



Experience the Real thing!

Win a fantastic weekend courtesy of Rigby Taylor

Every visitor* to the Rigby Taylor stand during Harrogate Week will have the opportunity of entering a free competition to win a weekend in Spain's capital city, Madrid.

But this is not just any weekend, as the winner will receive a pair of tickets for the top 'La Liga' match played on Sunday 3rd May between two of the worlds most exciting teams, Real Madrid and Barcelona!

This fantastic prize includes tickets for the match, scheduled flights with British Airways, two nights in single rooms in one of Madrid's top hotels, breakfast and transfers to and from the airport.

The winner will have category one seats in the middle section of the fantastic Santiago Bernabéu stadium, enjoying one of the best views of the pitch at what is hoped to be one of the games of the season.

To take the opportunity of winning this fabulous prize, just visit the Rigby Taylor Stand C23 where staff will be on hand to explain how to enter.

The competition will be held on the first two days of the exhibition (20/21 January) and the prize-winner will be announced at 4.45pm on the Wednesday.

RT

rigby taylor

Stand C23

Rigby Taylor Ltd

www.rigbytaylor.com

* Only bona fida, practicing greenkeepers, groundsmen, landscapers and local authority amenity employees will be eligible to enter.

MEMBER SOLUTIONS CENTER

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presented in partnership with golf industry travel

golf industry show
GCSAA • NGCOA



THE DELEGATION



10 BIGGA members will be travelling to this year's GCSAA Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, as part of a Delegation thanks to Bernhard & Co. Melissa Jones reveals the lucky candidates...

Once again 10 BIGGA members will be flown to the United States for the experience of a lifetime, thanks to the sponsorship of Bernhard & Co. While in New Orleans, they will visit local golf courses, attend seminars, meet with Superintendents to discuss how greenkeepers operate on the other side of the pond, attend functions and, of course, be able to take in the GIS (Golf Industry Show) Conference and Exhibition.

About the Golf Industry Show

The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for the owners/operators of golf facilities, and the professional members of the golf course and club management industries. Like our very own Harrogate Week, the event combines education, networking and solutions for Golf Course Superintendents, Owners/ Operators, General Managers, Chief Operating Officers, Architects and Builders.

The 2009 trade show floor layout is designed to benefit every member of the golf facility team, and is segmented by products and services into three distinct areas: golf course solutions, clubhouse solutions, and range and outdoor facility solutions.

Several special features will spice up the floor in 2009: three networking parks, an interactive construction project and an indoor range.

GIS is presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), along with other supporting organisations.

The 2009 event will take place from February 5-7 and is to be held at New Orleans Morial Convention Center. More than 25,000 golf industry professionals are expected to attend this year's show, which will feature more than 900 exhibitors.

Conferences. GCSAA's conference will take place from February 2 to 7.

The Delegation

Name: Graham Pickin
Club: Thornhurst Park
Position: Course Manager



Graham has a HNC in Golf Course Management and has been at Thornhurst Park Golf Club for the last eight years, where he is responsible for managing a team of six greenkeepers, plus one gardener, and maintaining an 18 hole course.

"The trip will undoubtedly open my mind to new techniques and thinking, and I would pass this information on to my staff," said Graham.

"It will revitalise me as a greenkeeper – every time I go to a show or demonstration, my enthusiasm levels go through the roof."

Name: Andrew Boyce
Club: Bath
Position: Course Manager



Andrew began his career as a trainee at Bath Golf Club, at the age of 16. He then went into full time greenkeeper training at Sparsholt College, with a year placement at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club. Before returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy Course Manager, Andrew worked as an Assistant at Lansdowne and a First Assistant at Castle Combe. Six years ago he was promoted to Course Manager.

"The opportunity to mix, not only with BIGGA delegates, but also Superintendents state side, will not be wasted on me, and I could bring much to the group while away and also to others on my return," said Andrew.

Name: Richard Cutler
Club: La Moye
Position: Course Manager



Richard has an ILM SVQ Level IV in Management, gained at Elmwood College and before joining La Moye last year, held the role of Course Manager at Montrose Links for five years.

"I will use this experience to broaden my knowledge of turfgrass management and industry developments, to network with other greenkeepers and industry specialists, and to help show how professional UK greenkeepers can be," said Richard.

Name: John Keenaghan
Club: Chipping Sodbury
Position:
Head Greenkeeper



John began his career as a Greenkeeping Assistant in 1996 at Filton Golf Club, where he stayed until 1999. John worked at three other golf clubs before joining Chipping Sodbury as a

Deputy Head Greenkeeper in 2003, and in 2006 he was promoted to Head Greenkeeper.

"I will use this experience to speak to as many people as possible, listen and learn, so that I may bring back any knowledge and ideas, and implement them on my golf course," said John.

Name: Jim Brown
Club: De Vere Oulton Hall
Position: Golf Courses & Estate Manager



Jim is a qualified D32-D33 NVQ assessor and L12 trainer with the GTC. He was also nominated to represent Askham Bryan College in the 1992 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards.

"Obviously the BIGGA delegation members are encouraged to participate in full interaction with our US colleagues, that experience will not be wasted – benefiting not only myself, Oulton Hall and hopefully the American greenkeepers I meet. Also with my willingness to harness the new ideas and knowledge I pick up from the visit, then use them in my environment, I will share them with my colleagues back home," enthused Jim.

Name: Nicholas Miles
Club: Market Harborough
Position: Course Manager



Nicholas, who began his greenkeeping career at Hellidon Lakes, has a HND in Golf Course Management from Reaseheath College.

"I am looking forward to experiencing the golf show State side, and seeing how education is taught over there. I would also like to see how a golf course is managed and the facilities made available to the greenkeepers," said Nicholas.

"I believe the whole trip will be invaluable in terms of experience gained – learning how a golf course is maintained on differing budgets would be an eye opening experience."

Name: Derek Robson
Club: The Dukes, St Andrews
Position:
Head Greenkeeper



Derek joined The Dukes as First Assistant before being promoted to Deputy, then Head Greenkeeper within two and a half years.

In 2008 The Dukes hosted the Scottish Amateur Strokeplay which, after re-building four greens in the winter of 07/08, was a real challenge to have them grown in time for the Amateur, "but one which my team relished and a superb achievement," said Derek.

"I view the trip as an excellent educational experience and one which will be beneficial, not only to me, but also to my team and the local BIGGA Central Section, which we are very proud of," enthused Derek.

Name: Stephen Chappell
Club: Neath
Position:
Head Greenkeeper



Stephen briefly worked as a groundsman before commencing his greenkeeping career in 1988 at Bath Golf Club.

"I would like to be selected as part of the BIGGA delegation because I feel I would be able to represent our Association in an honest, friendly and professional manner.

"I will share my experience by giving a talk at the South Wales education seminar which we hold annually, each spring. I will also use the experience to try to inspire and develop other greenkeepers, young and old, to get involved in the Association and to better their own careers," said Stephen.

Name: Robert Sandilands
Club: Elsham
Position:
Deputy Head Greenkeeper



Robert has a BTEC National Diploma in Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a BSC in Rural Resource Management.

"I am a forward thinking young Deputy, eager to learn and pick up new ideas and techniques to aid and improve our course and my skills in general," said Robert.

"This trip will be a unique opportunity to boost my skills and experience, and will be invaluable to someone of my age and current experience. I will share my new ideas with current and future workmates for the benefit of the course and golf club as a whole."

Name: Chris Haspell
Club: Castle Stuart Golf Links
Position: Course Manager



Chris, who has designed and constructed six golf courses in Denmark, moved to Scotland in 2006 to manage the turf at Castle Stuart Golf Links and the course itself opened last summer.

"I feel the ideas picked up on the trip will benefit the operation at Castle Stuart, from tee markers to fertilisers and from hydroponics to agronomics. I will use his experience to collect data and ideas, and to forge connections around the UK and Europe, and of course the USA," said Chris.

Education Conferences

Along with the show, GCSAA, NGCOA and CMAA will be presenting their annual Education

Do the job you love and earn the money you deserve!

Lawn Master®

the lawn treatment service...

My name is Bob Underhill. I'm a greenkeeper and also Managing Director of a lawn treatment company called Lawn Master.

If you are like most of the greenkeepers and groundsmen that we have spoken to, then you enjoy doing your job, and do it out of passion for turf. This is despite the hours being so long and the financial rewards being extremely poor.

How long will you be expected to keep doing unpaid overtime, with minimal staff levels and no funds, or even under threat of redundancy? Wage rises are now a thing of the past, but you are expected to view where you work as a privilege or substitute for an acceptable salary.

In the last few years Lawn Master has taken top grounds and greens staff from some of the highest paid and most prestigious positions in the industry, as well as the poorest. All have done extremely well, because given the choice customers appreciate and prefer having an experienced trained person, rather than the new inexperienced players in the franchise world.

Last year, in his first five months of trading, one of our new franchisees had a turnover exceeding £55,000 and ended his first year on over £100,000. This person is already on target to double this in year two. New starters this year have already reached £34k by month six. We are having a record year in 2008.

Competitors are no problem for our outlets as we are the only lawn company in the UK to recruit pre-experienced franchisees.

Our funding packages make it easy for any experienced groundsmen and greenkeepers like you to own their own business. We need the right people that are experienced and motivated. In return, you'll receive all the support that you need, and join the only network of like-minded real professionals in the UK.




Spencer Haines

Former Course Manager at Hartley Wintney Golf Course



First Year 2007

First months turnover £7k, month 2 £11k. Ended first year on over £110k. On track to double in year 2.

Andrew Lloyd

Former Arsenal Football Club - Groundsman

Started 2008

First 3 months turnover over £18k

Turnover £35K in six months



Brian Aitken

Ex Largs, Turnberry & West Kilbride - Greenkeeper



First 3 months

Turnover Over £17k

On target for £54K in year one!

Barry Dolan

Former Greenkeeper, Carnoustie, Dundee

Started April 2006

Turnover in winter period alone £20k

Turnover 150k in 2 and a half years.



Everyone wants to know how much money they will earn before they actually buy a franchise. Because of our track record we now have the ability to put almost all experienced groundsmen and greenkeepers in a position to be able to fund our franchise.

Contact me for a prospectus and further information.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ✓ | Your own sellable asset | ✗ | No prospects? |
| ✓ | Extreme earning capacity | ✗ | Cost cuts? |
| ✓ | Be your own boss | ✗ | No pay rise? |
| ✓ | All professionals like you | ✗ | Redundancies? |
| ✓ | Fewer hours for more money | ✗ | No Pension? |
| ✓ | Full Business support | ✗ | Unpaid overtime? |

Please Note

We actively need to talk to you now if you live within an hour of Glasgow, Edinburgh or Aberdeen.

Scotland is becoming a key area for Lawn Master. Everyone wants to know how much money they will earn before they actually buy a franchise. Contact me and I'll send you a prospectus and put you in touch with other turf professionals who have already joined us.

Alternatively you could sit around and wait for your boat to come in one day!
Or you could make the effort to swim out to meet it!



See us at Harrogate Week,
20-22nd January 2009

If you're interested, please contact me on
0845 60 22 054
or email me at bob.underhill@lawnmaster.co.uk
www.lawnmaster.co.uk

A Corporate Member



GREENKEEPER TRAINING

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that

meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

Sami Collins

Head of Learning & Development
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: sami@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB

Contact: Sam Letham

Tel: 01334 658842 Fax: 01334 658888

Email: sletham@elmwood.ac.uk

Web: www.elmwood.ac.uk



Information: Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping. Block release: SVQ level II, level III, level IV. Block release and workbased options available. SVQ IV ILM Management, HNC & HND Golf Course Management available as full time and online distance learning. Golf Course Environmental Studies, Construction & Design Management online learning courses. HNC & HND Golf Facility Management. PDA for Football, Cricket Management. SVQ level II & III Landbased Service Engineers and Golf Course Mechanics course. BTLIA Irrigation Management block course various times throughout the year. FEPA and COSHH Health & Safety courses available. Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE

Rutherglen Campus,
Buchanan Drive,
Rutherglen,
Glasgow, G73 3PF



Contact: William O'Neil

Tel: 0141 272 3823

Email: woneil@langside.ac.uk

Information: SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Pesticides.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD

50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB

Contact: Chris Bothwell

Tel: 0141 556 3999 Fax: 0141 556 4999

Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk



Information: SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn,
West Lothian, EH52 6NH



Contact: Steve Miller

Tel: 01506 864800 Fax: 01506 853373

Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk

Web: www.oatridge.ac.uk

Information: Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level 3 Sports Turf (Day Release) And Fast Track options. Svq Level III in Service engineering, full range of amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other Landbased subjects at HND And HNC and National Certificate and SVQ Levels: Short Courses NPTC/Lantra Short courses in Spraying, Chainsaw, Turf Maintenance Equipment, ATV etc.

WALES

PENCOED

Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG

Contact: John Sullivan

Tel: 01656 302671

Email: jrsullivan@bridgend.ac.uk

Web: www.bridgend.ac.uk



Information: Courses offered at Pencoed include N.V.Q. Levels 2 & 3 Sports turf, National and Advanced National Certificates. NPTC and Lantra short courses and certification in a range of land based areas including Pesticide Application; PA1, PA2 and PA6. Tractor driving, hedge laying and dry stonewalling etc.

TRAINING PROVIDERS/ COURSES GUIDE



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

Study online Degrees in Sportsturf



Myerscough
College
PRESTON • ENGLAND

Myerscough College is one of the UK's leading centres of excellence for the delivery of Higher Education courses in Sportsturf and Turfgrass Science.

Applications are now invited for the following programmes starting in September 2009

Foundation Degree in Sportsturf

Full-time or online study

BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science

Full-time or online study

Join students from across the world, studying in their own time, using our unique web-based online learning network.



Myerscough College's degree programmes are validated by the University of Central Lancashire



For more information contact Course Enquiries on 01995 642211 or visit www.myerscough.ac.uk

ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR

Contact: Central Admissions

Tel: 01904 772211

Email: enquires@askham-bryan.ac.uk

Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk



Information: First Diploma and National Diploma in Horticulture. Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time. Block release courses: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR

Contact: Deborah Smirfitt

Tel: Freephone 0800 0711 666

Fax: 01628 824695

Email: enquiries@bca.ac.uk Web: www.bca.ac.uk



Information: Located in the heart of the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, plus Higher National Certificate and Foundation Degree programmes. Part-time programmes include the NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. A wide transport network is provided as well as residential accommodation on-site.

BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANNINGTON
CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES

Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS

Contact: Will Bowden

Tel: 01278 441234

Fax: 01278 444363

Email: bowdenw@bridgwater.ac.uk

www.bridgwater.ac.uk



Information: NVQ 2 & 3 apprentice scheme, NVQ 2 & 3 programme-led (new 2009) certificate of higher education in Sports Turf Management, BTEC in Golf Studies (new 2009). FEPA training, Chainsaw certification, Greenkeepers Mechanics training.

Note the certificate of higher education and the foundation degree are available as part time options.

DUCHY COLLEGE

Cornwall's College of the Countryside

Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB

Duchy College, Rosewarne, Cambourne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB

Contact: Liz Clarkson

Tel: 01579 372345/07785 105087 Email: liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk

Contact: Claire Bennetts

Tel 01209 722109/07824 626363 Email: Claire.bennetts@duchy.ac.uk

Website: www.duchy.ac.uk



Information: Duchy College offers NVQ 1, 2 & 3 in Amenity Horticulture (inc Sports Turf), HNC Horticulture, NC and ANC Horticulture, RHS Level 2 and Advanced Certificate, BSc (Hons) Horticulture. We also offer Institute of Leadership and Management courses to Greenkeepers, together with workshops in Business Skills. Short courses in pesticides, plant machinery, vehicles, forestry and arboriculture are also available

ENGLAND

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL

Contact: Mike Dodd

Tel: 01732 850551

Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk

Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk



Information: NVQs (Levels 2 and 3), Apprenticeships and work-based learning courses available in Greenkeeping, Landscaping and Groundsmanship. We also offer a range of short courses, for example, Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Application. Additionally, full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects.

MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.

Contact: Information, Guidance and Admissions on 01483 884040, email: mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk.

Website: 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, Foundation Degree and BSc (Hons) in Horticulture (Sports Turf), 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.

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 Introductory Diploma 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.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

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

Contact: Andrew Wight

Telephone: 01727 73735

Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk

Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk



Information

Full time courses: National Certificate in Sports Turf Management and Horticulture.
Part Time courses: NVQ L2/3 in Greenkeeping, Lantra work based Apprenticeship.
Short courses: NPTC PA1/2/6 and Chainsaw CS30.1 and CS30.2

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, 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).

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. NVQ4

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

RODBASTEN COLLEGE

Penkridge, Staffordshire, ST19 5 PH

Contact: Keith Ellis

Tel: 01785 712209 Fax: 01785 715701

E-mail: rodenquiries@rodbaston.ac.uk

Website: www.rodbaston.ac.uk



Information: Rodbaston College offers an extensive range of courses, full, part time and day release. Full time programmes include; NPTC Skills for Life, Level One, 1st Diploma, National Award, National Certificate and National Diploma. Higher Education programmes can be studied on a part time basis and include Foundation Degree and the Bsc in Horticulture. Work based learning is available at NVQ 1, NVQ 2 and NVQ 3 and Rodbaston offers very extensive Train2Gain provision. Sports turf and green keeping can be studied to NVQ 2 and NVQ 3 level on a day release basis. The college offers a wide transport network to its learners as well as residential accommodation on site.

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.

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.

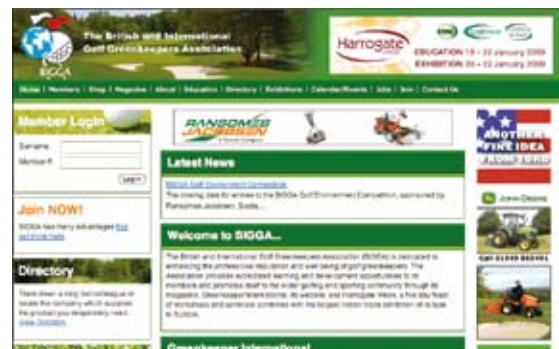
BIGGA Lending Library

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

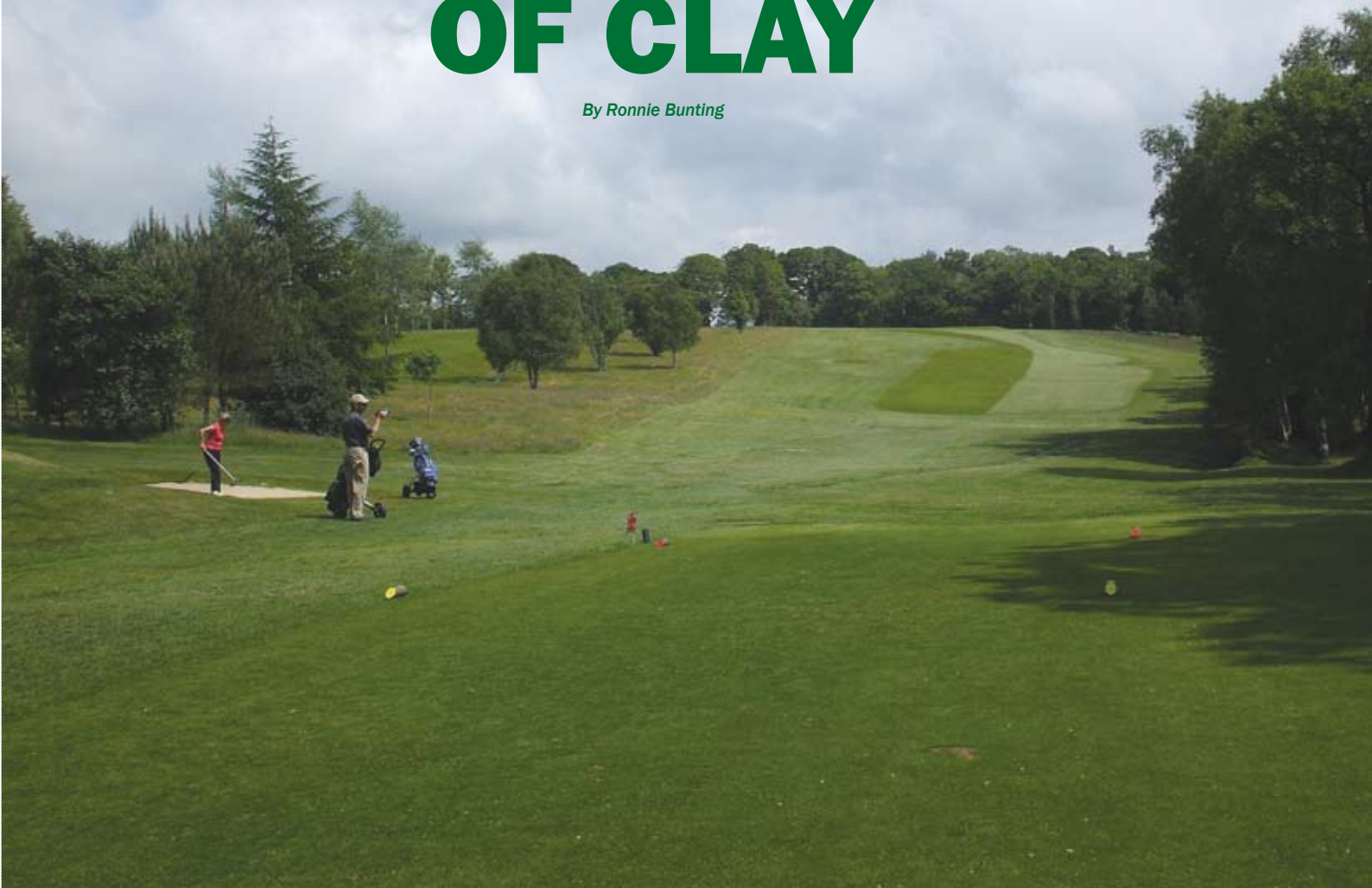
Check out the latest Jobs online by visiting www.bigga.org.uk

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.



THE DELIGHTS OF CLAY

By Ronnie Bunting



At Ballochmyle Golf Club in wettest Ayrshire, I manage a 75-year-old parkland course with the heaviest clay structure imaginable for nearly four years. Field drains of clay horseshoe type tiles installed during the middle of the 19th century, four to five foot deep backfilled with the clay that was dug out to put them in. Trees have been planted with the intention of separating holes but have actually succeeded in blocking almost every drain on the course, I'm sure you get the picture.

Having said that, we have a tight pleasant atmospheric course to enjoy when the golfing Gods are with us.

The definition created by the uncut rough, but sparse enough to allow a ball to bounce therefore, is more easily found but still clearly not where you want to be.

I have endeavoured to define various holes by leaving areas of uncut rough that, when the seed heads and flowers appear, creates a visual hazard, improves the degree of difficulty and doesn't

slow the game down excessively. To achieve this we hire a flail cutter collector and remove large volumes of clippings every September, not an easy task given the shorter daylight hours and constant precipitation keeping all things wet. All the while continuing the necessary course work of regular cutting, aeration, top dressing not to mention holidays, illness etc.

By starving these areas we are thinning the sward of undesirable species, Yorkshire fog and other soft rank grass types, to leave the finer fescues and wild flowers. In doing so we are creating environmental habitat areas that act as wildlife corridors and a sward thin enough for players to see their ball bounce from the wayward shot.

We now have areas that both enhance the scenic values of the course and define clearly where a player doesn't want his ball to be. This makes the entire golf experience much more rewarding or should I say frustrating?

As referred to earlier, the logistics behind this management can be daunting but I have come up with an idea that helps! I want to thin out these

areas even further than I achieve by the starvation theory described earlier. I now fit my Gammibetti 300lt boom sprayer with Hardi Quintastream nozzles (used in agriculture for fertilising) the boom height set at 75cm and the sprayer set to operate at two bar at the nozzle, this pressure is sufficient to stop any drift "most important" as I then add 1.5lt glyosphate (total herbicide) and spray the rough. Needless to say timing should be before the grass reaches the seed head stage, as the seed heads are important for definition and spraying must be done in straight lines.

I spray at right angles to the direction in which the hole is played therefore the discolouration isn't obvious from a distance. It may seem drastic to some who don't appreciate the circumstances but over the last two years the golfers and I are very pleased with the results.

It also means we improve the drying potential letting air into the base of the plant (very important when it comes to cutting) and reducing the quantity of the grass removed lessening traffic damage when cutting and golfers don't get quite as wet when searching for their ball.

