

New Holland Stalwart Retires to the 19th Hole



New Holland is saying farewell to one of its most experienced Product Marketing Managers who has spent almost half a century in the groundcare industry.

Alan Hawes, who has worked for the company for the last 20 years, is retiring from an industry that has undergone

considerable change since he entered it as a 17 year-old.

“When I started most customers would have a tractor on every implement, and the UK industry supported about 33,000 machines. That number has now halved, and tractors have become bigger, more powerful and able to

handle a wider range of tasks. Air conditioning used to be standard as there weren't any cabs,” said Alan.

He has spent the last 10 years in charge of New Holland's 65-115HP tractors, the T4000s, TD5000, T5000s, and fruit tractors. Working on that size of machine has allowed him to travel the length and breadth of the UK and Republic of Ireland, meeting customers on local authority and sports grounds, and sites that are close to his heart – golf courses.

“We sell a lot of T4000s into golf courses and during my career I've had the chance to work with great people on some special courses.

“Obviously St Andrew's would be a highlight. To be stood in their workshops and looking across at the R&A clubhouse and golf hotel you think: It's a dream come true to be training these people on our tractors at the home of golf,” he added.

His love of tractors and machinery started when he used to sit on the wing of his father's Fordson Standard.

From there he progressed to an apprenticeship before working in multiple roles across service, sales and marketing with tractor firms. He then joined Fiat and New Holland from 1991.

Of his 48 year career, Alan said, “I've lived my dream, which started when I was with my father on the farm. I've always had the ambition to work with machinery and tractors and I've been able to do it. I've made a tremendous number of friends over the years, worked for a wonderful company in New Holland and enjoyed every minute of it. I won't retire rich, but I'll have rich memories.”

Steve Basnett, who has been working in New Holland's demonstration team across Europe, took over the role of marketing product support specialist in October.

systemic

in **One!**



Bobcat Takes Promac

Bobcat has appointed Promac Solutions Ltd as the company's new Authorised Dealer for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Promac is now responsible for the complete range of Bobcat equipment from skid-steer, compact tracked and all wheel steer loaders, excavators, telehandlers and utility vehicles to a comprehensive selection of Bobcat attachments that together deliver versatility and time-saving efficiency across a huge range of different applications.

A successful supplier of new and used plant and machinery for earthmoving, construction, demolition and recycling, Promac was formed in 2006.

Commenting on the new appointment, Grant Linton, Managing Director of Promac Solutions said:

"The addition of the Bobcat range is an excellent complement to the leading brands we represent throughout the South East which include Doosan and Montabert. Bobcat has one of the leading ranges of compact equipment with a superior range of compact loaders, mini-excavators and telehandlers."



Aeration Day

A precise and quite perfect exhibition of clean hollow-coring stole the praise at T H White's Aeration Day at Mill Ride GC, where 35 turf professionals from Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire had assembled.

Wiedenmann's GXi8 HD Terra Spike using 11 mm diameter coring tines and going 80 mm deep effortlessly aerated one of the greens in a text book display which was met with enthusiastic appreciation.

Laurence Pithie, Director of Turf Master One Consultancy, whose earlier aeration lecture session had covered all aspects from solid tining, scarifying and hollow-coring said, "The Wiedenmann GXi8 HD now overcomes the old problem of golf clubs having to purchase two machines to hollow core and deep tine greens and tees. This machine can do both quickly and cleanly with adjustable depth and using a variety of tines to suit all situations throughout the year."

The event which was BIGGA/CPD accredited had been organised by Ian Royston, area manager of TH White, Reading.



EILEEN CALLS IT A DAY

After 28 years service as liaison officer for the farming sector and greenkeeping training at Oatridge College, Eileen Barry has retired.

Eileen has seen many changes in the years that she has worked at Oatridge College.

Scotland's East Section wishes Eileen every success in the future.

Picture showing Eileen being presented with flowers and gift voucher from Tom Murray on behalf of the East Section.



Chairman's Word

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

Change brings opportunities...

If anything has become obvious to me over the course of this past year – it is the need to embrace change. Change can be unsettling, change can be daunting, but always, always, change brings opportunities.

Opportunities to improve. Opportunities to become more efficient. Opportunities to become more prominent in the industry. Opportunities to become more effective. Time waits for no-one, and there is more than ever a pressing need for us to develop our abilities.

A single efficient unit to move the profession forward

At the moment however – it is survival of the fittest. BIGGA has a great network of volunteers; a great infrastructure on a Regional and National basis, and right now all this needs to function as a single efficient unit to move the profession forward.

The BIGGA Volunteer Board is looking closely at the organisational finances and the structure of the association – particularly HQ at BIGGA HOUSE.

We have the most terrific, purpose-built building with offices and a meeting room, but I must add that BIGGA, like many other organisations in this recession has to face the truth. Our costs are too high and our income has been dropping.

It is quite clear to me that there is not much more income in the industry at this moment. As a consequence the BIGGA Board has been examining and cutting costs wherever appropriate, to balance income and expenditure. The Board is looking at every last item of expenditure from travel expenses to the cost of meetings, from stationery to printing, and heating & lighting.

We are also looking for a new CEO. This is not something to be rushed. A job description has been drawn up along with a person specification. A parallel can be

drawn with the GCSAA who have taken considerable time and diligence in their search for a CEO and are only just beginning to initiate this despite losing Mark Woodward back in May this year.

While this is ongoing, BIGGA must not take its eye off the ball. We must press on with our mission statement which, put succinctly, is to advance the greenkeeping profession through education, training, and CPD.

We will need to help others to take these opportunities

If we are to advance the entire profession and not just a few individuals we will all need to take these advancement opportunities and make the most of them. We will need to help others to take these opportunities because BIGGA intends to always provide CPD opportunities for everyone.

We will all need to participate in local section, region and national events and we will all need to engage more fully in the wider golf industry.

Harrogate Week is a case in point. This only comes around once a year. This coming year, the show could be smaller than the last. However, with a huge effort, the 'Continue to Learn' programme will actually be bigger than ever before, to compensate.

These opportunities will not be diminished at all

This will mean that the networking opportunities – the research, the exchange of ideas, the exchange of information and problem solving – these opportunities will not be diminished at all. In fact they will be increased and all of them will be available to each and every one of us.

This year, the Board will meet the members in an 'open forum' situation. This meeting will follow immediately after the AGM when all Volunteer Board members will be

present to answer your questions about BIGGA and its future direction. I urge all members to attend. To avoid repetition of the same questions on the day may I invite you to submit written questions in advance? You can do this by emailing me at talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk. There should also be time for any questions that might occur to you at the last minute.

There will also be an opportunity for our Trade Partners to also meet the Board and to ask questions. This will take place before the Exhibition opens and is the ideal chance to build on the success that is Harrogate Week.

FREE Development Seminars for Assistant Greenkeepers

New for 2011 there will be a FREE 'Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers' (Wednesday 19th January 2011 from 2pm to 4pm). This very down-to earth and friendly seminar has been specifically devised to increase the confidence and work performance of Assistant Greenkeepers. It is a free seminar but places are limited so please make sure you or your team members register early by contacting Sami or Rachael at BIGGA HQ on 01347 833800 - Option 3.

FREE Volunteers Workshop

Also new for 2011 will be a FREE 'Volunteers Workshop' (Tuesday 18th January 2011 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm) for people who are considering helping out their local section and want to see if volunteering is for them. If you are interested you will be joining the largest membership association for greenkeepers at all levels in the world. Quite a club to be in!

The Volunteers Workshop is also for existing volunteers from the UK and around the world who want to be even better at advancing the greenkeeping profession.

In my experience volunteering can be great for your career...

(continued on page 67)

TALK TO PAUL

Please note that any member can contact the Chairman directly and privately at: talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

Many of us will once again start the New Year with the best intentions to get fit, diet and generally feel better about our lifestyles. However rather than discuss the 1% who will stick with their resolution let us think where we in the 99% can all set a realistic target and move towards it albeit slowly but surely.

The GTC will, as its target, be keeping employers aware of the options and various opportunities to invest in staff development and in particular their responsibilities in this area.

One key area to highlight employer legislative responsibilities is health and safety, albeit the one subject that is mocked by the media, but surely nobody can question the safety of staff and customers which has to be every employers top priority?

The following statement should really focus the mind of all employers:

“Recent accident investigations have revealed a significant weakness in employer engagement and a failure to develop an effective safety culture; in one case this resulted in enforcement action being served requiring golf club directors to attend a one day safety awareness course.

Safety culture starts at the top and cascades throughout the organisation by example and good communication. Developing a positive safety culture has considerable benefits and costs nothing!”

At a recent HSE arranged workshop in Durham every golf club in the County except one had a representative in attendance, and an apology was received from that club, all the delegates thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Greenkeepers and golf club officials working together has to be the future and this will become the model the GTC looks to promote through the Home Unions and BIGGA.

Counties and/or Regions of the

Home Unions working with the Sections and Regions of BIGGA organising short courses can only be good for the industry.

Clearly other subject areas from all aspects of greenkeeper maintenance and management not just health and safety will be addressed and promoted through the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

Whether the training is part of a formal qualification offered through a Centre or College or a half or one day workshop offered by a Quality Assured Training Provider it has to be good for the individual and the business.

The GTC has a clear remit to maintain the Occupational Standards for greenkeeping and while we will continue to ensure there are relevant Government accredited qualifications one area we are keen to see develop are short courses for greenkeepers and employers.

I often hear, “where does a newly elected Green Convenor and Chairman of Green get their training from” and we all know of the quips about how this position is the short straw or the job on the committee which nobody wants etc.

Coupled to the Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who tell me that just when their Chairman has completed their “training” they are moved on so here we go again!

Well in nearly every case there is help at hand!

Sector specific Health & Safety Guidance, wall charts, training manuals and training courses are all available.

The range of agronomic subjects and management topics are all covered through a variety of learning methods from books, on-line learning and short courses available to employers and greenkeepers.

We must all work together in these difficult times and all successful businesses highlight staff development as a key factor and the GTC is now looking to

ensure the education and training provision within the sector is at the forefront of employers’ policies and planning during the New Year.

While the GTC knows that there is something available for everybody whether you are an employer or greenkeeper we have to ensure all the options and opportunities are well publicised.

Please check out the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers on the GTC website, contact us direct or come and visit us on Stand C12 at the BTME Exhibition 18- 20 January.

For now please ensure your enjoy the festive season, especially New Years Eve and remember keep that resolution realistic and achievable!!

In Brief

As we move into the festive season David looks forward to a New Year and how employers as well as greenkeepers must have more education and training as their New Year Resolutions and not to give up on it days or weeks into January

The GTC is funded by:

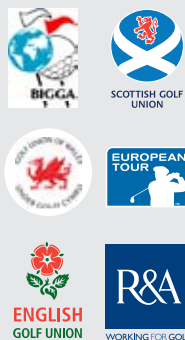


Photo by Nick Gates, Abridge GC, Essex

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



Santa has been on TV advertising a favourite soft drink and left me singing "The holidays are coming!". As the excitement grows for the man in red to deliver all that we're wishing for, the buzz surrounding Harrogate Week and the Continue to Learn programme is also creating a bit of stir.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week

Many of the workshops are Sold Out and there is great interest in several of the featured seminars. All this promises that the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre will be very busy – just the way we like it!

We are fortunate to be presenting a number of seminars from companies who are exhibiting at the trade show, these include:

Efficient Nutrient Technology - Vitax

Improving Turf Quality - Headland Amenity

The Future of Turf Management - Scotts

Integrated Lake and Pond Management - Sherriff Amenity

Why Electricity Generation Makes Economic Sense for Your Business - Solar Wall

Fulvic Acid the Biostimulant that Extends Early and Late Season Growth - Symbio

Fludioxonil Providing Innovative Disease Management and Application - Syngenta

Bunker Erosion: A Sustainable Solution to an Age Old Golfing

Problem - EnviroSports

Linking Fuel Savings to Reel Maintenance - Bernhard & Co

The Three Steps to Transition

- R&K Kensett

Coated Seed Delivering Species Transition on the Golf Course! - DLF/ Johnsons Seeds

Aeration on Golf Courses - Terrain Aeration

Green Up Your Greens - British Wild Flowers

Environmental Management of your Golf Course with the Latest Technology in Chemistry - Tower Sport Europe

Turf in the Sustainability Era - Lindum

Woodfuel Energy that Grows on Trees - The Forestry Commission

The New EU Water Directive and its Impact on Golf Courses - Waste 2 Water

Utilising Foliar Fertilisers to Optimize Putting Green Programming - TurfCare Group

Energy Efficient Irrigation - ITT Lowara

Further seminars are being added. Check the website for the most current information www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education.

Remember, all of the Seminars are FREE and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Ensure that you are at the Queen's Suite in plenty of time to secure your seat.

Protected Habitats and Species Field Guide

As I mentioned in last month's column, the new 'On Course Field Guide to the Legislation and

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.

Recognition of Protected Habitats and Species' is now available Free of Charge to all BIGGA Members. To get your copy contact the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3) or email education@bigga.co.uk. Your field guide will come with a divider to complete your field guide folder.

Higher Education Scholarships



The final scholarship of 2010 has been awarded to:

Greg Wellings - MSc by Research

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ransomes Jacobsen and their continued support for this worthy scheme. In 2010 we have awarded 10 Scholarships totalling just over £9,600. Ransomes Jacobsen has now invested more than £130,000 into helping over 100 BIGGA members attain higher education qualifications.



Master Greenkeeper Certificate

I am delighted to announce that we have three new Master Greenkeepers:

Stuart Yarwood MG - Lymm Golf Club, Cheshire

Alan Pierce MG - Ham Manor Golf Club, West Sussex

Alan Hess MG CGCS - Augusta Pines Golf Club, Texas, USA

My congratulations go to all three for their achievement.

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: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie; Michael Beaton; Douglas Duguid; Derek Grendowicz; Jaey Goodchild

First for Clandeboye

Clandeboye Golf Club, is the first club in Ireland to purchase the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid ride-on greens mower.

Course Manager is Terry Crawford and he is particularly impressed with the array of new features built into the mower. Commenting just after Captain's Day he said:



"I purchased this mower because of all the new features it possesses and, most of all, because it is free of hydraulic oil.

"All my staff have now experienced using the mower and are very impressed by its comfort and just how user friendly it is. It has an on board computer which allows the user to change almost anything to do with set-up; for example clip rates, cut speeds, travel speeds etc, the list goes on. This allows us greater control of how the greens can be presented according to the prevailing conditions.

"Overall the Eclipse 322 has proved to be an important asset for the golf club and is a very important piece of kit to the greenkeeping team. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is thinking of purchasing one."

Appointment

Countrywide has appointed David Howells as a member of its team of turf and amenity specialists. David will be working with greenkeepers and groundstaff throughout West Midlands, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire.

With more than 20 years experience in the industry, David started his career as a greenkeeper at Harrogate Golf Club before becoming Course Manager at The Shropshire Golf Centre in Telford. A move into sales followed, with ET Breakwell's initially and then Headland Amenity as a Technical Manager, a role David developed over 10 years.

Turf and Amenity Manager, Martin Townsend is delighted with the new appointment..

"David's in depth knowledge of the industry will be of a huge benefit to our customers, He joins a growing team of dedicated and likeminded turf professionals focused on delivering first class results for greenkeepers, course managers and groundstaff throughout the UK."



SANLI PUTS ELECTRICAL POWER ON TAP

As the nights draw in, the thoughts of many amenity and grounds care professionals as well as home and estate owners invariably turn to the irritation and nuisance of power cuts caused by winter gales, ice and snow.

One way of ensuring light and warmth on the darkest of days, or nights, is by means of a portable stand-by generator

that can be moved quickly and easily to wherever emergency or back-up electrical power might be needed.

Outdoor power equipment and engine specialist, SANLI, has introduced two such generators known as the GS720 and GS2400, producing 720 watts and 2,400 watts of electrical output respectively. The GS720 model is shown left.



New Form of Turf Protection from Grassform

According to the Met Office, last winter, the UK received an average rainfall of 255mm. In addition, significant snowfall from mid-December until the end of February resulted in the ground becoming waterlogged and unstable. This year is set to be no different, with another 'white-out' predicted.

In response to this, Grassform has developed PortaPath, a temporary outdoor flooring product which protects turf and prevents soil compaction, while also benefitting from a slip resistant surface.

Mark Dunning, Company Director at Grassform, said: "PortaPath is a leading ground protection product which is particularly suitable for the winter months. It offers a reliable and cost-efficient method to providing outdoor flooring and walkways, with the advantage of being installed quickly, meaning our customers will save time and money."

For further information on the equipment and services on offer from Grassform please visit its recently launched new website www.grassform.co.uk



MESSAGE FROM MOSCOW

Golf Technology Ltd, Ransomes Jacobsen's Russian distributor based in Moscow, held a four-day greenkeeping seminar recently to showcase the latest products from the Ipswich-based manufacturer including the Jacobsen Eclipse hybrid greens mowers. Ransomes Jacobsen is a Textron Inc (NYSE: TXT) company.

Thirty-five greenkeeping staff from golf courses across Russia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine attended the event which was held at Moscow's Agricultural University and Pirogovo Golf Club. As well as product demonstrations, the seminar included presentations from renowned agronomist Dr Richard Hurley, of Rutgers University, and Jon Scott, Head of Agronomy at Nicklaus Design.

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Come in No 12!
It's Campey Turf Care's MD...

Name: Richard Campey
Company: Campey Turf Care Systems

Position: Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?

35 years and counting. We're preparing to celebrate our company's 25th anniversary in 2011.

How did you get into it?

I responded to an advertisement that SISIS placed in our local newspaper. They were looking for a service engineer but I ended up being a sales demonstrator.

What other jobs have you done?

I worked in agriculture, milking cows, and did a short stint in pharmaceutical research.

What do you like about your current job?

The variety – every day's different. It has given me the opportunity to travel the world, meet interesting people and learn as I go along.

What changes have you seen in the industry?

The quality of playing surfaces, and UK turf professionals have led the way. With regard to turf care machinery, the build quality and engineering has come on in leaps and bounds, and there's so much more to come. We're going to see manual operation giving way to electronics and remote-control. Machinery will be able to multi-task

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to take my Morgan out for a run in the countryside, and do a spot of clay pigeon shooting.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Running the North West branch of the 'Victims of VOSA' Support Group, signing copies of my published works 'Tachographs for Dummies', and joining other 'silver surfers' at night school on a 'Computers for Beginners' course, trying to type with more than my forefingers. I'm still convinced there's one button that does it all - I just haven't found it yet!

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

All our customers and fellow turf professionals while I'm very fortunate to have worked with some brilliant individuals. Ko Rodenberg, inventor of the Koro TopMaker, stands out as a great man.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

With our anniversary next year, it has to be 25. It's a major milestone for me, my family and my staff.

Richard has picked David Golding of the GTC

An environmental haven



James Hutchinson examines some fungus

Scott MacCallum travelled to the north west coast to meet a man who is seeing some real rewards for his hard work



Fairhaven Golf Club, in Lytham St Annes, is one of the finest tests of golf in an area which is renowned for quality courses. With its unusual tree lined but links characteristics it is very much one of a kind, but nowadays it is forging an equally strong reputation for its environmental stewardship.

Peter Simpson is Course Manager but credit for much of the work that has been carried out on encouraging ecology on the course must go to his Assistant and Eco Co-ordinator, James Hutchinson, whose infectious enthusiasm has galvanised the entire club and seen him named as the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year, as well as him closing in on a Sports Turf Science Degree, at Myerscough College.

But it was not always so and while James was always a conscientious and dedicated worker, he didn't

begin to move forward professionally until about five years ago, ironically, when the club first entered the Golf Environment competition.

"Peter knew I was interested in the environment and asked me to go round the course with Bob Taylor and Kelly Harman, of the STRI, as they assessed the course," recalled James.

"I spent a couple of days with them but was embarrassed that when they asked me questions I didn't know any of the answers. I felt completely out of my depth.

"I decided there and then that if I wanted to progress in greenkeeping, and ultimately get a course of my own, I'd have to do something about it."

That was very much the catalyst and to say that James has upped his game since would be very much an understatement and the work that has been done on the course – mostly in spare time after the

essential course management work has been carry out – is quite awe inspiring.

"Basically I started to improve my knowledge base by keeping in touch with the guys at the STRI and



A small wet area has been created to serve the local fauna.



“We have 17 different varieties of butterfly and we are delighted that the 73% of the 100 wildlife boxes we have erected in the last five years (many of them built by members of the team) were occupied this year, and up 1% on the year before”

James Hutchinson