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Mistakes happen, get over it

As I write, I have just downloaded the vuvuzela app for my phone and now truly feel part of the World Cup.

What has really struck me, as I write five days into the World Cup, is the sheer intensity of it all and how, in many cases, that with such high highs and such low lows it can be so devastatingly counterproductive.

I'm thinking about Robert Green. One error, bad though it was, and he has been absolutely slaughtered in the media – they were even calling for him to be replaced at half time for heaven's sake.

Some of the headlines the next morning were quite extraordinary and I would hope that they were kept well out of the way of the West Ham keeper and his relatives.

“Calamity! Robert Green faces England axe after his howler hands Americans a draw”; “Hands of Clod”, are just a couple he would have read.

It really is quite ridiculous. It's not even a case of being as good as your last match. In World Cup terms you are only as good as your last save – or non-save as the case may be. He did make a quite brilliant one in the second half which saved a certain score and I'm sure there is part of him thinking if he'd let that in but saved the easy one life would have been so much quieter.

How can anyone feel confident about their job when they feel that if they make one slight error they will forever be known as “Captain Cock-Up” the “Blundering (choose anything from) keeper, journalist, greenkeeper, banker, politician...)?

If we all had to operate to a “one strike and you are out” policy we would surely all creep

into our shells and try wherever possible to stop doing anything that might result in a mistake.

When it comes to using experience and knowledge to assess a marginal situation and determine what is the best long term option, if you thought your actions were going to be double guessed by all and sundry, the inclination may be not to bother. How can you be wrong if you haven't done anything?

People must be encouraged to take decisive action – coming for that cross, changing a regime on the golf course – safe in the knowledge that you will be given time to tweak what you have done if it's not right first time, or even learn from mistakes if what has been done hasn't worked well.

Of course if, time after time the ball continues to be dropped, or guddled over the line, or oil leakages continue to occur on the golf course, action then has to be taken in terms of training – a dedicated goalkeeping coach, more practice with the new ball or a change in goalie gloves, or, in our industry, a service of all machinery, a review of day-to-day operating procedures or a BIGGA training course.

The concept that one mistake is all that is needed for the roof to fall in on someone cannot be allowed to take root, even if it means the headlines in the papers are a little more subdued.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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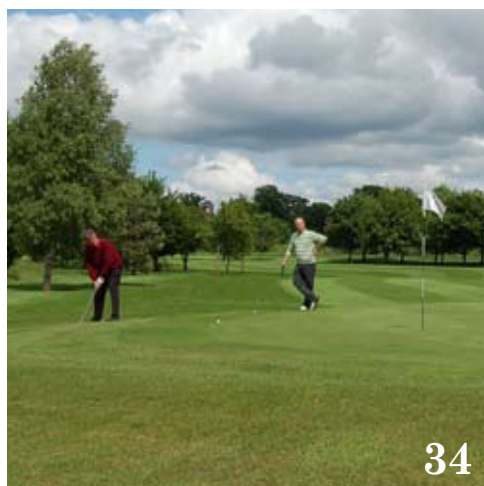


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The official monthly magazine of
the British and International Golf
Greenkeepers Association Limited.

VISIT TO THE 2010 COURSE AT CELTIC MANOR



In April, the last in the series of the 2010 South Wales evening lecture series saw 80 greenkeepers and groundsman visit the 2010 course at the Celtic Manor Resort.

Golf Course & Estates Manager Jim McKenzie started the tour by welcoming us to the resort and giving us a fascinating insight into the huge development process that has led to the 2010 course becoming the venue for the up coming Ryder Cup.

Following a bite to eat, we all moved up to the lodge clubhouse where Jim was joined by Chris Sealey and Mike Gash. The three guys then gave an excellent presentation about their experiences of the 2008 Ryder Cup in Valhalla where

Chris and Mike had been part of the greenkeeping support team and Jim had been as an observer.

This rounded off an excellent evening where the session was closed by Martin Townsend of the series sponsors, Countrywide Turf & Amenity, who thanked everyone for coming along to the evening and wished Jim and his team all the very best for not only the Ryder Cup but also the Wales Open.

This evening concluded the series of evening lectures which had also seen us visit the Swalec stadium in Cardiff, where Head Groundsman Keith Exton gave us an insight into the hosting of the First Test in

last summer's Ashes Series. We also visited the new racecourse at Ffos Las where we were given a full tour of the facilities by clerk of the course Tim Long before Course director David Thursfield gave us a presentation about the development of the first new race course to open in the UK for 80 years.

As always we would like to thank Martin and Peter from Countrywide Turf & Amenity for their continued sponsorship and support not only of the evening lectures but of the greenkeepers and groundsman of South Wales.

Steve Chappell, Regional Chairman

POLICE PROTECTION FOR RARE ORCHID

Britain's rarest wild flower received police protection from thieves when it bloomed on a Lancashire golf club last month.

The Lady's Slipper orchid is a regular visitor to Silverdale Golf Course, in Carnforth, Lancashire, is the last remaining flowering plant of its kind in the wild in Britain.

It is protected by law and wildlife officers set up extra security to ensure its safety.

The plant was visited by hundreds of orchid fans every year but has been dug up and stolen twice in the past six years.

Cuttings from the plant, can be sold to collectors for up to £5,000.

The Silverdale Golf Course specimen is believed to have been planted in the 1800s, and is thought to be from central Europe.

The orchid is protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and anyone who interferes with the plant could be fined £5,000 and jailed for six months.

Art or Science?

Ashford Manor Golf Club would like to make it clear that the photograph which appeared on page 26 of last month's Greenkeeper International, of irrigation on its golf course, has nothing to do with the article in which it was featured and that Ashford Manor has no association with Greg Evans.

Tour to France

Mandy Caton, Sales Administrator at Campey Turf Care Systems, has completed her London to Paris cycling challenge, raising more than £4,000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Covering 300 miles over four days, she said she was swept along by the amazing camaraderie among the team of 93 riders, all with their sights firmly set on reaching the French capital.

“Although my friend, Gill, and I trained really hard for months, we felt a degree of trepidation in the days leading up to the start, but that all melted away once we got going and we focussed on completing one stage at a time,” Mandy explained.

“The whole group encouraged each other and we had a fantastic support team from Skyline, which was just as well because I needed a new tyre at one point and had two punctures to contend with!”

“As we approached the Eiffel Tower, the sun was shining and we were euphoric. I felt a huge sense of achievement, knowing that I’d been able to contribute to such an important cause and realise a personal ambition at the same time.

“I’d like to thank everyone who sponsored me for their generosity” she added. “The money raised will help fund innovative world-class research to understand how Breast Cancer develops, leading to improved diagnosis, treatment, prevention and cure.”





Justin Rose becomes Official Ambassador

The Golf Environment Awards 2010 launched with news that Justin Rose, who went on to win the Memorial Tournament in the States a couple of weeks later, has become the official ambassador of the awards. The awards, now in their 13th year, are managed by STRI, and recognise and reward both individuals and golf courses for the time and focus they have put into environmentally sustainable management projects.

As well as receiving official recognition for the development of outstanding environmental projects, the awards also gives winners the opportunity to travel to some of the USA's world most famous golf venues, including Pine Valley and Shinnecock golf clubs.

Speaking about his new role, Justin Rose said: "I am honoured to become an

ambassador for The Golf Environment Awards. It's great that these awards are helping to promote and highlight the work that many golf clubs are performing to improve the environment and support a positive future for golf within the UK."

One of Justin's first official duties as ambassador of The Golf Environment Awards was to meet the 2009 winners at the PGA Championship at Wentworth, where Rose finished one under par for the tournament.

He added: "It was great to meet last year's winners and hear why their specific projects have been so successful. We need to do more to highlight how golf clubs can introduce their own environmental projects and shout more about the achievement and success of current schemes."

Gordon McKillop, STRI's Chief Executive said: "We are delighted that Justin Rose is supporting the awards in this way. Having the backing of a high profile figure within the golf industry is invaluable as it shows that the importance of environmental issues is recognised at the very top of the game."

He added: "We would encourage any golf club that focuses on environmental issues to enter – the winners are chosen for their dedication and enthusiasm to succeed, and not on the scale of the project or size of golf club."

The Golf Environment Awards are sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, Campey Turf Care Systems, County Turf, Scotts, and Syngenta.

Entry to the 2010 awards is now open. Entry is free and details can be found on the new website: www.golfenvironmentawards.com

There are 11 awards split into three categories:

Environmental Improvement – four awards recognising projects involving:

Nature Conservation Management

Turfgrass Management

Waste Management

Water Management

Environmental Achievement

Five regional awards and one overall winner award recognising golf courses that have implemented a successful environmental management strategy, with clear objectives and targets on how this strategy will directly contribute to a better environment.

Conservation Greenkeeper Award:

To recognise an outstanding individual contribution to the success of environmental and ecological management



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BIGGA SUPPORT AT PGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again a full contingent of BIGGA members were on hand to offer support on all four days at this year's BMW PGA Championships at The Wentworth Club.

With hardly a cloud to be seen in the sky and very high temperatures the team had to take on plenty of water, in the course of their bunker raking tasks on the last two days.

Andy Haskell, from Farnham GC, was called to intervene, beyond the call of duty, when asked gently to remove a couple of friendly Adders who were basking in the hot sun beside the 9th green.

This year's event attracted record crowds who enjoyed some excellent golf on the recently revamped West Course.

Over the past year Ernie Els has changed



the contours on all the greens, made changes to many bunkers making them much more formidable, and radically changed the 18th into a fearsome closing hole worthy as the final test for the European Tours flagship event.

Chris Kennedy, above, and his team, once again, produced a superbly presented golf course, magnificently prepared, with absolutely no help from the weather since the final phase of the alterations to the course.

This year's winner was Simon Khan who holed a 20ft birdie putt which curled round the hole before toppling in on the last, to win by a stroke from Luke Donald and Fredric Andersson Hed.

*Clive Osgood
South East Regional Administrator*



New Role at RJ

Andy Campbell, the former BIGGA Chairman and Golf Director at Lough Erne Golf Resort, has been appointed Scotland and Ireland Regional Sales Manager - Golf for Ransomes Jacobsen.

Reporting to UK and Ireland Sales Manager, Rupert Price, Andy will be responsible for all golf-related business development, equipment sales and dealer support across his territory.

Prior to his previous position at Lough Erne he was Golf and Landscape Manager at the Duke's course in St Andrews, and before this he was Golf Course and Estate Manager at the De Vere Group's Carden Park resort in Cheshire. He has recently relocated from Enniskillen to St Andrews with his wife, Claire, and son Cameron.

Commenting on his appointment Rupert Price said: "We are delighted that Andy has come onboard as he brings a wealth of knowledge about the golf sector in Scotland and Ireland. He is the last piece in our jigsaw, which sees a refresh of our regional sales management team and demonstrates our commitment to increasing our market share across the UK and Ireland. This will be a stretch and a challenge for Andy, but I know it's one that he's really looking forward to and I am confident that he will be a real asset to the business, going forward."

Former Regional Sales Manager Ian Bridges has been appointed to the new position of Product Support Specialist, which sees him continue in his sales support role for Municipal business across Scotland and Ireland in conjunction with additional responsibilities for product demonstrations across the territory.

A squad of nine JCB Teletruk forklifts is playing a key role in preparing major stadiums that are hosting games during the World Cup.

The JCB Teletruks have been called up for general materials handling, duties during the final construction and fit-out stages of hospitality suites, and visitor facilities, in and around the six principal World Cup venues in time to welcome thousands of fans from around the world.

All of the Teletruks have been supplied by Clarklift South Africa (PTY) Ltd, the JCB Industrial dealer in South Africa.

Two of the JCB Teletruks, manufactured by JCB Utility Products at their Cheadle plant in Staffordshire, have been deployed at Soccer City, Johannesburg - the main



94,000-capacity World Cup stadium that will stage the Final.

There are also two machines working at the Durban Stadium and at Cape Town's Green Point

Stadium, while there is one machine on each site at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg, Free State Stadium at Bloemfontein and Peter Mokaba Stadium at Polokwane.

Pesticides in Water

We are all becoming much more aware of the pending Water Framework Directive that will address water pollution.

The main goal of the Environment Agency in implementing the legislation will be to ensure that all waters (surface and ground waters) will be in a good clean condition by 2015. It is now possible to detect pesticides in water at very low concentrations (1 part per billion) and it is therefore crucial that everyone engaged in using pesticides must recognise the implications of inappropriate handling and application. Fully trained and competent spray operators know the damage a discarded foil could have on the environment if it found its way into a local watercourse. We also have various types of equipment such as shrouded booms and low drift nozzles; new packaging such as the S pac from Syngenta (minus those foils) and best practice guidelines such as the LERAP, to help eliminate the potential of pesticide spray inadvertently ending up in watercourses.

However, recent information published in the April –edition of British Wildlife magazine identifies a number of

pesticides that are still regularly found in waterbodies. These include clopyralid (used to control grassland weeds) mataldehyde (active ingredient in slug pellets) and IPU (now banned and should not be found a year after its withdrawal). In discussions with Dr Ruth Mann, Head of Turfgrass Protection at STRI, it is clear that chemicals used on a regular basis by groundsmen and greenkeepers, are also consistently being found. Chemicals like 2,4-d at 5ppm, mecoprop at 11ppm, Diuron at 10ppm, and simazine at 5ppm (figures based on average levels measured annually between 1998 and 2007). The Environment Agency has recently found 19 different chemicals (different active ingredients) at undesirable levels and this rings alarm bells to the effect that if this continues then more of the chemicals we use as part of daily working could be banned or their use restricted in the future. Moreover many of these chemicals cannot be removed through water treatment and much more emphasis needs to be given to controlling these chemicals at the source (source control).

The Environment Agency is concerned that the cocktails of pesticides being



detected are having damaging effects on aquatic flora and wildlife, with cause and effect being difficult to determine.

In writing this it does strike home to me that the untrained public are as much and probably more to blame for many of the chemicals being detected in our water courses. Although you may feel that this is outside your control, it would be worth while ensuring that the right advice is given to all of our neighbours, on a Sunday morning when their contemplating a path clearing exercise, or an additional round of slug control. Their actions like those of the untrained professionals will ultimately come back to affect us all over the course of the next few years.

For further info. please email Dr Ruth Mann at STRI - ruth.mann@stri.co.uk

Turf disease protection that

after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut... after cut...

