

## SUCCESSFUL UK TRIALS OF OXYGEN GENERATOR HELP GREENS THROUGH HARSH WINTER



Darren Woodward on one of the greens at Tylney Park Golf Course.

Trials of a new oxygen generator have helped bring a prestigious, Hampshire golf course through one of the hardest winters in recent memory.

Tylney Park Golf Club, 200 acres of privately owned estate at Hook near Basingstoke suffered 20 inches of snow from the end of December to the end of January followed by nearly nine inches of rain to the end of March.

“For Hampshire this was unusual to say the least,” says Course Manager Darren Woodward, who has been at the club since 2006.

“The greens have stood up very well. They’ve got a nice, dry firm surface and considering the weather we’ve had they’re not holding much water in the top ¾ to 1 inch.”

Keen to get more oxygen into his Fescue dominated USGA greens; Darren was one of the first UK turf managers to use Oxy-Rush, the new soil stimulant that increases O<sub>2</sub> levels accelerating the activity of beneficial microbes. He applied the product to all 18 greens at the end of April last year, following hollow coring, over seeding and

top dressing. Proof that Oxy-Rush was working came within a week of application.

“We have a monthly fertiliser programme during the growing season,” he continued. “We’d applied fertiliser in March and the greens were due another application that week, but having used Oxy-Rush we found that they didn’t need feeding for another two weeks.”

Darren repeated his application of Oxy-Rush in August, again following hollow coring and kept up his aeration regime – monthly solid tining with 6mm tines during the summer and 9mm tines during the winter – using Pervade penetrant five times over winter to keep excess water off his greens. David Snowden, MD of Agronomic Services, who visited Tylney Park in the middle of March, says that he personally hasn’t come across firmer, better looking greens this year.

“I took out my knife and cut a sample slice out of one of them and the soil smelt sweet. I could also see good, strong rooting. A true credit to Darren and his teams’ hard work.”



## Grants Awarded to Young Athletes

Ransomes Jacobsen continues to sponsor the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation with two young Suffolk athletes, Joe Bloomfield and Keiran Clements, receiving grants to help fund their training as they progress their careers at national level.

Joe Bloomfield, a hammer thrower from Ipswich, was presented with his grant by David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

“It’s a pleasure to present Joe with his grant,” he said. “Ransomes Jacobsen are pleased to be a business supporter of the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation and in doing so play our part in helping talented young people from the county, like Joe and Keiran, to realise their sporting ambitions.”

Everyone here at the company looks forward to following their progress as they compete at national level and eventually on the international stage.”

Joe Bloomfield, 19, who is aiming to participate in the 2011 European Under 23 Championships and 2014 Commonwealth Games is ranked 2nd in Great Britain, and holds the number one spot in Scotland in the Hammer at under-20 level.

Keiran Clements, 16, is ranked first on the ‘Power of 10’ rankings in his age group for the mile.



# BIGGA Golf Day 2010

Monday 14th June 2010  
at Aldwark Manor

For further details, please contact  
Kirstin Smith on 01347 833832



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# Chairman's Word

Chairman Paul Worster addresses an open letter of thanks to all the clubs and individuals that support BIGGA.

To: Golf Club Owners and Operators, Secretary/Managers,  
Cc - Course Managers and Greenkeepers.  
From: Paul Worster, BIGGA Chairman  
Subject: My personal thanks

**Dear Colleagues,  
I am writing to express my personal thanks to you for supporting the Association and to let you know how BIGGA can help your club. I would like a few moments to outline how we can help your greenkeepers to be the very best.**

If you pay for your greenkeepers to be members of this Association you are providing for them:

- Access to the best professional skills training and development available in Europe
- Personal Accident Cover
- Access to professionally developed, custom designed 'best practice' tools and techniques
- A modern CPD Scheme designed to promote full engagement in the Association
- Legal, Stress, and Debt Counselling Helplines for them and their families to use

In short if you pay for your greenkeepers to be members of the Association you are providing for your club a Greens Team that has the potential to be the best informed and the best educated in Europe.

Having a well trained, motivated greenkeeping team will produce for you a high standard of course maintenance and will help your golf club to achieve a reputation for fine conditioning and excellent presentation. I believe that this will make your club a more attractive option not only for potential members but also those golfers looking to play different golf courses.

***BIGGA is also keen to support every club in the UK regardless of location or status***

The Association is not just for Course Managers. It places exactly the same importance on every greenkeeper. BIGGA is also keen to support every club in the UK regardless of location or status.

BIGGA cannot help you to control the weather, but it can help you to react and respond to rapidly chang-

ing conditions and circumstances.

For the future, BIGGA is taking strides towards becoming the very best membership Association it can, so that your greenkeepers can also become the very best.

BIGGA's Mission Statement compels it to be at the forefront of efforts to advance the greenkeeping profession. It reads: 'BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members and in serving their needs will strive through education and training for standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession.'

***You should be able to check or validate the standards you expect of the people you employ***

The Association is keen to help employers by enhancing its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme. BIGGA is keen to establish a CPD accreditation scheme that will enable you to recruit and select greenkeepers whose professional standards have been tested and recognised. Just as you personally can choose to hire a qualified and accredited gas fitter or electrician you should be able to check or validate the standards you expect of the people you employ.

Greenkeeping has always been a profession that has to be up to date, responsive and qualified. The ever changing and developing UK and European Legislation on things like pesticides; health and safety and the search for 'Best Practice' are just a few examples that clearly indicate the need for continuous professional improvement.

Lawyers, doctors and people in other professions have long been expected to have to undertake a certain number of days training and development each year to make sure their skills and knowledge stay up to date. Greenkeepers are no different.

***You will be able to compare Greenkeepers' qualifications with confidence***

BIGGA can and will use its leverage in the golf industry and in the 'game of golf' to help institute protocols and guidelines that will enable employers to recruit and select people with confidence at all levels in the profession from Assistant Greenkeeper to Course Manager.

In short you will be able to compare Greenkeepers qualifications with confidence because those qualifications and the status that they bring to each individual will be upgraded and updated every year.

***The game of golf needs to utilise BIGGA's services like never before***

In this way BIGGA will enhance its services to employers. In these recent difficult times – both economic and climatic – the game of golf has suffered badly and may continue to do so for the foreseeable future. More than ever the game needs to respond, and that response must be to provide better services to the golfing customer. To do this clubs need better and more highly skilled people. The success of the Course Manager and his team are integral to the success of the facility.

This Association wants every club in the UK to be ready to face the future with the best possible chance of expansion or consolidation, of improved courses and facilities, offered at the best possible price. BIGGA wants every club in the UK to be able to say to its immediate neighbouring population – "We belong here. We are a resource to this community. The community is welcome here. All ages, all fitness levels. Come in and be a part of it."

On behalf of the Association I again say 'Thank you'. If you want to know more about how BIGGA can help you and your club I say 'Come and join us'. Come along to a BIGGA Regional Open Day. One will be coming to a venue close by in the near future.

If you prefer to write you can contact me direct on talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk. I look forward to telling you how BIGGA can serve you better by advancing the greenkeeping profession.

***Yours faithfully,  
Paul Worster.***



# Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director, updates the position on formal qualifications**

**Regular readers will be well aware of the support the GTC has given to the Skills Agenda and the various government schemes to ensure employers and students are well catered for by various formal qualifications and courses delivered by GTC Approved Centres.**

The work based and college delivered courses are still being supported by employers even during the ongoing recession with Apprenticeship registrations in our sector still on the increase.

The popularity of the on-line Foundation Degree with Course Managers and Deputies, with very busy work schedules, are still looking at their own Continual Professional Development (CPD) and this is to their credit.

Funding of courses is always a thorny subject and will in the coming months be a political football post election, especially for Higher Education fees.

The GTC's attendance and persistence at the various meetings to lobby for funding to be made available for apprentices of all ages and to be allocated to Units of qualifications is finally starting to filter through to Centres and this again will be an attractive option for employers and greenkeepers.

I know full formal qualifications are not for everybody but if employers and greenkeepers could choose, from what I call a menu of Units, from craft level to management and there are short bite-size courses available with funding support, then there will be no excuse to gather CDP. A win-win for employers, greenkeepers and the Centres plus the fact the government will see their targets of having more people on training programmes increase.

I have for many years complained that the government has been obsessed with students having to complete full qualifications and the colleges and private providers being

inspected and only funded on full qualification achievers...this has to change!

At recent Lantra SSC meetings in England and Scotland various schemes to fund initiatives which are employer led have been discussed and are top of the agenda with the government representatives and we in the land based sector particularly our Centres must be prepared to react by having short courses ready to go and this is not difficult.

Colleges and private providers have to be prepared to use Units as short courses.

From September of this year the revised NVQ's will become the Work Based Diploma in Greenkeeping and the Diploma in Golf Course Supervision.

SVQ's Levels 2 and 3 Greenkeeping will remain in Scotland and the GTC has been working with City & Guilds - NPTC and SQA, the leading Awarding Bodies for our sector, to have the GTC logo included on certificates from September.

I am pleased to confirm that an agreement has been reached with NPTC and negotiations are advanced with SQA to have the Quality Assured logo on the Work Based Diplomas and SVQ's.

This really is recognition for the GTC and its representative bodies BIGGA, the English, Scottish and Welsh Home Unions, who under the umbrella of the GTC, show how the employer representative bodies and professional body can work together to ensure the standards be can developed and reviewed to suit everybody's requirements.

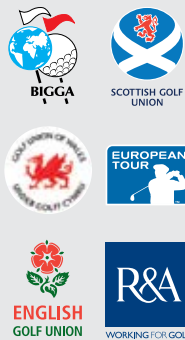
With the GTC's Quality Assured logo on the Work based qualifications we are now looking at working closer with the Awarding Bodies to ensure the qualifications are delivered by Centres to the required standards.

The GTC Quality Assured logo will become the Kite Mark of quality as we invite colleges

## In Brief

This month David explains how, after many years of ensuring greenkeeping has its own set of national occupational standards, finally the industry kite mark will be included on certificates.

The GTC is funded by:



and private providers to register as Approved GTC Centres and Training Providers.

Not only Centres which offer the formal qualifications but training provider companies and individuals who offer training courses to the sector.

If Centres meet the GTC's criteria, one major benefit to them will be to use the GTC's QA logo (including supporters logo) on all of their course literature and website.

So from September we will be promoting the Quality Assured Scheme and we hope that employers and greenkeepers will welcome this initiative by the GTC to maintain quality provision.

The criteria and list of GTC Approved Centres and Training Providers will be available from the GTC and will be maintained on the website:

[www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)



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# Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, gives an overview of the work currently being undertaken in the L&D department



**June... already! How on earth did that happen? All we need now is some warm, sunny weather and then I'll truly believe that Summer is on its way.**

## Continuing Professional Development

### CPD

For those of you active on the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme, it's that time of year that the reminder letters will land on your doormat reminding you that the CPD year is coming to a close on June 30.

With this in mind, you need to forward any outstanding CPD credit claim forms to Rachael, so that she can update your record and your CPD Certificate for 2009/2010 can be produced.

For those of you heading towards your fifth consecutive Certificate, it also means you'll be getting notification of receiving your Diploma for Continuing Professional Development.

If you have any queries regarding CPD, please contact Rachael on 01347 833800 (Option 3) or by email to [rachael@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael@bigga.co.uk).

## Job Specifications

David Golding, of the GTC, and I have spent some time updating the Job Specifications for Golf Course Greenkeeper, Golf Course Supervisor and Golf Course Manager to ensure that they reflect the require-

ments of the National Occupational Standards.

The updated Specifications are now available in the Careers' section on the new BIGGA website - under Job Descriptions - and also from the online BIGGA Training and Development Manual (accessed through the Members' area of the website). A document listing all three Specifications is available within the 'Sub Text' area of Hole 1 - Trainee/Apprentice.

A Quick Guide to accessing documents from the Training and Development Manual is available on the website by going to the Education area, clicking on Resources and then on the BIGGA Training and Development Manual. The downloadable document is at the bottom of the page.

## BIGGA Training and Development Manual



Supported by John Deere

Another of the projects that the L&D Department is working on is updating the information available in the Training and Development Manual. Watch this space for further updates.

## Master Greenkeeper



Congratulations go to Greg Evans, Course Manager from



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.

Ealing Golf Club, who has achieved the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Greg completed his Golf Course Inspection last year and passed the final Examinations in April. Greg becomes the 52nd BIGGA Member to achieve Master Greenkeeper status.

If you would like further information on the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, please do not hesitate to contact the L&D Department.

## Certified Club Manager



Congratulations go the Andy Campbell MG, CGCS who has completed the Certified Club Manager (CCM) qualification through the Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE). Andy can now add the initials CCM to his name. You're going to need a bigger business card Andy!

For further information on Certified Club Manager visit the Club Managers Association of Europe page in the Qualifications area of the Education section of the website.

## Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:  
James Stevens - Foundation Degree in Sportsturf (Online)



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## NEW SISIS AERATORS

SISIS Equipment has introduced two new aerators to its range of tractor mounted machinery.

The SISIS MULTISLIT 1500 has a working width of 1.5mtrs and is supplied fitted with sharpened tines with alternative slitting tines available to suit different ground conditions. The angle of the tines and spiral design of tine shaft assist penetration giving maximum underground cultivation with minimum surface disturbance.

The SISIS MULTYTINER 180 has a working width of 176cm and a maximum working depth of 100mm. There is a choice of interchangeable tines. The roller can be used for extra weight in hard conditions or raised when hollow tining. Both aerators use standard category 1, 3-point linkage for use on most compact tractors.

## New Dealer

John Osman Groundcare, has been appointed by Wiedenmann UK as dealer for Mid and NW Wales

“We are really happy to be working closely with Wiedenmann UK. From Terra Spikes to turf conditioning and mowers they are recognised for leading edge design and quality which fits with what we do. The Wiedenmann range will be received well here because our customers want reliable, efficient machines,” said John Osman, Managing Director of the family-owned company.

## Football Pitch Renovations End The European Demo Tour

Campey Turf Care Systems has concluded its seven week European Demo Tour, completing their final two full pitch renovations at football clubs in The Netherlands and Belgium.

The team began work at Kozzaken Boys' ground in Werkendam on April 26, stripping the surface with the Koro by Imants Topmaker. This revealed returned goalmouths suffering from extensive matting and compaction, a problem remedied by the use of the Koro by Imants Cultiroll.

Fifty guests, including groundsmen from a number of top Dutch clubs were welcomed to the venue the following day by staff from Campeys and their Dutch distributor, The Verschoor Group. Guests were invited to test the compaction in the soil

profile prior to the renovation with the Imants Penetrometer compaction meter, which revealed that it was almost impenetrable past the initial two inches.

The team headed south on Wednesday, crossing the border into Belgium to their final destination – the home ground of Belgian First Division side KVC Westerlo.

The team's training pitch, adjacent to the main stadium, was approximately 90% poa annua and severely compacted. Prior to the renovation, it proved impossible to push the Penetrometer even a short distance into the surface in some areas, even under the pressure of the operator's full body weight.

One the team's arrival back at Head Office in Macclesfield on Friday, Managing Director,

Richard Campey, made the following observations about the venues they'd visited,

“The six pitches we renovated consisted of approximately 95% poa annua brought about by the excessive use of irrigation and fertiliser and lack of regular mechanical maintenance, something we simply don't see at professional level in the UK,” said Richard.

“The tour was a significant investment for us in time, materials and manpower but we feel it's important that others have the opportunity to learn about the exceptionally high standard of renovation work carried out in the UK. Visitors to all the events were as eager to learn about the process as we were to share our knowledge.”



## New Agreement Set to Increase Brand Awareness

Club Car has signed a marketing agreement with Gary Player and Black Knight International to promote the companies' respective brands throughout the world.

Under terms of the agreement, Black Knight International, will work with Club Car to introduce the company's vehicles, equipment and services at courses and real

estate developments where Black Knight is affiliated. Club Car also will develop strategies to promote the company and its golf car and utility vehicle lines through an association with the Gary Player brand.

"As Club Car strengthens its presence in international markets, our association with Black Knight International is a great

fit," said Robert McElreath, Club Car's Vice President of Global Marketing.

"We are excited to be working with Club Car especially as it moves to increase its international presence. It is quite simply a fantastic company with a team who are committed to excellence," said Marc Player, CEO of Black Knight International.

## SPEEDCUT STAY ON THE PACE WITH DEEP-PROBE AERATOR



Barry Pace of Speedcut Contractors in action with the Gwazae on one of the greens

Speedcut Contractors has completed the aeration of West Chilmington Golf Club's 27 holes with its Gwazae deep-probe aerator.

The machine provides deep soil and subsoil decompaction through the injection of compressed air.

"The results have been fantastic, both on the main course and the nine-hole course. We tried Gwazae treatment on one hole back in 2006 and I was doubtful of the results at first – but that hole, which had been unplayable for half of the winter months previously, was only closed for a short time the following winter," said Course Manager, Adam Hartley.

"It has been consistently good ever since, so we took the decision to do every hole after the terrible winter we have had, not able to get on the course for several months with snow and ice."

Barry Pace, Speedcut Contracts Manager, said, "We were pleased at the results at West Chilmington and it was a delight working the Adam and his team.

"The Gwazae is proving more and more popular on golf courses, particularly those with compaction problems, as clubs start to recognise the process and its benefits."

Speedcut Contractor's tractor-trailed Gwazae, manufactured in New Zealand, decompacts soil to a depth of up to 700mm using a probe and compressed air with the added ability to inject amendments into the soil profile if required.



# A dream fulfilled

Jim McKenzie bought into the dream of a Welsh businessman in 1993. In October that dream becomes a reality. Scott MacCallum visited Celtic Manor to hear the story

**Back in 1993, a wealthy businessman talked passionately to a talented young greenkeeper about his vision of building a golf course. It was a tough pitch, not because the idea of building a course over the land surrounding the house where the meeting was taking place was so outrageous, but because of the sheer scale of what he was describing.**

The land, in a South Wales valley on the outskirts of Newport, was beautiful, but it had never echoed to an anguished cry of “Fore!”, nor had it heard the satisfying sound of a ball dropping four inches into a cup, but this man was talking about holding European Tour events over it. He was even talking about hosting a Ryder Cup!

Some 17 years on I sat in a luxury clubhouse overlooking the magnificent golf course that in 141

days time would host the Ryder Cup, listening to that same young greenkeeper recount how he felt when he listened to Sir Terry Matthews, the owner of Celtic Manor Resort, explain his dreams for the future.

“When he started to talk about golf tournaments and Ryder Cups, I thought he was absolutely nuts,” said Jim McKenzie, who was in the process of considering leaving The Wentworth Club, where he





worked under Chris Kennedy, and heading west.

“Within an hour though, if he’d asked me to punch my way through the wall I’d have asked him which hand he wanted me to use. He was that much of an inspirational character.”

It would be fair to suggest that even Terry Matthews, and his reach for the stars philosophy, would never have envisaged what ultimately has been achieved in

the time since he sat with Jim in that house – where he’d been born incidentally - looking out at the beautiful Usk Valley.

Five golf courses, 10 Wales Opens, a superb five star hotel, two incredible clubhouses, a Golf Academy, a home for the Welsh Golf Union, innumerable world class events and, at the beginning of October this year, the pinnacle of it all – that Ryder Cup.

“The Ryder Cup is the third larg-

est sporting event in the world in terms of television viewers after the Olympics and the World Cup,” said Jim, who is now the third longest serving employee of Celtic Manor.

“As Wales will never host an Olympics or a World Cup this is as big as it gets.”

All the work that has been carried out at Celtic Manor has been done with a view to hosting the Cup. The first golf course built was the Roman Road which was followed

**ABOVE: 18th on the Roman Road**

**Photographs in this article courtesy of The Celtic Manor resort, Newport, South Wales**



2010 Ryder Cup  
Captain, Colin  
Montgomerie, with  
Jim McKenzie

**“Within an hour though, if he’d asked me to punch my way through the wall I’d have asked him which hand he wanted me to use. He was that much of an inspirational character.”**

***Jim McKenzie***

by Wentwood Hills, over which the first five Wales Opens were played and which was originally intended to be the Ryder Cup course.

“Halfway through the bidding process it became clear that something would have to be done to alleviate the 104 metre drop that course was famous for. More land was acquired and plans for what is now the 2010 course were drawn up.”

Not content with ensuring that the 24 players would have a course worthy of the most famous team event in sport, another course, this one designed by the 2010 Ryder



Cup Captain, Colin Montgomerie, and carrying his name, was also built.

“At one stage we had between 200 and 300 contractors on site at the same time building the Montgomerie Course and remodelling bits of the Wentwood Hills course.”

It’s a quirky factoid that over a four year period – ‘04 to ‘08 - the Wales Open, which is owned and promoted by Celtic Manor was played over three different golf courses – Wentwood Hills, Roman Road and the 2010 course. Not bad for one venue.

But Jim is used to dealing with logistical problems during a career which has seen him at one stage hold the title of Director of Golf, dealing with all of the playing side of the game as well as the greenkeeping side.

He is currently Director of Golf Courses and Estates Management - as well as being an official spokesman for the Welsh Assembly on the Ryder Cup and being interviewed by media from all over the world.

The Ryder Cup bid was secured

in 2001 and originally earmarked for 2009. The postponement of the 2001 match because of 9/11 meant the rescheduling of all subsequent matches to even years.

Much of Celtic Manor’s bid success was founded on the golfing legacy that would be left by the match. The benefits of that will be seen in Welsh golf for years to come but much of what Jim and his team have dealt with is of a more immediate nature.

“We opened a bridge in November last year which is basically to take members and guests to the new, temporary, practice ground which has been built because the existing practice ground will house the tented village.”

The scale of the Ryder Cup can be seen from the statistic that the tented village for the Wales Open requires three articulated lorries to bring in the scaffolding – the Ryder Cup needs 890 lorries!

Road ways for newly tarmaced television compounds, and throughout the site, have been built while the massive car and coach