



Chairman's Word

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

Meeting the challenges

This last month since BTME at Harrogate has been very busy at work and in my duties to BIGGA. A nice dry spring has allowed us to progress well with the continued improvements at Elmwood Golf Course, building new bunkers, at our 18th green, and landscaping areas around our entrance way. Students have been heavily involved at all levels, learning the importance of all aspects, eg. planning, resources, effective execution, evaluation, and communication. Preparing the course for another season is also top of the agenda.

In a similar vein BIGGA work continues. The staff have met to evaluate BTME 2012, the members have also been surveyed online and findings will be discussed at the March Board meeting. The Board and the Chief Executive met in early February to continue work on the Strategy and Business plan. This will also be advanced at the March Board meeting.

I attended the FEGGA conference with the CEO in Prague, Czech Republic. The hospitality of the Czech Greenkeeping Association was warm, friendly and extremely well organised. It was good to meet representatives from so many of our European Associations and to hear about the issues affecting them and to discuss potential solutions to address them. We were invited to attend the Board meeting, and we took the opportunity to represent the views of BIGGA's members. We will continue to press for more involvement in order to ensure BIGGA members are represented in the work FEGGA undertakes and can make an appropriate contribution, alongside all the Associations of Europe to our mutual benefit.

I'm just back from the Golf Industry Show hosted by GCSAA in Las Vegas. We had many meetings with our counterparts, to discuss how to help our members. Bob Randquist (President), Rhett Evans (CEO) and The Board took time to meet with us and I'm pleased to inform you that we have formally signed a Strategic Agreement with GCSAA which will strengthen both Associations and enable us to advance our missions and promote cooperation and goodwill between our members.

Opportunities for successful collaboration exist in five specific areas:

- Annual education conferences and trade shows
- Support from industry vendors, sponsors and partners
- Professional development and education, and recognition of qualifications/awards
- Commitment to sustainability
- Membership products, services and information

This is a great opportunity to ensure that we can share good practise, and the spirit and goodwill which was shown to us during this visit gives me confidence that this work will bring real benefit to our members. Our staff will be working together to see how they can best implement these opportunities and we will communicate this to you in due course.

GCSAA has at it heart, the same as BIGGA; passionate, professional and dedicated members and staff, for whom the

The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf must be sustainable in the true sense of the word

camaraderie of a Professional Association provides a network through which we can constantly strive to improve, gain support when necessary, and share our experiences for the benefit of others. I was very proud to witness this professionalism demonstrated by our very own Bernhard's delegation, who thanks to such generous support were able to benefit from this experience. This will be reported in more detail next month.

An International meeting also took place and discussions were held on further collaboration globally among all our Associations. This will be developed further by our CEOs who communicate regularly, and hopefully we will see what progress can be made.

Since Golf's origins in Scotland in the form we recognise, it has spread across the world, and the standards expected and

the demands on Course Managers and Greenkeepers has increased dramatically. As golf courses were developed in increasingly diverse terrains and climate conditions the challenges grew and our profession adapted to cope with these challenges. Many lessons have been learned with tens of thousands of courses being built in the established golf markets. Such vast knowledge, skills and experience has great value and we need to ensure it is shared. The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf developments and maintenance practices must be sustainable in the true sense of the word. This is a vitally important area in which we can all learn from one another, and will be at the forefront of collaborations we seek.

The future of the game of golf depends on growing the game, in a way that it is recognised as a responsible part of the community. Golf can be a leader in sus-

tainable sport and business, universally valued for good environmental and social contributions. I'd encourage you again to visit the website of GEO at:

www.golfenvironment.org/mygeo/register/oncourse

In about 15 minutes, and at no cost to you, you can enter some simple information, which will create an action plan for you and your club, which along with the website will provide you with some great advice and share many good examples of other clubs work in this area.

I'd like to wish you all the best for the coming golf season. Remember to use BIGGA to seek any advice or support you need, and if you have any suggestions on anything you think BIGGA should be considering, then let me know.

Andrew Mellon, Chairman 2012
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, invites you to register on a new website



Last month I updated you all on the work I have been carrying out as the Standards Director to the European Greenkeepers Education Unit (EGEU). This month, I invite you to register on a new website which is designed to become the information portal to give greenkeepers, Golf Course Managers and employers the most up to date advice and guidance on education, training and qualifications within the sector.

As the GTC looks to continue its role to ensure British Golf Clubs and all greenkeepers have a range of qualifications available to employers and greenkeepers there has been an increase in enquiries from outside of Britain from countries relatively new to the game of golf and with little or no greenkeeper education system available.

There is no doubt that in recent years the "game of golf" has woken up to the fact that the golf course is without doubt any clubs greatest asset.

From the prestigious resort courses to your nine hole course the focus on the quality of the playing surfaces always is the number priority of the golfer.

Some will argue that it is the whole experience of the visit to the golf club is how members and visitors judge the facility however while I know many of today's Course Managers know what is meant by this expression but no matter how good the off course facilities may be if the course is, for whatever reason, not up to standard the golfer feels disappointed.

So often I have heard golfers complain about their golf but have enjoyed their day due to the course environment they have just experienced.

This always leads back to the knowledge, skills and competence of the Course Manager, Head Greenkeeper and his or her employer.

The GTC, and now the EGEU, has and will continue to develop and maintain a Quality Assured

Scheme which will allow greenkeepers, Course Managers and employers to access workshops, training courses and for greenkeepers qualifications which will help those clubs looking to provide a quality golf course.

Employers should have access to advice and guidance to ensure their staff have the knowledge and skills to maintain and manage the golf course and employers also need to understand what their Course Manager is proposing when the maintenance policy and budget is under review.

Greenkeepertraining.com has been launched to showcase those Centres including colleges and Training Providers who, having met a criteria, offer quality courses and workshops not only in Britain but as I mentioned earlier much further afield.

The British greenkeeper education, training and qualifications system is held in very high regard abroad as I witnessed first hand at the FEGGA Conference held in Prague.

Some 19 Greenkeeping Associations were represented in Prague and there was a tremendous camaraderie among delegates which again is mirrored on a global basis as it is often the same issues same problems that face both greenkeepers and golf club employers.

It was certainly a privilege to make a presentation on behalf of the EGEU and to share what I called the British Model for greenkeeper education and admit to delegates there have been many barriers and frustrations along the way in establishing a creditable structure supported by the employers.

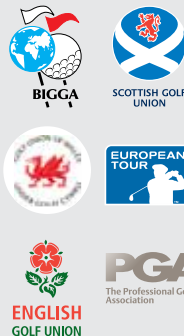
Some Greenkeeping Associations are in exactly the same position many of us can remember pre BIGGA when there was little or no interest let alone funding support from any other golfing organisations.

How things changed in Britain from 1987!

The R&A and the Home Unions in Britain together with the PGA and PGA European Tour have certainly



The GTC is funded by:



played a major role in supporting greenkeeper training in Britain and I am pleased to say still do.

We will be looking to these organisations and other key golfing bodies to support the EGEU. It is all designed to assist golf developing countries who are looking to establish sustainable greenkeeper education systems.

We will be encouraging countries to ensure the Greenkeeping Association and Golf Federation work together and engage with other professional bodies such as any Golf Course Owners Association, PGA or Golf Club Managers Association operating in the country.

Today there are more and more organisations within golf all having a special role to play within the game and we must all work together hopefully avoiding duplicating roles but complimenting each others work.

The GTC is looking to work closely with the EGEU and all the organisations and companies who offer quality training for greenkeepers and golf club employers especially those looking to become part of the Quality Assured Scheme and be featured on the greenkeepertraining.com website.



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Learning & Development

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

With Las Vegas and the Golf Industry Show over for another year the focus of the Learning and Development team shifts back to planning mode. Believe it or not, for us Continue to Learn 2013 looms large with subjects to consider and speakers to source.

Several projects are also underway, including updating the Library, a review of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, the writing of the new Accreditation scheme, reviewing the CPD scheme as well as coordinating the nominations for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Open Support Team. Yep, we're busy bees!

Golf Industry Show

I've just returned from the Golf Industry Show, which this year was held in Las Vegas. I spent a great deal of my time, when not on the BIGGA Stand, meeting with the GCSAA's education team and representatives from other international Associations.

The 10 members who made up the BIGGA Delegation admirably represented BIGGA and Bernhard & Co.

With a packed week of golf course visits, education seminars, the trade show, manning the BIGGA stand and attending receptions as well as sampling all that Vegas had to offer, they were certainly kept busy.

I'm not terribly sure that there was a lot of sleep, but thanks guys for all your help and your company.

Safety Management System

– supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

In last month's column I talked about the launch of the new Safety Management System (available in the Members Area of the website). I'm pleased to say that the new SMS has received very positive feedback.

The original SMS will no longer be accessible after the end of April 2012. Full details of how to access



Gold Key Individual Members:

Steven Tierney 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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and download your Rick Profiles is shown on page 44 of this magazine. All users of the original SMS will be emailed a reminder of their user name, password and instructions to access their information.

Continue to Learn Education Programme 2013

With planning of the 2013 Continue to Learn education programme underway, we are looking for ideas and suggestions for speakers and topics for the Turf Managers' Conference, workshops and seminars.

If you have a proposal for a seminar that you would like to present, please send the details to me for consideration.

If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers you would like to see on the programme please drop me an email to sami@bigga.co.uk.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships



Higher Education Scholarships are now available to those BIGGA members who are undertaking a Higher Education course. If you meet the following criteria may be eligible to apply for a scholarship:

- Be a Full Member of BIGGA
- Be working as a full-time greenkeeper
- Have been a BIGGA Member for a minimum of two years

Those courses that are eligible include:

NVQ Level 4 or 5, HNC, Foundation Degree/HND, BSc, MSc

There is up to £1000 available to those members who meet the criteria. To download an application form visit the Education area of the website under Resources.

Turf Care Seminar



Dennis and Sisis are taking to the road again.

This time they are giving groundsmen and greenkeepers on the Isle of Man an opportunity to attend a Turf Care Seminar at Ballafletcher Sports Club on Wednesday, March 21.

This development was officially opened in April 2011 and comprises four full sized sports pitches designed for winter soccer or rugby use on two engineered and drained platforms.

Delegates will hear from a range of speakers including Peter Craig, Head Greenkeeper at the Hurlingham Club; Ian Mather Brewster, of

the IOG, and Keith Kent, Head Groundsman at Twickenham.

Delegates will also hear advice on fertiliser selection and application procedures from Tim Le Mesurier, of Isle of Man Farmers, and Matt Williams, of Barenbrug, will share advice on seed selection factors affecting establishment.

Advice on Goal Post safety and Modern line marking technology will be shared by Harrods and Fleet Line Markers.

To register for this free and informative seminar, contact Roger Moore at Dennis on 01332 824777 or email roger.moore@dennisuk.com



DEVON GARDEN MACHINERY WIN UK DEALER AWARD

Richard Campey announced the winners of their UK and European Dealership Awards at BTME.

The Awards are given to the dealership that has delivered the best performance over the previous year, not solely in terms of sales but also in backup, sales and service support.

Best European Dealer for 2011 was won by Danish Dealer Havdrup Maskinforretning A/S and presented to Director Jens-Erik Hansen for outstanding performance.

Devon Garden Machinery won the UK Dealer Award and the plaque was presented to DGM Partner Steven Dommatt by Ian (Poggy) Pogson, UK Product Specialist for the South.

Press contact is Chairman Robinson at ABR Publicity on 07775 876655 or email abr.publicity@virgin.net.

Super Bent Varieties

British Seed Houses is the agent for Super Bent varieties 007DSB and TYEE in Sweden, Denmark and Norway, where climates offer some of the most severe weather seen on the golf course, and where the varieties perform extremely well.

Richard Brown recently visited Sweden and gave a seminar outlining the strengths of these varieties for challenging conditions.

"As I explained to delegates at our Swedish seminar, the bentgrass varieties 007DSB and TYEE become known as Super Bents simply because they far exceed the overall turf performance that one would expect from older creeping bentgrass varieties and have proven performance on greens, tees and fairways," he said.

The key to the success of both these varieties is a broad genetic base, in the case of 007DSB, developed using 24 parent plants.

New Distributor in Russia

Huxley Golf, has appointed a new distributor in Russia.

Huxley Golf Russia will be led by Ostap Lukyanov, the Co-Owner of the business, and his Managing Director Dmitriy Mordasov.

Barriers to extending a golf culture in Russia have been reported as being primarily driven by a lack of training facilities as well as adverse natural conditions which have, until now, required clever course design and significant investment.

"Golf across Eastern Europe is relatively new but it's a game that Russians are really beginning to take to," announced Ostap.

Paul Huxley, Director of Huxley

Golf, which has a growing network of distributors in the UK and abroad, said:

"Ostap is the right man to help develop Russia's budding golfing industry. Having trained in Switzerland and Spain, he's extremely knowledgeable and is dedicated to advancing the sport."

Huxley Golf Russia will offer the full range of Huxley Golf surfaces including course tees, practice tees, greens, indoor and outdoor putting greens, pathways, lawns, mats and practice nets; with hotel, golf clubs, teaching academies, and private clients all targets areas for development



Charity Celebrations

Wiedenmann UK's 20th Anniversary charity Terra Spike has found a home at Ombersley.

In September at Saltex, David Rae, Wiedenmann UK's Managing Director launched a charity auction among Wiedenmann dealers to recognise that the fledgling company he started as a 24 year-old had come of age.

Donating a one-off version of Wiedenmann's newest and fastest selling aerator - painted the 20th anniversary 'colour' platinum - was his way of 'giving something back'.

The bespoke Terra Spike GXi8 HD was 'won' initially by dealer T H White of Redditch. Alun Wright, T H White Key Accounts Sales Manager, said:

"From the outset T H White was keen to be involved. Even when times are tight, charity can't be forgotten."

The Redditch team then found a buyer in the Dowty family who head up Ombersley GC just outside Kidderminster.

Andrew Halfpenny, Course Manager at Ombersley said:

"We were looking for a deep fast aerator that would perform on greens and tees yet still suited our fairways. Guided by T H White's, Simon Bingham, we had established that the Wiedenmann GXi8 HD was the one. Nothing matched it for speed or versatility.

"After Saltex I read in the trade press about the platinum machine and it struck a chord. Uncannily Wiedenmann UK was launched within the same time frame as Ombersley.

"It made me wonder... Within a matter of a few weeks the sale had happened and all the pieces just fitted naturally."

The benefiting charities are Cancer Research UK and The Multiple Sclerosis Society who will both share a donation in excess of £20,000. Representatives of both attended a special presentation event at the Worcestershire club.

GREEN TECHNOLOGY ROADSHOW

Etesia UK will shortly be hitting the road, after announcing the dates of their first road show since 2006, with an emphasis on all things green.

The 2012 Green Technology Show series kicks off on Tuesday, March 27, at Merrist Wood College.

Planned as a hands-on, arrive and drive event for all new and existing Etesia and Pellenc customers, the road show will then move on to Edge Hill University, Lancashire on Thursday, March 29, with further dates to be arranged for later in the year.

"Previous road shows we've held have been highly successful and extremely well attended," said Les Malin, Etesia UK's General Manager.

Anyone keen to come along should contact their local dealer to book a place, or alternatively, you can register your interest by visiting www.etesia.co.uk/roadshow.

What's your number?

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

Name: Andy Cole
Company: STRI Ltd
Position: Head of Stadia Services



How long have you been in the industry? Twenty five years

How did you get into it? I was lucky. Graduated from Leeds University in 1986, where STRI had a research programme and noticed an advertisement for a trainee agronomist.

What other jobs have you done? During my university days the usual restaurant and bar work and had two summers working in a market garden- nothing turf related at all.

What do you like about your current job? The variety of the work is exciting and working at the top level with FIFA and UEFA. I get a lot of satisfaction working as part of a team to deliver a project.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry? Training and education have improved immensely in the last 25 years. The industry has become professional and greenkeepers are generally more respected for their knowledge and expertise.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I am a keen golfer and during the last four years my wife and I enjoy ballroom dancing - Strictly Come Dancing has a lot to answer for!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? If the last 20 years are measure I want to continue enjoying the work I do and sharing my experiences across the globe.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry? I have so many friends in the industry it would be impossible to single out one individual.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? 7

What's YOUR number?

If you are an industry figure and would like to appear in this column - or at least be in with a chance of being pulled out of the hat - get in touch with Scott...

01347 833800 Option 510

Back to the future

Scott MacCallum visits Moortown Golf Club, which hosted the first Ryder Cup match on this side of the Atlantic, and discovers a restoration project which is returning the course to its best

Six months from now the world of sport will have turned its attention away from the Olympics and will be focussed firmly on Medinah Country Club, in Chicago, and the Ryder Cup. Golf fans, general sports fans, even non sports fans, will be kept enthralled as fortunes sway throughout the three days and 28 matches, but among the most interested observers will be the members of Moortown Golf Club which played host to the first Ryder Cup on this side of the Atlantic in 1929.

The razzmatazz which surrounds the most recent playings of the Ryder Cup wasn't quite the same at Moortown in Leeds, West Yorkshire, that May, but golfing aficionados of the time would have been extremely impressed that the American team containing such legendary figures as Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen, Horton Smith and Leo Diegel was beaten 7-5 to level the series at one all. The British team containing, among others Henry Cotton, Abe Mitchell, George Duncan and the Whitcombe brothers, came from 2.5 - 1.5 down in the Foursomes to win the Singles 5.5 to 2.5.

If, prior to settling down in front of the TV to watch the latest chapter in the Ryder Cup saga, the Moortown members decide to play a few holes they will do so on a course which has been modified and modernised, yet returned to the style created by Leeds Doctor, Alistair MacKenzie, who honed his skills in the UK and Australia before heading to the US and designing Augusta National and Cyprus Point.

The Club has worked closely with architect Ken Moodie, a man

who has studied MacKenzie thoroughly - travelling far and wide to experience golf courses first hand and reading everything the great man wrote on the subject of golf course design. He has also worked at other MacKenzie courses including Moortown's near neighbour, Alwoodley, putting that knowledge to good use.

Ken was originally brought in by Moortown in 2004, along with namesake, former Ryder Cup player and now BBC television commentator, Ken Brown, and woodland management expert, John Nicholson, with the brief of improving the challenge for the better golfer. Over time that remit has expanded and the current work includes an extensive bunker renovation and the remodelling of

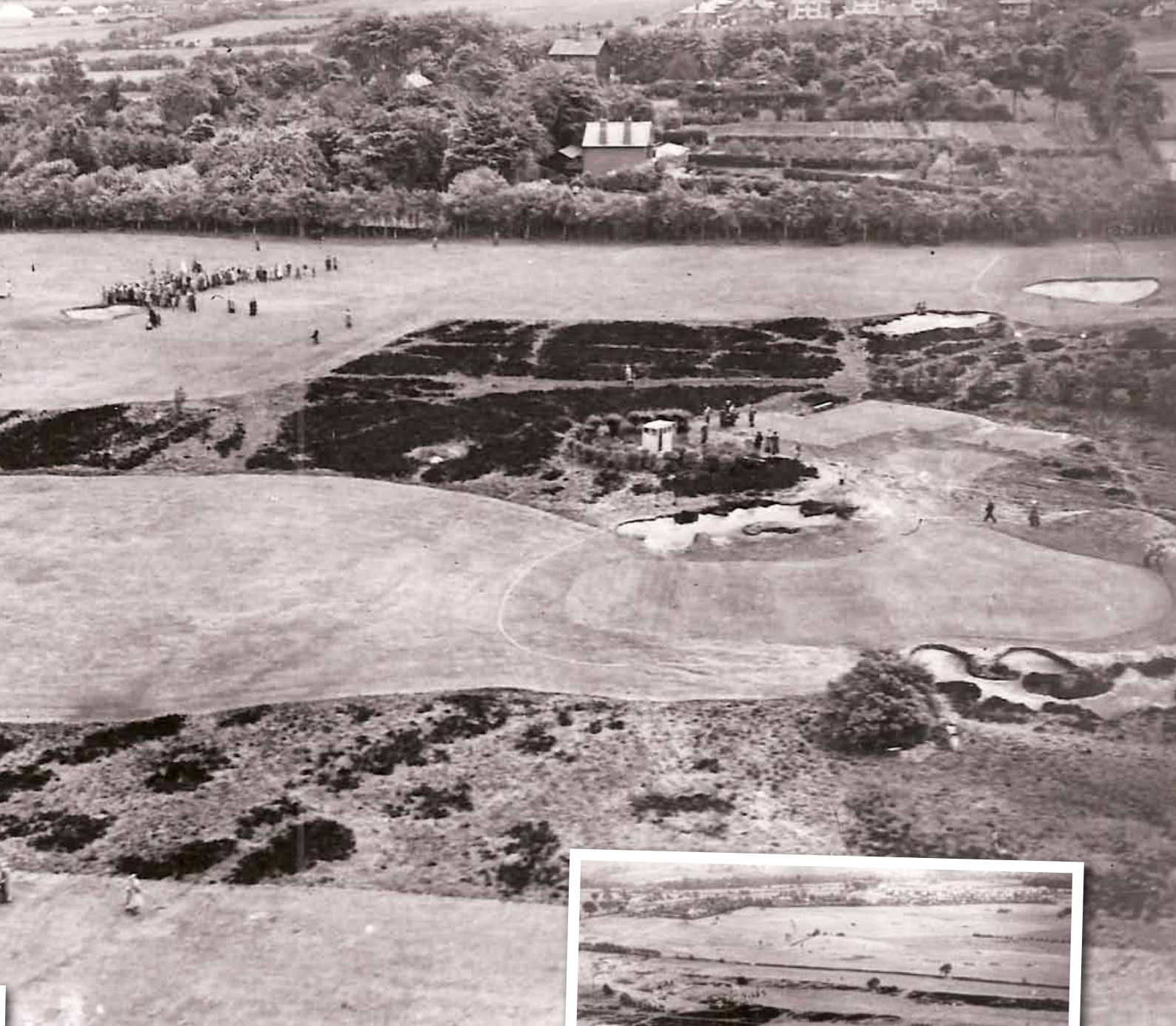


MAIN IMAGE RIGHT: 1937 Aerial Shot of Green's Nursery at the back of the 9th and 11th Greens with 13th fairway in the foreground

The Ryder Cup 1929, with Leo Diegel (BELOW) and Walter Hagen (INSET) driving from the 9th tee

“In war times, I don't think that the course would have changed much since MacKenzie last visited for the Ryder Cup in 1929”
Ken Moodie, Architect





two holes – the 6th and 7th – which will be concluded this spring.

“The impetus for the more recent work coincided with the arrival of Course Manager, Steve Robinson, and some key members of the Moortown Committee visiting other MacKenzie courses, including Cypress Point and Pasatiempo Golf Club, in California.

“They have seen the restoration work that has been done on those courses, as have I, and we wanted to do the same with Moortown,” explained Ken.

Mackenzie styling includes very distinctive longer noses on bunkers and much more intricate and interesting shapes, and the work has been carried out in-house with the assistance of a freelance shaper ensuring that Ken’s plans make the transition from paper to play.

The results so far are stunning.

As a starting point Ken had acquired a 1948 aerial photograph



INSET ABOVE: The Ryder Cup 1929, Scoreboard after the first day, and Ryder Cup Teams (RIGHT)



MAIN ABOVE: 1937 Aerial Shot of Green’s Nursery at the back of the 9th and 11th Greens with 13th fairway in foreground

INSET ABOVE RIGHT: 1937: The Moor Holes seen from above Green’s Nursery



of the golf course which had been taken by the RAF when they flew the country after the war.

"I don't think that the course would have changed much from when MacKenzie had last visited for the Ryder Cup in '29 to then, so we could be fairly sure that it was close to his original design," he explained.

Steve arrived at the club five years ago from Blackmoor, in Hampshire, where he had managed a similar renovation programme.

"After the War, to cut down on costs, many bunkers were filled in and we earmarked where many of these were," explained Steve, who also added that there were some large "waste area" bunkers for which it would have been a step to far to re-produce, while others were in areas which would no longer be in play.

"Since I started in 2007 we've filled in four bunkers and built 29. We've gone from 66 to 91," he revealed.

Steve and the club took the decision that they would undertake the bunker rebuilding work in-house aided by a locally based freelance shaper.

"We felt that given our particular situation with peat subsoil and our weather conditions that it was better to employ a freelance shaper who I could call on, once I've checked the weather forecast for the following day, rather than being charged for big plant and men not being able to work because the conditions don't allow it, which is a downside of employing an outside contractor," said Steve, who added that his team were doing a superb job and that their skills levels were rising all the time.

"It's not purely the cost, it's the damage that can be incurred when you feel obliged to let the work go ahead rather than have men and machines sitting idle."

The outcome has been that the team has done a great deal of the work by hand which has been very

Mackenzie styling includes very distinctive longer noses on bunkers and much more intricate and interesting shapes, ensuring that Ken Moodie's plans make the transition from paper to play

much in keeping with the MacKenzie style and it has meant that skills have developed.

They have also derived great satisfaction from beginning work on what would be a reinstated bunker, which Ken had sited using evidence from the aerial photograph, and discovering sand which had been there since the days of the original bunker.

"It's a bit like archaeology - Time Team stuff," said Ken, who is on site at least once a week during the project.

The Moortown soil structure has caused them a few issues however.

The 11th bunker as it used to be (LEFT) and how it is now (BELOW)



Mackenzie's Bunker (11th hole)



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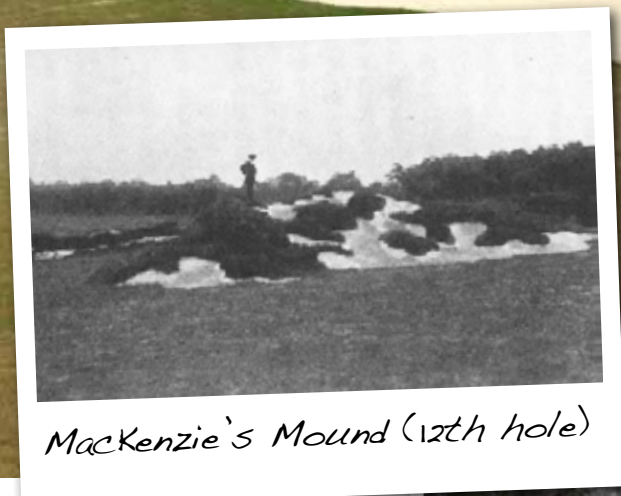
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MacKenzie's Mound (12th hole)

"We are built on peat and we would have situations where the whole base of a bunker would be on the move," explained Steve.

"We would dig out a bunker but if it rained between Ken's visits it meant that the team had to wade into bunkers, which resembled duck ponds, to dig them out. I've got pictures of the guys in wellies and waterproof clothing taking bucket-fuls of what looks like peat soup out and decanting it into Pro Gators. It was stagnant horrible stuff.

"If Ken said he wanted it another four inches deeper we'd then need to go down that, plus an extra four or five inches to accommodate the several inches of angular 25mm-40mm stone which we'd discovered was the best way to firm up the bunker," said Steve.

Ken wasn't unsympathetic, however, and worked with both the land and the crew to find solutions.

"We compromised on some of the bunker depths and built up the banks a bit higher instead. What we are trying to do has got to be achievable and you have to create something that is going to work in the long term. I'm sure MacKenzie



MAIN ABOVE: The 12th bunker and **INSET ABOVE:** How it used to be

OTHERS: The Moortown staff carrying out work on bunkers beside the 6th green

