

Leatherjackets Addressed

The problem of leatherjackets and chafer grubs on turf was highlighted to a group of amenity sector professionals at a recent insecticide training presentation for Amenity Land Solutions in Telford.

Hosted by Bayer National Account Manager, Dave Orchard, the training provided the area sales managers with an understanding of the common pest control problem.

Dave explained, "Populations of chafer grubs have increased dramatically over the last 10 years and they are now a major problem in the UK. Left untreated, they can cause severe destruction of turf, and often secondary damage is caused as birds and other animals search out the grubs to feed on."

The training stressed the importance of using a programmed approach in order to fully gain control of these insects and maximise control.



Cricket Champions

Ashley Cricket Club, in Cheshire, saw the North West and North Wales Sections play their first 20-20 Cricket match.

The North West Captain was Ashley Bennett, of Rigby Taylor, and the North Wales Captain was Andy Peel, from Bull Bay Golf Club. The toss was won by Andy Peel who elected to bat. Runs came slowly with a number of players making steady progress. North Wales at the turn had made 104 runs off their 20 overs.

It was then time for the North West to show off their batting skills. Batsman and bowlers were restricted to four overs each, the batsman then had to retire. However, if the batsmen were all out, the retired ones could come back in. In the 19th over, North West lost their final batsman with the score on 101 runs, which allowed Mark Price, CEO of the Bathgate Group, to come back in and he duly nudged a ball to the boundary for four runs, and a narrow victory to the North West. The Match was sponsored by Bathgate Silica Sand. Thanks to Mark Price and also to Nick Gray, lastly to Ashley Cricket Club for their hospitality.

Chris Sheehan

THE FUTURE OF SPORTSTURF MANAGEMENT

STRI Research 2011 is a new event being launched this year by STRI. The event is free, will be held annually, and has been designed to give sports turf managers an opportunity to see, first hand, the innovative products, machinery and techniques that are being developed that will directly influence the world of sports turf management over the coming years.

The one day event is being held on Wednesday, September 21 in Bingley and will follow the successful format used at research events worldwide, which splits the research focus into separate demo areas, referred to as 'stations'. The event for 2011 is focusing on turf management for golf courses, with seven separate stations, giving an insight into new products and methodologies for disease and nutritional management, new grass varieties, aeration, overseeding and amendments, rootzone properties and the latest technology and machinery.

STRI is currently working with a number of companies on R&D sportsturf projects and has invited a selection of these companies to support the event, based on their focus on current research, and their investment to help improve the future quality and management of sportsturf. The companies attending this year's event are Bayer, Everris (formerly Scotts), R&K Kensett, Ransomes Jacobsen, Syngenta, Becker Underwood and Sherriff Amenity.

The deadline for bookings for the STRI Research 2011 event is 31 August 2011 and STRI is expecting more than 120 attendees for the day. Invitations have been sent out to all golf clubs across the UK and Ireland.

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Chairman's Word

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

Planning ahead for a new term

It seems like only yesterday we were coming out of a long cold winter and looking forward to summer, and before you know it I'm looking at my diary and we are approaching September, and trying to plan and implement all the autumn maintenance.

While the growth slows and we get more time for other activity, at Elmwood we move in to a very busy period as our students arrive looking to learn all they can about Greenkeeping and Golf Management and Performance.

Numbers have grown steadily over the years, and while it's useful having extra hands about the place for some types of work, most of the students on the entry level greenkeeping course are raw recruits, who need to be taught everything from scratch, and there are a lot of them, so planning and control are very important.

As many of you will know, you can get great satisfaction from successfully training a new member of staff, but it is not without challenges.

Imagine having 75 of them every week.

We have a busy programme planned for them and it will be good to see their excitement and enthusiasm as they start their careers.

We also have over 100 students studying performance golf, many of them excellent plus handicappers and they place a heavy demand on the golf facility, and on the turf, at a time when recovery is very limited through the winter, but the challenge is to manage that to the best of our ability and try and ensure that all the students get a worthwhile experience.

Education is a constant as far as I'm concerned, and you will find elsewhere in this magazine information about the upcoming Harrogate event and the education on offer there.

I'm looking forward to it, and hopefully I'll get some time out-with my duties as Chairman to benefit from some of what's on offer.

I believe that in any line of work, in order to be the best you can be at the career you have chosen, you must constantly develop and, "Continue to Learn."

You will also see within our news sec-

tion that we have been working with other Associations within the UK sector and have formed a group to facilitate closer working relationships, bringing the opportunity to engage with stakeholders in considering decisions that will impact on the future of the industry and its Associations.

I was extremely fortunate to spend a week in China this month.

On behalf of the college I delivered some lectures to groups of students we have there, and also met with groups of Superintendents for discussions and with potential University partners.

My hosts were fantastic, and I'd like to thank everyone I met for welcoming me so warmly and sharing their time with me.

I arrived in Hong Kong and drove to Shenzhen, a city of thirty million people, which is only really about thirty years old. The climate there was very hot and humid.

I also flew to Kunming province in the

sustainable manner, with water resource a premium, and use of agricultural land very restricted.

Estimates put the number of golfers at 300,000, set to grow to 20 million by 2020.

Despite a government ban on course development the number of courses grew from 170 in 2004 to nearly 600 by 2009 and continues to grow at a phenomenal rate.

How that progresses will, I imagine, be determined by whether the golf industry can convince the government that they can address their concerns and develop in a sustainable manner.

That presents opportunities for those with such knowledge and experience, whilst it became very apparent to me how much we take our Association for granted.

When meeting with them there was a lot of interest expressed in BIGGA and a real hunger for the aspects of sharing good practice and networking.

Whether you are a single Greenkeeper working alone at a 9 hole course, or a Course Manager, running a multi course facility you will find someone in BIGGA who can share their experience with you, and lighten the load

South West of China where the climate was more temperate and similar to the UK.

The different grass types and management techniques required were very interesting to see and the standard of presentation on all the courses was very high.

In all I toured seven courses, witnessing the difference between Paspalum, Bermuda, Creeping bent, Rye, and yes, even Poa. They face many of the challenges we do, though golfer demand currently outweighs supply so they are not facing that problem yet.

Labour costs have increased considerably in only the last few years, and that was a common challenge to all the superintendents.

Golf is booming there, but it is not without difficulties as the government seeks to ensure that courses are developed in a

While sitting in a group meeting it dawned on me that the group actually had over 100 years experience between them and were able to give each other advice and help with many of the problems they have. Sometimes we fail to recognise how useful something is.

I know that in my time in greenkeeping BIGGA has been the best source of information and contacts for me to meet and seek advice.

Whether you are a single Greenkeeper working alone at a 9 hole course, or a Course Manager, running a multi course facility you will find someone in BIGGA who can share their experience with you, and lighten the load.

That is of value not just to the individual, but to owners and employers and ultimately the golfer in ensuring staff get the necessary support to fulfil their potential.



Greenkeepers Training Committee



David Golding, GTC Education Director, examines how government funding can attract apprenticeship schemes

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers often think, if only I had another pair of hands...well maybe they can find that additional help through explaining to their employer the benefits of recruiting an apprentice.

Successful businesses often refer to the fact that during difficult economical times they invested in staff development and there is no better way than using the nationally accredited Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Scheme to ensure the course team has a committed, enthusiastic new employee being trained, educated and assessed to the industry agreed national standards.

Many of today's top Course Managers started as apprentices in the UK and now are maintaining and managing golf courses all over the world.

My friend of many years, Mike O'Keefe, known to many as the man from Ohio State University who opens doors in the USA for British greenkeepers to gain lifelong skills and experience, sums up how British greenkeeping apprentices are sought after by the Superintendents across the pond.

Mike explains, "In over 20 years of working with the GTC, BIGGA and our friends at the approved Centres and colleges, literally hundreds of British trained greenkeepers have travelled across, to hopefully enjoy the experience of working on golf courses in the States.

Mike adds, "It has to be acknowledged that the promotion for many years by the GTC of vocational, work based training and qualifications in Britain has resulted in outstanding competent greenkeepers whose all round skill level is admired by the American Superintendents.

The ability to do so many tasks when they arrive for their internship period is a tribute to the apprenticeship programme in Britain."

Apprenticeships continue to be very popular with British employers and the learners as it is a clear career progression and it all revolves around the golf course.



The greenkeeping apprenticeship framework not only includes the work based vocational qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 but additional requirements to ensure the apprentice has the functional skills which arguably should have been taught and achieved during school days.

Numeracy, literacy and communication skills are all now wrapped up into what the Government calls core or functional skills!

Please rest assured the GTC and its Quality Assured Centres are working within current Government policies of the day to ensure the funding support, albeit reducing, still makes the apprenticeship a very cost effective option for employers.

The GTC is currently involved in discussions to have a Higher Apprenticeship in greenkeeping.

A Higher Apprenticeship could include the work based Level 4 Management qualification and more news will follow as discussions with the relevant bodies hopefully come to fruition.

There are still many people looking to enter the profession of greenkeeping and with a clear career pathway available from apprentice

to Course or General Manager how best do employers look to recruit an apprentice?

Short of the GTC offering an apprenticeship placement service, an option the GTC is currently considering, many golf clubs have found a suitable apprentice within their clubs Junior Section, maybe a chance career change application letter received direct, a local advert or in association with a GTC Quality Assured Centre.

We are aware of apprentices of all ages working on golf courses and thoroughly enjoying the experience and with support funding finally becoming available for all ages currently in most areas of Britain there doesn't appear to be a recruitment problem.

The GTC's Quality Assured Centres are all there to assist employers select and recruit an apprentice and explain what funding is available.

Check out the Quality Assured Centres on our website www.the-gtc.co.uk

For any greenkeepers looking to enjoy the experience of the Ohio State programme please contact Mike O'Keefe on email:

okeefe.1@osu.edu



The GTC is funded by:



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Learning & Development

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

September already? I have no clue where this year has gone!

IGCEMA Certification Program

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) launched their Certification Program in May this year. In July, BIGGA pledged support for the Certification Program and are now registered as Proctor (examination invigilator) for the program.

The Certification Program consists of six core competencies:

- Hydraulic Troubleshooting
- Electrical Troubleshooting
- Internal Combustion Engines
- Drivelines
- Sprayer Troubleshooting - in development (expected Jan. 2012)
- Cutting Units - in development (expected Feb. 2012)

To achieve the IGCEMA Certificate, individuals will purchase the study guides and will then take an online test for each of the competencies. The study guides are available from the IGCEMA website at a cost of \$18 per guide. Each online test costs \$50 (this give you two attempts at the test). Payment for the test is made by credit card before the test begins.

On completion of all of the six competencies, individuals will be awarded the IGCEMA Certificate.

BIGGA CPD Credits (number to be confirmed) will be attached to each of the competencies and will be awarded on successful completion for each of the tests.

For further information visit the IGCEMA website www.igcema.org and click on Certificate Program.



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

The final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2011 will take place on 11 and 12 September at BIGGA House. The eight finalists will undergo a 45 minute interview and will be required to complete a



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

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.



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written task based on an area of the Aldwark Manor Golf Course. The eventual Winner will be awarded the Toro Scholarship to attend the Winter Turf School at the University of Massachusetts and a trip to the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas in early 2012. Two runners-up will win a trip to Continue to Learn and BTME at Harrogate Week 2012. All of the finalists will receive one year's free membership of BIGGA courtesy of Toro. This year's finalists are:

- Rob Mills, Sunningdale Golf Club representing Merrist Wood College
 - Miles Todd, Rhuddlan Golf Club representing Deeside College
 - Justin Howard, Cranham Golf Centre representing Myerscough College
 - Blair Somerville, Helensburgh Golf Club representing GOSTA
 - Rhys Williams, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club representing Pencoed College
 - Jon Watson, Burgham Park Golf Club representing Myerscough College
 - Matthew Perks, Ham Manor Golf Club representing Plumpton College
 - Ben Hunter, Baron Park Golf Complex representing Myerscough College
- Good Luck to all the Finalists!



Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012

The Continue to Learn Education Programme will be hitting your doormats with the October issue of Greenkeeper International. Featuring the Turf Managers' Conference, Workshops (three, two, one and half day) as well as a wide range of Seminars.

The full programme will also be available at www.harrogateweek.org.uk where you can also book your education online.

Frank Rossi Ph.D (right) will be presenting a one day workshop on Progressive Cultural Management Programs, a session at the Turf Managers' Conference on Practically Sustainable Golf Turf Management and a Seminar on Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf Course Turf.

Once the programme is launched, remember to book early to secure your place on the Workshops and Turf Managers' Conference.



BTME returns to the Harrogate International Centre next January, and things are hotting up already. This special 4-page feature gives you at taste of what is to come

With over 2,300 eager visitors pre-registered already momentum is building towards BTME in just over five months time.

The occasion of the 24th consecutive annual Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate will be one to remember particularly as it coincides with the joint milestones of 100 years of Greenkeeping Associations and 25 years of BIGGA. Whilst it is appropriate that we take time out to reflect on all that has been achieved in greenkeeping and turf management in that time there is no doubt that BTME 2012 will maintain its position as a forward looking event focused on improving knowledge and skills and demonstrating the latest cutting edge technology and turf maintenance techniques.

Allied with the unique environment provided by the town of Harrogate which means the Exhibition Centre, accommodation, restaurants, and bars are all in walking distance of each other, BTME really is the place to be for all Golf and Sports Turf professionals.



How to get to Harrogate



Direct Train Service from London-Harrogate



It has never been easier to get to Harrogate from London.

East Coast trains has announced the start of new services to provide a long awaited direct link, from London to Harrogate. Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce has led the campaign to bring the new direct train services, which will be welcomed by the thousands of delegates and visitors coming to Harrogate. The new Sunday evening northbound service will enable delegates coming to Harrogate for Conferences and Exhibitions to travel up on Sunday evening ready for an early start on the Monday Morning.

The direct trains are shown on the East Coast timetable:

www.eastcoast.co.uk

Southbound: 07.28 Monday-Friday; 08.13 Saturday; 17.05 Sunday

Northbound: 17.35 Monday-Friday; 17.35 Saturday; 18.05 Sunday

Park & Ride

BTME & ClubHouse provides a FREE 'Park and Ride' service from the Great Yorkshire Showground to Harrogate International Centre on all three days of the exhibition.

If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid the traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space. From the A1(M) take the A59 towards Knaresborough. Follow the ring road to Harrogate. The 'Park and Ride' will be fully signposted. The journey in from the Great Yorkshire Showground (YEC) to the HIC normally takes around 10 minutes but does depend on traffic conditions.

The shuttle service will run at the following times:

* Tuesday 24 January 08.30 to 17.30

* Wednesday 25 January 08.30 to 17.30





Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 January 2012
at the Harrogate International Centre



Personal Development Zone

The popular Personal Development Zone will return to the BIGGA Stand for the duration of BTME. Experts in recruitment and career development will be on hand along with management trainers and experienced BIGGA members to offer advice on a whole range of Personal and Career Development issues.



Awards and Competition Winners

As always BTME will offer the opportunity to recognise outstanding achievement by BIGGA members.

The latest Master Greenkeepers will be presented with their certificates and CPD Diplomas will be awarded to those members who have demonstrated consistent commitment to continuing education. Additionally during the week the winners of the following will be revealed:

- Edwin Budding Award
- BIGGA Photographic competition
- STRI Environment Awards



BIGGA 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner



Plans are well in hand for a celebratory dinner which will take place in Harrogate on the evening of Tuesday 24th January.

The dinner will be a celebration of all that has been achieved over the 25 years of BIGGA's existence and will represent the focal point of the Association's Anniversary celebrations.

Details of venue, format and how to purchase tickets will be available shortly.

management exhibition in Europe



Sunday 22 to Thursday 26 January 2012

at the Queens Suite, Harrogate International Centre



Seminars



Seminar Sessions will include the following presentations:

Managing Winter Kill in West of Scotland?

David Cole, Golf Course/Estate Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Club

From Grazing to Scottish Open Status in Five Years

Chris Haspell, Course Manager, Castle Stewart Golf Club

Let's Re-build 20 Greens in 10 Days - Mission Impossible?

Cameron McMillan, Course Manager, Queenwood Golf Club

Being a Professional and Living It

Bruce Williams CGCS, Owner and Principal, Bruce Williams Golf Consulting

The Control of Earthworms on Golf Courses

Dr David Jones, Research Scientist, The Natural History Museum, London

The Biology and Effects of Parasitic Nematodes in Sports Turf

Dr Colin Fleming, Plant Pathologist, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

LinkedIn - A Masterclass

Lesley Wood, Principal Consultant, Targeting Innovation Ltd

Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf Course Turf

Frank Rossi Ph.D, Professor, Cornell University

Many other workshops and seminars will be taking place. Further information on the Continue to Learn Education Programme is available at www.harrogateweek.org.uk

Workshops

After the successful introduction of the **How to be an Outstanding Manager** workshops, the 2012 programme will once again feature Shona Garner, Director of Shona Garner Coaching Services Ltd, offering **Part 3: Performance Management; How to Get it Right**

Following feedback a couple of workshops that were originally offered as one day workshops, have been extended to two days:

So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager by Peter Jones and Kevin Munt, Golf Course Consultants

Irrigation System Management and Design by Adrian Mortram, Irrigation Consultant, Robin Hume Associates and Dennis Mortram

New workshops will include:

Essential IT Business

Administration for Greenkeepers by Jacky Lowe, Training Gem

A Practical Guide to Setting Up a Social Media Presence by



Lesley Wood, Principal Consultant, Targeting Innovation Ltd

Progressive Cultural Management Programs by Frank Rossi Ph.D, Professor, Cornell University

Successful Project Management by Bruce Williams CGCS, Bruce Williams Consulting

A mainstay of the GCSAA's Education Programme, we are delighted that Bruce will be presenting this workshop on the Continue to Learn programme.

Fringe Seminars

Once again many of our loyal exhibitors will be providing Fringe Seminars free of charge in their specific areas of expertise. These seminars are accredited for the BIGGA CPD scheme.



For the latest comprehensive listings and details of all seminars and workshops, look out for the Continue to Learn 2012 brochure, with next month's GI



Supported by: R&A, GCMA, PGA, EPGA, EWGA, GOLF, etc.

Continue to learn 2012
at Harrogate Week

Sunday 22 to Thursday 26 January 2012
Harrogate International Centre, North Yorkshire, UK

Your guide to education and events at Harrogate Week

Book Early To avoid disappointment

JOHN DEERE, Kubota, BARRONS, syngenta, TORO





NEW VITAX APPOINTMENT

Jon Welling has joined Vitax Supaturf as Technical Sales Advisor for the South East of England.

With over 15 years industry experience behind him, Jon followed a diploma from Merrist Wood College with a post managing a 1,200 acre county estate before working with major machinery dealers.

"I'm dealing mainly with schools, contractors and Local Authorities and come across many familiar faces," said Jon.

"He's technically minded and that's a great asset, especially for a company that's continually developing new products," said Mike King, Sales and Marketing Manager for Vitax Supaturf.

New 'Short Game' Practice Facility Proposal in at Ipswich Golf Club

Grassform Group has secured a contract with Ipswich Golf Club at Purdis Heath in Suffolk to construct a new short game and practice facility.

The work is estimated to be worth around £100,000. The facility has been designed by Hawtree Ltd.

Mark Dunning, Director of Grassform Group, commented:

"We are delighted that Ipswich Golf Club has chosen us to assist them with this particular project. We are well on schedule to complete this project within the allotted time and within budget."



Happy Retirement

Tony Cundall, General Manager at Campey Turf Care Systems, has retired on his 65th birthday.

Tony joined the company as a sales rep and went on to become GM, where he oversaw the reception of goods into the yard and was responsible for preparation of all machinery in readiness for dispatch and delivery to customers.

"In an age when strength of character, loyalty and conscientiousness are not always given the recognition and appreciation they deserve, we are delighted to acknowledge the sheer hard work and reliability Tony has displayed in the past 22 years," said Richard Campey.

"He has proven himself to be a loyal and dedicated member of our team and Campey's will not be the same without him. We wish him a long and happy retirement."

Tony was presented with number plates and spare keys to his works vehicle at the Campey 25th Anniversary party in July and his wife, Dinah, received a bouquet of flowers.

Steve French, currently Spare Parts Manager, will be replacing Tony.