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**Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd**

West Road, Ipswich, IP3 9TT UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1473 270000  
Web: [www.ransomesjacobsen.com](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com)

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### BIGGA



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#### Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn,  
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#### Chief Executive Officer

Jim Croxton  
jim.croxton@bigga.co.uk

#### Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins  
sami@bigga.co.uk

#### Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

#### Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York,  
YO61 1UF  
info@bigga.co.uk  
www.bigga.org.uk  
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

### GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

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#### Editorial

#### Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum  
Tel – 01347 833800 Fax – 01347 833801  
scott@bigga.co.uk



#### Design

**Design and  
Production Editor**  
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800  
Fax – 01347 833801  
tom@bigga.co.uk



#### Advertising

**Sales Executive**  
Kirstin Black

Tel – 01347 833800  
Fax – 01347 833802  
kirstin@bigga.co.uk



**Sales Executive**  
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800  
Fax – 01347 833802  
jill@bigga.co.uk

#### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor  
Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH  
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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# Hard work pays off

**While September is regarded as the traditional end of summer – however disappointing it has been over the last few years - it does herald one of the most heart warming and positive events in which BIGGA is involved each year.**

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year is a wonderful competition, and the final, with eight of the finest young greenkeepers in the country, invariably demonstrates that the industry is in good hands.

Matt Perks, from Ham Manor Golf Club, in West Sussex, and Plumpton College, became its 23rd winner last month and he can look to, among others, the current Course Managers of Turnberry and Sunningdale to see just how large the doors that can be opened by being the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year are.

Every student in the country has the opportunity to win, but if you are going to follow Matt next year you can read this month just how much work and effort needs to go into preparing if you are going to give yourself the best opportunity.

Matt recognised just how big an opportunity he had been given when he was nominated by Plumpton College and he was desperate not to leave any stone unturned to maximise that chance.

Matt's story demonstrates just how much the combination of inspiration and perspiration is needed to be successful, but often the element which is open to absolutely everyone is in lesser supply. While not everyone is necessarily blessed with inspiration, everyone can make sure they work hard and own whatever situation they find themselves in.

Matt's hard work has already won him the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, but, at the age of 28, he has just been appointed a Director of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association

and he impressed enough to be one of nine volunteers selected to assist with maintenance at last year's Ryder Cup.

This month we also look at one of the most valuable, but perhaps underused, of all member benefits. The website's Bulletin Boards are the BIGGA members' very own version of Wikipedia.

If you want to know anything, and I mean anything, post the question on the Boards and your fellow members will come up with an answer for you. If that answer is something open to dispute then someone else will offer an alternative view and you can be sure that within a few days the consensus will provide as accurate an answer as you could hope to find from any other source.

But the Boards are not just a font of information, they can also offer support and solace to anyone looking for help in difficult times. In a solitary job, it is sometimes easily forgotten that, paradoxically, there are many others in similarly solitary positions, and the Bulletin Boards offer the chance to come together with colleagues to share problems and potential solutions.

If you haven't yet got involved go on and take a look. You don't have to become visible straight away by posting topics or providing answers. You can just observe from the sidelines but if you do have something you want to say the urge to post something might just become too great.

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**

OCTOBER 2011

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The benefits of BIGGA's website bulletin boards



Perks of the job

2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner is Matthew Perks

ALSO INSIDE... Clover : Dollar spot : Second hand machinery



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

## UK First for Askham Bryan Students

A solar-powered irrigation system for a golf course at a Yorkshire college may be the first of its kind in the UK.

The irrigation is being installed as part of work by sportsturf and horticulture students studying at Askham Bryan College near York.

With the help of agriculture and engineering students, they have created three golf holes in a disused field at the College.

With the course being built at little cost, one of the key challenges was to find an irrigation system and course tutor Dan Prest approached supplier Evergreen Irrigation to ask if the company would supply a 100m pipe to get the project going.

Evergreen put Dan in touch with Rain Bird which has supplied a state-of-the-art system.

There was one more problem for the students to solve: the irrigation system is



controlled by an electronic control system but there was no electricity to the field where the holes have been located.

The answer came from CI Solar in California which is converting the power-source to solar power to allow the students to complete the project.

Dan said: "We owe a great deal of gratitude to these companies for helping our students not only to complete these

holes but also to use the latest technology to achieve it. Our idea was to give the students the experience of creating a course from scratch, rather than looking only at the maintenance, and this has been a fantastic learning experience.

Around 70 students, who are studying for future careers as greenkeepers and groundsmen, have been involved in the project to date.



## DAVID WITHERS PROMOTED TO PRESIDENT OF JACOBSEN

David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, has been promoted to the position of President of Jacobsen.

David has been Managing director at Ransomes Jacobsen since January 2005, overseeing international operations for all Jacobsen brands as well as the E-Z-GO brand in Europe.

"I'm delighted to be given this leadership opportunity and look forward to developing our brand and products in a global marketplace, he said.

"My view is that everything we do as a company needs to be focussed on supporting our end-user customers and also building strong relationships with our channel partners and other industry bodies around the world," he said.

He joined Textron in 1992 as a Regional Sales Manager for Jacobsen. In 1996,

he was promoted to the position of National Accounts Manager, focusing on developing business with key customers in the United Kingdom.

In 2002, he was promoted to the position of Sales and Marketing Director before his appointment as Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

Commenting on his appointment, Scott Donnelly, Textron CEO said,

"David is a proven leader in the golf and turf industry and is highly respected among his peers and customers.

"With his broad international experience - which spans over 45 countries - and his strong track record in business development and operational excellence, I am confident that he is the right person to maximise the growth opportunities that lie ahead for Jacobsen."

# GOSTA go East with Greenkeeper Training

As part of an expansion programme GOSTA will now be offering support and training to golf clubs in Edinburgh and Lothian area with Modern Apprenticeships in Sportsturf/Greenkeeping at both Level 2 and 3.

GOSTA has been involved in delivering training to Modern Apprentices in the West of Scotland since 1982. In that time the company has seen many new apprentices in the industry progress to becoming Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers who now send their apprentices to GOSTA. As a training provider GOSTA is an approved centre for Lantra, GTC and SQA and is a Branded Centre for learndirect Scotland.

Funding from Skills Development Scotland supports many of the students through their Modern Apprenticeship Training, providing they meet the age criteria. The funding is a fantastic support to golf clubs at a time where they still remain

committed to training but funds are a bit more restricted. Also available is a full portfolio of short courses designed to enhance the skills of the greenkeeper for their future.

Managing Director of GOSTA Training, Lesley Lowrie, commented, "We are setting up training at Deerpark Golf and Country Club and are very excited at the challenge in expanding the business.

"I am also delighted to welcome respected lecturer, Steve Miller, onto to the team to work with our students in the Edinburgh area. Steve has a long history of working within the industry and has a major contribution to make to the development of our students."

Day release classes commence this month and if you would like to register your apprentice please contact GOSTA as soon as possible as places are limited.

For further information on the services available contact GOSTA on 0141-556-3999.



## Ian 'The Viking' Tomlinson

I recently watched a BBC documentary called "Blood of the Vikings". In it a London Professor and his colleagues travelled to Yorkshire to find out if any of the local population where descendants of the Vikings.

They took DNA samples from many people and discovered through genetic testing that in fact a high percentage were actually true descendants of the Vikings.

I was intrigued by all this as York was the main Viking stronghold hundreds of years ago and I originate from the York area.

I then read an article about people with "Claw Hands", which is where the little finger, (pinky) and the ring finger are pulled down into the palm of the hand where they remain. This has been traced back to people with Viking ancestry. My Grandmother and Great Grandfather both suffered from this same condition with their hands.

Was it merely coincidence or is it possible that I am a descendant of a Viking and here I am now living and working in Denmark? Had I returned to my ancestral roots?

I was desperate to find out the truth. I finally tracked down Professor Goldstein now working in America. He put me in touch with Dr. James Wilson in Scotland who runs his own Ethno Ancestry Company and who also worked on the original TV documentary.

I submitted a DNA sample to his company and I have just received the results.

They have been able to place me in a group which covered the whole of Denmark and the East of England (around Yorkshire). It also states that in the British Isles my group indicates ancestry from an invading group such as the Vikings and also earlier settlers on the East Coast

So it appears that somewhere out in Denmark I am maybe related to somebody and that is spooky.

Ian The Viking Tomlinson  
Rungsted GC  
Denmark



## Double A Success

John Deere dealership Double A Trading Company, based at Cupar in Fife, walked away with the top award at the AEA/Service Dealer Awards.

The company had extra reason for celebration as the award for Apprentice of the Year went to Christopher Mason, also of Double A.

Other Awards were Sales Person of the Year which went to Davinder (Dave) Sharma, Henton & Chattell Ltd, Nottingham; Parts Person of the Year, went to Paul Tipton, of Oakley's Groundcare, Shrewsbury and Technical of the Year went to Dan Massey, of JE Buckle, Stevenage.

The Awards were announced at a dinner held during Saltex week.

Photograph shows The Double A winners with Managing Director, Sandy Armit, and Christopher Mason centre.

Photograph by Mike Beardall, Oakfield Media



## Jimmy Kidd Joins The Great Turf Company

Jimmy Kidd has joined The Great Turf Company as Global Development Director in support of the team's 'Activated Microbial' approach to turf management.

The appointment marks the reunion of Jimmy with two of his previous colleagues and life long friends, Ian MacMillan and Ian Morrison.

With 51 years experience in the turf care industry worldwide, including the post of Director of Golf Courses and Estate at Gleneagles where he prepared courses for 17 championships, Jimmy has become a prime figure within the greenkeeping community.

At The Great Turf Company Jimmy will also work alongside Technical Director, Andrew Turnbull, and Managing Director, Ian Morrison, another of Jimmy's past colleagues; the pair worked together in the 1990s when they were at the forefront of the Gleneagles Golf Developments team in the assembly and coordination of the Ryder Cup bid.

In his new post as Global Development Director, Jimmy will focus on creating opportunities for The Great Turf Company to grow internationally, with particular focus on warm season fine turf management.



## Bingley St Ives Victorious at Golf Management Trophy Day

A Northern Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored by Tim Webb and TACIT, was held at Cookridge Hall Golf Club, superbly prepared by Course Manager, John Watts, and his staff. Bingley St Ives Golf Club, led by Course Manager, Alan Baxter, won the event with a score of 87 points.

The final 2011 Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored by TACIT, was held at Market Harborough Golf Club, with 10 golf clubs competing for the last two places in the National Final.

All players were very complimentary about the course superbly presented by Course Manager, Nick Miles, and his staff.

Our thanks are extended to all at the Club for making the day enjoyable and successful.

Rothley Park Golf Club, led by Course Manager Nigel Colley, won the event with a score of 85 pts; and Gay Hill Golf Club were runners-up with 82 pts.

The clubs now progress to the National Final held at Mere Golf Resort & Spa at the end of last month.

## Quality Assured at Oaklands College

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, in announcing Oaklands College as a GTC Quality Assured Centre paid tribute to the dedication of Andy Wight and his turf team at the college, who for many years have achieved excellent completion rates, especially with sports turf apprenticeships.

David added that the greenkeeping apprenticeship

scheme has proved very successful for both golf club employers and the apprentices since the introduction of formal work based training and qualifications, with Oaklands College very much committed to delivering quality courses to meet the standards within the apprenticeship framework.

Andy Wight, Pathway

Manager Horticulture and Greenkeeping has been a member of the GTC's Technical Committee for a number of years and firmly believes that quality education and training must be maintained to ensure any industry has the skilled workforce required to ensure that playing surfaces are to the highest standards possible.

# Setting Directions

John Deere will celebrate its 175th anniversary next year. That its experience continues to breed innovation was on display at their 'Setting Directions' Exhibition at Chantilly, France.

Several new products were being shown off at the show, including three greens hand-mowers introduced to replace the C Series models. The 180SL, 220SL and 260SL offer true cutting widths of 18, 22 and 26in respectively and feature the Speed Link technology now seen on all John Deere reel mowers.

This allows height of cut adjustments to be made quickly and with ease, from one point on either side of the cutting machine.

Using an air drill, each revolution of the mechanism means a 0.25mm height adjustment..

As on the previous range, all three SL hand-mowers have the 4hp Honda petrol engine with dual-traction drive for manoeuvrability and straight tracking on greens.

Adjustable front-mounted turf brushes are optional, as are detachable transport wheels, a pull-back clutch that allows the mower to be reversed while the wheels are engaged and a choice of grooved, smooth or spiral rollers.

Another new addition to John Deere's range is the 1026R sub compact tractor. It is an 'all rounder' designed to carry a large number of attachments

and implements, including a quick-attach front loader, snow blade or mowing deck.

The tractor's overall height is under 2m and it is powered by a 26hp three-cylinder diesel engine.

As well as viewing the new products, the event also allowed for some hands-on enjoyment. Several John Deere Gators, including a model new to the range, were at the ready for delegates to put through their paces around a purpose built off-road track.

The XUV 550 is smaller and lighter than existing Gators and, in a first for John Deere, is available as a four-passenger version. This, the XUV 550 S4, has a stretched chassis with a rear bench seat behind the two standard front seats. If extra storage room is needed, this bench can be converted into a cargo rack with the pull of a lever. The new Gators have a 12.1kW V-twin OHV air-cooled petrol engine. They can reach a top speed of 28mph, have 10.3 inches of ground clearance and a towing capacity of 500kg.

Both versions are available from spring 2012 and with the wide range of options and extras..


The trip was rounded off with a putting competition, with prizes for those skilful enough to sink a perilously-perched USB stick into a hole from a distance, and a final presentation which included an introduction to their new website.




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# Increased Pay Award Recommended by CGCS

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries has recommended a 3% increase in the level of recommended Salary Scale for Greenkeepers. This comes after a period of high inflation and a period of no increases.

The CGCS appreciates the strain on Club finances during the current economic problems, but feel that the time has come to recognise the pressure this is placing on employed staff.

Now that the Government has reverted to RPI rather than Average Earnings it is the Committee's intention, in the future, to do likewise.

This year the Committee is recommending a figure of 3% for the coming year, while not

totally in keeping with RPI, it will if adopted go some way to alleviating growing hardships.

The CGCS recommended rates of pay package are guidelines only and the Committee is mindful that they are for negotiation only and that, as in all walks of life, some staff will earn substantially more, while others will earn less, depending on the standing of the Club.

The CGCS wants to emphasise that these scales are for 'packages' and should be treated as such, while taking into account individual and team performance and increase in responsibility and qualification.

Once again the CGCS wishes to draw the attention of golf clubs to impending changes in pension legislation.

## Going Down

A select group of industry press were invited to visit Boulby Mine – the second deepest mine in Europe – to see potash, a vital component in fertiliser, being mined.

Organised by Everris, formerly Scotts, the trip saw a party of six, including host, Boulby Mine's Health and Safety expert, Neil Rowley, go down one mile and then drive a further six miles under the North Sea through a series of previously mined tunnels and passages to witness the potash being mined from the face.

An indepth look at the Boulby Mine will appear in next month's magazine.



## The IGCEMA Opens Nominations for the 2011 Edwin Budding Award

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) is announcing it will now be accepting nominations for the fifth annual Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The Award recognises those who have made significant contributions to the golf course equipment industry, including those who have excelled in the business, history, design, engineering and maintenance of golf course equipment. The award will be in addition to those known for their contributions to innovations in the turf equipment industry. The award will recognise those who think outside the box and who have dedicated themselves to improving the industry as a whole. The Edwin Budding award will be awarded to someone in the industry who meets the criteria as set forth by the Association and the Award Committee.

Nominations should be filled out on the IGCEMA website [www.igcema.org](http://www.igcema.org). The deadline for nominations is November 20th, 2011, and the winner will be presented the award at Harrogate Week in the UK during the BIGGA conference.

Anyone has the opportunity to win the award. No matter where you are in the world your contributions to golf count.



## Harrogate Week 2012

The Scottish Region is pleased to offer the following package for the Holiday Inn, Harrogate.

The accommodation is from Monday 23 January.

Three nights, B&B in en-suite rooms on January 23, 24 & 25, 2012. Cost will be £168.

To obtain a booking form for the accommodation contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on: Tel 0141 616 3440 Mob 07776242120 email; [pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com) Peter J. Boyd Regional Administrator

## South East Regional Conference

The South East Regional Conference Wednesday will be held on November 16 at Stock Brook Manor Golf Club

The Essex Section of BIGGA is hosting this year's South East Regional Conference

The theme is 'Dead or Alive' with speakers from various areas of sports turf providing presentations.

The cost for the day will be £10

Speakers include: Darren Baldwin, Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, The Hurlingham Club; Richard Whyman – Burnham & Berrow Golf Club; Stuart Kerrison – Essex County Cricket Ground, and Greg Evans, Ealing Golf Club.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA's new Chief Executive Officer, will also be speaking.

For more information please Contact: Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 [cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)