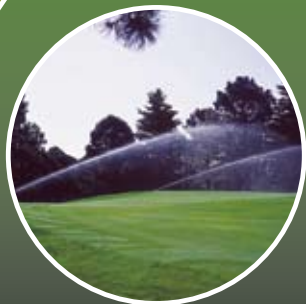
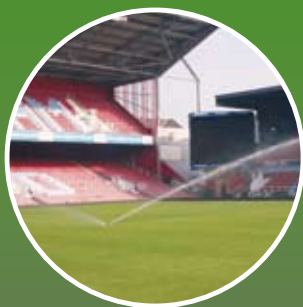




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Welcome



Getting it Wrong!

It's only when you see someone else getting it wrong in outrageous fashion that you appreciate that we're not that bad after all.

It was those very thoughts which entered my head when I heard about the problems in Antigua with the Second Test between the West Indies and England. How it could have got to the stage where only ten balls could be bowled before deciding that it was too dangerous to continue is totally beyond me. It was the shortest Test Match in the history of the game but it will be remembered for more

than just that record. Indeed those ten balls included many aborted attempts to get to the end of their run ups by the opening bowlers.

In golf the European Tour carry out several pre-event visits by the Tournament Director and their own greenkeeping staff to establish if there are any long term problems or minor tweaks to be made to ensure that the course is ready for a top quality sporting event. These are dealt with in plenty of time to ensure when the players and officials arrive there are no horrible surprises.

In Antigua everyone and his dog seemed to know that the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium was a disaster borne out of poor construction when it was being built and that any attempts to play the match would be fraught with difficulty. But the players still got as far as starting the match, risking injury not to mention ridicule from the rest of the sporting world. It would suggest that the on-going monitoring that the European Tour carries out on a routine basis doesn't even occur in the most simplistic of fashions in Test cricket.

That's not to say that other sports are immune from problems. In golf we had the situation in Australia where the greens were so slick it was impossible to stop a ball on them and play had to be abandoned when the wind got up slightly. In football, floodlight failure causes the occasional abandonment while who can forget the ludicrous abandonment of the 1993 Grand National when the starter tried to call back the runners after a false start using only a rolled up flag. Each is daft in its own way and perfectly preventable, given a little forethought, planning and appropriate checking procedures, but they are still dwarfed by the magnitude of the Antiguan farce.

If I had been a fully paid up member of the Barmy Army and decided to nip over to the West Indies to cheer on the boys after they had gone one down in the Test Series I'd be more than a little disappointed, not to mention severely out of pocket. Sporting authorities need to be on the ball enough to prevent such debacles from taking place.

Cricket certainly doesn't have its troubles to seek. Having just heard the announcement that American billionaire Sir Alan Stanford, the major benefactor of West Indian cricket and more recently English cricket, is being investigated for fraud by the US authorities that funding may dry up.

It doesn't rain but it pours for the game of cricket but many of the problems are avoidable.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Contents



6-10 News

REGULARS

6-10 News

11 GTC

12-13 Industry Update

14 Membership
An update us on Membership matters

15 Education
Sami Collins updates us on Learning and Development matters

50 Quick Guide To...Moving Trees

52-53 New Products

54 Hobbies

54 Human Resources Tip 

55 In the Shed
Puzzle Page

56 News from the Chief Executive

56-65 Around the Green

67 Letters

74 As I See It...
National Chairman Peter Todd's column



20-21 Golden Key Sponsors: Kubota



23-25 One Tractor - Two Sets Of Wheels And Tyres



27-29 Overseeding: Get Better Results This Season



PUTTING THE ENVIRONMENT FIRST

Scott MacCallum visits 2008 Environment Competition winner Caldy and discovers a club where environmental management is on every agenda

When Caldy Golf Club was announced as winner of the 2008 BPGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Bannerman Jacobson, Scott, Spink and Golf Monthly, it was the culmination of a dream, not to mention a bit of hard work, for Course Manager, Carl Crocker.

Carl had led the club through the competition since 2004, and when he arrived on the scene in 2004, he found, in Head Greenkeeper, Ian Ferrell, a real commitment when it came to environmental work, which the club is now forward of apex.

"I'd checked it out when I came up here," said Carl.

"I'd been told it was a great work with the STPA, Bob Taylor, and we carried on doing the same sort of thing when I came up here," said Carl.

And it would be fair to say that what has been achieved at Caldy more than makes them an enviable Environment Competition Champion.

"We won the Northern Region Award in 2005 and the feedback then was that we could be the clubhouse side of things so that we could go even further and not to just also win. Our Section Manager, Gail Cropper, got to hear and made real impressions in the clubhouse."

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to me and said that we had to look on from here, that BPGA was Chairman, Paul Weston, Course Manager of our former membership Caldy Club and how much the club had moved forward since the competition."

Carl has managed to acquire a couple of trophies in this last year's golf club which he has to live management strategies.

"When Ian and Gail took over as Chairman and Manager - they even got me a sweatshirt with that on it - but here I'm only known as Chopper, as I haven't been quite as aggressive, but then we haven't needed to be."

Carl took members on course walks to explain the philosophy of their management to back up the presentations he did in the clubhouse. One of the areas he concentrated on was road expansion from the clubhouse window.

"One of the club's main assets is the history of the clubhouse which is the clubhouse because of the Green Flag growing in a tree, while there was a big ball of Scots Pine that had been planted

to hold an old flag. That flag is now ground level and is a conservation area that we have to look after for the club's new green."

The common theme of planting trees and then supporting them to flourish perfectly with on-going maintenance is something Carl has seen.

"The green had been there for 120 years and we don't expect to plant over the current species and have them manage themselves."

he said, adding that he knows of clubs where the policy is written in stone that trees should not be touched.

"Conservation not preservation should be the motto," he explained.

"The work was carried out in 2005, the weekend year on record, and many members thought we'd completed the course. However, due to the strong character of the Captain, and particularly the then Green Chairman, Tom Dickinson, they carried on not finishing a job they had expected to complete until July/August when it had been scheduled for completion in March/April before the main golf season. But a golf course is a fantastically regenerative place and if people want to go and have their trees brought to see where the drama is," said Carl, who although not at the club when the work was done has certainly benefited from it.

"That system is the foundation of us many of the things we've done since. For example, we've been able to carry out some work when before it would have been too wet and know that whatever we are doing we are more than 20 metres from a drain," said Carl, looking back at a project which featured in the May 2002 edition of Greenkeeper International.



The Caldy Team with Ian Ferrell, far left.




16-18 Course Feature

45-48 The Importance of Aeration

FEATURES

16-18 Course Feature
Scott MacCallum visits Caldy Golf Club

20-21 Golden Key
Kubota  Sponsors:

23-25 One Tractor – Two Sets Of Wheels And Tyres
By James de Havilland

27-29 Overseeding: Get Better Results This Season
By Keith Kensett

30-31 So You Have Joined The Committee
Paul Lowe, Course Manager of Bromborough GC and Derek Hartley, Green Chairman, offer some advice



33-44 Supplement: Reducing Your Carbon Footprint
A closer look at what a carbon footprint consists of and offer advice as to how you can go about reducing yours...

45-48 The Importance of Aeration
By Philip Threadgold



33-44 Reducing Your Carbon Footprint



33-44 Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Cover photography courtesy of Rigby Taylor



ERIC KULAAS WINS EDWIN BUDDING AWARD

Eric Kulaas, Equipment Manager at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort and Golf Club in St. Vincent, Florida, is the second winner of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The Award was created to recognise technical professionals in the turf equipment sector whose actions have gone above and beyond the norm to help shape the golf industry into what it is today. Edwin Budding was one of those individuals who helped define golf, not as a player, but as an engineer. He designed the first cylinder mower, which has shaped golf as we know it today.

Eric was selected by a committee of industry professionals chosen by IGCEMA back in November 2008. He was presented with his award by David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, at a ceremony at Harrogate Week.

“The IGCEMA wanted to recognise individuals who demonstrate the same qualities as Edwin Budding; influence significant change in our industry above and beyond normal day-to-day work. IGCEMA has created an award for actual, measurable accomplishments, to make an accurate judgment of contributions made to the industry, and reward those contributions,” said David.



David Withers (far left) of the award sponsors, Ransomes Jacobsen, and Eric Kulaas (third from right) with representatives from IGCEMA at the presentation of the Edwin Budding Award.

AERATION RESTORES

Six thousand square metres of severely compacted turf at St. James' Park, London are on the way to recovery, following one-metre deep compressed air de-compaction treatment.

Terrain Aeration was hired to treat turf areas compacted during the Olympic Handover Concert last August.

“After the concert we were left with severe compaction in the area behind the temporary stage,” said Assistant Park Manager, David Ellis.

Terrain Aeration employed its largest terralift machine, Airforce along with the smaller lighter model, Airforce Scamper to treat the area, inserting a one-metre probe and injecting compressed air at two metre spacings on a staggered grid pattern.



EIRIAS PARK HOSTS FIRST NORTH WEST SHOW

Groundsmen and Greenkeepers from all over the North West will be converging on Eirias Park Stadium, Colwyn Bay this month (March 18) for the first one day seminar and trade show specifically organised to serve the region.

This joint, non profit making initiative by Conwy Borough Council and Vitax Amenity includes a free seminar programme with subjects ranging from

‘A Biological Approach to Pest Management in Green Flag Parks’ by Becker Underwood to ‘The Use of Selective Weed Killers and Weed Control Products’ by Vitax Amenity.

Working demonstrations of ‘line marking’, ‘spiking and slitting’ and ‘sandbanding’ will take place in the central arena, which will be encircled by trade stands representing companies and

organisations as diverse as Tacit, Sisis, Denby Plant Hire and The Welsh College of Horticulture.

The Eirias Park show is on Wednesday, March 18 at Eirias Park Stadium, Colwyn Bay from 10am to 4.30pm.

For further information on either visiting or exhibiting contact Colin Turner on Tel: 07816 849559 or: 01756 791482.

FIRST CITY AND GUILD CLASS

BIGGA Life Member, Bob Moffat, has uncovered a photograph from, he thinks, the late '60s or early '70s containing some well known personalities within the industry, who were the first to sit City and Guilds exams in Scotland.

Bob, who now lives in Hampshire, recalls the background to the C&G programme being set up.

"To the best of my memory it was one day I met a person on the 18th fairway of Cathkin Braes GC, where I was Head Greenkeeper, in the late 1960s or early 1970s. That person was Charles Crossan, Head Teacher at Woodburn House, and he asked if I had anything to do with, the then, SIGGA. I was the Secretary. The next question was would the Association be interested in training to City & Guild standard as he was very interested and would contact C&G and would come back to the Association.

"My reply was that I would bring the matter to Committee. I am pleased to say that is where

it all started," said Bob.

"Cecil George, of Lenzie GC, and myself were the first Greenkeepers to become practical examiners at Woodburn House."

Below is a photo of what Bob believes is the first class to sit C&G.

"There are many familiar faces among them, anybody recognise these people? I have some names as on the list below.

"Ronnie Bunting, Jim Grainger, Chris Kennedy, Lauchlan McGill, David McIndoe and Bill Paterson. These lads may be in the photo. The two beside Cecil are Mr Crossan and Mr Macdonald, both teachers."

Please send in any old greenkeeper pictures you may have to scott@bigga.co.uk



WINNER CHOOSES EDUCATION

Andrew Flemmings, from Filey Golf Club, was the lucky winner of a £50 voucher for BIGGA merchandise having had his ticket drawn from the hat on the Vitax Amenity stand at Harrogate Week 2009.

Andrew, whose ticket also invited him to the "Stress Relief on a US Open Course" seminar conducted for Vitax by Colin Burns, General Manager

of Winged Foot Golf Club, was delighted. "I'm going to spend the prize on a BIGGA's education course," he said.

New National BIGGA Chairman, Peter Todd did the honours while the "hat" was one of Vitax Amenity's new Supaturf Spreaders on display on the stand.

APOLOGY

Last month's article "Quality Control at Hewarth GC" unfortunately did not include contact details for the contributing companies: **Full Circle Irrigation Services**, Tel: 01423 799900 email: info@fullcircleirrigation.co.uk, and **John Deere Ltd**, Tel: 0800 085 2522 Website: www.johndeere.co.uk.
Our apologies to both companies.

THE GRASS IS GETTING GREENER

Harrogate Week 2009 provided the perfect opportunity for Barenbrug to catch up with one of its key customers – Perranporth Golf Club.

Perranporth was central to the development of the specialist grass seed breeder's BAR 22 all-fescue mixture after it participated in a species exchange overseeding trial in spring 2006.

Head Greenkeeper, Bill Mitchell, said that the course continues to reap the benefits of the programme Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager Jayne Leyland devised.

"Avoncrop Amenity's John Palfrey introduced me to Jayne and the team during Harrogate Week 2006,"

Seven mixtures were trialled across Perranporth's greens and tees, with the results from the mixture synergies sown leading directly to BAR 22's development, which features 30 per cent Hardtop hard fescue and a blend of Chewings and slender creeping red fescues, and boasts a superior winter green and drought tolerance.

Starting in spring, Bill is now set to overseed with the mixture he helped create in order to achieve full species exchange.

"I was very happy with the trial results. In particular, the grass held its green through the winter, which is important for golfers, and we now plan to continue the programme into the aprons and approaches," said Bill.



From left, Barenbrug's David Singleton and Jayne Leyland with Perranporth's Head Greenkeeper, Bill Mitchell, and his Deputy and brother, John Mitchell.

ON COURSE FOR GREAT THINGS

A Jack Nicklaus signature golf course – only the second in Ireland – the first Dave Pelz Golf Academy to be built in Europe, a Grade 1 listed castle, 11 acres of man-made lakes and a drainage system the length of the Grand Canyon are the central features of what is believed to be Europe's largest landscaping contract.

Killeen Castle, to the north west of Dublin, is the centrepiece of a 560-acre golf resort development that will include a five-star hotel,

championship quality golf course and 162 residential properties.

The castle, originally built in the 12th century, was once home to the Plunkett family and Earls of Fingall; in the 19th century the ninth Earl replaced it in the style of Windsor Castle, but the building was gutted by fire in 1981. It has now undergone a nine-month, multi-million dollar refurbishment by architects Michael Collins & Associates, in which 50 masons cleaned and restored every brick and stone by hand.

Maintenance of the 18 hole, 7650 yard golf course, which is due to open this spring, is already being carried out by a team of 10 greens staff led by course superintendent Mark Collins and assistant Robert Kane, using a fleet of John Deere equipment supplied by local dealer Dublin Grass Machinery (pictured). In all around 270 acres of the estate are devoted to golf, including the course and academy, which is designed to improve putting and short game skills.



Paul Dixon (centre) receiving his certificate from Sadie Chalkley, Chairman of British Hardware Federation and soon to be the first woman president of BHF Group, and BHF Group managing director Alan Hawkins.

HUNT STARTS FOR NEW TYPES OF WASTE TO BE RECYCLED

The search for additional waste materials that can be reused and recycled, rather than needlessly dumped in landfill, has been launched by the Waste Protocols Project - a joint Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) initiative.

The Project, set up in 2006 to help industry make better use of waste materials by clarifying in Quality Protocols how and when waste can be freed up from regulations and used with no further risk to the environment, has identified a range of materials that can be turned into new items rather than discarded.

To date 11 materials – including non-packaging plastics such as old drainpipes - and waste cooking

oil that can be transformed into biodiesel – have been reviewed by the project. In total this first wave of protocols, over the next 10 years, are projected to save businesses and industry more than £400 million, create a £280 million market in the materials and divert 17 million tonnes of waste from landfill.

Martin Brocklehurst, the Environment Agency's Head of Environment Protection External Programmes, said: "The Waste Protocol Project is an exciting initiative that is already making a positive impact on both industry and the environment. But we don't want to stop here. There are more types of waste that could be treated as a resource rather than rubbish and because it takes time to develop

a Quality Protocol we want to start identifying more potentially suitable materials now.

"For Quality Protocols to be effective and divert waste from landfill, reduce pressure on precious natural resources and reduce businesses' overheads in this tough economic climate, it's vital that industry bring their technical expertise to the table. We need industry's help to ensure that the waste materials with the greatest potential for recycling and reuse are selected."

Application forms can be downloaded at www.environmentagency.gov.uk/wasteprotocolsselection and, once completed, submitted to wspgroup.com before 12noon on Wednesday 8 April 2009.

THE INTEGRATION OF SPORTS TURF LANDSCAPE STAFF INTO BIGGA MEMBERSHIP



Some of the facts...

- BIGGA is a professionally managed and forward-looking organisation dedicated to the training, education and continuing professional development of all its members.
- Only groundsmen involved in the maintenance of sports turf are being considered for Full Membership.
- There are a great number of non-member greenkeepers and BIGGA will be implementing a recruitment drive in the spring.
- BIGGA is not in financial difficulty.
- The Board believes that BIGGA membership offers good value for money.
- Courtesy golf is not a right of membership and will always be at the discretion of the golf club. The inclusion of groundsmen should not adversely affect this.
- There is little likelihood of a mass joining by groundsmen thereby 'swamping' the current greenkeeper membership base.
- Greenkeepers and groundsmen have a lot that can be shared when it comes to education and training.
- BIGGA's name will not change if groundsmen are allowed to join
- Greenkeeper International can adopt a more holistic approach to sports turf.
- Trade companies are looking for a more dominant organisation to deal with in the Sports Turf sector.

Anyone who wishes any further information regarding the above should contact John Pemberton at BIGGA HOUSE.

FOCUS ON FIELD DAYS

The European Turfgrass Society has lined up an exciting and informative programme for its Field Days to be held in Valencia, Spain, on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday, April 22.

Details were confirmed at an ETS board meeting in November, hosted by Prof. Diego Gomez de Barreda, of the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia.

Taking advantage of this opportunity to meet at the Field Days, ETS members are invited to attend the ETS General Assembly, which will also take place at the April event. Further details will follow in the forthcoming members' newsletter.

And looking further ahead the programme of ETS Conferences and Field Days up to 2012 has now been confirmed: 2010 Conference: Angers - France; 2011 Field Days: Brussels - Belgium; 2012 Conference: London - UK.

For more information visit: www.turfgrassociety.eu



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HALLAMSHIRE OPTS FOR EXCLUSIVITY

Hallamshire Golf Club has signed a Toro agreement. The Sheffield club, which recently celebrated its centenary, had always shied away from committing to a single machinery manufacturer, but its positive experiences with its existing Toro kit convinced the committee to agree to the five-year deal.

Course Manager of 25 years, Gordon Brammah, commented: "We're a long-standing Toro user, but we've used a range of machinery in the past. I've always gone for the machine that did the job, rather than stick to a single manufacturer. But the greens staff and I have always been highly satisfied with the quality of our Toro machines and so when we decided to look at an exclusive package."

Hallamshire's new fleet includes four Greensmaster 1000s, a Greensmaster 3250-D, two Reelmaster 3100-Ds with Sidewinder, a Reelmaster 6500-D with DPA cutting units and a Groundsmaster 3500-D. Gordon says that the mowers are "doing a very good job" maintaining the 18-hole course.



From left are Lely's Jeff Anguige, Hallamshire Golf Club Director David Westaway, Course Manager Gordon Brammah, Lely's Nigel Lovatt and YTM's Tony Dodson, with the greenkeepers behind.

NATIONAL SKILLS CHALLENGE SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

The National Skills Challenge, designed to encourage youngsters to get into golf, has been shortlisted for The Sports Industry Awards 2009. The English Golf Union (EGU) and the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) worked with creative digital experts, Nemisys, to develop the online application to encourage children into the sport.

The Sport Industry Awards is Europe's largest and most prestigious commercial sport awards. The National Skills Challenge has been shortlisted for the category 'Best Promotion of Sport by a Governing Body'.

The National Skills Challenge has played a key role in a number of structured initiatives, delivered by the EGU and EWGA, that have helped junior membership of golf clubs increase by around 8,000 since 2004. County organisations are also welcoming the positive results and 26 have registered to deliver the activity locally to complement the work undertaken at national level.

REGIONAL SEMINARS

Amenity Land Solutions will be staging three half-day regional seminars in March looking at some of the future options available for complete weed control in amenity situations.

This topic is of particular and growing relevance following the passing by the European Parliament of 'The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive', which requires significant cuts to be made in pesticide use by 2010.

Among those who will benefit from attending are Local Authority staff, contractors, landscapers and others with responsibility for managing or implementing weed control in amenity areas and other open spaces.

The dates and venues for the three seminars are: Thursday, March 5: Twickenham Rugby Stadium (Obelensky Suite); Tuesday, March 10: Wolverhampton Wanderers FC's Molineux Stadium (Executive Lounge); Thursday, March 12: Manchester City FC's City of Manchester Stadium (Players Wives' Lounge). All seminars run from 10am until 1pm and will be followed by a buffet lunch. The speakers at all three seminars are: Jonathan Carr, Managing Director of Amenity Land Solutions; Paul Clifton, Bayer Environmental Science; Dr Dominic Lamb (and/or Manda Samson), Monsanto.

Those wishing to attend any of the seminars need to reserve a place by registering at: www.amenity.co.uk

OFFICIAL RANGEFINDER OF THE ENGLISH GOLF UNION

SkyCaddie has been announced as the Official Rangefinder of the English Golf Union just weeks after the organisation took the groundbreaking decision to allow distance measuring devices in all its championships in 2009.

Having put in place a three-year agreement, SkyCaddie will this year support 18 EGU Championships, provide SkyCaddie GPS units at a special rate to county players via the EGU County Coaching network and supply SkyCaddies for use by the EGU's England squads.

Jackie Hitchcock, SkyCaddie UK managing director, said: "We are delighted to be working so closely with the EGU, especially as they have such strong links to the amateur game at elite, county and club level."