

## NEW GOLF DISTRIBUTOR

Huxley Golf Northern has taken on responsibility for the sale and installation of Huxley Golf's extensive range of golf practice, teaching and playing aids throughout North Wales.

Appointed initially in mid-2007 to look after northern England, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and parts of Cheshire, Huxley Golf Northern's newly extended responsibilities encompass the whole of Cheshire and the Welsh counties of Flintshire, Wrexham, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, the Isle of Anglesey and northern parts of Powys.

Huxley Golf Northern's first project in North Wales was the installation of a 56-yard (50m) long all-weather practice tee for Royal St David's Golf Club, Harlech, Gwynedd.



## NEW FACILITIES AT LINCOLN SITE OPEN

British Seed Houses' staff gathered recently to mark the completion of development work at the company's site at Witham St Hughs.

Located on the Nottinghamshire/Lincolnshire border, the company has operated out of the site for more than 30 years and purchased it outright in 2001. The decision was taken to expand the facilities to accommodate BSH's growing amenity seeds business.

Eighteen members of staff are now based at the modern office complex which also houses a seed testing laboratory. Seed is cleaned and blended on-site and the improved 80,000 square foot warehouses provide improved product storage and packaging, resulting in faster order response times.

## BARONESS ON THE MOVE

Kyoeisha UK, manufacturers of Baroness fine turf mowers, has moved into brand new premises on the outskirts of Basingstoke.

The new 6000 sq ft warehouse and offices on the Hatch Industrial Park just off the M3 will be the new base for the sales and back up team being put together by Managing Director Ian Kerry. The new address and contact numbers for Baroness are: Unit 5, Hatch Industrial Park, Greywell Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 7NG. Tel: 01256 462591.



## NEW APPOINTMENT

Etesia UK Ltd is pleased to announce that Phil Catley has been appointed Area Sales Manager for the South West and Southern England. In his new role, 26-year-old Phil will provide sales and support to Etesia's specialist dealers in



the territory, including involvement with local shows, demonstrations and open days.

Having started his career in the motor industry where he gained a Level 3 City & Guilds qualification as a Motor Technician, Phil has a sound engineering background. He left the motor industry to join Sharnford Horticultural Ltd in Leicestershire and later moved to Devon's Abbey Garden Machinery. As a result he has considerable knowledge and experience in outdoor power equipment, with a sales track record which covers a wide range of professional products.

## JOINT VENTURE

SITR, the largest independent recycling group in the UK has announced a newly formed joint venture.

SITR will be the key UK manufacturer of the Dunweed range of landscaping and playground products.

Announcing its intent on changing the face of the tyre recycling market place, SITR has committed a £4,000,000 investment into the creation of the most modern tyre recycling plant in Europe.

## ASTON VILLA STAYS SHARP WITH SUPER ATOM

Jonathan Calderwood, Grounds Manager of Aston Villa Football Club, needed a fast solution to keeping the pitch edges sharp when the new stadium surface was built two years ago.

"After the new pitch was laid the edges became flush with the rubber track surround," said Jonathan, a former IOG Groundsman of the Year, who was at the old Wembley Stadium and Wolverhampton Wanderers before joining Aston Villa five years ago.

"Using traditional edging tools up to the concrete divide would take us an hour. Then we discovered the Atom Professional Edger from DJ Turfcare - and the job now takes just five minutes."

He was so impressed that he has bought two more for the Aston Villa training ground at Bodymoor Heath.

The new training ground has three full size pitches, three goal kicking areas and a warm-up pitch. Alongside this are five full-size pitches in the old training ground, which is to become the Football Academy.

Aston Villa's Paul Mytton, Deputy Head Groundsman, with the Atom Professional Edger at the training ground



# Membership



## AN UPDATE FROM BIGGA'S MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

It was lovely to see so many of you visiting the BIGGA stand at Saltex this month, from those who were joining or renewing their membership to many members who just called in to say hello. We will be announcing the winner of the September prize draw to win an ipod and Nokia 6233 mobile phone at the beginning of October in the members area of the website ([www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)) and in November's issue of Greenkeeper International.

### BIGGA Website

Some members have been in touch with us regarding having problems logging in to the members area of the BIGGA website, please can you check that you are using the website address [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and NOT [.co.uk](http://www.bigga.co.uk). If you continue to experience problems logging in, contact Brad in the membership office, (contact details below) for assistance.

### Open Support Team

It may seem just a distant memory now, but well done to all those who were part of the Open Support Team at Royal Birkdale in July, the weather certainly posed some challenges, but as always, the team assisted the home greenkeeping staff in their usual professional and supportive way.

Being part of the Open Support Team is one of the great benefits of being a greenkeeper member of BIGGA, as Asa English, Greenkeeper at Charnwood Forest Golf Club in Leicestershire found out:

"To be included in the Open Support Team is a privilege. To work inside the ropes gives you a great buzz and to get so close to the play allows you to see the true skill of the players.

"It is a hard, demanding week but the whole experience is second to none and there is always a great team spirit within the camp! – An experience everyone should try."

### Greenkeepers Legal Assistance

For those who hold greenkeeping membership of BIGGA, you automatically have access to legal advice and an insurance policy that might cover the costs associated with a range of legal issues.

See the full article in this month's Greenkeeper International.

This month BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

### Scottish Region

Stephen Arnott, Central  
John Blair, West  
Sean McLean, East  
James Murray, North  
Bryan Ramsey, West

### Northern Region

Kenneth Allsop, North West  
Craig Bentley, Sheffield  
Kevin Muldoon, North Wales  
Adam Owen, North West  
Philip Robinson, Northern  
Ian Westerman, Northern  
Andrew Wheatley, Northern

### Midland Region

Dean Butterworth, Mid Anglia  
Alex Clarricoates, East of England

### Roy Cox, Midland

William Crowder, Mid Anglia  
Anthony Foulds, Midland  
Ian Glover, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Andrew Govier, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Timothy McCreadie, East Midland  
Jack Timms, Midland  
Keith Waterhouse, East Midland  
Robert White, East Midland

### South East Region

Ryan Angear, Surrey  
Roy Britton, East Anglia  
Richard Cotterell, Surrey  
Gary Noble, Surrey  
Stewart Reed, Essex

### S West / S Wales Region

Daniel Blewett, South West  
Andrew Gabb, Devon & Cornwall  
Jamie Hughes, Devon & Cornwall  
Edward Parsloe, South West  
Robert Schilperoord, South West

### Northern Ireland

Lawrence McIoroy

### International

Marek Zubert, Republic of Ireland  
Yasuhiko Oe, Japan  
Shuji Ishimoto, Japan  
Vicente Collpons, Spain

### Student

Jonathan Day, Devon & Cornwall

### Associate

Andrew Wight, Mid Anglia  
John Farrell, East Anglia  
Dave Pearce, South Wales

### Corporate

Pamela Castle, Mid Anglia

## CONTACT US

By telephone - 01347 833800 (option 1 for Membership.)



Tracey Maddison

Email: [traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk](mailto:traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk)



Justine De Taure

Email: [justine@bigga.co.uk](mailto:justine@bigga.co.uk)



Brad Anderson

Email: [brad@bigga.co.uk](mailto:brad@bigga.co.uk)

Other useful telephone numbers  
(for greenkeeper members only)

Personal Accident Helpline

02075 603013

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance

0800 177 7891

## BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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# Learning & Development

## Key Sponsorship:

### UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF GREENKEEPERS

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING KEY SPONSORS



#### GOLDEN KEY



#### Golden Key Individual Members

JH Greasley; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.



#### SILVER KEY



#### Silver Key Individual Members

Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Sam Langrick.

### Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development provides a departmental update...



September already – how did that happen? Is it just me, or is time moving faster these days?! Rachael and I have a busy month ahead of us attending Saltext, putting the finishing touches to and ensuring the smooth running of the final of the Toro Student of the Year Award, facilitating several Master Greenkeeper inspections both in the UK and the USA and then, of course we have Harrogate Week looming on the not so distant horizon - unbelievable!

### Harrogate Week 2009

After several months of planning I am very pleased to say that the Definitive Guide to Harrogate Week, including the Continue to Learn Education Programme, is written and has been turned over to the design department to do their business of making it look presentable.

The 2009 programme features over 140 hours of education, an increase of more than 20 hours on the 2008 programme. There will truly be something for everyone – two day, one day and half day workshops as well as more than 25 FREE seminars.

The Definitive Guide to Harrogate Week will be distributed with the October issue of Greenkeeper International and full information will also be available on the Harrogate Week website – [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk).

### The BIGGA Library

Rachael has spent many hours over the past month sorting out the BIGGA library, cataloguing books, magazines and videos as well as discovering all sorts of items in the storage cupboards, underneath the library shelves, that we never knew we had!

We have also found that we have many duplicate items and intend to list them on the website and make them available to Members, for just the cost of postage.

Any items not claimed will be available on the BIGGA Stand at Harrogate Week in January.

### Learning and Development Subsidies

There is still money available in the Learning and Development Fund for subsidies for section

and region events. Subsidy applications should be made before the event takes place. Contact us for further information: 01347 833800.

### Refund of Fees

Thanks to contributions to the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund, BIGGA is able to offer a Refund of Fees scheme that enables BIGGA members to claim 80% (up to a maximum of £350) of education and training course costs.

To be eligible you must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two

years, have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment, have completed a course or component part of a course and be able to provide evidence of completion.

The course must not be subsidised, already, by BIGGA and must be relevant to your job as a greenkeeper. Members who meet the criteria can claim a refund of fees annually.

The application form is available to download from the Education section of the website or by contacting us.

### Learning and Development Updates

#### Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:

- James Hutchinson
  - Online Foundation Degree in Sports Turf
- Adam Newton
  - Foundation Degree in Sports Turf
- Jonathan Oostendorp
  - Foundation Degree in Sports Turf

### Continuing Professional Development

The new CPD year has now commenced. Claim credits for any training you attend from 1 July 2008 until 30 June 2009 and you could receive a Certificate of Continuing Professional Development.

For more information on this membership benefit contact the Learning and Development department or check out the Education page of the BIGGA website.

# Learning & Development

## IMPROVING PERFORMANCE AND PROFIT IN A CHANGING ECONOMIC CLIMATE

### Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager, Jayne Leyland, discusses the findings of the company's latest STRI golf greens' trial

Given the current economic climate, golf courses would be wise to prepare for fierce competition for income, combined with escalating costs via prudent and informed planning for the future.

In a buyer's market, golfers will doubtless demand the best possible quality of playing experience for their money, so how best to keep and attract their custom? Concentrating budgetary investments on making noticeable key improvements, such as grass species exchange programmes, could make all the difference.

The results of Barenbrug's STRI (Sports Turf Research Institute) golf greens trial equips Course Managers with the latest information on improving both playing performance and aesthetics so that any investment made in this respect will be a positive one.

### OPPOSING MAINTENANCE REGIMES

The trial's aim is to observe how both traditional and innovative mixtures and monocultures for golf greens' application perform under two opposing maintenance regimes – a 'standard' input and a 'relaxed' input. Following this first year of trial, further experimental assessments will be made beyond the establishment phase.

Two trials with eight mixtures and four monocultures (treatments) were sown at the recommended sowing rate on a sand-dominated rootzone at the STRI in July 2006. The trials were sown in a randomised block design with three replications per treatment.

Mowing commenced in August 2006 and reduced gradually from 30mm to 12mm by October 2006. Mowing was carried out three times per week during active growth and then as necessary during the winter period.

On May 3, 2007, a mowing height of 7mm was implemented and, at this time, the trials were also overseeded and top-dressed. Mowing was then resumed on May 17 at 10mm, with the

final mowing height of 6mm for the second trial achieved on June 8 and the final mowing height of 4mm for the first trial reached on June 19.

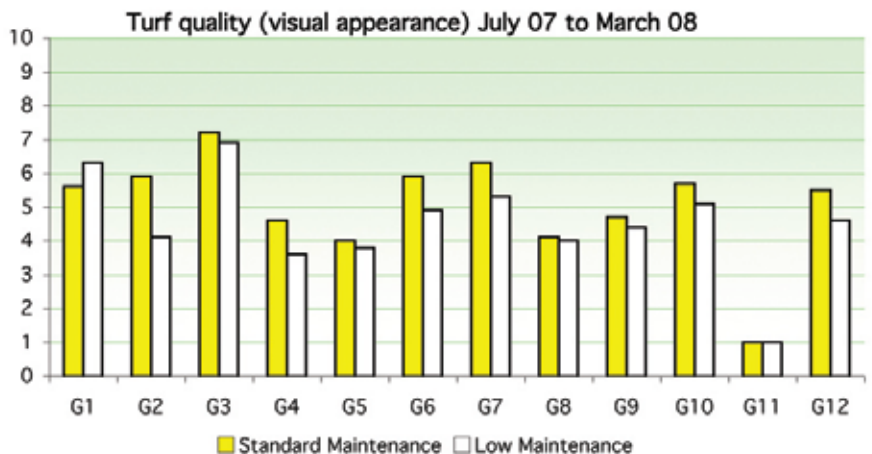
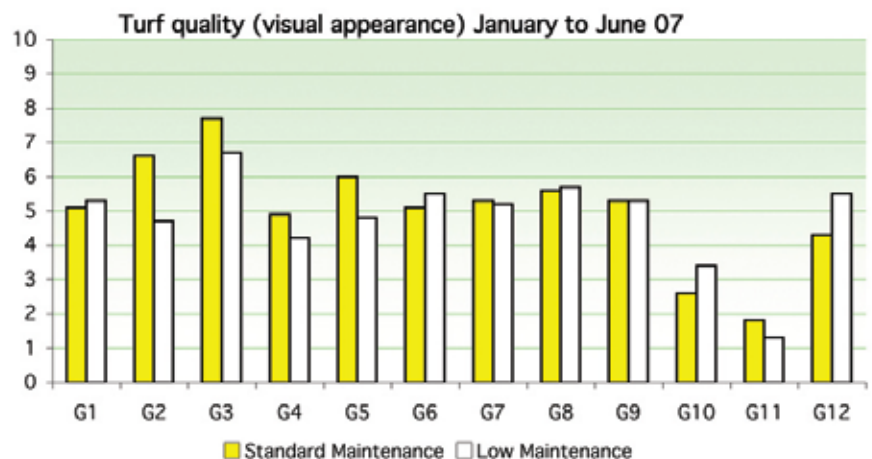
Assessments were made between October 2006 and March 2008 for disease incidence, turf quality (including its visual appearance), playing quality in terms of firmness, green speed and thatch depth, and botanical composition.

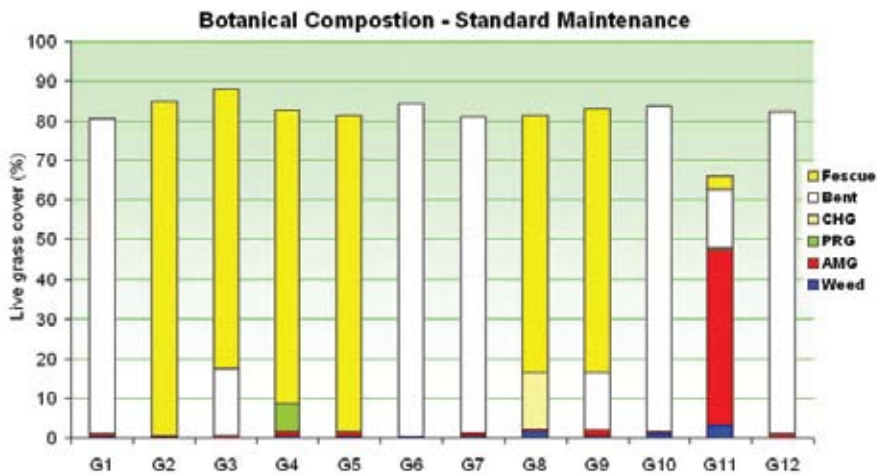
Key findings of the disease incidence assessment were that take-all patch was less severe in the low-input trial due, in part, to the increased fescue content, and that fusarium and red thread were generally less severe on the standard input trial, largely due to the reduced nutrient stress and healthier plants.

Overall, disease incidence undoubtedly influenced the turf quality assessments, proving that the selection of disease-tolerant cultivars is more important than ever, for both financial and aesthetic reasons.

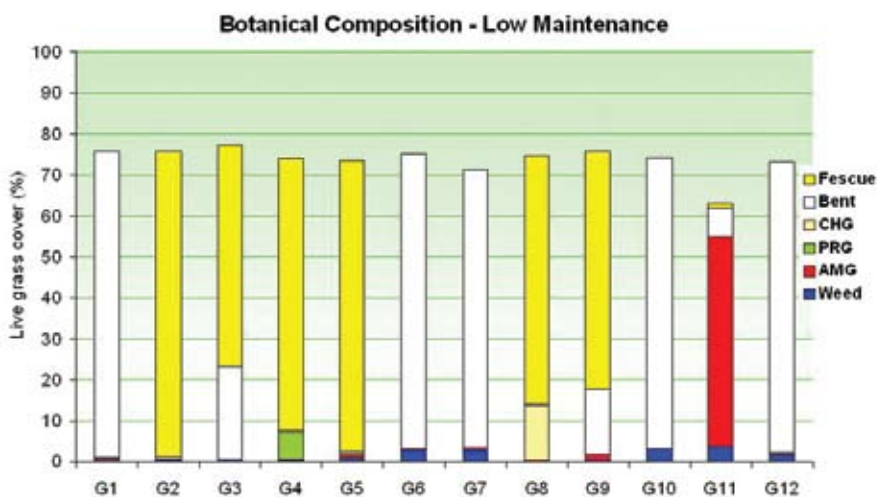
In order to gauge turf quality, we examined the impact of disease and nutrient status on sward density, species composition and the visual appearance of the treatments. Our 80/20 mixture – marketed as BAR 2 – was shown to have the most consistent turf quality and tolerance to fusarium to-date.

The playing quality tests showed that there are already significant differences between mixtures and species and that seasonal variations also play





Winter stress following insufficient nutrient input.



Late spring/summer growing conditions with increased nutrients.

their part. Assessments will continue and will be regularly recorded.

Finally, the botanical composition assessments showed that mowing heights and nutrient input significantly affect the botanical composition of the sward. Further conclusions will be drawn following a period of increased nutrient input.

**THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

With the trial having been affected by the unusually high temperatures prevalent at the time of sowing, the challenges courses face due to climate change also became clear. The soaring temperatures continued for several weeks and had a negative impact on both germination and early establishment, despite the application of irrigation.

This factor delayed the implementation of the different management regimes until June 2007 and was also evident in the first series of experimental assessments, which began in October 2006. Seasonal variations were also shown to be significant in all assessments.

Rainfall also has an interesting affect on turf quality. Adequate nutrient input on free-draining, sand-dominant rootzone for successful establishment of even lower-input species like fescues was found to be essential. However, the high level of summer precipitation in 2007 had a particularly dramatic effect on demand, with fescues dominating the swards.

This shows that fast establishment is essential for successful species exchange programmes in order for them to offer continued savings into the future, with nutrient input now shown to be crucial to achieving this.

These findings are valuable as inclement summer weather not only negatively affects green fees and clubhouse spend, but also leads to a decrease in turf health and quality, with new and

more aggressive diseases and other environmental stresses requiring increased inputs for treatment and recovery. Hence species exchange can help courses overcome the challenges of climate change, ensuring 'survival of the fittest' in the sward.

In conclusion then, this trial has already highlighted some significant differences from the experimental assessments during the establishment phase. It is too early to say whether previously held positions have been categorically confirmed or countered. However, the findings to-date are a positive indication that the trial will yield information of great practical value on an ongoing basis, and particularly now it has 'opened for play' with simulated golf wear now being applied.

The results of Barenbrug's STRI golf greens trial are available in a handy fact file, which can be downloaded free from [www.barenbrug.co.uk](http://www.barenbrug.co.uk). Alternatively, copies can be obtained by calling 01359 272000 or emailing [info@baruk.co.uk](mailto:info@baruk.co.uk)



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*Growing success*

# YOUR GREEN GREEN GRASS OF HOPE

If legal problems arise, where would you turn for expert advice and guidance?

In today's unpredictable economic climate, the burden of pursuing costly legal action may take its toll on your finances. However, as a greenkeeping member of BIGGA you needn't worry. Thanks to Arc Legal Assistance, specialist legal advice is on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week and if a legal problem does arise, you can rest assured that Arc's insurance policy will be there to help.

## THE ARC BIGGA COVER

As a greenkeeping member of BIGGA, you automatically have access to legal advice and an insurance policy that might cover the costs associated with a range of legal issues, from employment problems and consumer disputes to personal injury claims. Also, for some legal problems, Arc will protect those closest to you – your partner, children, parents and parents-in-law.

As a leading provider of UK legal costs insurance, Arc provides real benefits and support when you need it most, delivered by fully qualified, professional lawyers from some of the UK's leading law firms.

## EMPLOYMENT WORRIES

The Citizens Advice Bureau deal with over 400,000 employment related problems each year. The BIGGA scheme provides you with advice and support for a range of employment related problems. For example, Arc was recently contacted by a BIGGA greenkeeping member who had been subjected to sustained criticism from their direct manager over a period of 18 months. When it became too much, they decided to resign and contacted the helpline for specialist legal advice.

Arc's panel of expert lawyers started proceedings for constructive dismissal against their previous employer and, as a

result an agreement was reached with a cash award, company car and future reference for the member.

The BIGGA scheme can also cover the costs of arranging representation for you at internal disciplinary hearings with your employer.

## LEGAL COVER FOR YOUR FAMILY

The scheme covers close family members for contract disputes and personal injury claims. Recently, Arc was called on to help a greenkeeping member's parents whose 18th century house was damaged by a storm. A visit by a loss adjuster revealed pre-existing damage to the roof, which had not been picked up by a full structural survey carried out on the house prior to the member's parents buying it. They contacted the Arc legal helpline, who advised them that a claim could be made for breach of contract against the original surveyor.

Subsequently, lawyers arranged for a further survey to be conducted on the house to calculate by how much the price had been affected by the roof problems. Legal proceedings were then issued against the surveyor and an out of court settlement was reached, with the member's parents receiving significant compensation for their troubles.

## PERSONAL INJURY HELP AND ADVICE

Government statistics show that the number of accident claims increased by over eight percent in 2006-07 and according to experts this is expected to continue to rise over the next five years. When personal injuries do occur, it is clear that access to legal advice and support quickly is paramount.

If you, or a member of your family suffers an injury, the BIGGA scheme can provide you with prompt specialist legal advice. When Mr X was assaulted and badly injured by door staff in a nightclub, he contacted the helpline for advice. As a result of negotiations, Arc was able to secure a substantial amount of compensation for the member.

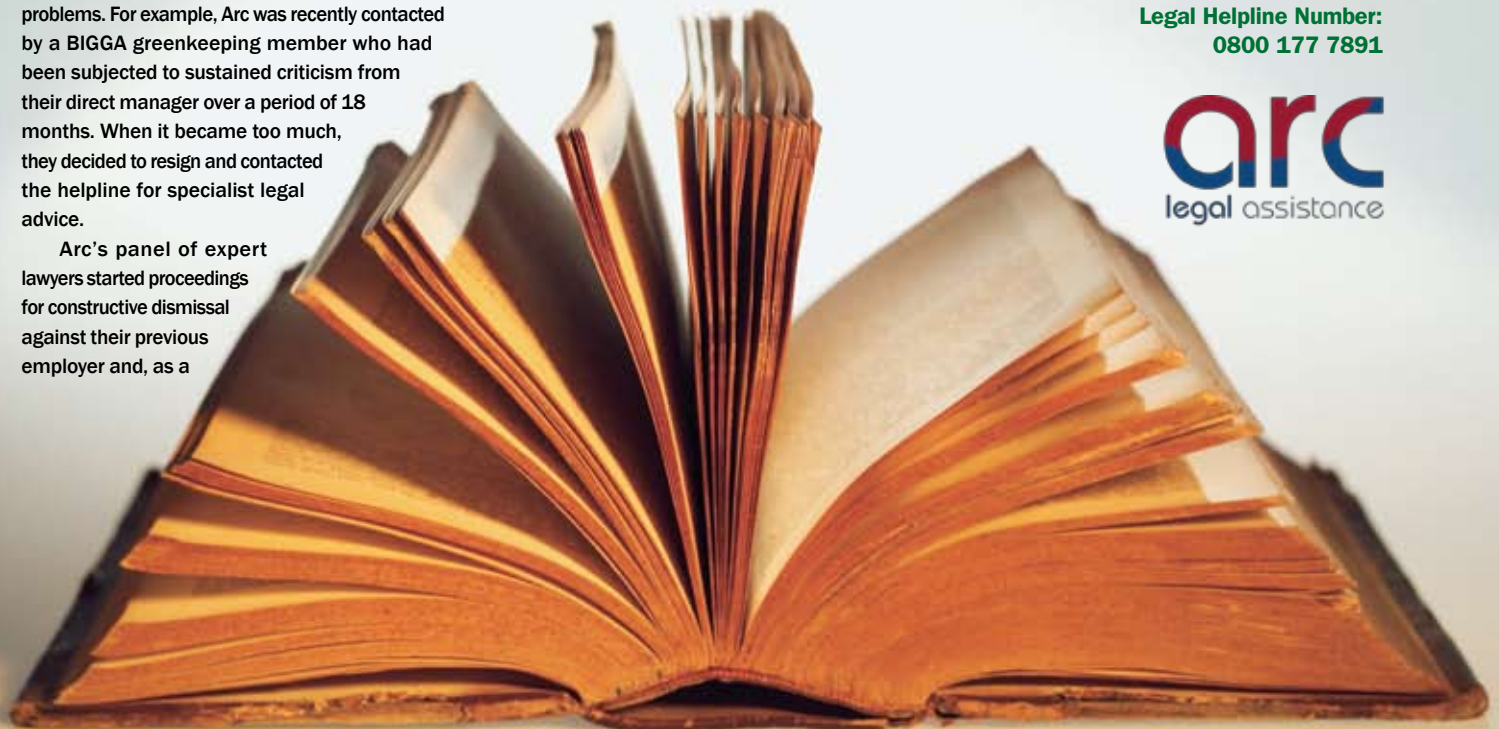
## ABOUT ARC LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Arc was launched in early 2003. They have experienced rapid growth since then, which is a testimony to their understanding of the complexities of the legal insurance market in which they operate.

Arc have been working in partnership with Heath Lambert, the UK's leading independent insurance broker and employee benefits consultants, to provide the specialist legal costs and advice BIGGA members and their families need since early 2007.

Legal Helpline Number:  
0800 177 7891

**arc**  
legal assistance





The ProctorPave Grass system is designed to allow turf to be laid over the top of a load bearing plastic roll. According to the company, the system allows 100% grass coverage and 92% available root area. As well as car parks, the system can be used for paths and roadways.

# CREATING SUSTAINABLE PARKING SPACES

By James de Havilland

**It is a common problem. To attract players to a course, a club needs to offer a range of facilities that includes easy car parking. The trouble is any parking takes up space, with many clubs having partially empty car parks during slack periods with not enough room when hosting tournaments and other events. Getting the parking to demand ratio right is not easy.**

There are other considerations that have to be brought into the equation. Assuming there is space to expand an existing car park, planning permission may make any desired expansion difficult. This particularly applies to clubs that are within an urban area.

There is also the issue of Sustainable Urban

Drainage Systems, SUDS. This can either rule out hard surface parking areas or make it prohibitively expensive to expand due to the need to install a well planned drainage or water retrieval system.

For many clubs the only option is to offer temporary parking to meet peak demand. Diverting overflow traffic into a driving range, practice area or other 'spare bits of grass' during tournaments and large events is common. The problem is heavy rain can turn these temporary parking areas into a mud bath.

A potential half way house is to consider systems that will either stabilise an area of turf to allow it to be parked on in all weathers or to expand hard surface parking using a loose gravel surface that has a water holding capacity compliant with SUDS.

In the case of meeting SUDS requirements, porous paving systems are often seen as an economical alternative to hard surface parking with a suitable drainage or water holding package built in. In really simplified terms, porous paving surfaces are typically made using a course porous base material with gravel on top.

To prevent the latter simply panning down and effectively mimicking a hard surface over time, the gravel layer is contained in a load bearing plastic block or mat with open pockets to contain the gravel. The mat takes the load, preventing the gravel panning down into the porous layer below.

Turf based systems are based on much the same idea, with turf growing on or through plastic load bearing grid. These support grids are





Note how the system is designed so the turf lies over the top of the plastic load bearing support. The turf will need time to establish before the surface can take a heavy load. The weight of vehicle that can safely park over this type of surface will relate to the material under the support grid.

typically made from blocks that are positioned and interlocked over a prepared surface. The plastic pockets are filled with soil and seeded - taking the load of vehicles.

A refinement of this approach is offered by the ProctorPave system. Instead of using plastic support blocks, ProctorPave is supplied in 20m2 rolls with a flexible grid base. This allows the roll to follow the ground contours, enabling the system to be installed on surfaces that are not level. It also allows the system to be used to create a road or pathway.

Offered in ProctorPave Gravel and ProctorPave Grass versions, the system is designed to be easier to install than separate block based systems, the Grass option allowing turf to be laid over the load bearing surface. The latter is designed to support the turf and not protrude up through the surface.

If you are faced with parking problems, it can pay to consider alternatives to 'traditional' hard surface parking. Porous gravel systems may help avoid problems with surface drainage, with stabilised grass possibly allowing the area to be used for something else or avoid planning issues.

This is a general outline, the actual installation of alternatives to hard surface parking areas having to take into account a whole range of issues. The point, however, is that a new, expanded or temporary car park need not need lorry loads of tarmac or crushed stone.

(Details on the ProctorPave system from [www.proctorgroup.com](http://www.proctorgroup.com))



The ProctorPave Gravel system can be laid over a porous base material (MOT type 3) to increase the storage volume of rainfall. A 200mm deep cross-section is claimed to store around 50mm of rain. This is important as it could mean an area of parking could be established without the need to install a surface drainage system.



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