



Chairman's Word

BIGGA Chairman Paul Worster looks at how both the Association and individual greenkeepers can empower and protect themselves

My personal thanks

Much has already been written about the recent Open Championship and recognition rightly given to BIGGA volunteers and staff who worked so hard – both on the course and behind the scenes. It was my first time at St Andrews and what a memorable experience. I am pleased to add my personal thanks to everyone on the Team which once again helped raise BIGGA's profile.

Great life in greenkeeping

My favorite moment was introducing Cecil George's Lifetime Achievement Award during Friday lunchtime in the BIGGA marquee.

It was fantastic that so many of Cecil's old friends as well as so many of our younger people took time out to be there. It was a powerful combination of 'old-guard' and 'young-guns' – all with a single purpose – to celebrate Cecil's great life in greenkeeping. I don't know Cecil very well so I brought in two who did – Elliott Small and Walter Woods.

In a witty aside, Cecil upon being informed that it was Walter who would be making the presentation was heard to mutter "Och, it'll be nice to actually get something out of the old so-and-so for a change!"

Joking aside – as Elliott was listing Cecil's many achievements, it struck me just how much one person on his own managed to achieve when he put his mind to it. It follows that if we ALL put our minds to it – just how much we can achieve together. This after all is the purpose of a trade association like BIGGA, and is why I closed the presentation ceremony by saying "I want us all to take a long hard look at what we do, and what we are". Because by doing this, by involving ourselves at all levels – we can empower ourselves.

I had some busy meetings, including the GEO and the R&A Golf Course Committee. Both have on-line systems for interactive recording

and benchmarking against goals, leading to significant golf course improvements, and both appeal directly for BIGGA's assistance to increase greenkeeper involvement in their fine work.

The greenkeeper will provide the key information these organisations need

Clearly both organisations need the active support of greenkeepers. Both want to bring real and sustainable improvements to golf courses. This can only be really successful if UK greenkeepers take the lead. We can start by registering with both the GEO and the R & A via their websites.

www.golfenvironment.org/certification

www.bestcourseforgolf.org/club/register.html

May I urge you to take a few minutes to register your club on both of these sites? By registering and participating, the UK greenkeeper will provide the key information these organisations need to help us move the industry forward. As Greenkeepers, by taking the lead, we can far better directly influence any number of key issues.

By doing so we will not only enhance our individual standing but that of the greenkeeping profession as a whole.

It is this type of activity, this professionalism that will one day ensure all greenkeepers will be seen by their employers as the people who make a real and positive contribution to enhancing the golfing experience.

In this we emulate Cecil's example – he was a lone influence on the education system, and with singular resolve hammered out the deals that put UK Greenkeeper Training on the map. This was achieved by a single person. This is empowerment.

Support Your Trade Show

May I close by bringing an industry situation to your attention. It is that of trade shows – specifically IOG SALTEX and BTME. Recently, IOG and BIGGA attended a meeting at

the NEC with trades-people (some of our exhibitors and sponsors) and representatives of Pitchcare, independently chaired by Roger Lane-Nott, CEO of the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA). The purpose was to discuss the future of SALTEX and BTME. You may be aware that trade shows in general are facing hard times – take the Royal Show and the Smith field Show – both industry institutions in their heyday, but both now vanished without trace.

We will protect and enhance everything that BIGGA members want from their Association

It was decided that both BIGGA and the IOG would be represented on a Steering Group, which, in conjunction with Pitchcare and the AEA, would look at the future direction of both shows, and to adopt an objective and business-oriented approach to them.

BIGGA participates in this Steering Group because it is far better to take part in essential, if difficult, discussions than to avoid them. We will absolutely protect and enhance everything that BIGGA members want from their Association by forging closer links with others such as the IOG or the AEA if this will help us to advance the interests of greenkeepers.

I need hardly remind you how attending BTME can help you in advancing your career; networking with like-minded professionals, sharing knowledge and experience, as well as improving your knowledge through extensive educational seminars. You can update yourself on the products, services and developments within the industry, by meeting with the suppliers who choose to exhibit. By exhibiting the trade provides valuable, vital and hugely appreciated support to BIGGA, and I would encourage you to support the companies that support you in this way.

I would urge you all to ensure that you make full use of this event.

This brings me back to the need for us all to take every opportunity to empower ourselves and advance this great profession.



Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director,
with a monthly update from the GTC**

The 2010 series of workshops were designed to meet the main aim of the special project: to engage all turf staff working within the GTC's Approved Centres and colleges to not only help them understand and promote through the various training courses all aspects of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme but also to see best practice first hand at venues throughout Britain.

This second series of workshops was hosted at the following venues:

Kingsknowe Golf Club,
Edinburgh
Course Manager, Stevie Dixon

Enville Golf Club,
near Stourbridge
Course Manager, Jonathan Wood

Easingwold Golf Club,
near York
Course Manager, Andre Erlah

Minchinhampton Golf Club,
near Stroud
Course Manager, Paul Worster

Tyrrells Wood Golf Club,
near Leatherhead
Course Manager, Billy McMillan

Lymm Golf Club,
near Warrington
Course Manager, Stuart Yarwood

The courtesy and support from the Directors, Committees and Course Managers at the above clubs is much appreciated by the GTC and The R&A.

It should also be noted that, as with last years venues, all clubs are willing to share their experiences with others. Contact details available from the GTC.

A reminder of the 2009 venues:

**Glencorse GC,
Wilmslow GC,
Gog Magog GC,
Cleveland GC,**

**Kings Hill GC,
Burnham & Berrow GC
and Temple GC.**

Following the 2009 workshops it was agreed to extend invitations to widen the delegates beyond turf Centre staff. The PGA and GCMA were invited to identify representatives who could attend and in turn distribute the message to their members.

Phil Weaver, Chairman of the PGA and Keith Lloyd CEO of the GCMA attended a workshop and their feedback and support will hopefully result in the Sustainable Golf Course Programme message being integrated into future seminars and education programmes for their members.

In recent years "sustainability" has become a word that many industries have adopted but few people really understand what it means or how it can be applied within their particular working environment.

With the support of the turf staff at the GTC Approved Centres and the information and learning materials produced by the various organisations, including those associated with the GTC, we are starting to make real progress to promote best practice for the future maintenance and management of British golf courses.

From the outset of the promotion of the Sustainable Golf Course Programme the GTC has always promoted the need for a united approach at any golf club before embarking on the programme and, in particular, the basic requirement of a Course Policy Document.

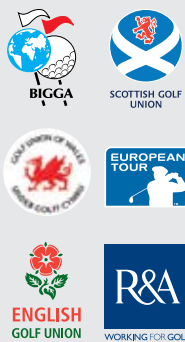
This message seems quite old now and while it has been adopted by many clubs it appears there are still some who manage the course without such a policy. This clearly has implications as committees change or when the Course Manager moves on.

I know all of the Course Managers at the workshop venues above have stories to share when the agreed policy at their club has been questioned, to the point where even

In Brief

David reviews the 2010 series of Sustainable Golf Course Programme series of workshops hosted by the GTC in association with The R&A.

The GTC is funded by:



the temptation to abandon the programme has been close to being approved by owners and committees.

The pressure to stick to the policy not only falls on the Course Manager but also the management team at the clubs and equally their employers.

During all of the GTC workshops the issue of communication to the golfer was highlighted and despite the GTC ensuring all aspects of the sustainable programme being incorporated into the various qualifications and training courses there is still much more work to be done with employers and the golfer.

In an effort to help share the sustainable message the GTC had the workshop at Lymm Golf Club filmed and with the kind permission of the speakers on the day we invite you to view one or more of 11 films on the GTC website.

Another development during recent years has been the ongoing capture of best practice case studies at various golf clubs and as these become available we will ensure these can be accessed through our website www.the-gtc.co.uk

It is with the support from The R&A and the Home Unions that case studies are being written up and there is clear evidence that this source of information, together with visits to the clubs to see the work often still in progress, is an excellent method of promoting the various aspects of the sustainable programme.

The GTC, in supporting the sustainable programme, also promotes the fact that there has to be a sense of realism when embarking on any aspect of the programme, that there is no quick fix and the road can be very rocky at times for both the Greenkeeping team and the people empowered to manage the club.

The sustainable programme is not just about encouraging and maintaining the more suitable and sustainable grasses....it encompasses all the facets of playing and economic performance, environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

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Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development,
with an update on education issues



September hails the journey to Saltex, with our wellies packed, next to our suntan lotion! September also features the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the delivery of the brochure for the Continue to Learn Education Programme.

The focus shifts from 'planning' to 'organising' and, for the next few months, all roads lead to Harrogate.

Continue to Learn 2011 – Turf Managers' Conference

The 2011 Continue to Learn education programme has been finalised. You will be receiving your copy of the programme with next month's issue of Greenkeeper International.

Brand new for 2011 is the introduction of the "Turf Managers' Conference". Taking place on Monday, January 17, the new Conference has been developed specifically with Head Greenkeepers, Course Managers and those who manage turf, in mind.

We have secured a first-class line up of speakers:

- Dr John E. Kaminski, Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University
- Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, The Turf Disease Centre
- Robert Hunt, Chairman, International Design Group
- Stanley J. Kostka, PhD, Director – Technology and Innovation, Aquatrols Corporation

• Dr David Jones, Research Scientist, The Natural History Museum

Presenting a range of topics:

- Effective use of Primo on golf courses
- New challenges in turf disease management
- Golf Is Dead
- It's not just about dry patch anymore! The science of soil water repellency, surfactants and sustainable turf management
- Microscolex phosphoreus: a new threat to golf greens
- Preparing for and dealing with Winter damage

Further information on the Turf Managers' Conference will feature in the Continue to Learn Education Programme. However, if you want to reserve your place, please contact the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3).



New Field Guide - Coming Soon!

A new field guide, written by Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at the STRI, will be available soon. The subject for the new guide was selected following last year's Field Guide survey for new subjects. It will deal with the Legislation and Recognition of Protected Habitats and Species. This follows the production of the updated guide, on the Major Diseases and Pests of Fine Turf, late last year.



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.



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Remember to visit the BIGGA Stand at Saltex!



'How To...' Guides

Have you looked at the new 'How To...' Guides? They can be found under Member Resources in the Members area of the website. Feedback on these new guides would be welcomed, email your comments to sami@bigga.co.uk.



BIGGA Library

We have added four new books to the BIGGA Library:

- The Superintendent's Guide to Controlling Putting Green Speed - Thomas A. Nikolai
- Turfgrass and Landscape Irrigation Water Quality Assessment and Management - Ronny R Duncan, Robert N Carrow and Michael T Huck.

• Tournament Management - A Superintendent's Guide to Preparing a Golf Course for Competition - John C Miller, CGCS

• Best Golf Course Management Practices - L.B. McCarty

The 'How To...' Guides, Field Guides and Library books are purchased and are available free of charge, to BIGGA Members, thanks to the Golden and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

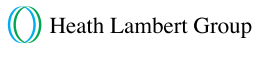


Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to: Michael Boyes – Foundation Degree - Online

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Jason Sarna; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz

Greenmaster® - Technology that has remained ahead of its time



We can all recall innovations that have changed the way we do things.

Technology has made managing our work and achieving our goals quicker, easier and more precise.

When Greenmaster fertilizers were launched in the mid-'80s, they featured cutting-edge technology to help sports turf managers deliver the exacting nutritional requirements for their turf.

Innovation moved on, and thanks to Scotts' world-leading Research & Development Programme, Greenmaster Pro-Lite is still the most advanced granular fertilizer available, nearly a quarter of a century later.

Pro-Lite is micro granule technology that contains zeolite. Zeolite's molecular structure is a 3D cage-like framework of silica and alumina molecules. The spaces and channels in each molecule means it acts like a microscopic sponge.



Excess oxygen is kept within the framework and creates a negative charge, holding cations and water molecules until they're needed by the plant.

And because each ultra-fine Greenmaster granule contains the same ratio of superior-quality nutrients, they disperse rapidly, produce a fast, even turf response, and the results last even longer.

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Toro keeps The Old Course in Championship Condition

The St Andrews Links greenkeeping team has paid tribute to the Toro turf maintenance fleet that helped it keep the Old Course in championship condition for the recent Open.

Louis Oosthuizen may have lifted the Claret Jug, but hearty congratulations are also in order for Director of Greenkeeping, Gordon Moir, and Gordon McKie, Course Manager of The Old Course.

Also, credit goes to their crew, who battled blustery conditions and heavy rain to keep the course in perfect playing condition – with a little help from Toro, whose machinery The Home of Golf exclusively uses.

“Our Toro fleet certainly helped us to get the job done and achieve the results we were looking for,” Gordon Moir reveals.

The team also sought Toro’s special Tournament Fleet service to supplement St Andrews Links’ existing machinery supply from its other course.

“The tournament support helped by loaning us seven extra Greensmaster 3250Ds to allow us to achieve the huge task of mowing fairways to the highest standard within the tight timescale we had each morning,” Gordon McKie adds.

“The Old Course has seven double fairways, which means we had to mow two fairways at once, so we required the additional machinery to make that achievable.

“In addition, we brought in extra Workman utility vehicles for transportation of various pedestrian mowers and, of course, the staff as well!”



FRENCH CONNECTION

ClearWater has made the French connection with one of its washpad water recycling systems being recently installed in France at Omaha Beach GC in Normandy.

Highspeed Group’s Joint MD, David Mears said; “This follows many months of hard work, particularly by our agent for France, Michel Champenois of MACDIS Sarl to secure business for ClearWater. We were very pleased to have been selected to install one of our systems at this superb club.”

With the demands of legislation concerning pollution prevention tightening across Europe, ClearWater recycling systems are now a familiar sight in the UK and Ireland. With over 140 installations, the company hopes that the same will be the case in France as they showcase the system at Omaha.

Trucks in Demand



For many years Club Car, has been the Official Golf Car of the European Tour. This year sees additions to the Tour trucks used to transport the vehicles to and from each event.

“We’re delighted to continue our commitment to the European Tour,” said Roberto Gorostiaga, Director of Marketing & Sales for Club Car.

“Our association with the Tour provides a highly visible and prestigious platform for Club Car to showcase a wide range of products, build relationships and enhance the brand globally.”

The Club Car entourage covers the European Tour’s needs for staging, television and rules cars. Every car supplied by Club Car is designed to fit a specific purpose and it takes two double-decker 28 ton trucks to transport the cars around from venue to venue. Additional trucks have been added this year to cope with demands.



Oxfordshire Gardens

go Mowing with Sanli

High-profile Oxfordshire visitor attraction, Waterperry Gardens, has taken delivery of a pair of Sanli LSP46 self-propelled pedestrian mowers to help maintain a variety of formal lawns and other grassed areas within the magnificent 3.2ha ornamental garden.

Handed over by Sanli UK's Area Manager, Claire Morris, the two mowers are to be used by Waterperry's three full-time gardeners. The mowers incorporate operator-friendly features such as comfort-grip handles, 60 litre grass collectors and single-point cutting height adjustment.

Located near the village of Wheatley, east of Oxford, Waterperry Gardens was, until 1971, home to a school of horticulture for ladies. Today, the gardens at Waterperry have evolved into an oasis of calm and beauty where visitors can enjoy the spectacular formal gardens, which include a waterlily canal, a rose garden and the celebrated 60m long colour border, said to be one of the finest purely herbaceous borders in the UK.



JCB Secures Huge Order with Leading London Plant Hirer

JCB has won a huge order – including 42 tracked and wheeled excavators – from one of the country's leading plant hire firms.

The multi-million pound deal has been secured with London-based Lynch Plant Hire and includes a fleet of racked excavator models in addition to two wheeled excavators – manufactured at JCB Heavy Products in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

The excavator order has been placed in response to increased demand from Lynch Plant Hire's customers for machines which can operate in the demanding road and rail sectors. Several of the machines have already been delivered and are already performing on high profile projects across the UK. This includes the JCB wheeled excavator models carrying groundworks as part of the M25 motorway widening scheme.

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Lee Penrose, of the STRI, is interrogated...



What is your position?

Project Manager / Consultant

How long have you been in the industry?

Just over eight years

How did you get into it?

Whilst at university I conducted a research project for Dr Stephen Baker, at STRI, investigating rootzone construction in greens. The time I spent working with Steve and the team was great and I took the opportunity to work for a forward looking company!

What other jobs have you done?

Laid bricks, built conservatories, managed Burger King, and worked on turf construction and maintenance.

What do you like about your current job?

Definitely, the variety. My life is impossible to predict day to day, and that is a great thing. I spend a lot of time travelling and meeting new people. I love being at the cutting edge of the turf industry and, through the STRI, helping to steer things in the right direction for our clients.

What changes have you seen during your time?

Technology is now king and we are slowly seeing that creep into the industry and, in particular, course management. We are moving into an era where quantitative analysis and prediction, using tools like the STRI Trueness Meter, will help take golf course presentation and playability to the next level.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have 3 great passions in my life:

- 1 – My wife and 2 daughters, Mary and Abigail
- 2 – Fly fishing for salmon and wild trout
- 3 – (Sadly) work. I spend my evenings working on things like the Golf Environment Awards.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Who knows? I have an inherent need to re-invent myself every few years. I will no doubt still be involved with STRI and working within the industry (but hopefully for more money!)

Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?

Numerous, but I particularly enjoy annual jaunts shared with Dr Micah "Buckie" Woods (Director, Asian Turfgrass Centre) and have spent many happy hours with Simon Elsworth (Head EAME Turf & Landscape, Syngenta)

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

215 – not sure why...

Lee has picked Shona Garner, Consultant



Landing at The Berkshire

Scott MacCallum touches down at the destination of this year's BIGGA National Championship, taking place on the 4th and 5th of October







“Any golfer who has not visited this marvellous club with its two magnificent courses, the Red and the Blue, has missed one of the great pleasures in golf”

Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE, *BIGGA*
President



This year's BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse, is being played at one of the most iconic golf clubs in the country – The Berkshire, near Ascot.

But don't just take my word for it. Listen to what five time Amateur Champion and BIGGA President, Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE, says about the club.

“Any golfer who has not visited this marvellous club with its two magnificent courses, the Red and the Blue, has missed one of the great pleasures in golf.

“I have always loved both links and heathland golf, and the two Berkshire courses are the finest example of the latter. Sand based fairways and greens are set in a superb arena of pine trees and heather and the design and placement of the bunkers are a tribute to the skill of the golf course architect.

“In particular, the par three holes are as good as any to be found, with each having its own character and not like the 250 yard tests that are a feature of contemporary design. However they are just as hard and in some cases, even more punishing to a bad shot.

“All in all, there is no finer place to play golf.”

As testimonials go they don't come much better than that and those who tee up in this heartland of the Home Counties' stockbroker

belt at the beginning of October will be able to see whether Sir Michael was on the mark.

While there will be a full field competing over the two wonderful heathland courses one of the main instigators of BIGGA's visit will not be there, not in an official capacity, at any rate.

Chris Lomas MG, Courses Manager from 2003 left earlier this year to take up the position of Secretary at nearby Worplesdon Golf Club, his position taken over last month by Ian Morrison, who had been Course Manager at West Hill GC.

“It's been an amazing seven years and it is with an extremely heavy heart that I leave, but it is a career decision. It is where I want to go and it is what I've been working towards for a long time,” said Chris, as we sat in the committee room on the first floor of the splendid clubhouse, not long before he left.

“Becoming a Secretary has been a goal and ambition of mine for quite some time. I am a career orientated person and I feel very lucky to have been at a club as revered as The Berkshire. As a greenkeeper it would've been difficult to find anywhere as special to continue my career and I could see more doors opening for me as a Secretary.”

Not long after Chris began his time at The Berkshire, Greenkeeper International visited him and discussed his aims and aspirations.



“The goals were to continue improving the course and I was concerned about the woodland at the time. The headline of the article was ‘A Woodland Course with Heather’,” Chris recalled.

“A huge amount of woodland management has been carried out since. It's expensive to carry out and often seen as a luxury, but if you don't do it you lose heather and the fine grasses, while drainage can become blocked. Having done the work we have we have seen improvement in drainage and turf quality.

“The sward has improved for a number of reasons – the air that we have given it to breathe, an aeration programme and a new irrigation system which has allowed us a full growing season through the summer.”

The irrigation was another major advance for the club with the instal-

