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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



When you have finished with
this magazine please recycle it.

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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Déjà vu, all over again

There is a genuine feeling of déjà vu around the country at the moment. Wasn't it this time last year that the country was covered in snow and Christmas proved to be a real endurance test for anyone wishing to get about over the festive period?

Well here we are again. As I write we've had Siberian conditions for three whole weeks and rather than seeing the end of it we are awaiting another wave of the extremely cold stuff.

A White Christmas looks great on the Christmas cards, but not quite so great when you have to live, or travel, through it.

We can, however, still hope for a balmy spell in January for Harrogate Week but, whatever the conditions, I know it will perform its regular role, of providing the industry with a boost at the start of the year.

There can be no doubt that those who attend Harrogate, in either a visitor or exhibitor capacity, get so much out of it and I do have genuine sympathy for those who don't have the necessary budget to attend this year.

We all know that money is in short supply and futures are uncertain. What it means is that many people who would have loved to take advantage of the regular career and company enhancing treats that Harrogate brings are quite simply unable to do so this year.

You will all be missed, but you can rest assured that we will welcome you back with open arms in 2012, when hopefully signs are a little more positive.

And there is some light on the horizon for the golf business and it comes in the shape of the wonderful form of the British golfers over the last 12 months.

Lee Westwood has achieved the previously unthinkable feat of knocking Tiger Woods off the top of the World Rankings - the first Brit since Nick Faldo in '94 to reach such a heady position, while there are five players from these shores in the World's top 10, Westwood, Graeme McDowell, Paul Casey, Luke Donald and Ian Poulter, with Rory McIlroy just outside at 11th and, honorary Brit, Ernie Els, at 12th.

Put that together with the stunning victory in the Ryder Cup, at Celtic Manor; McDowell's magnificent win in the US Open, at Pebble Beach, and - let's claim a bit of credit as well for - Martin Kaymer's win in the USPGA Championship, at Whistling Straits, and we have enough reason to expect that the popularity of golf is on the up.

Remember the golden age of the 80s when we had Seve, Sandy, Nick, Woosie and Bernhard all playing at their absolute peak?

The benefits that brought to the game were huge and golf clubs were swinging places to be. With the new generation of player beginning to do equally well it would be great to see such enthusiasm for golf resurface.

So we do have some justification for a bit of optimism.

A happy new year to you all.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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Micah Woods gives an insight into a different type of turf management



For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate

At Bangkok, the average high temperature never drops below 31°C, and the average low temperature is always more than 20°C. As I write this, it is the end of this year's rainy season, when in an average year about 1200mm of rain will fall at Bangkok from May to October.

At Singapore the average annual rainfall, spread more evenly throughout the year, is closer to 2400mm! Compare that with London and its 600 mm average

annual rainfall, or Glasgow with its 900 mm, and one quickly realises that Southeast Asia may be a suitable location for a holiday, but it is quite a different land challenge to manage turfgrass.

When I first visited Southeast Asia in 1999, I saw that there were many golf courses here, but essentially nothing in the way of greenkeeper education, or turfgrass research, or independent advisory services to greenkeepers or golf clubs. In 2000 I joined the Asian Turfgrass Centre with the goal of providing some of

those services, and I also promised Scott MacCallum that I would write an article about greenkeeping in Southeast Asia. Greenkeeping in Southeast Asia is so different from in Britain, and I thought a description of some of these differences

could be of interest to the readership of Greenkeeper International.

What Grasses Are Used on Golf Courses

The primary grasses used here are hybrid bermudagrasses (Cyn-

odon spp.), manisgrass (*Zoysia matrella*), and/or paspalum (Paspalum vaginatum), and broadleaf carpetgrass (*Axonopus compressus*).

For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate. One

doesn't find much in the way of open meadows in Southeast Asia. The climate vegetation here would be a tropical woodland, so to maintain turfgrass on golf courses takes

a different mentality than in other parts of the world. The goal here is actually to keep a vigorously growing turf, because of the climate of soil. For someone accustomed to the grasses of more temperate regions, these tropical grasses appear quite coarse, but these are the grasses that are adapted to regular mowing in this type of climate.

The amount of water and fertilizer used on courses in Asia is considerably more than would typically be used in Europe. This is because of the different grass types used, the weather, the growing season, and the need to keep the grass growing to prevent it being overtaken by

WIDE PHOTO: The Blue Canyon Golf Club

LESS DESIRABLE SPECIES. For nitrogens in Southeast Asia, the average golf course would use 400 to 600 kg N/ha on greens, and perhaps 200 to 400 kg N/ha on fairways and roughs. And when it comes to water, there is a high evapotranspiration (ET) rate because of the sun, which is very close to the equator, and during dry weather the daily ET is about 7 mm per day. Some types of grass can survive with deficit irrigation less than full replacement of ET, but when that happens growth will slow, so only a very skilled

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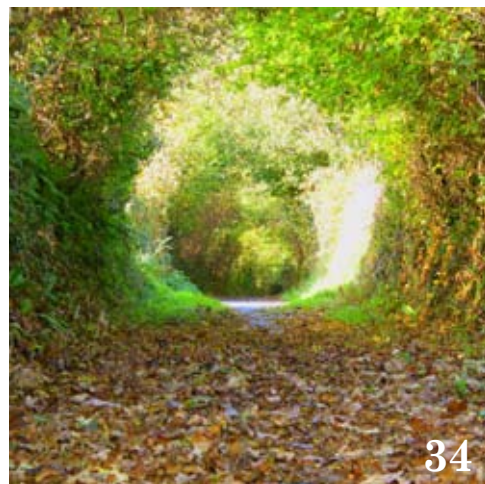
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Cover shows photography of Blue Canyon In Thailand



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



End of an Era

It was the end of an era recently when the last G-Plex III ride-on greens mower rolled off the Ransomes Jacobsen production line at the Ipswich manufacturing facility.

This was the 3,536th G-Plex built at Ipswich since production began in the UK, back in 1998. Previously the first incarnation of this ever popular mower, the GP160, was built at the Cushman plant in Lincoln, Nebraska in the USA.

Dom La Bella, Team Leader on the G-Plex production line, who has been involved with every machine that has come down the line in the past 12 years commented:

“To have produced over 3500 units is a great achievement, especially as around 40% are exported around the world with a majority going to the USA. I am very proud of the team that builds them and it’s a sad day to see a

real stalwart of greens mowing disappear.

“Mind you, we have now changed the line to take the new GP400, which is the replacement for the G-Plex and this is a machine that has taken all the best features of the old mower and added new, modern systems to provide better functionality and operator comfort. We’re confident that we’ll be producing just as many over the coming years.”



Dave’s a Pop Master

David Fellows, Head Greenkeeper at Cocks Moor Woods GC, in Solihull, won the daily Pop Master quiz on the Ken Bruce Show on Radio 2 on Tuesday December 7.

Quiz nut, Dave, who specialises in music, science and nature and other “weird things”, scored an impressive 30 out of 39, only missing out on two very obscure questions, to win his head to head, before successfully naming three Who songs in 10 seconds to upgrade from an MP3 player to a Digital Radio.

“When I phoned up I told the researcher that I’d met Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Charlton which is all true but it increased the chances of me being selected and it worked although Ken didn’t ask me about that in the end,” said Dave, who also won the same quiz nine years ago.

Upgrade for Royal Jersey

Thomson Perrett & Lobb golf course architecture practice founded by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson with partners Ross Perrett and Tim Lobb, has been appointed by Royal Jersey Golf Club to carry out an audit of the Channel Island golf course and make recommendations to enhance the playing strategy.

Tim Lobb, TPL principal,

said: "The history and traditions of Royal Jersey GC are of paramount importance to us and are a key consideration as we undertake our work over this famous links course."

Among TPL's objectives at Royal Jersey is the improvement of the bunkers. Design work begins this month with the teamworking closely with the club's Head

Greenkeeper, David Crawford.

David commented: "Thomson Perrett & Lobb are a natural choice for Royal Jersey Golf Club. Not only were they recommended to us and then, subsequently, gave a very detailed proposal, but there were also sentimental reasons attached to our decision.

"It will be the first time in 35 years that an outside team of

architects has studied the Royal Jersey layout.

"One of the key aspects of TPL's work will be to ensure the course is still a fair test of golf, particularly when you consider how advancements in equipment and golf ball technology over the past 10 years have significantly influenced how far all levels of player hit their shots."

BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP WENTWORTH, MAY 26-29

Volunteers are required for the 2011 BIGGA Support Team at this year's BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see at close hand the extensive work that goes into the preparation for a major European Tour Golf Championship.

No accommodation is provided. For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference on March 1st

The 2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie, Dunfermline on Tuesday 1 March 2011.

Speakers include Jim McKenzie, Course Superintendent, Celtic Manor; Simon Watson, of Syngenta, and Jonathan Harmer, of Farmura. Other speakers include Chris Kennedy/Jack McMillan, The Wentworth Club, Clive Nottingham, Hunters Grinders and finally Chris Haspell, Castle Stuart Golf Links. Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, tea/coffee and pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be available and posted to members in Scotland and forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J.Boyd, Regional Administrator. Tel 0141 616 3440 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Month 1

Month 2



ELECTRIC GATORS ARE TRIED AND TRUSTED

One of the National Trust’s flagship properties, Cliveden House in Buckinghamshire – once the family home of the Astors and later more infamously associated with the Profumo affair – has a newly expanded fleet of five John Deere TE electric Gator utility vehicles, supplied by dealer Golf & Turf Equipment of Wokingham in Berkshire.

Use of electric vehicles is now particularly advocated across the Trust, because of their environmental advantages in reducing both noise and fuel consumption. The TE Gators are used every day by Cliveden House Head Gardener Andrew Mudge and his garden and estate maintenance teams, covering 80 acres of amenity grass and borders, as well as the catering department for moving supplies around the public outlets on site.

“Since we bought our first electric Gator three years ago, we’ve found them to be very reliable machines, and there’s only been a problem with one battery terminal in all that time,” says Andrew Mudge. “

We now have three road going models in all in the fleet, which has effectively replaced our previous 4x4 vehicles, and on average we only need to recharge the vehicles once or twice a week.

“Once the staff got used to driving a Gator instead of a 4x4, they loved it,” adds Andrew.

“It’s the first choice now for most jobs transporting materials such as compost, small tools and equipment. You can easily load up a lawnmower too, using the tipping load bed, and it will easily pull our woodchipper along the roads and main pathways.”

Links Superintendent Leaves Trump Course

Paul O’Connor, appointed last year as Links Superintendent at the controversial Donald Trump golf course currently under construction, near Aberdeen, has left his job.

Reports in local media suggest that Paul, who was previously at Carnoustie Links, was dismissed for refusing to be part of a “campaign of intimidation” against people

who had refused to sell their land to facilitate the project.

According to the press reports Paul refused to follow orders to build a huge mound of earth behind the home of one of the local residents.

It is understood an employment tribunal is to meet.

South East Region Conference

This year the South East Regional Conference was hosted by the Sussex Section at Plumpton College, East Sussex.

Section Chairman, Rob Hudson, introduced the excellent speakers who covered a varied range of subjects on what proved an interesting and informative day, with some wide ranging and valid points being made during question time at the end of the day’s proceedings.

Speakers on the day were David Blackmur, Head of Horticulture, at Plumpton College; Jack McMillan MBE who gave us a fascinating insight into the recent changes on the West Course at Wentworth; Charles Henderson who introduced the STRI programme on organic matter management and Martin Ward, of Symbio, on extending early and late season growth.

After a substantial lunch Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, spoke on turf maintenance and disease control, followed by Kerran Daly MG who highlighted the attention to detail to the finer points that make the difference on a well presented golf course.

After question time, the Chairman thanked all the Speakers for their presentations. He also thanked members of the Trade for their support of events in the Region and Sections throughout the year, and the team at Plumpton College for looking after us so well on the day.

Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator.

Month 3

Month 4

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Seven members of the Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE) have joined an elite band of individuals who have gained the Certified Club Managers (CCM) qualification.

The Club Managers passed the seven hour examination, which focuses on 10 key club management disciplines, including financial, leadership, facility and food and beverage management, to join just 15 CMAE members to achieve the qualification.

They are: David Cook CCM, Burhill Golf Club, Surrey; Tristan Hall CCM, Aldwickbury Park/Redbourn Golf Clubs, Hertfordshire; Andy Campbell CCM, Ransomes Jacobsen Regional Manager Scotland and Ireland; Jim Callaghan CCM, Bothwell Castle Golf Club, Glasgow; Pdraig Flattery CCM, Athenry Golf Club, Galway; Christopher May CCM, Emirates/Dubai Creek Golf Clubs, Dubai, UAE; Mark Anderson CCM, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, The Lansdowne Club, London.

The seven became the latest Club Managers to pass the CCM examination, a qualification recognised as the global industry benchmark. The CCM is open to suitably experienced managers who aim to become the best in their business and wish to develop their careers.

“Congratulations to those who achieved the highest recognition available in their profession,” said Jerry Kilby, CMAE Chief Executive.

“They are now one of 15 CMAE members who have achieved the qualification since its European launch in 2007, and join many of their colleagues in the USA and Canada, where the qualification has been established for many years.”



Plugging a Hole in the Market

Jeremy Parkman, former greenkeeper and inventor of “Bunker Plug,” has been appointed Technical Sales Executive at MJ Abbott, providing a direct link between golf courses and the ground breaking product.

“At this time of year, bunker maintenance is unquestionably one of the biggest headaches for Course Managers and Greens Staff and is often one of the most complained about areas of any course. Bunker Plug is an extremely efficient and very cost effective solution to the problem of flooding. Simple and efficient, quick and easy to fit with a host of other advantages, Bunker Plug is liked by Greens Staff because it eliminates pumping and associated problems, while improving playability,” said Jeremy, who was a greenkeeper at Dale Hill GC, in Kent, until recently.

With new attachments for surface drains and other problem areas on the course being launched at Harrogate Week 2011, Bunker Plug is proving more and more popular on courses around the U.K. and with plans to launch in Europe and the U.S.A., the future looks bright.

MJ Abbott, Sole Distributors of Bunker Plug, say the innovative product deserves its place on any course.

Rebrand for Limagrain

Limagrain UK has re-branded its professional seeds portfolio as ‘LG’ (Limagrain Genetics), reflecting the global nature of its parent company’s business.

Replacing the former Advanta, Nickerson and Sharpes ranges, the LG brand now encompasses cereals, maize, oilseed rape, peas and beans, vining peas, sugar beet, forage, root and leaf varieties, together with environmental and conservation crops.

Limagrain UK is the local agricultural and amenity seeds operating company of Group Limagrain, an international co-operative group specialising in agricultural and horticultural seeds, plus cereal products.

Group Limagrain employs more than 6000 people: over 1200 in research, has subsidiaries in 38 countries, sells in over 100 countries and has an annual turnover exceeding €1.35 billion. It is owned by its 3700 farmer members.

The company has a heritage of seedsmanship, combining more than 24 names such as Sharpes, and Sinclair McGill.

Formed in 2005, Limagrain UK embarked on a five-year, £3 million investment programme which has modernised the company’s systems and production facilities, together with its breeding and technology systems.

Month 5

Month 6

Asian Turf Seminar

Registration is now open for the March 14 to 16 Sustainable Turfgrass Management in Asia 2011 conference. Visit www.asianturfseminar.com for more details or download the PDF registration form here.

The fee for the three-day conference is 8,000 THB (about \$265), including three lunches, two dinners, and the Asian Turfgrass Field Day. The educational program has been approved for 1.0 education points by GCSAA. Topics this year for the classroom and field day seminars include weed control, grass selection and management in Asia, and practical advice on improving turfgrass playing conditions. Hear from grass scientists such as Dr. Don Loch from Australia, Dr. Jim Brosnan from the University of Tennessee, Dr. Micah Woods of the Asian Turfgrass Center, Philip Russell from The R&A, along with a session of presentations from Thai superintendents.

This conference is presented by the Thai GCSA and Asian Turfgrass Center for the Thailand Golf Association, with support from The R&A.

www.asianturfseminar.com



Teeing Off for Health and Safety

Golf Course operators and employees are the latest from the local business community in County Durham to have benefited from a free health and safety awareness raising seminar.

The one day, golf themed event took place at Chester-le-Street Golf Club. It was organised to help golf course employers and employees comply with their legal responsibilities relating to health and safety at work and help reduce accident and ill-health rates.

Organised by Durham County Council's Safety and Occupational Health Team, the day concentrated on safety issues such as lone working and risk assessment, as well as practical demonstrations including safe use of green keeping vehicles and machinery, safe use of pesticides, safe use of mobile machinery such as grass cutters and administering of First Aid. As well as council officers, demonstrations were delivered by representatives from the HSE, St John's Ambulance, Jon Allbutt Associates and Toro.

Shown above, Jon Allbutt participating in an outdoor workshop on vehicle safety which covered topics such as stability on slopes, vehicle safety features and using the right equipment for the job.

DENNIS MOWERS FOCUS ON CRICKET GROUNDSMEN

Following on from a successful series of seminars in 2010, Dennis Mowers is now focusing its attention on the specific needs of Cricket groundsmen. Hosted by Uxbridge Cricket Club, in conjunction with Dennis and cricketworld.com, the specialist seminar will take place on Thursday, February 10 (9.30am registration).

The seminar will combine expert practical tips and information followed by an open forum.

Among the impressive line up of speakers is Angus Fraser, former England and Middlesex fast bowler, now Managing Director of Cricket at Middlesex County Cricket Club; Host Groundsman Vic Demain, Stuart Kerrison, Head Groundsman at Essex County Cricket Club and Paul Taylor, Deputy Head Groundsman at Northamptonshire County Cricket Club.

Seeding and fertiliser application will be addressed by Craig Spooner of Limagrain, who will offer tips and advice on how to get the best looking and performing sward.

To register contact Roger Moore at Dennis on 01332 824777.

Month 7

Month 8