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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Harrogate delivers once again

Those who had a feeling of trepidation in the lead up to Harrogate Week 2011, concerns brought on by worldwide recession and the horrible weather we endured in December, saw their fears dissipate as soon as BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, cut the green ribbon to proclaim the Show open.

The traditional buzz was there, and in abundance too, albeit assisted by the real life bees Syngenta had as an attraction on its stand, and the Halls soon filled up. The fact that the final attendance was just over 6,000, 2.3% up on last year was a genuine bonus.

Harrogate has always been a partnership of commerce and education and it would be fair to say that the strong Continue to Learn Education Programme, supported by BIGGA's Gold and Silver Key supporters, gave many people a bone fide reason to come to Harrogate. The quality of what was on offer would enhance anyone's career and those who took advantage felt all the better for doing so. Indeed, with a record 2000 plus attending workshops and seminars the week was given a great start before it had even begun.

People will point to the fact that the actual Show was smaller than it has been in the past and, with slightly under three Halls of exhibitors, that is indeed true, but to expect companies in our industry sector to be immune from the economic realities is a little unfair. I was certainly disappointed on behalf of those companies who would desperately have liked to have given themselves the boost to the start of the year that Harrogate Week traditionally offers, but through budget constraints were unable to do so. They will be welcomed back with open arms when they are in a position to re-book.

Those who did exhibit were delighted that they had done so. One of them, Vermigrand, a company in the new Enviro Zone which was exhibiting in Harrogate for the first time, actually said that it was the best and most professionally run show they had ever attended.

Harrogate Week 2011 was also the end of an era as it was the last that John Pemberton will attend in an official capacity.

Having taken the decision to stand down as Chief Executive, John was the recipient of good wishes from the many, many friends and associates he had made during his 18 years with the Association.

Although he is still officially with the Association until the end of April, John will be spending his last couple of months working from home. BIGGA HOUSE will not be the same without his infectious personality and desire to do anything for anyone.

He has left no stone unturned in making BIGGA as strong an organisation as it can be, particularly during his time as Chief Executive, and there are countless members who, directly or indirectly, owe him a great deal.

He will not be disappearing entirely, and I am sure he will still be giving the benefit of his knowledge and experience to the Association whenever he is asked, but he will no doubt make the most of the free time he has to look forward to.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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Living life to the full

Scott MacCallum catches up with Gordon Child, the latest recipient of BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A smile is never far from the lips of BIGGA's latest Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Gordon Child has lived life to the full and in modern sporting parlance, not left anything out on the park. His greenkeeping career was carried out at some of the finest golf clubs in the country and he watched some of the finest players in the world playing courses he'd prepared. His BIGGA career saw him become the only Chairman to date to serve for two years and spend 10 years as Regional Administrator for the South West and South Wales, while his own golfing ability has got enough for him to play in two Open Championships and now he has been very busy in every time he goes out.

"I've been very lucky in life," said Gordon, as we sat in the upstairs living room overlooking some amazing Devon countryside. "I'm greatly honoured to get this award and to be thought of in the same company as those who have already received it is quite humbling. I thought when I was asked to become Captain of Chaston Golf Club in 2009 that it had completed the circle for me but here comes another great honour."

Gordon joins Sir Michael Bonallack CBE, Walter Woods BEM, Jack & Mike MBE, George Brown and Cecil George as recipients of BIGGA's top accolade.

Anyone who knows anything about Gordon's background would have no doubt that BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award could have been introduced specifically for him and that he ends up in the Association's most exclusive club

is a fitting tribute to a man who has achieved so much. Gordon was the son, and grandson, of greenkeepers so a career on the golf course may well have been preordained, but from starting work as a school leaver at Dixie and Topley, in Sheffield, he made the most of his opportunities.

"It was while I was there that I enjoyed one of the pieces of luck which I've enjoyed all my life. I started work in 1947 and at the time there were only two colleges in the UK which did turf culture and one of them was Leeds College of Art and Technology while the other was in Scotland. The college was in easy reach of my home so for three years I was able to study three nights a week and one half day for which the club gave me time off. It provided me with the foundation for my whole career."

It also saw the beginnings of a friendship which was to last for over half a century. "It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college," said Gordon.

Friendship with the legendary agronomist lasted until Jim's death at the age of 84, in 2004, and eventually saw the pair of them being just the miles from each other in Devon - Gordon in Chaston and Jim in Huddleigh, Somerset.

Following his time at Dixie and Topley Gordon joined the Army and the Liverpool Regiment where he served in Korea along with another well known BIGGA figure, the late Bert Cross, and when he got



"It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college" Gordon Child

back Jim grandfather told him that he was to take up a job at Royal Huddleigh. "I was told I was going, I wasn't asked. Going to an Open venue was his idea, but being being that I'd worked on a parkland and that I should learn how to work on a links course."

An career advice given it couldn't have been much better as having Royal Huddleigh on his CV was the passport to what was to come. "I was at Royal Huddleigh for quite a while, never more than an Assistant, but I built up my knowledge base."

Gordon left Huddleigh to become Head Greenkeeper at Blackburn Golf Club but before long moved south to St George's Hill, in Weybridge. "I think having worked at Royal

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

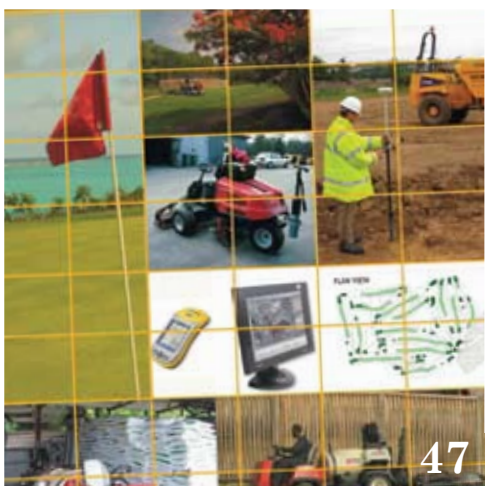
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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



New Partnership

BIGGA and The Golf Environment Organization (GEO) have established a partnership that will see the two bodies collaborate in promoting sustainability in golf facility management.

The partnership seeks to make sustainability easier for greenkeepers and Course Managers to understand, and provide support for their ongoing, continual improvement efforts. Through the promotion of GEO Certified, the aim is also to enable golf facilities to attain credible and lasting recognition for ongoing environmental action and corporate responsibility.

GEO will be presented as BIGGA's Sustainability Partner, and BIGGA will become a Golf Partner of GEO.

Speaking on behalf of BIGGA, outgoing Chairman, Paul Worster, said: "We want to support our members further in playing an active leadership role, productively with their management team colleagues, to make the most

informed sustainability based decisions in the workplace.

"The BIGGA Board feels that GEO is extremely well placed to support our organisation and our members - strategically and practically.

"In recent years we have seen GEO dedicate itself to bringing forward the kinds of solutions based guidance and programmes that will help every one of our members in the field. There's a straightforward logic to what GEO presents, and they understand the needs and priorities of Course Managers extremely well."

Incoming Chairman, Andrew Mellon, added: "There are a number of reasons why BIGGA has decided to work with GEO. First of all, we recognise the importance of what they stand for and what they are trying to achieve as an organisation in support of greenkeepers. We see real value in widespread participation by BIGGA members in GEO Certified. In addition the partnership enables us all to

draw on the educational, advisory and verification support of their emerging GEOSA Network of 'golf ready' sustainability professionals. Collaboration with like minded bodies brings more strength to golf's efforts as we all move forward in an increasingly sustainability minded world," he said.

"We know that many other companies and organisations are also critical to this effort, both current partners of BIGGA and GEO, and also potential partners. For that reason we have drafted an action plan which will enable all those who are interested to get involved and gain visibility in a cohesive approach to this important subject," added Andrew.

Jonathan Smith, CEO of GEO, added: "We are delighted to make this announcement after many months of discussion. BIGGA is one of the world's largest and most respected greenkeeper associations, so its interest in, and endorsement of our work is incredibly valuable.



NEW ROLE FOR PAUL

Symbio has appointed Paul Lowe as Regional Manager for the North West of England. Paul brings 22 years of greenkeeping experience with him, having spent the majority of his career as Course Manager at Rhuddlan Golf Course and the past four years as Course Manager at Bromborough Golf Club.

Paul, a member of the Gingerbread Men group, committed to environmentally sustainable management, said: "I am delighted to join the Symbio team. Moving from greenkeeping to Symbio has been a natural progression as we share the same passion for creating sustainable courses and landscapes built on healthy living soils."

Martin Ward, Symbio Managing Director, said: "As the industry increasingly adopts a sustainable approach to course management, it is great to have Paul on board with his exceptional knowledge and wealth of experience in managing sustainable golf courses."



Adaptability in the Snow

French manufacturer Etesia enjoyed a sales boom as users of its ride-on rotary mowers have been rushing to buy snow clearing attachments and tow-behind gritters for their existing Hydro mowers so that they wouldn't be caught out in the next big freeze.

With its wide range of attachments, the range of Etesia mowers can be transformed into multi-tasking, all-year-

round workhorses for a wide-range of applications including snow clearing and salt/sand spreading.

"At times like this, end users realise the true multi-tasking value of an Etesia ride-on," commented Les Malin, Etesia UK's General Manager.

"Our accessories such as the snow plough or salt/sand spreader are keenly priced so keeping roadways and paths

clear is a very cost effective operation. Our customers have discovered that for a relatively small investment they can be prepared without the need to have expensive dedicated equipment lying idle during long periods of the year."

For further information, please contact Etesia UK on 01295 680120 or visit www.etesia.com/uk

GOLF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS PRESENT MORE THAN £30,000 TO HELP FOR HEROES

A golf industry group which conquered the Three Peaks Challenge has presented a cheque for £30,169.58 to Help for Heroes.

The team of 11 friends from all parts of the golf industry took just 22 hours and 45 minutes to climb the UK's three highest mountains – Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike last July, in aid of Help for Heroes' Battle Back initiative.

Colin Mayes, Jim Conlan, Tristan Hall and Andy Owen, Burhill Golf & Leisure; Kevin Hart, Club Car; Andrew Brown, Toro; Daniel Hodson, De Vere; Simon Thorpe, Expressions Partnership; John Weir, Cornerstone Golf; Chris Lomas, Secretary at Worplesdon Golf Club, and course designer, Jonathan Gaunt, joined servicemen benefiting from Battle Back Golf at Burhill Golf Club for a round of golf and to



present the cheque.

Kevin Hart said: "Everyone was astounded with the money raised, which reflects the generosity of the golf industry and the support of this worthwhile cause."

Any golf manufacturer, golf course or professional who would like to help Battle Back Golf with the provision of equipment, tee times, coaching or anything that may assist injured soldiers please contact

Kevin Hart at kevin_hart@clubcar.com.

The photograph shows The Three Peaks team handing over a cheque for £30,169.57 to members of the Battle Back Golf initiative.



Simon Gale

Lely UK has announced the death of one of its employees, Simon Gale.

Simon, 40, passed away following a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he married shortly before his death.

Simon joined Lely in 2007 as the turf machinery distributor's Toro key accounts product specialist, where he soon established himself as a popular and much relied upon member of the team. As well as providing hands-on servicing and parts support to customers, he was also responsible for training operators and mechanics, imparting his considerable skills and expertise to a plethora of industry peers.

Prior to joining Lely, Simon spent the lion's share of his career at Ransomes and some of its key dealerships.

October 1990 saw him leave to take up the post of head mechanic with one of Turney's major customers, Hewison Brothers, where he was responsible for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of the company's extensive machinery fleet. Three years later he joined Ransomes dealer ET Breakwell.

Ransomes Jacobsen's Sales Director, Alan Prickett, who had known and worked with Simon for 21 years, concludes: "Simon was a good friend and colleague with whom I spent many years working in various roles. He was always optimistic and had a positive and ambitious attitude to life, making his loss at such an early age even more tragic. He leaves behind a great many friends within Ransomes Jacobsen and the industry."

Farol Takes on John Deere Turf Franchise

John Deere has announced that the Farol branches at Milton Common in Oxfordshire and Hinckley, in Leicestershire, have become turf & utility equipment dealers,

As of last month both branches will sell and support John Deere's full range of professional turf equipment, which includes mowers, compact and utility tractors, utility vehicles, aerators, sprayers and irrigation systems. The Milton Common branch will cover Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, while the new Farol branch at Hinckley will service the Midlands area.

Farol has created a new turf business division, which will be managed initially by the group's recently-appointed Operations Director, Dave Roberts.

"This is an exciting development for Farol, and a natural expansion of our successful John Deere agricultural business," said Dave.

"This signing of Farol as a professional turf dealer in the Midlands strengthens our dealership presence in this area," added David Hart, John Deere's Turf & Utility Equipment Division Manager for the UK and Ireland.

"Farol is a well established business with a strong focus on first class customer and product support. Alongside our ongoing Dealer of the Future initiative, it reflects our continued efforts to build the strongest dealership network for turf equipment in the UK."

Irish Conference

The annual GCSAI conference will take place at Knightsbrook Hotel and Golf Club just outside Dublin. Speakers include Professor James Beard who wrote, 'Turf Management for Golf Courses'. Lining up alongside Professor Beard is Greg Evans, who will be conducting a talk about his greens methodology.

The conference is open to all greenkeepers and groundsman across the British Isles and if you are interested in coming along please contact Maria Behan on +3538779 17789 or email her at maria.behan@calibresupport.ie

25 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR CAMPEY TURF CARE

The 25th Anniversary of Campey Turf Care Systems will be celebrated throughout the coming months with a number of events aimed at highlighting the achievements of its staff, the loyalty of its customers and the continuing confidence of the manufacturers which provide such an excellent range of products.

All of these elements have played a part in ensuring the success of Campey Turf Care Systems as well as a winning combination of dedication to quality of products and professionalism of after sales support.

A display of the products and brand names that have become synonymous with Campeys were on display at BTME including the Dakota - 407 Mounted Top-dresser and the Imants Shockwave which are typical of the products introduced by Campey.

Also on the stand was the Vredo Super Compact seeder and the Timan - RC-750 remote control brush cutter & slope mower introduced last season



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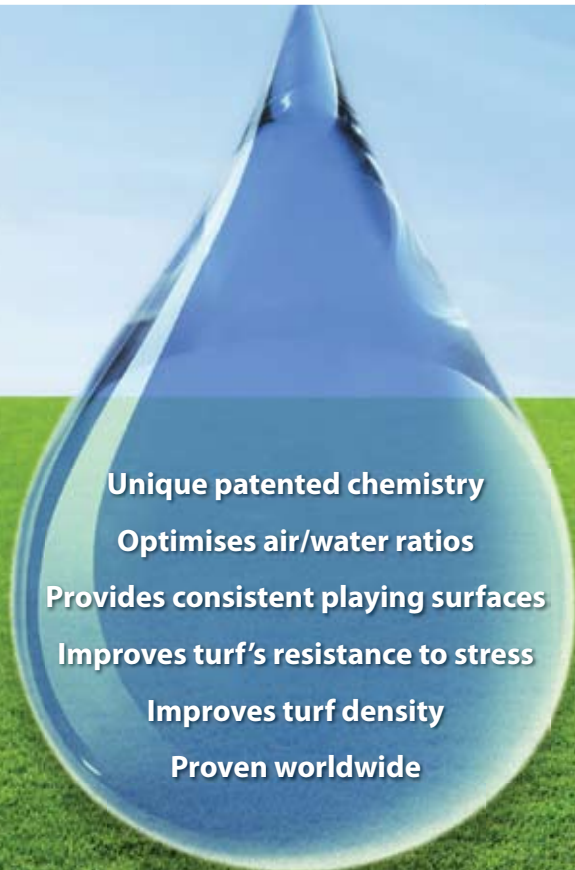
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GEO Certified™: International Sustainability Award for Auchterarder Golf Club

The first traditional UK members' club to be awarded GEO Certified status, Auchterarder is a sustainability leader in Scottish golf. As they join the international group of clubs that has received the prestigious GEO designation, the Perthshire club can be proud in the knowledge they are positioned among the world's most sustainable.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper at the club for 14 years and National Director of BIGGA, is not one to shy away from innovation or the need for leadership:

"GEO Certification is an important ongoing project for Auchterarder Golf Club, helping to shape our environmental programme and provide a basis from which we will work to make our club more sustainable year on year. The targeted support we're receiving from Sustainability Adviser, Elspeth Coutts, has brought our planning, monitoring and recording into line with GEO requirements; a huge help on the whole learning curve towards sustainable golf," said Archie.

Read the GEO Certified™ Report prepared by Archie and his team here: <http://www.golfenvironment.org/clubs/auchterardergolf>

South East Region Annual Gentleman's Day Golf and Dinner

Walton Heath Golf Club
Friday 4th March 2011
One of Greenkeeping's longest running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact:
Clive Osgood
South East Regional Administrator
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk
Phone 01737 819343 mob 07841 948410



Harrogate Week: The Natural Choice For Company Launch

Soil fertility company Organic Soil Systems selected the 2011 BTME at Harrogate as the venue for their UK launch.

Company Chairman, Ronald Gilchrist, explained, "BTME is widely regarded as Europe's leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals, with attendance consistently in the thousands. This was exactly the right forum for us to hold the official launch of our world leading soil fertility products and technology in the UK."

"We have had an excellent response throughout the exhibition and look forward to developing relationships further with our new clients."

Managing Director, Kenneth Turnbull, added, "Through our partner company, Vermigrand, our EU certified Organic biohumus is being used as a top dressing at renowned sporting venues in mainland Europe and our activated compost tea has astounded seasoned sports turf professionals with its results as both a foliar feed and soil inoculants."

For further information visit www.organicsoilsystems.co.uk

IOG LAUNCHES APPRENTICESHIPS

The IOG has announced the IOG Apprenticeship in Groundsmanship – a work-based programme available to aspiring groundsmen and women.

Providing a choice of options – Apprenticeship Level 2, Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 and Higher Apprenticeship Level the programme is targeted at anyone aged from 16 years. The IOG Apprenticeship will take between one and three years, depending on the Level chosen.

Explaining that the new Apprenticeship is the latest in a comprehensive range of affordable education services delivering high quality and accredited qualifications at every level of grounds care Ian Lacy, the IOG's Head of Professional Services, said that the new scheme follows the successful recent launch of the IOG Young Apprenticeship Scheme as a curriculum option for students aged 14 at Harefield Academy, St Albans.

"The IOG Apprenticeship, a work-based programme designed around the needs of an employer, leads to nationally recognised qualifications such as diplomas in Groundsmanship and greenkeeping accredited by City & Guilds land-based services," said Ian.

"To support the new scheme, the IOG is offering a 'one-stop shop' apprenticeship service which includes screening literacy and numeracy, assessment of occupational skills, advice on learning styles and psychometric testing, plus help with the induction and sign-up and the assessor visit, and ongoing monitoring of progress."