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traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

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Editorial

Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum
Tel – 01347 833800 Fax – 01347 833801
scott@bigga.co.uk



Design
Design and Production Editor
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833801
tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

Sales Executive
Kirstin Smith

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
kirstin@bigga.co.uk



Sales Executive
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



BTME

I spent time with people from all over the world during Harrogate this year, and very enjoyable it was too. It makes it all the more galling that the accusation that Harrogate is nothing more than a “regional show” is currently being spouted by certain individuals and groups.

It is obvious that a greater percentage of people from within easy reach of any venue will attend an event, but the range of accents to be heard at Harrogate, covers all parts of the UK - as well as many of an international nature. Flat caps, whippets and Yorkshire puddings are not generally front and foremost.

I've also read the comments that, as BIGGA represents the customers ie, its members, -: “It's like a band of truck-drivers running the Commercial Motor Show”. It may be a strange concept, but BIGGA employs specialists to fill specialist roles rather than expecting its members to fit in the running the Show round their day jobs.

Indeed, thousands of people have attended, done business and enjoyed the Show since it first opened its doors in 1988 - people who, incidentally, include the gentleman who made the aforementioned comments in an industry blog.

They are also gravely insulting to the manner in which BTME has been managed since the start, and incidentally came with no examples or evidence whatsoever that the Show is run anything other but extremely professionally.

We are on the verge of a General Election and are hearing all sorts of promises from those people hoping to persuade others that they can do a better job than the incumbents. Let me tell you something. If those people do find themselves holding the reins they will find that it's not quite as easy as it sometimes appears from the sidelines.

The easy bit is to shout about how things could be better, but there are often so many “simple” solutions on offer, getting a consensus and a single route to a given goal is all but impossible and the compromises that inevitably have to be reached bring things remarkably close to the status quo.

We do hear calls for one show to represent the industry. Companies are not forced to attend both and should - indeed they have a duty to themselves - take a view as to what is best for their business, whether that be attending one show, two shows or no shows.

My wife and I are currently looking for a new car. There is a lot of choice out there and it is difficult to weigh up all the various offers. Wouldn't it be so much easier if the car manufacturers got together and decided to produce one car for everyone? No difficult decisions, no dilemmas about whether you were getting the best deal or not. As Alexander Meerkat says “Simple!”.

...or is that a stupid idea?

Surely choice is something to be embraced and we should all trust our judgment sufficiently to make the right decision for ourselves.

In the meantime I would ask people to look at what they would lose by leaving Harrogate, as well as what they feel they would gain by foregoing choice and moving to another venue in, what is, another region of the British Isles.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

APRIL 2010

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James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery, this month looking at the Toro Reelmaster 5610

The anatomy of... a Fairway Mower



It's all about the DPA cutting units... There are three models in the Toro Reelmaster 5010 series, the 35.5hp RM5410-D with 5 inch, 8- or -11 blade reels and the 35.5hp RM5510-D and 44.2hp RM5610-D, both with 7 inch reels and a choice of 8- or 11-blades. These differences apart, each model shares the same basic running gear and DPA reel design. Here we take a closer look at the range-topping 5610.

THE ANATOMY OF...
Ride-on Fairway mowers have evolved to the point where modern units can now deliver a consistent quality cut at speeds that would have been considered impossible perhaps even a decade ago. To suggest there have been huge developments that have enabled this would be wrong, but subtle design tweaks have been combined to make the Toro Reelmaster 5610-D a deservedly popular model. Of equal importance, Toro, and indeed all the key manufacturers, have taken the maintenance demands of their mowers into consideration. No point in developing a mower that can deliver high levels of performance if this action is to be matched to intensive workshop care. In the case of the Reelmaster 5010 Series, a key development has been the adoption of Toro's new well proven DPA, Dual Precision Adjustment, cutting units. A key DPA design feature is the use of a cast alloy main structure. Unlike traditional welded tubular cutting unit frames, Toro claims the rigid cast alloy frame of a DPA unit is easier to build 'true' in the factory and, once in service, remains that way. This means there is no need for adjustment built in to accommodate any difference in end-to-end reel to bedknife clearance; the company suggests it will not be needed. Older DPA designs do not include a removable cast support frame for the bedknife. This is designed to not only make it simpler to remove the bedknife for sharpening but to also allow the bedknife clearance to the reel to remain constant and at the same time as it is adjusted to accommodate wear/sharpening. According to the company, this prevents bedknife having to be lowered as it wears, so doing away with 'backing' the reel before it can be acted upon by the cutting section of the reel. The aim is to ensure a consistent cut as the reels are engaged and across the full 2.54m cut width. The EdgMax bedknife comes as part of the Toro package when new, although a standard steel bedknife is available as a lower price replacement. The company suggest, however, that the EdgMax design will retain a sharpness up to three times longer than standard steel. This thanks to the increased tensile resistance of the cutting tip. When the EdgMax needs to be replaced it can still be sharpened in the workshop. An interesting

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



Congratulations to IPU

L - R: Richard Casey - Managing Editor of The Sunday Times
 Jenny Craddock - Sales Office Manager of IPU Group
 Robert Beebee - Group Managing Director of IPU Group

The Best Small Companies 2010 two star accreditation status has been awarded to ground care equipment company, IPU Group, for the second year running, in recognition of excellence in the workplace.

Best Companies, in conjunction with The Sunday Times, established the accreditation award scheme based on staff feedback and employee engagement as an integral part of a company's success and growth.

The accreditation scheme features a star style system with companies awarded one star for first class, two stars for outstanding and three stars for extraordinary performance.

A total of 571 organisations from the private and public sectors applied for Best Small Companies accreditation this year and IPU Group was the highest placed manufacturing company, appearing at number 50 in The Sunday Times list.

"We are really excited to have received two star accreditation in both the 2009 and 2010 Best Small Companies lists, and it's particularly pleasing to pick up this latest award while we are celebrating 50 years in business," said Robert Beebee, IPU Group Managing Director.

"Having a fully engaged and motivated team is vital to the service we are able to offer our customers and the continued success of our company."



Eddie Simms

Eddie Simms, the founder of Par 4 Irrigation Ltd, died suddenly on February aged 73, Eddie founded the company, based at Ripon, North Yorkshire, in 1981 and oversaw its development in becoming one of the leading Irrigation companies in the North of England.

He retired in 2002 but retained his interest in the Irrigation business and was a well respected figure in the local golfing community, playing his last round just two days before his death.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and is survived by his children Emma, Claire and Mark.

BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP AT WENTWORTH ON MAY 20, 21, 22 23

A few volunteers still required to help Chris Kennedy and his team at The Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see the at close hand the recent extensive changes that have been made to

the even more formidable West Course over the past year.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator
 cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk .

Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

NEWSDESK

Please email your news items and press releases to **Scott MacCallum, (Editor).**

scott@bigga.co.uk



EAST OF ENGLAND ORDER OF MERIT WINNER CROWNED

At the East of England sponsors drinks reception at BTME '10 Rob Bemment of Immingham Golf Club was crowned winner of the Greenkeepers' Order of Merit. This is made up from the scores posted from the Section's four individual golf events played last summer. Once again the blazer prize was sponsored by Bank's Amenity Products.

Rob (left) is pictured receiving his blazer from Simon Banks (right). Many thanks to Simon for his continued sponsorship of this event.

Airline for Golfers

The world's first airline dedicated to golfers will take off later this month with a range of routes connecting some of Scotland and Ireland's most spectacular courses.

Golf Links Express, an offshoot of the Loch Lomond Seaplanes, is due to ferry golfers on a number of routes between Prestwick, Lough Earne golf resort in Ireland, Machrinhanish Dunes in Kintyre, Loch Lomond and Machrie on the island of Islay.

The new service will open up some of the finest and most remote courses to time-pressed enthusiasts from around the world and will operate out of Prestwick Airport providing instant links to remote course for thousands of foreign golfers who travel to Ayrshire every year.

Hours of travelling between some of the country's most spectacular golf destinations will be reduced to minutes by the amphibious on-demand service.

"We've already had bookings from golfers as far a field as the US, Scandinavia and Ireland," said David West, founder of both Loch Lomond Seaplanes and Golf Links Express.

"Prestwick International Airport already welcomes tens of thousands of golfers every year but many rarely venture further than Ayrshire because of the travel time by road. Now they can access some of the best links courses."

BIGGA Charity Golf Day Monday, June 14, at Aldwark Manor



Following the success of last year's BIGGA Golf Day, £911.41 was donated to The Asperger's Society. The event is to be held again this year with the profits to be donated equally between Help the Hospices and the Cotswold Care Hospice.

The day will be very informal, giving BIGGA the opportunity to promote a strong relationship between greenkeeper and trade members, while at the same time enabling everyone to enjoy a competitive, yet friendly, game of golf.

The programme for the day will follow the successful format of previous years:

- Bacon sandwich, tea or coffee from 10.30am
- Shotgun start from 12 noon
- Teams of 4 entered in competition over 18 holes, best 2 count on each hole
- Halfway House refreshments
- Two course Buffet Meal with complimentary drink
- Team prizes
- Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin individual prizes

The entry fee per team is £300 + VAT. With the offer being made first to those, like yourself, who entered a team last year. If you would like to participate please confirm to my assistant, Sandra Raper (Tel: 01347 833800) or by Email to sandra@bigga.co.uk.

A Lovely Memory



Chris Spurden, right, gave up a promising greenkeeping career when 12 years ago his dad, David, Head Greenkeeper at Ganton, was tragically killed when they were both part of a group was out shooting rabbits on the golf course in the dead of night.

Instead Chris opted to join the fire service, but he did want to retain one link with his previous life.

Before his death, his dad's 1950s personal Atco mower had stopped working and he had spent ages tinkering with it, trying to get it back in action before he retired.

Such was its sentimental value Chris sent it off for repair, even though the company stopped making the parts. Now, 12 years later, mower and owner have finally been reunited.

The task of repairing the mower fell to John

Adamson, left, of FG Adamson & Son, based near Hull, who had been a personal friend of David.

"The problem was getting hold of bits for it because it is a 60-year-old machine. But Chris's late father was not only a good customer but a great friend," said John, who spent a great deal of time looking for parts from written off machines

"We basically salvaged bits from people's cast-offs. The company which made the engines had gone bust. Everything you wanted for the machine has been obsolete since the 1960s."

So now, thanks to the dedicated efforts, Chris will be able to think about his father every time he cuts his own lawn.

Picture courtesy of The Yorkshire Post, taken by Gerard Binks

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT: MURCAR GOLF CLUB, ABERDEEN ON THURSDAY JUNE 17

The 2010 Scottish National Tournament will be held at Murcar Golf Club, Aberdeen, on Thursday, June 17, by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. The cost of the event will be £25 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, two course evening meal sweep and prizes. (Apprentice fee £12). Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Golf outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Tuesday 8 June, 2010.

Please make cheques payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

If you have an email address please enter it on the space provided on the entry form. The draw will be posted on the BIGGA Website.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

D&C Seminar

In February 70 greenkeepers from across Devon and Cornwall attended the second seminar jointly organised by Duchy College.

The theme was aimed at developing the audiences understanding of greenkeeper management techniques and the resultant impact on golf and sports turf playing surfaces. In the morning session Steve Gingell, Regional Area Manager for the STRI, took the attendees through the principles of the "Disturbance Theory".

Steve presented a detailed case outlining the balance and implications between turf maintenance operations and their results on named turf grass genera and species with their own individual and specific preferred growing and habitat requirements.

The afternoon speakers developed this theme through taking a detailed look at the soils, root zone and growing conditions needed by grasses.

Andrew Turnbull, from Allturf Management, explained the function of sugars and carbohydrates within the plant and the consequences to the grass plant and the soil life in his lecture titled "Carbohydrates/ The Brix of Life".

Mark Atkins, from Soil Harmony, in his talk titled "Life Beneath Your Feet" developed this theme further emphasising the symbiotic relationship between the turf grass plant and the soil life.

Colin Webber, Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Section, commented that he was really pleased that BIGGA and Duchy College were able to work together and present at a local venue such an important and up to date message to sports turf managers regarding the holistic approach he considered essential to the future of the industry.

An understanding by turf managers of the soil life as well as the physical and chemical aspects of soils is well overdue.

South East Region Annual Gentlemen's Dinner

Walton Heath Golf Club

After a severe early morning frost competitors at this years Annual Gentlemen's Day at Walton Heath Golf had the pleasure of some almost warm sunshine after the long cold winter.

This year members and their guests enjoyed the challenge of the New Course at Walton Heath superbly set up by Ian McMillan and his team.

Highlight of the golf was an outstanding round with a gross score of 68 by Ron Christie to win the Ray Day Memorial Trophy.

The three hole start enabled all to finish in good time and sit down to an early dinner.

Following an excellent meal the Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club Stephen Hutton presented the prizes to the winning competitors.

George Barr thanked the Host Club for, as always, making us so welcome on the day.

The evening was conclude by the humour of guest speaker George Newman.

The South East Region of BIGGA is most grateful to the following companies for their most generous sponsorship of this event:-

- AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS
- BLADE AMENITY
- CMW
- ERNEST DOE AND SONS
- HARPER & EDDE
- HEADLAND AMENITY PRODUCTS
- JSM
- RIGBY TAYLOR
- TACIT GOLF EQUIPMENT
- SISIS



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY NEW POWERS TO "PUNISH" POLLUTERS

The UK Environment Agency has recently been given new powers to punish polluters without applying to the Courts first, as was previously the case.

It is anticipated that these additional powers will increase the flexibility of the Agency, enabling it to become more proactive in monitoring and dealing with miscreants. The Agency will now be able to force establishments to clean up any environmental damage they cause, order the cessation of environmentally damaging operations and impose fines, without the need to seek the authority of the Courts.

The new powers contain a number of proposals, including a new maximum civil penalty of £250,000.

Several recent contamination incidents and the rigid response of the Environment Agency include:

- Sidcot School was fined a total of £17,000 in August 2009. Heating oil escaped from a corroded underground pipe, connecting two oil storage tanks to the school's boilers.
- The Chairman and Treasurer of an unnamed golf club were recently prosecuted after an underground pipe from a fuel storage

tank was punctured, causing more than 1,500 litres of oil to leak into a nearby water-course. They were charged with a criminal offence and could have faced imprisonment of up to two years. This case went to the Court of Appeal, which held that it was right that the two officers should be prosecuted, however, it used its discretion to acquit the pair.

By their very nature, golf course maintenance operational activities can cause pollution. Activities including equipment refuelling, chemical handling and equipment wash-off all pose a significant potential pollution risk, so it is very important controls are in place to minimise this risk.

It is a criminal offence to allow certain substances including mineral oils, detergents and chemicals to enter surface drains, watercourses or Soakaways, causing groundwater pollution.

As the golf club case highlighted above re-enforces, if you not are complying, you are personally liable for breaking the law, with the threat of a substantial civil penalty and or criminal fine and imprisonment for a serious infringement.

NEW CORNISH DISTRIBUTOR FOR LINDUM

Lindum Turf has appointed Contec Landscape as the company's sole distributor in Cornwall.

Contec, run by the established partnership of Steve and Rob Furse has been supplying landscapers in the region with hard and soft landscaping materials since 1989 and Lindum's turf since 2005.

"Up until now we've left our options open but we haven't found another turf grower who can provide the consistency of both quality and service that we need," said Steve Furse.

Lindum's MD Stephen Fell said that Contec Landscape has been steadily building up its business, and put a lot of work into promoting Lindum.

"Steve and Rob are already doing a good job selling our specialist lawn and bowling green products and are ideally placed to develop the golf market in their area," he said.

For further information contact Lindum on Tel: 01904 448675.
Or visit their website at: www.turf.co.uk



Primo Maxx cuts the time and cost of golf course management

In Brief

Primo Maxx application could reduce the time and money spent on fairway mowing – potentially saving over £4000 a year on fairways alone

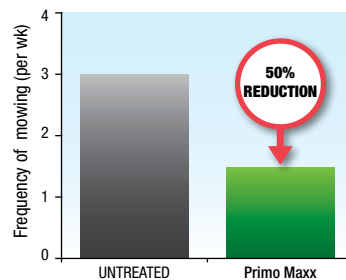
Cranfield University calculations have shown **Primo Maxx** use can cut overall golf course CO₂ emissions by 48% and management costs by 15%

Enhanced turf quality gives a better playing surface with less divot damage and faster play

Improved root structure produces healthier turf and keeps courses looking great all summer long

Independent user trials with **Primo Maxx** applications on fairways, conducted by STRI, identified that turf managers could typically reduce the frequency of mowing by 50%, whilst still enhancing playing conditions.

Results were consistent under a range of fairway management regimes, often requiring just one cut per week to maintain high quality fairways. Where mowing remained weekly, the result was improved turf quality and reduced evidence of clippings left on the surface.



Source: Observational reports of turf managers undertaking **Primo MAXX** fairway trials

Trim down fairway mowing costs

Most golf courses typically spend 24 to 40 man hours a week mowing fairways through the growing season. A **Primo Maxx** programme could release up to 20 hours additional time for essential maintenance to improve greens, tees and work around the course.

Furthermore, with the cost of running a fairway mower calculated by greenkeepers at over £11 an hour, **Primo Maxx** could save more than £4350 a year in lower fuel, maintenance and repair bills – along with the opportunity to cut your carbon footprint by 44%.

Turf managers always report that **Primo Maxx** gives greater flexibility to manage the mowing during difficult weather conditions and causes the least inconvenience to players.

Reduction in CO₂ emissions

44%

Reduction in cost

19%

Source: Cranfield University Centre for Sports Turf Technology

Save time and money with Primo Maxx

LABOUR AVAILABILITY
Up to 20 hours per week

FAIRWAY MOWER COSTS
Down by up to £4350 a year

Input cost rises have dramatically increased mowing costs over the past year – creating even greater cost savings with a **Primo Maxx** programme.



Fairways looking good

Primo Maxx increases the density of fairway turf, creating a better playing surface on which balls sit higher and cleaner. The result is a more rewarding experience for players, reduced risk of divot damage and faster play.

The improved drought and stress tolerance of **Primo Maxx** treated turf ensures fairways stay looking better through the season and recover faster.

Greenkeepers report a cleaner cut when mowing and, since the turf is growing slower, any patterns cut into the fairway stay visible for longer.

The result is:

- Faster mowing
- Reduced volume for composting
- Sharper, cleaner finish
- Less drop off of grass clumps when mowing in wet conditions

The activity of Primo Maxx has been shown to reduce the effects of unsightly summer stalking on fairway turf.

Application recommendation summary

Greens and Tees

Primo Maxx at 0.4–1.6 l/ha
Plant growth regulator

Maintain cutting height at 4–12 mm

Fairways and semi-rough

Primo Maxx at 0.8–2.4 l/ha
Plant growth regulator

Maintain cutting height at 10–18 mm

For full further details of **Primo Maxx** application recommendations on tees, greens, fairways and semi-rough areas, along with other sports turf surfaces, visit the website www.greencast.co.uk