



firmer and more consistent for longer periods of the year”.

GATHERING OF INFORMATION

Before embarking on any planned changes, it was necessary to have a base or start point as well as a target objective. The necessary data was collected to measure the organic content across each course via the LOI (loss on ignition) testing process, followed by firmness using the Clegg Hammer, moisture content using the Theta Probe and pace using the Stimpmeter. The final part of the process was to use the Smoothness Meter whereby putting quality was accurately measured. This scientific approach has the advantage of reducing the degree of subjectivity and gives a clearer picture of what needs to be achieved. The following is a brief summary of the conditions present in the greens in 2010.

A presentation was made to the club followed by a member question and answer session hosted by the STRI. This allowed members the opportunity to ask and discuss the various options available before finally agreeing on a plan of action.

WORK PLAN

Following initial testing and gathering of data, the club purchased most of the measurement tools previously used by the STRI which has allowed Sid and his team to gather relevant information on a

ABOVE RIGHT: Regular testing the green's firmness with a 'Clegg Hammer' measuring device



regular basis. This has helped to determine what work is required and also the important aspect of communicating results back to the club. With key objectives set out by the Board, all details of work planning are discussed and agreed by the management team, consisting of the General Manager, Professional and Course Manager, with the emphases being on surface quality and management of organic matter.

Once this objective is achieved then the focus will switch to a gradual change in grass species and greater sustainability. It was also agreed not to be overly aggressive with regards to surface cultivation since it was necessary to provide the golfers with an acceptable playing surface. This necessitated a more cautious approach but also a reflection on the fact that the greens were already in reasonable condition and not at a level whereby more severe treatment was required. The agreed program of work consisted of the following;

- **Aeration:** Two corings, spring and summer, using 8-10mm tines; Regular slitting using the Planet Air machine; Annual verti-drain work using 13-16mm tines; Regular use of the Toro Hydroject throughout the summer.

- **Top Dressing:** An increase to using 100 tons of medium grade kiln dried sand following each coring.

- **Over-Seeding:** One or two sowings of Colonial Bent using a drop seeder at a rate of 4 gms/per m2

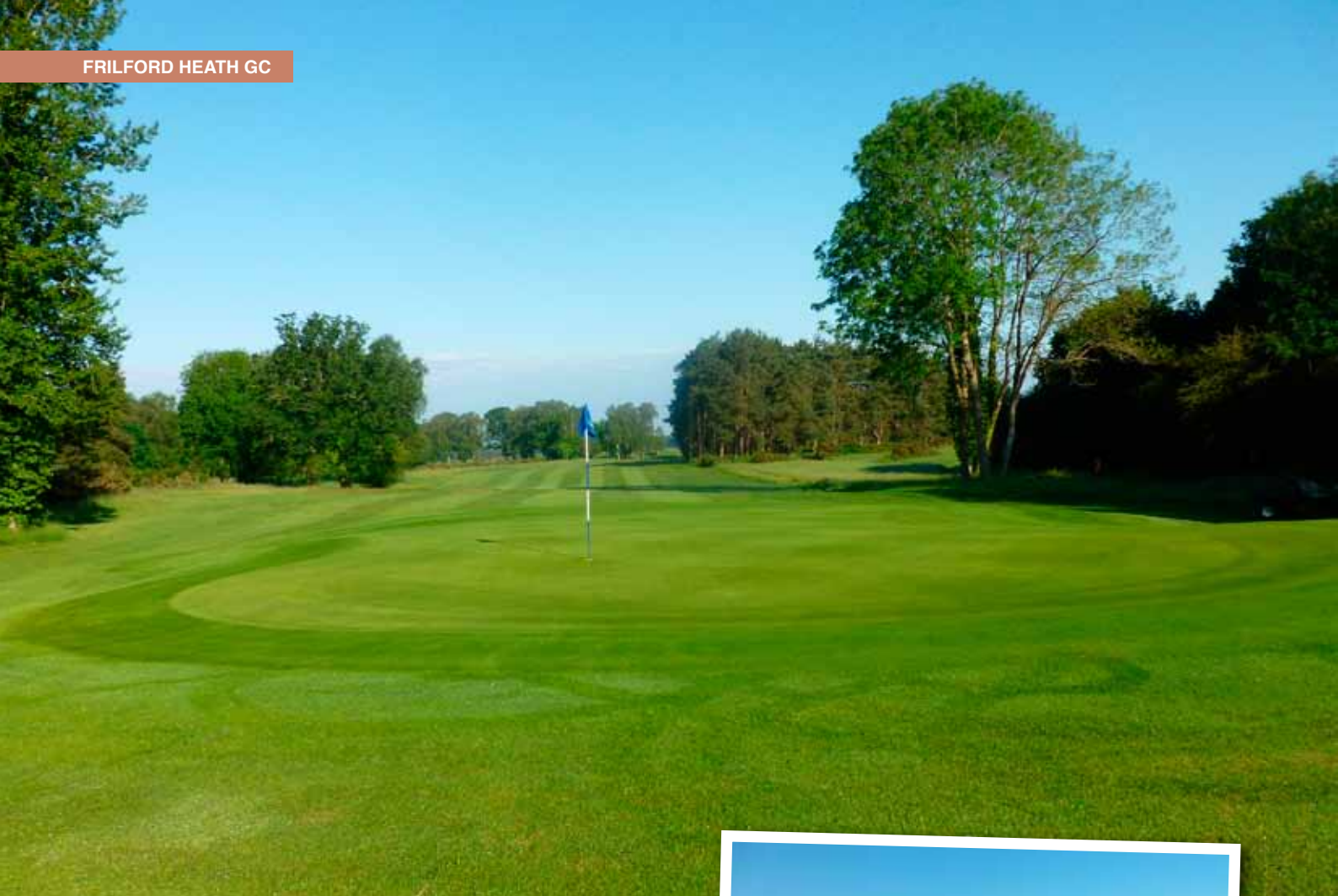
and following a double verti-cut to 3mm depth.

- **Fertiliser:** Largely the same as before, using three applications of granular products supported by foliar applications of Farmura Porthcawl and other amendments containing seaweed extracts and humic acids throughout the growing season.

- **Chemicals:** No real change other than introducing phosphite applications as a mild form of fungicide and the use of Primo Maxx for sward improvement and poa seed head suppression.

Having the benefit of three courses, it was easy to focus attention on one course at a time while it remained closed for one or two days. This allowed the work to continue unhindered and since most of the work was carried out during the growing season, recovery was swift which was greatly appreciated by the members.

Over the last three years, the Directors have been fully committed to this program of work and have not only allowed Sid to increase his staffing levels, but have ensured that the level of investment has remained consistent, to date this is in excess of £300,000. Further investment will follow when required. Recent purchases have included fairway and surrounds mowers, utility vehicles, a multi pro 5800 sprayer and a pro-core aerifier, all from Toro as well as other essential items including two turfing irons, a spinner dresser and a contra-rotating brush.



In order to strengthen Frilford Heath's growing reputation, the Directors have recently signed an exclusivity agreement with Toro. This will not just be about equipment purchasing, but will ensure that Frilford Heath will be at the forefront of future industry developments arriving in the UK. Later this month will see the arrival of the PS 6000 site survey machine from the US, which will be a first in Europe.

RESULTS

Progress to date in the two years since the program started has been largely positive with encouraging feedback from the members. The OM content is now 8-9% which is a fall of 6-7% and only slightly above the target range. Soil moisture content still tends to vary but is leaning more towards the desired range. The reduction in OM content has also led to improved firmness; one noticeable aspect being the reduction in pitch mark size giving faster recovery.

Green speed has increased to an average of 9-9.6, which is now at the clubs desired level for membership play. Although the Smoothness meter has yet to be used this year for testing, ball roll is more consistent. It is clear that the combination of reduced OM

content, increased sanding and the use of a turfing iron have resulted in an overall improvement of the putting surfaces.

So far so good is probably a fair summary. It is also true to say that the approach by Frilford Heath has been steady, well planned and implemented. Another year of this level of intensity is required, probably adding a pass using the Graden Sand Injector or Blec Sand Filler to further reduce the level of thatch. Raising the quantity of sand top dressing to 120 tons per annum is also under consideration as well as moving slightly more towards a feeding program based more on foliar feeds in order to level out periods of growth.

Previous over-seeding has not resulted in any significant change but that is probably due to low mowing heights meaning Bent is unlikely to establish. As the putting surfaces become firmer and the crown of the plant is further protected by increased dressings, the aim is to raise the mowing height by 1mm and to roll more frequently. This should result in the pace being unaffected but more of the plant remaining, improving the success rate of future over-seeding. Consideration will also be given to slit seeding, thus ensuring good seed to soil contact.

Sid concluded "Without the

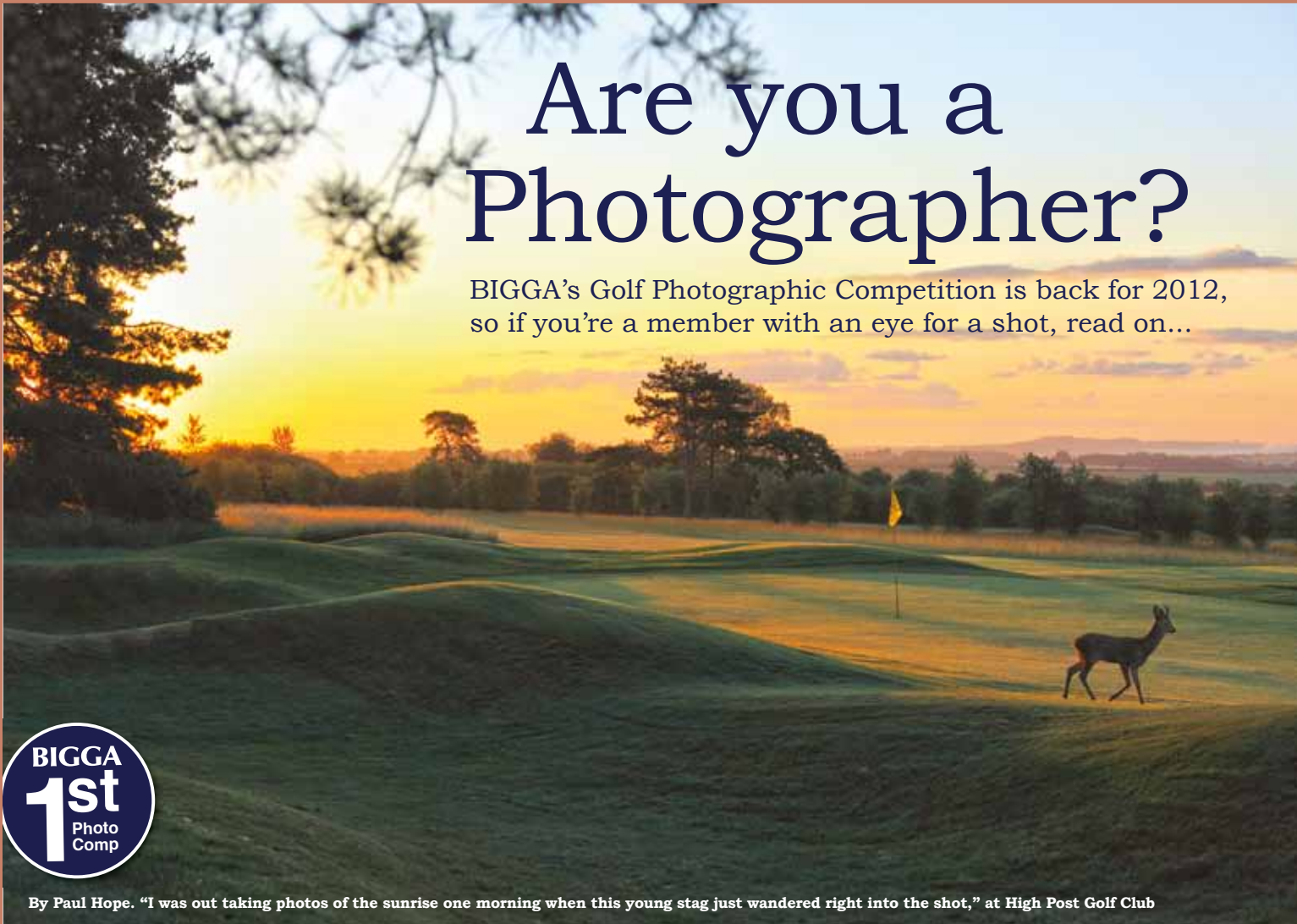


support and on-going commitment from the club, the improvement to date would not have been possible. It is important that when embarking on such a program, there are clear objectives in place and that the work is agreed, measured and evaluated for any changes that are deemed necessary.

The other key aspect is communication. Sometimes we forget that it is the members' course and that the playing surfaces are of paramount importance at all times. Therefore the members need to know what is happening on their course on a regular basis. Fortunately we have a good system of communication within the club via a weekly electronic newsletter, along with a clear vision of providing premium quality".

Are you a Photographer?

BIGGA's Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2012, so if you're a member with an eye for a shot, read on...



By Paul Hope. "I was out taking photos of the sunrise one morning when this young stag just wandered right into the shot," at High Post Golf Club



By Adam Grievie. Early morning strimming creates mist in the sunlight, to beautiful effect, on the 3rd green bank (Devonshire Course) at The Royal Eastbourne GC



By Gareth Ansell. Spectacular cloud formations compliment the surface shadows and bunker layout on the 15th at Bon Oval Golf St, Palacio Palmer de Mallorca

The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year, creates an opportunity for members to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in GI and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

Digital pictures need to be high resolution, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please label your entries with captions - the name of the course plus a brief description (around 10 words). It would be great if you could also tell us the spec of camera it was taken on too.

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image.

If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as winzip or a website such as:

www.mailbigfile.com.

Please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to: tom@bigga.co.uk, entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2012' as the email subject header.

All entries need to be received by July 31, 2012, and only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.



One of Royal Dornoch Golf Club's six new Toro Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid 3420 riding greensmowers, featuring Toro's first all-electric cylinder drive system, in action.



All-electric power. Are we there yet?

Battery powered equipment is still far from ubiquitous. That does not mean you have little in the way of choice; bang up to date ride-on and walk behind greens mowers are two examples of really advanced thinking. But are you ready to take the all-electric challenge?

Take a look at the list price of a Jacobsen Eclipse 322 greens mower. Offered in hybrid petrol, hybrid diesel and all-electric forms, you would perhaps expect the latter battery-powered model to be the most expensive.

As it turns out, selecting the all-electric route could prove the most economic option. Even when you allow for the fact that batteries have a finite life, replacing the complete set will cost in the region of £1,000 to £1,200. This is something that you should only need to do at three years or more.

Of course that new batteries figure will buy a fair amount of petrol or diesel. But take in purchase price and day to day running costs into account, and the sums stack up very nicely for the all-electric Eclipse. So what's the battery catch? The short answer is that there isn't one. The more considered response is to accept that whilst the all-battery powered option has its plusses it is still not the right choice for everyone. But a fully battery powered Eclipse has perhaps a wider range of courses it does suit than many may initially think.

The same applies to walk behind mowers. Those who have had a chance to actually work with battery powered mowers - the Toro eFlex or Jacobsen Eclipse - typically suggest it is the quality of cut that they concentrate upon and not how the mowers are powered. Take a look at the eFlex controller. You can key in how the mower's forward speed and rate of cut are linked so you can essentially ensure a consistent clip rate across all your greens. With the Jacobsen Eclipse walk behind you simply key in the desired clip rate and the machine automatically synchronises the cylinder speed with the forward speed, again maintaining the clip rate across all greens. As we have often pointed out, there is far more to harnessing electricity to drive equipment than just power. A key component is also the accuracy that can be dialled in to drive various elements of a machine.

Growing hybrid sales will boost motor development

Increasing acceptance of hybrid drive has no doubt helped establish just how effective electric motors are at powering the cylinder reel. If there is a downside with current motor designs it is that at the moment these drive motors are relatively 'bulky'; hydraulic motors



Jacobsen has tested a solar panel that fits in place of the roof canopy of its all-electric version of its Eclipse 322 to help top up the batteries 'on the go'. Sounds simple, but there is more to keeping the six 8-volt deep cycle lead acid batteries topped up than you may think.

are still pretty big lumps too, but they have been getting smaller over the years.

With electric motors, much of the bulk is related to the need to enable the motor to deliver the right speed and torque directly to the cutting unit and to have a large enough surface area to dissipate the heat that motors generate during work. But as sales volumes of drive motors increases, the incentives to invest in developing lighter, slimmer, cooler running and more powerful units will also climb. But don't expect a sudden revolution in design. Steady evolution is the name of the game.

What will help spur motor development is increasing sales of hybrid mowers. As these models become increasingly popular and efficient, the benefits will also impact upon all-electric mowers. A modest development in motor efficiency can have a significant impact upon the running times of a battery-powered machine.

If this suggests current hybrid and battery-powered mowers are at the wrong end of the development cycle, it is not meant that way at all. John Deere suggested its 2500E hybrid greens mower could save up to 30% in fuel use when compared to its all-hydraulic

“With the ability to tackle more demanding terrain, the electric Cushman Hauler 1200X has extra ground clearance and more suspension travel. A limited slip rear diff helps traction in slippery going too”



Battery maintenance is eased by systems that make topping up the electrolyte pretty much fool proof; worth specifying if not offered as standard. Modern batteries are far more resilient too, with a well-proven history in the golf sector.



“Anyone who has operated an all-electric utility vehicle will typically suggest they prefer driving one to a CVT automatic diesel or petrol equivalent. John Deere has seen increased sales of its Electric Gator in recent years”



sibling. Jacobsen claim in excess of 40% and anecdotally have been advised by end-users that 50% is not uncommon.

In practice, such claims are always hard to verify as no two golf courses are exactly alike. But even if the fuel savings are a more modest 20% that will still have a significant impact upon operating costs. Current technology is definitely well worth a look.

Ransomes Jacobsen can point you to operators of its original Greens King E-Plex electric models made in the 1990s that are still earning their keep.

Those mowers are pretty old tech now but the fact there are a good number still at work suggests the basics that were right then will be even better now.

Those who are interested in any form of electric power may still be waiting for the next big development. But you can end up never making a decision.

As is so often the case, it is easy to ‘spend’ someone else’s money when it comes to making suggestions. An entry level walk behind greens mower is a costly purchase, so even at this level going for an all-electric version will take some careful consideration.

The only way to get a genuine insight into the benefits of battery power is to talk to those who have taken the plunge and to learn from their experiences. But arranging for a demonstration is not going to be that difficult either. If you are in the market for a greens mower, why not add an all-electric model to your demonstration list?

Why not exploit solar power?

Surf the internet, and you will see there are a few companies offering solar panels that can be bolted on the roof of a battery powered mower or utility vehicle to help top up the charge of the batteries on a sunny day. Sounds like a good idea but it is not without its pitfalls. For starters, the sun can be shy to make an appearance in the UK!

In the US, Ransomes Jacobsen has taken a look at the idea and given cautious approval to a panel that will fit its Eclipse 322. Tests, however, went beyond measuring the panels charging efficacy. The impact upon the balance and stability of the mower itself were also tested.

“There are also issues relating to how the electronics that measure battery capacity respond to a charge coming from a solar panel in work,” says Ransomes Jacobsen Director of Marketing and Product Management Richard Comely.

“Adding a charge as the mower works can ‘fool’ the electronics into suggesting there is more battery capacity than is actually the case, and so allow the mower to be worked beyond the 20% maximum discharge. This is the limit set to preserve the batteries and enhance their working life.”

Adding that these issues, along with tilt testing a panel equipped mower, has led to cautious approval of just one panel at present. But the approval comes with a caveat that suggests its use can compromise the life of the batteries; deep cycle batteries subjected to



With battery power comes more advanced control and fault-finding options. Both the Toro eFlex and Jacobsen Eclipse pedestrian mowers can be set up to operate in a certain way, a great help when you seek consistent mowing over every green.



Courses not geared up for electric mowing may look to buying a walk behind as an initial step. All you need is a charger and somewhere to plug it in. It is only when you really work with battery power that you will know if it suits your needs.



Handheld kit such as this Stihl HSA85 hedge trimmer benefit from being able to use advanced Lithium-Ion batteries. This type of battery is used in the automotive world but at present would be prohibitively expensive for a mower or utility

charge on the go may have a shortened life span.

“The key is working out the benefits of having the potential to enhance the capacity of the mower against any degradation in the life of the batteries,” says Mr Comely. “But the point is that we do look at ideas and developments and for some users replacing a roof canopy with a solar panel may be worthwhile.”

Perhaps a ‘better’ way of trapping the sun’s power is to fit solar panels to the roof of a clubhouse or workshop. Up until December 2011, there was a potential to earn £0.42 for each kWhr generated by a solar panel.

The figure has subsequently dropped through £0.27 to £0.12, the latter making the cost of installing solar panels less lucrative than it was. But even so, opting for an increasing use of battery power plus solar electricity generation is something that is worth looking into. If nothing else it is a clear demonstration of a desire to ‘go green’.

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GREENSMaster TRIFLEX HYBRID 3420



The amazing TriFlex Hybrid 3420 is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system for a greener mower. Since its launch, the Toro Greensmaster TriFlex range has been revolutionising greens mowing. Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 and its TriFlex 3400 stablemate 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. Added to that, the redesigned balloon-style tyres that make tracks virtually invisible. What's more, the TriFlex has been built with the operator firmly in mind. This includes quick-change cutting units that can be switched instantly to other units – all without tools. Discover the Greensmaster TriFlex range for yourself, call us on the number below and join the revolution!

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Section Notes

Please email your notes to
media@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



Central

We had an excellent turnout of over 30 members for the presentation from Eric Lyons of Guelph University at Elmwood on 6 June. His talk on silver thread moss was very informative, but more importantly, the cultural controls he spoke about were all good, sensible green-keeping practices which are relevant and helpful for so many of the problems or challenges we face. It was great to see such a good mix of experienced course managers and young student greenkeepers get together at such an event. The next presentation is on 12 July from John Kaminski of Penn State and Rick Latin of Purdue University.

The only other events arranged are the autumn outing at Piperdam on 19 September and the section AGM which will be held at Elmwood on 30 October where we hope to organise a speaker prior to the meeting. If anything else is arranged at short notice then people will be emailed the details.

Congratulations to Craig Boath on stepping up to act as Head Greenkeeper of the championship course at Carnoustie, filling Sandy Reid's post after his promotion. Also to National Chairman Andy Mellon who is leaving to take up a position in Qatar. Andy has done a power of work, not only for the Association but also particularly for the Central Section and will be a difficult act to replace. Get a big house as you will have a lot of visitors in 2018 when Scotland are over playing in the world cup finals.

Colin Powrie from Ladybank

won the voucher for completing the online survey, apologies for the results not being on the website yet but everyone has been hard at work these past few weeks.

Finally the Pairs Competition is reaching the end of the league section and everyone seems to have enjoyed the games so far.

Gordon Moir



East

The East section committee met on 29 May to discuss the relevant points of interest. The next event is the Willie Woods trophy to be played on the fine golf course that is Mortonhall, remember it's a team event, so bring along a partner on 22 August and have a wonderful day's golf. The event this year is sponsored by Hendersons Grass Machinery (Haddington), so thanks to them for all their support.

The match against the secretaries was halved and a good day was had by all, 'thanks Des for stepping in at the last minute'.

Phil Bett a Greenkeeper at Kelso G.C is recovering from a very bad accident, whilst cycling to work a bus struck him. I believe he is in a wheel chair at the moment, so we wish him 'all the best' in his recovery.

Now our education guys want you to know about the proposed NPTC spraying course to be held at Murrayfield G.C on a date to be arranged in the back end of the season.

NPTC update course, pa1 pa2 and pa6

- The course if registered with GTC and the NRoSO

- 12 CPD points are awarded

- A copy of the code of practice for using plant protection products on cd and hardback

- Certificate of attendance

- Course split into 3 sessions over one day

- Practical assessment

Should you wish to attend the course, or need any other information, please contact: phil180.butler@virgin.net

Phil Butler was married on 5 May to his lovely wife Hazel, near North Berwick with the Bass Rock as a background. Apparently he had to hitch a lift from a farmer to his wedding as his car broke down, but he made it on time, well done to both of you. Congratulations to you both from all the section.

We the East section are sad to announce the passing of Mr. Duncan Herd. Duncan was a Life member, a regular at golf outings in his day and good friend to our older members including myself. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family, he will be sadly missed.

Now George Oliver wants your feedback on a couple of social nights he is planning. The Jon Cluvers Club is the first, with comedians as the main show, or a competitive social night in Murrayfield Indoor Sports Club as the second event. Proposed dates are in October or November so please email: georgeoliver@yahoo.co.uk

So get in touch please and enjoy the summer months ahead

Stewart Crawford
s.crawford@live.co.uk

Northern Region



Northern

Morning guys.... Afternoon sports fans,

As I sit writing my notes the rain is banging down outside and looks like it's in for a while,

it's welcoming after having had the very hot couple of weeks at the end of May!!

Not much to tell you this month I'm afraid, but by the time these notes appear we will have played our 2nd event at Scarcroft for the President's day. We are hoping for a good turnout seeing as it's an afternoon kick off.

Finally a mention for the course manager at Chester Golf Club Stuart McCall for the condition of his greens I had the pleasure of playing a few weeks ago. They were fantastic considering he had closed the course the day before! Also to the guys at Henlle Golf Club and Llanymynech Golf Club down in Wales.... superb courses.

That's all folks...the Sheffield match up is coming next so if you wish to represent the section at Howley Hall please give me a buzz.

Cheers.

Andy Slingsby
07506407867

Andy.slingsby98@google-mail.com



North West

Hi all,

Well the weather here in the North West just gets worse by the day as summer is well and truly passing us by and mid-summer will have passed by the time you read these notes.

Not a lot happening this month except an incredible amount of Fusarium knocking around and greenkeepers scratching their heads whether to spray or not?

Thursday 14 June John Deere hosted the North West regional qualifier at Shaw Hill Golf Club, the winner goes through to the GB and Ireland final at Slaley

Hall in September, the winner of which gets a trip to USA for a world finals. Now that's a prize! So thanks must go to the sponsor Balmers Garden Machinery and Darren Barker our area rep for the hospitality also to Shaw Hill Golf Club for allowing the event to take place and last but not least Neil and his team of greenkeepers for presenting the course, beautifully!

Unfortunately our team at Penwortham Golf Club didn't win but as the last teams had not arrived in I will only be able to bring you the winners in next months 'around the green'

There have been a couple of new starters at Mere Golf Club for Gwynn Davies the Course Manager, so good luck to Lee Whittaker and Lee Burton.

Lastly a couple of apologies to make in last months piece it was quoted that the Head Greenkeeper of Leasowe Golf Club was a Chris Peddie well this was wrong information, the Head Greenkeeper of Leasowe Golf Club is Ian Turner so thanks to Ian for the day at Leasowe. Chris is at Wallasey Golf Club so my apologies to both of you.

One thing I won't be apologising for, even though it apparently hasn't gone down well is wishing a friend luck in last months piece for his application for a job promotion at a golf club he is already at!

Anyway it is currently 4 am so if there are any mistakes this month please contact me personally I cant put things right if I hear on the grapevine. This also applies to the notes, I really do need people to pass me any information so I can ensure you get a mention.

Regards Spencer Lloyd-Pye
Spencer@lloyd-pye.freeserve.co.uk



North Wales

The weather hasn't really been on our side so far this year, a red-hot end to the winter followed by a wet and cold spell (which put paid to our spring tournament!) and then wet, wet, wet. I'm sure if this summer carries on this way we're all going to develop webbed feet and gills.

Due to the weather the spring tournament is now going to be the 'two days before the summer solstice' tournament, let's

hope this one isn't rained off or there won't be any North Wales qualifiers for the National. Full results and write up next month and pictures as normal on our Facebook group.

The North Wales v North West tournament at Lymm Golf Club has been rearranged to 7 August due to clerical errors, I hope anyone invited to play will do their utmost to help us keep the trophy in Welsh hands.

The inaugural North Wales v South Wales match takes place at Aberdovey Golf Club on 27 July. I hope anyone that goes puts a good show of North Welsh metal there as well.

I think that's about it for now, as always I do look forward to hearing from you and all your news.

All the best,
Pete Maybury, E-mail
petemayb66@aol.com Phone or
Text 07756001187.

Facebook group North Wales
b.i.g.g.a



Sheffield

Hi everyone,

My apologies for the shortage of news over the last couple of months, things have been a little hectic to say the least. As an apology I have a stack of news to bring you this month.

Firstly I have a couple of congratulations. Joel France and his new wife Lindsay tied the knot back in June and I'm sure he will have had a wonderful day. May you both have a happy life together and enjoy all the decorating! Secondly I would like to congratulate Andy Riley and his wife Becky on the birth of their daughter Eloise, enjoy those sleepless nights Andy!

Our spring competition was held at Hickleton Golf Club and we had a really enjoyable day, thanks to Bob and his staff for presenting an excellent course despite the unfavorable weather conditions leading to the event. I would like to thank Pro Turf for once again sponsoring the day and I would also like to thank all members and trade who attended the day. Remember everyone, there are pictures from the day on our Facebook page.

Our next competition will be held at Rotherham Golf Club on 12 October, everyone will

be receiving invitations and it would be nice to see a few new faces. If anyone is not receiving any information that we post out for any events then please get in touch and we can try and rectify the problem.

Stewart Pigott will be trying to complete a 24hr golf challenge in August for Weston Park Cancer Charity if any members would like to sponsor him for what is an extremely worthy cause then you can do so via the following link, all donations will be greatly appreciated. <http://www.just-giving.com/Stewart-Pigott>

That is all from me for now good luck for the month of July and see you all in August.

James Stevens
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jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com
Facebook - biggasheffield
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Midland Region

Midland

I shall begin this month's waffle with the wonderful news of a new arrival. Jim Gilchrist.

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Around The Green

thanks to Simon White and his team for their great efforts. As always a special thank you to all of our sponsors of the day; Campey Turfcare for the main prize table, Sherriff Amenity, Sharrocks and Whitemoss for the nearest the pin prizes, Farols for the much needed beverages around the course and all other trade members who brought raffle prizes. The results of the day were awarded as follows; 1st Gross: Adam Jones, 1st Nett: Roger Bannard 36pts, 2nd: Aaron Saunders 35pts, 3rd: Clint Eastwood, sorry Woodall 34pts. Best Category's 1: A.Jones. 2: D.Fellows. 3: A.Brougham. Trade winner:

P.McCrainor. Nearest the pins were won by Mike Hughes x2, Roger Bannard and Paul Mills-ey.

The draw for the 1st and 2nd rounds of the Everris Doubles event took place after the golf and a full review of the draw, including play by dates and rules are available on our website, www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk <<http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk>>

This month's kind calendar sponsor is our old friend Burrows Grass Machinery. Please consider them for all your Ransomes and Jacobsen machinery needs. They can be contacted on: Midlands Depot 01785 666 100 or Northern Depot 01565 880 800. I must confess that the lines on this month's picture are superb, well done to the Greenkeeper responsible.

And finally to conclude, there is our summer education trip to Tillers Turf Farm on 25 July, please contact Tony Cheese for further details on 07778 665 506. Also good luck to all at the summer Golf Event at Oxley Park on the 11th of this month.

Just time to wish H.Q's ex-Editor Scott MacCallum all the best in his new venture. It has been my pleasure to have worked with you over the last 12 years. Mad men rule O.K.

Sean McDade.

the best for the future Peter.

Our latest golf day was held on Thursday May 24 at Cleethorpes Golf Club. For the first time in living memory the wind, which usually affects play, actually dropped and all at the seaside enjoyed a warm sunny day. The course was presented in excellent condition by Rob Welford and his staff, particularly the greens which continued to prove that they are the best in the area (Immingham are right behind you though!). We were well looked after by the Cleethorpes catering staff with everyone enjoying the fish and chips provided. The day was sponsored by LMS Lincoln through Dave and Joe, who continue to support our section.

The results of the day were as follows: -

1st, Russ Moody; 2nd, Mervyn Davies; 3rd, Rob Welford; Trade: Martyn Lumb; Nearest the Pin: Carl Chamberlain

Longest Drive: Ben Lowry (Change to the usual Messrs Bemment and Welford!)

Finally congratulations to Rob Bemment, Steve Hopkins and Bruce Hicks for their selection for this year's Open Support Team. Also joining them is Sean Sullivan from our twinned GCSAA Peaks and Praries Chapter.

Many thanks, Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

David Langheim course manager at Wimbledon Park G.C has been rewarded for all his hard work by becoming the 61st Master Greenkeeper. Many congratulations Dave from all Surrey section members.

Flaming June has been postponed so we look forward to a warm and sunny November. Yesterday many Surrey courses were closed due to the unwelcome and continuous downpours in the South East and passing the river Mole at Cobham I could just make out the tops of the riverside benches. Fortunately none were occupied but for the second time this year they have had a thorough cleaning.

I do hope that the rain stops for all your sakes and please believe me, my hope has nothing to do with my imminent holiday, you've guessed it, The Isle of Wight. For full reports of my adventures there please send the usual donation, cash would be preferred.

Brian Willmott

Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



Kent

After our football team's last trouncing some four years ago many thought that our best times on the pitch had long since past. That was however, until our Essex counterparts challenged Kent's finest to come out of retirement and do battle at the academy of football of Upton Park!

Well, how could we refuse?! A team quickly made themselves available for selection for such a prestigious event and a memorable day ensued. After meeting early doors at Redlibbits Golf Club for breakfast (where were the BBC?) the team coach left for the journey through town to West Ham. Thousands of cars joined us in the procession through Blackwall tunnel as we neared the hallowed turf. We were met at the stadium by Head Groundsman Shane O'Brien and escorted into the 'Away' dressing room. A quick change and discussion about who wants to play where ensured

South East Region



Surrey

May 22 was the date for our spring meeting and qualifier for the national tournament. Blackmoor G.C was the venue and Lee Blackburn, who used his local knowledge was our winner, followed by Mike Lake and in third place the unforgettable Paul Weston. John Mathis recorded the best gross score. Qualifiers for the national tournament are Lee Blackburn and Kevin Boxall. Many thanks to James Norris and his team for an excellent course and to Blackmoor G.C for looking after us so well.

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Gareth Evans, North Section
Scott McClenaghan, North Section
John McKerracher, North Section
Shaun McLaren, Central Section
James Naylor, Central Section
Eamon Sullivan, Central Section
Andrew Terras, East Section
Gregor Wilson, Ayrshire Section

Northern Region

Lloyd Balazs, North West Section
Neil Dixon, North West Section
Ian Hanson, North West Section
Matthew Johnson, North Wales Section
Marc Lewis, North Wales Section
John Meredith, Northern Section
Tim Murphy, Northern Section
John Phillips, North East Section
Nick Roberts, North Wales Section
James Rutter, North West Section

Midland Region

Roger Bannard, Midland Section
Daniel Davy, BB&O Section
Josh Dunn, MidlandSection
Carl Gordon, Mid Anglia Section
Thomas Hayes, Midland Section
Ian Jones, East Midland Section
Tonderai Kennedy Nyemba, BB&O Section
Ben Koracevic, BB&O Section
Oliver Lochman, BB&O Section
Anthony Mills, BB&O Section
Danny Morten, BB&O Section
Daniel Mounteney, BB&O Section
Anthony North, BB&O Section
Scott Osler, BB&O Section
Matthew Parker, BB&O Section
Kieran Poff, BB&O Section
Paul Reeves, Midland Section
Ston Robinson, BB&O Section
Daniel Spencer, BB&O Section
Stuart Swift, BB&O Section
Daryl Vanterpool, BB&O Section
Paul Walton, BB&O Section

South East Region

James Bruder, Surrey Section
Luke Harman, Surrey Section
Charles Hunt, East Anglia Section
Ryan Mochrie, Kent Section
Tom Shattock, London Section
Craig Ward, Sussex Section

South West & South Wales Region

Adam Malone, South Coast Section
Alan Gawman, Devon & Cornwall Section
Bradley Hicks, South West Section
Chris McMillan, South Coast Section

For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.



East of England

I would like to start this month by wishing Peter Larter a long and happy retirement. On behalf of our section I would like to pass on our thanks for all the support he has given to us on both golf days and section seminars. Whilst his presence will be missed we look forward to welcoming our new regional administrator Sandra Raper and working with her to take both the section and the region forward. In honour of the work Peter has done for us it has been decided that a the winner of our golf order of merit will now be presented with a trophy donated in his honour as well as receiving the blazer which will still be kindly sponsored by Simon Banks. Once again all