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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

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# A boost for the rest of the year

**Ever since I've worked for BIGGA, January has meant just one thing – BTME and Harrogate. It dominates the months leading up to January and for the month itself it is last minute preparations; the actual week then the race to finish the February magazine, which is held back so it can include the Harrogate review (see pages 31-54). January just flies by.**

It has become a way of life and like so many of you, it provides a boost for the rest of the year, something that I can say that with all sincerity as I haven't attended a single show which didn't provide a feel good factor.

However, this year that was certainly amplified and the numbers which thronged to the Halls and took advantage of the superb Continue to Learn education programme were significantly higher than in recent years.

So what made the difference this year? Certainly there was a well targeted marketing plan in place aimed at encouraging visitors both from within the greenkeeping industry but also from the wider fine turf sector. Improved weather also played its part. Over the last two years December and January have been extremely cold, with many courses buried deep under snow and ice for long periods. Indeed, last year the arctic conditions stretched right up until a couple of days before the show and some people who intended to come to Harrogate had to stay back and manage the thaw.

This year one of the main features was BIGGA's 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening and the 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations and 25 Years of BIGGA Museum exhibit in Hall A. These were huge successes and highlighted just how much the success of BIGGA, and its predecessors, was due to the drive, commitment and passion of a few

individuals. The chance of honouring those people was, rightly, not missed.

Also, in this month's issue, you will find a fascinating article on a golfer survey commissioned by Syngenta.

The findings were quite revealing. For example it identified the importance the golfer places on the golf course above other elements of a club, like clubhouse facilities, food and beverage, practice facilities and buggy availability. That can only be strong ammunition when fighting your budgetary corner.

Another of the findings showed that smoothness of role is rated as more important than green speed. Again this might be useful in fending off the "Need for Speed" or the "Race for Pace" lobby.

An interesting set of findings, and thanks to Syngenta for choosing Greenkeeper International to share it with you.

So having come through another Harrogate and reached February the rest of 2012 is laid out in front of us. European Football Championships and the London Olympics which are now with us in a matter of seven months rather than seven years mark this down as a particularly special year and for me, with a 50th birthday coming up in August, it is another reason why this year will be memorable. When you see the number written down it looks very old but, if I'm honest, I don't really feel much older than a fit 48 year old!

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**

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**FEBRUARY 2012**

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A new survey of golfers reveals their likes and dislikes. They are not always what you might think.

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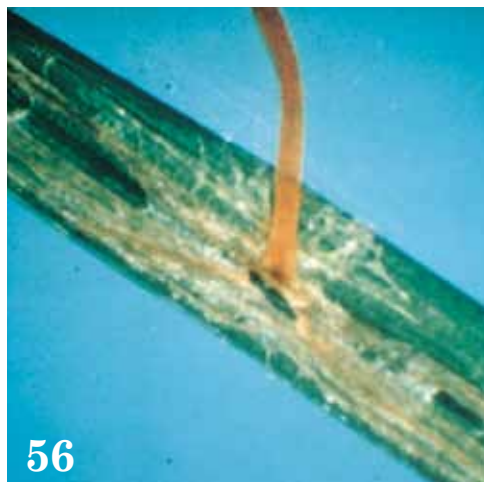
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James de Havilland casts his expert eye over the lightweight fairway mower.





## Wentworth Club Announces Retirement of Chris Kennedy

**The Wentworth Club Golf Courses Manager, Chris Kennedy, is retiring from his position after 22 years exemplary service.**

Chris, who joined the Club in February 1990, will continue to work until June 29 and be responsible for his final BMW PGA Championship in May.

When Chris retires he will have managed the course presentation at Wentworth for a staggering 52 European Tour Professional Golf Tournaments.

Julian Small, Chief Executive of Wentworth Club, commented: "We wish Chris the very best in his retirement. He has been an exceptional member of the team here and overseen significant development of all our golf courses. I don't think there is a Golf Course Manager in the world that can match Chris's record in preparing golf courses for professional tournaments."

Chris' successor, Kenny Mackay will join Wentworth at the end of April. Currently Director of Golf

Courses and Grounds at The Belfry since 2005, Kenny has gained a wealth of experience in golf course management and professional golf tournament preparation over the last 18 years, forging an enviable Curriculum Vitae including previous roles at The London Golf Club, Hanbury Manor and The Forest of Arden. He is also a Past Chairman of BIGGA.

Kenny stated "I am very excited about this new challenge and realise that I am joining a world class venue with a superb tournament history. I look forward to the professional challenges that come with the events along with meeting and getting to know the members.

"Chris Kennedy has achieved much here over the years; and now looking forward, I feel excited for all that lies ahead for me at Wentworth Club."

Chris said of his time at the Club, "It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been Golf Courses Manager for the last 22 years at Wentworth Club. I would like to

thank both Elliott Bernerd and Richard Caring, the two owners of the Club during my time here, for giving myself and the team the chance to be involved in all the course changes over the years.

Wentworth is a special golfing venue with three wonderful courses, all different. Working with the Tour for the PGA Championship is the highlight of the year and all the boys have worked hard over the years to help make the event so great.

I would like to welcome Kenny Mackay to the Club as my replacement and working with him during our handover period. I know he will do a great job. Finally after 50 years in the golf industry, Jill and I are going home to Scotland to play some golf and spend time with our families."

RIGHT: Kenny Mackay



Chris Kennedy with Ernie Els on the West Course

## EIGCA Partner

The European Institute of Golf Course Architects has announced that Giles Wardle has become an EIGCA Consultant Partner.

A Chartered Engineer, Giles is a partner with Irriplan.

EIGCA Consultant Partner is a new partnership category for golf course consultants with the aim of increasing interaction between the EIGCA and other professions in the golf industry. The scheme is open to all consultants who are working in a solely fee based, professional practice, associated with the golf course design business.

Julia Green, EIGCA Executive Officer, said: "I would like to welcome Giles Wardle as the EIGCA's first Consultant Partner. I am sure he will enjoy the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with our members, particularly at our conference in Nice and our other official functions. "This new partnership category allows consultants to promote their services directly to golf course architects, as well as our other partners, and helps to bring the various elements of our industry closer together."

For more info: [julia@eigca.org](mailto:julia@eigca.org)



## J.R.D. Palmer (David) 1926 to 2012

David Palmer known across the trade for developing and guiding Supaturf Products LTD through the 60s 70s and 80s, died earlier this month after a battle with Alzheimer's disease.

David was a long time supporter of BIGGA serving on the show steering committee for a number of years. His interest and passion for the amenity industry was partly generated through his long and successful rugby career, playing for Coventry, Leicester Tigers and captaining Leicestershire in the 50s.

His many years in the trade as MD and Owner of Supaturf Products LTD saw him build the company through the fledgling years of the amenity industry.

Manufacturing fertilisers specifically for use on golf courses and sports facilities at the G.A Palmer Ltd factory in Peterborough through the early 60s and carrying out important development work in turf nutrition.

David built up the business over a 35 year period and Supaturf became known countrywide with five depots across England through the 80s, offering a vast range of supplies to the industry.

He further increased Supaturf sales across the world through the 90s selling products across Europe and as far afield as the southern hemisphere, before retiring in 2000.

David is survived by wife, Jane, sons, Michael and Marcus, and his five grandchildren.

In memory of David the following website has been set up to help collect vital funds so that modern medicine can get a greater understanding and hopefully a future cure for Alzheimer's disease, that today effects so many people.

[www.justgiving.com/remember/2293/David-Palmer](http://www.justgiving.com/remember/2293/David-Palmer)



## 100 in 100

The 'My Apprentice 2012' scheme was launched at Myerscough College last month by local MP Ben Wallace, well known Lancashire Chef, Nigel Haworth, and Edwin Booth, Myerscough College Patron. It is a year-long campaign dedicated to increasing the number of Apprenticeship opportunities across both public and private sectors, with a specific focus on targeting the land based (Agriculture, Horticulture and Sportsturf) and sports industries.

The business breakfast was used to launch the College's first major 'My Apprentice 2012' event - a '100 in 100' days campaign. The '100 in 100' concept will see Myerscough College attempt to generate and secure 100 Apprenticeship placements across the private and public sector within 100 days, with a particular focus on targeting the land based and sports industries.

The '100 in 100' campaign was designed to bring together training providers, public and private sector business leaders, the National Apprenticeship Service and local media to work in partnership to deliver a sustained campaign to increase Apprenticeship opportunities and placements.

## NEW ROLE FOR RUSSELL

One of the Sportsturf industries best known faces; Russell Latham, has left the Mansfield Sand Company after 13 years service to take up his new position as European Sales Director for Clive Richardson (International) Ltd.

An amalgamation of two well-known sports turf contracting companies, Clive Richardson Ltd (CRL) and Premier Pitches Ltd formed to identify and develop new opportunities in the increasingly competitive area of sports pitch construction, maintenance and renovation.

Both will still operate independently with existing clients although Russell will also be responsible for forging and maintaining links with new clients under the CRL banner.



# GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe

Please email your news items and press releases to The Editor, Scott MacCallum  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

# Graduation Celebration



A total of 28 young service technicians recently graduated from the John Deere Turf Tech and Ag Tech advanced apprenticeship programmes, run by national training provider Babcock.

The group of third year students, almost a third of the total of 101 apprentices now undergoing training with John Deere and Babcock, received their certificates during a visit to the company's Mannheim facilities.

The trip also included a tour of the cab manufacturing facility and European Parts Distribution Centre at Bruchsal, and a gradua-

tion dinner with John Deere management.

Bruce Cockburn, of W M Dodds Ltd at Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, was named Apprentice of the Year and presented with a crystal plaque, an additional certificate and vouchers for workshop tools worth £300.

The apprentices can go on to complete their education for a fourth year to gain the John Deere Diploma and register at LTA2 level in the industry's Landbased Technician Accreditation scheme, while starting their adult training within the John Deere University.

## Carnoustie's John Philp to Retire



Carnoustie's Links Superintendent, John Philp MBE is retiring this June after 26 years in charge of the Links

Announcing his retirement, John said: "I consider it to have been a privilege to have been part of a great team effort whose original target was the resurgence of Carnoustie Links in world golf. I have cherished many moments experienced over the last 26 years and none more so than the return of The Open to Carnoustie. That was the major highlight."

During his tenure, the course has also staged the Scottish Open, Dunhill Links, Senior Open and, last year, for the first time, the Women's British Open.

John's last week in post will coincide with Carnoustie hosting the Ladies' Open Amateur Championship on 26-30 June.



## JON JOINS ETESIA

Etesia UK has appointed Jon Welling as Southern Area Sales Manager for its range of Etesia & Pellenc products covering the South East and the South West.

Jon joins Etesia UK with over 20 years experience in the grasscare and amenity sector and has an enviable and extensive knowledge having previously worked at Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd and more recently Vitax.

Jon's responsibilities will include providing product advice, demonstrations and assistance to customers and dealers within his region, as well as attending shows and exhibitions. He will also be responsible in the recruitment of new, approved dealers.

# JOIN THE REVOLUTION!

**TORO**



Toro is proud to launch the revolutionary new Greensmaster TriFlex range. Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex 3400 and TriFlex Hybrid 3420 are both packed with ground-breaking technology and deliver an unrivalled quality of cut and exceptional finish. Check out the unique cutting unit suspension system and DPA cutting units that hug ground contours for superb cutting consistency. And redesigned balloon-style tyres that make tracks virtually invisible. What's more, the TriFlex has been built with the operator firmly in mind. Quick-change cutting units can be switched instantly to other units – all without tools. But perhaps most exciting of all, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system for a greener mower. Discover the all-new Greensmaster TriFlex range for yourself, call us on the number below and join the revolution!

Call **01480 226800** or visit [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)

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FLEX 21



GREENSMaster 3250-D



TRIFLEX 3400



# Jacobsen and GEO Sign Global Agreement

Jacobsen, has signed a new global partnership agreement with the Golf Environment Organization. This will see the organisations broaden their collaboration jointly to promote awareness, understanding and solutions in the Americas and Asia as well as Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Through significant, long-standing support for GEO, Jacobsen is also investing in bringing practical and credible sustainability programmes for golf course management, renovation and new development to practitioners around the world.

GEO is a non-profit organisation entirely dedicated to sustainability in golf; building awareness, developing and administering golf's ecolabel, GEO Certified™ and delivering programmes to help clubs and developments achieve the distinction.

Based on a long-standing relationship with Ransomes Jacobsen, that has supported GEO's pioneering work to help the industry embrace the environmental opportunities and challenges in sector, the new worldwide Jacobsen agreement will strengthen efforts and results.

Jonathan Smith, Chief Executive of the Golf Environment Organization, said: "GEO is privileged to have such a dedicated partner, committed to continued investment in the things that make sustainability more accessible and productive to golf businesses. Ransomes Jacobsen has supported GEO from the very start and



has made a significant difference in the development, delivery, and awareness of the solutions we provide for the golf community.

David Withers, President of Jacobsen, responded: "Jacobsen is a global company and GEO has global relevance and solutions, with programmes accessible worldwide in a growing number of languages and a high quality, credible and increasingly recognised international ecolabel for golf. Expanding our partnership to encompass all of the Jacobsen business units around the globe

makes good sense, further aligns our outlook and will multiply many new positive outcomes.

Alan Prickett, Jacobsen Managing Director for Asia Pacific added, "In the Asia Pacific region we are seeing pressure for valuable resources such as land, water and energy and it is vitally important that future golf facilities and resorts are built with sustainable development at the forefront. This has to happen right from the initial planning phase through to completion and then be continued through the life of the course.

## Less is more

'Managing with Less' - Exploring the Economic and Environmental Benefits of a Sound and Sympathetic Course Management Policy seminar, being held at Temple Golf Club on Tuesday, February 28, at 6.30pm.

Chaired by Michael Barratt the evening workshop is aimed at illustrating how best to meet the challenge of maintaining the quality and playability of the golf course while respecting and positively contributing to the indigenous social and natural environment. Since the mid 90s Temple has worked hard to reduce course management costs and enhance biodiversity but without compromising on the quality demanded by today's golfer.

Speakers will be Temple Secretary, Keith Adderley, on the interface between the policy and the golfer; Course Manager, Martin Gunn, on how a sound course management policy benefits the playing quality of the course and the indigenous natural environment; Gavin Bennett, of the B, B&O Wildlife Trust, on the benefits of less intensive land management on biodiversity, and Michael Barratt on the wider issues covered by the R&A Golf Course Committee

Call Stan Edwards on 01628 824795 or by email to stan.edwards@templegolfclub.co.uk

## SYNTHETIC SURFACES ONLINE

Visitors to [www.iogsynthetics.co.uk](http://www.iogsynthetics.co.uk) will now have access to information and advice on everything to do with the selection and construction of synthetic sports facilities, as well as how effective training and maintenance can ensure the longevity and cost-effectiveness of the facilities.

The website offers clear, easy-to-follow, information

for everyone involved in the specification and maintenance of synthetic facilities

- specifically Groundsmen, Bursars and Managers/Owners
- alongside some practical video footage.

The project has been jointly developed by Abacus Lighting, BLc Sports, FieldTurf Tarkett, the IOG, Redexim Charterhouse and Replay Maintenance.

