

# Make us your official golf course equipment partner

John Deere Golf engineers products for every inch of your course. We take you beyond precision course grooming with products that feature intuitive use, safety and comfort. Want to keep your staff working more efficiently? For a professional demonstration, contact your local John Deere dealer today.



[www.JohnDeere.co.uk](http://www.JohnDeere.co.uk)  
Freephone 0800 085 25 22



OFFICIAL  
GOLF EQUIPMENT  
& IRRIGATION  
SUPPLIER



## BIGGA



**President**  
Sir Michael Bonallack,  
OBE

**Board of Management**  
**Chairman** – Paul Worster  
**Vice Chairman**  
Andrew Mellon  
**Past Chairman**  
Peter Todd

### Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn,  
Ian Willett, Tony Smith, Elliott Small, Mark Dobbell

### 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

## GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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

### 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 Smith

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

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65. Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

ISSN: 0961-6977  
© 2010 British and International Golf  
Greenkeepers Association Limited

## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



# Whatever doesn't kill you, makes you stronger

**Now that we have reached March there must be hope that we have finally emerged from the toughest winter in 30 years... although I wouldn't bet on it.**

As I write we are waiting for another yet batch of snow to make an appearance and since December we haven't gone more than a week without some Artic-like weather making a nuisance of itself.

Following on from two successive duff summers, it is just what the game of golf needed as we struggle through a recession, Talking of which I personally don't think we've seen the worst of yet.

Sure the indicators might be that it ended in the last quarter from the country's perspective, but the consequences of the last two years will require us, as individuals, to tighten our belts and pay out more in tax and insurances for several years to come.

The knock-on of having less disposable income will have more people looking at the value they get from their golf club memberships, possibly resigning and becoming one of the increasing band of nomadic players, and so the vicious downward spiral which afflicts golf club finance continues.

No doubt over the last year Course Managers everywhere will have examined working practices and budgets and made cuts were the implications are least severe, but I'm sure many will be asked to revisit those budgets.

You would hope that golfers' expectations levels would be reset in light of restricted resources but we all know that is a faint hope of that and, anyway I don't know of any turf professional who would not fight tooth and nail to maintain the standards he or she has built up over the years.

So, as I say, someone up there obviously feels golf deserves a bit of a kicking and it's not helped by the Tiger Woods situation.

I watched his televised statement – the approach Tiger and his advisors took goes down better Stateside than over here where we are a little more cynical.

But the point I'd like to make is that several of Tiger's Blue Chip sponsors deserted him as soon as the Kiss 'n Tell stories began to appear.

However, when we have similarly high profiled footballers carrying on in near identical fashion – if the press, and those home grown Kiss 'n tell stories, are to be taken at face value – but the same vilification doesn't get heaped on them.

While as far as I'm aware, their sponsors haven't done a runner, or if they have, not in such a public manner.

Maybe it is just me but people do seem to delight in giving golf a bit of a kicking and the fact that the game's Poster Boy has fallen off his pedestal has seen giant dollops of schadenfreude descend on the game.

Anyhow it seems that golf must have walked under a ladder or broken a mirror because so much has conspired against it in the last couple of years but you can be sure that the game will bounce back.

As the old saying goes, "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger"!

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**

MARCH 2010

## FEATURES

### 19 Different Strokes for Different Folks

Dr Terry Mabbett discusses the relationship between trees and turf

### 24 Making a Mark

Peter Sands, Course Manager at Longcliffe Golf Club, talks to Scott MacCallum about what he has achieved in the two years he has been at the club

### 28 Getting the Basics Right

Laurence Pithie MG looks at what is required to ensure your course is as good as it can be

### 32 Reinventing the Wheel (Part 2)

Lee Manvell updates the Powakaddy wheel story – the development of which was aided by BIGGA Course Managers.

### 33 The anatomy of... a Hybrid Greens Mower

James de Havilland looks at one of the newer arrivals to the machinery stable.

### 38 The Greenkeeper and the Rules of Golf

Edward Johnson highlights some of the key points to consider for all greenkeepers

### 42 Talking Heads Turf Professionals

Jim Cook talks with five turf professionals from different sports and compares experiences.



**COURSE FEATURE**

**Longcliffe Golf Club has long been regarded as one of the best in the east Midlands, and when the job of Course Manager was advertised in Greenkeeper International in 2008 it was an attractive proposition to a number of experienced greenkeepers.**

The man who got the job was Peter Sands, who had been Deputy Course Manager at West Hill Golf Club in Surrey, and since taking up the reins two years ago he has brought his own stamp to what was already an excellent golf course.

Peter arrived on the crest of Walter Cole, who had been an assistant at Longcliffe for 40 years and been responsible for nurturing the careers of many young greenkeepers who went on to become Course Managers, while, at the same time, producing a fine course. It was never going to be easy for Peter to make his mark quickly.

But that's exactly what he did. Having come from the Home Counties, where courses were kept on main greens and trees wherever possible, Peter saw no reason to change his thinking just because he happened to have moved 130 miles north.

"The very first thing I did was to get all of the winter greens and water the mats," said Peter, who started work in February 2008.

Peter is visiting Longcliffe; the club had engaged architect, Simon

never had winter greens and not seen any real damage done by frost. If the greens were so bad that damage would be done the whole course would be shut," explained Peter.

"I will get questions from members about it now and I reassure them that it's ok to play on flooded greens. The only time there might be a problem would be the recovery after the snow, and the sudden thaw with movement on top. All the same that it is hard it's not going to cause any damage that wouldn't be irreparable in the spring."

The snow has been warmly welcomed by the club, not least by the pro shop, because members, who previously sat back in the winter months because they knew Longcliffe played on temporary greens and fees, are returning and there is more revenue coming in.

Peter's successful interview could be traced to having identified similar issues to those of the experts at the club had communicated.

Ex-Woodhall Spas Course Manager and consultant, Peter Wilkey, set on the interview panel and had views on a number of issues which matched those of the successful candidate, while Peter (Sands) shows an understanding also matched to get all of the winter greens and those of another specialist, who had looked at the course.

Peter is visiting Longcliffe; the club had engaged architect, Simon

**24**

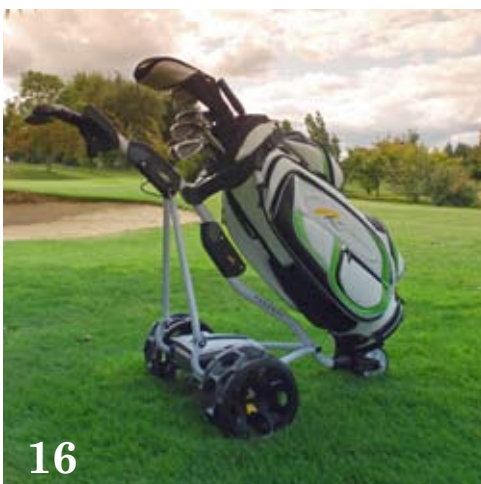




19



6



16

## REGULARS

- 6 News Desk
- 12 Chairman's Word
- 14 GTC
- 15 Learning and Development
- 16 Industry Update
- 45 In the Shed
- 46 New Products
- 48 Around the Green
- 55 Chief Executive's Column
- 58 Membership
- 59 Assistant Profile
- 59 What's Your Number
- 66 Soapbox - IGCEMA



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

## Swiss First



The Golf Environment Organisation has recognised Golfpark Nuolen, near Zurich, Switzerland, as the first GEO Certified golf club in Switzerland. With a proud record of environmental performance, achieving GEO's award is further confirmation that both the Golfpark and Superintendent, Steven Tierney, are at the forefront

of sustainable golf course management. "It's important for modern greenkeepers to seek recognition for their management practices and publicly represent their social and environmental responsibility.

There are many awards and accolades available in the industry, but GEO

Certification is the most rigorous. standards and we're proud to have achieved this recognition," said Steven

The GEO Certification and Verification Reports for Golfpark Nuolen can be read here: <http://www.golfenvironment.org/certification/participating-facilities/CH/143>



## A Wembley Experience

Wembley Stadium Turf Scholarship sponsors Toro and Lely UK recently presented current winner, Tom Peirce, with a plaque commemorating his achievement.

Collecting his plaque while visiting Harrogate Week, the 19-year-old from Dunstable in Bedfordshire revealed that he is relishing his six-month scholarship at the stadium. As well as experiencing pitch maintenance and renovations throughout the football season, Tom is particularly enjoying preparations for the major rugby and NFL matches also held at Wembley.

Presenting Tom with his plaque, Lely's Toro General Manager, Peter Mansfield, added, "I'm thrilled to present this plaque to Tom in recognition of his achievement. As with previous winners, Tom's time spent working at one of the world's most famous stadiums will stand him in very good stead for the future."



## NIA JOINS HEADLAND

Nia Frost has joined Headland Amenity as Sales Manager for central and southern England and Technical Support Manager, assisting Headland staff working in the field.

Nia brings a wealth of experience to this dual role having followed a degree in Environmental Biology at Bath University with over 13 years in the industry working not only in sales but also product development, an area which she is looking forward to continuing, alongside Mark Hunt, Headland's Technical Director. "I want to utilise my existing experience as well as develop new skills and working with Mark gives me the ideal opportunity to do this," she says. "Headland has a very good name in the industry."

Andy Russell, Commercial Director for the company is delighted. "Nia has just the right background and technical ability to help drive Headland forward," he said.



## Shuttle Role

When 2,500 world leaders met for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland recently, E-Z-GO Shuttles were there to transport the delegates around the convention facilities

David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen commented:

"The E-Z-GO Shuttle is the ideal people mover for an event such as this. It's emission-free at the point of use, quiet and has excellent

carrying capacity. The theme of the meeting - Rethink, Redesign, Rebuild - sums up the design principles when E-Z-GO set about producing a new golf car, some three years ago.

"The RXV was a redesign from the ground up, with new technology incorporated in a package that has changed the way people look at this type of vehicle. We're obviously delighted with our involvement with such a high-profile, world event."



## BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP WENTWORTH, MAY 20, 21, 22 23

A few volunteers still required to help Chris Kennedy and his team at The Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see the at close hand the recent extensive changes that have been made to

the even more formidable West Course over the past year.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator  
[cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)  
 Mobile 07841 948410  
 01737 819343.

## Oaklands proves to be a Winner

Over 160 attended the BIGGA London Section and Oaklands College Educational Day held at Oaklands College.

The day was opened by the Vice Principle of the college who spoke about the staff they have at Oaklands and how proud they are of them. Then there were four main speakers, including Greg Evans, from Ealing Golf Club, who spoke about his greenkeeping practices at Ealing and carried out role plays for and against cutting at 2mm. He then answered questions from the floor.

Next up was Ruth Mann, from the STRI, who gave a great overview of the latest research on sports turf diseases including Irrigation, Nozzle use and turf management. After lunch was Jayne Leyland, from Barenbrug UK, who talked about new grass types in development, heights of cut and disease and drought resistant species.

To finish the day we had Frank Newberry who in his usual way gave a colourful talk on how to be a powerful persuader. We then finished with all of our speakers taking to the stage to answer any questions. The cost of the education day which included lunch was only £10. This was great value and allowed for all levels to attend.

Matt Pledst.



## Barenbrug Visit BIGGA East Section

BIGGA East Section visited to Barenbrug Seeds factory at Falkirk recently. The trip was sponsored by Greentech.

# Tripping the Light Fantastic



Newark Golf Club Course Manager, Graeme Macdonald, is as comfortable on the dance floor as he is on the golf course having recently won the Senior UK Dance Modern Jive Championships the UK Team Championships with Nottingham at the Winter Gardens, in Western Super Mare.

"I have had a good year picking up lots of medals and trophies and I knew I was coming close to the big one when we came runners-up at the Tower Ballroom Blackpool," said Graeme.

"My dance partner and I went through quite a few rounds until we got to the final, where we danced in front of hundreds of spectators.

"I have been dancing over 12



years and regularly teach the beginners who attend at my local venues in Nottinghamshire.

"I have no intention of retiring just yet, I would like to defend them all again in 2010!" said Graeme.

## EWGA to merge with the EGU

The English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) and the English Golf Union (EGU) have agreed to take the next steps towards a potential merger which would let the country's amateur golfers speak with one voice.

The joint steering group from the two organisations has agreed five initial proposals and working groups have been set up to look in detail at key areas.

The decision on a merger will be made by the voting members of both organisations after they have received and considered the final proposal and following a period of consultation involving all members. It is hoped the vote will take place before the end of 2010.

The benefits of merger could include: the opportunity to promote golf as one game for all and to make strategic plans for the future of the sport; greater commercial power to attract sponsorship; more effective use of resources and reduced running costs.

The five proposals agreed so far are:

- A single National Governing Body for amateur golf in England. EWGA would join the EGU under a modified structure. EGU Ltd would be expanded to incorporate the activities and assets of both existing companies with a new management structure reflected in a revised Memorandum and Articles of Association. A trading name, yet to be finalised, would be adopted with the single company being styled "X" is the trading name of EGU Ltd incorporated with the EWGA.

- The headquarters would initially be at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa, with EWGA's offices in Birmingham remaining in operation for use by staff from both organisations until at least the break clause in the current lease contract in October 2012. After this the new board would review the accommodation needs of the organisation.

- The board of the single organisation would develop the strategy for the new body.

- The EGU/EWGA steering group would consider options regarding the staff organisational structure needed to deliver that strategy. It would appoint where possible from existing members of staff from both organisations.

- The new body would have one main board with executive and non-executive directors. While the final composition and role of this board will be decided by the steering group looking at the structure, voting and governance issues, it would initially have a non-executive gender balance of 6:4 men to women. The main committees would have at least two men and two women members.

The working groups have been set up to consider such key areas as legal and financial issues, golf, marketing, sponsorship and communications.

They will report back to the steering group by mid-April and the results of their work will help to shape the final proposal for a potential merger. This is expected to be published at the end of July and will be followed by roadshows in every county.

The roadshows will be open to all members of both organisations and will provide an opportunity to discuss the final proposal in detail and to ask questions.

The decision on a merger will be made by the voting members of both organisations at general meetings held on the same day, towards the end of 2010.

**NEW  
APPROVAL!**

Now includes  
6 diseases  
(Fusarium, Red Thread,  
Dollar Spot, Anthracnose,  
Leaf Spot and Rust),  
FULL APPROVAL for use on  
Golf courses, lawns, bowling  
greens, cricket pitches, tennis  
courts and professional  
sports grounds/stadiums\*

\*see label for full details

# Chipco® Green

Rock solid dependability since 1981

- Contact action - *Rapid* control
- Very reliable turf fungicide
- Rainfast in 1 hour
- Excellent 'green-up' properties
- Reduces dew switching



Bayer Environmental Science  
A Business Operation of Bayer CropScience



**CHIPCO® GREEN**

Bayer Environmental Science, 230 Cambridge Science Park,  
Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WB  
Tel: 00800 1214 9451 Fax: 01223 226635  
[www.escience.bayercropscience.co.uk](http://www.escience.bayercropscience.co.uk)

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL : USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.  
CHIPCO® GREEN contains 255 g/l iprodione. (MAPP 13843) (PCS 02714).  
Chipco is a registered trademark of Bayer.  
© Bayer Environmental Science 2009.



# Trump International Plans Proceed

Following the Scottish Government's decision to grant outline planning permission, Trump International – Scotland has submitted its detailed masterplan for the entire site and designs for its championship golf course to Aberdeenshire Council.

The first phase of the development is the championship golf course, designed by Dr Martin Hawtree.

"The golf course follows a classic pattern of two out-and-back loops of nine holes. All 18 holes thread their way engagingly through the dunes, rising here to find views of the sea and coastline, plunging there into secluded valleys, offering a sequence of superlative topographies, landscapes, alternating between spaciousness and enclosure, then panoramic views, and the whole time a rich texture of vegetation and wild-life habitats surrounding the golf holes," said Martin.

"The golf course will lack for nothing. It will produce simply the most dramatic, stimulating, invigorating stretch of golf anywhere I have seen in my career."

The application will be determined by Formartine Area Committee later in the year.

The construction contract has been won by SOL Golf Course Construction Limited. SOL has worked on many of the world's best golf courses and is currently working on various Open Championship courses on behalf of the R&A including Royal Liverpool, Royal Lytham & St Annes, Muirfield and Royal Birkdale.

Trump International work

undertaken since December 2008 includes:

- Masterplan for the whole development
- Full details of siting, design, external appearance and landscaping for the championship golf course, including a driving range, a short game area, a putting green, turf nursery and access to the championship golf course
- Construction plans for the championship golf course
- Topographical surveys
- Plans for roads, footpaths and cycleways
- Detailed environmental assessments and an environmental management plan
- Details of all landscaping, planting and screening works
- Appointment and establishment of Ecological Clerks of Works
- Appointment and establishment of MEMAG (Menie Environmental Management Advisory Group)
- Tree surveys and plans
- Otter, badger and goose management plans
- Habitat management and enhancement plan incorporating mitigation and compensatory measures for birds, bats, invertebrates and plants
- Site water management plan
- Details of sustainable urban drainage systems for championship course
- Details of championship course landscaping works
- Archaeology scheme
- Construction method statement for the championship golf course



## On-line Learning Now Available from the GTC

The GTC, in association with the Virtual College, is to offer the first in what is hoped is a series of on-line learning programmes.

David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, explains how the GTC is looking to promote best practice through modern technology and we hope individuals and greenkeeping students and turf staff at our Approved Centres enjoy the new Maintain the Health of Sports Turf on-line learning option.

David added that the GTC has developed learning materials which both individuals and GTC Approved Centres can access through hard copy and CD format and clearly to make these available on-line is the way forward as they can be accessed world-wide.

All the training materials can be accessed through the GTC's website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk) or for further information call 01347 838640

