



New PowerPlay Venue Impresses Creator

Two times Walker Cup captain and PowerPlay Golf creator, Peter McEvoy, visited Harrogate's Ridding Park Golf on recently to showcase the two flag 'risk and reward' game to a group of journalists and golfers.

The North Yorkshire golf resort has been chosen as an official PowerPlay Golf venue by Peter thanks to its first class golfing facilities, which included the superb new six hole Repton Short Course.

PowerPlay Golf is designed to be played over nine holes but Peter chose the six hole Repton Short Course as the location for his PowerPlay challenge.

"Risk and reward' is a key feature in PowerPlay so the Repton Short Course, with its six hole par three design and its interplay of water, woodland and parkland, provides the perfect setting for the game, as every shot counts," said Peter.

Billed as 'the new way to play golf', PowerPlay Golf has attracted global acclaim from many of the world's most famous golf-playing countries including Ireland, USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia and most recently, New Zealand.

In PowerPlay Golf, players can choose to play to the 'easy' white flag or the more difficult 'Skull 'n' Crossbones' black flag which is placed in a difficult location.



Long Service Award

Fakenham GC Head Greenkeeper, Gary Sutton, has celebrated 20 years at the club. He was appointed initially as a trainee greenkeeper under the wing of then Head Greenkeeper, Alan Gascoigne.

His joining on the July 4, 1989 marked not only the 213th Year of American Independence but coincided with the Centenary Year of Fakenham Golf Club which is now in its 120th year.

Gary attended a block release course at Easton College at the end of which he successfully completed the City and Guilds General Horticultural examinations.

He took over the position of Head Greenkeeper and over the years has transformed the golf course into one of the most highly regarded in the county.

Chairman Graham Cocker presenting a surround sound cinema system thanked Gary and commented 'that he hoped he would get as much enjoyment out of this as the members did while playing the course'.

Picture shows L-R: David Palmer Secretary, Derek Bradford, Greens Chairman, Gary Sutton, Graham Cocker, Barry Futter, General Manager



Eagle designs
and delivers
quality golf
club collateral

t +44 (0)1883 344244
f +44 (0)1883 341777
e info@eagle.uk.com
www.eagle.uk.com

Augusta



Point of Play Markers

Hardwood - Teknos Finish
Galvanised Steel Pins
Faces Any Colour

We're offering them at just
£4.95 each

If there's anything from signage to seed boxes
you want to discuss, call 01883 344244



Double action, long lasting disease protection



Headway®

Fungicide

HEADWAY brings you two of the world's most successful turf fungicide active ingredients in one package - protecting the plant inside and out, from leaf to root.

The HEADWAY combination of two powerful actives gives:

- Complimentary power of two active ingredients
- Broad spectrum activity
- Protects the plant as it grows
- Long lasting results
- Trials have shown over eight weeks control of Fusarium

Headway controls key turf diseases,
including label approval for:



Fusarium Patch



Anthracnose



Dollar Spot



Leaf Spot



Take-all

Trials have also identified additional effects on: Fairy Ring, Basidiomycetes, Brown Patch, Red Thread, Rusts

HEADWAY® is a Registered Trademark of a Syngenta Group Company.
HEADWAY® (MAPP 14396) contains azoxystrobin and propiconazole. Always read the label. Use pesticides safely.



Sherriff Amenity
Cambridge House, Nottingham Road, Stapleford, Nottingham, NG9 8AB
Tel: 0115 9390202 Fax: 0115 9398031
email: info@sherriff-amenity.com web: www.sherriff-amenity.com



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Peter Todd, gives his thoughts for the month

The end of July marks the start of the school holidays and a reduced number of rounds, giving us about a month before play levels pick up again in September.

It is at this time of year that we like to take full advantage of the quieter golfing period to carry out more disruptive work such as greens' renovation which fits in well with the pattern of play.

Our greens' renovation consists of hollow coring, followed by linear aeration (Graden), topdressing and browntop bent grass over-seeding. During the same week hollow coring of fairways and approaches is carried out keeping this disruption happening all at the same time as greens. One course is scheduled immediately the schools' break and the other three weeks later to allow time for the first to recover.

Temperatures in August are near the peak for the year and enable rapid recovery



Plan for your Greatest Chances of Success

of playing surfaces and fast germination of bentgrass seed. Over the past four years we have been carrying out a dwarf ryegrass over-seeding programme on fairways and roughs during August but have moved this to early October this year. Unlike 2007 and 2008 this summer has been much drier and warmer in the south east with temperatures regularly reaching the high 20s. With wanting to scarify fairways in advance of over-seeding these hot dry conditions just don't bode well for a great result, particularly with September's busier play just round the corner.

In an earlier column I mentioned throwing away my calendar when it comes to fixing work schedules, yes we have a plan, but it is not cast in stone. Timing needs to be based on when the greatest degree of success is likely considering all the factors of growing conditions, levels of play and resources available. As our reservoir levels continued to drop through June and July it was clear that scarifying fairways in summer was not an option if we were to stick to our preference for only using recycled irrigation water. Our location 500 feet above sea level in an exposed location on the North Downs is one of the driest in the country. While August usually brings about 75mm of rain the soil moisture levels have continued low throughout the summer and irrigation

quantities on fairways not high enough to replace the total level of ET. So it's a case of waiting until conditions change - hopefully by the time we get to late September.

Staff all need to take a well deserved break during the long season from April to October and with holding so many events this year, along with renovation weeks and projects, scheduling all this becomes an interesting juggling exercise. As well as The European Open in May, The Trilby Tour in July and The PGA National Assistants Championships in August our diary also includes a third televised event in October this season. August is also proving to be one of our busiest workloads with two weeks of renovation work and one of drainage installation. This doesn't leave much slack in the diary for the team to recharge their batteries so it's important to recognise all their efforts. I know we demand a lot out of the guys at these busy times. One of our key pieces is a catering sized barbeque and firing it up at these times is great way to say thank you to the team.

When deciding on priorities there are compromises to be made, often between short term presentation to satisfy today's golfers and work that is essential if you are to continue to do the same over the longer term. It is very easy to focus on today's needs and meet the short term needs of

the business, but it isn't too long before this catches up on you and a whole host of course problems build up. At some point golfers start to notice soft, thatchy playing surfaces, worn out areas with a lack of course definition and poorly conditioned bunkers etc. A regular programme of work that deals with these issues little and often can be far easier to fit into both the diary and budget, than large scale disruption.

In this highly competitive golf market a long slow deterioration in quality will only lead to a gradual decline in revenue, worst still, having to close holes or a course for extended periods of time in the future is far more costly to the business. It is our job to continue to get that message across to club secretaries, general managers, committees, members, visitors and owners. Communication in writing, by e-mail, displayed on club websites and notice boards, whatever is appropriate is key to making sure your recommendations and information are on record and understood. Working with your club's decision makers to reach that necessary compromise and agree a work programme that fits in with the business will help to improve the course and its long term health.

**Peter Todd
National Chairman**



Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director,
with a monthly update from the GTC**

George Brown, the “retiring” Golf Course & Estates Manager at Turnberry, having fronted his third Open Championship, must have been a proud man at the prize giving ceremony, especially receiving the well deserved recognition from the R&A.

George, as a past Chairman of BIGGA and a great ambassador for the profession, as well as Turnberry, has always supported education and training, and heaped praise on his staff, never seeking self glory.

The world felt for Tom Watson during what surely would have been his finest hour but for George and his staff the pride and satisfaction of setting the stage and everything coming together as it did, must have given them a great feeling and for George personally, mixed feelings.

It will be a lasting memory for George and as he hands over the reins to Euan Grant I know George will have so many happy memories of his experiences both as a top greenkeeper but also as a top golfer.

We heard so much of the Duel in the Sun between Watson and Nicklaus during the recent Open, but what about all the duels between Woods and Brown?

Great rivalry both on and off the course, great friendship, camaraderie and for those younger readers I had better explain!

Not Tiger Woods or the increasingly golf course friendly BBC commentator Ken Brown but our own George Brown and Walter Woods the former Links Superintendent at the worlds most famous golf course St. Andrews.

The friendship and golf rivalry between these two characters has become legendary within the older ranks of greenkeepers but above all, the support, understanding they have given each other when things have been tough is what the greenkeeping community is all about.

In showing how two of the most famous names in greenkeeping have helped each other as have many more, too many to mention

in this article, never has it been so important at a time when the sport in many countries is in recession that we look to continue their great example of how friendship and communication provides support and often a solution.

On a positive note the climax to the recent Open will help grow the game to more people world wide.

The career of greenkeeping will also have a higher profile in schools through a closer partnership with the Golf Foundation whose Chief Executive, Mike Round, I met during my recent brief visit to Turnberry.

Mike and his Golf Foundation team have promised to help explain to youngsters in schools the role of the greenkeeper using our career literature and this support will be very much appreciated.

The GTC has helped develop the 14-19 Environment Diploma and the very successful apprenticeship programme giving youngsters a clear career path should they choose to work outdoors and all the pleasures that greenkeeping can give as a career.

Hopefully the PGA, the PGA European Tour and the Home Unions will, through the various partnerships help to promote the career of greenkeeping, therefore securing youngsters as the future Course Managers and greenkeepers.

The team ethic that has held greenkeeping in such high esteem for many years, even when George and Walter, pictured, were training, is the foundation on why golf course conditions have improved so much in recent years.

The support given to George and his staff from BIGGA members travelling from all corners of the globe is also a great example of the fantastic community that is, greenkeeping!

We at the GTC have continually encouraged golf club employers and Course Managers to develop a team culture to assist their business aims and specialist trainers have assisted to support us with bespoke courses aimed at developing people skills to be better team leaders, supervisors and managers.

The GTC is funded by:



The training courses on communication, presentation skills, team building will be complimentary to the agronomic education available and we hope our Centres will offer short courses using not only their own staff but also those Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers who have really been at the sharp end of our industry.

The short courses can be fun but also so beneficial in many ways as lasting friendships have often started at a seminar or workshop, and long may they continue.

That reminds me I must ask George and Walter how they first met.

Happy retirement, George, and look out Walter, he has more time to practise his golf!

Keep talking folks, remember, a problem shared can be a problem solved.

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk

Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development,
with an update on education issues



The Toro Student of the Year Award is imminent and Harrogate Week is firmly on the horizon with the Continue to Learn Education Programme featuring high on the agenda of things to do.

These are just two of the projects that are ongoing, so it's all go in the Learning and Development Department this month.



Microsoft® Online Learning

In last month's issue of GI we featured a full page advert for Microsoft® Online Learning. This is a new membership benefit that has been researched and sourced by the Learning and Development Department.

This online learning product is the ideal solution for anyone wanting to learn or brush up on their IT skills.

The Microsoft® 2003 Learning Library offers access to core training in the following products: Word, Excel, PowerPoint®, Outlook® and Access as well as FrontPage®, One Note®, Project, Visio® and InfoPath®.

Advanced training is also available in Word, Excel and Outlook®. The entire 2003 library is available to members at a discounted price of £15.00 + VAT.

We can also offer the following Microsoft® Office 2007 Core and Advanced modules in: Word, Excel, PowerPoint®, Access, Project and Outlook®.

The 2007 modules are available on an individual basis at a cost of £15.00 + VAT each.

Once purchased, users have 12 months' access to the training course and there is no limit to how many times you can tackle each module.

As with any online training solution users are able to access the training at a time and place that suits them making it completely flexible.

Each course takes approximately 4-6 hours and a certificate is available for each completed module.

This useful and educational product is available to all Members at a discounted price thanks to support from the Learning and Development Fund.

The prices shown reflect a 25% discount to BIGGA members.

For further information or to place an order for Microsoft® Online Learning, contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 and select Option 3.



Continuing Professional Development

An article was featured in last month's magazine to help explain the Continuing Professional



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

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

Development scheme that is run by BIGGA for its Members.

If your questions regarding the CPD scheme have not been addressed in this article, please do not hesitate to contact either Rachael or myself for further information.

To download an application form to join the CPD scheme go to www.bigga.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development

Learning and Development Updates

Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:

Mathew Wormald - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf
Ian Scott - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf
Richard Clarke - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf

BIGGA Library

One new book has been added to the BIGGA Library in the last month:

Sports Ground Management, A Complete Guide - Stuart Brown



Contact Details

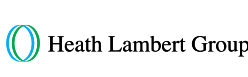
Sami Collins
Head of L&D
sami@bigga.co.uk

Rachael Duffy
L&D Administrator
rachael@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)

www.bigga.org.uk

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Gold Key Individual Members: Andy Campbell MG CGCS; Sam Langrick; Christopher Lomas MG; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; W J Rogers; Tom Smith; Lee Strutt MG

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sarna; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie



Familiar Face, New Venture

After 17 years of managing multi-site golf courses for both American Golf and Crown Golf, Laurence Pithie has set up his own company Turf Master One Ltd.

He will now be focusing on both golf course consultancy and training within the industry, both in the UK and mainland Europe.

Laurence offers comprehensive workshops and seminars to Course Owners, Managers, Head Greenkeepers and colleges in 'effective golf course management' providing training in areas from aeration to water management. During the past year he has published a short book and a comprehensive maintenance manual on golf course management. A second book on 'Seasonal Requirements for Golf Course Management' was launched last month.

A full list of the services available can be found on his website:

www.turfmasterone.co.uk

Leaving a Mark in France

MJ Abbott Limited is moving quickly towards the completion of its first contract in France in a decade.

They began work in January at Les Aisses Golf, a part-woodland part-heathland development in the heart of the Sologne forest.

The three current 9-hole courses, which opened in 1992, have been redesigned by Architect, Martin Hawtree to create an 18-hole heathland course and separate 9-hole course.

Phase One comprises extensive tree clearance work prior to the development of the first nine holes, including the installation of primary drainage and a new irrigation system.

A new putting green will also be built in front of the clubhouse.

The project is due to be completed soon and work on the remaining nine holes is currently scheduled for Winter 2010.

Shared Standards

A new World PGA Alliance, including organisations representing 56,000 PGA Professionals and more than 22,000 PGA-member golf facilities worldwide, has been formed to establish and guide teaching, playing and educational standards for the golf profession in developing golf territories and shared best practices in player development for adults and youth.

The alliance is comprised of the Professional Golfers' Associations of

America, Australia, Canada, PGAs of Europe, Germany, Great Britain & Ireland, Japan, South Africa, and Sweden.

Born from the World PGA Conference which began in 2004 and was conducted for a third time in April, 2008, in Sydney, Australia, the alliance will be led by the chief executives of The PGA of America, The Professional Golfers' Association (of Great Britain & Ireland) and the PGA of Australia.



Royal Approval

A Syngenta formulation robot has been officially launched by HRH The Princess Royal. The Princess carried out the first experiments when she visited the company's Jealott's Hill R&D site in Berkshire.

The fully automated robot is a breakthrough in innovation and speed of delivery. It will formulate and test hundreds of potential turf, amenity and crop protection products every day, at speeds that scientists can only dream of with existing technology.

The culmination of a five year project bringing together scientists, engineers and software specialists, the robot can make almost any liquid agrochemical formation, in small amounts, and perform a basic series of tests to see if those formulations are of interest for further research.

The robot is the latest part of an additional £35 million investment in Jealott's Hill -

Europe's largest agrochemical research and development centre.

The Princess spoke enthusiastically about the role played by science in feeding the growing global population and protecting biodiversity.

"What you do here is to ensure that food is grown safely and well and understanding the biodiversity in which it grows. That needs a lot of skilled and talented people to ensure that what is done here is the best that science can provide," she said.

Jealott's Hill Site Head, Mike Bushell, added: "We were delighted that Her Royal Highness agreed to open the new facility. This is a major investment in technology which will greatly speed up our development programme to bring products to market."

Syngenta invests around \$1 billion on R&D globally each year, with £100 million in the UK.

Crown Golf Sells Two of its Properties

The Vale Golf Club, a proprietary members' club set in 304 acres near Worcester, and The Chase Golf Club, a proprietary members' club set in 160 acres near Cannock in Staffordshire, have both been sold to local entrepreneurs.

The clubs were placed on the market in February 2009, by Humberts Leisure acting on behalf of Crown Golf.

"We are continuously reviewing our estate focussing on the properties which the business wishes to retain for the long term" said Crown Golf Chief Executive, Stephen Lewis,

"Having a core business based largely around the south and the M25 has its operational benefits, and both The Chase and The Vale are geographically quite separated from the majority of our other facilities. But geography was not the critical factor in our decision to market these properties.

"Both are very profitable businesses, and we felt that they represented an attractive proposition to potential buyers. This proved to be the case. The Vale and The Chase are both staffed by excellent and loyal teams and, with almost 2,000 members in total at the two golf clubs, we are pleased that both individual buyers are committed to taking these properties forward.

"These sales will enable Crown Golf to continue its policy of reinvesting in its estate. Recently we completed a £20m refurbishment of our flagship property, St Mellion International Resort, for example, and with 22 Crown Golf Academies in development across our golf club network, and many other large projects currently underway, we look forward to continuing our strong performance of recent years," said Stephen.

A third Crown Golf property, Eccleston Park Golf Club, which is a proprietary members' club set in 125 acres near St Helens in Merseyside, is also on the market.

A Quarter Century of Service

Dawn Gough, Personal Assistant to David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, has recently celebrated 25 years of employment at the company

Dawn joined Ransomes in July 1984 as a shorthand typist in the Buying Department and since then worked as Secretary in a number of departments until becoming PA to the Managing Director in 2004.

As well as her usual PA duties she is also responsible for arranging European customer visits to Ipswich and, since 2002, has regularly organised and attended the annual customer visit to the Golf Industry Show in the USA.

"I've always enjoyed working here; and have been given various opportunities to move between departments, which has given me a great insight into how the different sections of the company work together."

Dawn lives in Ipswich with her husband, Matt, RJ's Demonstration Fleet Manager







Close to Perfection

Close House, near Newcastle, has turned into a superb golf club, but as Scott MacCallum discovered, it is about to get much better.



It would be fair to say that anyone looking at Close House Golf Club, five years ago would have agreed that it had potential.

An idyllic estate, in stunning countryside 10 miles west of Newcastle, the tree-lined parkland golf course was a great place to play the game but, frustratingly, shared its space with several University of Newcastle football and rugby pitches.

Not an ideal scenario for any golf club, but one enterprising businessman spotted the opportunity to create something quite special at Close House and with the original golf course enjoying a new lease of life having been divorced from the playing fields and boasting superb new USGA greens, with a magnificent new 18 hole course under construction and due to open by spring 2011, as well as a state-of-the-art academy and driving range and

new £2 million clubhouse members can't quite believe their luck.

When Graham Wylie, the founder of Sage Computers, bought the estate one of the first things he did was to bring down some greenkeeping expertise from Slaley Hall in the shape of Course Manager, Steve Cram, who brought some of his old crew with him, including the Slaley number three, Brian Clark, to be his number two at Close House.

Brian was to take over as Course Manager from Steve, when Steve returned to Slaley a couple of years later.

"When we arrived the 18 hole course had push up greens cut out of the existing land and there were eight football pitches and four rugby pitches which shared the golf course land.

"When the pitches were in use on Wednesdays and Saturdays the holes directly involved with the football and rugby pitches couldn't

be used," explained Brian, as we sat in the orangery of the luxurious hotel which is also part of the site.

"Even when the golfers could play those holes they were playing out of grass that was three inches long and mud created by the footballers and rugby players."

The pitches were moved to land that Graham Wylie bought to the east of the course freeing up the greenkeeping team to make their mark on the golf course.

"Graham was a graduate of Newcastle University and wanted to put something back for them hence the new pitches, while the students got special rates for the golf course.

"There are university buildings on the site as well – greenhouses and labs etc where grain testing is carried out," explained Brian, of a site which has been transformed over the last half decade.

"Initially the plans were to build a new Championship-standard