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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Credit where credit is due

The news that Celtic Manor's Jim McKenzie has been awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours was as welcome, and richly deserved, as it was surprising.

I say surprising for no other reason than it is often the case that those who are most deserving tend to be overlooked. That is particularly the case in a profession that often sees its best work carried out with nothing other than the odd fox, deer or blackbird for an audience.

For the first time I can recall, the Ryder Cup showed greenkeeping in the much prized "high profile-positive" combo. If it hadn't been for Jim and his team - 65 Celtic Manor staff, supplemented by 71 volunteers drawn from all over the UK and beyond - the 2010 Ryder Cup would not have been completed, and the world of golf knew it.

Not only would that have deprived golf lovers of the spectacular action provided by both sets of players, particularly during Monday's dramatic singles, it would also have gone down as a black day for the game, and for Wales.

The Ryder Cup was the biggest golf event of the year. It's actually the third biggest sporting event in the world nowadays after the World Cup and the Olympics and for it not to have been completed would have been an absolute disaster.

As the biggest sporting event in Wales' history, the disappointment of an abandonment would have cut right through the nation's heart.

Jim is very modest and quick to deflect the achievements of the week onto his team but speak with anyone who was involved and they will tell you that Jim was absolutely immense – calm, organised and on top of every possible

scenario, even if he was quaking just a bit on the inside. In other words, it was his leadership, in circumstances and under a pressure no other greenkeeper has ever experienced before, which carried everyone through.

Since those momentous days last October, Jim has been very generous with his time. He has spoken at many BIGGA Seminars at National, Regional and Section level, describing what happened during the Ryder Cup and passing on advice and information that will help the hundreds of greenkeepers who have had the privilege of listening to him.

In much the same way that you can be sure Jim learned much in his early greenkeeping days from attending talks given by the senior Head Greenkeepers of the time, while he was working at Hagg's Castle, Cawder and Renfrew before he moved south to Wentworth and then Celtic Manor.

And that is the beauty of BIGGA and its wonderful members. To have someone at the very top of the profession, so willing to share experiences and information with his fellow members – in his own time and often at his own expense – is not something that is found in many areas of life. In other industries, a seminar session to listen to someone of Jim's standing could cost as much as a greenkeeper's weekly wage.

Jim – You are a top man.
Congratulations!

Scott MacCallum
Editor

JULY 2011

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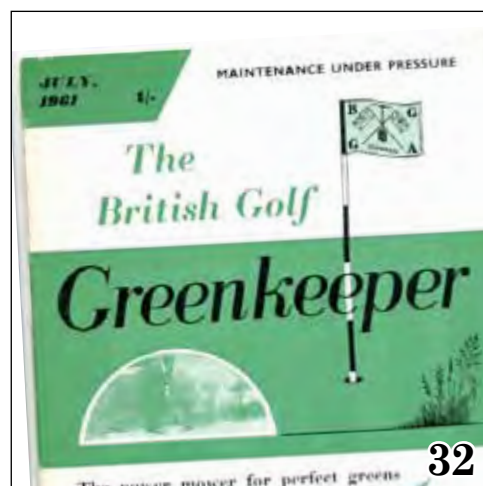
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GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe



Partnership Looks To The Future

The Golf Club Management Partnership, which comprises BIGGA, the PGA and the GCMA, is working towards identifying the different types and levels of management qualifications that currently exist.

Among the aims of the partnership is to develop a framework that will help managers and golf clubs progress their skills and identify any gaps in the current provision.

Dr Kyle Phillpots, PGA Director of Education and Career Development, who chaired a recent meeting at the PGA's Belfry headquarters, believes creating a framework will be welcomed by the golf industry.

"The aim of all three parties is to work together to maximise the value and effectiveness of golf club management through shared learning, professional development and the promotion of best practice," he said.

"We will also consult with employers and deployers of GCMP members to ensure that we meet the needs of the golf industry.

"Discussions on the qualifications are not finalised but they reflect the partnership's commitment to a coordinated approach to the management of golf facilities."

Andrew Mellon, Chairman of BIGGA, added, "The group is exploring positive ways of collaborating which will ensure that resources are used in the best possible way, thereby minimising duplication, sharing good practice, ensuring consistency and enabling knowledge transfer.

"The Partnership provides each Association with a better understanding of the role their

respective members play, and by gaining a mutual respect for each, can encourage and demonstrate the benefits of closer team working within our workplaces. We all play an important part in achieving the successful operation of our golf facilities."

Keith Lloyd, GCMA Chief Executive, said: "The GCMA has been providing a pathway to education for its members for over 20 years now and today runs a structured programme of comprehensive introductory courses to golf club management, a university based certificate course, plus regional training opportunities and a biennial national conference event featuring world class international speakers.

"In addition, it has built up an electronic library of 600 plus advisory documents in this same period, which acts as a valuable 'bank' of information to both GCMA members and the clubs they manage.

"There is no doubt, that the coupling of the expertise and experience of GCMA members along with the modern day PGA Professional and BIGGA Course Manager via their respective Associations will benefit golf clubs as a whole."

The GCMP was formally signed at Turnberry in 2009 with the aim of helping UK golf clubs to operate more effectively and efficiently by fostering closer ties between PGA Professionals, Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and Club Managers and Secretaries.

The three bodies represent more than 16,000 members employed in the golf industry.



Scotts Rebranded

Since the ICL Group's purchase of the Scotts Miracle Gro Company in February, a new name has been created for the global professional business: Everris.

The accompanying press release stated: "Representing the term 'Ever Rising', the name Everris is symbolic of the new company's commitment to further enhance the technologies, products and services it offers to horticulture, agriculture and turf & amenity professionals worldwide. In addition to its English meaning, the name also represents the French, Italian and Spanish terms for "green"—"vert" and "verde."

Everris will continue developing the range of products which includes Osmocote, Peters, Universol, Levington, Humax, Sierraform GT, Sierrablen Plus and Agroblen.

According to Everris CEO, Fred Bosch, the company's new tagline, "Driven by Innovation, Inspired by Nature", underlines its ultimate goal to bring professional products and innovative, sustainable solutions to ornamental horticulture growers, turf managers, landscapers and farmers. "Everris combines the technical expertise and resources of both Scotts and ICL, making us well-poised to take our innovative spirit to the next level," he said.

MBE for Jim McKenzie



Celtic Manor's Jim McKenzie has been awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, in recognition of the miraculous work he and his greenkeeping team achieved during last year's Ryder Cup as well as for his 30 years involvement in the greenkeeping industry.

In being awarded the MBE, Jim, Director of Golf Courses at The Celtic Manor Resort, joins a select band of greenkeepers who have been similarly honoured for their

achievements including Walter Woods BEM, Jack McMillan MBE and Jimmy MacDonald MBE.

"I found out on May 11 when the letter arrived through the door and I was totally overwhelmed. I told my team this morning that it was for all the guys who worked at the Ryder Cup, not just the Celtic Manor team, but all of the volunteers who helped us during the week itself," said Jim.

"To be honest I'm a little embarrassed by the whole thing because there were times

when I just stood back and watched, in awe at what they were achieving," said Jim, who added that he also saw the honour as being for those people who had helped him over the years, some of whom had left the industry and some of them who had passed away."

Jim started his greenkeeping career at Hagg's Castle GC under Chris Kennedy, before moving to Cawder GC to work under Alistair Connell. His first Head Greenkeeper's job was at Renfrew GC where he took over from George Barr. He moved to Wentworth, rejoining Chris Kennedy in 1990, before moving to Celtic Manor in 1993 where he managed the construction of three 18 hole courses including the 2010 Course, the Ryder Cup venue, and was extremely active in bringing the match to South Wales.

"I would never have dreamt that one day I would win such an honour but it is a measure of the huge strides the profession, and BIGGA, has made that it is now possible," said Jim.

During the Ryder Cup week itself there was 55% of the expected monthly rainfall in two days before and during the match and it was only through Jim's 130 strong team working through the night that the match was able to proceed, albeit being the first ever Ryder Cup to finish on a Monday.

European Captain, Colin Montgomerie, proclaimed them as the first ever greenkeeping team which could honestly claim to have helped win the Ryder Cup.

Jim believes although no-one has told him such, that the nomination came from a number of people and organisations from Newport and South Wales and from within the industry.

He expects to be presented with the medal sometime in the summer, although he has not yet been told where it will happen.

PGA Pro's Charitable Efforts Win Toby Sunderland Award



Phil Harrison, Wildwood Golf & Country Club's Managing Director and PGA professional, has won the Toby Sunderland award in recognition of his charitable efforts. After raising thousands of pounds for numerous causes close to the Surrey club and further a field, Phil collected the accolade at the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth. He also received £1,000 for a charity of his choice.

"When I took over Wildwood it did not have a good reputation in the local community so I wanted to engage with the community and got involved with the youth, schools and the elderly."

Phil has decided to split the £1,000 for charity between two local charities – The Jigsaw Trust and Muntham House School.

Shown left, Phil Harrison (centre) receives the Toby Sunderland Award from PGA Captain Eddie Bullock (left) and Warren Sunderland (right). *Courtesy of Andy Redington at Getty Images.*



BMW Support Team at Wentworth

Once again a full contingent of BIGGA members, some having travelled from all parts of the country, were on hand to offer support on all four days for the European Tour's flagship event the BMW PGA Championships held at Wentworth.

The weather was kind again this year although rather cooler with a brisk wind blowing on all four days.

Play was delayed for 45 minutes on Thursday because of the close proximity of thunder and lightning, that fortunately did not amount to much, but did cause the inconvenience for the final players out on the course who had to complete their rounds early the following morning.

This year's event again attracted record crowds on all four days who enjoyed some excellent golf on the West Course with a few modifications having been carried out over

the past year including the much publicised changes to the 18th green.

Chris Kennedy and his team, as always, produced a superb golf course, magnificently prepared and appreciated by all, with absolutely no help from the weather and the distinct lack of rainfall experienced by all greenkeepers in the south east following the long cold winter.

Visitors to the BIGGA tent included Past Chairmen Paul Worster and Kenny MacKay.

The popular winner of this year's event was Luke Donald who won the first hole of a play-off beating Lee Westwood whose third shot to the 18th found water, enabling Donald to replace him as number one spot in the world rankings.

Words: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator.

Photograph: Arnold Phipps-Jones



Appointment

Headland's new Regional Technical Manager, Andy Ward has a wealth of hands-on experience with a background encompassing both Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

Starting his career, 17 years ago as a trainee Greenkeeper at Overstone Park Golf Club he moved to become Assistant Groundsman at Northamptonshire County Cricket Ground before rising to Head Groundsman at Slough Sports Club. Latterly in sales, Andy will be responsible for serving existing customers and promoting new business in Kent, Sussex and South East London.

"Headland is a company that is well perceived and has a fantastic knowledge base that is passed on to customers," he said.



New BLEC Sandfiller

BLEC's new GKB Sandfiller in action at Crow Wood Golf Club, Muirhead, Scotland, watched by groundmen and greenkeepers

A new tractor-mounted scarifier and sandslitter which removes and collects spoil and fills grooves with sand in one pass has been on a demonstration tour with BLEC Managing Director Gary Mumby.

The Sandfiller, manufactured by GKB Machines, has been specifically designed for aerating and draining sports turf. "This is an ideal

machine for sports areas that previously had to be treated twice by using at least two machines," said Gary.

"One would cut the grooves and another would apply the sand. Now this operation can be carried out by the Sandfiller in one pass on the back of a tractor."

Gary launched BLEC (now BLEC GLOBAL) in 1986 with wife, Sue, and was previously a landscaper who realised he could design and manufacture specialist machines for the grounds care industry.

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Essex Victorious in Toro Challenge Match



A crowd of over 70 - including the players - were present at Upton Park (capacity 35,300) the home of West Ham United for the challenge football match organised by Lely UK and sponsored by Toro between Greenkeepers from the Essex Section and the Sussex Section.

There was a rumour that the Essex team had been in strict training and had organised several practice matches in the weeks leading up to the game.

This certainly was evident, but only after a slow start and an early chance for Simon Wells, the Sussex forward, who hit the upright with a powerful shot after a good run from the right side.

After this Essex started to take control of the match and after 20

minutes were two up with man of the match, Liam Close, scoring both. Five minutes later Essex had added another well taken goal by Jamie Blagdon and went three up. Against the run of play Sussex were awarded a dubious penalty, duly dispatched by Rob Hudson.

The second half started with Sussex pressure rewarded by a second goal after 20 minutes.

Despite having more possession for long periods of the game Sussex were unable to break down the Essex team, marshalled by Antony Kirwan in the midfield, and the introduction of Martin Forrester who came on as substitute, with his pace and experience to steady his side.

In the final minutes Dave Ansell, the Sussex goalkeeper, made a

great save from a well hit powerful shot.

Final Score Essex 3 Sussex 2

After the match players and supporters enjoyed the hospitality in the Lyle and Greenwood Room at the top of the Bobby Moore stand where Sales Manager of Lely, Jeff Anguige, presented the trophy to the winning Essex Team.

Special thanks to Larry Pearman for making all the arrangements and organising the day and to David Cole, from JSM, for his ball boy duties throughout the match.

All commented on the immaculate condition of the pitch, without a blemish after a long season.

Hopefully this event will take place next year with more Sections involved.

STRI's New Website Makes Sense For Sport



STRI has launched a new website, restructured by individual sport to reflect the needs of clients in the sports turf industry.

The new website focuses on providing information on STRI's services, specific to each sport or client. "With such a vast range of clients, it was important to design a website where clients could easily find information on STRI's services related to their sport or company," said Carolyn Beadsmoore, Head of Sales & Marketing.

More than 2,500 clients contact STRI every year to get advice on the development or management of their sports surfaces. "Each

of our clients is looking for a particular solution; this could be the design and construction of a new pitch for a major stadium, help with managing diseases on a golf green, support in setting up environmental planning and projects or setting up research trials for product manufacturers and distributors. The new user-friendly website enables this," added Carolyn.

The new design was created by Tebays design agency, based in Leeds, and the STRI website has already been entered in the DADI (Drum Award for the Digital Industries) Awards 2011.

SPRAYER TESTING ACHIEVES TARGET

The National Sprayer Testing Scheme has again achieved its government agreed target of testing sprayers covering 85% of the sprayed area of the UK.

To achieve the actual figure of 85.7% over 14200 sprayers were tested.

"This is a magnificent achievement, over 14,000 sprayer tests per year is the highest number achieved since NSTS started in 2003. It's very much down to the scheme becoming a recognised part of UK agriculture, a requirement of crop assurance schemes and of course our band of testers," said NSTS Manager, Duncan Russell.

Results from tests show that repairs and rectifications were required on 62.3% of machines with leaks and drips, hoses, worn nozzles and faulty pressure gauges being the main reasons, these have remained stable over recent years.

"The NSTS test is like a car MOT in that failure items are repaired and rectified before the machine goes back to work, that way we can be confident that machines are working efficiently and safely for the environment and the operator," said Duncan.