

and commitment shown by our sponsors is greatly appreciated and without them the golf days could not happen. Full results can be viewed at www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

The next Section golf day is the Christmas Turkey Trot. Dates, entry form, jobs and information can be found on the BB&O website.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch at bboscribe@gmail.com or contact the committee/Matt Nutter: bbosecretary@gmail.com

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the website.

The Stick

East Anglia



So, we all set foot on a golf course very few of us could remember playing. Must be 20 years since we last played Royal Norwich Golf Club and what a treat it was. The course was in top condition thanks to Mark Dingell and his team. The catering team also played their part, as did the weather for a change.

The main sponsors of the day were Ben Burgess. Unfortunately, the halfway house went missing but it didn't spoil our day! The prizes were presented by Stewart Edge (from Ben Burgess) to the following desperadoes.

1 - 10 Handicap: 1 Michael Buck 40 points; 2 Richard Plummer 34 (on countback from his dad - and he also pipped Roger for nearest the pin on the 9th. What a ride home that must have been!)

11 - 19 Handicap: 1 Andy Baker 36; 2 John Andrews 33

20 - 28 Handicap: 1 Ian 'The Maestro' Willett 38; 2 Steve Freestone

Trade & Guest: 1 Graham Kemp 2 T Mills

Nearest The Pin: 1st Reg Claydon; 9th Richard Plummer (still raking bunkers); 12th Mick Pryke

Longest Drive: 18th Graham Hurran

Other loyal supporters were Bartram Mowers, Toro, Headland, Aitkens, Scotts and Rigby Taylor. Incidentally, if anyone brings prizes could you please let Ian, or me know so that we can include you all in the notes.

Thank you Royal Norwich for a super day. Hope it's not 20 years until the next time - I'll only be 84!

Pause for thought:-

It may be comforting to now that it's not only greenkeepers that suffer the 'committee syndrome'. Groundsmen get it as well. A friend of mine was overruled on a job he was doing (they knew best!)

Surprise, surprise - it went wrong and he got the blame for it. I asked him how many were on the committee and he said "six". I said that's your problem mate, a committee should always be an odd number and three are too many!

There was also a Bartrams Day at Eaton and about 50 souls turned up. Quite an eventful day and we were all pleased to hear that Danny Lake, Bartrams equivalent to 'Del Boy' became a father the day before - well done mate.

In the next breath, we were remembering our dear friend Norman Fenwick who sadly passed away the week before. We shall miss him a lot - a true gent and a first class greenkeeper.

He would always have a laugh - sometimes a translator would have been handy (that's rich coming from me, but you know what I mean!)

I'm sure his skills would have been passed on to the youngsters at Purdis and they will remember them, and him, forever. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family at this sad time.

I was going to give the scores for the Bartrams Day, but it just seems a bit irrelevant, except to say it was a good day and we all raised a glass for the man who was missing.

Mick Lathrope

Mid Anglia



Hope you are all well and enjoying the dry weather we are experiencing in September which is making a nice change, allowing many to get their greens renovations completed after a very difficult wet season. I hear that the fairways etc are at last starting to slow down and have even seen signs of drought stress which never seemed likely a few months ago.

2012 has been the wettest summer in 100 years and 2nd wettest since records began. I am sure that you are all well ahead of the game and have applied Fungicide to help prevent the onslaught of Fusarium which will be rearing itself around the time of year... prevention is definitely better than cure so along with all the correct cultural measures a preventative programme is really essential to keep your greens disease and scar free for the rest of the season and beyond.

I hope that you have all received your application forms from Gerald for the Autumn Golf Day and AGM at Verulam GC on October 25th. If you haven't and would like to enter please email me for a copy of the application form. Once again the entry fee is only £15, exceptional value for money, so hope to see as many of you there as possible as it's sure to be a great day. So come on dust down the sticks and join us.

I would like to make you all aware of an amazingly loyal servant to greenkeeping and Mid Anglia Section - Mr Peter Robinson Head Greenkeeper at Knebworth GC. He's reached an amazing milestone in achieving an unbelievable 50 years of greenkeeping service to the club after starting out as a 15-year-old in 1962. This is a feat that I doubt will ever be repeated and can announce that as he loves his job so much has taken the option to stay on for another three years. Well Done Peter you are a credit to the industry.

Lastly please let me know of any news worthy or events at your clubs so we can help spread the word. Darren.

d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com

Kent



Afternoon everyone and autumnal greetings.

Now that summer is well and truly behind us and the sun starts to fade work continues in earnest with our seasonal renovations and construction programmes.

That is if you can fit it in between leaf sweeping!

The shifting daylight hours and consequent dark mornings are a timely reminder of all the mower headlights we promised ourselves we would fix before the inevitable resultant extended putting surfaces.

Our Summer Pairs Knockout competition is still going and some great matches have been enjoyed by all entrants. See the website for up to the minute results.

Also, by the time you read this we shall have played our autumn event at Boughton Golf Club so read results here next month or on website if you can't wait that long!

The football season is in full flow again and my spare time is occupied totally by running my three kids to their matches all over the south east putting my ever-elusive low-teens golf handicap out of reach for yet another year. I wouldn't have it any other way though. You can't beat seeing the honest passion kids put into their football week in week out.

Don't forget our annual shindig/Turkey Trot/AGM at the pristine fairways of Redlubits on the 29th November. I know that's a few weeks off yet but please make a note in your diaries for what, in my opinion, is the highlight of the year.

Please call me if you have any news for this column, including any personal achievements or news from your clubs.

Don't forget to call me if you need any additional help over the winter with any of your projects. Again, see website for details of services on offer.

Best of British
Rob Holland
Premier Golf
07545 424880



Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...



Name: Anthony Stockwell
Age: 24
Club: The London Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Stocky

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 5 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? I love golf and anything practical in nature

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? Teacher

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Hand watering to try and create as consistent surface as possible

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Hand watering with soggy boots!

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Further improvement in training and education for all

7. Hobbies? Spending time with my family and 2 dogs

8. Favourite Band? Supergrass

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? My hometown Woking FC

10. What is your claim to fame? I beat Monty in a recent putting challenge

Sussex



The Summer Tournament was recently held at Pyecombe Golf Club, but unfortunately it was once again poorly attended. The results were... well, well, well:

1st place - Dave Allen, Rich Evans, Pete Smith

2nd place - Matt Hutchinson, Chris Ahier, D Burchell

3rd place - Nigel Everett, Pete Crossley, Mel Ward

The longest drive went to John Cole from John Shaw Machinery. It was the only fairway John found. Nearest the pin was won by Dave Hinks and the longest drive on the 9th to Larry Lamb Pearman. Well done everyone! Many, many thanks to Mark Day from Tacit who were our sponsors for the day. Once again Mark provided brilliant prizes. Our thanks also go to Pyecombe Golf Club for their wonderful hospitality and great food.

The next event will take place on Thursday, 11th October at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club with tee times starting at 11:50. The cost will be £19 per head. All enquiries should be sent to Competition Secretary, Pete Smith at pds@btinternet.com. I would personally like to welcome Pete to our section. I know he will bring some great ideas from his previous section where he was Chairman and Treasurer.

Our AGM will be held at the Dyke Golf Club on Thursday, 29th November. A nine hole competition has been organised with tee times from 12 noon and the AGM commencing at 2:30pm. Rob Hudson has arranged both the golf and a buffet tea at no charge to our members.

I would once again ask all in the Sussex Section to drop me line, ring me or email me with any news of interest to the section. Let's hear your news!

Cheers for now,

Eric Green

Beauport Park Golf Club

01424-214600

07805-024001

TheGreens837@aol.com

Surrey



Monday September 17. I have not been recently to the Isle of Wight but have used the time in not going to finish building my home made wooden gazebo. The builders are in making lots of dust converting our separate WC into an en suite shower room for our second bedroom and also refitting our bathroom. All donations to the make Brian's Dorking property liveable will be very gratefully received. The front garden now needs some turf so I hereby apologise to any local club that loses a small part of one of their greens, my gardener has only recently been released on probation.

That is it for this month for no-one out there in greenkeeper land has contacted me with any news but in next month's edition there will be a full report on the match between Surrey, Essex and Sussex at Lingfield Park GC and Surrey greenkeepers v the Reps at Richmond GC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any advice or news as my Tacit mobile phone no continues to be 07879474038 or by email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

Brian Willmott

South West & Wales Region

South Wales



Good morning all, firstly apologies for missing last month's deadline not to be missed again! How fantastic and inspirational has the last eight weeks been with the Olympic and Paralympic games. I have never seen so many people enthusiastic and uplifted by some many sports. For me being a grown man jumping out of my seat

watch us win gold in the dressage competition unbelievable! There wasn't a dry eye left in the house when our British hero Jonny Peacock beat his sporting hero Oscar Pistorius in the 100m Paralympic final.

Back to greenkeeping the last eight weeks for us have followed exactly what we've had all year. No consistent temperature, multi weather fronts coming through - how can any of us plan end of season renovations and preparations for all our finals events! When times like these come around ie tighter budgets and not being able to prepare our courses the way we know how, we all need to stick together. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call your neighbouring golf club ask to borrow bits and pieces, and pick each others brains because between us we can prevail.

Team Match results

North Wales 3 South Wales 1 - thank you to sponsors Countrywide and Farmura Environmental.

South Wales 4 South West 2 - again thank you sponsors Countrywide and Farmura Environmental.

Thanks also to all patrons of the section, without your support prizes and events like these couldn't take place thank you.

Our Next Event

October 11th at Clyne Golf Club AGM starts at 11am followed by golf at 1pm. Please guys book this time in your calendars and try and support the AGM to air your views and support section golf event.

October 26th St Pierre Golf Club our inaugural South Wales Dinner and Dance will take place. Many tables have been taken by patrons and other sections - if you would like a table please contact Gareth Knight 07595988512 to reserve your place.

Many thanks for reading any news or views please contact me at any time.

Kind Regards

Peter H

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
steve.castle@bigga.co.uk
 by the 15th of the month

Devon and Cornwall



We now have all dates and venues confirmed for this upcoming season of events. All events will be advertised on the BIGGA website and in the GI magazine. Fixture lists will be sent out to all members. If you have not received one, then please contact me.

Please make sure that all your contact details are up to date with BIGGA HQ, this year we plan to reduce our costs by only emailing details of events to our members. If you are not receiving invites to our events, then please contact BIGGA with up to date contact details.

Our first meeting is at East Devon GC on Thursday 11 October. Paul Newcombe, Course Manager, has made some significant changes to the course in the last few years and has agreed to do a short presentation to the attendees explaining why these changes have been made. Paul will be leading a Course walk for those who are not playing golf. Golfers will be playing for the "Don Hunt" Trophy and Avoncrop Amenity and Sibelco will be sponsoring the Event. Our Section AGM will be held at the end of the day's events. This will be a very interesting and enjoyable meeting at one of our best courses in the Section. Please contact me asap if you wish to attend.

Our November event will be held at Bowood GC, Cornwall, on Wed 7th November. Rob Cook, Course Manager, is a regular attendee at our meetings and has worked hard to improve the surfaces at Bowood. Golfers will be playing for the "Bayer Cup" and the day will be sponsored by Bayer Environmental and Sports Metals. Again, please contact me asap to secure a place at the event.

Look forward to seeing you all at our events!

George Pitts
Section Secretary
Bigga Devon & Cornwall
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com

BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

Scotland

John Marshall, West Section
Andrew McDonald, West Section

Northern Region

Jamie Baggley, North West Section
Jack Butterworth, North West Section
Aaron De'Avalon, North Wales Section
Gwyndaf Lewis, North Wales Section
Christopher Pinkney, Northern Section
Stephen Smith, North East Section

Midland Region

Kristian Allen, Midland Section
Stephen Ball, Midland Section
Tom Coulson, Midland Section
Nigel Green, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
William Green, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Adam Hallifax, Midland Section
Liam Harris, Mid Anglia Section
Sharon Morris, East Midland Section
James Percy, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
Jamie Wright, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section

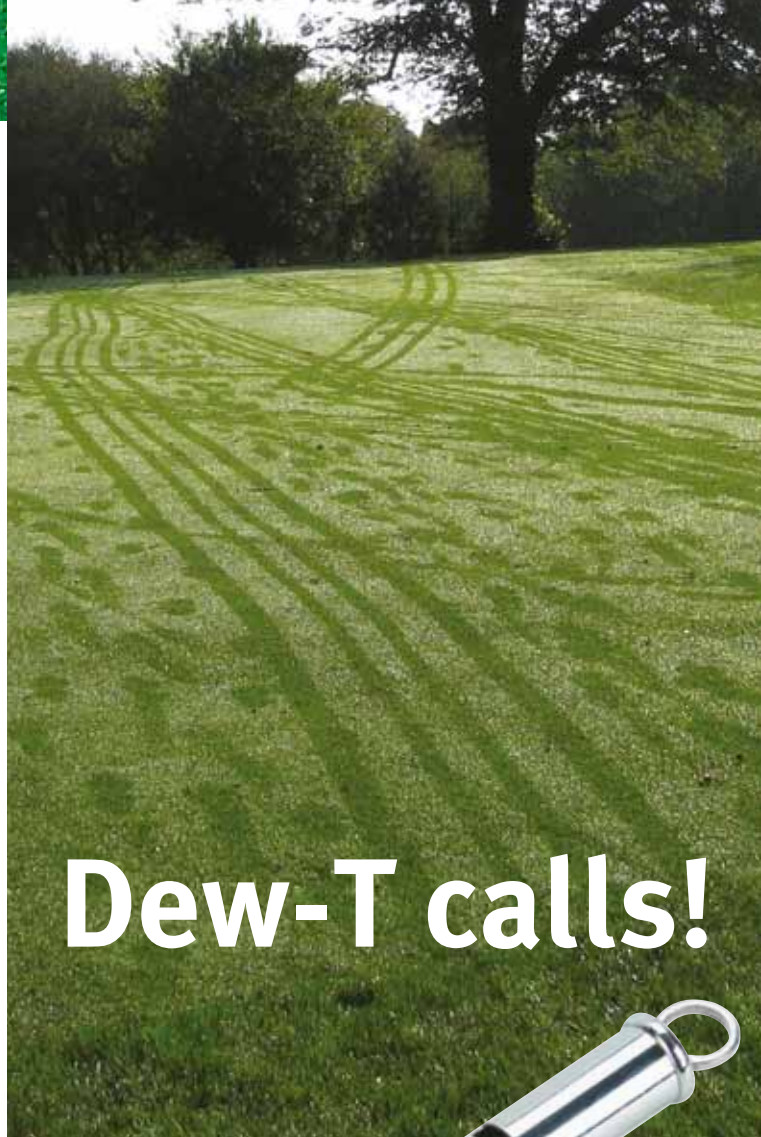
South East Region

Tom Emmence, Sussex Section
Paul Fagg, Kent Section
Oliver Hook, Kent Section
Ivor Isted, Surrey Section
Carl McCreath, East Anglia Section
Craig Peterson, Surrey Section
Alasdair Spence, Kent Section

South West/South Wales Region

Ian Barnett, South Wales Section
Philip Bowler, South Coast Section
Jon Funnell, Devon & Cornwall Section
Phill Hughes, Surrey Section
Daniel Partridge, South Coast Section
Adam Rogers, Surrey Section
Joseph Sexton, Surrey Section
Stephen Springthorpe, South West Section
Tim Vines, Surrey Section
Sean Welch, South Coast Section
Adam Young, South West Section

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



Dew-T calls!



Turf grass managers have little or no control over the conditions that cause dew. However, the application of Dew-T during times when dew formation is expected will provide excellent prevention.

Dew-T has a twin mode of action. First, it is effective in reducing water tension, thus preventing dew formation and secondly, it bonds strongly to the waxy leaf surface allowing moisture to run off.



- Applying Dew-T
- Prevents dew formation for up to 14 days
 - Allows mowing operations to begin earlier
 - Provides a cleaner leaf cut
 - Assists in cultural disease management
 - Replaces costly, time-consuming switching

RT
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Web: www.rigbytaylor.com eMail: sales@rigbytaylor.com

BTME is back

for its 24th year, at the Harrogate International Centre, 22-24 January 2013



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BIGGA Seminars
& Workshops

- ▶ Over 150 exhibitors showcasing the latest products
- ▶ Network with over 7000 sports and turf professionals
- ▶ The annual must-attend event for golf greenkeepers

**FREE ENTRY
TO BTME 2013**

AND A SIMPLE ONLINE
REGISTRATION PROCESS
- FROM SEPTEMBER 2012

www.btme.org.uk





Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
OCTOBER			
October 11th	Midland Region – Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day	Greetham Valley Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
October 11th	Devon & Cornwall Section Don Hunt Trophy & AGM	East Devon Golf Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or Email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
October 16th	East Anglia Golf Day	Ely City Golf Club	Ian Willett Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
October 17th	Northern Region Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day	Bingley St Ives Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
October 18th	BIGGA & GCMA Educational Seminar	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club	Karen Drake, Weston super Mare Golf Club, Email: wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com
October 18th	Midland Section Event	Druids Heath Golf Club	Andrew Smith Email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
October 23rd	East of Scotland NPTC Update	Murrayfield Golf Club Edinburgh	Stuart Ferguson Tel: 07961 630553 or Email: stuferg@btinternet.com
October 25th	Mid Anglia Section Golf Day and AGM	Verulam Golf Club	Richard Saunders Tel: 07773 206553
NOVEMBER			
November 6th	Midland Regional Conference	Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 7th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event Bayer Cup	Bowood Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or Email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
November 7th	Northern Regional Conference	Phoenix Sports Club, Rotherham	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 12th	STRI Regional Training – Pests, Weeds & Diseases	Moor Allerton Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 12th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Best Western Gleddoch House Hotel & Golf Spa – West Scotland	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 13th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Moor Allerton Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 13th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Castleknock Hotel & Country Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 14th	South East Regional Conference	Thorpeness Golf & Country Club	Ian Willett Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
November 15th	South West & South Wales Regional Conference	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones Tel: 01454 270850 or Mobile 07841 948110 or Email: jane@bigga.co.uk
November 15th	Midland Region TEAM CHALLENGE	Burton on Trent Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 15th	North West Section Event	Wilmslow Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at Email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David Golding, GTC's Education Director, updates readers on his work within the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) and why the British greenkeeper training structure seems to be now attractive to more countries...



Whilst Britain has battled for many years to have a Government and employer recognised greenkeeping specific education and training structure, we must never be complacent, even though 'our' system is now much sought after especially in golf developing countries

The message therefore is that employers and greenkeepers must continue to work in harmony to maintain standards for greenkeepers

That is why the GTC, through the Home Unions and BIGGA, are an ideal model for other countries to consider

It is now nearly 20 years since I 'left' BIGGA to front the GTC although many have questioned the reasons for two separate organisations, BIGGA and the GTC

A brief reminder is that, whilst BIGGA admirably represents greenkeepers, it is the Home Unions who represent the golfers and golf clubs - the employers

In the main, the Home Unions have traditionally only represented the private members clubs but, as Golf Course Owners Associations have been established to represent the proprietary clubs, the Unions have become very much aware of the need to ensure that all employers are represented when it comes to such matters as greenkeeper training

Here in the UK, in order to achieve Government recognition and, with it, any funding support for training, the industry has to show employer support

The GTC has certainly punched its weight in meetings to ensure greenkeeping has an education, training and qualification structure developed and maintained by the

industry for the industry

In maintaining the National Occupational Standards (NOS), the GTC has an advisory panel with representatives from BIGGA and the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers

The NOS ranges from the basic tasks an apprentice would learn on their first day of employment to the knowledge and skills a competent manager should possess

The NOS can be viewed on the GTC website and it is from the NOS that certificates, qualifications and workshops can be developed

It is this British model that, in my role as Standards Director for the European Greenkeeping Education Unit, I am promoting to other countries looking for advice and guidance

I guess, after many years in the sector, I shouldn't be surprised to learn that, in many countries, the employer representative bodies are nowhere to be seen, leaving any greenkeeper training to the Greenkeeping Association, if there is one!

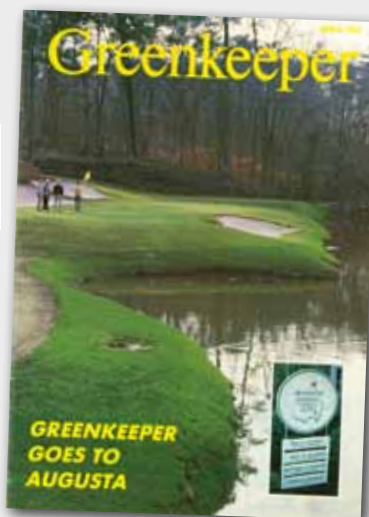
It has to be said that there is still the same commitment from the greenkeepers in many countries to improve the standards of education and training

However, sadly, I have to report that it is a picture all too familiar with the pre-BIGGA days and the restructured GTC in 1993

Prior to the golfer per-capita levy of 2p, introduced by the UK Home Unions and matched by The R&A in 1987, it was through the efforts of many volunteers working tirelessly in the days of the BGGA, SIGGA and EIGGA that thankfully, BIGGA, with professional administration, really came to the fore

Indeed, 1987 was a momentous turning point for greenkeeper training BIGGA was formed and

RIGHT: The 1987 issue of Greenkeeper featured BIGGA's first ever educational event



The GTC is funded by:



the per-capita levy introduced

25 years on, greenkeeper training in Britain still benefits from funding to the GTC by means of annual grants from the three British Home Unions, the PGA, the PGA European Tour, BIGGA, special projects with The R&A and income from the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers

In recent years, we have seen new organisations established to represent the Golf Course Owners and they too, are very important, as the percentage of proprietary clubs has increased in Britain

The GTC and the EGEU will engage with all organisations that have a stake in the standards of greenkeeper training

The education and training options for both golf club employers and greenkeepers in Britain range from work-based to residential, online, seminars, workshops, and conferences, together with tremendous support from those companies with specialist staff, all committed to quality standards

The outcome is that we are now in a position to help our colleagues in the world of greenkeeping and also learn from those countries where there is a structure that works well

Regrettably, these are very few but we must be willing to share best practice and the GTC and EGEU will be doing just that at every opportunity

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

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david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
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www.the-gtc.co.uk



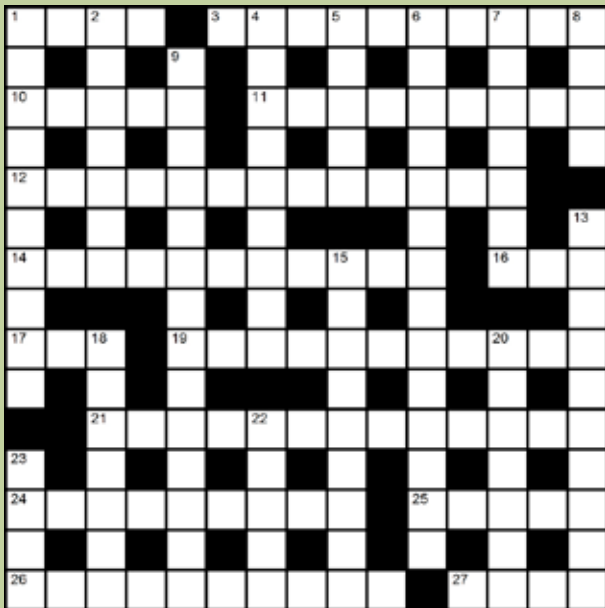
You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC



intheshed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you take a break...

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Globular underground plant stem (4)
- 3 Book used by a philatelist (5,5)
- 10 Become liable to (5)
- 11 Other name of Haile Selassie (3,6)
- 12 Presenter of Gardeners' World from 1979 until his death in 1996 (5,8)
- 14 In full, WC (5,6)
- 16 Fast food chain founded by Colonel Harland Sanders (3)
- 17 Floor mat with deep pile (3)
- 19 US general-interest publisher, quoted as the world's largest (6,5)
- 21 Planned murder of, especially, a public figure (13)
- 24 Issuing forth (from) (9)
- 25 Brand of fine English porcelain and bone china (5)
- 26 French island territory of the West Indies (10)
- 27 Destructive disease of cereal grasses (4)

DOWN

- 1 (Fitting of a) false tooth anchored to adjacent teeth (10)

- 2 Management tactic of barring employees from the workplace until terms are agreed (7)
- 4 Waterproofed canvas (9)
- 5 African people of Kenya and Tanzania (5)
- 6 Presenter of Gardeners' World following the death of 11a (4,10)
- 7 Unconventional youth of the 1950s (7)
- 8 Surname of comedy writer who had a long-standing performing partnership with Denis Norden (4)
- 9 First and most successful single from the 10cc album How Dare You! (3,3,4,4)
- 13 Children's quiz show hosted by Michael Rodd (6,4)
- 15 Making an appearance; embarrassing (7,2)
- 18 Ford car whose third-generation model was re-badged Scorpio (7)
- 20 Type of clothing which is part of the NATO phonetic alphabet (7)
- 22 Town of NW Ireland, birthplace of W B Yeats (5)
- 23 Large mass of floating ice (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1) Where was the first Ryder Cup held? most European teams in the Ryder Cup?
- 2) Which European has played in at least five Ryder Cups without losing a singles match? 7) Whose image is featured on the top of the Ryder Cup trophy?
- 3) Who is the youngest ever Ryder Cup player? 8) Ben Crenshaw snapped his putter in half during a match at the 1987 Ryder Cup. Which two clubs did he use to putt with afterwards?
- 4) Name the only two-time major winner in the last 50 years to have never played in the Ryder Cup. 9) Who has served as a Ryder Cup captain the most times?
- 5) How many majors had Jack Nicklaus won before he played in his first Ryder Cup?
- 6) Which player has featured in the

Quiz compiled by Steve Castle – drop him a line on steve.castle@bigga.co.uk and let him know how you got on!

B	1				A					
	9	6			1	7		2		B
			8	C		2				9
					B	4	6	A		2
				A	9				3	8
					A	7	6	4		C
5		C	8		1		B			
A	3						9		B	
2			B	8	4		5			
	7					1		B	6	
8			6		B	9			5	A
				A					4	9

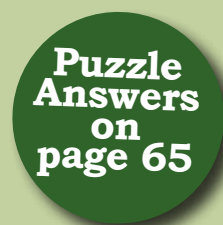
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

	6			4	9				3
	8			5					
		7		6				2	
					5	8			6
9									2
8		5	3						
	9			2		4			
					8			9	
7			9	1				6	

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.



Back in time

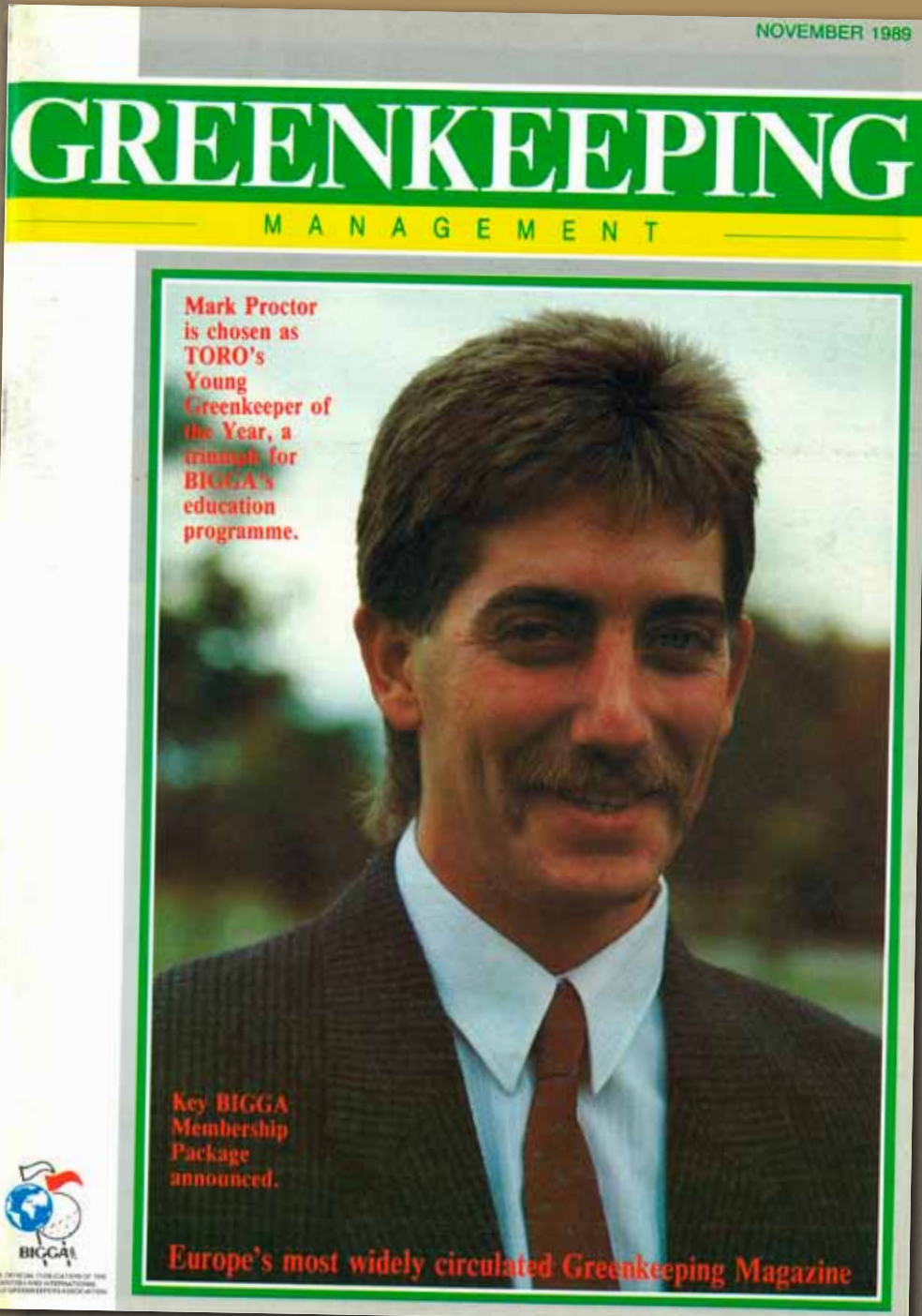
Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Special

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century, but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman, elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Back in time looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 is a landmark year, being the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. This month, in another Special Feature, we take a look back at over two decades of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award – and speak to one of the very first winners who explains how his victory gave his fledgling career a huge boost



1989 saw the opening broadcast from little-known satellite TV station Sky, the Church of England vote to allow female ministers to be ordained and Nick Faldo become the first ever English winner of the Masters.

The last year of the eighties also saw the first winner crowned of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year – a delighted Mark Proctor.

The accompanying piece in the November edition of 'Greenkeeping Management' – as this magazine was then known – described how Mark would partake in the 'Winter School for Turf Grass Managers' at the University of Massachusetts.

The article added that Mark was looking forward to his first plane journey, and also tucking into an American 'whopper'!

1992 winner Barry Rhodes was pictured on the front cover with the winner's shield – and the first winner this century was Jonathan Cleland, now Course Manager at Elderslie Golf Club.

Celebrating in 2005 was Alan Pierce – who is now a Master Green-



keeper – and in 2007 the victor was Avon Bridges.

Above all, the long-term success of many of the winners proves that all the finalists have a bright future in greenkeeping.

DAVID NORTON'S STORY

Just three years after winning the 1990 Student Greenkeeper of the Year title, David Norton (main right) was Head Greenkeeper at The Belfry.

This graphically demonstrates the impact the competition can have on a fledgling career.

He was a 21-year-old assistant greenkeeper at Beverley & East Riding Golf Club when he clinched the title, and the following January he headed to the Winter School for Turfgrass Managers course at the University of Massachusetts.

Over two decades on David can still recall the details of the “fantastic” trip stateside – and describes how it played a huge role in both his personal and professional development.

He said: “Firstly I was flattered to be nominated, then on the day of the final I made sure I was honest. I think it’s tempting to say what you think the interviewers want to hear, but I didn’t do that. I tried to give logical answers.

“I was delighted to win it, and the trip to America was fantastic in every way. The educational side was terrific, and the social side was too. I was only 21, it was my first trip to America, and I learnt so much. It stood me in good stead professionally and personally. It genuinely helped me develop as a young adult.

“It also gave my career a big boost. I was offered a job at Mid Yorkshire Golf Club in Pontefract off the back of it, which I accepted, and I then applied for a job at Gleneagles.

“Technically, I didn’t have enough years of experience to go for that job but they considered me because they saw I had Student Greenkeeper of the Year on my CV. They had around 500 applicants and I got down to the last two but just lost out.

“However, getting that close to a job at such a prestigious course helped my confidence massively and I soon got the job at The Belfry.

“Also, don’t be despondent if you get to the final and don’t win. A nomination still does wonders for your CV and I know many of the finalists have gone on to have superb careers.”

In 1995 David moved to Forest Pines Hotel and Golf Resort close



INSET ABOVE: 1992’s winner Barry Rhodes



to his home town of Beverley, where he is still Head Greenkeeper today. He’s also Group Golf Course Manager for Q Hotels who have four courses across the UK – including the course at Aldwark Manor. Finalists are still asked to produce a report on a specific aspect of this course as they were in 1990.

David has plenty of sound advice for young greenkeepers at the beginning of their careers.

“Being able to see things logically from both a golfer’s perspective and a greenkeeper’s perspective is vital. So play golf! It doesn’t matter whether you’re good or bad, it increases your appreciation of courses.

“Look at as many different courses as possible and think about what’s good and what’s bad. That ensures you can avoid the bad and try and implement the good on your course. You also have to remember every golf course is different – what works on one may not work on another.

“The biggest thing is don’t be afraid to ask questions. Get as much knowledge as you can and use this to your advantage.”

BUYERS' GUIDE



Stourton Forestry

Stourton Forestry is a small, friendly company based in central Lincolnshire. We work throughout the East Midlands and often travel further afield. We have many years of experience working on prestigious courses throughout the country and can help you with all aspects of tree and woodland management.

We specialise in tree planting schemes and offer a complete design, planting and maintenance service to enrich your course without the hassle. We also help you access grant funding; depending on certain criteria, you can receive up to £4,800/ha which usually covers costs with change left over to put towards club funds!

Stourton Forestry also undertake a wide range of woodland management operations, including small scale work with low impact machinery – ideal for sensitive sites such as golf courses. We can help you manage your existing trees by thinning overcrowded areas, felling and restructuring. If you have significant areas of woodland, a long-term management plan may be appropriate and we can also advise on the grants and licences that are applicable.

Timber can often be sold to offset costs. Hardwood timber is particularly in demand for firewood, and large, straight trees can be valuable for planking. If you have sufficient quantities, timber can be marketed as roundwood or we can advise on adding value yourselves, including processing material for biomass boilers.

While mature trees contribute enormously to the landscape and wider environment, they can also become unstable and dangerous. Landowners have a legal duty to protect people from harm caused by their trees. A survey by our professionally qualified tree safety expert will identify any trees that pose a significant risk and make sensible, pragmatic recommendations to manage your liability.

We are always happy to discuss your requirements, please do not hesitate to e-mail (contact@stourtons.co.uk) or call us on 01507 578 080.

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