

There's One Tool You Won't Need When You Service Hunter Sprinklers!

The last thing a golfer wants to see is unsightly excavation scars from typical sprinkler maintenance. All Hunter Premium Golf Sprinklers feature **TTS - Total Top Service**, with all serviceable parts accessible from the top which helps keep your course looking great like nothing else can.

Contact Revaho Today for
Your Nearest Stockist



Penketh Place, West Pimbo, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 9QX
T: 01695 556222 E: info@revaho.co.uk www.revaho.co.uk

Hunter[®]
GOLF



WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

BIGGA



President
Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE

Board of Management
Chairman – Paul Worster
Vice Chairman
Andrew Mellon
Past Chairman
Peter Todd

Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn,
Ian Willett, Tony Smith, Elliott Small, Mark Dobell

Chief Executive

John Pemberton
john@bigga.co.uk

Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins
sami@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

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

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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

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 833802
tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

Sales Executive
Kirstin Black

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

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



When you have finished with
this magazine please recycle it.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2010 British and International Golf
Greenkeepers Association Limited



A gifted and talented bunch

It is so refreshing to have just returned from St Andrews and been in the company of so many committed and talented BIGGA members. It goes some way to offsetting the consequences of a succession of late nights and early mornings that I only ever face during Open week.

The entire team, and it was drawn from members from all over the world, and a wide age range, but they gelled tremendously well. My abiding memory of the week will be of gallons and gallons of laughter, especially on some of the late evening mini bus rides back to Elmwood College where we were billeted for the week.

But what struck me was how, in the space of five days, people who had previously just been a face on a database became interesting human beings in their own right.

Having the chance to sit down and chat with so many of them led to discoveries about how gifted so many of them were, not just on the golf course but in other areas of their lives as well.

I uncovered someone who had recently rowed at Henley; someone who had been three time British Line Dance Champion, a top flight football referee, not to mention a host of high class category one golfers.

By the end we all knew an awful lot more about each other and it just highlighted the greatest asset that the Association has – its people. The only way you find that out is by meeting and chatting and that is where the BIGGA networking opportunities come into their own. Whether it be Section, Region or National events there are some wonderful opportunities to meet new people and, if The Open is anything to go by, make friends who will last a lifetime.

Not everyone is a genuine social animal and it does come easier to some people than others but I do know that BIGGA is a very inclusive organisation and the act of making people feel comfortable in what otherwise might be uncomfortable circumstances is almost an unwritten paragraph in the constitution.

A member of the Open Support Team, or a rookie to Harrogate, or qualifier to the National Championship, supported by Kubota and Charterhouse will never feel an outsider for long and the next time they will be among those making other people feel comfortable and welcomed.

Can I also take a few moments to pay tribute to Cecil George, who has won the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award. I had the great pleasure of travelling to Lenzie, just outside Glasgow, to meet up with my old friend, Cecil, and his wife, Margaret, to interview him for the article which appears in this issue.

Cecil is another example of one of those people who is more than the sum of his parts. From his early life as a para, dropping behind enemy lines, to being responsible for developing a greenkeeping syllabus which was taken around the world. He has more than earned a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Having been so impressed by so many of the Open Support Team members there may well be some future candidates for Lifetime Achievement Awards among them.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

AUGUST 2010

FEATURES

17 A gamble pays off

Scott MacCallum visits a club which is reaping the benefits of taking some difficult decisions.

23 Blown away by St Andrews

The BIGGA Open Support Team was in fine form at St Andrews.

28 Showing the green way

Jim Cook visits four golf clubs each of which is taking a positive approach to looking after the environment.

35 Thanks for the education, Cecil!

Scott MacCallum spends some time with BIGGA's latest Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Cecil George.

39 Eight years on

Bob Taylor, of the STRI, looks back at the work of the English Golf Environmental Advisory Scheme.

43 Championship conditions, come rain or shine

How irrigation is helping keep Celtic Manor Resort and St Andrews links in perfect playing condition.

46 Wild about heather

Mike Beardall visits Piltdown Golf Club to find out more about its heather restoration programme.

47 The anatomy of Tees and Surrounds Mowers

James de Havilland writes again.





28



46



52

REGULARS

- 6 News Desk
- 11 Chairman's Word
- 12 GTC
- 13 Learning & Development
- 14 Industry Update
- 15 What's Your Number
- 52 New Products
- 55 Around the Green
- 59 Assistant Profile
- 61 Chief Executive's Column
- 62 Membership
- 63 Diary of Events
- 64 Dealer of the Month
- 67 In the Shed
- 74 Soapbox
– Bob Taylor



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

WILD FLOWERS STRIKE GOLD AT HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW



Over 2,000 native coastal plants such as Thrift, Sheep Fescue, Kidney Vetch, Yellow Horned Poppies and Scabious have helped the Conceptual Garden 'A Fable for Tomorrow' take a gold, RHS medal at Hampton Court Flower Show.

Designed by Sue Radmore, Electra Sanders and Scarlet Wheaton for University College Falmouth the Garden depicts an old, Cornish seed bank.

Some seeds have spilled out to germinate around pools while others have colonised the hill itself as they might in the wild.

Linda Laxton, MD of British Wild Flower Plants, the specialist Norfolk Nursery that has custom grown the plants says that many seeds will lie underground for years until they are disturbed and the conditions are right for them to germinate.

"Poppies for example shed their seeds in August and because of the dry conditions fall through cracks in the soil where they remain about one foot down at a constant temperature until the field is ploughed.

"When this happens they enjoy light and rain, germinate and consequently flower."

British Wild Flower Plants have also supplied 'Fields of Gold' part of the 'Home Grown' RHS central exhibit at Hampton Court.

For further information, contact British Wild Flower Plants on: Tel: 01603 716615 or visit www.wildflowers.co.uk



Success for Marriott Group

All 10 of Marriott's UK golf resorts have been awarded "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" status in recognition of the hard work they have undertaken implementing a variety of projects in environmental areas around the golf course.

The Award is an international recognition of environmental excellence bestowed on organisations that are taking a leadership role in conservation.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses helps to enhance wildlife habitats and protect natural resources for the benefit of people, wildlife and the game of golf. The programme is designed to give Course Managers the information

and guidance they need to implement stewardship projects and receive recognition for their efforts.

The Golf Programme is part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. It is administered by Audubon International, a non-profit environmental organisation that spearheads education and conservation assistance programs that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The Program addresses five key environmental quality areas: Wildlife and Habitat Management, Chemical Use, Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, Water Quality Management and Outreach and Education.



NEW MODEL

Despite lengthy talks with various modelling agencies Sheffield Section resisted temptation and used a model from among their own number! Thanks to Ian Whitehead for attempting to model the new Sheffield Section polo shirts.

The shirts are available in many sizes and are at the very reasonable price of £10. The Section has already had a lot of enquiries so far so if you would like to order one please contact James Stevens on 07738719614

Golf Management Trophy Day comes to Erewash Valley

A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day sponsored for the 12th successive year by Scotts UK Professional was held at Erewash Valley Golf Club.

Teams from 15 golf clubs enjoyed a great day on a superbly presented course prepared by Course Manager Graham Arnold and his staff. We were blessed with an unusually warm day, and all players were relieved to make it to the clubhouse for a well earned refreshment, where everyone was made to feel very welcome by all the staff and members; our thanks are extended to all at the Club.

The competition is based on the established format of four man teams playing stableford with the best two points scores on each hole to count. The team from Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, with Course Manager Antony Bindley won the event for the second time with a great score of 93 points; Birstall Golf Club 2nd with 89 points, and 3rd on 88 points Wollaton Park Golf Club.

The Midland Region of BIGGA thanks Erewash Valley Golf Club for hosting the event and Scotts for their sponsorship.



ABOVE: The winning team from Kirby Muxloe Golf Club receiving the trophy, with Antony Bindley centre; LEFT: Mark Rayner presenting the main prize, an Accupro Spreader, to Antony Bindley;

Sports Ground Contractor Ups The Power



Tractors designed and built originally for use in agriculture are proving an increasingly important asset for non-farming applications as evidenced by the 125hp MF 7465 tractor added recently to the machinery fleet of Hampshire-based sports ground construction and turf drainage specialist, Kestrel Contracting.

Supplied by local Massey Ferguson dealer, Lister Wilder, the new tractor

replaced a seven-year old 115hp MF 6265 in spearheading the company's contract drainage operations on sports pitches and playing fields throughout the UK.

Powering an AFT Wizz Wheel 75 wheel-type trencher, the additional muscle and advanced Dyna-VT transmission of the MF 7465 is proving invaluable in sustaining high workrates while promoting

consistently good results in a wide range of surface conditions and soil types, points out Kestrel founder and managing director, Richard Veitch.

"The extra horsepower comes in very useful when laying mains drainage pipes measuring up to 150mm diameter at depths anywhere between 500mm and 700mm below ground level," said Richard.

SPORTS TURF UNITED

The GTC and IOG have secured an agreement with City & Guilds NPTC, to have their logos included on certificates for work-based diplomas for Greenkeepers and Groundsmanship, with effect from September 1 this year.

Jack Ward, City & Guilds NPTC's Chief Executive confirmed he was delighted that an agreement had been reached with both the greenkeeper and groundsmanship bodies and hoped that it would be an exemplar for other land-based organisations to follow.

The new Diplomas have replaced the NVQ's in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and given industries the opportunity to have a stronger influence in the content of the Diplomas as well as a Quality Assurance in the delivery of the qualifications.

In another development the GTC, in association with the IOG, has created a Groundsman version of its acclaimed Greenkeepers Training Manual.

Approved City & Guilds NPTC Centres will all have access to the manuals for use with sports

turf students and the knowledge which underpins the skills required within the Diplomas is also available through learning materials in hard copy or CD ROM format.

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, believes the agreement between the GTC, IOG and City & Guilds NPTC will benefit the sports turf sector employers and learners as the Work Based Diplomas have been designed to give greenkeepers and groundsmen and women the skills and knowledge to maintain surfaces to the highest standards using sustainable best practices.

"In 2006, the IOG launched its six-year strategic Challenging Perceptions plan where a key theme was to identify and establish partnerships. The IOG is committed to promoting the skills agenda to National Governing Bodies of Sport through the new Diplomas."

David added: "The GTC is dedicated to ensuring a range of qualifications are available through a network of Approved Centres."

The Trueness Meter



The STRI's groundbreaking Trueness Meter was in use at St Andrews during The Open.

The revolutionary new technology played a pivotal role in ensuring all 18 greens were consistent and of an optimal trueness.

Developed in conjunction with Sheffield Hallam University following funding from the R&A, The Trueness Meter is used as an integral part of the STRI Programme. The technology is being hailed as one of the biggest steps forward in the agronomy industry in 30 years and the only accurate, effective and efficient method of measuring smoothness and trueness of a green.

The perfect putting surface tests the player but also gives reward for skilful play. STRI's Trueness Meter™ allows greenkeepers for the first time to forensically analyse the greens during an event and refine operations to help them implement 18 greens of the highest order.

JCB FLIES THE FLAG FOR BRITAIN



JCB has taken the wraps off its latest digger in patriotic style after a multi-million pound investment to develop a machine which should cut customers' fuel costs by up to 16 per cent.

The backhoe loader was pioneered by JCB's founder Joseph Cyril Bamford in 1953.

The first of the new range of the British-built diggers rolled off the company's production line at Rokeston, Staffordshire, in Union Jack colours and embarked on a tour of famous London landmarks to celebrate its launch and the company's approaching 65th anniversary in October.

The fuel savings are derived largely through a new hydraulic system which utilises three hydraulic pumps instead of two, providing the same hydraulic output but at lower engine speeds.



Major Steps for Dennis

Dennis Mowers marked a significant moment in the company's history with the opening of its superb new assembly and administrative facility at its HQ near Derby.

Managing Director, Ian Howard, cut the ribbon to open the new larger building..

It comes on the back of the company's most significant order – 27 mowers for the World Cup which the 22 strong Dennis team had to build and ship out to South Africa within a tight four week time frame. They also provided training for the Groundsmen at the World Cup stadia.



War Graves Commission receive their New Bushranger

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has bought 86 new Bushranger Edgers from DJ Turfcare, based in Surrey.

DJ Turfcare is the sole distributors for Europe and Scandinavia for Powerup Lawncare Products of Australia, manufacturers of the Bushranger Edger.

Derek Parker, CWGC Director of Horticulture, said: "We have been looking for a machine like this for a long time, since another manufacturer stopped producing theirs.

"The Bushranger has the features we need because it is well-designed for operator use.

"We have war graves under our care throughout the world and staff need the most

efficient machinery for maintaining the very high standards we insist on."

DJ Turfcare Managing Director David Jenkins said: "We are very proud of our long association with the War Graves Commission.

"Bushranger Edgers have proved ideal for them because immaculate edges are essential and staff use the machines for long periods of time, so stability, strength and lack of noise and vibration is crucial."

DJ Turfcare, who are also sole UK suppliers of Viano organic fertilisers, provide the CWGC with BTME award-winning fertiliser MO Bacter, which eliminates moss without leaving debris and does not mark stonework or paths.



**MURCAR LINKS GOLF CLUB
HOSTS BIGGA SCOTTISH
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

This year's Scottish National Tournament was held in the North East of Scotland at Murcar Links Golf Club, Aberdeen on Thursday, 17 June, 2010.

During its 100 years Murcar has hosted many tournaments and frequently features in the top 100 courses in the U.K. - In 2007, voted the Golf Tourism Scotland "Course of the Year - 2007".

Overhead conditions were perfect, with a breeze just to make things interesting typical links conditions. Entry was slightly down on last year but the players in attendance were looking forward to playing this fine links course. After the most severe winter in almost 30 years Brian Anderson and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a course in excellent condition for the tournament.

Despite the windy conditions several fine scores were returned with the BIGGA National Champion of 2007 and 2008 David Simpson, Crieff Golf Club, returning a fine scratch 72 to win the SGGA Challenge Cup. The Handicap Champion was Ben Brookes, First Assistant at Murcar, who took full advantage of local knowledge and returned a fine 79-9-70, despite completing a hard day's work in preparing the course for the competitors. Once again we had a very competitive field, handicap's ranging from plus 2 to 24.

Congratulations to all who took part and we hope to see everyone at the Duke's Course, St. Andrews, in 2011.

Our Chairman John Geddes thanked,

Captain Hugh Stuart and his committee for the facilities and courtesy offered to the players and the support given by the staff and secretary at the club.

Results: SGGA Challenge Cup (Scratch Champion), David Simpson, Crieff GC, 71; Friendship Trophy (Handicap Champion) Ben Brookes, Murcar GC, 79-9-70; Ransomes Trophy (First Class) 1. Derek Green, Royal Aberdeen, 76-5-71; 2. Charlie MacDonald, Crieff GC, 75-3-72; 3. George Mitchell, Newmachar GC, 75-2-73; Pattison Trophy (Second Class) 1. Richard Pirie, Newmachar GC, 83-10-73; 2. Billy Craig, Kirriemuir GC, 85-10-75; 3. Gary Semple, St. Andrews Links, 87-11-76. STRI Trophy (Third Class) 1. Lewis Birch, St. Andrews Links, 91-20-71; 2. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead GC, 110-21-89; 3. Brian Hunter, McDonald GC, 112-21-91 Dick Aitken Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 77-5-72; M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) Mike Carson, Caird Park GC, 81-7-74; Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Greig Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 86-12-74; SIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran).

Elliott Small, Life Member, 85-11-74; St. Mungo Trophy (Team Event)..

Best 4 net scores. Central Section. Lewis Birch, 71; Archie Dunn, 72; David Simpson, 72; Charlie MacDonald, 72. Total=287; Patrons/Trade Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, 88- 15 - 73; Qualifiers National Championship; Scratch. David Simpson; Handicap Ben Brookes.

Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator



**20 Years of
Unbroken
Service
Recognised by
Campeys**

Congratulations are in order for Tony Cundall, General Manager for Campey Turf Care Systems, as this year marks the 20th anniversary of him joining the Macclesfield-based company.


A celebration was held on in June when Directors Richard and Jean Campey presented him with a weekend away for him and his wife and a bottle of Malt Whisky to mark the occasion.

Tony, a well known figure within the trade and with Campey customers, originally joined as a sales representative covering North Wales, Cheshire and the North Staffordshire area and went on to become General Manager

"In an age when strength of character, loyalty and conscientiousness are not always given the recognition and appreciation they deserve, we are delighted to acknowledge the sheer hard work and reliability Tony has displayed over the past 20 years," acknowledged Richard.

"He has never had a day off sick in all that time and has proved himself a loyal and dedicated member of our team."

IF YOU WANT THE BEST GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT
FOR YOUR COURSE CHOOSE **TACIT** 
THERE IS NO OTHER BETTER

TACIT  Tel: 01788 568818