

# BIGGA

## Regional Conferences

Midlands	6 November	Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester
North	7 November	Phoenix Sports Club, Rotherham
South East	14 November	Thorpeness Golf Club, Thorpeness
S West & S Wales	15 November	Oaktree Arena, Bristol
Scotland	5 March	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

### BIGGA NORTH CONFERENCE

**The Northern Conference is scheduled for Wednesday 7 November at The Phoenix Sports Centre in Rotherham at 10am. The price is £10 for members and 350 for non-members.**

The speakers are:

David Wilkinson, Course Manager at Windermere Golf Club – ‘Eight Feet Under and Still Surviving’

Melvyn Taylor, Managing Director of Turfdry Limited – Drainage presentation

Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager for Everris Limited – ‘The Implications of Nutrition within Integrated Turf Management’

Dr David Greenshields, Research and Development Manager for Barenbrug UK Ltd – ‘Suitability of grass species for golf greens in the UK and Ireland’

A representative from The British Rootzone and Top Dressing Manufacturers Association, Jonathan Knowles, training co-ordinator at Myerscough College - ‘Education pathways and apprenticeships’

### SOUTH EAST CONFERENCE

**The South East conference is on Wednesday 14 November at Thorpeness Country Club, and we’ve once again arranged a variety of excellent speakers to participate in what should be a very interesting and informative day.**

Registration begins at 8.30am and CPD points will be awarded for attendance.

Thorpeness Golf Club is situated off the A12, then take the B1353 following signs to Thorpeness.

Ian Willett of BIGGA East Anglia and

Regional Chairman Tom Smith will welcome attendees before Jim Croxton, BIGGA Chief Executive, speaks.

Other speakers are:

Kate Entwistle – ‘New pest and disease issues’

Richard Stuttard – ‘STRI environment competition’

Nigel Church – ‘Safety equipment improvements’

Ken Moodie – ‘Course improvements case study – Thorpeness’

Mark Hunt – ‘Planning for the future’

For more information please contact Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 or [cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)

### BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE

**The BIGGA South West & South Wales 2012 conference will take place on Thursday 15 November at Oaktree Arena in Highbridge, Somerset.**

The theme is ‘Turf Management in all its Glory’ and features an exciting range of guest speakers. They include:

Dr Colin Fleming, Plant Pathologist, ‘Biology and the Effects of Parasitic Nematodes’; David Cole, Course Manager Loch Lomond Golf Club, ‘Winter Kill In West Scotland’; Cameron MacMillan, Course Manager Queenwood Golf Club, ‘Mission Impossible’; Robert Wills First Assistant Remedy Oak Golf Club ‘Changes in greenkeeping as seen by a First Assistant’; Richard Comely Director of Product and Marketing at Ransomes Jacobsen ‘Perceptions in Greens Management’.

Any further information can be obtained

by contacting Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on 01454 270850, 07841 948110 or [jane@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jane@bigga.co.uk)

### BIGGA MIDLAND CONFERENCE

**The Midland Conference takes place on Tuesday 6 November at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leicester, which is just off Junction 22 of the M1.**

The price £15 each for members (Discounted to £10 each for bookings of 3 members or more) and £50 for non members, with a 9am start.

The speakers are:

Daniel Lightfoot MG MSc, Golf Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club – Presentation TBC

Melvyn Taylor, Managing Director of Turfdry Limited – Drainage presentation

Lewis Blois, Technical Sales Manager and Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager for Everris Limited – ‘The Implications of Nutrition within Integrated Turf Management’

Dr David Greenshields, Research and Development Manager for Barenbrug UK Ltd – ‘Suitability of Grass Species for Golf Greens in the UK and Ireland’

A representative from The British Rootzone and Top Dressing Manufacturers Association

Jonathan Knowles, training co-ordinator at Myerscough College – ‘Education pathways and apprenticeships’





## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPORTS TURF ENTHUSIASTS

Young people interested in careers in golf grounds and sports turf management are being invited to take up once-in-a-lifetime internships in the United States, and be paid too!

IEPUK Ltd, in partnership with an American sponsor, Worldwide International Student Exchange (WISE), has launched a national recruitment campaign offering 300 internships at a range of PGA-level golf courses on the East Coast starting from Florida in the south and as far north as New York.

Successful applicants need to be 18-30 years old and will fly out to the US next spring to spend up to 10 months learning everything a job in grounds management entails. They will then have the opportunity to spend some leisure time exploring the country should they wish to do so.

IEPUK Ltd is a not-for-profit educational organisation which has helped thousands of young people to realise their dreams of working abroad over the last 20 years through its international exchange programmes. Partnerships operate in over 35 countries including Europe, the Far East, North and South America, Canada and Australasia.

Director Vanessa Peach said: "We are keen to find young people who are interested in taking up what will be an experience they will never forget and could be their first step towards a fulfilling career. Those who have completed an internship abroad through us always say it

is something they look back on as one of their best experiences. It's up to young people to seize these opportunities when they come up and we'll support them every step of the way."

Augusto from the Philippines, participated in the same WISE programme last year and spoke about his time in the US, saying: "The knowledge and experience gained in the exchange program will help me a lot professionally and to be an excellent leader in my future career."

Although not essential, successful applicants may have enrolled in or recently graduated from a relevant degree programme such as Turf Management or Landscaping, or have been working in the sector. Responsibilities will include managing grounds, cleaning and maintaining golf course equipment and preparation for tournaments. Accommodation is included plus a monthly stipend of \$1100 will be paid. A full, clean driver's license is essential and the use of a shared vehicle comes as part of the package.

Programme and J1 visa criteria need to be met and fees are applicable. Successful applicants will need to pay for their own flights. IEPUK offers full support throughout the application and interview process and during the placement.

To find out more call Emily Baines on 01572 823934, email [Emily@iepuk.com](mailto:Emily@iepuk.com) or visit [www.iepuk.com](http://www.iepuk.com)

## Re-alert for Chalara ash dieback disease



Following the initial alert on Chalara ash dieback in the last issue of Greenkeeper International, the disease has since been found at several more different locations around the country.

The initial wider-environment outbreak in Leicestershire was subsequently identified as Birstall Park and Ride near Leicester where 484 trees were uprooted and destroyed. Suspect cases at plant nurseries in Surrey and Yorkshire have now been confirmed, while an additional outbreak in the grounds of South Yorkshire College has also been reported.

However, the most serious outbreak of disease to date is in trees planted during 2009 in woodland managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) at Knockmountain, 2km north of Kilmacolm in Renfrewshire to the west of Glasgow. The 200 hectare (ha) site has 20 ha of mixed broadleaves including 58,000 ash plants that will now be dug up and destroyed.

This is a particularly big blow against any hope of eradicating the disease and could well signal the end of the common ash tree as a British native tree. This is a fast spreading disease and with so many common ash trees in the wider environment the chances of further spread over that three year period (2009-2012) are extremely high. There is no reason to suspect that the fungus and disease will behave any differently here to what has already been done in Europe. Up to 90 per cent of Denmark's common ash trees are infected and almost all are expected to die.

At least five years too late the Forestry Commission has been finalising a rapid pest risk assessment which will provide the necessary initial evidence to inform immediate action against this disease. This will be followed by a public consultation exercise on the rapid risk assessment. All of this will clearly take time as well as the time elapsing during its presentation in Brussels for consideration by the EU.

In the meantime the causal fungus (*Chalara fraxinea*) remains an unregulated pathogen in the EU which means consignments of common ash trees will continue to come into this country from other EU countries like Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany and Denmark, where the disease is endemic, without even cursory inspection either at the point of exit or entry. Even with inspection the disease can easily slip through. Healthy looking ash trees with no signs of disease carry latent fungal infections which can explode into disease many months later once the trees have been planted.

Greenkeepers and especially those in areas where the disease is already known to be present would be well advised to check their trees, especially those planted in the last five years, for symptoms of Chalara dieback disease which were described in the last issue.



# Chairman's Word

**BIGGA National Chairman, Tony Smith,  
this month focuses on the future of greenkeeping**

## Young guns (go for it)

**Firstly, many congratulations to Thomas Flavelle on becoming the 2012 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.**

I was hugely impressed by all the finalists and was particularly taken by their knowledge, passion and enthusiasm as well as being a very sociable group.

Well done to all the finalists. It's unreal how much winning this award, or even being nominated, can help your career.

It lifts your profile hugely and stands out a mile on your CV.

If you're not convinced, take a look at the interview with David Norton on page 58.

Just three years after winning the 1990 title, he was Head Greenkeeper at The Belfry.

This says everything about the stature and importance of the award, and he has some excellent tips for greenkeepers taking their first steps in the industry.

It's vital that we educate and inform the younger generation who are the future of this great profession, and after meeting this year's finalists it's clear they are going to progress and become superbly skilled greenkeepers.

However, there is still plenty of work to be done in this area.

I received no formal education until my mid-thirties – it just wasn't available.

You could argue I blagged my way into jobs without any formal training, which was an unsustainable situation. Now, the opportunities are there to be grasped, and I would urge you to get your name down to attend the fantastic educational seminars at BTME.

Speaking of BTME, as I left SALTEX (where the BIGGA seminars were tremendous and extremely well-received) it was clear attentions were now turning to our flagship event in January.



**I was particularly taken by the knowledge, passion and enthusiasm of all the finalists**

Pre-registration is now open at [www.btme.org.uk](http://www.btme.org.uk); sign up now to avoid the queues. Personally, I can't wait for my first BTME as chairman and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

On the course, we had a little bit of a dry period in early September which I hope you also enjoyed.

We were able to cut the whole course twice a week until the rain came again in late September, and myself and all the team at Teesside have been working extremely hard to return it to the pristine condition it should be in.

It really has been a dreadful few months weather-wise – the only positive is that the ponds and lakes are full to the brim!

One of the main issues I've been concentrating on in the first weeks of my chairmanship is communication.

I want people to shout about BIGGA and the myriad benefits we offer our members.

We need to encourage the Sections and Regions to talk to us and tell us what's going on.

We've made the first steps on this mission but there is still more to be done in promoting the association.

I'm going to be visiting as many Sections as is practically possible over the next few months.

But, if you've got any issues whatsoever, don't hesitate to call me on 07988 838956 or email [tony.smith48@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.smith48@ntlworld.com)

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07988 838956

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# Learning & Development

Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education issues

October is here, the nights are drawing in, the leaves are coming down and it's less than 100 days until Christmas – but on a happier note it means that BTME and Continue to Learn are just around the corner!

## Continue to Learn at BTME 2013

The Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme has been launched with this issue of Greenkeeper International and it features the full line-up of education events.

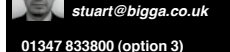
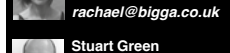
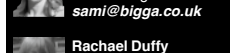
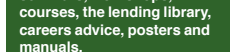
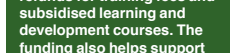
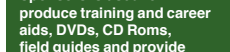
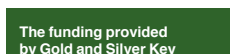
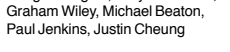
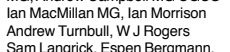
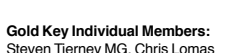
With four days of workshops, seminars, the new 'Focus On' sessions and the Turf Managers' Conference, there is certain to be something for everyone visiting BTME. The education programme will commence on Sunday 20 January and will run until Wednesday 23 January.

A full list of education events is available on [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) (with an online booking facility) and [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk).

## Seminar Pre-booking for BIGGA Members

Due to the popularity of the Seminar programme in January 2012, some BIGGA members were left disappointed when they were unable to see some of the seminars. To help prevent this happening in the future, we are introducing a seminar pre-booking system, available for BIGGA members only. The pre-booking system will run as follows:

70 seminar vouchers will be made available for each of the Continue to Learn Seminars, held in the Queen's Suite on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 January. BIGGA members can request a seminar voucher for any of the Seminars listed. The seminar voucher must be exchanged for a seminar ticket in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre at least one hour prior to the start time of the pre-booked seminar. If the voucher is not exchanged for a ticket there is no guarantee of a



seat. The remaining seats will be available to all visitors on a first come, first serve basis.

You will be able to request seminar vouchers by completing the application form in the Continue to Learn brochure, by logging into the members area of the website and booking via the Events page or by contacting the L&D Department.

We hope that you will be courteous when pre-booking by only selecting the seminars that you have particular interest in seeing.

## Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012 Final took place at BIGGA House on 16 and 17 September. Following a very close contest, the title this year went to Thomas Flavelle from Lingdale Golf Club representing Myerscough College.

Thomas is the 24th Student Greenkeeper to be awarded the title. He is now looking forward to his experiences in the USA at the Winter Turf School held at the University of Massachusetts and visits to both the Toro Headquarters and the Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

The runners-up were: Christopher Watson from Peterculter Golf Club representing Elmwood College and Peter Thompson from Sunningdale Golf Club represent-

ing Oaklands College. Both will be attending Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 in Harrogate in January.

My congratulations go to all of the finalists. It was a close contest and a challenge for the judges to select the winner and runners-up.

## Assistants Development Seminar

Last month we ran a successful training event at BIGGA House, for the Course Managers who will be presenting the pilot Assistant Development seminars.

These events will be advertised as: 'So You Want to be Promoted – Essential Skills for your Career Development' and will initially be free of charge and are open to Assistant and First Assistant members of BIGGA.

The first event will be the Northern Region's, to be held at Lymm GC on Wednesday 24 October starting at 4pm. For further details and news of other forthcoming events around the country, check the events page of the BIGGA website for details.

## BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Phillip Worth - Foundation Degree in Sportsturf (online)

**Gold Key Individual Members:**  
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison Andrew Turnbull, W J Rogers Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann, Nick Gray

**Silver Key Individual Members:**  
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild, Graham Wiley, Michael Beaton, Paul Jenkins, Justin Cheung

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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# BIGGA Membership

The membership team reflect on current news and affairs affecting you, the BIGGA member

## BTME 2013 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN – AVOID THE QUEUES!

BTME (The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition) is back for its 24th year at the Harrogate International Centre on 22-24 January 2013. You can now apply for your free entry pass to BTME 2013 by visiting the BIGGA website [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) click on the BTME banner at the top of the page and select REGISTER NOW!

BTME 2013 is shaping up to be another must-attend event, with many exhibitors having already booked their space months in advance. The countdown starts here with the opening of registration.

Widely regarded as Europe's leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals and buyers, BTME offers a fantastic opportunity to browse, buy and seek advice from over a hundred of the top manufacturers and service providers across the world, so don't miss out!

## CONTINUE TO LEARN – Discount for BIGGA Members

BTME also incorporates Continue to Learn - a host of seminars and workshops, coming to you courtesy of BIGGA, from 20-23 January 2013. Whether you want to learn about management, basic budgeting and golf course finance, health and safety or putting green maintenance, it's all here at Continue to Learn. See the brochure enclosed with this month's copy of GI.

## TURF MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

Back for a third year, the Turf Managers' Conference will be held on Monday 21 January 2013 at The Crown Hotel, Harrogate. Dr Thomas Nikolai - 'The Doctor of Green Speed' from Michigan State University will head up a fantastic programme to include David Bancroft-Turner from 3D Training and Development, a specialist in organisational politics - a very popular subject!



Also Dr Kate Entwistle from the Turf Disease Centre and Lorna Sheldon from CWI International, a specialist in communication and presentation skills will be discussing very topical issues.

Prices are held from 2012 so book early to ensure you reserve a place.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Calling all members in the Northern, South East and South West/South Wales Regions, a Regional Conference will be held in your region during November. Details are:-

**Northern Region , November 7th, Phoenix Golf Club, Rotherham**, (easily accessed on the A631 from both Rotherham and Sheffield and is within 1 mile of M1 junctions 33 and 34).

Contact Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966

**Midland Region, November 6th Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester** (With easy access from Markfield Lane, Forest Hill Golf & Country Club is less than 3 miles from the A50, 5 miles from M1 J22 south bound and only 4 miles from M1 J21a north bound. For Sat Nav purposes please use LE9 9FH)

Contact Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966

**South East Region, November 14th, Thorpeness Hotel & Golf Club**, (From London & the South East - From the M25, exit at junction 28 onto the A12. Follow to

north of Ipswich and then take the A1094. Local signposting will take you into Thorpeness. Post code for SAT NAV IP16 4N)

Contact Clive Osgood Tel: 01737 819343 or Mobile: 07841 948410

**South West/South Wales Region, November 15th, Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset**

(Getting to the OTA Conference Centre from M5 Junction 22 - At the roundabout take the first exit, following brown tourist signs to Speedway Arena. Approximately 50 yards past Greenacres campsite on the right, you will see The Oaktree signposted to your left).

Contact Jane Jones Tel: 01454 270850 or Mobile: 07841 948110

For more information contact the Regional Administrators.

The Regional Conferences are a great opportunity of meeting other greenkeepers, exchanging information and learning something in the process, many people, mostly volunteers have gone to a lot of time and trouble to make sure these Regional Conferences happen, please, if you can, support them.

## Section AGM's

It's getting to that time of year again when Section AGM's and Section Education and Golf Events are happening. In order to keep up to date with all the dates of the Section Events visit the Events Section on the BIGGA Website ([www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)) or see them listed on the 'Diary of Events' page.



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You can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd

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John Young Sandra Raper



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

## 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



## Campey Marks 35th Vredo Anniversary with Tribute in Holland

Dutch agricultural, golf fairway and grassland machinery manufacturer Vredo Dodewaard BV marked a double celebration last week; 35 years of manufacturing Vredo Overseeders and 25 years of producing slurry equipment.

The anniversary was celebrated with two open days at their HQ in Dodewaard, Holland. The opening day was attended by importers and dealers, followed by a demonstration day for end users and suppliers on the second.

Director Hans de Vree and his team welcomed guests from across the globe. This included a party from UK and European Distributors for

Vredo Overseeders Campey Turf Care Systems.

Managing Director Richard Campey presented Director of Vredo Hans de Vree and Vredo Export Sales Manager Pieter-Teunis Hoogland with a wonderful gift of a mirror etched with a photograph of a Vredo Overseeder in action at St. Andrews Golf Club in recognition of their achievements.

"We are delighted to be here to celebrate Vredo's 35th anniversary", said Richard. This is a tribute to the enormous dedication and hard work, which has ensured that the Vredo brand is renowned throughout the grounds care industry for innovation, quality and

performance. We are proud to be associated with Vredo and look forward to many more years of collaboration."

Vredo had already started producing the now famous Vredo Overseeders in the 1970s. That initial well-designed technology of two sharp discs which cut a V-shaped slit in the ground and precisely places grass seed into it is still a winner today.

The high quality products have enabled Vredo to develop into a professional organisation that thinks purely in terms of quality and performance. They combine modern technology with recognised best practice techniques to meet the exacting demands of the professional groundsman and greenkeeper.

## FORCES JOINED

Sherriff Amenity, the specialist amenity division of Agrovista UK Ltd, the leading agronomy specialist, crop protection and product distributor are delighted to announce an exclusive arrangement has been agreed with leading sports turf maintenance company Sports Turf Services Ltd.

Mark Pyrah, head of amenity for Sherriff Amenity, said: "We are delighted that STS have entered into this exclusive arrangement, STS will now supply all contracting services to the golf market in Scotland through Sherriff Amenity."

Peter Campbell, Managing Director of STS said "I'm very excited about the future, working with a company of Agrovista's stature and with such an experienced sales team calling on Golf Courses the length and breadth of Scotland".



## AUTUMN FINANCE DEALS

John Deere Financial has announced two new finance programmes for UK golf club customers this autumn.

These include a 'buy now, pay later' scheme designed to help the cash flow of clubs who may need immediate delivery of new machinery, but who want to wait until next year to pay when their annual membership subscriptions are due.

The second scheme runs from September 2012 to the end of April 2013, with customers making 1 + 1 annual payments at zero per

cent interest for new golf and turf equipment orders placed with a dealer between now and January 2013.

"Finance is more important than ever for golf courses in the current economic climate," says John Deere Limited's turf division sales manager Joedy Ibbotson.

Eligible equipment for both programmes includes John Deere walk-behind and ride-on cylinder and rotary mowers, compact and utility tractors, turf aerators and sprayers, and the full Gator utility vehicle range.



## Blinder Bunker Liner Links with Rigby Taylor

Blinder Bunker Liner, the unique system designed to improve the lifespan of bunkers and reduce maintenance costs, is to be sold by the industry's largest sales force.

Launched in 2010 Blinder Bunker Liner has already installed bunkers on many golf courses throughout the country, but the new agreement will ensure that the benefits of the system will be highlighted to many more clubs.

"We expect many more sales enquires to be generated through this exciting new agreement," said Murray Long, Director of Blinder Bunker Liner.

Speaking on behalf of Rigby Taylor, Managing Director Andrew Robinson, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for Rigby Taylor and adds a unique system to our product range. Product development has been at the forefront of our company philosophy and we are pleased to be working with Blinder Bunker Liner to offer this solution to bunker maintenance issues."

## What's your number?

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

**Name:** Steven Dyne  
**Company:** Invicta Groundcare Equipment Limited  
**Position:** Director / Salesman



**How long have you been in the industry?**  
17 years

**How did you get into it?**

I did an Agricultural Engineering Apprenticeship and had two or three positions maintaining agricultural and horticultural machinery and this lead me to Golf Club

**What other jobs have you done?**

I've been a Greenkeeper and Golf Course Mechanic

**What do you like about your current job?**

My job takes me all over the UK visiting many new areas and meeting many interesting people and there is never a dull moment. It is very satisfying to find the right equipment for customers' requirements

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

I've seen Greenkeepers and machinery improve and become more specialised producing higher standards

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I enjoy foreign holidays, visiting historical sites, walking and cycling. I also enjoy cooking, Indian being a current favourite.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**

Continuing to give a personal input to customers requirements but on a wider scale

**Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**

I have been lucky enough to make many friends contacts and customers around the UK and internationally all too numerous to mention

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**

As I was born on 7.7.77 at Sevenoaks it has to be 7

*Steven has picked Brian Tebbutt of Tebbutt Associates*

## JACOBSEN AR250 ROTARY MOWER PROVES ITS WORTH



A Jacobsen AR250 five unit rotary mower is proving its worth on the 18-hole golf course at Mount Murray Hotel and Country Club at Santon on the Isle of Man.

With over 5,300 hours on the clock, the AR250 is used to maintain the semi-rough and surrounds at the 6,356 yard, par 71 course.

Gary Corlett is the head greenkeeper and manages a team of six full time staff, two seasonal

staff and a gardener. He has been a user of Jacobsen equipment for the past 11 years and has worked in Ireland, China and UK. He has a Foundation degree in Turfgrass Science from Myerscough College.

Commenting on the AR250 he said: "We have a huge area of maintained grass, including the grounds of the hotel, so it's vitally important that we get maximum productivity and reliability from our mowing equipment. And,

that's exactly what we get from the AR250. It's reliable, quick to set up and the quality of the finish is superb, even when handling large volumes of grass in wet conditions.

"Our 11th hole is adjacent to the hotel, so it's important that the presentation is always at its best.

"The rear rollers on the AR250 leave a pleasing striped finish, providing a manicured view from the guests' bedrooms and hotel restaurant."

## NEXT GEN GOLF CARTS

Next-generation golf cart technology has reached Ryder Cup venue The Celtic Manor Resort, with the news that it is the latest golf club to 'tag' its cart fleet with DSG TAG's GPS tracking devices.

The tags, fitted last month to 20 petrol-driven Club Car carts on The Twenty Ten Course, are designed to help improve pace of play, and to improve the quality of the Twenty Ten experience for customers. Each cart has also been fitted with a DSG TAG TOUCH screen along with the GPS tag.

"Golfers on The Twenty Ten Course can now upgrade their cart to a DSG TAG model," says Golf Operations Manager Matt Barnby. "Buggies are restricted to the cart paths at Celtic Manor, but our new TOUCH screens give golfers an exact yardage while sitting in their cart – removing the need to take two or three clubs onto the fairway."

DSG TAG has also created geo-zones which control where the Twenty Ten carts can and cannot be driven, including a geo-fence around the entire Celtic Manor Resort estate to



ensure that golf buggies are not driven off the property. Golfers are first alerted by a buzzer and on-screen messages, and the cart is automatically

immobilised if the warnings are ignored.

The Celtic Manor Resort operates a fleet of 140 Club Cars in total.

**BTME is back** for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013



## NEW TRIPLE DECK MOWERS GO FAR AND WIDE



Wessex ProLine RMX roller mowers have been setting new standards in roller mower design for many years. Now the new triple deck mowers offer the ultimate in wide area mowing, with the significant advantages of cost-efficiency without compromising cut finish quality.

All the features and benefits of the widely used Wessex ProLine RMX range have been incorporated into one triple deck machine, to reduce mowing time and increase output and profitability. Requiring no electro-hydraulics, and with no electric clutches, these professional roller mowers will leave a finish equal to a cylinder mower on fine turf, at a fraction of the cost. The

patented transmission system allows wings to be engaged and disengaged whilst in work, without a clutch mechanism. They offer versatility too.

With independent wing control they are operational with one wing lifted and the folding wings can cut gradients from  $-30^{\circ}$  to  $+30^{\circ}$  with the middle deck remaining on the ground.

All the decks have independent float and the patented linkage system allows the rear deck to follow the direction of travel, to minimise tyre and roller scuffing. Turf tyres are also used for minimum ground compaction and independent suspension is incorporated for smooth road travel.

Each deck on the triple mower has full width rollers at the front and rear that restrict airflow, creating a suction beneath the deck chamber in which the uncut grass is sucked up by the blades, leaving a superb quality cut at high speeds.

There are double taper roller bearings in all rollers and they also stripe the grass for a premium finish. The RMX triple mowers are available in 5.6m and 6.8m working widths and, as with all the RMX roller mowers, servicing and maintenance is easy, substantially reducing costs compared to an equivalent width cylinder mower. They will be available for delivery in spring 2013.

## ROYAL CROMER GC FIRST TO INSTALL NEW TORO LYNX AND GDC

Royal Cromer Golf Club in Norfolk has become the first course in the UK to fully upgrade to a state-of-the-art Lynx and GDC Toro Irrigation system.

This windswept links course on the North Norfolk coastline struggled to maintain coverage and keep playing surfaces up to par as its previous 35-year-old irrigation system reached the end of its useful life.

Numerous man hours were also being wasted at Royal Cromer as the greenkeeping team hand-watered and nursed the ailing system, while water was lost through leaks and inefficient application.

But the installation of a brand new Toro Irrigation system, featuring Lynx control system software coupled with Toro's proven Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) hardware, has brought the 18-hole course bang up-to-date. In fact, it's become the first club in the UK to upgrade to an all-new Lynx system and thus enjoy its impressive benefits.



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