



NEW ENHANCE R 'PRIME' JOINS RANGE

Vitax Amenity launched Enhance R Prime, a zero phosphate formulation which swells the ranks of their Enhance R range of fertilisers, winner of the IOG's "Best New and Innovative Product" award in the Fertiliser and Pesticides category.

Specifically developed for Turf Managers who require a zero phosphate product Enhance R Prime 5+0+10+4Fe+2MgO+TE shares all the benefits of its fellow formulations, 'Enhance R Spring and Summer' and 'Enhance R Autumn and Winter', being a 4-in-one combo of conventional fertiliser, slow release organic fertiliser, Amino-Sorb R and a natural bacterium.

Commercial Director for Vitax, Daniel Wilkinson says that the expansion of the Enhance R range is indicative of company policy and future goals: "The last year has seen us expanding all divisions of the business. We developed the Briteliner Arrow transfer wheel linemarkers for Vitax Supaturf, embarked on a new joint venture with Vitax Grower and Unitrade International to develop trade in Turkey and the Middle East, and have expanded our Retail division with new home and garden products and new additions to our famous Nippon range."

For further info visit:
www.vitax.co.uk

New Fleet for Rochford Hundred Golf Club



The machinery fleet at Rochford Hundred Golf Club in Essex is now almost all John Deere, with new arrivals for 2011 including a 4520 compact tractor, a 400CX front loader and an Aercore 800 pedestrian aerator.

These have joined 11 other John Deere machines supplied by dealer P. Tuckwell Ltd of Arleigh, near Colchester, including greens, tees and surrounds and fairway mowers, several Gator utility vehicles and another compact tractor.

"We particularly like the quality of cut we get with John Deere mowers," said Course Manager, Dave Rand.

"I first saw the 7400 TerrainCut rotary mower on a greenkeepers feedback trip to Germany, and just loved the look of it, so I ordered one as soon as it became available and I believe we had the first unit delivered in the UK.

"The oldest triplex is now used with a Greentech cassette system and another is mainly used on the tees, but we can change heads between the two newer mowers as required for use on both the greens and tees.

"Reliable dealer back-up and parts service is crucial, too," added Dave.

"John Deere is an established company that has

proved over time that it can deliver on its promises, and the dealer is always prepared to help us out with extra loan machines when necessary.

"We're fortunate in that there has been a big investment by the club over the last 6 to 12 months to improve our greenkeeping facilities and equipment, including general refurbishment of the shed area and the installation of a new waste water system, as well as improvements to the listed clubhouse, including new changing rooms. We're also looking at a new John Deere irrigation system for commission in 2012."

Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at Stonehenge

The Geophysics Team at English Heritage has just completed a state-of-the-art survey of the ground surrounding Stonehenge.

This is the first large scale Ground Penetrating Radar survey at Stonehenge and has resulted in highly accurate 3D mapping of the fine detail of objects down to a depth of two metres.

To ensure there could be no possible damage to this world heritage site Multi Channel Radar equipment with the GPS unit on top was towed by a 4x4 JCB Utility Terrain

Vehicle hired by English Heritage from specialist UTV vehicle dealers SMH Quads.

Dr Neil Linford, English Heritage's GPR specialist, said:

"The GPR data set greatly enhances our knowledge of the site, previously gained through a combination of excavation, aerial photography and other geophysical surveys.

"Effectively we've been able to create 3D images, 'time slices', if you like, through the ground that allow us to be able to see what is hidden beneath the surface."



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Chairman's Word

Andrew Mellon, in his second month as National Chairman, shares his views

A productive first month

My sense of relief after Harrogate Week, in respect to believing I might get a short rest, was very quickly replaced with a sense of foreboding as I considered my schedule for my first month as Chairman.

Finding time to sit and reflect on the month and share that with you in this column has been one of the many challenges, as well as ensuring I spend enough time with the team at Elmwood, and the team at BIGGA HQ.

I know find myself with the Editor on my back chasing me for copy, and I'm writing this in the early hours of the morning in my hotel room at the Golf Course Superintendent Association of Ireland's Conference, in Trim, Dublin.

My first visit was to the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America Conference in Orlando. As well as the obvious benefits of the networking opportunities and education available, Sami and I met with GCSAA Education directors to share experiences and explore opportunities to enhance our Continual Professional Development programme.

We also met with the GCSAA Board to continue negotiating a Strategic Agreement which could advance both our missions and promote cooperation and goodwill between our Associations. This has triggered further discussions with other national Associations who all recognise the benefit of such cooperation.

I met with Michigan State University, who have agreed to digitalise fully all BIGGA publications, past and present, into searchable online content within their "Turf Grass Information File".

This provides an extensive resource for research and education. We are negotiating access rights for our members and this will bring a significant additional member benefit to you.

I took the opportunity to visit the renowned Sawgrass TPC. Unfortunately the Scottish weather had followed me, much to the disgust of my playing partners. I can claim however to have had a 3 at the famous 17th, unfortunately with my fourth ball!

Back home for a few days and I enjoyed a good night's entertainment at the Scottish Golf Awards, hosted by the SGU. BIGGA

plays its part in the Scottish Golf Education Group, alongside SGU and other golf bodies to ensure we make our educational opportunities accessible to all relevant stakeholders, and avoid duplication. A similar group is now formed in England. More to follow!

Back at work I had an interesting meeting with Steve Isaac and Stig Backen, from the R&A, and further discussions with Jonathan Smith, from GEO.

Both organisations are committed to working with BIGGA in order to ensure that resources are made available to help Golf Courses and Facilities manage more sustainably.

The controversial "sustainable" word rears its head again, but please do not jump to conclusions, ie "fescue", and consider the true meaning of the word. Evidence of this cooperation should soon be available through the website, and in future editions of Greenkeeper International, and at future seminars.

I attended an excellent evening seminar from Headland Amenity at the Central Section combined with a committee meeting and spent some valuable time with my family, and then it was off to Iceland for the FEGGA conference and International Summit.

I did not know what to expect, but I was impressed by the commitment shown by the Icelandic Association and the evidence of the cooperation between them and all their Golf Bodies to ensuring the success of golf in their country.

Their enthusiasm and commitment to education was infectious and I returned far more optimistic about the future of the Golf Industry providing we can embrace some of that philosophy.

In Iceland 10% of the population play golf, and this is a huge achievement for such a young golfing nation. The fact that the Country's President saw fit to talk at the evening reception shows the respect afforded to them as part of that collaborative group.

Dean Cleaver and FEGGA are working hard to ensure that across Europe we have a closer understanding and sharing of good practices.

An example of this is the consistent standards for education developed through the European Greenkeeping Education Unit, which should ensure that developments in education match the agreed needs of the sector.

The Scottish Conference, organised by Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, was a resounding success, not only in attendance, but the excellent technical talks combined with presentations from Chris Kennedy, Jim McKenzie and Chris Haspell.

I was proud, as BIGGA Chairman, to see such professional and engaging presentations, on outstanding achievements from our members.

Collaboration within the golf bodies will ensure that the important input the Greenkeeper can bring to the sustainability of each golf operation is recognised and valued

Straight off to Edinburgh Airport, and I'm now at the Irish Conference, which from what I've seen today reinforces a common theme from above.

They face the same difficulties we all do in golf, they have a sense of urgency, and they recognise that collaboration within the golf bodies will ensure that the important input the Greenkeeper can bring to the sustainability of each golf operation is recognised and valued.

A shortlist has been provided from over 40 applicants for the CEO position and the Board will shortly commence the interview process.

Well it's been a very busy month, which I hope will be productive going forward for the Association. I'm partial to a small Guinness and I think I'll now indulge in a small nightcap with the others downstairs.



Greenkeepers Training Committee



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

For many years the role of Chairman of Green and Green Convener has been seen as the poisoned chalice at private members clubs and with few exceptions a short-term appointment or a "must do" position prior to moving on to be Club Captain.

Many readers will remember Jim Arthur, the wily Agronomist's thoughts on the Green Committee, when he constantly reminded clubs that "the best committees consist of an uneven number, and three is too many!"

He added:

a committee of one, gets things done

a committee of three, will wait and see

a committee of nine, wastes endless time

a committee of more, is an endless bore!

While there are nearly as many proprietary golf clubs in Britain as private members clubs, where often, it is a General Manager or the owner who will have direct contact with the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, there are still hundreds of clubs where Chairman of Green and Green Conveners are elected as the direct link between the Directors, members and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper.

The GTC is looking to work closer with the Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA) who we know have an element of "greenkeeping" in their training courses for Secretaries and Club Managers, however, the GTC believes it has a responsibility to support Chairmen of Green and Green Conveners to carry out their crucial role, hence the development of training courses.

I fully understand greenkeepers reading this will be thinking "what is the GTC is planning with Chairman of Green training courses" and I trust I can allay any fears by immediately stating the GTC does not intend to host courses to train our Course Managers.

Greenkeepers who, as volunteers, join committees to improve the busi-

ness, surely have to receive a level of training to ensure they are competent in the role they have been elected to carry out?

Donald Steel, the GTC Chairman, has just written an article and in the opening paragraph states:

"It has always been a strange anomaly that Golf Clubs appoint a highly qualified Head Greenkeeper to a specialist role and then tolerate highly unqualified members telling him where he is going wrong. Whereas, they are quite happy to accept a doctor's, solicitor's or stockbroker's view of things, golfers are quick to express themselves knowledgeably (so they think) on subjects as far ranging as fescues and fungi".

Clearly, the GTC through the Home Unions in association with BIGGA, are in a position to improved communications between employers and the Course Manager and the starting point has to be better guidance and courses designed and delivered by the GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

In previous GTC columns within GI, the GTC has promoted the SGU's 'Practical Guide for Green Conveners' and this booklet will form the basis for structured workshops to assist delegates to fully understand their role to liaise and work closely with the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper to maintain and develop the golf course to the satisfaction of the club membership.

The booklet can be viewed on the SGU's website www.scottishgolf.org/files/Green_Convener_2008.pdf or hard copies are available from the GTC or SGU.

The GTC is also aware that there have been courses available from various bodies in the past but clearly there is still much work to be done in this area and local provision appears to be the starting point.

The structure of the Home Unions lends itself to engaging the support of the County Unions to promote these types of workshops.

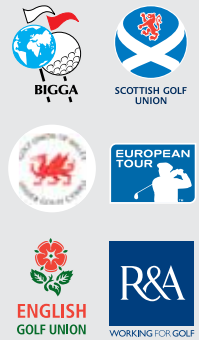
Another thorny subject is Health & Safety, which requires both

In Brief

David explains the GTC's thinking behind the development of training courses to help the much maligned individuals who truly want to understand more about what their Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper is proposing for the golf course based on their knowledge, experience and professional judgement.



The GTC is funded by:



employer and employee to take a level of responsibility to ensure the facility is a safe environment for members, visitors and staff. The GTC produced the H&S Guidance Booklet which, like the Green Convener booklet, sets out the guidelines, but workshops to compliment the guidance have proved so successful we are looking to promote workshops in this important area of golf course management.

An excellent example of this was a Health & Safety awareness workshop hosted in Durham by the Local Authority, attended by representatives from all but two clubs in the County. The feedback from the H&S workshop was excellent and again this needs to be rolled out throughout Britain.

There is a climate of golfing organisations working together more to share resources and experience which has to be a sensible approach and whilst the GTC's priority will always be to maintain the standards of greenkeeper education, training including qualifications and the apprenticeship scheme, the important roles and responsibilities of the employer must also be addressed.

Quality training provision for employers will also, as it is with greenkeeper training, be paramount on selecting trainers for these workshops and a current list of GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers can be found on the GTC's website. www.the-gtc.co.uk

Dates and venues for Chairman of Green - Green Convener workshops and Health and Safety awareness days will be circulated through the Unions and BIGGA as they are confirmed.

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Learning & Development

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



Last month saw me packing my bags and making the trip to Orlando, for the Golf Industry Show, in the company of our Chairman, Andrew Mellon. With a packed schedule of events and meetings, as well as the trade show, it proved to be a busy week leaving both Andrew and myself wanting some new feet!

Golf Industry Show

Relationships were cemented with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) and the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association (AGCSA).

It was most interesting to discover, that no matter the size of each of our Associations, we are all facing the same challenges.

The strength of our relationships with these Associations can only help to make us all stronger by using each other's knowledge and expertise.

We were able to spend a few hours in the company of the GCSAA education team, bringing them up to date on our Continuing Professional Development and Master Greenkeeper reviews, showing them how their certification portfolio would be integrated into our systems.

Discussions surrounding the submission and recording of information were also on the agenda.

We also had a very productive meeting with representatives of the GCSAA's Board of Directors, their

new CEO, Rhett Evans, and Senior Director of Member Programs, Carrie Riordan.

We also got the opportunity to sit down with the Ken Cousineau, CEO of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA), to discuss similar issues about their education and membership database that proved very interesting.

Many suggestions and ideas were given to us by some of the companies with which we were able to meet.

These have been brought back to the Board of Directors and the staff to develop for the future.

The BIGGA delegation, sponsored by Bernhard & Co, saw 10 BIGGA members making the trip.

They had a packed schedule of events and each time we saw them we got a trip update.

I'm sure I speak on behalf of all of them in saying that they had a great time.

It never fails to amaze me how many people I know after 18 years working for BIGGA.

I met up with many friends, old and new, on the trip allowing me to have a good mix of business and pleasure.

This truly is an 'Awesome' industry to work in, I am very fortunate.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week

Feedback on this year's Continue to Learn education programme has been phenomenal.

We have received a record number of phone calls and emails



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.

congratulating us on our efforts to deliver a high standard of education for our members.

The challenge is now in place to produce an equally good programme for 2012.

I have many ideas, but I am, as ever, open to suggestions on how to improve the programme, topics you would like to see covered and names of speakers who have impressed you.

If you have any suggestions, please email me: sami@bigga.co.uk

Planning for Continue to Learn 2012 is one of a number of projects that are on the agenda for the rest of the year.

However, my main focus will be on the development of the improved CPD scheme, the introduction of Accreditation and the Master Greenkeeper review.

Watch this space for more information on these projects.



Contact Details

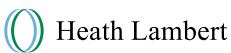
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Kubota Makes the Difference

“Our award-winning pitch is all thanks to our Kubota ride-on mower” – that’s the message from Glenn Bellis, Manager of Harefield United.

The Middlesex-based club purchased a Kubota G21 ride-on mower and quickly scooped the title of Best Pitch in the Spartan Premier Division before going on to win the Steps 5 and 6 National Award category in the FA’s 2010 Groundsman of the Year Awards.

The accolades came after the club’s committee took the decision of cancelling the existing groundcare contract in order to maintain the two pitches for themselves. With this in mind, each committee member personally contributed to the cost of buying the ride-on mower.

It was chosen because of its 21 hp Kubota engine and tight turning circle, which when combined with its light weight, means it can mow both pitches quickly and efficiently without marking the turf.

Glenn said that everyone at the club is absolutely delighted to have won the two awards:

“To be honest, we weren’t happy with our pitch, so we decided to buy the Kubota and maintain it ourselves. Our aim was to improve pitch quality so our teams could enjoy better facilities and game play – we never dreamed that we’d go on to win two awards within two years of deciding to maintain it for ourselves.

“It is a reliable machine, extremely easy to use and helps us to get the job done quickly.

“What’s more, it’s diesel, so it’s economical to run too.”

CARBON CAPTURING TURF

A new breed of slow growing carbon capturing turf has been launched in joint venture by Inturf, Paynes Turf and Rigby Taylor

In addition to its ability to lock up carbon dioxide, Carbon Capture Turf grows at a slower rate than other grass varieties, thus reducing maintenance costs and producing fewer clippings. Supplies of the new turf are available from this spring.

“Turfgrass already plays an important part in the designed landscape by providing the green open spaces which many people – especially city dwellers – long for,” says Brian Robinson, Director of Seed Research for Rigby Taylor.



Sanli Building Business Across The Irish Sea

Outdoor power equipment specialist Sanli is continuing to spread its wings with the appointment of new sales and service dealers in Ireland.

Now responsible for looking after domestic and professional customers in southern Ireland is Dublin Grass Machinery, based at Castleknock, Dublin. The company, which has a number of sub-dealers located primarily in the Irish Republic’s Leinster province showed off a selection of Sanli products recently to existing and prospective dealers’ staff at a special, horticultural machinery show staged at Punchestown Racecourse.

Organised by Irish garden machinery distributors, the indoor event represented the first public showing of Sanli outdoor power equipment in the Dublin area.

Moving northwards, newly-appointed Sanli dealer for Northern Ireland, Ground Control, attended a series of open evenings held to give domestic and professional machinery users a preview of some of the new products heading their way for the 2011 season.

A division of Johnston Gilpin of Lisburn, Co. Down, Ground Control has an excellent reputation for pre- and after-sales customer support, attributes that will help Sanli establish a strong and loyal customer base in the north of Ireland.

www.sanli.co.uk



New Man for Etesia

Etesia UK has appointed Phillip Gibson as Southern Area Sales Manager covering South Wales, the South East and the South West areas.

Phillip's new responsibilities include liaising with the company's marketing department, providing product advice, demonstrations and assistance to customers and dealers, as well as attending shows and exhibitions. He is also responsible for the sales, advice and demonstrations for the complete range of Pellenc lithium-ion battery powered products.

The last 12 months has seen an increasing number of operators now using Pellenc products. Pellenc is the only manufacturer in the world to be able to produce machines that can be used in the landscape and local authority industry for up to a full day's work on a single charge and at the same time guarantees use with no odour, no pollution and virtually no noise making them a truly environmentally friendly product.



ROLAWN APPOINTS NEW MANAGER

Rolawn, has appointed Steve Mullarkey as York Depot & Lawn Care Products Manager.

In addition to managing the York Depot, Mullarkey will also be responsible for the national distribution of the company's lawn seed and fertiliser range.

Phil Cuthbert, Commercial Director said:

"We are extremely pleased to welcome back Steve after several years in Australia.

"His extensive experience within the industry and knowledge of our customers and product range will enable him to build on the success achieved and further improve service levels to our customers."

What's your number?

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

Name: Tim Merrell

Company: The Grass Group

Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?
21 years

How did you get into it?

By accident of course! I am an agronomist by qualification and farming was going to be my life.

What other jobs have you done?

I worked for Velcourt Farm Management, then in France and onto Alberta, in Canada, before coming back to be a Farm Manager in the Loire Valley in France for four years before setting up the business.

What do you like about your current job?

The variety, both in the people I meet, the places I get to visit and being outdoors. I always knew I didn't want to be stuck in an office!

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

I believe the whole industry has grown and become much more professional. Competition on both sides of the industry has meant suppliers have to innovate and the professional users have had stay on their toes. At a time where all budgets are restricted those involved have to know what they are doing and why they are doing it. If you don't you will be found out and you won't survive very long

What do you like to do in your spare time?

It seems to be a rare commodity! The expanding business and a family keep me pretty tied up. If I get a chance I sneak off and depending on the season I'll go coarse fishing or shooting.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Still working to keep my wife and three daughters in the manner to which they have become accustomed!

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

The Dutch guys from Trilo and Paul Trowman

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

10

Pick a number

3

Tim has picked Adrian Handbury of Intelligent Watering



Suzuki GB Appoints New ATV Dealers

In a busy year promoting their All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) range, Suzuki GB PLC has appointed three new official dealerships in the UK.

The new dealers are Brian Keys Tractors of Dromore, Omagh, Goodrowes of Chichester, West Sussex and Martin Pears Engineering of Totnes, Devon.

All of which are qualified to offer a full sales and after-sales service to customers in their area.

For more information on the Suzuki ATV range or to arrange a test ride, find your local dealer at www.suzukiatv.co.uk

Or call 0500 011 959.

Yorkshire's true links

Scott MacCallum visits Cleveland Golf Club and meets a man who leaves no stone unturned in making his home-town course as good as it can be





It is an interesting fact, well it certainly was to me, that Cleveland Golf Club, in Redcar, is the only true links course in Yorkshire.

That piece of information was one of many which emerged from a meeting with Course Manager, Ian Pemberton, whose enthusiasm for the job is quite infectious.

Ian moved to his home-town club four years ago, from the inland Bedale Golf Club, and since then he has barely taken a backward step in ensuring that the course develops.

"The club has a great history. It was founded in 1887 and really is a sleeping giant," said Ian,

"I would say that I have managed to get a lot further forward than I could ever have hoped in the four years I've been here, I told them that it would be a five year plan but I think we zapped that in about two and a half."

Looking around the course you would find no reason to suggest that Ian was exaggerating.

His first task on arrival was to make improvements to the rough,

an area which had been causing problems for some time.

"The rough had become unmanageable over a number of years. It was overgrown and unkempt, too many balls were being lost and as a result play had slowed and green fee revenue had fallen off.

"Aesthetically, it looked unsightly and, from a wildlife point of view, it was stifling the fresh growth because it couldn't get through," he explained.

Ian and the team brought in an Amazone flail mower and got to work.

"It was a laborious task and it took two years to get it where we wanted, but it was very worthwhile. We now have improved the native flora and fauna and turned it back into proper links rough," explained Ian.

While this work was being carried they had worked hard on improving the club's practice ground and also looked at the 18th and 10th fairways, which were, by his own admission, "wall to wall chickweed".

"It was a laborious task and it took two years to get it where we wanted, but was very worthwhile. We now have improved the native flora and fauna and turned it back into proper links rough"
Ian Pemberton, Course Manager



Ian Pemberton, Course Manager

"We had some samples taken and the potash levels were non-existent – there just wasn't any potash in them at all – and the balance was never going to allow anything to grow."

"We corrected that with a potash feed, very low in nitrogen, and then over-seeded with pure fescue and up to now we've been very pleased with the results."

But the biggest project Ian and the team have undertaken over the last three years has seen a significant change to the look of Cleveland Golf Club, while also seeing the development of an innovative project which has