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 email: sales@westcountrybuildings.com
 website: www.westcountrybuildings.com



BIGGA



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Board of Management
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Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn,
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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, 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 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

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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Credit, where it is due

I happened to watch a bit of the England v France game on the telly last night. To be honest I was still basking in the glory of Scotland's triumph over the Faroes the previous night, but I tuned in anyway to see if the Auld Enemy could match our achievement.

Just before the start the commentator threw in the comment that there were now no issues with the Wembley pitch and that it had even coped with an American football match recently.

I didn't watch the entire match, but that as the only comment I heard about the pitch.

Now go back a few months and you would have thought the poor playing surface was a national tragedy.

There was much hand wringing, opinion - of varying degrees of expertise - was being freely spouted on every media outlet under the sun.

This ranged from gardeners and agronomists to players, managers and commentators all of whom had something valuable to offer on the matter.

The idea that the state of the pitch might influence England's 2018 World Cup bid ramped up the anxiety even more.

Indeed the column inches on the subject could have covered the playing area at Wembley several times over.

The new Desso Grassmaster pitch laid earlier this year has obviously made a huge difference, but progress would not have been made without a great deal of planning, thought and sheer hard work by recognised experts in pitch maintenance.

It is a success story but one which elicited no more than a throw away line from a match commentator and, unless I've missed it, very little comment in the same press and media

which were so quick to jump on the story when it was a negative one.

It comes back to the adage that "No news is good news", but it is a bit galling for all concerned that they come in for a pasting when the news is bad and very little in terms of positive comment when they have turned something around and done a superb job.

It is exactly the same with golf courses. The spike bars are full of people pontificating on what they perceive to be wrong, but the numbers who will seek out the staff and congratulate them when have just enjoyed a superbly presented and maintained course are very much fewer.

I can't let this column pass without saying something about BIGGA's much loved Chief Executive, John Pemberton, who has decided to move on.

Life at BIGGA will not be the same when he finally walks out of the door for the last time next April.

John still has a few miles left on the clock and I'm sure he will use them wisely. I also know that it will enable him to spend more time with his lovely wife, Judith, and, dare I say it, on the fairways, and, no doubt, in the rough, of Fulford Golf Club.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Scott MacCallum
Editor

December 2010

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Scott MacCallum visits Fairhaven Golf Club and meets a man whose enthusiasm for this job knows no bounds.

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Three BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship Scheme Graduates talk about their careers and how they have benefited from Ransomes Jacobsen funding.

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Hilary Knight talks with Dr Colin Fleming, the world's leading authority on Nematodes.

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Graham Paul looks at the on-going problem and gives you the opportunity to earn two BASIS points.

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FEATURE

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An environmental haven

Fairhaven Golf Club, in Yorkham St James, is one of the finest to sets of golf in an area which is renowned for quality courses. With its unusual tree-lined but little characterless. It is very much one of a kind. Not nowadays it is being an equally strong reputation for its environmental stewardship.

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

From 1998, the Club Manager has been carried out an ecological survey on the course and to his Assistant and Eco Co-ordinator, James Hutchinson, whose infectious enthusiasm has galvanised the entire club and seen him named as the Conservation Officer of the Year, as well as him being an on a Sports, Plant Science Degree, at Metropolitan College.

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

begin to move forward professionally until about five years ago, mainly when the club first entered the environment competition.

"I've known I was interested in the environment and decided not to go round the course with Bob Taylor and Kelly Herman, of the STS, 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 to professional, 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 easy and - in spite of my implying.

"Basically I started to improve my knowledge base by keeping in touch with the general STS and

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Harrogate week The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

Your guide to the annual 5-day event returning to the Harrogate International Centre this January

16-20 JANUARY 2011 Harrogate International Centre North Yorkshire, HG1 5LA (UK)

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



Greenkeeping is an Art

Artists, Ackroyd and Harvey, have been creating breath-taking works of art using British Seed Houses A26 So-Green mixture.

The award-winning duo has been creating masterpieces by utilising the light sensitivity of chlorophyll in individual blades of grass to create 'sketch like' images. They do this by projecting a large scale negative onto a canvas of grass as it grows.

Richard Brown, of British Seed Houses, commented, "We have been working with Ackroyd and Harvey for a while now, and realised early on that A26 So-Green was the perfect mixture for what they wanted. It contains our naturally occurring AberNile perennial ryegrass which has the ability to maintain a dark green

colour, even throughout the winter. It's this particular quality that allows the artists to achieve such contrast and definition in their work."

It was the simple act of leaning a ladder against a living, light-sensitive surface that was to first arouse the idea of actually using the green pigment of chlorophyll to make extraordinary photographic images in grass.

Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey recently returned from Ljubljana, Slovenia, where they exhibited their piece 'On the Field' (pictured) at the 2010 Arts Festival in the city.

The piece is an excellent example of the light manipulation technique they use to change the colour of the grass during growth.



TEN UP FOR BRAD
BIGGA's Membership Services Assistant, Brad Anderson, has recently celebrated 10 years service with the Association.

Brad was just 17 when he started as one of the two Receptionists in the then recently opened BIGGA HOUSE and he moved to the Membership Department in 2007.

His indepth knowledge of computers and technology has also been of great benefit to the Association in terms of technical support to the rest of the staff and was responsible for him picking up the nickname, "Bradget."

Brad became the fifth current member of Headquarter staff to reach the 10 year milestone and he received a digital camera to mark the occasion.



BIGGA Chief Executive to Leave

The BIGGA Board is sad to announce that after 17 years of service its Chief Executive, John Pemberton, has given notice of his intention to move on. John first joined the Association in March 1993 as its Accountant, moving up to take the reins as Chief Executive in March 2004.

“The BIGGA Board of Directors wishes to thank John for his leadership and dedication to the job over the years which has resulted in BIGGA significantly increasing in size, profile and industry positioning” commented Chairman, Paul Worster.

John will continue in his current position until the end of April 2011 and will be helping the Board with the recruitment of a suitable successor.



ROYAL ARRIVAL ON SAVILE ROW

‘Savile Row Field Day’ saw the world’s most prestigious tailoring location closed to traffic as dozens of sheep grazed in a specially laid pasture created by Inturf.

The event took place under the patronage of HRH The

Prince of Wales and was organised to publicise the benefits of wool clothing.

It attracted visitors and buyers from around the world – as well as considerable publicity in the national press.

“The turf had to be laid

during the night so we started at 11pm and worked through until 5 in the morning,” says Inturf Joint Managing Director Alex Edwards.

“As befits a project for Savile Row the turf was a tailor-made mixture of grasses including sheep fescue!”

Facing Facebook Talking Twitter

Justin Ruiz, CGCS, has been honoured with the 2010 GCSAA Leo Feser Award for his article, “Facing Facebook, talking Twitter, which appeared in the June 2010 issue of Golf Course Management magazine.

Justin is the GCSAA certified Superintendent at The Rim Golf Club in Payson, Arizona.

His article focused on the communication advantages with golfers/

members/customers that social media can provide.

The Leo Feser Award is presented annually for the best Superintendent-written article published in GCM. The award winner is selected by members of GCSAA’s Strategic

Communications Committee. Ruiz, a 12-year GCSAA member, will receive the award at the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference.

WatSave 2010 Technology Award from the ICID

Dr Keith Weatherhead and Dr Jerry Knox, of the Cranfield University’s Centre for Water Science, together with UK Irrigation Association Executive Secretary Melvyn Kay, have won the prestigious WatSave 2010 Technology Award from the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) for their research and promotion of on-farm reservoirs in the UK.

The annual ICID WatSave Awards recognise outstanding contributions to water conservation or water saving across the world.

The winning project, proposed and funded by the Environment Agency, promotes the use of on-farm reservoirs to store surplus winter water for use in drier summers. This helps protect the environment and conserves water for existing users.

The judges noted that though this was not a new technology, “its application here, by water professionals campaigning for farmers to invest in storage on their own land was worthy of award. The construction of on-farm reservoirs [in the UK] has provided the water security essential to achieve timely production of high quality food that reduces water wastage from field to plate.”



Deere Seen at the Zoo

If you could talk to the animals at Chester Zoo, they'd probably say how good the lawns and paddocks look after their John Deere machines have been at work.

The zoo currently runs a Z425 zero-turn mower, a TS Gator utility vehicle and a 2720 compact tractor, all supplied by local John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare of Tarvin, Chester. Horticulture & botany team leader Mark Hargreaves chose the new compact zero-turn mower after a visit to the IOG Saltex event in 2009, where he looked at about 10 different machines altogether.

"The mower is perfect for what we need, and has been an absolute godsend," he says. "We only have three hours to cut around 13 acres

of grass before the zoo opens to the public at 10am, and it saves us a lot of time. One man can cut it all in a couple of hours, even including the car parks when necessary.

"It's light and extremely manoeuvrable, especially when cutting around our newly established borders and flower beds, and we can even use it in wet grass with no problems. The mower deck also features a mulching kit that allows us to cut and drop, which saves us 25 per cent on fertilisers throughout the year."

The TS 4x2 Gator is used every morning, carrying hosepipes, landscaping materials and as a general workhorse around the

zoo. "The Gator does just about everything we ask of it, and is also a real help in getting various jobs done in time before the zoo opens each day," says Mark.

Andy McKenzie is a specialist keeper in the zoo's popular elephant house, which is the base for a John Deere 2720 29hp compact tractor equipped with a front loader and bucket.

"We use the tractor all day every day for general shifting and materials handling work. As well as cleaning out and reshaping the sand on the floor in the elephant house and out in the paddock, the tractor is also useful for towing tree branches and moving 1 tonne bags of grass for the elephants to feed on, said Andy.

Surrey Team Victorious at the Three Section Match

The annual Three Section match between Essex, Surrey and Sussex at Three Bridges Golf Club in Essex, was won by the Surrey team pictured - the first time the trophy had been retained, or won by any team outside their own county.

The day was Sponsored by Ernest Doe and Sons, Andy Turbin pictured on Jacobsen Eclipse



SALES AND MARKETING MAN IN AT KUBOTA

Kubota has appointed David Blackwood as Sales and Marketing Manager for its Tractor & Groundcare Division.

David brings with him a wealth of experience in the agricultural equipment industry, having spent the last 18 years in various technical and commercial roles for AGCO, formerly Massey Ferguson.

In previous roles he headed the group's sales and marketing operations in the Far East but will now be operating somewhat closer to home, creating and implementing Kubota Tractor & Groundcare's sales and marketing strategies in Northern Europe, working with dealers in the UK, Ireland, the Baltic and Scandinavia.

In particular he will be looking to help Kubota establish its higher horsepower tractor ranges.

Married with two children, David said, "Kubota is a global manufacturer known for its quality and reliability and I am delighted to have joined such a well-respected company.

"My role will be to continue to drive sales for Kubota's core groundcare utility and compact equipment range but to also support its move into the higher horsepower tractor market, which is where my experience will be invaluable."



Success for Writtle Student

Anthony Stockwell, who was featured in the October 2009 edition of GI for his Living the Dream article regarding his placement at The London Golf Club, has successfully graduated from Writtle College, a partnership institution of the University of Essex. Anthony received an upper second class Honours BSc degree in Sport Turf Science and Management.

Anthony found the relationship with The London Golf Club very supportive as he was able to work at weekends during the final year of his studies before taking up a full time position on the greenkeeping staff upon completion of the course.

In January 2011 Anthony, who has a firm belief that only the correct application of science and management techniques can progress the industry, has applied to start studying for a Masters degree in Professional Studies of Turfgrass Management.



New Kit for a New Centre of Excellence

The Vale Resort's newly developed Welsh Rugby Union National Centre of Excellence has recently been kitted out with a brand new fleet of Toro turf maintenance machinery.

The £4million state-of-the-art training facility is home to the Cardiff Blues rugby team as well as Cardiff City Football Club and the Welsh Football Association, and needed a top-notch fleet to mow and maintain its six international-standard practice pitches.

The WRU charged local machinery dealer Ted Hopkins Limited with selecting the right

manufacturer and machines to suit the centre's needs.

Two new Toro Reelmaster 3100-D mowers and a heavy-duty Workman HDX utility vehicle with topdresser are now hard at work at the training ground, which also features an extensive indoor training centre and the world's most advanced 3G outdoor floodlighting.

Geraint Scamel, Head Greenkeeper at the Vale Resort, which is based in Hensol, near Cardiff, said that he was delighted with the new arrivals.

"I used to use Toro many moons ago on the golf course, but we switched to another manufacturer's machinery – it's great to have Toro back.

"I'm really pleased with the mowers – they feel really robust and solid when you sit on them."

What's more, Welsh Team Manager, Alan Phillips, has given the Toro fleet the official thumbs up, commenting:

"I'm glad Geraint and the boys have got the proper equipment they need to do a top-class job."

IF YOUR ABSTRACTION LICENCE IS UP FOR RENEWAL, READ THIS MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Of approx 340 time limited abstraction licences up for renewal by March 2011 only 175 applications have been received.

"We don't want licence holders to find themselves in the situation where they do not have a current licence to abstract," said Fiona Ireland EA, Permitting Team Leader Water Resources.

"Like any business we need to plan and manage our workload and we have tried to encourage the early submission of applications but have not yet been successful. In a couple of years we will have 900 renewal applications to process and if we are going to be in a position to determine these applications in time and

allow continuing abstraction the drive to encourage early submission will be even stronger," she explained.

"In previous years we have been fairly lenient in accepting applications for renewal right up to the point of expiry and we have considered applications submitted after the expiry date of the old licence.

"This will no longer be the case and in future we will be enforcing the legislation - licence holders must get their applications to us at least three months before the old licence expires in order for us to process their applications to allow continuing abstraction while their

application is being determined (known as LEV).

If applications are not received in time we will treat it as an application for new water which may mean that details of the application would need to be advertised and if the abstraction is in an over-abstracted or over licensed catchment it is possible that it would not be renewed under the same terms and conditions as the previous licence and in some cases may even run the risk of not being renewed at all," said Fiona.

If you think you are affected then call the Permitting Support Centre on 0114 289 8340



Four New Faces at Sherriff

Sherriff Amenity has expanded its national sales team with the addition of four new Amenity Specialists.

Edward Harris takes responsibility for sales in North East England. Edward has extensive experience within the amenity industry.

He studied an HND at Myerscough College in Turf Science Golf Course management.

He has also worked as a Greenkeeper at The London Golf Club, Hanbury Manor Country Club and Loch Llomond Golf Club.

Edward also spent a couple of years in Abu Dhabi, managing football pitches for Sheik Hamdon and Sheik Mansoor.

David Chammings will be covering Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

Prior to joining Sherriff Amenity David spent 8 years working in the greenkeeping industry at Exeter

Golf Club and Ashbury Golf Club.

Chris O'Kane has been promoted from within Sherriff Amenity and is now responsible for sales in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Chris joined the company in 2008 in a sales and transport administration role.

Adam Hartley joins the company having spent the last 22 years as a Greenkeeper, the last nine of which were as Course Manager at the 27 hole West Chilmington Golf Club in West Sussex.

Adam will be covering West Sussex, Hampshire and Dorset.

"I am delighted to announce these appointments," commented Mary Pyrah, Amenity Director of Agrovista UK.

"All four are now undertaking their BASIS training, which we see as vital qualification for anyone advising the use of chemicals in the amenity industry today".



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