

ENGLAND

MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.

Contact: Learner Services
Tel: 01483 884040

Email: mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk **Web:** www.guildford.ac.uk

Information: Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, New Level 2 Sportsturf in conjunction with IOG / NPTC, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line distance learning, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years, HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years, Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science (subject to validation) plus various NPTC short courses including Irrigation Certificate Course, Turf Maintenance Equipment and Operation of Mowers throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE

Ditchling Road, Plumpton,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE

Contact: David Blackmur
Tel: 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071

Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk
Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE).



Information: Foundation degree in Horticulture and Garden Design, National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture.

Part time courses: NVQ Level 1. NVQ Level 2 in Landscaping, Decorative and Sportsturf, NVQ Level 3: Sportsturf. NVQ level 4. Also RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses available: FEPA spraying and chainsaw. Bespoke training following training needs analysis, (TNA).

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY

Contact: Stewart Brown

Tel: 01995 642305 **Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk

Information: Myerscough College is a leading centre for Sportsturf education and training in Europe and has excellent facilities supported by industry. These include a golf course, winter games pitches, an artificial grass pitch, and extensive library, workshop and laboratory resources. Specialist machinery and equipment is used throughout the curriculum to support the development of student learning and understanding of the practical, technical and scientific aspects of their chosen course and career. Courses are available for all levels from National Certificate to an Honours Degree in Turfgrass Science. Courses are available for full-time attendance, part-time or on Online basis. Our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Turfgrass Science courses are uniquely available ONLINE and have students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the American continent. Our Work based Training group offer NVQ's in the workplace from levels 2-4.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE

Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF

Contact: Gareth Phillips or Chard Spicer

Tel: 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665

Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Information: Foundation Degree and Higher National Certificate in Golf and Sports Turf Management; National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf; NVQ levels 2 & 3 in Sports Turf; Apprenticeships; NPTC Qualifications.

On-site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, football and rugby pitches, Crewe Alexandra training grounds



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

St Albans Smallford Campus,
Hatfield Road, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA

Contact: Andrew Wight

Tel: 01727 737080

Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk

Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Information: Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. HNC in Sportsturf. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Apprenticeship Training. Short NPTC Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE

Moreton Morrell Centre,
Warwick CV35 9BL

Contact: Pat Foster

Tel: 01926 318347 **Fax:** 01926 318300

Email: pfoster@warkscol.ac.uk

Information: Greenkeeping courses include: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (2 yrs full-time, 3 yrs part-time), NVQ Level 2 & 3 day release and work-based options, NPTC level 2 National Certificate Sports & Amenity Turf Management (1 yr full-time, 2 years part-time). A full list of horticulture, landscape design, arboriculture and floristry courses available at all levels. Short Courses include: Chainsaw Operation and Maintenance, Pesticide Application, Fences/Wooden Structures, Landscape Design, Tractor Driving, Hedgelaying and more. Warwickshire College also offer a range of land-based courses, areas include: Animal Welfare, Equine and Agriculture.



INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE: BECOME A MEMBER OF BIGGA

Visit the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk and select "Join" from the menu or contact the Membership team on 01347 833800 option 1.

BIGGA Membership is about maximising resources for the benefit of members and ensuring that Golf Clubs recognise the importance and benefits of education within the profession.

WRITTLE COLLEGE

Chelmsford, Essex CMI 3RR

Tel: 01245 424200

Fax: 01245 420456

Email: info@writtle.ac.uk **Minicom:** 01245 424254

Web: www.writtle.ac.uk **Typetalk/TextDirect:** 18001 01245 424200



Information:

BSc (Hons) Horticulture, FdSc Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Green Space Management FdSc Green Space Management, BSc (Hons) Social and Therapeutic Horticulture FdSc Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, FdSc Professional Floristry Professional Floristry Top-up Year to BSc (Hons) Certificate of Continuing Education Horticulture Higher Certificate in Horticulture

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

Greenkeeping can offer you a career for life and a lifetime of learning



Student Membership of BIGGA (for those studying full-time)

Greenkeeping is a rewarding and challenging career choice for all ages and abilities from school leavers to those considering a career change, let BIGGA help you develop your career as a greenkeeper by becoming a Student Member.

Membership of BIGGA will provide you with: -

Greenkeeper International

The Association's much read magazine packed with up to the minute information and features providing you with valuable research and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. Delivered FREE to you door monthly.

Membership Handbook

Providing you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the fine turf industry and the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Handbook also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section.

Harrogate Week



Entry to a world class trade event. The Trade Exhibition has over 200 exhibitors and 8,500 visitors. There can be no better place to 'Continue to Learn' than taking part in the education programme. Students will find much that will demand their attention including seminars of specific interest. On production of your Student membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge. Not to mention the fantastic networking opportunities available throughout the whole of this week, another valuable way of learning...from those already in the industry.

On Course Field Guides

To aid with your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series. Produced in a handy to use and read format. Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund there are five in the series: -

- Golf Course Grasses;
- Identification and uses of the main grasses found in golf course rough;
- Identification of trees and shrubs on the golf course;
- Identification of damage caused by mammals and birds;
- The major diseases and pests of fine turf.

BIGGA Lending Library

Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking? The lending library is available to all BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

BIGGA Website

Check out the latest Jobs online by visiting www.bigga.org.uk

Application Form - for an application form either download a form from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/join/membership-forms/ or contact the membership team on 01347 833800 option 1 for membership.

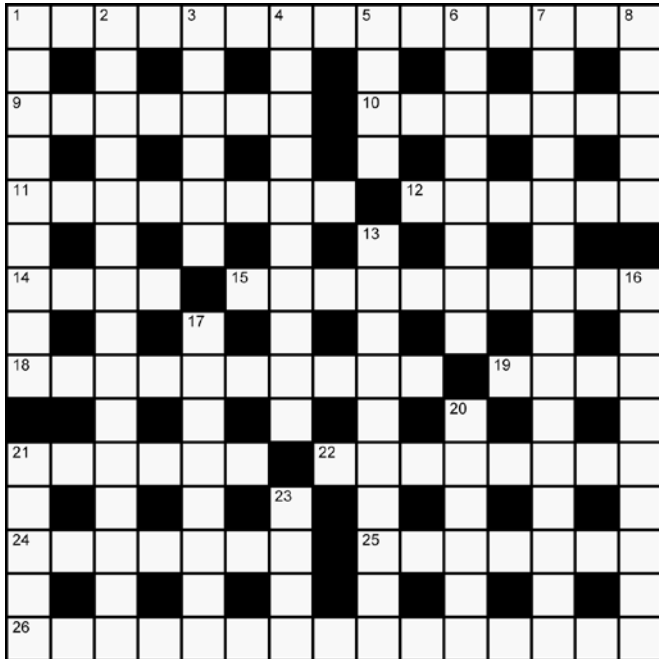




In the Shed

Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 1953 Pulitzer Prize winner for *The Old Man and the Sea* (6,9)
- 9 1980 Winter Olympics figure skating gold medal winner (7)
Type of rope knot that uses friction (7)
- 11 Individually specified in a list (8)
- 12 Advantage, gain (6)
- 14 Shaft on which wheel rotates (4)
- 15 Lemon-scented oil often used to repel insects (10)
- 18 Discovers, confirms (10)
- 19 Type of cabbage; type of pastry (4)
- 21 Proper word for "Quaker" (6)
- 22 Pertaining to ancient Greek and Roman cultures (8)
- 24 Female fire-breathing monster of Greek myth (7)
- 25 Occurring at the beginning (7)
- 26 Nickname of *Oliver Twist* character Jack Dawkins (3,6,6)

Down

- 1 Type of Mexican tortilla dish (9)
- 2 Type of French cooking that relies on light sauces (8,7)
- 3 Liveliness; heart (6)
- 4 Excessively emotional (10)
- 5 To be gloomily apathetic (4)
- 6 Elementary particle which has no charge or mass (8)
- 7 Unrealistic hope about something which will not happen (7,8)
- 8 Cruising or racing vessel (5)
- 13 TV programme based on a school in Northam (6,4)
- 16 Fondly indulgent (9)
- 17 Magnificence (8)
- 20 Person with unpigmented eyes, skin and hair (6)

QUICK 'NINE-HOLE' QUIZ

1. With which famous horse race is the name of Red Rum associated?
2. Where were the first Winter Olympics held in 1924?
3. In football, which Brazilian was known as 'The Little Bird'?
4. Which bird gives Newcastle their nickname?
5. Who partnered Michael Schumacher at Ferrari in 1997?
6. Which West Ham player received FIFA's 'Fair Play Award for 2001'?
7. In sport, what would you be playing if you were using a shuttlecock?
8. With which sport was John Fashanu associated?
9. In football, who were the first team to win the Jules Rimet Trophy twice?

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A, B and C.

E	C			B	6	3	8	5		
		7	4		1		A	F		
D		A		5	0	7	E	4		
0	F				D	4	2		1	8
	2	0		3		F	A		D	
7		A		0	F	3	6		9	2
1		3			9	B	C			E
	D		7	4	E	2			6	A
5		4			F	B	2	1		D
		2			6	8	A			7
6			C	B	7	9	0		5	8
B		8		5	2		E		A	1
C	D	B		6	7	A				9
		4	5		C	8	B		E	6
		9	2		D			F	7	
		2	B	1	4	0			F	D

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 12 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

		2	5		4	7		9
7	5							
3								2
				5	8		4	
		4	7		6	2		
	6		4	2				
9								6
							8	3
8		6	9		1	5		

ANSWERS ON PAGE 58



IN THE SHED



THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

Scott MacCallum travelled to Syngenta's Research base in Switzerland to witness just what it takes to produce some of the products greenkeepers now have at their disposal



Many people take their chances on the lottery each week, all hoping for that life changing moment when the six drawn numbers match their chosen six, but at Syngenta, BIGGA's latest Golden Key Supporter, the research teams battle daily against lottery-sized odds to produce products which will enhance the working practices of the world's greenkeepers.

Sound a bit of an exaggeration? Well, each product which makes it to the shelves has been whittled down from 250,000 hopefuls to one or possibly two which go on to become a fully fledged member of Syngenta's product range.

"Whenever we have a big breakthrough we celebrate," explained Eva Haensel, Syngenta's Professional Products Turf Team Leader, based at the company's Research Station in Stein, in northern Switzerland, of occasions which perhaps only occur seven or eight times a year.

Syngenta has a large administrative Headquarters in Basel, but it is at Stein, around 20 miles away, where the exciting work is carried out. A vast complex, it contains laboratories covering chemistry and biology,

a vast acreage of greenhouses, specially conceived chambers which replicate different climates, not to mention breeding stations for laboratory pests and diseases so miniaturised testing can take place on site. The level of expertise drawn from all over the world working at Stein is such that a call of "Is there a Doctor in the house?" would be met by a veritable stampede such is the number of people with "PhD" after their name.

But the word stampede and Syngenta certainly don't go together. The overwhelming feeling is one of calm efficiency and a raised voice would only be likely to be heard if fire were to sweep the complex. A simple example of this quiet, understated organisation came while sitting in one of the conference rooms early in the afternoon while chatting with Simon Elsworth, Head of Professional Products for UK and Ireland, when the blinds quietly tilted and then lifted, letting sunshine into the room. The building doesn't have energy sapping air conditioning units but temperature is controlled automatically by the tilting and lifting of the blinds, thus providing the optimum temperature.

But it is what is going on in the laboratories that is really eye popping and a closer look at the process to becoming a product brings home just what it takes to producing the products the existence of which many customer might be forgiven for taking for granted.

Most of the 250,000 active ingredients which start the long arduous process of becoming the next Primo Maxx, Heritage, Banner Maxx or Daconil fall at the first hurdle following an assessment, with just 15,000 making it to the next stage. Then profiling, much more vicious than anything Simon Cowell produces, brings that figure down to a mere 30 hopefuls before, hopefully, a winner is finally identified.

Oh, and this whole process, involving Chemistry, Biology, Toxicology and Environmental Safety, can

take 10 years. And then there is only a limited amount of time when the product is licensed to maximise profit from it.

"And when it is all complete we've got to be sure that the product is going to make an impact as unless it is a market leader, or close to market leadership we wouldn't make a return on the investment," explained Simon.

It is when you see this whole process laid out before you that you can appreciate the investment that a company needs to put into any new product which is lucky enough to reach the market place. And this is all the more impressive when you delve further into each stage of the process.

The initial "Discovery" stage actually takes place in the UK, at Jealot's Hill, near Reading, where chemicals are tested to see if they contain properties which might ultimately prove valuable.

Millions of tests are carried out each year to give the best chance of uncovering something new. "Toxicology" takes place at Alderly Park, near Macclesfield, while "Optimisation" - where those active ingredients which showed potential are investigated further to reveal practical benefits which takes place in Stein.

Project teams work tirelessly on developing something from the active ingredients, with many more being eliminated at this stage than moving forward as a development candidate. Using cutting edge techniques the chemists aim to modify the structure of chemicals in order to bring about improvements in their biological, physical and environmental properties which will then lead to new or improved products.

In many cases special bespoke equipment and state-of-the-art robotics has to be developed at significant cost to ensure experiments are as accurate as possible, while the environment in which the work is carried out needs to be devoid





of any possible contamination which would distort findings.

They also have to breed their own bugs and diseases – Anthracnose, Pythium Blight, Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, Tall All Patch, Fusarium Patch and Gray Leaf Spot - so that chemicals can be tested on them.

At the Research Station in Stein there is a unit of around 30 chambers in which different climates from around the world can be replicated to ensure that it isn't just the northern Swiss conditions that are experienced. But tests are also carried out in the field all over the world to ensure that the results of theoretical testing at the research stations are replicated under field conditions.

Looking at what goes on and the added dimension offered by the equipment now available it is fair to ask how it was done in the old days.

"The level of testing that is carried out now wasn't possible before but the the equipment we have enables us to exceed what the increasingly rigorous regulations expected of us" said Dr Shoumo Mitra , Global Technical Manager for turf, who is based in Basel.

Once a potential product has been identified another set of hurdles lies in wait in the shape of the registration procedures are then undertaken with various tests in various parts of the country to ensure that nothing could be harmful to the environment – flora or fauna. A product must pass all of these tests, and do so in each country in which it is to be sold, before being licensed, and becoming available to the market.

"In total it costs around \$100,000,000 to achieve a registration for an active ingredient in Europe and that is before the costs of developing and registering the formulated products after which we only have the time available on the license to make that money back," explained Simon.

"The tougher the regulations are and the higher the bar is set the happier we are because that will penalise the less ethical companies," he added.

It's a massive operation and all geared to ensuring that Syngenta have the best chance of ensuring the most effective product reaches the market

place and gives customers the best ammunition for the problems they face.

In its current guise, Syngenta is a young company having been formed in the year 2000 but its origins can be traced back 250 years when JR Geigy Ltd began producing chemicals and dyes in Basel and some of its pre-Syngenta identities will be extremely well known to greenkeepers everywhere.

A succession of mergers, name changes and acquisitions led to what had been originally Geigy becoming Novartis which in 2000 merged with Astra Zeneca, which had been Zeneca and before that ICI, to become Syngenta.

One of the company's greatest successes has been Primo Maxx which is increasingly becoming an (essential or 'must have') tool for Course Managers.

"The product works on so many levels to make good turf great; turf quality improved with a Primo programme enhances the playing surface, turf stays looking greener and healthier during periods of stress and, with stronger plants and deeper rooting, makes more efficient use of increasingly costly irrigation and fertiliser. Course managers also appreciate the cost and labour saving benefits of Primo reducing mowing requirements." The reduction in cutting also has knock-on benefits to fuel use and the environment," explained Simon, adding that Syngenta is proud to be a sponsor of BIGGA's Golf Environment Competition.

Clubs which typically spend up to 40 man hours a week mowing fairways through the growing season can find that time halved following a Primo Maxx programme while it can result in over £4000 a year being saved from fuel, maintenance and repair bills.

But it's not just on chemical product that Syngenta offer support to its customers, the company

prides itself on a holistic approach, with technical newsletters and a fine website for customers and the weather forecasting service, Green Cast.

"Green Cast gives a full weather forecasting service for a golf club but more than that gives a risk forecast for disease from 'No Risk' through 'Some Risk', 'Medium Risk', 'Medium/High Risk' to 'High Risk' and this gives Course Managers the opportunity to carry out some pro-active turf disease control. Timing trials at the STRI show it can improve results and reduce the number of applications required to achieve both excellent disease control and turf quality."

A useful section of the Green Cast service can be accessed via the Homepage of the BIGGA website while the full service is available from Syngenta.

Looking forward to what may be in store from Syngenta Simon is sure that there will be some innovative and exciting new products set to his the market place in the years ahead.

"We are investing in developing a wide range of new technologies and will be launching new products and services over the next few years, always aiming to produce the highest levels of quality and performance," he revealed

In keeping with the company's strong environmental ethic Syngenta will continue to work closely with the STRI's Environmental Unit on the development of products and management techniques to prepare and maintain areas for conservation purposes, showing that good environmental stewardship and a controls company can work hand in hand.



New Products



NEW PRODUCTS



NEW COMPACT TRACTOR

Massey Ferguson has revised its 1500 Series compact tractor range with the introduction of the MF 1529M, a 28hp three-cylinder model with an eight forward, eight reverse Synchro-Shuttle transmission giving forward speeds from 2.3 - 27km/h.

Replacing the MF 1528 in the 1500 Series line-up, the new model joins the 32hp MF 1532M launched by the company at Harrogate Week 2008.

i www.masseyferguson.com



FUEL TANK SYSTEM OVERCOMES SAFETY FEARS

Storing or moving petrol or diesel, for small vehicles, or uses like generators or mowers is not always easy. Filling cans and carrying them in cars or vans is not a safe procedure and can invalidate insurance cover. The new Tuffa Petrol Buggy 200 litre steel bunded and fireproofed tank meets this problem. Transportable and easy to handle, the new tank is UN approved and can fit on to a pickup or other truck for site or other movements.

i 08707 567700
www.tuffa.co.uk

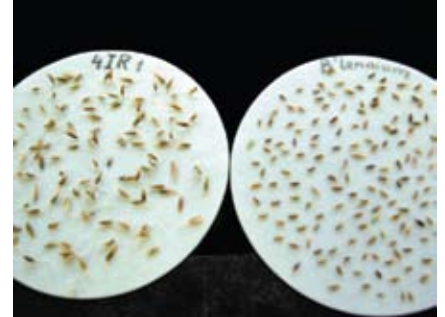


ORGANIC NUTRITIONAL ALGINATE RANGE

Sherriff Amenity have launched SeaVolution, a new organic nutritional alginates range, produced from the seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum*, which is sourced from the unpolluted bays along the North West coast of Ireland.

There are four products in the SeaVolution range: SeaVolution Golf; SeaVolution Golf Plus; SeaVolution Sport and SeaVolution Sport Plus.

i 01638 721888
www.sherriffamenity.com



SAVING YOUR SURFACES

Brand new from Barenbrug is BAR 50 SOS, a unique ryegrass blend that's ideal for groundsmen and greenkeepers seeking a rapid solution to their turf repair needs.

i 01359 272000
www.barenbrug.co.uk



EFFICIENT YET SAFE ON YOUNG TURF

Cabadex, Headland's new selective herbicide, brings effective control of difficult weeds to both established and young turf.

Combined leaf and root uptake of the active ingredients Florasulam and Fluroxypyr, means that the product can be efficient and safe even on turf at, or after the second leaf stage, approximately eight weeks after sowing.

i 01223 597834
www.headlandamenity.com

INNOVATIVE NEW MARKING SYSTEM

With the introduction of the EasyMark System, Standard Golf Company brings ease and flexibility to placing a flagstick virtually anywhere on a golf course.

The system includes a Tap-In Flagstick Anchor and a 3" spotter ring which allows flagsticks to be placed virtually anywhere in a matter of seconds. The EasyMark System is especially useful for driving ranges and temporary greens, where flagsticks may be changed often in a variety of circumstances.

i 1-866-743-9773
www.standardgolf.com

NEW BOOKLET HELPS IRRIGATORS

The Environment Agency has published a guide for farmers, golf course managers and others who are considering building a storage reservoir for irrigation.

Careful planning when building a reservoir can reduce costs and maximise benefits.

The booklet provides a guide through the various stages from planning, design, construction through to commissioning. It includes case studies, information on costs and funding and incorporating environmental enhancements. This booklet can help make the process easier.

i 08708 506506
www.environment-agency.gov.uk



NEW LOOK MODELS

All new automotive styling and EPS (Electronic Power Steering) are among the changes Kawasaki has made to its new Mule 4010 Diesel 4x4 and four-seater Mule 4010 Trans 4x4 Diesel utility vehicles for the coming year. Retaining the proven liquid-cooled 953cc three-cylinder diesel engine and continuously variable transmission (CVT) of the existing Mule 3010 series, the new Mule 4010 offers enhanced operator comfort and increased on-board stowage space.

i www.kawasaki.co.uk



PNEUMATIC SEED DRILL

Rolawn has developed what it believes to be the most advanced pneumatic seed drill in the UK.

Designed and built in house by our experienced fabrication team, it drills at 9 metres wide and has three 3 metre independent seed drill units and a hopper that holds nearly 2 tonnes of seed enabling it to drill up to 100 acres per day.

i www.rolawn.co.uk or: www.topsoil.co.uk



TRACK LOADER

New from Terex is the PT-30. The most compact Rubber Track Loader in the Terex range it gives a single person the productivity of an entire crew of hand labour. It has the manoeuvrability to work in confined or difficult-to-reach areas and very low ground pressure so it works over sensitive areas with minimal impact.

i www.terex.com

NEW TRACTORS FROM KUBOTA

Kubota has introduced the new M40 Series of next generation tractors – spanning 60 to 95hp – which succeeds the ME Series.

Re-engineered, restyled and powered by Kubota's Tier III compliant, low emission direct injections diesel engines, the lightweight, short-wheelbase M40 tractors will appeal to groundscape professionals and offer a choice of four Horsepower variants (60, 70, 85 & 95) with factory fitted cabs.

The tractors combine high power to weight ratio, a range of new features and class leading manoeuvrability. The simplicity of the M40 Series further enhances its appeal with Kubota successfully incorporating new innovations without compromising on ease of use.

All models feature Kubota's latest Tier III compliant, 4 cylinder E-CDIS (centre direct injection system) engines, with the two larger models – M8540 and M9540 – being turbo charged. Excellent fuel economy, and minimised noise and vibration levels, is matched with a 110 Litre capacity fuel tank many hours of work without refuelling.

The M40 Series is equipped with a Hydraulic Shuttle for smooth, progressive take up of the drive, and responsive, clutchless directional changes, ideal for front loader work in particular. With a 36F/36R speed range incorporating Dual Speed* – a half gear splitter also featured on the Kubota's larger M108S 108hp machine – changes on the move are quick and simple. They have a maximum speed of 40kph and Creep Speed is standard on all models.

i 0800 023 1111
www.kubota.co.uk





News from the Chief Executive

July and the golf season is already half over, or so it seems to me. Because of injury I have not struck a ball in anger since January 3 and my wife is now wondering why I loyally paid my subscription earlier in the year. I too am calculating how many rounds I will need to get in before the end of the year to justify to her a renewal in 2009. The reality is that I will not be able, or allowed, to play the number of games now needed to bring the average cost per round down to an acceptable level. The more I talk to friends and other golfers and the more I communicate with other bodies within golf the more I realise that I am not alone.

The halcyon days of demand exceeding supply are over and will not return in my opinion. The golfer now has greater choice of venue, equipment, but less time to play and certainly an increasing demand on his financial resources. It is estimated that less than one in three golfers now pays a subscription, the preferred option being to adopt a 'Pay and Play' approach. Does that impact upon BIGGA? Yes, and in a big way.

We are all well aware of the financial constraints that many clubs are facing as they vie for members and visitors. The greenkeeping staff are all too often expected to produce better and better results with a budget that is at best, frozen. Greenkeepers become pressurised, stressed, disillusioned or perhaps in conflict with their employer and in extreme cases face legitimate, or fabricated, redundancy. The Association, which is after all your Association, is working with the other bodies in golf to resolve friction and wherever possible address issues before conflict arises. It is also in the process of putting in place a more effective and better publicised welfare and benevolent support system and I encourage any member who would be prepared to offer help to contact either myself or Tracey Maddison (Head of Membership Services at HQ). Our details are in the front of Greenkeeper International.

As less money changes hands in our part of the golf industry so companies spend less with BIGGA on advertising or the exhibition - an old chestnut that is not getting any better. None of us are exempt from the change in golf but the trick is to learn to adapt and develop wherever possible, in being prepared to take advantage of educational opportunities to develop one's ability to manage change and accept that change is inevitable. Greenkeepers often seem to be the sole victims of the changing face of golf but I assure you that they are not alone. Many golf club secretaries and managers are suffering the same pressures and gone is the day of it being a cushy second career, that's if it ever was in the first place!

Training and education is available through BIGGA and if you don't see what you want then contact your Section Secretary, your Regional Administrator or BIGGA HQ. Please view education as a lifelong experience and be proactive rather than reactive. We can help from basic literacy or numeric skills to perhaps higher education. There are grants and scholarships available and there is money in the industry sponsored BIGGA Learning and Development Fund but you, the member, need to take action.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

As I sit and write this at the beginning of June, the weather appears to have taken a turn for the better and the growth looks to have arrived. How much longer before we hear the cries from our members "Aren't you going to cut that rough down!" Strange how they always want the rough cut but when it's gorse bushes or trees you cut back they hate it.

I'm sure everyone is busy at this time of year with the competition season in full swing but we have just had a hectic weekend in the St Andrews area with the Scottish Police Championships on the Devlin Course at St Andrews Fairmont Hotel, The Scottish Stroke Play Championships at the Dukes, a local Club's Championship qualifier on the New Course, an Open on the Jubilee Course and the Curtis Cup on the Old Course which attracted 4,000 spectators trampling over the Links.

Elmwood have just opened their full course after the alterations made there and the Castle Course opened on June 28. Now it is Fairmont's turn with the Torrance course closed for the rest of this year as it gets a complete revamp.

The Autumn Outing will be held at Dunblane New Golf Club on Thursday, September 4, when we have the tee from 1pm until 3pm. Entry forms will be emailed to those whose email address we have and they will be available to download from the website: www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Alternatively, if anyone requires an entry form sent to them by post, please contact the Secretary. By not doing a standard mailshot the Section will be saving close to £100.

Gordon Moir



EAST

I start this month's report with the news that Ian Kinley currently working at The Glen Golf Club in North Berwick has been appointed Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl in Wales. He commenced his career at Royal Birkdale working under the guidance of Chris Whittle, before moving to The Old Course at St Andrews and then to Lahinch as Deputy in 2002. In June 2004 he was appointed Head Man at The Glen where he has made many improvements during the past four years.

On taking up his new position on July 14, he will have achieved a quadruple by working in all four home countries. I am sure everybody in the section will join me in wishing him every success in the future.

The big event in The Borders in May was held at The Macdonald Cardrona Hotel with the marriage of Jane Anderson from Innerleithen to Robert Hogarth the former Head Man at Cardrona who is now at Remedy Oaks in Dorset. Many well known faces from the world of Greenkeeping were in attendance and included Ian Macleod from Tain, Paul Murphy from Downfield and the current Course Manager at Cardrona Donald Campbell.

Around the Green

At the time of writing the happy couple are spending their honeymoon in Mexico. N.B. I understand from a good source that football was not a topic for discussion during the day!

The new Head Greenkeeper at Kingsfield Golf Centre near Linlithgow is Lee Fraser who has worked previously at both Linlithgow and Aberdour Golf Clubs under the guidance of David Roy and Mark Laing respectively. On the move to Kingsfield as First Assistant is former Toro Student Finalist, Barrie Lewis who is currently employed as an assistant at Ratho Park. There is currently major improvements being carried out at Kingsfield with a new 9 hole course under construction.

On a personal note, I now realise that the old saying "lady's are better at multi tasking than men" is probably true, if my recent efforts of gardening, cooking and housekeeping are anything to go by. Yes you've guessed, Roz is on holiday yet again!

Until Next Month

Mike Dooner



NORTH

Hi guys, hope you are all well. We are now getting into the full swing of the season and trying to keep the other 100's of greenkeepers at your respective clubs happy - namely the members. The weather has been great for the most part of May, very little rain in fact, what was I speaking about just a couple of months ago. What snow?

We, down at Murcar Links, are already starting to hand water certain areas of the course - I don't think we're the only ones.

There are a few snippets of news this month ranging from babies being born, to people getting themselves a new job, to the greenkeepers getting beaten in the annual trades' competition.

Firstly congratulations are winging their way to young Davie Merchant, from Murcar Links, and his fiancée Stacey, on the safe arrival of little, Aiden. Next she'll be wanting to name a date mate. Don't do it! I hear his regular trips to the local have come to an abrupt end. Just think of all the nappies that money will buy. Congratulations go to Alistair Mathieson on his success in becoming the new Course Manager at Cruden Bay. Alistair has moved down from Royal Dornoch, nearer to the big city and I hope that people will make him feel welcome.

What happened to the greenkeepers teams in the Trades' Competition at Hazelhead? Greenkeepers made it through to the third round where they were soundly baton, sorry, beaten by the police. I think George must have been too busy thinking about all the five minute jobs he was preparing for the next day. Sadly two greenkeepers were beaten in the first round. Thanks lads as it has been a while since we have been able to put in two teams, so well done.

That's all for this month. If you have any news call me on: 07813889374.

Ben Brookes



NORTHERN REGION - NORTH EAST

Well what can we write about this month. I know what, I wonder how many golf clubs are spending lots of money on their course this year as we hear that golf clubs are all suffering with no waiting lists. Everyone seems to be trying to give the best deal for membership discounts here, there and everywhere but they still seem to find money for inside the club but one club here in the Section seem to be on the right track, Boldon Golf Club.

This year they have purchased quite a bit of new John Deere machinery. Not resting on their laurels they installed a full new irrigation system and furthermore they are investing in a verti-drain in October - now there's a club with ambition. I wish more clubs would do what Boldon have done, I hear it all the time they have no money but they still manage to find it somewhere and guess where its spent? You've guessed it, it's the clubhouse.

Rockcliffe Hall new staff appointments for the course are as follows: Pete Newton, previously at the Brabazon at the Belfry, is Head Greenkeeper; Jon Wyre, previously Forest of Arden, is First Assistant; both Gerry Glancy and James Bell, both who had worked at Slaley, and finally Adam McFarlane, fresh from doing HNC at Elmwood College, are all classed as Senior Greenkeepers. If anyone fancies working there they are still looking for one trainee this year.

Anyone who is looking forward to the John Deere Team Championship, this year hosted by Greenlay again, it will be played at Close House Golf and Country Club on July 17 - no doubt you will be notified in due course.

While I'm talking about this golf club if you have read Aprils issue of Golf North East you will notice that Course Manager Brian Clark had mentioned in the greenkeeper's diary column, laying 80 tonnes of tarmac on 13 new pathways - just think of all the manpower saved no weeding, no topping up and best of all nothing been washed away - my god somebody has got it right at last.

Jimmy Richardson



NORTH WEST

After a recent committee meeting it was decided that I would take over as North West Secretary. The job is very daunting but if I can do half as well as Bert did then I will be pleased. If you need any help or advice please contact me on: 0151 2894625 or you can email me at: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

By the time you read these notes The Open will be a few weeks away. Good luck to everyone at Birkdale, I am sure it will be a great Open and everyone will be praising the course and recognising all the hard work that goes into making The Open, in my opinion, the best golf tournament in the world.

Around the Green

Our next fixture in the Section is the Autumn Tournament which takes place at Davenport GC on September 4. Don't forget to put your name down as early as possible. I have recently spoke to Stuart Bridge who is making slow but good progress and he is hoping to come along to one of the fixtures and meet up with friends and colleagues.

Well that's all for now, if you have any news please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chris Sheehan



NORTHERN

As some of you will already know, former Northern Section Chairman, Andy Slingsby, has quit greenkeeping and resigned his position on the committee. Andy and his family have taken over as landlords of the Winterburn pub in Warley, on the outskirts of Halifax. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Andy and his family all the very best in their new careers, and thank him for all the hard work he has done for the Section.

April 30 was the date for this year's first golf day, and it was held at Filey Golf Club. A massive thank you and congratulations must go to Andy and his team, and everyone at Filey for producing such a fantastic course. The weather conditions in the run up to the day were horrendous, and the course was a credit to the hard work put in. Congratulations also to all the winners on the day, and a huge thank you to Sheriff Amenity for their sponsorship.

This year's match against the Sheffield Section will be held at Otley Golf Club on Wednesday, July 23. If anybody would like to play in the match and represent the Section then please get in touch as soon as possible.

I will finish off this month with a quick reminder that the 2008 Invitation Day will be held at Shipley Beckfoot Golf Club on Thursday, August 21 with the first tee off time at 1.30pm.

If anybody has any news they would like putting in the Section notes, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Adam Speight
Tel: 01274 638366
Mobile: 07739 319060



SHEFFIELD

On July 12 we held our Spring Tournament at Coxmoor Golf Club. I would like to thank the club for giving us courtesy of their course - it is much appreciated by us all. Thanks go to: Kevin Atherton for the excellent condition that Coxmoor was in, well done to Kevin and all his staff; Seymour Harris, from Pro Turf, for sponsoring the prize table - your continued support of the Section is very much appreciated, and last but not least to the catering staff who provided

us with a fantastic carvery which was enjoyed by us all!

The day was a fantastic day and there was some very good golf played on a great course which we had not played for over 14 years!

At the end of the days golf the eventual winner was Andy Unwin with 39pts well done Andy. Results: 1. A. Unwin, 39pts; 2. S. Currie, 37pts bb9; 3. S. Brown. 37pts.

Our next event is our Summer Tournament which is to be held at Grange Park Golf Club on July 7, after that, it will be us versus the Northern Section at Otley Golf Club on July 23.

I must also thank Peter Fell, from Aitkens, for producing the Section fixture list.

John Lax



NORTH WALES

July. Hopefully long hot days and warm balmy nights (hopefully!).

To start off with we have to thank Llanymynech Golf Club for their great hospitality, gorgeous course and lovely food at the Spring Tournament, their efforts where very much appreciated by all 53 players on the day.

The results are best gross Paul Roberts (with the aid of the A.A.), of Baron Hill, 70; 1. Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC, 39pts, also 70 gross; 2. Iwan Pugh, Eaton, GC, 36 pts; 3. Steve Roberts, Flint GC; 4. Johnny Evans, Carden Park; 5. Matt Lewis, Llanymynech GC.

Andy Peel and Paul Roberts, also as a result of their efforts, qualify for the BIGGA National Championship at East Sussex GC on October 8 this year, best of luck - I'm sure you'll do us proud!

On the day of the Spring Tournament a sand iron was found on the 17th hole. Anyone who lost it contact Andy Peel.

On June 10, the North Wales/North West took place at The Vale of Llangollen GC - full write up next month.

I know any greenkeepers from our Section who made it on to the Support Team for The Open at Royal Birkdale, will prove how professional and conscientious North Welsh greenkeepers are.

I'm sure you will all want to wish the family of Bert Cross our deepest sympathies after he passed away earlier this year.

I was asked to send sympathies for Derek Simpson, who worked for Fletcher Stewart, who also passed on earlier this year.

All the best until next month

Pete Maybury
Johnny Evans