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Sami Collins
sami@bigga.co.uk

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Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York,
YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel - 01347 833800 | Fax - 01347 833801

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Editorial

Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum
Tel - 01347 833800 Fax - 01347 833801
scott@bigga.co.uk



Design

Design and
Production Editor
Tom Campbell

Tel - 01347 833800
Fax - 01347 833801
tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

Sales Executive
Jill Rodham

Tel - 01347 833800
Fax - 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel - 01778 391000 | Fax - 01778 394269

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Return to splendour

The number of golf clubs which boast a rich heritage is greater in the UK than in any other country in the world. To have clocked up 100 years here joins a club to a well deserved if not particularly exclusive group, while to have 200 years of history makes a club rare but not unique.

It is fantastic to know that you can often be playing the same course as the legends of the game, but it does also cause problems.

Courses can become tired; they can become too short for the modern equipment and they can become rendered almost indistinguishable from the original as a result of tinkering by well meaning club members - ill placed bunkers and non indigenous trees providing the main evidence.

Returning such courses to their previous splendour is not always easy but the best approach, finances permitting, is to buy in the advice and expertise of the professionals.

That is exactly what Moortown Golf Club has done in bringing Ken Brown, Ken Moodie and John Nicholson to restore the classic Dr Alistair MacKenzie course - the first British course to host the Ryder Cup - to its former glory.

The bunker work, which has been designed by the two Ken's and carried out by the Moortown team and a shaper, is wonderful and the two "new holes", the 6th and the 7th, ensure that there isn't a weak link on the course.

But, as you will see in the Moortown profile on page 16, it's not just as simple as unearthing the old bunkers and rebuilding them in a MacKenzie style to take account of modern equipment a best guess as to where MacKenzie would have placed the bunkers if he had been designing for the modern golfer has to be made - although there is some of that.

As Ken Brown says in the article, you have to take account of how far the ball will be travelling in another 30 to 50 years and that is influenced by both technology and regulation - should the R&A be minded to take a stand. The great Mystic Meg, on her best form, would struggle to predict that, but professional expertise certainly gives the greatest chance of coming up with the best results.

I watched the last round of the Honda Classic last night and was delighted on two counts. One, it was great to see how well Rory McIlroy played the back nine - scrambling superbly and, although he was missing greens, never really looking out of control despite the intense pressure. He fully deserved his win, with the added bonus of reaching the top of the World Rankings. He might take some shifting.

Which brings me to my second reason, as the man, most likely to knock Rory off the perch, made a stunning return to form to tie for second two shots behind.

Tiger Woods has been showing glimpses of his old form, but last night with a magnificent eight under 62 in less than perfect conditions, he demonstrated that he was well and truly back.

That Rory held off his charge so well makes his own achievement even more laudable but won't it be great to watch the rivalry over the next few years?

Scott MacCallum
Editor

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COURSE FEATURE

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 focused 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 tournament which surrounds the most recent playings of the Ryder Cup wasn't quite the same at Moortown in Leeds, West Yorkshire, that May, but getting a sense of the times would have been interestingly impressed that the American team containing such legends as Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen, Herman Smith and Jim Duggan 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 2-3-1 down in the 1920s to win the Stages 1-5 to 2-5.

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 retained the style created by Lord Dufferin, Alistair MacKenzie, who heard his skills in the UK and Australia before heading to the US and designing Augusta National and Cypress 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, Albury, proving that knowledge is good use.

Ken was originally brought in by Moortown in 2004, along with landscape architect, 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 brief has expanded and the current work includes an extensive bunker renovation and the remodeling of

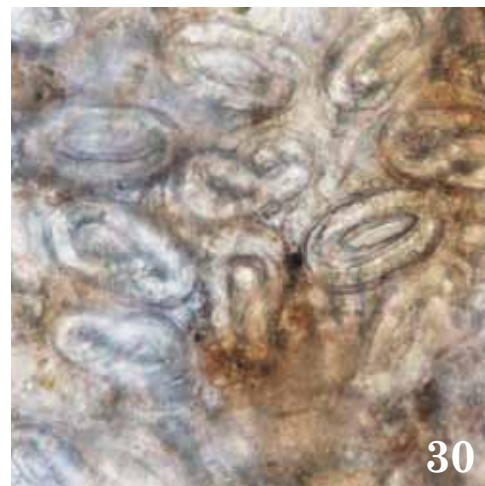
"In war times, I don't think that the course would have changed much since MacKenzie last visited for the Ryder Cup in 1929"

Ken Moodie, Architect



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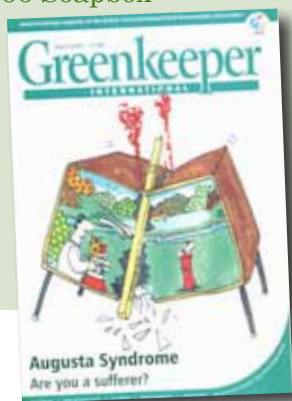
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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

BIGGA Member to Ride in Aid of Prostate Cancer Research

Berkhamstead Golf Club's, Myles Wood, is to undertake the Wiggle Dragon Ride, an arduous 78 mile cycle ride, in Wales in aid of prostate cancer research.

"My goal is to make £500 and I've been building up my training steadily. It currently includes regular weekly rides ranging from 15km - 65km with varying speed and time targets dependant on distance, I am also utilising a roller mechanism so I can continue with training indoors on a day to day basis," said Myles.

"During the coming weeks heading up to the ride I have scheduled a training programme, which will increase in intensity and distances leading up to the event date. I have also entered two other 'sportive' events, which will

offer an ideal opportunity for me to accustom myself to this type of distance riding, having only started riding last year."

Prostate Cancer is the most common form of male cancer. Treatment options and prognosis depend on the stage of the cancer, the patient's age and general health.

With greater public awareness, early detection is on the rise and mortality rates are declining.

Additionally, new advances in medical technology are enabling cancer patients to return to active and productive lives after their treatment.

For more information or to donate to Myles' attempt visit: www.virginmoneygiving.com/MylesWoodWiggleDragonRide2012



FIRST CANDIDATES PASS AMENITY FOUNDATION AWARD

Thirteen delegates from across the UK took and successfully passed the newly introduced BASIS Foundation Award (Amenity Horticulture) Course during BTME.

The three day course and exam were sponsored by Sherriff Amenity, with support from Everris and Syngenta.

The training was held as part of the Continue to Learn education programme that ran alongside the Exhibition.

Dr Ruth Mann from STRI ran the three day

training course covering all areas of product management, including application, weed, disease and pest identification and biology and the need for protecting the environment.

The delegates where: Chris Drewery; Paul Copsey; Alex Hawkes; Craig Earnshaw; Ben Adams; Jim Brown; Angus Macleod; David Lovejoy; Rob Worcester; Angus Fraser; Ian Pullan; Nicola Coupar-Marsh and Andy Baker.

Conference Update

BIGGA MIDLAND REGION CONFERENCE

AT FRILFORD HEATH GOLF CLUB
– 29th MARCH 2012

on *CONSTRUCTION & WEATHER IT'S ECOLOGICALLY SOUND*

Further details...

See Diary of Events Page 55



LAWNS FOR YOU

Well known Scottish greenkeeper, Duncan Gray, has launched a new internet based lawncare business, Lawns for You, with the aim of having a network of greenkeepers around the country to provide a quality service to home owners and bowling greens.

“The principle intention is to have greenkeepers, who are employed at golf clubs but are looking for extra work,” explained Duncan.

“I have a number of local lawncare companies coming on board, but to cover the country I would really like to have greenkeepers willing to work part time, either with their own equipment or hired equipment, who I can call on to cover work in their own area,” added Duncan, who has over 30 years experience in the industry and designed and managed The Pines Golf Centre in Dumfries as well as being Superintendent at Lahinch, in Ireland among other courses.

For further information visit www.lawnsforyou.com



Training Event For Senior Toro Distributors

Toro University, a training event for senior Toro distributors, was held in the UK, at the Wyboston Lakes Training and Conference Centre.

Attended by over 50 representatives from Toro's distributors across Europe and the Middle East, each delegate was given a thorough technical update and introduction to all the latest

models in the Toro portfolio – as well as an insight into all the improvements that continue to evolve the Toro range.

Seventeen products featured over the two days, over half them being brand new models introduced over the past 12 months

Toro's Chris Cooper commented, “Toro University

gives us the chance to present new products to our global distributor network.

With so many products having been, and still being introduced, this year's event has been a fantastic opportunity for education and learning about all the exciting new products particularly as it was just before the Golf Show.’



New Administrator for RIPTA Register

At their recent meeting in Harrogate, RIPTA (The Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists) elected Jeff Perris as the new Administrator of the Register.

Jeff retired from STRI two years ago after being a consultant agronomist for 43 years. He was one of the founder members of RIPTA and has been Administrator of the Register in the past.

“Now that I have more spare time in my retirement, I hope that some of this time can be given to promoting and developing RIPTA both nationally and internationally,” said Jeff.

The Register was formed in 2002 to provide a source of agronomic consultancy of the highest standard and was widely welcomed in the sports turf industry. Many Sports Governing Bodies, funding organisations, as well as those involved in sports turf management, now refer to RIPTA as their source of agronomic expertise.

Consultants on the Register:

- Must hold a recognised first degree or MSc in plant or earth science.

- Consultants' recent experience must include at least four years post-graduate experience as a full-time, independent turfgrass agronomist.

- The Consultants must have no association or understanding however informal with any commercial organisation that could influence his or her independence.

- Consultants or their employer must have and maintain insurance including Professional Indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of the Register Administrator.

- Consultants' other business activities will not conflict with their ability to provide advice and Consultants with other business interests need to show the major part of the income derives from turf consultancy.

Consultants or their employer must have and observe a written Code of Ethics.

For further information about RIPTA visit www.ripta.co.uk

My Rugby World Cup Experience



by Peter Larter
(BIGGA Regional Administrator)

Early last year I was invited by Rugby World Cup Organising Committee to officiate as a Citing Commissioner at the 2011 RWC Tournament taking place in New Zealand.

It took me about five seconds to respond and say that I was prepared to go providing I could get time off work! So I was very grateful to the BIGGA Board for allowing me to take nearly two months unpaid leave to enable me to participate.

On Sunday, September 4, I took the 24 hour flight to Auckland with Air New Zealand and landed in the early hours of Tuesday morning, September 6.

My qualifications for undertaking this task are that many years ago I played international rugby for England in the Second Row and am reckoned to know a bit about foul play! I have also been carrying out citing duties for the past 11 years in the Aviva Premiership, the European Rugby Cup, the 6 Nations Championship and also at the Rugby World Cup in France in 2007.

The disciplinary team for the RWC comprised: six Citing Commissioners (CCs), one from Ireland, one from New Zealand, one from Australia, one from Scotland, one from Italy and myself from England; six Judicial Officers from around the world and the RWC Administrative Staff from Dublin.

Our task as CCs was to watch each match live in the Sky TV Studios in Auckland and take action on any foul play

which we thought warranted sending off (i.e. Red Card), and which had been either missed by the match officials or, in our opinion, had not been penalised correctly.

On arrival on September 6 2011 we wasted no time in acclimatising. That afternoon we met with the Match Commissioners who were going to be our eyes, ears and voices at the many venues around New Zealand, and the Judicial Officers who were to chair the disciplinary hearings resulting from a sending off or a citing by the CC. We also received our allocation of matches; one CC per match. I was allocated nine matches and was to be the CC for the first match New Zealand vs Tonga at Eden Park, the venue for many matches including the two semi-finals, the 3rd place play-off and the RWC Final. I ended up with nine matches; my last match being semi-final between New Zealand and Australia. Thankfully the first match went off without incident, and I found that the system set up by Sky was brilliant. At each venue there would be anything from 10 to 24 cameras, depending on the size of the venue and importance of the match.

We watched the match as broadcast to the world and had an audio link to the referee. We were able to obtain all angles of any incident fed over the internet within an hour of the end of the match, and were then able to review any incident that caused concern and decide whether or not any foul play had been committed; we were able to view incidents



at normal speed, slow-motion, super-slow motion and frame by frame. If a citing was required, we had to prepare a detailed report and send it together with DVD evidence to the RWC Disciplinary Office, when a hearing would be convened. Players had to travel to Auckland for hearings and, if found guilty, would usually be banned from playing for a period of time depending on the seriousness of the offence. In total there were 13 citings in the 2011 RWC Tournament and all were upheld.

I had one citing and had a number of near misses; I had to cite the Italian hooker Ghiraldini for "interference with the eyes" and he was banned for 15 weeks.

During my stay in Auckland I had the opportunity to visit Eden Park on many occasions, one of which enabled me to meet Mark Perham, the Head Groundsman. Mark had previously been a golf

greenkeeper at golf clubs in Timaru in the South Island. He gave me a tour of the Stadium and explained how it was used to provide a test venue for both rugby and cricket. For cricket, what happens is that the lower stand tiers are mechanically withdrawn until the playing area becomes oval shaped.

They then drop a cooch grass playing strip into a metal well in the centre of the ground, which is playable for six to eight days, and is a good enough surface for test and provincial matches. Eden Park is the only stadium to host two Rugby World Cup





finals; New Zealand won the World Cup in 1987 when they defeated France, repeating the feat in 2011. The Eden Park area of Auckland has been in use as a sports venue for nearly 110 years, being first the home to Auckland cricket from 1910 and then Auckland rugby from 1925.

We had more spare time during October after the pool matches had been finished, which gave us

many opportunities to see the magnificent scenery New Zealand has to offer.

The local New Zealanders were great hosts and I don't think anyone begrudged them their narrow victory over France in the final. Once again, my thanks are extended to the BIGGA Board of Directors for allowing me the time to participate in this wonderful event.

P J Larter



TO THE EDUCATION OF GREENKEEPERS

The Northern Region Administrator Peter Larter presents a plaque on behalf of the Northern Region to Peter Fell the Sales Manager of Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd, thanking them for their many years of generous Patronage of the Region, which goes towards the education of greenkeepers

Peter Fell, who has been in the sportsturf industry for 27 years and has worked for Aitkens for the past 22 years, said that he thought BIGGA had been instrumental in bringing together the many different groups of our industry.

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BARENBRUG APPOINT NEW R&D MANAGER

Barenbrug has appointed Dr David Greenshields as its new Research and Development Manager.

The appointment follows the departure of Jayne Leyland, who has left for pastures new after 13 years with the Bury St Edmunds-based business.

Boasting a Master's degree in Environmental Biology from St Andrews University in Scotland and a PhD in Plant Genetics from Edinburgh University, David has strong technical and practical knowledge across golf, sports and amenity applications.

"I'm delighted to take on the responsibility for our research and development programme. Having been very heavily involved in our Scottish trials programme, as well as having a special responsibility for developing the racecourse



sector, I'm looking forward to transferring my work, know-how and enthusiasm to the whole of the UK," said David.

MD, Paul Johnson, added, "Barenbrug has made a significant ongoing investment in this programme and we're

excited to see how it evolves under David's direction.

"Jayne contributed a great deal to its success and will be sorely missed – I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her the very best for the future."

Event Update

This year's South West and South Wales Region's BIGGA Golf Management Competitions sponsored by TACIT will be taking place at these venues:

South Coast Section Event at Liphook Golf Club on Wednesday, June 20; South Wales Section Event at Newport Golf Club, Gwent on Thursday, June 28; South West Section Event at Bowood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort, Calne, Wiltshire on Wednesday, August 15.

This team event consists of four players and must include either the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. The other members may be chosen from the GC Secretary or Manager, the Chairman of the Green, Member of the Greens Committee or GC Committee, the Club or Vice Captain.

Entry forms will be sent to golf clubs in each of the three sections but should you wish to register your interest please contact Jane Jones (BIGGA RA) on 07841948110, 01454 270850 or e-mail: jane@bigga.co.uk



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