



New Role For Kerran

Kerran Daly MG, has joined Greensward Sports Consultancy in the position of Senior Consultant.

Kerran will be responsible for development of the consultancy arm of the business, serving golf clubs, bowling clubs and sports facilities in all parts of the UK.

Kerran, a Past Chairman of BIGGA, brings a wealth of experience to the sector. He is very pleased to be working with Andrew Boyce, Managing Director, Greensward Sports Consultancy.

I am happy to be re-united with Andrew after having worked together during the early part of Andrew's career. I look forward to my association with such a go-ahead company and it will compliment very well the work I am doing in training and assessing young greenkeepers through the NDH apprenticeship scheme.'

'I have gained much throughout my time in greenkeeping and relish the opportunity to put something back through greenkeeper training and by assisting Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers to maximise their potential in delivering high quality provision.'

For further information visit www.greenswardsports.co.uk

Allett Mowers Set to Grow

Allett Mowers is set to become the largest manufacturer of pedestrian petrol-engined cylinder mowers in Britain following its acquisition from Bosch Lawn and Garden Ltd of the drawings, plant and equipment, tooling and intellectual property necessary for the manufacture of the entire range of former Atco and Suffolk Punch petrol and electric lawn mowers.

Included in the purchase is specialist equipment for the manufacture of helical cutting cylinders, enabling Allett to be self-sufficient for the first time in a key component of cylinder-type mowing machines, which have been produced by Allett since the mid 1960s.

It does not include the Atco and Suffolk Punch brand

names nor the individual mower model names which have been retained by Bosch Lawn and Garden.

As a result, all of Bosch's former Atco and Suffolk Punch pedestrian cylinder mowers will be manufactured and sold in future under the Allett brand name with appropriate new model designations to be given by Allett to each mower in the range prior to their launch ahead of the 2012 grass-cutting season.

Other than that, all of the former Atco and Suffolk Punch petrol and electric pedestrian cylinder mowers to be manufactured from October 2011 onwards at Allett's production centre in Hixon, Staffordshire, will be to the same design and specification as their forerunners, including

the green and gold livery.

Allett plans to sell its new line of domestic and semi-professional cylinder mowers through a network of independent garden machinery dealers, selected for their ability to provide first-class sales and service support to customers.

"The acquisition of the design rights and manufacturing capability for the former Atco and Suffolk Punch pedestrian mowers is a natural extension of the Allett brand," commented Austin Jarrett, Managing Director of Allett Mowers' parent company, Turfmach Machinery, said: "We will be looking to hire up to 20 new staff, which is good news for our local area and for British manufacturing."

100 years of Greenkeeping Associations

In 2012 it will be 100 years since the first Association was formed.

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by? Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored

away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early years, but anything you have would be worth considering for our new

feature, Back in time, on pages 32-33, as well as a possible display at BTME 2012. Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman, elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Roof Top Garden Achieves Honours at Chelsea Flower Show

Lindum's Wildflower & Sedum Mat has helped Dr. Nigel Dunnett, of the University of Sheffield, achieve Chelsea honours for the second time.

Last seen at the show in 2009 on his Silver-Gilt winning Future, Nature garden, Wildflower & Sedum Mat graced the roof of the garden studio, the main feature of Nigel's RBC New Wild Garden, which scooped another Silver-Gilt medal this year.

Billed as Chelsea's first full-size 'Rain Garden' the green roof, a mixture of wild flowers, sedum, herbs and flowering perennials grown on a biodegradable felt mat is designed to take in rain water and re-distribute it. "It's all about soaking up all the water within the garden," says Nigel. "Rain goes from the green roof to a pool, on to another pool and eventually soaks into the garden."

Lindum's Managing Director, Stephen Fell, was delighted.

"I was lucky enough to visit the show the day that the medals were announced and felt very proud to be associated with the garden," he said.

Following the Chelsea Flower Show, the RBC New Wild Garden will find a permanent home at Slimbridge, the headquarters of the Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust.

Lindum's Wildflower Meadow Turf (a mixture of wild flowers and grasses also grown on a biodegradable felt mat) featured on the Hae-Woo-So Artisan garden which took Gold and was awarded 'Best in Category.'



New Ransomes Record for Lottie and Joy for Ipswich Golf Club Juniors

Eight Juniors aged 12 to 18 years old from Ipswich Golf Club visited Ransomes Jacobsen to practice and play a couple of rounds on the turf equipment manufacturer's three-hole, par 9 golf course.

They were accompanied by Sheila Laws, chair of the Junior section, together with coach, Kevin Lovelock, and parents. Lottie Whyman, who plays off 17, equalled the course record of 8 and became the first female in the three years that the course has been open, to match the record.

Commenting at the end of the visit, Sheila Laws said, "We are indebted to Richard Comely and his team at Ransomes Jacobsen for accommodating us and we all had a very enjoyable time. The course may be just three holes, but it's a great test of accurate golf and the Junior's really took to it. The third green is almost an island and is a true test, whatever your age or ability, so Lottie's achievement in equalling the course record was remarkable."





Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the month

Another busy month

Jim Croxton CEO, has been in post for over a month now, and he has taken up the role with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. I'm sure as he will confirm he is not short of things to do.

I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Members and the Board to thank Tracey Maddison, who has been acting as General Manager during the interim period.

She has done a fantastic job ensuring that BIGGA keeps on track, and has shown great initiative and leadership during this time.

Tracey is continuing in this role while we undertake the strategic review and will be a great help in enabling Jim to get settled and introduced to all the stakeholders of BIGGA.

Forming productive working relationships with you all is a vital task.

I'd also like to sincerely thank all the team at BIGGA HQ and the Regional Administrators, who have continued to work tirelessly through this period, with fewer staff than we have had previously, sharing the extra work across the teams.

Well, the months are flying by now.

Just as it seems I was looking forward to summer, by the time you read this, the longest day has come and gone! While there is still a huge amount of summer work to do, minds are already turning to and preparing for the countdown and preparation for winter.

So far this year business has been good at my own course, Elmwood, and I've heard similar reports from many others.

Due to the good weather we are very busy with golfers, but as with everyone else, it's quite challenging dealing with the extended dry spell.

I know some have had it worse than others, but we thankfully have had intermittent heavy showers, which help, without impacting too much on golf.

"Make hay while the sun shines", is the proverb, and in the current economic climate, that's something we are very aware of, trying to maximise income, to give the business the best chance of balancing against lower winter income.

Our challenge as ever, is preparing the course the best we can, and nurturing and caring for it, while it takes such a high level of punishment.

Hopefully more golfers will have fonder memories of their golf this year in the good weather, and clubs will benefit from an increase in participation.

I'd like to congratulate Jim McKenzie MBE, who received this award recently in the Queen's Birthday Honours' List.

Jim and his team played a vital part in the recent European success at the Ryder Cup, as we all know, but this was not achieved on the day alone and was due to the years of preparation and improvements they made to the course, and lessons learned from successfully delivering the Wales Open for many years.

His inspirational leadership, and sheer tenacity are known to us all, but it was a delight to see this more widely recognised.

I had another busy month, on behalf of the Association.

At a meeting with the R&A we continue to explore how we can support one another's objectives.

Our challenge as ever, is preparing the course the best we can, and nurturing and caring for it, while it takes such a high level of punishment. Hopefully more golfers will have fonder memories of their golf this year in the good weather, and clubs will benefit from an increase in participation

I attended a CMAE seminar in Scotland on Effective Governance, and the GTC-R&A workshop at Auchterarder Golf Club, which was very informative on the benefits of Sustainable Development within Golf, and how that is progressing through the collaborative efforts both locally through the Golf Unions and the Scottish Golf Environment Group, and internationally through the R&A and Golf Environment Organisation.

Thanks to the courtesy of Toro/Lely and Golf Environment Organisation I was invited to attend Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship on the Saturday.

The course was in fantastic condition and a testament to a dedicated, skilled team led by Chris Kennedy.

You can tell a real professional, they make it all look so easy on the day.

I know how much planning, preparation, and sheer hard work there would have been during a long run up, through a tough dry spring, and the massive efforts behind the scenes.

The Support Team of volunteers from BIGGA was on hand throughout to help.

Well done to all of them for volunteering.

I'm sure the experience was well worth the effort.

Thanks also to Sherriff Amenity and Scotts Professional (now Evertis) for their hospitality at the Corporate Event held at De Vere Oulton Hotel and Golf Resort.

Jim Brown and the team presented a great venue, and it was a good opportunity to introduce Jim Croxton to many of our members and trade supporters.

On behalf of our GTC Board member, Tony Smith, who was on annual leave, I attended the GTC AGM, and introduced them to our new CEO.

This was followed by a one day workshop

for Quality Assured Education Centres and Providers.

Unfortunately I had to leave early as I rather clumsily broke one of my teeth trying to open a plastic packet.

(Not a pretty sight).

I beat a hasty retreat home, (a long drive) to seek treatment, as much for the pain as the indignity of my smile!

Lastly, the networking opportunities through BIGGA continue to expand, and we are keeping pace with modern Social Media.

Log on to Facebook or LinkedIn, search for BIGGA and take advantage of this modern phenomenon.

See you there!

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Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

For many years one of the key aims and roles of the GTC has been to maintain a partnership with selected colleges who have the human and physical resources to deliver greenkeeper education and training courses which lead to nationally recognised qualifications, all of which are Government accredited.

The greenkeeping sector of golf has always stayed within the Government's framework of qualifications, including the very successful apprenticeship scheme.

The Government's funding support, accessed by the colleges over many years, has benefited employers and learners alike and the improvement in the maintenance and management of golf courses is there for all to see.

During the early 90's the transition from classroom delivered qualifications to involving the workplace, the GTC invested heavily in raising the awareness to employers, Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers on their responsibility in the delivery of the new vocational qualifications.

Colleges, GTC and private companies have all played their part to develop, maintain and deliver these work based skills and knowledge based qualifications over the years.

The highly trained greenkeepers we are now seeing come through the system, is something the sector, as a whole should be proud of.

Assessor training has helped with the delivery of the work based qualifications but equally the flexibility of some colleges has played its part to form a very strong partnership between golf club employers, greenkeeping students and the colleges.

We must also remember that while the changes were happening on the most popular qualifications, the more "academic" qualifications such as the Higher National Certificates and Diplomas were

also constantly being reviewed and updated to reflect the changes within the industry.

Many regular readers of this column will know the GTC is keen to ensure there are courses and qualifications for everybody working on golf courses, from achieving qualifications without leaving the workplace, to the more traditional part-time delivery methods where the student attends a college for x number of days or weeks.

The apprenticeship is still by far the most popular route that suits the employers and students, not only because in many cases the training is subsidised but the programme reflects the skills and knowledge required to maintain the golf course!

The GTC will continue to work with the various bodies to maintain the occupational standards and various qualifications however it has never been more important that employers look to the GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to provide the courses to suit the business and staff development.

Why, I hear you say, should we not use the college down the road?

There are numerous colleges which offer 'sports turf' qualifications, many of which are finding the current economic climate difficult.

The GTC is hearing some very worrying news coming out of very established Further Education Colleges....staff redundancies imminent... some no longer offering greenkeeper training... all worrying times for those involved and a situation the GTC is monitoring very closely.

All of this is why the GTC introduced its Quality Assured Scheme in September of last year.

I should explain at this stage the use of the word Centre as opposed to college.

Our Scottish friends will be familiar with a private company based in Glasgow, GOSTA Training, which for many years has served the sector well by delivering

In Brief

David explains the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme and why it is important the golf club employers and greenkeepers support Centres and Training Providers who have successfully met the criteria and are therefore GTC Quality Assured.

the range of vocationally approved qualifications.

They, along with colleges are collectively known by the Awarding Bodies as CENTRES.

It is therefore the reason why the GTC has adopted this title and for all formal qualification programmes including apprenticeships it is these Centres that should be contacted.

Some Centres have been very innovative in the delivery of courses to compliment the range of qualifications with modern technology now an option many greenkeeping students, of all ages, are opting to use.

Eportfolio, on-line learning as well as the more traditional day and block release certainly giving employers and students every opportunity to have well educated, trained and qualified staff.

The new category, Quality Assured Training Providers is open to individuals and private companies who are looking of offer sector specific training courses that align to the occupational standards for greenkeeping and golf course management.

The QA Training Providers have a vital role through workshops, seminars, short courses and I am pleased that the STRI, TORO, Jon Allbutt Associates, Laurence Pithie Turf Master One and Cutting Edge Training have all met the GTC criteria.

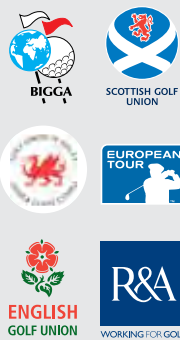
While not offering the formal qualifications the QA Training Providers will compliment the work of the QA Centres and Certificates can be achieved in some cases.

In summary, the GTC will continue to maintain the Quality Assured Scheme and through ongoing monitoring of its Centres and Training Providers we sincerely trust the golf clubs and greenkeepers support those who have met the GTC's criteria.

For an up to date list of GTC quality assured centres and training providers visit www.the-gtc.co.uk or call the GTC direct on 01347 838640.



The GTC is funded by:



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Learning & Development

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



The planning and organising season is upon us, with the main focus being on the preparation of the Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012 education programme, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award as well as several ongoing projects. It's a bit of a juggling act, but as long as we don't drop any of the balls, it should all be just fine!

Bursaries from City and Guilds

While having a search on the Government website www.direct.gov.uk for free courses, I came across some information on Bursaries available from City and Guilds.

It appears that they offer a small number of bursaries each year to people who would like to study for a City & Guilds qualification.

The bursaries can be used for costs like course fees, learning materials, childcare or travel.

Applications are considered in April and September each year.

For further information visit www.cityandguilds.com/42758.

The BIGGA Open Championship Support Team 2011

Rachael Duffy will once again be at The Open, on hand to help coordinate the support team made up of approximately 65 greenkeepers and staff.

Under the management of Scott MacCallum, Rachael ensures that everyone has a bed, a meal, a uniform and the correct credentials, as well as ensuring that they are all transported to and from the venue safely and on time.

The BIGGA Marquee is Rachael's home for the week where she spends much of her time meeting and greeting visitors as well as looking after the Support Team, making sure that everyone knows their schedule and that they are where they should be at the right time!

If you are going to the 151st Open Championship at Royal St George's, Sandwich, Kent, why not pop into the BIGGA Marquee to say hello to the BIGGA staff that are in attendance? You'll be sure of a warm and smiley welcome from Rachael (who'll also be able to answer any of those L&D questions you may have!).

Good luck goes to all the team at Royal St George's as well as to the volunteer support team – enjoy your week.



Field Guide Updates

Two of the existing Field Guides will be receiving an update.

Main Grasses Found in Golf Course Rough and the Tree and Shrubs on the Golf Course guides will be enhanced with the addition of a number of extra pages.

It is hoped that the first update



The funding provided by Gold 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 Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.



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will be launched in September, with the second one following in January.

Once available, members will be able to request the additional pages from the Learning and Development Department.

CPD

Continuing Professional Development (insert CPD logo)

The 2010/2011 CPD year ended on 30 June and barring a few late comers we will be awarding 99 Certificate's and four first Diploma's of Continuing Professional Development.

As CPD scheme is now 11 years old we will, once again, be awarding second Diplomas of Continuing Professional Development, this year to two Members (all numbers correct at the time of writing this article).

Certificates will be sent out in the post later this month, with the Diploma's being presented at Harrogate Week 2012.



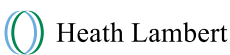
Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Ben Keppy – BSc Sportsturf Online

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



Gold Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Andrew Turnbull; Ian MacMillan MG; Ian Morrison

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



MARKETING MANAGER APPOINTED

Bernhard's has appointed Sarah Lashbrooke as its new Marketing Communications Manager.

A graduate with a background in both marketing communications and customer relationships, Sarah brings a wide variety of knowledge and experience with many parallels to the golf and turf industry, trade associations and key relationships.

"We are very much looking forward to Sarah joining the team. We feel Sarah will be an excellent fit with Bernhard and the industry," said Peter Wood, Chief Operating Officer.

Service Makes the Difference at Aldeburgh

A range of new John Deere golf course equipment has been supplied to Aldeburgh Golf Club in Suffolk by local dealer Tomlinson Groundcare.

The latest package deal brings the total Deere fleet at Aldeburgh to 25 machines.

Mark Broughton MG has been Course Manager for nearly 13 years at Aldeburgh, "There was a desperate need for investment in new machinery when I arrived, so over the years we've managed to build up a first-class fleet, and now replace machines on a rolling programme."

The newest 2500E hybrid greens mower

means that two are now used on the greens, one on the tees and one older 2500A model for other work.

"It's nice to have one of these mowers permanently dedicated to the 'bits and pieces' jobs," said Mark.

"At Aldeburgh we don't use groomers on any of the greens triple mowers. This is because the grass here is predominantly made up of slow growing fescues, and we don't want to knock hell out of them. Minimising disturbance and heights of cut generally no lower than 5mm are important features of our greens maintenance programme."

Blade Runner

A single set of Toro EdgeMax blades has clocked up 1,800 hours of cutting time before being changed earlier this season.

Stuart Hall, Workshop Manager at Bedfordshire's John O'Gaunt Golf Club, finally changed his bottom blades earlier this spring after four seasons of faultless cutting with his Toro Reelmaster 5610-D fairway mower, which comes fitted with EdgeMax blades as standard.

"We only changed the blades because we wanted a slightly more aggressive angle of cut come the new growing season," says Stuart, who is responsible for machinery maintenance at the 36-hole course.

"If it hadn't been for that, they could have lasted a bit longer. It's amazing to think that, with recommended grinding, they've done a whole four seasons - I'm very impressed with them."





MAJOR CONTRACT FOR SPEEDCUT

Speedcut Contractors is carrying out one of the biggest football pitches construction jobs in London, developing a five hectare site for Kidbrooke Playing Fields in Greenwich.

The Kidbrooke site is home to Long Lane Junior Football Club – the largest junior football club in London and one of the largest in Britain.

It has more than 30 teams from boys (under sevens) and girls (under 10s) to senior teams for men and women.

The new pitches project was a challenge for Speedcut because of varying levels on the undulating

ground but staff used their laser-guided Caterpillar D6 to create level pitches.

After stripping topsoil, regrading the subsoil and laser levelling to FA-accepted gradients, the Speedcut team installed a complete primary drainage system after replacing the topsoil and cultivating.

More than 2,000 tonnes of sand was then applied to the surface to ameliorate the topsoil.

“The dry weather has been a problem because there is currently no irrigation on the site,” said Speedcut Contracts Manager, Kevin Smith.



A Lifetime with the Bernhard Group

Chris Whiting, production electrician at the Bernhard factory, retired at the end of April. Joining Atterton and Ellis in 1962 as an apprentice, Chris tells of how he was called “boy” when he started, and for at least the following 20 years! Chris, pictured above left with Stephen Bernhard, now retires under the title of “pensioner”.

Celebrating his retirement with a party at the local Haverhill Golf Club, Chris was given a fond farewell from the whole of the current staff, as well as best wishes from overseas and past colleagues he worked with over his lifetime of service.

What's your number?

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

Name:
Neil Thompson

Company:
Border Sports Services Ltd

Position:
Director

How long have you been in the industry?
10 Years

How did you get into it?
Having just got married in 2000, I wanted a more secure future and my dad (who started the business over 18 years ago) was wanting to lighten the workload a bit.

What other jobs have you done?
I have always worked in a sales orientated environment, my last job was selling furniture, before that I worked for an Agricultural Merchant.

What do you like about your current job?
The variety of people you meet and the challenges that are presented on a daily basis, and the satisfaction of finding a solution to them.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
Most recently that people are becoming much more price conscious, and are looking for value for money, with tightening budgets. Something we always try to provide.

What do you do in your spare time?
Play golf, follow football and the British Touring Car Championship.

Where do you see yourself in 10 year's time?
Still providing our customers with the level of service they require, and growing the business.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?
I am fortunate to have met and dealt with many customers and suppliers over the last 10 years, and count quite a few as good friends.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?
30, my birthday!

Pick a number
30

Neil has picked Paul Moreton of British Seed Houses

Southern belle

Royal St George's is the most southerly of The Open Championship rota courses and as Scott MacCallum found out a thermal vest is not often a requirement



Royal St George's is by far and away the most southerly-based course on the Open Championship rota and if you'd expected it therefore to experience the hottest, driest weather of all the courses, judging by recent times you'd probably be right.

When it last hosted The Open in 2003 conditions were warm and dry and the course was hard and fast. Six weeks out from this year's Open the same warm, dry conditions exist and, again, hard, fast conditions seem inevitable.

"We've had 21 mm of rain since February and 16 of those came in February itself with only five since March," said Acting Head Greenkeeper, Graham Royden, as we spoke in the team's Mess Room, 58 days ahead of the Championship.

With rough, literally as well as metaphorically, thin on the ground, substantial and consistent rain was needed within the next two weeks to offer any chance of achieving rough 12-18 inches in height.

"That would increase the golfing test and give us definition down the fairways and offer the chance of seeing the tall fescue blowing in the wind. But if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen and the R&A are relaxed at the moment. It looks like we will have hard, fast conditions and the R&A can adjust the pin positions to make the course tougher if need be. The greatest defence we have is the wind and I'm sure it will be a good challenge no matter what," said Graham.

One man who may not be too unhappy if the status quo is maintained is Tiger Woods, whose drive off the 1st tee on the opening day last time round was never seen again... at least not within the five minutes permitted search time!

Graham moved up from Deputy Head Greenkeeper to Acting Head Greenkeeper last October and with his first task being to prepare for an Open Championship the phrase "hitting the ground running" couldn't be any more apt.



MAIN ABOVE: Trying to counter the drought
INSET ABOVE: St George's uses its namesake flag on their pins
LEFT: The Maiden's Bunker
RIGHT: The iconic St George's Starter's Hut

Head Greenkeeper at Royal St George's. Add The Open to the mix and it's just incredible. To be in the same bracket as others who have prepared a course for an Open is a real privilege," said Graham.

"I inherited a good course – the basics are all there and I will keep the continuity that has taken us to where we are going, but I just feel that we could push the bar a little bit higher when it comes to consistency, grass content and textures of the greens."

This goal has been made all the more possible thanks to the work Graham has been doing with the STRI and the new technology now