Managers Conference, the design and production of a training and development manual and visits to the National Turf Grass Foundation Conference, the South West Region Conference, the Midlands Region Conference and the Northern Region conference.

I think that I may need another holiday before long although I have to take some time out to have surgery on both of my feet, leaving you in the capable hands of Sami.

## Golf Environment Competition

The STRI judges have completed their first round judging and are nearing the end of their golf course visits to determine the winners in this competition sponsored by WRAP, Scotts and Syngenta.

Clubs will be notified of the results during October and prizes will be awarded at BTME & ClubHouse. Watch out for full details in this magazine.

## TORO Student of the Year

Always the highlight of the year for me as this competition identifies the people who are the future of our industry.

Full details of the prize winners will appear in next month's edition of Greenkeeper International, but it is time that you started to think about entering the 2005 competition, when it could be you who wins the TORO Scholarship to the US.

## Regional Training Courses for under £50 a time

We have had some feedback saying that our Regional Training Course are too expensive.

Unfortunately, you cannot get quality training at no cost, someone has to pay.

Our courses receive a massive subsidy from the Education and Development Fund allowing us to keep the costs of a one day course to £49 + VAT, whereas the true cost is actually £80 +VAT per delegate.

Places are still available on the following courses.

### Presentation Skills

Ross on Wye Golf Club  
29 and 29 October

### Essential Management Skills

Ross on Wye Golf Club  
9 and 10 November

### Continue to Learn 2005

You should find a Continue to Learn 2005 brochure in this copy of Greenkeeper International. If not, contact BIGGA House to request your copy. Remember that places on the Workshops are limited, so send your application back to BIGGA House as soon as possible.

### Communication Skills

Cleethorpes Golf Club  
17 and 18 November

### Management Skills for HG and CM

Old Fold Manor Golf Club  
22 and 23 November

### Next Steps in Management Skills

Dunham Forest Golf Club  
25 and 26 November

### Negotiating Skills

Exeter Golf Club  
30 November

Each one-day course costs £49 + VAT and each two-day course costs £99 +VAT  
Contact BIGGA House to book your place.

## BITMC

Plans are almost complete for the British and International Turf Managers Conference that takes place at Staverton Park Conference Centre on 19 and 20 March 2005. Watch out for more details in future editions of this magazine, at BTME & ClubHouse or ask Sami when she is in Southport for the NTF Conference next month.



## David Golding explains how the GTC's role in greenkeeper education and training influences the future of maintenance standards on British golf courses.

Let me start by posing a few questions:-  
Who do you think is ultimately responsible for the development and review of qualifications in the greenkeeping sector?  
How can you influence the content of the greenkeeping qualifications?  
How can you help to ensure that the education and training programmes, on offer by training providers, are to the standards set by the industry working together with the Awarding Bodies?

The answer to the first question is the GTC and the answer to the second and third questions is through the GTC that relies on a wide consultation network, which could include you.

Whether you are a golf club employer, golf course manager or apprentice greenkeeper, the GTC welcomes your input to help maintain the standards of greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

The Government has established a group of organisations called Sector Skills Councils (SSC) that have been commissioned to represent the various UK industries on a range of issues, including the provision of qualifications for their particular sector.

I intend to try and keep simple the explanation of how the GTC, representing a relatively small specialist sector, in terms of employers and employees, can influence the Government.

The Lantra SSC is licensed by the Government to represent the land-based sector. This sector is vast and includes agriculture, horticulture and landscaping. Sportsturf (i.e. greenkeeping) is part of the landscaping group.

The GTC is represented on the standard setting group at Lantra and this is where it makes its presence felt when it comes to ensuring that qualifications and apprenticeship schemes are relevant for both employers and for greenkeepers in the UK.

Let me also give you a quick reminder as to why we have to work with the Government. For many years the greenkeeping sector has accepted the national framework of qualifications, as they attract a substantial amount of government subsidies. This makes formal training very cost effective to employers. The traditional City & Guilds pass/fail Phases, were replaced by the vocational (work-based) qualifications in the early nineties.

Whether you personally favoured the old system or not, the GTC has adopted and taken "ownership" of the VQ's as they have been designed to

include the skills required by employers. The apprenticeship schemes – which lead to N/SVQ's - have all been developed to meet employers' needs.

I get very upset when I hear criticism of the work-based system by people who owe so much to the way they were trained informally on the job by their Head Greenkeeper, as today's qualifications are only a more formal style of that tried and tested system. The GTC does acknowledge there is a need for more academic qualifications, hence the options of National Awards, Diploma's and Degrees.

The GTC has an excellent relationship with the Lantra SSC and it is invited to contribute to all matters relating to qualifications and training schemes.

A Sports Turf Review Group, which includes Course Managers, Training Provider representatives and specialist advisors helps to set standards for the greenkeeping sector.

This is where you can contribute and influence the content of the various qualifications and schemes. Whether you have just completed an N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf, an HNC or a Degree, the GTC really values your comments, whether you think changes could or should not be considered to improve the awards. Please let the GTC know your ideas.

Once qualifications have been developed, Lantra submits them to the accreditation bodies, and the Awarding Bodies e.g. City & Guilds and the Scottish Qualifications Authority take over.

The Awarding Bodies then appoint centres, often colleges, which offer the various qualifications. It is also the AB's role to "police" the Centres and again this is where the GTC has an excellent relationship with both the AB's and the Centres.

You too can help the GTC to help others by informing us of your experience on a particular course or how a centre is performing. This is all part of the GTC's role to help monitor education provision.

I will discuss the various learning options and training methods for greenkeepers in next months' article but for now I hope that you have a better understanding of one of the most important roles of the GTC.

In summary, if you feel that the content of a particular qualification could be improved

or that training provision at a particular Centre is either excellent or not up to standard and needs checking then let the GTC know!

The GTC can be contacted on Tel 01347 838640 or E-mail [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk)

***'The GTC has adopted and taken "ownership" of the VQ's as they have been designed to include the skills required by employers'***

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