



Turf so good they'll all want to play.

Treatment with Primo Maxx® will create course conditions that are sure to impress the players and turf professionals who really know the difference between good turf...and superior turf. Primo Maxx increases root and lateral growth creating a high quality surface of increased density which looks good, plays superbly and is more able to withstand stress.

Primo Maxx is a new liquid formulation that is easy to use and comes with a simple to follow season-long programme tailored for specific areas around the course and is compatible and easily mixable with other products.

To learn more about Primo Maxx please go to www.greencast.co.uk

 **Primo Maxx**®
Plant growth regulator

syngenta®

Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd., Registered in England. No 849037, CPC4, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB21 5XE
E-mail: customer.services@syngenta.com Web: www.greencast.co.uk / www.greencast.ie

PrimoMaxx® is a registered trademark of a Syngenta Group Company.
PrimoMaxx® contains trinexapac-ethyl (MAPP 13374, PCS 02273).
Always read the label. Use pesticides safely. © Syngenta AG January 2010

Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Scotts Professional
Scotts Professional Tel: 0871 220 5353 E-mail: prof.sales@scotts.com

TM



Grinding Workshop for Greenkeepers and Groundsmen

A group of greenkeepers and groundsman were recently treated to a free workshop. The topic of discussion was to be the performance of mowers and their cutting units.

The workshop was presented by Bernhards, using a Toro fairway mower that had been provided courtesy of Devon Garden Machinery.

The trial began in the machinery workshop, examining the performance of some cutting units on a mower that had been set up with blunt blades which had contact with the bottom blade. Then we compared them with the some other cutting units that had been re-ground and set up to have a very light contact between cylinder reel and bottom blade.

Firstly we appraised the mower that had been set up with a heavy contact, tight to the bottom blade. Then we proceeded to dip the fuel tank and measure the amount of fuel recording evidence to later quantify fuel economy.

The group then headed off to one of the college football pitches to view the mower cutting one half of the pitch. With the damp Cornish weather setting in the pitch was mown and timed. The mower had its boxes on so that we could measure the volume of grass mown from each cut. The clippings were placed in a bag and then weighed.

The results recorded from the mower set up with a heavy contact were as follows:

- 25 kilos of grass clippings measured from the boxes (wet)
- it took 13 minutes and 2 seconds to mow
- 2.4 litres of fuel were consumed (calculated by refilling the fuel tank to 60 litres and measuring the volume that went back in)

The clippings were then viewed under a macro scope and appeared yellowy in colour at the tip where the cut had been made, and also visible was a serrated edge proving the poor cutting action.

The group was then given a grinding demonstration using the Anglemaster Bedknife Grinder, and then the Express Duel Reel Grinder. All five units were then ground to the manufacturer's recommendations. The fuel levels were checked to guarantee the same amount of fuel as before when the first cut commenced. It was then back up to the football pitch to view the other half being cut, luckily by this time the weather conditions had improved. We went through the same process as earlier in the day, except with the mower re-ground and set up with a light contact.

The results for the second test are as follows:

- 21 kilos of grass clippings measured from the boxes. (the less weight could be due to a drier cut meaning less moisture in the grass leaf)
- it took 12 minutes and 52 seconds
- 1.5 litres of fuel was consumed
- Once viewed under the microscope the cut appeared a lot cleaner

So we learnt that a sharp mower with less contact performs better because it gives a cleaner cut that leads to a healthier plant promoting a less disease prone sward. The mower took 10 seconds less than earlier in the day probably because of less contact from the cylinder blades to bedknife making the engine work harder.

This probably lead to the most significant finding which was the amount of fuel consumed, 33% less than in test one.

In the current climate of high fuel prices it goes to show how much more economic a sharp and correctly set up mower can be, not to mention the benefit in agronomics terms!

This was a thoroughly enjoyable day from which everybody took something away, so a big thank you must go to Duchy College, Bernhard Grinders and Devon Garden Machinery.

Gavin Moore, of Launceston Golf Club

Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Paul Worster, gives his thoughts for the month

In this month's column Paul Worster reports on a busy first month as National Chairman: travelling and comparing and contrasting what we do in the UK with what is being done by greenkeeper trade associations in the USA and Europe. He also reviews what greenkeepers achieved during difficult times in the past and concludes this month's column with a message to all BIGGA volunteers and members.

Visit to America. I represented BIGGA at the GCSAA Trade Show in San Diego in February 2010. Some interesting facts from the Show: the San Diego Convention Centre is over half-a-mile in length; the show contained some 660 exhibiting companies, and was absolutely crammed to the rafters with greenkeeping equipment and materials!

There were a surprising number of similarities between BIGGA and GCSAA members. American Superintendents are increasingly concerned about issues such as bunker maintenance and cost-saving on labour and materials throughout their operations. They are also paying increasing attention to the impact that golf may be having on their environment.

The 3 'P's - 'People', 'Planet', 'Profit'. Environmental concerns in the USA are summed up very nicely by this phrase the 'Three P's'. This means that profit is not a dirty word, but a necessary part of being sustainable, going hand-in-glove with "People" and "Planet". If a business is not profitable, it will not function for long. To quote a line from the conference - "strong environmental consideration in golf is something we can celebrate".

The GCSAA as an organisation is also concerned about ensuring that all its members are fully engaged in participating at their events, particularly education and CPD. They also feel that the modern Course Manager should be communicating widely about what exactly his Trade Association does for his career and his standing. Something I believe we should do more of in order to raise the profile of what BIGGA, its HQ team and volunteers are all

doing to advance the greenkeeping profession in the UK.

FEGGA held its two day annual conference in Vienna. FEGGA represents almost all the greenkeeping Associations in Europe, including Russia. South Africa have been associate members for two years and sent two representatives to Vienna. FEGGA co-ordinates education and support for all its member countries, many of whom are very small - the Bulgarian Greenkeepers Association represents about 25 clubs. However, I found all the delegates to be friendly, well educated, and totally committed to their profession. By far the majority of the 20 or so associations are run entirely by volunteers.

A good example of the spread of education was the host country. The Austrians have about 300 members and almost three-quarters of these have achieved accreditation via a system provided by the GTC. For me this shows the kind of results achievable through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. and I look forward to the day when the UK boasts similar achievements. We, in BIGGA - Members, HQ and Volunteers - have such key roles in taking the profession forward in the UK.

BIGGA. Interestingly 2012 is the 100th anniversary of the formation of the first Greenkeeper Association in Britain (BGA - British Greenkeepers Association). There is some evidence of a Scottish Greenkeepers Association possibly pre-dating this, but I'm told all records were destroyed in a fire.

British Greenkeeping was interrupted as our forefathers fought their way through two World Wars. However, such was the dedication and tenacity that, each time, the industry came back to life and

continued where it left off; building towards what it is today.

I think we can all learn from this in today's difficult economic times. What we perhaps need to show as greenkeepers and volunteers for the Association is exactly what our predecessors showed when they were challenged. We need to engage and support the activities and educational programmes that will take the profession forward. I believe that both you and I can help take our profession forward, further and faster.

So, how can you help? You can help us to grow our membership and advance our profession. The profession needs you to communicate the value and importance of being a BIGGA member - to employers, to golfers, to non-members, and to Trade Partners.

BIGGA can help you to do this as it continues to help provide the education and the opportunities for development that volunteering for the Association brings to individuals*. This provision will help ensure that the esteem with which the profession is held by all participants of the sport continues to grow.

It may be the case that you feel awkward or uneasy about volunteering or offering your help or even asking for assistance or advice. Perhaps no-one has ever asked you to volunteer for anything before.

Well, the Association can help you and the profession can use your help.

There is perhaps no better time than right now.

So - right now - I am asking you.

You can learn more about taking yourself and the profession forward through volunteering for BIGGA by contacting your local BIGGA Section whose details are on the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk or, if you prefer, by contacting Paul Worster direct on talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk.

Paul Worster
National Chairman



Greenkeepers Training Committee



David Golding, Education Director, looks at how best the GTC can continue to encourage its network of training providers

The GTC is continually seeking to promote our respected Training Manual and Learning Materials and is willing to share its experience and intellectual property with other organisations and countries, many of whom have no formal education, training and qualification structure for greenkeepers.

While the GTC does not advocate that it has everything perfect we do pride ourselves on having access to subject specialists, all willing to provide us with their expertise to share best practice.

We endeavour to keep the GTC manual and learning materials up to date and in line with current British qualifications which we then promote through the Awarding Bodies for centres, colleges and individual training providers to align their various courses to.

Standard documentation can help promote best practice and I am pleased to inform readers that we are producing a Groundsman version of the Level 2 training manual (black book) in association with the IOG which will in turn help centres and colleges.

The learning materials for Level 2 and Level 3 were written to be applicable for all sports turf students so they will only require minor changes, mainly to align to the new Work Based Diplomas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for greenkeepers and Groundsmen/women.

By using industry experts to develop and review the manuals and learning materials (many who have links to our approved colleges), we believe we have a united sector all "singing from the same hymn sheet" and now with groundsman-ship working closer with the GTC this can only be of benefit to the employers and workers within the sports turf sector.

The GTC has also contributed to the standards developed by the pan-European working group, which more and more golf developing countries are looking to adopt and many require support

documentation to speed up the process of educating and training greenkeepers.

The pan-European working group has received development funding support from the R&A and EGA and a full report has been submitted recommending the formation of a European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU).

Once agreed the GTC will hopefully have a major role to assist greenkeeping Associations and Federations to establish an education structure based on best practice to assist golf course maintenance and management standards.

The establishment of a European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) is also designed to introduce a greenkeeping passport scheme which will help employers and greenkeepers in each participating countries view the various qualifications against agreed European standards at three levels, greenkeeper, supervisor and manager.

Visit the EGEU website www.egeu.eu to access the standards and progress of the initiative to help spread the message of best practice.

British employers and greenkeepers will recognise the standards, which is recognition of the work many individuals and organisations, too many to mention, have had in establishing National Occupational Standards (NOS) for greenkeeping in Britain.

It is from these standards that each country can then develop qualifications whether they are work based or centre (college) based.

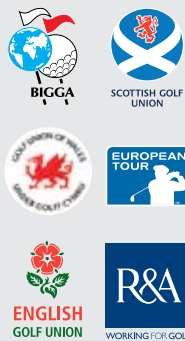
Back to more "local" issues and the GTC's ongoing support to promote the Sustainable Golf Course programme through a special project with the R&A.

A second series of workshops will be held this summer through Britain where Course Managers share their experiences in all aspects of the Sustainable programme with delegates from the turf centres and colleges and this year representatives from BIGGA, GCMA and the PGA will be invited.

In Brief

This month, David looks at how best the GTC can continue to encourage its network of training providers to share best practice with all greenkeepers while at the same time assist golf developing countries and individuals looking to access standards and greenkeeping information.

The GTC is funded by:



There has been an ongoing debate relating to sward exchange programmes however there are also other aspects of the programme which need addressing, eg water harvesting, woodland management and while the greenkeeping world of golf are constantly discussing these important issues the GTC firmly believes there are other organisations who need to be made aware of what the game is trying to promote hence the widening of invitations for this years events.

There are clearly a growing number of excellent case studies from courses who have progressed on one or more aspects of the Sustainable programme and these will also be made available to view through the website.

The aim of the GTC, in association with its representative bodies and the R&A, is to ensure today's and tomorrow's greenkeepers and Course Managers have access to all best practice information from all sources and in particular the staff employed at the approved centres.

These individuals are crucial to the promotion of the Sustainable programme and whilst the GTC can produce learning materials it is the Course Manager and the students "lecturer" who have the role to discuss all aspects of the programme.

The difficult job is getting the message through to the golfer that we all need to be more aware of the environment and how best we address the increasing number of issues which relate to maintaining and managing a course in a sustainable manner.

This is why we are inviting individuals from key organisations within golf to assist with spreading the word of why it makes sense to adopt a sensible, realistic and practical programme to maintaining the courses.

Maybe nothing new to many Course Managers however there are more directives coming to our attention and we have to adopt them or better still be already working within the various guidelines or in some cases legislative regulations.

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, describes the projects the L&D department is currently working on



Spring seems to finally be springing, the daffodils are brightening up the countryside and the clocks have sprung forwards. The light nights are finally inspiring me to get off the sofa and go out for a walk and enjoy the fresh air. I'm sure that you'll all agree that we've seen enough snow to keep us happy for several years to come.

Spring also inspires me to start working on all the projects that get put on hold over the manic Harrogate Week and Golf Industry Show period. So, with a holiday under my belt, I think I'm finally ready to face 2010!

As you know, the majority of the initiatives and projects done by the Learning and Development Department are funded through the Learning and Development Fund which is supported by the Gold and Silver Key members of BIGGA.

I am pleased to confirm that those companies who have agreed to continue their support in 2010 are:



Gold Key

John Deere
Toro
European Tour
Ransomes Jacobsen
Syngenta
Kubota



Silver Key

Vitax (new in 2010)
Symbio
ARC Legal Assistance
Bernhard & Company
RainBird
Heath Lambert
Hayter

(This list reflects the companies who had renewed by 5 March 2010).

My thanks go to those listed who enable us to continue to develop resources for the members.

Several new projects have been discussed with the Learning and Development Sub-Committee that comprises members of the Board of Directors and other invited representatives - Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Andrew Mellon, David Golding and Lee Strutt MG, AGS. The recommendations put forward by the Sub-Committee are taken to the Board of Directors to get the green light for the projects to commence.

Projects which we are working on at present include an overhaul of the Continuing Professional Development scheme. The intention is to develop a system that rewards learning and creates learning opportunities meaning that CPD credits will not be dependent purely on attendance at Section, Region or National events. If you are reading this and thinking 'what about



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.

my CPD credits?', don't worry, the old system will be integrated. The development of the new scheme requires time and a lot of work to ensure that it is sustainable for at least 10 years. Watch this space for further details on its development.

In the February issue of GI there was a small article on page 8 announcing a joint initiative between BIGGA, Jon Allbutt and the HSE introducing the Skills Sharpener training 'Tool Kits'. Although the article was slightly premature, we hope to have launched the Skills Sharpener on the website by the end of April or early May. The Skills Sharpeners are practical talks that Head Greenkeeper/Course Managers can use to deliver training to their staff on the following subjects:

- Belt Up on Slopes
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Check Your Machine
- Watch Out! (Spotting Hazards)

Watch the website and the magazine for launch information.

Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by
Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:
Derek Robson – Certificate in Turfgrass Management



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



Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, 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, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid



Soil Treatment Success

Cheshunt Park Golf Club has taken delivery of its first batch of Ultra-Soil Penetrator and Ultra-Soil Retain.

This two-part liquid soil treatment has the ability to reduce the amount of water and fertiliser used on turf and other plants by up to 80%!

During trials the results have shown that the soil quality is substantially improved in a short space of time by decompacting and aerating the soil with these natural, non-chemical

products. Compacted soils and sparse patches have shown great improvement. Water logged clay soils can also be drained with one spray application.

David Renouf, of Broxbourne Borough Council commented,

“We are focussed on delivering the best possible performance for our golfers at Cheshunt, while being very aware of our budgetary responsibilities and environmental issues. The

Ultra-Soil product range offers the opportunity for us to achieve these objectives.

When these totally environmentally friendly products have been applied to the trial areas on the greens at Cheshunt Park, we have seen a vast improvement in grass cover and drainage performance.”

For more information contact, Andy Church, Ultra-Soil on 07835 066439 or head office on 01992 822553, email info@ultra-soil.com



NEW APPOINTMENT

Ransomes Jacobsen has appointed Steve Barnfather to the newly created role of Trade Sales Manager with responsibility for all non-exclusive dealer activities.

He will be primarily responsible for the development of Ransomes Jacobsen's non-exclusive dealer network across the UK focussing on Iseki compact tractors and mowers, E-Z-GO utility vehicles, Ryan turf maintenance equipment and the smaller Ransomes pedestrian mower range.

His dealers currently include Cherry's Country Hardware, Devon Garden Machinery, Grasshopper Horticultural, JE Lawrence & Sons, Lodgeway Tractors and Sharnford Horticultural together with the newly appointed Fentons of Bourne and DJ Scott Garden Machinery. Ransomes Jacobsen plans to appoint a further 20 non-exclusive dealers over the next 12 months, all of whom will fall under Steve's remit.

During his career in the industry he was the ground care general manager at the Hexham branch of Carrs Billington; he has worked in the hire sector with SGM Hire and Swan Plant and in a sales role with Landforce Woodchippers.

Steve lives in Morpeth, Northumberland with his wife Lesley. He has three grown-up children and is a long-suffering supporter of Newcastle United Football Club.

Uncertain Future of Sherfield Oaks Golf Club

The future of Crown Golf-operated course, Sherfield Oaks Golf Club, is uncertain after the Club's landlord, Luddington Investments Ltd was placed into administration late last year and KPMG appointed as the administrators.

As the Golf Club's operator, Crown Golf is not directly affected by the landlord's demise and business continues as normal at the Club. Crown Golf is currently considering the option to purchase the 89-year lease, and is continuing to discuss the matter with Luddington's administrators.

Crown Golf is Europe's largest golf course owner/operator, with 30 UK golf properties and 52 golf courses in its portfolio.



Philip Joins ETSL

Philip Armitage has joined The European Turfgrass Specialists Ltd as a turfgrass agronomist.

He is responsible for delivering technical support and advice to clients based throughout the UK and mainland Europe. Prior to his current position, he worked for the STRI as a turfgrass agronomist for five years. He further developed his skill set, by building an extensive knowledge base and experience as an Irrigation Manager for GlenFarrow for three years coupled with ten years experience maintaining and growing in golf courses in the USA – Pinehurst Golf Resort, the UK –Belfry Golf Courses and Sweden – Dyne Kiliens Golf Klubb.

Philip graduated from The University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England with a degree in Turfgrass Science.

In order to contact Philip Armitage, please use the following: Email: info@euroturfgrass.co.uk or Tel: +44 (0) 8442 259614

Thriller Drillers



Wellhead Drilling is a drilling company which specialises in site investigations and ground testing for foundation design.

Recently the company discovered an inherent problem at some golf clubs due to water logging on the greens, bunkers and fairways. Wellhead can rectify this problem simply, quickly and permanently.

Using hole changing equipment, the turf is removed at each position, then a series of 75mm diameter boreholes are drilled through

the clay into a permeable strata which allows the water to drain away. The machine is capable of drilling to a depth of 20metres) The boreholes are then backfilled with 10mm washed gravel then (root zone) before the turf is replaced, leaving no outward sign that any work has been carried out. Following this the green, fairways or bunkers can be played on immediately..

For further information contact Edd Stanton on or email wellheaddrilling@googlemail.com

FESTIVAL SOLUTION



A Verti-Drain 7626 is proving its mettle on the Isle of Wight, where Andrew Earley, Contracts Inspector for the Parks and Countryside Division at Isle of Wight Council, is using Charterhouse Turf Machinery's most powerful decompactor to tackle some extreme conditions.

With an extensive brief that covers turf surfaces from sports pitches to parks and ornamental areas, Andrew runs an ongoing programme to tackle compaction and drainage problems.

He explains that the main reason for choosing the Verti-Drain was to treat compaction from the Isle of Wight Festival that takes place on the island in June each year.

"The Festival is held on Seaclose Park in Newport and attracts around 65,000 people a year. This park is very large and has eight full size football pitches on it, making it the ideal venue for the Festival," said Andrew

"But over the three day festival, the pitches get seriously compacted. Last year, I decided that we needed to invest in something that could handle the intense workload after the event better than the smaller Verti-Drain we already had. I needed to get a machine that could cover a larger area in a smaller amount of time, so we did some internet research and came across the Charterhouse Verti-Drain 7626."

A breath of fresh air

Scott MacCallum visits Worplesdon, a club which can now breathe thanks to an extensive tree removal programme



It's amazing how things creep up on you. One minute you're the young whippersnapper with your whole life ahead of you, the next you're one of Terry Wogan's TOGs, and nodding earnestly during Grumpy Old Men. It's the same at Worplesdon Golf Club, in Surrey. One minute it's regarded as one of the finest heathland course in the country - the next thing it's tight and tree lined, albeit still an excellent test of golf.

Of course, the truth is that neither of these things happened overnight. They crept up little by little, bit by bit, and before you know it the grey hairs outnumber all others and the previous wonderful views across the golf course are blocked by unruly timber.

There are adverts on TV which point to a product that can help with the former but the latter has required a real commitment to change from the Worplesdon members and a professional plan, professionally executed.

The catalyst for a return to how the course used to be came from the older members who could recall the wonderful heather and genuine heathland on which they had once played their golf.

"The members who have only joined in the last 15 years only know the course as woodland and it was those members in the main who had objections and asked why we were going to change what they felt was a lovely golf course – a lovely woodland golf course," said Jeremy Caplan, who was the Centenary Captain in 2008 and current Chairman of Green.

"When I joined in 1965 the heather was in abundance, but the trees have grown up, almost imperceptibly, year on year and it is only when you look at photographs do you appreciate how much the course had changed," said Jeremy, who said the club's prestigious Worplesdon Foursomes had generated a great many photographs to use as evidence of how much it has altered.

Impetus for change also came from Course Manager, Brian Turner, who had identified the problem when he took over five years ago.

"There was no light or air movement on the course and this was particularly poor on the 16th and 17th tees. The back of the 12th green where I had no sunlight at all and the quality of the sward was suffering. Now it's one of the first greens to get the sun," explained



INSET TOP: Jeremy Caplan
INSET BELOW: John Nicholson

Brian, who is in his second stint at the club, having spent a number of years at Sunningdale.

Brian had worked with woodland specialist John Nicholson, of John Nicholson Associates, at Sunningdale, and it was to John who he turned after he had got the go-ahead to look into the problem.

"Bringing John in was a carry on from my Sunningdale days where he helped me and did a very good job and I saw the need here to return

the course to a more heathland look. I felt that the course could be revitalised if we undertook a professional woodland management programme."

John Nicholson has carried out work at a number of Home Counties courses.

"What you have to remember is that heathland is an ecosystem in transition and is always wanting to revert to woodland. Harry Colt identified heathland and linksland,

PAGES 18-19: The 5th after the tree removal (MAIN) and before (INSET)

The 9th after the tree removal (MAIN ABOVE) and before (INSET ABOVE)