





“BIGGA has over the years developed a terrific infrastructure. The organisation is well-placed to weather this particular economic storm and emerge the other side, stronger, leaner, and fitter than before”.

LEFT: Past Chairman, Peter Todd, hands over the reins to Paul Worster

Driving the turfcare profession forward

Paul is resolute about building on the efforts of his predecessors. “BIGGA has over the years developed a terrific infrastructure. The organisation is well-placed to weather this particular economic storm and emerge the other side, stronger, leaner, and fitter than before”.

“I believe the BIGGA HQ team and the four Regional Administrators (RA's) have the experience, the drive and the professional determination to help us move our profession forwards. To succeed in this endeavour they will always need the committed support of volunteers and the desire of the members to take up what is on offer, particularly:

- 1) Management training
- 2) Skills training
- 3) Opportunities to grow through volunteer work

In the coming year - and beyond - Paul wants (amongst other things) to focus on the work of the BIGGA volunteers with particular reference to improving the take up of training and raising standards in the profession.

“I will be asking the Chief Executive to do all that he can to ensure that all departments at BIGGA HQ, and the four RA's, focus in 2010 on supporting our volunteers”.

Volunteer work builds confidence and character

“It is training and development and the unselfish efforts of local volunteers that build confidence

and character in the individual and take the profession forward”.

Paul feels that because knowledge and influence can be applied so quickly and widely through modern communications, BIGGA has never been in a better position to impact the way that the industry regards the greenkeeper.

“However, BIGGA cannot do that if the greenkeeper is not aware, or does not understand, how he can help himself/herself. In this and other respects the profession can benefit particularly from the support, advice and assistance of the retired greenkeeper in a voluntary role”.

Retired greenkeepers and their legacy

As National Chairman Paul will seek to make sure that all retired greenkeepers have the opportunity to pass on a positive legacy to the younger generation in the profession.

“When we are disappointed and dejected, as sometimes we are, it can be very uplifting to listen to a generation of greenkeepers who have survived recessions and crises and still want to see members of the profession striving to be the best and are still keen for the association to go from strength to strength”.

Paul thinks that despite the recession there are huge opportunities in the industry and these will increase as we develop our relationships and alliances with other organisations in the golf and leisure sectors, both here in the UK and abroad.

The perils of avoiding challenges and being cynical

“We need to understand that as an association we, as members, have a responsibility for our profession. When mistakes are made, or when opportunities are missed, it is sometimes hard not to criticise and be cynical. However, in times like these, we have to be as professional as possible. We have to take the opportunities that are presented to us and not avoid the challenges that confront us by hiding behind a veil of negativity.”

Paul is of the view that constructive criticism is always welcome and member engagement through participation is vital.

“If BIGGA members have a valid complaint or criticism it is vital to our Association that BIGGA officials hear about the problems being experienced.

“This is perhaps best done through the nearest local, regional or national level volunteer. It would be great if concerned members could also continue to offer practical suggestions for improving both the services and opportunities the association provides to members”.

BIGGA to become the best membership organisation anywhere

Paul continues to be full of praise and admiration for the work and sacrifice of all his predecessors in the role. He particularly values the more recent ‘behind the scenes’ efforts of Kenny MacKay and Peter Todd who have both used their business acumen to bring greater commercialism to the business of BIGGA.

“Despite the current uncertainty and insecurity in the workplace it is important that BIGGA members feel they are part of the best membership organisation anywhere.

“As National Chairman it will be an honour for me to work towards this aim with the BIGGA HQ team and with our many fine volunteers at all levels.

“I want people to know that I am fully committed in 2010 to focus the efforts of BIGGA HQ and the Association as a whole onto:

1. Achieving much greater engagement of members at local levels
2. Providing positive leadership and support for our volunteers
3. Our association becoming the best membership organisation anywhere.”

Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

Become a key sponsor

The funding provided by Golden and Silver Key supporters means that BIGGA can continue to produce training and career aids including DVDs, CD Roms, field-guides, as well as refunds for training fees, subsidised learning and development courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

To find out more, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800



“ I really wanted to develop my education but had to fund my own training, so I contacted BIGGA to ask for financial support. A refund of my course fees has enabled me to complete my chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting, felling of small trees and my PA6 spraying certificates. I really do appreciate what BIGGA, with the support of the Golden and Silver Key Companies, has done for my career. ”

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper



“ The support for this fund has enabled BIGGA to enhance the value of being a member, and it has previously given many greenkeepers the opportunity to further develop their careers. As an association we owe our Golden and Silver Key sponsors a huge vote of thanks. ”

John Pemberton, Chief Executive



Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



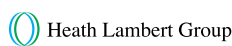
JOHN DEERE



syngenta



HAYTER



Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sarna; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton

G

NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products from Harrogate Week reviewed

Brushcutting in the Bushes



Toro showcased a number of new machines including the Workman HD Series of heavy duty utility vehicles and range of Solo brushcutters. Comprising two-wheel and four-wheel drive diesel options, the Workman HDX-D boasts a superb total carrying load together with a towing capacity of up to 1,588kg.

Replacing the Workman 3300 and 4300, key features of the HD Series include the i-beam-shaped DeDion rear axle, an innovative automotive technology that isolates the engine, transmission and main frame from all load forces; a truss-like front space frame, integrated wheel bearings and hydraulic disc brakes on all four wheels for greater stopping power.

The 142 and 154 Series Brushcutters are on show alongside other bestsellers from SOLO. The German manufacturer specialises in producing professional equipment that also includes hand-held and knapsack sprayers, hedge trimmers, blowers, forestry chainsaws and accessories to the highest of standards.

Commenting on this latest launch, Lely's Kim Macfie concludes: "Lely is highly regarded and best-known for bringing Toro mowing and irrigation products to the golfing industry. Now we are able to widen our range of equipment to golf courses by offering the superb SOLO range of complementary premium-quality outdoor equipment to our golf partners."

www.toro.co.uk



No More Oil Leaks

Ransomes Jacobsen, unveiled its latest generation riding greens mower, the Jacobsen Eclipse™ 322. Featuring a unique hybrid drive system, this latest mower is a radical departure from the hydraulically driven machines of the past 40 years and is like nothing else in its class.

Designed to reduce operating costs and increase productivity, the Eclipse 322 provides cutting consistency on all types of greens, irrespective of the operator.

The machine is totally free of hydraulic oil and, because of electronic control, it can be customised to meet the specific requirements of any golf course.

Using electric motor technology totally negates the use of hydraulic oil and that means no leak points, and no hydraulic maintenance costs.

The 'steer by wire' steering system eliminates the need for mechanical links, cables and hydraulic hoses, but still provides dynamic feedback to the operator, which mimics the feel of a hydraulic or cable-operated steering system.

The all-electric joystick-controlled Lift/Lower system allows the reels to be operated independently, with any combination of reels in use. With the centre unit raised it is possible to cut in one direction, return in the other direction and give the striping effect of a walking greens mower. With all three cutting reels in use, a 1.6 metre cutting width is achieved.

 www.textron.com



New from The Grass Group

The Grass Group presented the Trilo.VCU 120 which has a working width of 1.2m – ideal for greens and tees – and weighs in at just 225kg, teaming up ideally with compact tractors. A slightly offset design allows working right up to the edge of the green or tee without risking damage by the tyres.

Spacing for the rugged tungsten tipped blades is 50mm as standard, but can be swapped to 25mm for greater intensity and working depth is to a maximum of 50mm, for effective, clean scarification that will be an asset on any golf course.

 www.thegrassgroup.com





John Deere Hybrid Technology on Show

John Deere's hybrid technology was featured on three different machines on the company's stand.

The E-Cut hybrid machines include the new 220e walk-behind greens mower, 2500e triplex greens mower and 8000e three-wheeled, ultra-light fairway mower, all fitted with the Quick Adjust cutting units.

The 220e's design reduces weight on the cutting head and allows it to follow ground

contours even more closely, as only an electric cable is required to transmit power to the cutting head

The 8000e combines low noise and engine emission levels with reduced fuel consumption, and this machine's lower ground pressure and three-wheel configuration leave a minimal 'footprint'.

www.deere.co.uk

New from Syngenta



New Syngenta Turf Nozzles, launched at the Show, have been specifically designed to improve the targeting of spray applications in turf and achieve better results for sprayer operators. Syngenta has initially designed two nozzles – one for foliar applications along with a high impact soil nozzle.

Also, a new Syngenta fungicide with five-way action which targets seven turf diseases in the leaf and protect turf quality is available for treatments starting in the spring. Heritage Maxx features active recycling of its powerful fungicidal properties, providing disease protection that goes on cut after cut.

Heritage Maxx has been developed as a new liquid formulation specifically for turf, utilising the Syngenta Maxx formulation technology. Heritage Maxx particles are typically 10,000x smaller than conventional fungicide formulations, so over 1,000 particles can fit across the width of a single leaf stomata.

The faster uptake means that 30% of the fungicide active gets into the plant leaf within 24 hours after application, compared to 5% with the previous granular Heritage formulation. After 72 hours there is double the amount of active in the leaf. Root uptake is also faster and, overall, trials have shown 100% uptake of active into the leaf.

It has been approved for the broadest spectrum of turf diseases, with seven diseases on the label, including the most prevalent foliar disease, Fusarium Patch, the increasingly difficult to control Anthracnose, Leaf Spots common on winter sports pitches and Rusts that occur in wet warm periods on under fertilised turf. It is also approved for the Take-All Patch and Type 2 Fairy Rings. There is no LERAP restriction, making the product simpler and easier to use.

www.greencast.co.uk

New Fertilisers from Scotts

Scotts introduced two new fertiliser ranges during Harrogate. The Sportsmaster WSF range will replace the existing Sierrasol products and consists of three premium water soluble fertilisers - High N, High P and High K – which cover all turf feeding requirements and seasons. They contain the TMax additive for enhanced foliar and root nutrient uptake and to give turf consistent colour with no rapid tail-off plus chelated trace elements to boost growing performance.

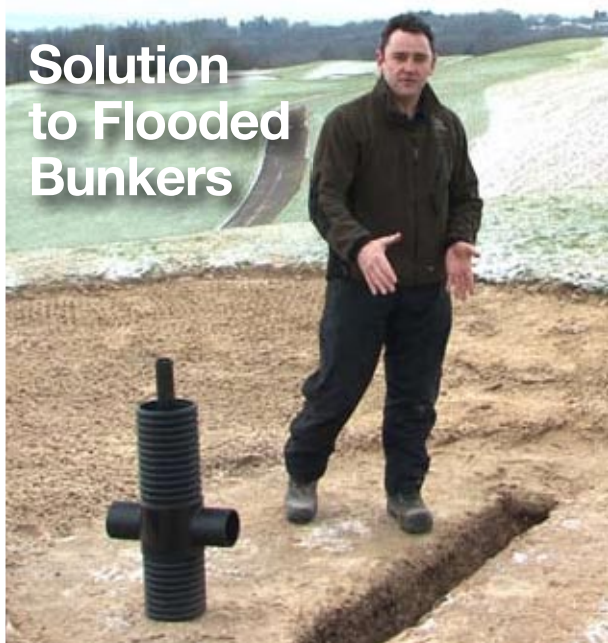
Sportsmaster OrganiCRF is a blend of both organic fertiliser and Scotts' patented Poly-S controlled release fertilisers to ensure more consistent performance versus conventional organic products. Ideal for use during the main growth periods, high nitrogen

levels allow for appropriate top growth and recovery during periods of heavy use. The organic content is manufactured from HACCP-accredited material to ensure it is free from pathogens whilst organic sources of phosphorus and potassium encourage a strong, resilient sward. Sportsmaster OrganiCRF's mini granules disperse easily ensuring even distribution.

Sportsmaster WSF contains TMax nutrient uptake activator to ensure efficient nutrient delivery while using very low rates. Both products will complement each other when used in a programmed approach."

www.scottspprofessional.co.uk

More New Products from Harrogate Week Next Month



Solution to Flooded Bunkers

When Course Manager, Jeremy Parkman, experienced repeated flooding of the bunkers at Dale Hill Golf Club, he decided to put his 20 years of estate and water management experience to the test in finding a solution.

The first prototype produced was a unit connected to existing drainage runs however the sand soon became contaminated after heavy rainfall and the efficiency of the unit was adversely affected. The 'Eureka' moment came when he decided to extend the unit to the surface of the sand. Jeremy realised this was a radical step, so after initial checks with the R&A, that it conformed to their rules, he pushed forward with the developments.

The amendments to the design also created additional benefits, such as providing a flushing point, reducing sand migration and providing a datum point of sand depth in the bunker.

Jeremy has teamed up with MJ Abbott who will manufacture and market the Bunker Plug.

www.mjabbott.co.uk / www.bunkerplug.com

Vitax OARS Re-launched

Bert Brace, Vice President/Formulator of Aqua-Aid USA was on hand during Harrogate Week to re-launch Vitax OARS Curative and dispel any lingering confusion surrounding the product.

Having established that legal proceedings with former distributors Tower Chemicals have reached an amicable conclusion, that Tower Chemical's 'correct OARS' product was not and never has been manufactured by Aqua Aid, and Vitax are, and always have been sole UK distributors of Aqua-Aid's OARS Curative, he paved the way for Joe Crawley, head of Vitax Amenity to explain what this unique product is, how it works and the benefits it bestows.

According to Joe, Vitax OARS Curative is an Organic Acid Removal System, which when used in a wetting agent programme removes the organic waxy coatings that attach to soil particles and cause water repellency. "The removal of these organic coatings removes the cause of Dry Patch Disease/Localised Dry Patch on golf, bowling greens and other fine turf surfaces," he explains.

Tel: 01530 510060
www.vitax.co.uk



New Alliance

The Redexim Group and Blec (Global) Ltd have entered into an agreement under which the two companies are working together on the design and development of new machines for the Redexim turf maintenance business.

As part of the agreement Redexim have bought the exclusive rights to the Sandmaster machine, the sand injector system, and the Uniseeder from the Blec range that will be manufactured and marketed by Redexim on an

exclusive basis around the world.

The Sandmaster is the only machine of its type that can inject damp materials, into the ground up to 20cm deep,

As a result of this agreement between the Redexim and Blec Charterhouse Turf Machinery will market the Sandmaster range of sports turf renovation machines and Uniseeders in the UK and Ireland.

www.redexim.com



New Multihog Model

Multihog were first time exhibitors at the show, using the event to launch the latest 4WD 90 Multihog model.

The ability of the Multihog to work on gradients is of particular interest to those needing to cope with steep slopes – its tilting driver station, wide wheel base and low centre of gravity put it in a class of its own for demanding terrain.

"As well as talking to many visitors from not only the UK but also Holland and Germany, we welcomed the opportunity to make contact with representatives from companies interested in becoming dealers for our product," says Director Ruth McAdam. "So all in all we had three very worthwhile days in Harrogate and will be back!"

www.multihog.com

Microsoft®

online learning

Official Microsoft Training

Available at low cost
to BIGGA Members

- Each course takes only 4-6 hours to complete
- There is no limit to how many times you complete the course
- You have 12 months access to the programme
- All your learning takes place online and can be taken at a place and time to suit you
- A certificate can be given upon 100% completion

Fancy improving your IT skills?

BIGGA members can access an official Microsoft® Office 2003 Training Library that includes programs such as Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook.

BIGGA are able to offer these practical and effective online courses at a discounted cost of £15 (+ VAT) (usually £20 + VAT) to BIGGA Members, and £30 (+ VAT) to non-members, thanks to support from the Learning and Development Fund. For further information contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 option 3.

Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.



A QUICK GUIDE TO...

GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE



Melvyn Taylor,
Managing Director
of Turfdry Limited,
with this month's
edition of top tips...



Importance

Drainage should be an important consideration at all golf courses and, especially for those situated on impermeable clay soil, a properly designed, correctly installed, accurately recorded, and well maintained drainage system can be the key to a successful golf club.

Topographical Survey

A typical 18-hole course may cover around fifty hectares and to properly understand actual or potential waterlogging problems it is necessary to appreciate how water moves onto, across, and off the entire course.

Knowledge of surface contours is essential and a professional topographical survey will provide this data; and a range of other information to aid general management of the course.

All existing water courses (streams, ditches, ponds, main carrier pipes, etc.) should be plotted to enable an assessment of the existing arterial drainage system.

Arterial Drainage Improvements

Using the survey results in conjunction with physical site investigations a competent designer may suggest improvements to the arterial drainage system which can either be features within the course itself (new ponds, open ditches, etc.), or can be implemented less obtrusively using large diameter buried pipes and hidden water storage, from which drainage water could be re-used for irrigation.

Fairway Drainage

Each individual hole can then be assessed in terms of drainage requirements. The main factor determining the overall cost

and effectiveness of a golf course drainage system will be the spacing of the lateral drains on the fairways.

On clay soil five metre spacing is fairly typical.

The most commonly installed lateral drains are 60mm or 80mm perforated plastic pipes though modern alternatives such as geotextile-wrapped fin drains are increasingly popular.

Lateral drains connect to 100mm and 150mm plastic carrier pipes which, in turn, feed into the arterial drainage system.

All drains must be laid to correct falls (minimum 1 in 200) and the use of modern laser-guided trenching equipment can greatly assist in achieving this.

Fairway drainage does not generally need to be deep, with 450mm being typical for plastic pipe laterals.

The use of quality drainage aggregate above the laterals is vital: clean 6mm gravel is ideal and widely available.

It should be brought to within 100mm of the surface, and be topped with an appropriately matched sand or rootzone (see STRI grading curves).

Greens and Tees

Many UK courses have clay-based greens and tees which can be prone to severe waterlogging.

Whilst some, like Wentworth recently, have resorted to a complete greens rebuilding programme, most clubs do not have the necessary finance available.

Fortunately, good quality professionally installed greens drainage systems are available for around £5k per green which, whilst not matching the performance of a USGA green, will transform the playability of greens during winter.

Bunkers

Bunker drainage can sometimes suffer because some course designers fail to realise the difficulty of finding suitable outfall points for deep bunkers.

The installation of bunker drainage is one area where 'in-house' installation can be cost effective compared to using outside contractors but, as with all drainage, it is essential that pipes are laid to correct falls.

Miscellaneous

- Once designed, a new golf course drainage plan can be implemented over several years to spread the cost.
- Greenkeepers' machinery access routes should be included within the areas to be drained.
- Pathways from tees on some holes can be considered to reduce the overall area where drainage is required.
- Trees should not be planted within six metres of drains and species with far-spreading fibrous root systems, such as Poplar and Willow should be avoided altogether.
- Irrigation pipework and other underground services should not be installed without considering if existing drainage could be damaged as a result.
- The maintenance of accurate drainage plans is crucial.
- A comprehensive programme of aeration and decompaction is essential to maintain

For further advice contact Turfdry Ltd:
Tel. 01283 551417
Email: enquiries@turfdry.com
Web: www.turfdry.com

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Central

What a winter! As I sit here writing this I still hope to see many old friends at BTME in the middle of January but given the amount of snow and ice currently covering the St Andrews Courses at the moment, I have reservations about being away for a number of days when (or if) the thaw starts. Speaking to many of the more experienced members of staff and people in the industry you have to go back to the winter of '82 to have seen these conditions before on the coastal courses in this area. It's at times like these you appreciate the friends and contacts you have built up over the years that you can ask for advice.

On the educational front, the CMAE and BIGGA held a one day training seminar on Jan 29, at Ladybank GC, on managing staff and appraisal training. This was hopefully the first of many joint ventures and I hope to be able to report on it more fully in the next report. The Section is planning to run an evening seminar in early April when Stan Zontek, of the USGA, and a couple of friends will be in the area. Again, more details to follow or on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk If anyone would like Stan to talk on a specific subject then please contact myself or Gordon McKie. The spring outing is on the Eden Course on Tuesday 6 April (if the snow has gone!).

Gordon Moir



East

Well, what a winter with all the snow that has fallen since mid December. No golf for months the living room carpets must have taken a hammering? Well we should have no problems in sinking these six footers this year on the greens.

Hopefully, we will have a good summer now, with The Open back at the Home of Golf at St. Andrews, with possibly no Tiger Woods, but, hopefully, Seve making an appearance at St. Andrews. We wish Gordon Moir, and all the staff at St. Andrews, a successful Open.

I hope all who went to Harrogate in January enjoyed the experience and I'm sure there will be plenty tales to tell. Our Section Patrons' award winners hopefully have something to tell us about their visit to Harrogate. We look forward to hearing their views in March's report of G.I.

Our Section events kick-off with the re-scheduled visit to Barenbrug seed factory and Falkirk football stadium on February 17. Hope to see a good turn out for this one. Thank you to Greentech for sponsoring the day.

Our Section Secretary as always has put together the golf outings for the year and will add to events as we confirm dates and venues for these events. Please look on the BIGGA website for dates and venues for your diaries.

To all the Section members, who made the time to come along and support all the events that our Section committee organised in 2009, a thank you to them from our committee. Let's see if we can encourage more members this year to support these events.

Tom Murray



North

I start off this month with an apology. I did send last month's news in but obviously it got lost at HQ. I, like yourself always look to the Section news pretty much straight away and was disappointed there was no news. It was the first time since I took over the role of Section news writer that the news hasn't been published so I apologise. Sorry.

Well, hopefully you all enjoyed BTME in Harrogate this year. Whether you flew down or took the train I'm sure it was a memorable experience. Our Deputy at Murcar, Mikey Fullerton, was a Harrogate virgin before this year. Bless him he doesn't get out very often, so I'm sure he would've enjoyed the sites of the town, especially as he was accompanied by Brian Anderson, his boss. Brian would've taken good care of him and had him tucked up in bed every night for 10 o'clock. Somehow I don't think that would have happened!

Hopefully the snow down South didn't spoil the show too much, that's if there was any left. Just a dusting of snow down in Englandshire and the whole place comes to a complete standstill. The snow up here has been pretty heavy and the temperatures have been hitting minus 20. That's cold!

I'm sure that the winter programmes will have been put back a wee while so hopefully by the time you read this we'll be snow free and well on our way. The thing is, once the snow has all melted, a lot of courses have to deal with flooding so realistically we might not get on the courses until mid February/March. That I would imagine would be a major stumbling block if you

do have big Winter schedule. Let me know what you think?

I have recently got back into education through Elmwood College and am doing my HNC in Golf Course Management. I have had to fund this myself and with it being quite expensive I began to look about places where I could get part or all of it subsidised. I was lucky enough to gain a scholarship grant through BIGGA itself. Ransomes Jacobsens sponsor the scholarship scheme and I was fortunate to be partly subsidised for the course. May I take this opportunity to thank David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsens for their continued support with this scheme. Without them I may not of been able to register on the course. It goes to show that if you are thinking of higher education and your club can't contribute towards it, there is help out there, so don't be put off.

Dale Robertson has asked me to mention that he is constantly updating the North Section's website. To access this you have to go on to the BIGGA main website and follow the links. Any probs please give Dale a shout at Newmachar and he'll be only too happy to help you out.

That's all I can muster up for this month. If you do have any stories or news for me then please give me shout on 07813889374. Thank you.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links

Northern Region



North Wales

I'm sitting in front of the computer writing this and outside the world looks like a scene out