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On Course Foundation Charity Golf Day Success

The On Course Foundation which seeks to find work opportunities for injured servicemen in the golf industry held a Charity Golf Day at Royal Birkdale. Alex Harrison, who is employed full time as a greenkeeper at Gainsborough Golf Club after being placed there by the Foundation, took part in the Chandley Properties Ltd team. Alex was joined by Royal Birkdale

Captain, Sid Ludlow, Formby Captain, Niall Roy and Peter Unsworth of Chandley Properties.

Pictured, from left to right, are Niall Roy, Sid Ludlow, Bert Beddow, Peter Unsworth and Alex Harrison.

For further information about the On Course Foundation email info@oncoursefoundation.com or telephone **0208 334 2010**.



25 YEARS FOR STUART AT JOHN O'GAUNT



IGCEMA Board Member Stuart Hall recently celebrated 25 years service as Workshop Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club in Bedfordshire and was presented with a commemorative gift by the Club Captain, Martin Pettit.

2012 is turning in to a landmark year for Stuart, following his selection to be part of the BIGGA Delegation to attend the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas (courtesy of Bernhard and Company). In 2010 he was also part of the workshop team at Celtic Manor for the dramatic Ryder Cup Matches.

On receiving the presentation he remarked, "It doesn't seem like 25 years since I first arrived at John O Gaunt for my first day's work, hand cutting greens of all things.

Since then I have done many different jobs in an ever changing environment, it's been an enjoyable journey to where I am now and along the way I have met and worked with many different people from all areas of the industry, each and every one of those people have helped, encouraged or influenced me in some way during my time here.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of those people for their help and support over the years and thank the staff and committee of John O Gaunt for their continued help and support."

Wood Boring Beetle Flies into the UK



Asian Longhorn Beetle.
All images on this page courtesy of the Forestry Commission

UK plant health authorities are battling to eradicate the most dangerous alien insect pest of trees and shrubs the United Kingdom has ever had to face. Asian longhorn beetle/ALB (*Anoplophora glabripennis* arrived), which arrived in wood packaging from China, has been breeding in trees at Paddock Wood in Kent (eight miles from Maidstone) for at least two years.

Failure to eradicate this wood boring beetle could transform large areas of the country into a lunar landscape as the authorities will be forced to fell and burn all potential host trees in its path. Most insect pests have a restricted host range but

this beetle attacks a huge range of broad-leaved trees which are already being felled and burned by contractors working with the Forestry Commission (FC) and Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) in Kent.

Potential tree hosts include poplars, willows, maples, sycamore, London planes, beech, alders, mountain ash and all *Prunus* species. Such is the breadth of ALB's host range that conifers, Eucalyptus and English oaks are virtually the only trees escaping the 'blade' and 'burner'.

Houlbec Forestry, an approved Arboriculture Association contractor from Hastings, is felling and clearing trees and an 'air-burner' belonging to Kingwell Holdings of Braintree, Essex is incinerating 1 tonne of wood per hour on site, 12 hours a day for 7 days a week.

Infested trees plus all healthy potential host trees within a 100 m radius around each beetle infested tree are felled and incinerated.

By mid-June 65 trees with a combined total of 100 beetle larvae had been identified, felled and incinerated together with over 1300 healthy susceptible trees.

The operation began in late April 2012 and is likely to continue through summer as newly infested trees are found

further out from the original infestation. Each time another infested tree is found the infestation zone is extended by another 100 m (radius around the tree) and likewise the 'exclusion (buffer) zone' for another 200 m beyond the edge of the infestation zone. By mid-June the infestation zone covered more than 8 hectares.

Adult female beetles lay eggs in slits cut into the bark on the upper branches of trees starting in May. Larvae hatch within 7-17 days and feed under the bark through two larval moults before boring into the wood.

Once inside they excavate galleries up to 10 mm in diameter to attain a body length of 50 mm by maturity. Pupation occurs in spring and hatching adults emerge

from May through to August leaving masses of tell-tale wood shavings around the face of the exit hole.

Length of ALB life cycle varies depending on temperature. Entomologists expect ALB life cycle under south of England conditions to be around 2 years. The boring activity of beetle larvae weakens trees which collapse and die. So serious is this quarantine pest that tree felling and incineration is overriding all other normally sacrosanct priorities including Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and nesting birds.

Thankfully none of the three golf courses in this area of Kent are affected. Spread of ALB onto golf courses would completely change their topography and lay-out due to a mass loss of trees of all stages of growth and development.

In addition, it would undoubtedly mean significant collateral damage to sports turf from the heavy machinery and equipment needed to fell, load, transport and incinerate hundreds of full grown trees.

This insect's capacity for rapid spread is high. Adult beetles will fly at least 400 metres in search of a food supply and anyone felling or pruning an infested tree and subsequently transporting debris to a landfill or re-cycling centre will inadvertently spread the pest.

Experience from the US shows just how far and fast this beetle can spread. After arriving in New York in 1996 and Chicago in 1998, ALB subsequently spread into the New England States, Ohio and Canada. Estimates for damage and cost of control run into hundreds of billions of dollars.



Willow showing adult Asian longhorn beetle exit holes.
(Picture Forestry Commission)



Parts of Paddock Wood are beginning to look like a lunar landscape. Felled poplars shown here (Picture Forestry Commission)

Grand Finale

Wentworth's Chris Kennedy is honoured during the 2012 BMW PGA Championship

The sun beamed down on Chris Kennedy, Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth, for the BMW PGA Championship, his 52nd and final European Tour event as world number one, Luke Donald produced a dominant display to successfully defend his BMW PGA Championship title.

Chris described the conditions running up to the tournament which brought drought then heavy rain with low temperatures throughout, as 'the most difficult build up I have ever known', a strong statement after 22 years at Wentworth and 50 all told in the industry!

Nevertheless the yet again rejigged West Course was immaculate and the most recent course changes notably at holes 12, 15 and 17 as well as the raised landing area on 18 were seamless in appearance.

The great weather for the week brought out a record crowd of over 95,000 for the four tournament days to witness Europe's finest players



competing for the Tour's flagship title. Donald's closing 68 for a 13 under par total of 275 saw him cruise to a four shot victory over Paul Lawrie and Justin Rose.

It was an eventful week for Chris beginning with a tribute from the Association of Golf Writers and closing with the presentation of a silver salver on the 18th green during the main prizegiving from the European Tour's Chief Executive George O'Grady (right).

Congratulations to Chris on his well earned retirement and we wish him well as he relocates to his native Scotland.

Good luck also to Kenny Mackay as he takes over the reins from Chris for the next

chapter in the Wentworth story.

As usual a Support Team of BIGGA volunteers co-ordinated by Clive Osgood assisted with the event, providing back up on the first two days and then each individual match was accompanied over the weekend, by a member.

A full complement of forty-five BIGGA Members, from all over the country, took part and had to take on plenty of water in the course of their duties, because of the high temperatures with hardly a cloud to be seen in the sky over the last two days.

By all accounts everybody was kept on their toes with frequent visits being made into many of the well-placed and



formidable West Course bunkers throughout.

27-year-old Mike Ellis, Course Manager at the Lakeview Country Club in Cornwall, had the honour of accompanying the last match out, and safely brought the winner home on Sunday.

Thanks to all of the volunteers for giving up their time to assist with the event, they did the Association and the event proud.

Wentworth Club's Chris Kennedy Awarded Tribute from AGW

The Association of Golf Writers paid tribute to Chris Kennedy, the retiring Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth Club, during their annual lunch at Wentworth Club on the eve of the BMW PGA Championship.

The BMW PGA Championship was the 52nd European Tour event where Kennedy had managed the course preparation at Wentworth and his contribution was recognised by the AGW with Chairman Bill Elliott and John Jacobs,

the founding father of The European Tour and Honorary Life Vice President of the AGW, presenting a silver Quaich.

Elliott said: "We as golf writers talk so much about how much equipment has moved on in our lifetimes and so much over the last 20 years and actually I think the greatest advance in that time is the conditioning of golf courses.

That's down to fantastic skill, commitment, enthusiasm and passion, no



one has that more than Chris Kennedy here at Wentworth. You have been a terrific asset to this club and an example to greenkeepers across the country and we thank you for what you have done here."

Jacobs was also joined by Judy Williams, the wife of the

late Michael Williams, golf correspondent of the Daily Telegraph for some 25 years, to present Colin Harding with the Michael Williams Hoggett, awarded to the winner of the Golf Writers' Spring medal played over Wentworth Club's Edinburgh Course.



Chairman's Word

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

All good things...

I've mentioned the weather several times in my previous reports, but I've come to the conclusion that I am a jinx, and just as we think we have seen one extreme we witness another. I hope the guys who endured the recent floods are coping and wish them the best in their efforts to restore their courses.

No doubt some of you will have heard the news that I am moving on, so this will be my last official column as Chairman.

I have been offered and accepted a position on the "Dark-Side" as many Greenkeepers refer to it, as General Manager of Hydroturf International in Qatar. It certainly won't be dark there though, and those who know me must be smiling at the thought of my fair skin under that blistering sun. It will be a new challenge for me, in many ways, but I'm looking forward to it.

Leaving my current employer was a tough decision, as I love the job. Elmwood has been a great experience for me from which I've learnt a great deal and I will put that to good use in my new role. The demands and location of my new role mean that I must step down from the Chairmanship of BIGGA. That is something I'll do with some sadness, but also with a sense of satisfaction, knowing that BIGGA is in very capable hands with a dedicated team of staff, well supported by volunteer members through all the Sections, serving on Boards and committees to ensure that BIGGA delivers to the members. I'd like to thank all the members who have offered their support and advice to me, while I have been on the Board, and all those I didn't meet but whose participation makes BIGGA so strong.

I have really enjoyed my time with BIGGA, from the day I started greenkeeping, eagerly waiting for the magazine to see what more I could learn, and to see what everyone else was doing. When I got involved at Section level it was so good to meet so many people who were all willing to share their experience with me and offer support when I needed it. I'd like to thank the Central Section, who I've spent the majority of my time with over the years, for their friendship and for teaching me so much. They are a fantastic example of all that is good about BIGGA.



"I leave with a sense of satisfaction, knowing that BIGGA is in very capable hands, well supported by volunteer members through all the Sections, to ensure that BIGGA delivers to the members"

I've been fortunate that my employer, Elmwood College has supported me in every way as I've sought to learn more, and in allowing me to spend more time in serving on the BIGGA Board. I'm very grateful to them for that support, and the experience of remodelling Elmwood Golf Course and being involved in the education of so many greenkeeper students. That has been especially rewarding and it is so good to see so many of them progressing so well in this industry. The team at Elmwood Golf Course have been a great support to me over my 30 months on the Board and their extra efforts have ensured that while away on business everything ran smoothly; some would say even more smoothly!! They are a great team and I'll miss them all.

Through my involvement in the Board I have experienced a wider view of the industry, witnessing welcome support for

our profession from all the various Golf Industry Associations and Organisations and the trade. It was great to see such overwhelming support when we celebrated our 25th Anniversary at BTME in January. Our increased collaboration with the various International Greenkeeping Associations has huge potential and it's good to see the willingness from them to work more closely together in future.

I'm extremely grateful to the founding members of BIGGA, and those members who served on the previous Associations before they merged to form BIGGA. Their foresight and perseverance has served to advance the standards of greenkeeping and the condition of golf courses. Their input to the formation of the GTC, and to the colleges in developing education is something we take far too much for granted today. Conditions of employment now, and the support

and the great opportunities available to budding Greenkeepers are in large part down to their efforts all those years ago. There is still work to be done though, and we have a duty to ensure that the Association they created continues to drive forward better education, support for all its members, and recognition of the huge contribution they make to the game of golf, and the pleasure and livelihoods it provides to so many.

I would like to thank all the current and previous staff at BIGGA. In some ways they work for the biggest greens committee in the country – imagine what that must be like! Their dedication and professionalism provides all the services and benefits BIGGA now brings to its members and I'd like to thank them sincerely for their friendship and continued commitment during an economic period which has not been the easiest for any organisation and brings added pressure to us all.

At the helm we have Jim Croxton, who has succeeded John Pemberton as CEO. I'd like to thank both of them for their support to me while on the Board. Their professional management of every aspect of the Association has ensured that BIGGA developed successfully and will continue to do so going forward. I've worked closely with Jim this last year, and his energy and enthusiasm, and his wealth of industry knowledge will be a great asset to us.

In July, Tony Smith from Teesside will step into my shoes. I've known Tony for about ten years, since he bought me a few pints in Southport at a conference (I've bought my fair share since in return). He has become a close friend, and he is totally dedicated to ensuring BIGGA serves the best interests of the members. His considerable experience will be of great benefit to the Board and I'd ask you all to support him and the Board in ensuring the Association continues to be of valuable service to its members.

I've made many new friends during my time in BIGGA, and I will continue to offer any support I can to an association, which has helped me so much. I intend to continue making the annual pilgrimage to Harrogate to keep up with all the developments in the industry and to catch up with everyone.

My wife and kids have been very patient, thankfully, during my time as a greenkeeper and all the time I spent obsessing about the course, and lately with BIGGA. Although I will be working hard in my new job, I'll definitely be spending more time with them and I'm looking forward to it. (I hope they are!)

So over to Tony – I must admit, not having HQ chasing me every month for the column is not something I'll miss, but I will look forward to receiving Greenkeeper International and keeping up to speed with everything. Thank you sincerely to everyone in BIGGA and I wish the Association the very best for the future.

My best regards, Andrew Mellon
Chairman 2012, 07780 995602
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk

Save the Date - 2013 Turf Managers' Conference at BTME



The third edition of the very popular Turf Managers' Conference will take place on Monday 21st January 2013 during BTME at Harrogate.

The finishing touches are just being applied to the conference programme and full details will be available on www.bigga.org.uk shortly.

We are pleased to announce that the world-renowned expert on green speed and performance Dr Thom Nikolai will be opening the conference and further topics to be covered include the latest news on Turf Diseases, Communicating with employers and golfers and Organisational Politics amongst others.

The Turf Managers' Conference is a not to be missed opportunity to broaden your knowledge of cutting edge turf management whilst improving your wider managerial skills.

Turf Grass Information File Closer to Full-Text Availability

The Turf Grass Information File (TGIF), the largest online collection of turf related research and information has passed a truly significant milestone – as of June 2012, 50% of all TGIF records link to full-text of the item.

This is a particularly important achievement for users of TGIF worldwide.

Full-text availability is highly desirable in these instances, saving valuable time and effort dedicated to locating physical copies for personal use. With half of all TGIF records linking to full-text, this means thousands and thousands of records link directly to content.

BIGGA announced recently that the TGIF has been made available free of



charge to all Members through bigga.org.uk by visiting the Members Area, selecting Member Resources from the options on the left hand side and scroll down to Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), from here you can click through to the site.

Back at the end of 2005, TGIF had 108,741 records with only 21% linked to full-text, approximately 23,000 records.

Today, however, TGIF has about 204,000 records total, meaning a little over 102,000 records are full-text accessible.

In the span of just six years, the TGIF database has nearly doubled in strength, while the availability of full-text has tripled.



Learning & Development

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

July is a busy month in the Learning and Development Department. Rachael will be heading off to The Open at Lytham St Annes and will spend the week ensuring that every member of the greenkeeping open support team is where they need to be, at the time they need to be, and making sure that everything runs smoothly.

The 2012 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists (2011 winner Matt Perks, shown right) will be selected and the deadline for the completed Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2013 education programme will be fast approaching.

If you see either Rachael or I in July, we will probably just be a blur!

New Team Member



I am delighted to welcome Stuart Green to the department in the role of Learning and Development Executive.

Stuart is joining BIGGA from Askham Bryan College and will bring knowledge and experience to the department with his background in greenkeeping and the sports turf education system.

His skills will help BIGGA to ensure the development and delivery of the Learning and Development pathway for our members. I'm sure you'll all join me in welcoming Stuart to BIGGA.

BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX

BIGGA is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SALTEX 2012.

This year we will be bringing you some of the greatest hits from the extremely successful Continue to Learn at BTME 2012. The seminars will take place on Wednesday 5 September in the Grandstand at Windsor Racecourse.



Gold Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison Andrew Turnbull, W J Rogers Frank Newberry, Sam Langrick Antony Calvert, Espen Bergmann
Silver Key Individual Members: Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn Douglas Duguid, Ade Archer Jaey Goodchild, Graham Wiley Michael Beaton, Paul Jenkins

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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Inside...

CONTINENTAL SHIFT
Holland is the destination for this month's course visit

TREADING THE BOARDS
The benefits of BIGGA's website bulletin boards

Perks of the job

2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner is Matthew Perks

10.15 am – 11.15 pm Managing Winter Kill

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

In the winter of 2009/10 the greens at Loch Lomond suffered from devastating winter kill.

This session will give an insight to the damage that occurred and the precautions that were taken in 2010/11 to prevent similar problems.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm From Grazing to Scottish Open Status in Five Years

Chris Haspell, Course Manager, Castle Stuart Golf Club

In this session Chris will discuss his experiences of building a links golf course and it's grow in.

He will also describe the journey towards the Scottish Open 2011, the event, the rain and the recovery.

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm Organic Matter – Friend or Foe

Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager, Symbio

Measuring organic matter levels is becoming very popular, almost an industry standard procedure.

This information can be invaluable to green keepers and grounds men.

However, how do we decipher between thatch and organic matter and why it is important to do so.

This seminar will discuss the various differences between problematic thatch and beneficial organic matter, the problems with working to a figure, the difference between drainage and percolation rates and how you can turn the thatch to your advantage.

CPD BIGGA CPD

BIGGA CPD Credits - 0.5 CPD credits are available for each seminar. A CPD register will be available at the end of each seminar.



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update



BIGGA Open Support Team 2011

This month I would like to welcome the BIGGA Open Support Team to Royal Lytham and St Annes for this years Open Championships from 15th – 22nd July. BIGGA play a valuable role within the Open Championship providing support to the home greenkeeping teams since 1984.

All Greenkeeping BIGGA members are eligible to apply to be on the Open Support Team.

The 50plus strong team is selected using a number of different criteria including experience and BIGGA involvement but there is also a category for first time applicants to ensure everyone has an opportunity.

One of the top 5 qualities of any successful event is an excellent well trained team.

Rachael Duffy, Sandra Raper, John Young and myself are the representatives from HQ, together with support from the Board of Management, however, we need to rely on experienced members who have previously been part of the support team.

'Core' members are selected to take on the roles of mini bus drivers, pod leaders and first tee representatives, once this team is selected from suitable applications, we then review the rest of the applications, as this is a fantastic opportunity for members we are

usually oversubscribed for places, so applications for consideration are carefully reviewed.

A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority is given to those who are more active members.

If you are applying to become part of the Open Support Team why not consider becoming more involved with the Association, for example get more involved in your section, join the CPD scheme or attend Harrogate Week.

If you are over the age of 25 why not volunteer to be a mini bus driver or a deputy mini bus driver. Successful applications are then entered into a draw to make up the full team.

Have we got your right email address?

We know you all love receiving your monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, but living in this digital age, BIGGA want to complement the magazine with an e-newsletter.

To ensure you receive your copy check with us that we have your up to date email address.

Either check the information on your membership renewal form, if this is due or you have recently renewed, or send an email to membership@bigga.co.uk with 'Email address' in the subject line.

SALTEX

If you plan to visit SALTEX this year, 4-6 September, at Windsor Racecourse make sure you check out the series of three seminars presented by BIGGA on Wednesday 5 September.

Whilst you are at SALTEX don't forget to come and say hello to the BIGGA Team on stand E33, we hope to be in the usual cabin sheltering from the rain or enjoying the lovely sunshine on the seats outside!

Bioflow Sport Wristbands

BIGGA are pleased to announce that we have secured a 15% discount for BIGGA members off the price of Bioflow sport wristbands.

Bioflow wristbands have been supporting the sports market for over 15 years and are chosen by professionals worldwide to help enhance their performance through the benefits of magnetic therapy.

Visit the bioflow website at www.bioflowsport.com select the wristband colour and size to suit and at checkout enter the code WG15 in the voucher code field under the payment section.





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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS
(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319

Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319



Back to the Future for Kubota

Kubota UK has completed the restructuring of its management team with the creation of a new role for Dave Roberts. Dave left the company in 2010 after 21 years of service and has been enticed back to head up Kubota's three product sectors as Sales and Marketing General Manager.

The main product categories of Engines, Construction Equipment, and Tractor & Groundcare have historically had a Head of Sales and Marketing reporting separately into the MD of Kubota UK. Whilst those positions are still retained, Dave now effectively 'umbrellas' those functions to bring in a more unified approach to Kubota's operating methods.

The Engine sales division now sees Daniel Grant responsible for Sales and Marketing, with Neil Winfield carrying out the same function for the Construction division. Over in the Tractor and Groundcare division Dave Roberts has resumed his previous role running alongside his umbrella function of all three divisions.

Announcing this restructuring Dave explained, "The idea is to bring benefit to our customers with a more unified approach to our operating methods. This will make more efficient use of our resources and enable a common message with regards to marketing." He continued, "We have retained industry expertise where appropriate, but are now able to deploy common resources that transcend the divisions such as marketing, demonstration activities and to a degree, administration."

"My 18 months as Operations Director of Farol Ltd has been invaluable. Being involved in all aspects of the dealer has broadened my knowledge and experience, which will help in my new role here at Kubota."

The new Sales & Marketing Manager of the Construction division is Neil Winfield.

A seasoned Kubota employee having joined in 1999, Neil saw service first as an Administrator in the Engines Division before moving over to Construction

in 2001 as Distribution Coordinator. Neil graduated to field sales support and then Sales Coordinator before this promotion to Sales and Marketing Manager.

Daniel Grant has followed a similar path in that he too studied Agricultural Engineering. He then went on to provide field sales support at Dealership level for various premium brands. His entry into Kubota came in 2005, "I joined Kubota as an internal Sales Engineer within the Industrial Diesel division. My position progressively evolved to Regional Sales and finally achieving Regional Sales Manager. I was primarily responsible for the sales and distribution into Southern UK as well as Scandinavian/Nordic OEM's and Dealer/Distributor accounts," he contributed. Daniel sees the experience he's gained at Kubota, together with the experience he previously gained working within a dealership environment, will help him in his position of Sales & Marketing Manager, Engines Division.



RJ MAKE SALES MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS

David Timms and Nick Penn have been appointed to regional sales management roles at Ransomes Jacobsen.

Both report to UK and Ireland sales manager, John Quinton, and are responsible for business development, equipment sales and dealer support across their respective territories.

David Timms, whose territory covers the west of England and stretches from Lands End to Barrow-in-Furness via Wales, joined the company in August last year following nine years in a sales management role at JSM Distribution, the niche products division of John Shaw Machinery.

Nick Penn joined the company in March 2012 and is responsible for a territory from West Midlands to the Welsh border, and down to parts of Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey.

For the past two years he was area sales manager at Burrows Grass Machinery responsible for Manchester and Cheshire and the fleet hire division.

Commenting on these appointments John Quinton said:

"It is obvious from their CVs that we have added two very experienced sales professionals to our team here at Ransomes Jacobsen. We have a momentum within the business that has seen us grow market share in the past two years and these two guys will help us sustain that, going forward."

Rain Bird fly into Renewable Energy with New Product Manager Iain Macpherson



Rain Bird has recently entered the Renewable Energy market, with their newly appointed European Energy Product Manager; Iain Macpherson.

"We are confident of delivery in the immediate coming months of our first UK project; having already signed up a Golf Club.

We look forward to helping more clubs to significantly reduce energy costs, and give clients confidence of product choice.'

Iain has had a long felt belief that golf courses needed to look at cost, particularly in irrigation. Electricity is a large running cost of irrigation pumps and club houses, and rose by 16% last year – a serious impact on any club's finances. Iain adds:

"The Feed-in-Tariff (FiTs) backed by the government offers incentives; that are importantly index linked, and certainly make Britain presently the envy of this worldwide developing industry – The UK is committed to a 15% carbon reduction and with 60% of the wind across Europe crosses Britain - why wouldn't we

try to make use of a free energy that year on year is consistent, non-destructive and adding to a carbon neutral green preferred way of life?

"In 2010 global investment in new Renewable energy projects exceeded investment in new fossil fueled plants for the first time. Europe; particularly Germany and Denmark, have lead the way; however we are sat on the best opportunity on this Isle to take advantage."

"China are putting up 36 turbines a day - Is everybody else wrong?" Iain thinks not.

"The Rain Bird turbine proposal is the size of an oak tree. It specific in its target of delivery in kw of electricity; appropriate to your average European sized golf club.

"We take care of the planning, its installation and servicing and importantly to clubs.... 'It is 'plug-in any flavour", says Iain.

Iain can be contacted on 07712 631467 / 01777 818919, or

e-mail: imacpherson@rainbird.eu

What's your number?

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

Name: Andrew Pickup

Company: Stourton Forestry

Position: Consultant & Company Manager

How long have you been in the industry? A very busy four years

How did you get into it?

From an early age I've loved trees and the outdoors, so I decided to study Forestry at the University of Wales, Bangor. When I joined Stourton Forestry they had an established reputation as specialists in trees on golf courses and my involvement has grown from there.

What other jobs have you done?

In my student days I spent several summers working outdoors, including plenty of grass cutting, landscaping and gardening.

What do you like about your current job?

I get to visit and work on some amazing sites, from nationally renowned golf courses to private woodlands and estates that the general public doesn't usually get to see.

I particularly enjoy watching sites develop over the years- people often think they will never see the benefits of tree planting in their lifetime, but even after just a few years, young trees can make a real impact.

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

The biggest change in the past four years has been the demand for wood as fuel- we've seen the wholesale price of round timber for firewood almost double. Even relatively small volumes of timber that were once a waste product are now in high demand.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy relaxing with friends and family, playing tennis and tending my allotment.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

I'm definitely in the woodland management sector for the long haul, as to exactly what and where, you'll have to watch this space!

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

I'm delighted to work with anyone who has a shared love of trees and the foresight to invest now for future generations.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? 122
Andrew has picked Barry Eagle from Gripclad



Wessex Country

The Wessex Country range has been developed to meet the needs of landscapers, private estate owners and smallholders.

In the range, the AT110 ATV toppler is designed specifically to suit the ATV user working to a budget, without sacrificing quality.

The toppler has a 1.1m working width and power comes from a 12.5hp (9.32kW) Briggs & Stratton engine. Cutting is from a single blade bar, height adjustment is simple and the drawbar allows for use to the left, right or centrally behind the ATV.



The Wessex ranges for ATV's and UTV's also include further rotary mowers, flail mowers, collectors, trailed spreaders, sprayers, land rollers, drag harrows, trailers and accessories for equestrian facilities.

Wessex products are manufactured and distributed in Great Britain and worldwide by Broadwood International

01420 478111

www.broadwoodintl.co.uk



TORO ASSIST GLENEAGLES RYDER CUP PREPARATIONS

Gleneagles Golf Resort in Scotland has recently renewed its five-year exclusivity deal with turf maintenance machinery manufacturer Toro and its distributor Lely UK.

The Perthshire resort plays host to the prestigious Ryder Cup in September 2014, with the updated Toro equipment particularly helping prepare the PGA Centenary Course for the three-day tournament's matches. The King's and The Queen's championship courses will also continue to benefit from Toro machinery.

Commenting on the continued partnership with Toro, Gleneagles golf courses and estate manager Scott Fenwick says: "We're delighted to have renewed our contract with Toro, which will see us through to the Ryder Cup in 2014, and beyond. As we prepare to host one of the world's greatest sporting events, it's even more important that our courses are in the best possible condition. Our continued work with Toro will help to achieve this."

The Toro Company's

corporate accounts manager Andrew Brown adds: "We are delighted that Gleneagles has once again entrusted Toro and our distributor Lely UK to provide the quality of products and service the resort has come to rely on over the past eight years. The Ryder Cup will be an ideal opportunity for Gleneagles to showcase the exceptionally high standard of course preparation it offers to members and guests from all over the world, and Toro is honoured to play its part in that success story."



PRAISE FOR EURO 2012 TRAINING PITCHES

The England training camp's immaculate pitches in Poland hit the headlines, thanks to Sports Turf Research Institute's (STRI) remarkable transformation of the site ahead of Euro 2012.

Sporting pundits heaped praise on Hutnik Nowa Huta football club's new Premier League-standard playing surface, pictured here, and Barenbrug helped STRI achieve such impressive results.

Eight months ago, the Kraków club's pitches were worn and muddy. The FA tasked STRI with creating a world-class surface for the England team to train on that would also leave a lasting legacy for Hutnik.

STRI chose to grow the pitch from seed, using a combination of Barenbrug's sports mixtures. With the team working through Poland's coldest winter for 40 years to deliver the pitch on time, BAR 50 SOS' cool soil temperature germination characteristics certainly proved a wise choice.

Seventy-five bags of Barenbrug grass seed have gone to Hutnik, while a further four tonnes of Royal Barenbrug Group seed is being used across Polish and Ukrainian Euro 2012 tournament venues. This includes the Warsaw National Stadium, which plays host to the opening game between Poland and Greece on 8 June.

JOHNSONS HELP SOW THE SEEDS



The Northumberlandia giant earth sculpture is turning green as the swathes of seed sown across the iconic structure spring to life. DLF Trifolium Johnsons and hydroseeding specialists CDTS teamed up to create and apply a bespoke mix that puts the finishing touches to a project that was first mooted a decade over.

DLF Trifolium Johnsons supplied the seed mix, and Amenity Sales Manager Paul Hadley, who selected the grass and microclover varieties, said: "Our brief was to prepare a mix that was low maintenance, drought resistant, robust and able to cope with a low nutrient environment. Microclover was the key as it helps fix nutrients from the atmosphere. In a sloped environment like this one, soil is likely to leech nutrients, so using cultivars that help maintain levels was crucial for it to stay green."