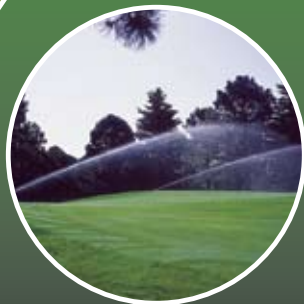




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## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



# Well Done All Round

**A well known philosopher, I believe it was Forest Gump, once said “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to ‘git’.” Well I think, following on from Turnberry this year, we should tweak that saying to, “Golf is like a box of chocolates...”**

No-one could have foreseen the events of the 138th Open Championship, where there was only one thing that could have been accurately predicted – the quality and conditioning of the golf course.

Who could possibly have envisaged that Tiger Woods would miss the cut? Not Tiger, that's for sure, because one of Friday's newspapers including a breakdown of what the World Number 1 would be wearing on each of the four rounds. I did feel at the time that it was tempting fate a bit, but didn't give it another thought.

Then we had the prospect of a 59 year-old winning The Open breaking the previous age record by almost 14 years and of any Major Championship by over 11 years.

Tom Watson's opening 65 was seen as a spectacular round by one of golf's legends but probably a one-off hurrah. Two more solid rounds saw him enter Sunday a shot clear but the knowledgeable among us still felt it was beyond him. When he was still leading with three holes to play those doubters became believers.

It suddenly became probable when he sat in the middle of the final fairway needing a par to win. He struck a superb 8-iron into the final green, but unfortunately it was too well struck and skipped through the green. The up and down from the back, with no shots in hand, was very awkward – too awkward as it happened and all of a sudden the dream, and the hopes of the gallery, were dead.

What Watson did at Turnberry will never be forgotten. Even Stuart Cink admits that it will be known as Watson's Open and that he lost in a play-off shouldn't detract from the fact that a man who would be 60 six weeks later had tied first in an Open.

Among the greenkeeping fraternity it will be known as Brown's Open, as George had a swansong only a few could even dream of. After nearly 25 years at the helm the 2009 Open was George's final event – no Captain's Day or Monthly Medal to bow out on for him.

Despite the pressures he still took time to talk with the Support Team on the Wednesday evening and was a regular visitor to the BIGGA marquee.

He was justifiably proud of what he and his experienced team had achieved and everything fell right for them. The weather in the lead up was ideal and the week itself, the odd heavy shower but bright and breezy in the main, showed the course off at its very best. The aerial pictures provided by the BBC were simply amazing and the feedback from the players – even Tiger in the early part of the week – was positive without exception.

George will still be involved with Turnberry after his retirement but he will take a bucket load of memories with him from this Open alone.

Well done George. Well done Tom. Oh, and not forgetting, well done Stuart.

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**



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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Greenkeepers Association Limited.



## Incredible Journey Revisited



LEFT: The original run in 1959 and ABOVE: The old team celebrate their achievement 50 years on by handing over a haggis to David Jordan.

Five former students, who rode a Ransomes Matador mower non-stop from Edinburgh to London's Hyde Park in just four days, got back together recently to commemorate their epic journey.

Back in 1959, Tom Hudson, Mike Smith, Mike Savage, Hugh Tansley and John Wilson, who were students at Hatfield Technical College and former employees of the De Havilland Aircraft Company, wanted to test the reliability of small petrol engines.

So, they hatched a plot to see if they could drive a small petrol-engined mower from Edinburgh to London.

They contacted Ransomes, Sims and Jeffries, and Mark Grimwade was tasked with assisting the students.

The mower was slightly modified with a larger sump added to the 288cc Villiers engine to provide enough lubrication for the non-stop 400 mile trip.

The five left Edinburgh Castle in Easter 1959 with Tom Hudson driving the first leg and the others crammed into a Bedford Dormobile. A haggis was placed in the grass box of the mower to be presented to the Keeper of the Royal Parks in London - a Scotsman - at the end of the journey.

Four days and three nights later they rode into Hyde Park to be met by the Royal Park's staff, Ransomes management, a BBC television crew and the press.

The haggis was handed over and a ceremonial strip of Hyde Park grass was mown.

Fifty years on, Mike Smith contacted Ransomes Jacobsen who readily agreed to support the reunion.

Earlier this summer, the Operation Matador team, all now in their early 70s, arrived at the University of Hertfordshire, with a replica of the Ransomes Matador mower, complete with the original number plate and signage.

They then travelled to Hyde Park, where they re-enacted the completion of their journey by mowing a ceremonial strip of grass and presenting a haggis to the Assistant Parks Manager, David Jordan.

"We are absolutely delighted to be in a position to help the Operation Matador team celebrate their epic achievement of 50 years ago.

"It would be difficult to replicate what they achieved, even today, and it was a remarkable feat," said David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

"It says a lot about the quality of the equipment we built back then; a tradition that we carry on today.

"After 50 years, I'm delighted that all of the team are still with us; that we're still producing quality turf care equipment in Ipswich.

And we're still producing the Matador mower, albeit with some technological enhancements from the original!"



## JCB MACHINE GIVES LIFT TO LIVING LONDON ART PROJECT

A JCB machine gave a lift – literally - to one of the UK's most inspirational art projects as a living monument was created in the shadow of one of London's most famous landmarks.

For 100 days, a total of 2400 people from across the UK will individually occupy the empty Fourth Plinth, in Trafalgar Square for an hour each through day and night as part of an extraordinary artwork

created by the celebrated sculptor Antony Gormley and entitled One & Other.

The JCB Loadall telescopic handler, swung into action under the gaze of London Mayor Boris Johnson, to lift the first

of those 'artworks', housewife Rachel Wardell, of Lincolnshire, six and a half metres into the air, enabling her to take the small step to becoming the first human occupant of the plinth.



RFS president John Besent, left, presents the James cup to Dr Terry Mabbett

## RFS Award Winner

Forestry consultant and Greenkeeper International contributor, Dr Terry Mabbett, has been awarded the James Cup by the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) for a paper reviewing the spread of Bacterial Bleeding Canker - *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* – in the UK.

The paper, published in the RFS Quarterly Journal of Forestry (QJF) in October 2008, looked at how this aggressive form of bleeding canker is killing both white flowering and red flowering horse chestnut trees of all ages; at current research into the disease and at the lack of available control measures.

Terry who lives in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, fears that Bacterial Bleeding Canker could be as devastating for the horse chestnut as Dutch elm disease was to the English elm. He warns that local authorities, estate and woodland managers may need to consider planting alternative trees, especially amenity trees, such as walnut, in its stead.

The James Cup is presented by the RFS annually to the author of the best original article for the year in the QJF. The award was presented to Dr Mabbett at a meeting of the RFS London Division in Kew Gardens by the RFS President, John Besent.





## The Scottish National Tournament

**Cathkin Braes Golf Club, Thursday 11 June 2009**

The 2009 Scottish National Tournament was held at Cathkin Braes Golf Club, near Glasgow.

The course sits high on the hills above the City of Glasgow and has magnificent views over the Lanarkshire valley and Glasgow. The good weather could not have been better, a lovely sunny day with just a slight breeze just to make things interesting.

With nearly 90 competitors taking part, everyone was looking forward to playing this fine moorland course. From the beginning the players were not disappointed. The course was in superb condition and Douglas McIntosh and his staff have to be congratulated on producing a first class golf course and one that the members of Cathkin can feel extremely proud.

Scoring was excellent with several fine scores being returned and of course the usual tales of woe about what could have been. Handicaps varied from three plus players in the field, right through to the maximum handicap allowed 24.

The Champion golfer for 2009 was Gordon Sangster, a member at Cathkin Braes Golf Club who, despite having put in a hard shift in the morning returned a fine 70. Gordon who is currently playing off plus 1 is the current Club Champion of Cathkin Braes. The Handicap Champion was young Elliott Gaughan, only 17 years of age, from Hags Castle Golf Club, who returned a magnificent 72 -7- 65.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and, hopefully, they will all be available to defend their trophies at the 2010 Championships at Murcar Golf Club, Aberdeen.

Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Cathkin Braes Golf Club for the courtesy and facilities afforded to the players. Thanks also to David Moir, Secretary, and the staff of the club for their assistance prior to and during the Championship.

### PRIZE LIST

**SGGA Challenge Cup Scratch Champion**

Gordon Sangster, Cathkin Braes GC, 70

**Friendship Trophy Best Nett Handicap Champion**

Elliott Gaughan, Hags Castle GC, 65

**Ransomes Trophy First Class**

1. Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 71 (BIH);  
2. William McMeiken, Turnberry Hotel, 71; 3. Kenneth Stirling, Kingsbarns, 71

**Pattison Trophy Second Class**

Duncan Gray, Pines GC, 67; 2. Gary Semple, St. Andrews Links, 72; 3. Jim Wilson, Langlands GC, 73 (BIH)

**STRI Trophy Third Class**

Gordon McKie, St. Andrews Links, 73; 2. William Kelly, Hags Castle GC, 75; 3. Kevin Cross, Williamwood GC, 77 (BIH)

**Dick Aitken Trophy Best Head Greenkeeper**

Alan Patterson, St. Andrews Links, 72 (BIH)

**M & M Trophy Best Assistant**

Craig Wylie, Glasgow GC, 70

**Souter Trophy Best Apprentice**

Brian Ramsay, Glasgow GC, 75

**SIGGA Trophy Best Veteran**

Kenneth Mitchell, St. Andrews Links, 73

**St. Mungo Trophy Team Trophy**

(Best 4 net scores)  
West Section Elliott Gaughan, Hags Castle GC, 65; Craig Wylie Glasgow GC, 70; Gordon Sangster, Cathkin Braes GC, 71 Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes GC, 72 Total = 278

**Patrons/Trade**

Alistair Eccles, British Seed Houses, 66

**Qualifiers, National**

**Championship**

Gordon Sangster, Club; Cathkin Braes GC  
Elliott Gaughan, Club; Hags Castle GC

*Peter J Boyd, Regional Administrator*

## John Deere Announces Biggest Ever Golf Product Launch

John Deere Golf has its customers to thank for the latest new products it is unveiling at their recent European launch.

Pointing to the vital feedback the company receives from its customers, John Deere says operator needs, along with industry experience, have guided the development of each new piece of equipment.

The 2009 line-up – John Deere Golf's largest product launch to date – also draws inspiration from earlier products, combining existing solutions with advanced innovations in engineering.

“John Deere's Feedback programme is all about listening and reacting to what our customers have to say about our products, so that we can design the right equipment with the exact features they're looking for,” said Gregg Breningmeyer, Director of Sales and Marketing for John Deere Golf.

New products include a range of mowers, cutting units and a sprayer, all of which are designed to enable operators to work efficiently and achieve a higher quality finish on golf courses and other sports turf areas.

The 2009 line-up includes:

- Quick Adjust 5 and Quick Adjust 7 cutting units
- 220e E-Cut hybrid walk-behind greens mower
- 7500e and 8500e E-Cut hybrid fairway mowers
- 8000e E-Cut hybrid fairway mower
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- 8800 TerrainCut rotary roughs mower
- HD200 SelectSpray turf sprayer

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## Sportsturf Degrees Full-time and online study

Myerscough College is one of the UK's leading centres of excellence for the delivery of Higher Education courses in Sportsturf and Turfgrass Science. Places are still available on the following programmes starting in September 2009.

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in Sportsturf**

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## Wiedenmann UK and Ernest Doe Join Forces

“Keep it simple,” was the key theme for around 30 Head Greenkeepers, contractors and local authority managers who attended a workshop at Diss Golf Club, Norfolk. Hosted by Ernest Doe and Wiedenmann UK, the event featured two motivational sessions from golf course management expert, Laurence Pithie.

“All industries at the moment are under pressure to complete tasks more efficiently and more quickly. Ours is no different,” said organiser, Eddie Jack, Groundscare Sales Specialist at Ernest Doe, North Walsham.

“Laurence stressed how important it is not to over-complicate working practices, to do the basics to the very best of your ability and

not lose sight of the fundamental requirements of your business.”

Outdoor sessions included an up-close inspection of the Wiedenmann fleet of Terra Spikes. Chas Ayres, Wiedenmann UK’s Sales Manager, demonstrated many of the benefits of deep tining and decompaction that Laurence Pithie had addressed earlier and culminated his presentation with a “race against tine” - three Terra Spikes - the XD, the XF and the XP all going head-to-head in a race off using different spacings and tine lengths.

“It was a fun way to end what had been a really purposeful and enlightening workshop, said Eddie Jack.

## European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd Re-accredited

European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd, based in Stirling, Scotland are pleased to announce that they have been re-accredited by the A2LA (American Association for Laboratory Accreditation) in the Geotechnical/Putting Green Materials field of testing (Certificate No. 903.01) for the seventh time. ETL have been accredited in this field since 1997 and this accreditation is now extended until April 2011.

Accreditation is a key component to the business and it ensures that ETL remain on the soil physical testing laboratories list approved by the USGA - currently, 1 of 10 such laboratories in the world to achieve this status.

The re-accreditation process is carried out every two years where an external assessor from the A2LA visits the laboratory and audits the quality management system, the premises and the staff. This constant monitoring ensures that ETL remains one of the leading sportsturf testing centres in the world.

ETL’s scope of accreditation includes analysis required for testing to the 2004 USGA Recommendations. Copies of this scope are available upon request. Information about all the laboratory services and prices can be downloaded from the new ETL website: [www.etl-ltd.com](http://www.etl-ltd.com).

## Exclusive Agreement for Farmura

Farmura has signed an exclusive agreement with E-Nema GmbH to distribute its biological products Nema-green (Chafer Grubs) and Nemastar (Leatherjackets) in England, Scotland and Wales.

With increasing pressure on chemical usage the need for biological sustainable alternatives is going to grow in the future.

Farmura has been seeking a partner to provide these alternative products for some time and E-nema is a leader in this field. The products have been tried and tested in Europe and are being used with great success on golf courses.

## Water Environment Regulations Update

The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 came into effect in April 2006 and are law. There is now less than a year to go before full compliance of this legislation is required.

Are you prepared? Here are the main parts;

The regulations come into effect in three stages:

- Where facilities that commenced after 1 April 2006, new tanks must now comply.
- Where facilities commenced before 1 April 2006, existing tanks that are at significant risk (for example, if they are located within 10 metres of any surface water or 50 metres of a borehole or well) must comply by 1 April 2008.
- All remaining existing tanks must comply by 1 April 2010.

All of the following oils are included in the regulations;

- Petrol
- Diesel
- Mineral oil
- Heating oil
- Lubricating oil
- Waste oil
- Vegetable and plant oil

The regulations apply to any kind of container which is used and stored on premises above ground, whether inside or outside a building. This includes

fixed tanks, intermediate bulk containers, drums (oil drums or similar containers used for storing oil) or mobile bowlers.

Premises covered include;

- Industrial businesses
- Commercial businesses
- Institutions (residential and non-residential)
- Farms

There are few exemptions but these include;

- Oil stored in vehicles
- The storage of oil on premises used wholly or mainly as a single private dwelling, with an oil storage capacity of less than 2,500 litres. [New or altered tanks should comply with applicable Regulations under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003.

The regulations go much further than their English counterparts and are considered more thorough. Full details of the act can be seen on the following website; [www.sepa.org.uk/water/regulations/regimes/pollution\\_control/oil\\_storage.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/regulations/regimes/pollution_control/oil_storage.aspx)

Here you will find useful links to more detailed information and advice.

[www.course-care.co.uk](http://www.course-care.co.uk)  
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