



## LONDON

An excellent turnout of over 70 delegates attended the Irrigation Workshop held at Ealing Golf Club in North West London.

Independent irrigation consultants, Irritech Ltd, lead by Roger Davey and his team split us into three groups and covered a comprehensive and wide range of situations regarding correct and efficient water usage. This included the installation maintenance and repairs of irrigation systems, diagnostics of electric and controller problems and the correct layout and spacing of sprinkler heads using the latest GPS positioning system. There was also time to answer any queries regarding individual problems, some regarding future regulation changes that could possibly affect our own watering programmes.

Our thanks go to Greg Evans, and Ealing Golf Club, for looking after us so well, and to Irritech Ltd for a very informative day.

For more information or if you have any ideas for future London Section Events don't forget to check us out on the website: [www.biggalondonsection.co.uk](http://www.biggalondonsection.co.uk)

Clive Osgood



## ESSEX

Wow! The Section seminar was a truly fantastic success with 43 attending (a report on this can be found on the news pages of this magazine).

Let's hope that the seminar we are planning for next year will be even better attended, congratulations to Paul for arranging such a good day and thanks to all of you that attended.

Remember that Paul O'Kane still wants to hear from you if you need any training. You name it and he'll try to run it, that's if he has enough people to make it feasible. Training is important and sometimes your club does not have the resources to do the particular training need, so I'm sure we can help. Plus Paul can, on occasions, arrange subsidies to help with the costs. Send him an email: [greenkeeperpaul@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:greenkeeperpaul@yahoo.co.uk)

The new website is now up running and is attracting a lot of attention. In the first month of the restructure, we had over 500 visits from 85 different visitors (big brother, that's how I know). Keep looking, and if you have time, please send me any news or something you feel would be of interest to put on the site.

The first golf day is nearly with us at, Colne Valley Golf Club and the date for your diary is Wednesday, May 13. Keep a look out for the entry form in the post, or download one from the site.

The same goes for the Knockout Trophy, download an entry form and get your team in; the reward is a free entry to the BIGGA National Tournament in 2010 if you win.

Any information for inclusion on this page or on our website should be sent to me at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net) or on 07764-862.337. Also look us up at: [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk)

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Press Officer



## SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

At last – some half-decent weather. All those little construction jobs coming to a close, and looking forward to getting the mowing machines out again. At Minch we've taken some machines on operators lease. This is a five-year programme, (and the red machines have a five year warranty). At the end of the period, we either make a final purchase, or hand back and renew the machine. Never taken machines on these terms before so it should be interesting to see how it works.

Each total annual payment is actually less than we'd normally spend on outright purchasing in a year, so on paper it looks a good deal as we get all the machines straight away, the Treasurer knows how much he's spending, and repair bills should tumble. Watch this space I guess.

Well done to all those who turned out for the Waste Legislation Seminar at Chipping Sodbury on March 5. Jon Bird from the SWEA (Severn-Wye Energy Agency) told us all we'd ever need to know about low energy bulbs and also explained how it is possible to make savings without spending any money at all. He has advised us at Minch, plus several other local clubs, and he now has a pretty good picture of how golf clubs work. All too often – there is no one in absolute charge of "energy" in all departments. What is needed, is someone to take a little time walking around the various parts of the club and examine what is actually happening.

For example – do the beer coolers need to be running all night when no one drinks beer? Is there air conditioning, and if so, does it get into a situation



# Around the Green

where it is trying to cool the air when the heating system is trying to heat it? Do the urinals need to flush at night, or can this be turned off? When one or more light bulbs have blown – this is the time to convert to a run of low-energy, as low and normal energy bulbs don't mix on the same run. Jon also dispelled a certain myth about fluorescent tubes taking more power to turn on and off rather than to run continuously. This is complete myth – when a light is on, it is consuming power. If it's not in use – turn it off!

Kelly Harmar and Richard Studdart, of the STRI, then gave us a very positive and enthusiastic run-down of the latest in environmental legislation. It is important to regard legislation in a positive light. It does give protection to employees, protection to users of the facility, and protection to our environment. We looked into ways of conserving water, energy, and re-using or recycling waste.

It was very nice to welcome Colin Webber, and Paul Woodham, who are from outside of our area. Colin, who owns and manages his own course near Barnstaple, gave a great deal of insight into his own methods which include harvesting rainwater from roads and roofs and storing this water for irrigation on the course, and flushing toilets in the clubhouse. Paul Woodham, Course Manager at Gay Hill Golf Club, Birmingham, also gave us a good deal of input by chairing one of the work-groups in the latter part of the session. Many thanks to both – and indeed to all who attended.

I'm sure you'd all join me in offering our sincere condolences to Chris Sealey on the recent loss of his mother. Even with all the arrangements to deal with, Chris still took the time to wish everyone well for the Seminar. I would just add my personal thanks to Chris – he chairs both Section and Region, and will be taking a seat on the National Board before long.

Please continue to canvas other clubs for new members – if you can spare a few minutes to visit other local greenkeepers and talk to them about BIGGA, and all there is on offer – it will be an immensely positive image for our Association. Times are difficult, there is no question, and we all need to input as much as possible to see us through.

Seven members contacted me to express an interest in Chainsaw Training. We are working with Tim Bendle, a local Lantra instructor, who teaches a four-day "Occasional Users" chainsaw course, which is ideal for greenkeepers. It is not CS30 or 31, but a full users' version nonetheless. You could not use it to become a Tree Surgeon, for example, but it does licence a greenkeeper to use a chainsaw to fell small to medium trees at his place of employment.

The first four to enrol, are part way through completing the four days at Cumberwell Park, and our grateful thanks to Mark Haring for the use of the facility. There are a further three people waiting for a second course – another person is required, and this could then be arranged. The cost is £425 for the four days – please let me know any interest. Also – we will run another seminar in the autumn if there is demand – please let me know any subjects you would like to see covered.

I have application forms for the 2010 Ryder Cup Support Team that can be emailed directly to you – please let me know if you're interested.

Finally, Chipping Sodbury are hosting the English County Finals in September. John Keenaghan is interested in having some volunteer assistance on standby for help on the course, and particularly in case of bad weather etc. Please let John know direct, or drop me a mail and I'll forward it, if

you're interested and available. It is a chance to see the course set-up for a major amateur event.

In the meantime – please let me know any other Section news or events, and I'll look forward to seeing you at one of our golf events in the later part of the year. The matches will commence with the Section taking on the Secretaries at Cirencester Golf Club in early June. Please contact Wayne Vincent if you're interested in representing the Section in this match.

Paul Worster  
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



## SOUTH COAST

This month's report will be quite short. The only news worthy event was the seminar held at Canford Magna Golf Club - which was very well attended, I really enjoyed all the speakers and found it very informative. Tony Gadd is recovering from an operation so will have to tell us his life in golf another time. So that is about it. I need your input please - phone me with anything on: 07773138409 or email me.

Till next month,  
Chris Sturgess



## DEVON & CORNWALL

Our February meeting was held at Thurlestone Golf Club on the 10th. Thank You to DGM and Scotts - our sponsors for the day. Unfortunately I was not able to attend due to illness so bare with me as my informants for the day I guess had too much sun or was it something else!

The competition for the day was individual Stableford, which was won by Andrew Prowse, from Porthpean, second was Tony James, from Killiow Park, and unfortunately nobody could remember who was third - so apologies to whomever it was and well played. Nearest the Pin again was Andrew Prowse and the Longest Drive was by Andy Powell.

Our thanks go to Vic Dyer, the Head Greenkeeper, for the course walk, and to him and his team for a course in lovely condition. Thanks also to Thurlestone Golf Club for the use of their course for the day and their hospitality, also thanks to the caterers for the meal that I understand was very nice.



Steve Gingell, from STRI, gave a very good talk on 'When and Where to Aerate'. Thanks, once again, to Steve for giving up his time for free.

A couple of items to include that I meant to have mentioned last month! Congratulations to Scott 'Scotty' Gibson who is the new Course Manager at St Enodoc Golf Club. Scotty has been at St Enodoc for many years and I'm sure will do a great job. Good luck Scotty from us all.

To Andy Parker who parted company with Crediton Golf Club recently - all the best for the future Andy from everyone in the Devon and Cornwall Section. Finally, best wishes to Terry Clarke, who is now in charge at Crediton. Good luck Knobby.

Jerry Cole  
07764 224582  
greenwaysjrc@aol.com



## SOUTH WALES

Hello Everyone/Sut Mae?

Spring is upon us (well, the time of year that used to be called spring but has now been replaced by winter then summer, but you know what I mean) and that means the Annual Spring Seminar at Royal Porthcawl GC, on Thursday, April 23.

This year, your Section Secretary, Steve Chappell, has arranged for a trio of top Course Managers, from some markedly different golf courses, to come along to this event and give a presentation on their experiences at their courses. The Schedule is as follows: 9am - 9.45am registration. There will then be presentations by the following: Richard Blizzard and Mark Atkins, from Soil Harmony (the sponsors for the day), 'The Life Beneath Your Feet'; Lee Strutt MG, of The West Development, Perthshire, 'The Growing Pains Of Growing In'; Allan Patterson, Castle Course St Andrews, 'The Story So Far'; Greg Evans, Ealing GC, Surrey, 'Short Cut To Better Greens'; Richard Blizzard and Mark Atkins 'Finding The Balance Between Soil Health, Golfing Demands And Healthy Turfgrass'.

There will also be a demonstration of Top Dressers, Overseeders and Aerators organised by Charterhouse Turf Machinery. 4pm Finish. The cost of the day is £17.50 (members) and £20 (non-members.) This includes tea/coffee and biscuits and a two course buffet lunch (which, from the benefit of experience I can heartily recommend!) Booking forms should be with you by now, if not please contact Steve Chappell on: 07970980899.

Thanks to all that attended the Parc Y Scarlets talk in February. An informative tour of the new stadium was given by Head Groundsman, Dean Gilasbey, then it was over to Machynys Peninsular Golf Club for an informative presentation by Derek Smith, from DLF Trifolium, on DLF's products and,

among other things, the pro's and con's of the new Annual Ryegrass mixtures. Thanks to Dean and Derek and also to Marcus Weaver, Head Greenkeeper at Machynys, for arranging for us to use his club's facilities, and thanks again to Countrywide for sponsoring the evening.

Also a big thank you to the 40 or so people who attended Avoncrop Amenity Drainage seminar at Whitchurch GC. It proved to be a very informative day, brightened only by the rain that turned up just after we had all ventured out to watch the Blec Sandmaster in action on the 1st fairway. Thanks go out to the speakers from Sportsturf Contractors Ltd, Scotts, Terralift, Ruffords and Aquadyne and to Whitchurch GC for agreeing to stage the event there. I would also like to thank the delegation from Llanwern GC for making sure that there were no bacon rolls left over!

Belated Happy Retirement wishes go to David (Dai) Williams at Tredegar Park GC. Dai retired just before Christmas but I forgot to mention it. Sorry Dai! Happy Retirement! Maybe you can go visit Ray Burrows and pinch his cake and sandwiches like he used to pinch yours!

Also, while reading the Devon and Cornwall Section notes, I read that Stuart Dymond, at St Enodoc, is retiring. I used to call on Stuart years ago and remember that I always received a warm welcome. A true Cornishman and therefore very much like the Welsh. Happy Retirement Stuart.

Thanks for all the information you have sent in (none!) If you do have anything you want mentioned then please contact me on the number below. See you soon.

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# Whats your Number?



**Name:** Austin Jarrett  
**Company:** Turfmech Machinery Ltd  
**Position:** Managing Director/Owner

**How long have you been in the industry?**  
"I started as a machinery salesman in 1987."

**How did you get into it?**  
"I'm an Agricultural Engineer by qualification. After spending a couple of years teaching Engineering in Fiji, South Pacific, I returned to a downturned agricultural industry and a sideways move into turf production and maintenance machinery seemed to be a good idea."

**What other jobs have you done?**  
"Lecturer in Agricultural Engineering, Machinery Salesman."

**What do you like about your current job?**  
"I have a passion for machinery, engineering (sad but true!) and business. This is my perfect job. I work with some great people too."

**What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?**  
"Customers and competitors have all become so much more professional and expert in what they do."

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
"Running, snowboarding, mountain biking and spending time with my three children."

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**  
"I hope to have an expanded Turfmech company offering a wider range of specialised machines. The recent purchase of Allett Mowers has been very successful and further growth by acquisition of British manufacturers could be on the cards. If the Great British Pound will stay at the proper value, our machines will be competitively priced in the rest of the world too."

**Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**  
"I have many great friends within this industry worldwide. It's a very friendly industry. Many have been very helpful to me, as the Turfmech business has grown. I'm not going to name anyone in case I miss someone out!"

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**  
"1".

**Pick a number**  
"1". *Austin has picked Dave Steward from Scotts*

WHATS YOUR NUMBER?

## NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW – AVOIDING A PRISON SENTENCE

BIGGA's Health & Safety series produced by Xact  
[www.xact.uk.com](http://www.xact.uk.com)



### The UK government introduced a new health and safety Act, the Health and Safety (Offences) Act 2008, which came into effect on 16 January 2009.

The new Act amends the existing Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HASWA) and substitutes a schedule of maximum sentences that one might face if prosecuted. Serious accidents from un-cleared spillages, trips over boxes and cables, unsafe floors and stairs all may contribute to a failure to ensure a safe place of work and may now attract a prison sentence for an employer if tried in Magistrates or lower Courts instead of the more usual monetary fine that they may have previously expected.

It is a common misconception that all health and safety responsibilities lie with the employer. Under section 2 -7 of the HASAW various duties for employers are stipulated. Among other duties:

• **Employers have a duty to their employees and others who are affected by their business not to expose them to risks to their health and safety.**

This catch-all duty stipulates that employers or those who are in a 'managerial capacity' have a duty to protect the safety of employees, members, visitors and other third parties who may use or come into contact with a Golf Club.

It is important to remember that employees also have a large part to play in ensuring a safe place of work and that there are legal duties contained within the Health & Safety etc Act which specifically charges employees with maintaining safety in the workplace. Employees who fail to observe these duties can also find themselves in Court standing alongside their employer in the event of a serious accident.

The defined duties of employees are:

- **Take reasonable care of the health and safety at work - of themselves and any other people who may be affected by their act or omissions e.g. do not use equipment that you are not trained to use, ensure that your actions do not place any of your co-workers or others in danger.**
- **Co-operate with their employer and others to enable them to comply with statutory duties and requirements e.g. where control actions are specified in risk assessments then employees are required to adhere to these.**
- **Must not intentionally or recklessly misuse anything provided by employers or anyone else in the interest of health, safety and welfare e.g. horseplay with safety equipment, over-ride safety devices and alarms to enable faster working.**

Previously, infringement of HASWA would normally only have received financial penalties but now both Lower and High Courts have been granted wider and stronger punitive powers.

Many businesses including golf clubs may see health and safety to be a side issue but everyone has a right to be safe and the new penalties are aimed to enforce this.

Cutting costs on health and safety and training may seem like a good idea in this time of economic recession. However, such savings in the event of an accident to one of your employees or persons using your Club may prove to be far more costly in time, money and reputation than any monetary benefits gained.

# Letters



## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

GI's Editor made an appeal for old photographs in last month's issue, after being sent a picture from the late 60s/early 70s, by BIGGA Life Member, Bob Moffat. BIGGA's Chief Executive, John Pemberton, recently discovered the picture below. We have spotted Past BIGGA Chairman, Andy Campbell – he is in the middle row, second from the left.

If you recognise anyone else in this picture or have any old greenkeeper pictures you'd like to send in, please email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) Alternatively you can post them to: BIGGA House, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.



## Dear Greenkeeper International

I feel I should respond to the letter from Graeme Gallimore in the March issue of Greenkeeper International concerning an article I wrote on grinding.

Mr. Gallimore didn't seem to recognise that it was an open discussion on the pros and cons of relief grinding.

To my knowledge all grinding manufacturers offer relief grinding and most mower manufacturers send out new units relief ground. The article tried to establish why this practise is maintained as it adds an additional process to the manufacture of a mower. To answer this question, the grass cutting equipment manufacturers were consulted independently and their responses were quoted in the article. They came up with several similar valid arguments as to why they choose to relief grind.

Non-contact mowing has been an established practice for many years. However, there are some manufacturers (as stated in the article) who encourage light contact mowing. So while non-contact is still the preferred choice of greenkeepers, it has yet to be adopted universally.

With regard to the importance of the bottom blade, it is accepted that the sharpness of the bottom blade is equally important as that of the cylinder but the article was actually about the proven benefits of applying a relief angle to any blade, so I felt no need to focus on one blade over another.

I am unsure why he felt the need to mention the STRI article as I understand that most greens maintenance staff would agree with grinding as a preference to backlapping anyway. Apart from which, the content of said article has appeared in print several times before so it's by no means news.

I stand by the integrity of my writing which was produced with the full co-operation and approval of two of the world's major mower manufacturers, who I'm sure will be happy to answer any further questions on the subject.

*Yours sincerely*  
Charmian Robinson, ABR Publicity



# In the Shed

## ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD

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### QUIZ ANSWERS

- Nose bleed
- Jane Fonda
- Dawn French
- Cotton
- Glass
- A (flightless) bird
- 13 years of age (nearly 14)
- The Roadrunner
- Arthur (died in 1502 while still heir presumptive)

### MONSTER SUDOKO

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### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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# BUYERS' GUIDE

## Planning your Irrigation

**"As we approach the new irrigation season, it is time to reflect on the past two summers and the effect this has had on the industry.**

The sheer quantity of rain has had the effect of making golf club Committees oblivious to the need to forward plan the needs of their irrigation systems. We have in the past witnessed many times the panic driven reaction to the fact that all of a sudden the sun shines and the grass turns brown. "We want water now!" they cry. Inevitably they find that all irrigation companies are busy working elsewhere and that the quality of their golf course starts to suffer.

We need to ensure that all Committees are aware of the need to consider that wet summers may not actually be the norm and that global warming may be real. The forecasters are predicting a hot summer so the need to plan ahead is urgent. Whether this includes upgrading old pipework, replacing old sprinklers with more efficient types or extending the system to cover new tees, all such work needs to be planned and budgets set aside to cater for this. This should involve the full co-operation of all the parties involved. The Head Greenkeeper should consult with the industry experts to get advice on the most cost effective and water efficient systems. These should be accurately costed and presented to the Club's Committee for approval. All such work takes time and should therefore be considered as early as possible.

Oakdale's T & G Irrigation is one such company ready to help Clubs with their planning. The CEO, David Baxter, is a professional Project Manager and Chartered Civil Engineer with all the qualifications needed to design irrigation systems. Paul Curtis has been promoted to Managing Director while remaining hands on."



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