

DOMESTIC

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

AGRICULTURAL

HORTICULTURAL

**Subsidised
Solar Barns!**

Upto £35,000 towards
your building!

Talk to us today

We have a new website! Please take a look and let us know what you think. www.westcountrybuildings.com

HIGH QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS

DESIGNED AND
CONSTRUCTED TO
YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

Mention that you saw us in
Greenkeeper International
magazine when you contact us.

West Country Steel Buildings is an authorised distributor of Capital Steel Buildings, the leading producer of cold rolled steel buildings in the UK and Ireland. Working together means that we are able to provide the very best, cost effective buildings designed specifically to suit your needs.

We offer a fantastic service and clever design solutions. Over the past twenty years we have built up a fantastic reputation of excellence and professionalism with a fine personal touch.

Our expert team have a wealth of experience in both the design and construction processes, this comes with a proven track record.

01633 782 684
07980 818 364
07970 827 085

Head Office
15 High Cross Road
Rogerstone
Newport
NP10 9AE



LOG SALTEX 2011
visit us at stand R26
6th-8th September 2011

BIGGA



President
Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE

**Board of Management
Chairman**
Andrew Mellon
Vice Chairman
Tony Smith
Past Chairman
Paul Worster

Board Members

Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn,
Arnold Phipps-Jones, Jeremy Hughes, Kenny
MacKay, Mark Dobell

Chief Executive Officer

Jim Croxton

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

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

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 833802
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

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise
reproduced without written permission.
Return postage must accompany all
materials submitted if return is requested. No
responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited
materials. The right is reserved to edit
submissions before publication.
Although every care will be taken, no
responsibility is accepted for loss of
manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions
expressed are not necessarily those of the
Association, and no responsibility is accepted
for such content, advertising or product
information that may appear. Circulation is by
subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per
year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World
£95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA
members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf
industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2011 British and International Golf
Greenkeepers Association Limited



It's never time wasted

Making the most of resources is something we've all had to become more proficient at in recent times. That's not to say that we were overly cavalier with our own, or our employers', money, prior to that.

It is just that whatever slack may or may not have been there, in the halcyon years of the 80s, 90s and early noughties, has well and truly been tightened up.

Wouldn't life have been so much more pleasant during those times if we had known how well off we actually were?

But with the recession biting and not looking like coming to an end any time soon, golf has had to become used to operating under reduced circumstances. However, one thing that can't be allowed to happen is for course presentation standards to drop.

Hence the need to become better at the work that is carried out. This month Master Greenkeeper, Kerran Daly, who is now Senior Consultant for Greensward Sports Consultancy, has written a practical, yet thought provoking, article on managing your golf course and how to make the most of whatever budget you have.

As you would expect from someone of Kerran's experience, the article is packed full of useful information some of which you may already know and be putting to good use, but there will undoubtedly be something new that you might be able to incorporate into your own practices.

Taking time to assess how you do things is never time wasted.

One way in which any money worries would be banished for good would have been to have had an accumulator on the winners of this year's four Majors. Whereas a couple of years ago no-one would have been overly

impressed if you'd predicted two or even three of the year's Champions, this year, if you got just one of them, people would have expected Nostradamus to pop up somewhere on your family tree, if you were ever to appear on, "Who Do You think You Are"

True Charl Schwartzel and Rory McIlroy were regarded as fine up and coming players, but Masters and US Open Champion? Perhaps not quite yet. Darren Clarke and Keegan Bradley would certainly have been extra long shots for their respective Open and US PGA titles. Darren was widely regarded to have peaked a few years ago, while Keegan was playing in his first ever Major.

That is the beauty of golf. Anyone can win over 72 holes strokeplay and whereas the number of potential winners of major sporting events in other sports can be counted on the fingers of one hand golf is now far more unpredictable.

Even more reason then, to get your application in for the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. You still have a little time to do so. It is always a fabulous event and open to all standards of player. This year it is to be hosted by West Lancs GC, one of the finest courses in the North West, and one with a reputation of being particularly challenging.

So get yourself entered. You won't regret it.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

GI CONTENTS

A look at what's inside the magazine this month

SEPTEMBER 2011

FEATURES

16 The place to be
Harrogate Week 2012 Preview

24 One man bands
Jim Cook finds out that working as a lone greenkeeper can be a tricky yet rewarding business

30 What's at stake for newly planted trees?
Dr Terry Mabbett with his in-depth look at how to look after your trees

36 History in the making
John Deere are the Gold Key Profile

38 Smart management
Kerran Daly MG looks at how you can keep a well maintained golf course in times of austerity measures

44 Oh Carolina!
Rob Clare tells us about his trip to North Carolina

46 Tank Mixing
Graham Paul offers another opportunity to earn valuable BASIS points

52 The Anatomy of... Top dressers
James De Havilland looks at Charterhouse machinery

57 Don't miss out on the trip of a lifetime
Find out what the cover wrap is all about! Your chance to be part of the Bernhard's Delegation trip to the States



One man bands

Working as a lone greenkeeper on a nine-hole course can be a tricky yet rewarding business, as Jim Cook found out, after speaking to Chris O'Dowd, of Cambridge Lakes Golf Club, and Miles Skehan, of Ampleforth College Golf Club, in North Yorkshire

The number of bicycles which can usually be seen parked outside Cambridge Lakes' clubhouse give a sound indication of the state of the club, everybody is welcome.

From students cycling down to a meal before bedtime, to groups of children coming to get the game on, the town at the club, which is just one-and-a-half miles south of Cambridge city centre, puts members on giving all a warm greeting.

Teamwork is the key at this nine-hole, par-three club and although Chris O'Dowd is the sole greenkeeper, he has the backing of a support contingent to help deliver quality throughout the year.

Chris mentions his daily routine: "Normally first thing on a morning I come out, there are dew, reset pitch marks, check the tees and take the clubhouse while cutting the greens. I usually prepare during the week and on a weekend we have some school children come in and do more work around the course. Then I'm back in Monday morning getting the course ready for the following weekend. We handle around 20,000 rounds a year here and cater for everybody. Anyone can stroll in and play so we try and make it a bit of a challenge but also fairly generous to any standard of golfer."

Cambridge Lakes' greens now contain around 500,000 and Chris said he, Club Owner, Bob Burton, and the rest of the team at the club worked hard to bring them up to standard, with minimal use of nitrogen.

"To limit our use of nitrogen on the greens, our main supplier is Synthes and we work with them to try and improve the soil biology. We're keen on it for about a year now and it's going really well."

"It has reduced the number of times we need to cut the greens as well because you don't get the unsuitable growth from the nitrogen. It's more sustainable. We can compare us once a month to help with some recovery. It sends a bit of a message to the club."

Chris spoke about the advantages of being the sole greenkeeper: "You get a lot more involvement in what goes on. I make a decision based on what I think and because I've got eyes, I know what needs to be done."

For handicapper Chris, who also happens to be the joint holder of the course record, along with the club's pro, James Burton.

A qualified greenkeeper himself, James has been mentoring Chris since they began working on the course and as a team along with Bob, they are a positive example of how a group can work together at a

24

Harrogate The place to be **FDL** Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 January 2011 at the Harrogate International Centre

BTM presents to the Harrogate International Centre, 26th January and things are hotting up already! This special event features many great activities for all to enjoy.

How to get to Harrogate **New 2012**
Direct Train Service from London Harrogate

Park & Ride

Personal Development Zone

CPD
Awards and Competition Winners

BIGGA 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

16



36



30



44



38



20



46

REGULARS

- 6 Newsdesk
- 10 New Products
- 13 Chairman's Word
- 14 GTC
- 15 Learning and Development
- 20 Industry Update
- 21 What's Your Number?
- 22 New Products
- 50 Back in Time – 1972
- 58 Around the Green
- 61 Assistant Profile
- 63 Chief Executive's Column
- 64 Membership
- 65 Diary of Events
- 66 Letters
- 67 In the Shed
- 74 Soapbox



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

Trade Show Resolution

Many people will be aware of the formal discussions that have been taking place between representatives of BIGGA, The Institute of Groundsmanship and The Agricultural Engineers Association over the last couple of years with reference to the future of trade shows in the grounds and turf care sector. Below is a statement from the group on the outcome of those discussions.

Statement From The Grounds And Turf Care Industry Forum (GTCIF)

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), and the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) under the independent Chairmanship of David Gwyther of the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) have conducted an extensive review of trade events for the sector. We have considered carefully the location, frequency and composition of the trade events available to manufacturers and retailers of grounds and turf care products.

The HTA has independently analysed the details of both SALTEX and BTME and the demographics of both exhibitors and visitors who have attended these events in the past few years. This indicated that there are significant differences between the events, that they are not directly comparable. Clearly there exists an overlap in both exhibitors and visitors but in all cases this is a small minority. They also concluded that market forces will continue to dictate the demand and make up of these types of events.

The opportunity for the aforementioned stakeholders in the grounds and turf care industry to review their activity and discuss wider issues has been extremely positive and productive. The talks have highlighted a number of areas of mutual concern outside the trade event discussions and it has been heartening to find that in many areas there are potential opportunities to collaborate, share resources and expertise and to generally have a positive impact on the industry.

Consequently, the IOG, BIGGA, HTA and the AEA have agreed that:

1. They will continue to keep the future of Grounds and Turf Care Events under active review



2. They will work in collaboration through a new Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum

3. This Forum will provide a platform for these Trade Associations to work together to pursue areas of interest where a common voice will have a better opportunity to be heard.

4. They will actively look to engage with some other Associations in the Grounds and Turf Care Industry.

5. The Forum agenda will encompass areas such as:

Careers and personal development, Communication, Events, Health & Safety, Market research, Recruitment and Training, Better Regulation, Relationships with the companies in the industry sector, Providing a common voice to government in both the EU and UK.

The independent Chairman, David Gwyther of the HTA said:

“HTA’s independent and objective analysis of the industry’s two main shows has made it clear that there is, in fact, little real overlap in target markets and each has a distinct sectoral focus. Merging them in somewhere like central England would only increase the costs. There is no market appetite for further, new shows. Working together on this issue has led to the recognition that all parties have much to gain from developing such collaboration

into other areas. I am very pleased with these positive outcomes from our joint meetings this year, which demonstrate that this industry can and does work sensibly together.”

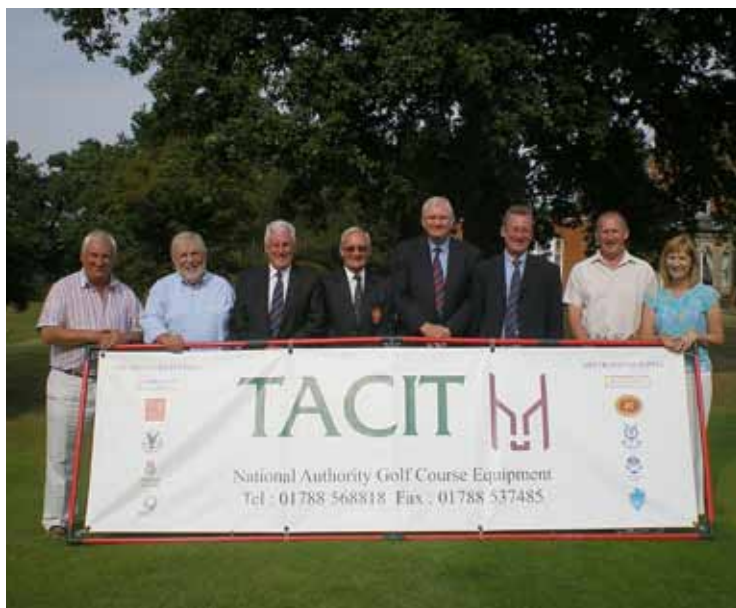
The Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum will draft Terms of Reference in the next few months and issue general information about the Forum’s work.

The Chairman of BIGGA, Andrew Mellon, who attended the discussions said:

“It is very important that all businesses take an objective look at their activities on an ongoing basis, the formal discussions presented an excellent opportunity for BIGGA to assess all aspects of BTME. Careful study showed that the Exhibition is an important showcase for the sports turf industry and particularly for the golf course maintenance sector as well as providing a valuable platform for BIGGA’s Continue to Learn programme and a hugely important networking opportunity for all those involved in the maintenance and management of golf courses.

“We are delighted that this process has validated the relevance of BTME in today’s market however we are mindful that we need to continually strive to ensure that visitors and exhibitors achieve maximum value from the event. We will continue to listen to all the key stakeholders to ensure the event evolves to meet the needs of all.”

TACIT GOLF TROPHY



A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored by Tacit, was held at Brickendon Grange Golf Club last month.

Teams from 11 golf clubs enjoyed a great day on a superbly presented course prepared by Course Manager, Trevor Booth and his staff.

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

Highlight of the day was a 2 on the 337 yards par-4 3rd hole by Dave Thompson, from Buckingham Golf Club, who drove the green and sank the putt!

The competition is based on four man teams, comprising a BIGGA member, Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green, playing Stableford. Verulam Golf Club, led by Course Manager, Chris Carpenter, won the event on a countback from the host club with a score of 85 points.

Both golf clubs progress to the

National Final to be held at Mere Golf Resort & Spa later this month. The top three won equipment for their clubs.

The photograph shows some of the two team members who are progressing to the final; with Trevor Booth and Chris Carpenter, 2nd and 3rd, from the right respectively.

The South West and South Wales Region's final Section Golf Management Trophy event was held in the South West Section at the Players Club.

Twenty-two teams took part which was a record number for this Section. Despite a deluge of rain towards the end of play, the day was enjoyed by everyone.

Ogbourne Downs Golf Club was the winning team securing a place in the final together with runners up the Players Golf Club both teams on 86 points. In third place with 84pts was Long Ashton Golf Club.

Harry Diamond Quaich

The Quaich is held every year at Belleisle GC to preserve the memory of Harry Diamond, former Course Manager at Ayrshire Council Course, and who was instrumental in promoting education in Scotland.

Held in July, the course was in excellent condition and the presentation to the highest standard.

As is the usual custom, players were walking to their respective tees at 8.30am to await the klaxon for the start of the Stableford competition and, unlike the weather of the previous year, everyone enjoyed a beautiful summer morning and the pleasure of playing in a competition for all ages.

Harry's family were all in attendance to take on the allotted tasks that go to make it such a well run event.

Harry's brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the players who came second and third while Harry's wife, Jessie, presented the Harry Diamond Quaich to the winners – Patricia Lambie, Steve Arrandale, Murray Cowie and Stephen Renshaw, who came in with an excellent 97 points.

It was announced that Harry's family had donated £500 to local hospitals and, at a time when everyone is tightening their belts because of the credit crunch, it is good to see that the Harry Diamond Memorial Fund can still afford to give donations to worthy causes.

Cecil George

CHAIRMAN OF GREENS

The GTC, in association with the EGU, is hosting three Chairman of Green workshops aimed at providing volunteer and paid golf club officials who have responsibility for working with head greenkeepers/course managers with advice information and best practice.

The workshops will be held at: Temple Golf Club, on Thursday, September 8; Gatton Manor Golf Club, on Tuesday, September 13 and Northumberland Golf Club, on Thursday, October 6.

The GTC has engaged the services of Laurence Pithie MG, and one of its Quality Assured Training Providers to present these workshops. Laurence will share his vast experience and knowledge of working for both private and commercial golf clubs. Comprehensive course notes will be given to all delegates attending the workshop.

To view the programme in detail visit www.the-gtc.co.uk. The cost of the workshop is £50pp to include refreshments, lunch and course materials.



Retirement

Brian Willmott, Area Manager for Tacit in the South East of England, is set to retire after 10 years services with the company and 25 years within the Greenkeeping Industry.

While slowing the pace, Brian will continue to keep his hand in by working as a consultant from home.

"We would like to thank Brian for his sterling efforts over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement," said Tim Webb.

BIGGA Competition

There are still places available for anyone wishing to compete for the title of BIGGA's Champion Golfer. The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at the fabulous West Lancashire Golf Club takes place on October 3&4.

As well as the main prize, players can compete for the Best Nett prize over the 36 holes plus daily team and individual prizes over 18 and 36 holes. There is also a Stableford competition on the second day for those who perhaps didn't do themselves justice on the first day.

To enter, or for further information, please contact Pauline Thomson, at BIGGA HQ, Tel: 01347 833800 email: pauline@bigga.co.uk



Turf science brought to life at The Belfry

The Belfry played host to the second Turf Science Live in July - an interactive event that showcases the latest research, development and technological innovations in turf agronomy.

Organised and run by Everris (formerly named Scotts) and Syngenta, the educational day of presentations and practical demonstrations was attended by 96 golf course managers, head greenkeepers, turfgrass consultants and contractors.

Small groups of delegates spent half an hour at each one of seven learning stations discovering more about turfgrass seed development, the art of application, irrigation management systems, the science of stress, optimising greens for performance, the latest electric greens mower technology and converting annual meadowgrass greens to bentgrass greens using the Graden.

The technical teams at Everris and Syngenta worked with Course Manager, Kenny McKay, and industry specialists Complete Weed Control, Rain Bird, Harper Adams University College, STRI, Jacobsen and Kensett Sports to provide a hands-on experience that brought learning onto the golf course.

Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf

Club, was attending his first Turf Science Live. He said the format was a great way for turf managers to learn.

"It was a really enjoyable and informative day. I found the station about turf stress, presented by Dr John Reade and Harry Mbah, particularly interesting. I work at a course with red clay greens, so springs for me are very difficult, but this year we've gone from dry and cold, to dry and hot with little rainfall, so the turf has stayed stressed and I've hit a time of the year when I want it to be actively growing. They explained about stress, its impact on

turf and how to alleviate it, as well as showing us about some practical solutions to help manage performance under difficult environmental conditions."

Neil Ballingall, Superintendent at Fairmont St Andrews, made the journey south to the West Midlands to attend his first Turf Science Live.

"Everything I've learnt today will help me when I return to my golf course," he confirmed.

"I much prefer this interactive format to sitting in a seminar, it was great to get out on to the superb course here at The Belfry."



IGCEMA Support

BIGGA has signed on in full support of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Certificate Programme.

The programme is part of the IGCEMA's commitment to educating its members around the world. The Certificate Programme consists of six core competencies including: hydraulic troubleshooting, electrical troubleshooting, internal combustion engines, drivelines, soon-to-be released are sprayer troubleshooting and cutting unit technology and set-up.

IGCEMA's CEO, Stephen Tucker, stated: "It gives us great pride to know that golf greenkeepers around the world are signing on in support of our programme. A lot of effort went into making this available to everyone. Having the support of BIGGA shows that greenkeepers are behind what we are doing. The support of BIGGA in this way will give the programme much credibility."

BIGGA's CEO, Jim Croxton, said: "BIGGA is committed to recognising excellence and giving recognition to those that strive for it so we are delighted to support the IGCEMA Certification Programme and appreciate the benefits that come from a close working relationship between our two bodies.

"Top quality greenkeeping is only possible if the machines used to do the job are maintained and repaired to the highest possible standard and the work that the IGCEMA does to raise the bar in this regard is to be applauded." BIGGA has not only signed on in support of the IGCEMA programme but has pledged to become an invigilator and also assist with promotion of the programme in the UK and across Europe by accrediting the programme for its CPD scheme. The IGCEMA's President, Patrick Callaby, Workshop Manager of the Celtic Manor Resort, said: "I am so pleased that BIGGA, under the leadership of their newly-appointed CEO, Jim Croxton, has come out in support of the certificate programme."

Eagle's Fairway Markers...

...will enhance your course presentation.

Eagle's range of posts, mow-overs and sprinkler head markers offers the complete distance measure solution.

Call us now on **01883 344 244** for prices and deals.



Fairway markers are available in a variety of substrates

Bronze > Sprinkler Head > Granite > Resin



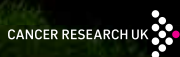
EAGLE

t +44 (0)1883 344244
f +44 (0)1883 341777
e info@eagle.uk.com
www.eagle.uk.com

TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF SALES



Wiedemann UK is selling a one-off Platinum Terra Spike GXi8 HD and all the proceeds are going to the charities, Cancer Research and the MS Society.



David Rae
Company Founder
& Managing Director



For further information contact: 0141 814 3366

Luck of the Draw

The Open at Royal St. George's was the venue for a draw to find out who had won the Rigby Taylor/Pinseeker competition.

Forty five clubs throughout the UK who purchased a specific range of Pinseeker equipment qualified to be entered into the draw and Jim Croxton, CEO of BIGGA, drew out Corhampton Golf Club, near Southampton, as the lucky winners.

The prize for the club is a round of golf for two and lunch at any course within a 50 mile radius of its location, or an alternative cash prize.

Included in the competition was an award for the most successful Rigby Taylor sales representative and it was Derek Cunliffe who won a similar prize.

Photograph shows Richard Fry, Marketing Director of Rigby Taylor, left, with Jim Croxton, right.



WIEDENMANN MILESTONE

Wiedenmann UK celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The company, synonymous with the Terra Spike brand of deep aerators, has set an industry benchmark, respected for its technical excellence and quality service.

To mark this milestone, Wiedenmann UK has fashioned a bespoke, platinum coloured Terra Spike GXi8 HD, which will be sold off this season. Proceeds from the sale will be split jointly between charities, Cancer Research and the MS Society. The GXi8 HD is precise and efficient and since its launch has become a best seller.

Founder, David Rae, was just 23 when he and his father, Alistair, met the Wiedenmann family at The Turf Industry Show, in Germany in 1989.

The Wiedenmanns were launching a prototype deep aerator while the Raes were looking for a machine for their contracting business. Within two years Wiedenmann UK was formed given

the distribution rights for Britain and Ireland.

"My enduring memory of that important phase was the strong respect and friendship with the Wiedenmann family," said David.

Crucially, in the last 20 years, both families have been acutely aware that success only comes from supplying products backed by fair, honest customer support. Wiedenmann UK has benefited from the German company's focus on product development with a large sum reinvested to design and test future machines. Wiedenmann GmbH has expanded its distribution network around the world and has become market leader through innovation.

Twenty years on, Wiedenmann UK grows stronger promoting an ever expanding range of specials grounds maintenance machinery. David is proud of what the company has achieved, however, he is aware of the challenges that lie ahead.

competitive without compromise

reco
agricultural & groundcare machinery

KIOTI

compact tractors,
attachments &
utility vehicles

recommended



www.reco.co.uk/utv