

# BIGGA AND GCMA DATE

The BIGGA and GCMA seminar takes place in the South West Section on Thursday October 18.

Chipping Sodbury Golf Club is the venue for a host of speakers including former British Women's Open champion Vivien Saunders and Toro's Andrew Brown who will be looking at water resource management.

There will also be an afternoon presentation outdoors showcasing the benefits of the Blinder Bunker Liner so outdoor clothes will be required – the dress code for the day is smart casual. Lunch and refreshments will be supplied.

By attending this seminar, BIGGA and GCMA members will receive Continuing Professional Development points.

This exciting seminar costs just £20 per person (or £50 for three delegates) – and the closing date for registration is Friday 12 October. There is a maximum of three delegates per club.

So if you're a golf club secretary, manager or course manager, please send cheques - made payable to GCMA South West Region – to Karen Drake, Weston super Mare Golf Club, Uphill Road North, Weston super Mare BS23 4NQ.

For any queries, or further information about the day, please contact Karen on 01934 626968 or at [wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com](mailto:wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com)

## BIGGA Welcomes Communications Exec

BIGGA are delighted to announce that Steve Castle has joined the Association as Communications Executive.

An appointment that strengthens the editorial team at Greenkeeper International, Steve has bedded in comfortably, finding his feet in his new role, whilst mixing in very quickly and easily with everyone at BIGGA House.

Steve, who even managed a game of golf with his new colleagues, one night, brings with him experience of working as reporter for Ross Parry Agency Ltd, which syndicates news stories to national newspapers and magazines.

"I covered court cases, inquests as well as anything from press conferences with lottery winners to exclusive and sensitive interviews with members of the public," Steve told us.

Looking forward to writing for GI, Steve also expressed interest in finding out more about you, the member.



"Having really enjoyed my first two weeks working at BIGGA House, it is clear that the editorial directive is all about BIGGA members - I'm very much looking forward to hearing about members, what they are doing in and outside the club."

"From the stories I've received so far, it's clear that all sorts of interesting things are taking place, and we encourage every BIGGA member to feel free about approaching me with anything which might be worth a mention on these pages."

## JULIE JOINS BIGGA



Julie Wilkins has joined BIGGA as Assistant Account. Julie has a wealth of experience in the financial area, starting off as an office junior. Her last position was at VMC in Warwickshire as Finance Assistant.

She said: "I'm really looking forward to the opportunity, and have been made to feel very welcome by all the team. I'm particularly looking forward to increasing my financial knowledge working with Finance and Procurement Manager Steve Wragg.

"I've also moved to a lovely part of the world which is a bonus, and am looking to join a local golf club."

Julie, who hails from Staffordshire, is also a keen cyclist



## Jack and Rita award McMillan Tankard to Ernest Doe's Steve

Steve Alabaster scooped the McMillan tankard at the recent Surrey Section golf tournament.

Now in its 23rd year, the popular tournament again attracted many competitors and their guests to the New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club.

Scoring proved tough on a breezy day with many balls finding the heater off the fairways. However, Steve defied the conditions, finishing level on 34 points with Mark Brooks from Sunningdale. Steve emerged victorious after enjoying a better score on the final six holes.

Mark did win the nearest the pin competition with Anthony Freeman from Merrist Wood winning the longest drive.

Many thanks to Murray Long and his team for producing another magnificently prepared course fully appreciated by all on the day.

*PICTURED: Jack and Rita McMillan present the winner's tankard to Steve*

## North East Competition Venue Change

**Please note the venue has changed for the North East Autumn competition. It will be played on October 10 at Tyneside GC. This replaces the original venue of Wooler GC**



# Learning & Development

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

September is turning out to be a busy old month for the members of the Learning and Development team with Saltex, the Assistants Development Programme, the final of the Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the final checks on the Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 brochure.

## SALTEX

Rachael will be at SALTEX, along with several other members of the BIGGA team, to answer any questions you may have about your membership or the benefits that BIGGA offer.

BIGGA are also presenting three seminars on Wednesday 5 September, held in the Grandstand, from 10.15 am. Featuring presentations from Chris Haspell from Castle Stuart Golf Club, David Cole from Loch Lomond Golf Club and Paul Lowe from Symbio. CPD points are available for attendance at these seminars.

**The BIGGA Stand is E33. Pop along and say hello!**

## Assistants Development Seminars

The L&D department has been tasked by the Board of Management to develop a seminar to help those in the role of greenkeeper or first assistant who want improve their skills for developing a career in the greenkeeping industry.

The project, being coordinated by our new recruit, Stuart Green, will initially see 10 course managers trained, here at BIGGA House, to deliver the seminar. The seminars will then be run in each region this Autumn/Winter.

The seminar will cover areas including:

- Communication
- People skills
- Responsibilities
- Thinking like a manager
- Career development
- Curriculum vitae
- Interview techniques



**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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Dates of the seminars are yet to be confirmed, look out for announcements in future issues of GI and on the BIGGA website.

## Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year



The National Final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year will take place on Sunday 16 and Monday 17 September here at BIGGA House.

The finalists will be asked to complete a written assignment based on a task that will be given to them at 9.00 am on Monday morning. They will also have a 45 minute interview with a panel of four judges from Toro and BIGGA.

Look out for the Winner on the cover of the October issue of GI. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing "Good Luck" to all the finalists!



The content of the Continue to Learn education programme is now in the hands of our Designer,

Tom Campbell, to turn into a printed brochure providing you with all the information you'll need to plan your educational visit to Harrogate.

The brochure will be dropping on your doormat with the October issue of GI. Full details of the programme will also be available on the BIGGA website where you will also be able to use our online booking system to secure your place for the Workshops, Conference and Focus On sessions.

With over 180 hours of education available, over four days, there is sure to be something of interest for everyone attending.

The Continue to Learn Education Programme at BTME 2013 will run from Sunday 20 January to Wednesday 23 January.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Personal Development Zone at BTME 2013

What information would you like to get from the Personal Development Zone at BTME in January 2013?

Email Stuart (stuart@bigga.co.uk) with your ideas and you might just see them at the show...



# BIGGA Membership

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

## Calling all Full and Affiliate Members of BIGGA, are you ready for the challenge of this years BIGGA National Championship 2012, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota

Last month's issue of Greenkeeper International gave a great overview of this year's venue for the BIGGA National Championship, The Irvine Golf Club at Bogside in Scotland. A true links challenge, the course sits on sand with fairways divided roughly by thick gorse bushes and heather. Built in 1887 some of the present character of the course comes from James Braid's designs in the 1920s and will provide even the best golfers with an opportunity to shine or despair.

The dates for this year's championship are Sunday 8th and Monday 9th October 2012 and as the course is set in a seaside location, the neighbouring Gulf Stream ensures year round golf.

Why not pitch yourself against some of the best golfing greenkeepers and join us at The Irvine Golf Club and be in with a chance of getting your name on the coveted Challenge Trophy along with last year's winner Jason Hunt (Addington Palace GC) and 2010's winner Paul Frith (Birstall GC).

Entry fee is £95 and this includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening (accommodation is not included).

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member, the greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

For full details see August's magazine or contact Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House. Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

As a BIGGA Member you can access a fantastic study resource in the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) where members can gain



access to a vast collection of turfgrass educational material.

This is a great benefit for all members who are currently in study, so whether you are studying at Level 2, 3 or 4 or studying for a diploma or degree this is definitely a resource you will find useful.

To access the TGIF log in to the members area of the BIGGA website, select 'Member Resources' from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to 'Turfgrass Information File (TGIF)' and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly.

## The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) 2013

Dates for your diary - 22nd - 24th January 2013 at Harrogate International Centre (HIC). With FREE entry to BTME 2013 you cannot afford to miss coming along to the must attend event for anybody interested in turf.

## Education Seminars and Workshops

Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 runs from Sunday 20th to Wednesday 23rd January 2013. With the return of the Turf Managers' Conference on Monday 21st January at The Crown Hotel, Harrogate

and a fantastic choice of one day and two day workshops and various seminars, Continue to Learn 2013 promises to offer everybody something of interest.

Keep an eye on the BIGGA website for details of the full programme.

## Regional Conferences

Confirmation has been received from Jane Jones of the South West and South Wales Region that the theme of this years Conference is 'Turf Management In All It's Glory'.

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

So be sure to put the date of 15th November in your diary at Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset, get your booking in nice and early as this Conference gets busy.




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**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

## RJ OUT IN SUPPORT AT THE SCOTTISH OPEN



Ransomes Jacobsen provided tournament support at the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open held at the Castle Stuart Golf Links near Inverness.

The European Tour event was won by Jeev Milkha Singh with a 12 foot birdie putt at the first extra hole during a sudden-death play-off with Francesco Molinari.

Course manager Chris Haspell and his team use Jacobsen SLF-1880 light fairway mowers on the links and these were supplemented with four additional machines plus Cushman utility vehicles.

Chris said: "Having additional technicians on site is fantastic during the week, especially when they have a wealth of knowledge like the guy from Jacobsen. Without the availability of the additional 1880s along with the run-arounds it would make the week much harder to run. We really appreciate the support that Ransomes Jacobsen afford us and look forward to their continued support next year should it be needed."

## Rod retires after 48 years with Bernhard

Bernhard director, Rod Mayes, pictured receiving a retirement gift from Stephen Bernhard, started work with the company nearly half a century ago as an apprentice.

Rod, Works Director at the Haverhill factory, spent 48 years with the firm and said in a final farewell during this special presentation.

Rod said: "This was the only engineering business in the town when I joined, and they took on a number of apprentices and gave them good training.

"We've been at the same factory building for all these years. Mr Atterton, of Atterton and Ellis (now owned by Bernhard), lived in the old house on the original site.

"We are just in the process of moving across to our new

purpose-built site the other side of Haverhill – so it seemed to me to be a good time to take my retirement and hand over to someone else.

"My wife and I love travelling, so would like to spend more time doing that, and enjoying our grandchildren. But, it is hard to imagine life without Bernhard's."

Rod will be sorely missed by everyone – and the staff at Haverhill and the Rugby office came together to celebrate his service to Bernhard's.

The day began at the old factory – where the team gathered, perhaps for the last time – before the move to the new site is complete.

After lunch, and the presentation of a gold watch to Rod, Company Chairman Stephen Bernhard made



a speech of thanks and appreciation at the new factory.

Stephen said, "The team wanted to come and say goodbye to Rod, and it seemed fitting to do that at the old factory.

We wanted to keep the connection.

"Rod has been part of the company's history. He is not only a loyal and committed colleague, but a good friend, and we will all miss him

## WIEDENMANN LAUNCH SIX NEW PRODUCTS IN BERLIN



Wiedenmann UK launched six new products at a special event held at a glorious five-star spa resort on the outskirts of Berlin.

The launch, well attended by 60 dealers from across the UK, was the seventh of its type but the first to feature half a dozen entirely new machines.

Delegates were first introduced to the Terra Clean 100 and the Terra Clean 160 at a '3G' surface. The 100 – a budget level machine – was given a demonstration as was the more advanced 160, which features a sieved separation system with a dust extraction system designed to ensure a completely clean and groomed surface.

The next day saw the attendees take to an on-site golf course where they were again given impressive demonstrations. This time, the stars were the Core

Recycler – which clears cores from greens following hollow coring aeration – and the Super Pro FXL-H230 Commercial Out Front Mower featuring new 'fold on the fly' wings.

Other exciting new products unveiled were the Super 600, a cut and scarify collector, and the impressive Mega Twister, a very powerful large capacity blower.

The delegates listened to a speech from David Rae, Company Founder and Managing Director, outlining his hopes for the continued fruitful working relationship between Wiedenmann and the dealers.

It was then the turn of the amiable Jurgen Wiedenmann, joint managing director, to officially close the meeting. He received congratulations on his products and much gratitude for his team's superb hospitality.



## What's your number?

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

### Name:

Demelza Hartley

### Company:

Low Maintenance

### Position:

Trainer



### How long have you been in the industry?

I have been in the land based sector of over 10 years however far longer if you count that I'm from a farming family.

### How did you get into it?

I have had a varied history to date which started with horticulture, which progressed into environmental conservation, agriculture and arboriculture. You may well ask how this is relevant to greenkeepers, well in the main because I teach pesticides, tractor driving and chainsaw maintenance and felling all skills that are needed on the golf course.

### What other jobs have you done?

I have taught within a land based college environment for over ten years in all the sectors mentioned previously as well as with a local arborist in felling and working on trees.

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

I like the flexibility of being in different places each week. I love meeting new people and teaching them new skills as well as learning new skills and techniques myself.

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

The world of green keeping goes from strength to strength with more women involved slowly but surely.

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

I like working in my vegetable patch, taking care of my many rare breed hens, walks with my little Jack Russell and making cakes.

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

Still teaching and training hopefully more women in the green keeping industry.

### Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

The green keepers at Shipley West Yorkshire were very helpful, informative and professional it was refreshing to be treated as an equal.

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

7

*Demelza has picked Steve Dyne at Invicta Groundcare*

A fantastic opportunity for all BIGGA Members, courtesy of **BERNHARD**

# California dreaming



Don't miss your chance to jet off on a dream trip across the Atlantic to sunny San Diego – fill in the form attached to the cover of this magazine

**The 11th BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard's, will be heading to the second-largest city in California for a week in February 2013.**

San Diego is the eighth largest city in the USA and the second largest in California. It's on the Pacific coast and enjoys warm, mainly dry weather – ideal for golf!

You will visit the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, there will be an opportunity for golf course visits and also the chance to attend seminars at the GCSAA Education Conference.

Accommodation and flights are free for the ten lucky delegates. This unmissable opportunity is open to all current BIGGA members – as long as you have not been on a previous trip. All you have to do now is return the form which is attached to the front cover of this edition.

We've had fabulous feedback from past events with BIGGA members returning with magical memories from the likes of Orlando and Los Angeles.

Here's just a small selection of the superb feedback from last year's group who visited Las Vegas...

"Every BIGGA member should apply for this trip of a lifetime.

Every aspect of the trip catered for all levels of candidates within the industry."

Daniel McGrath MG, Course Manager, North Foreland GC.

"I've been greenkeeping now for over half my life, and in that time I've made some great friendships and had some fantastic experiences, but I have to say being part of the Bernhard's Delegation tops them all. The camaraderie within the group was superb and the trip gave me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge through top class education and networking."

Jamie Acton, Head Greenkeeper, Worlebury GC.

"Spending a full week with nine very knowledgeable guys was a fantastic experience. I've learned a lot from them and made a great bunch of friends."

David Gray, First Assistant, Ladybank GC.

So what's stopping you? Fill in the form and return to BIGGA House and we'll be in touch with details about the next stage of the application process.

You can also apply at [www.bernhard.co.uk/bigga2013](http://www.bernhard.co.uk/bigga2013)

The closing date for entries is October 7 2012.





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web: [www.sherriff-amenity.com](http://www.sherriff-amenity.com)

email: [info@sherriff-amenity.com](mailto:info@sherriff-amenity.com)





# Ryder on Curtis!



The eyes of the world will be on one particular course this month when the 39th Ryder Cup rolls into Illinois. GI talked to Curtis Tyrrell, Director of Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club...

**Curtis Tyrrell has been eagerly anticipating Friday September 28 2012 since his first day in his current role four years ago.**

On that morning, the first tee shot will signal the official start of his “once in a lifetime” opportunity to host one of the world’s greatest sporting events.

However, while Curtis and his team have made many alterations to the course over the last four years with the Ryder Cup in mind, he’s keen to stress that the 600 members will also enjoy the benefits long after the circus leaves town.

Ironically, while BIGGA members in the UK have battled one of the

worst summers in memory, Curtis and his colleagues have been left cursing exactly the opposite problem as excitement reaches fever pitch.

He said: “It’s a once in a lifetime experience for me, and all my team – it’s the pinnacle of all our careers and we’re working our butts off.

“I’ve been on the edge of my seat with excitement for probably a year now.

“The preparation’s been pretty intense. We’ve had the hottest July ever recorded, it’s been over 100F during the day and 80F through the night.

“The greens have come through

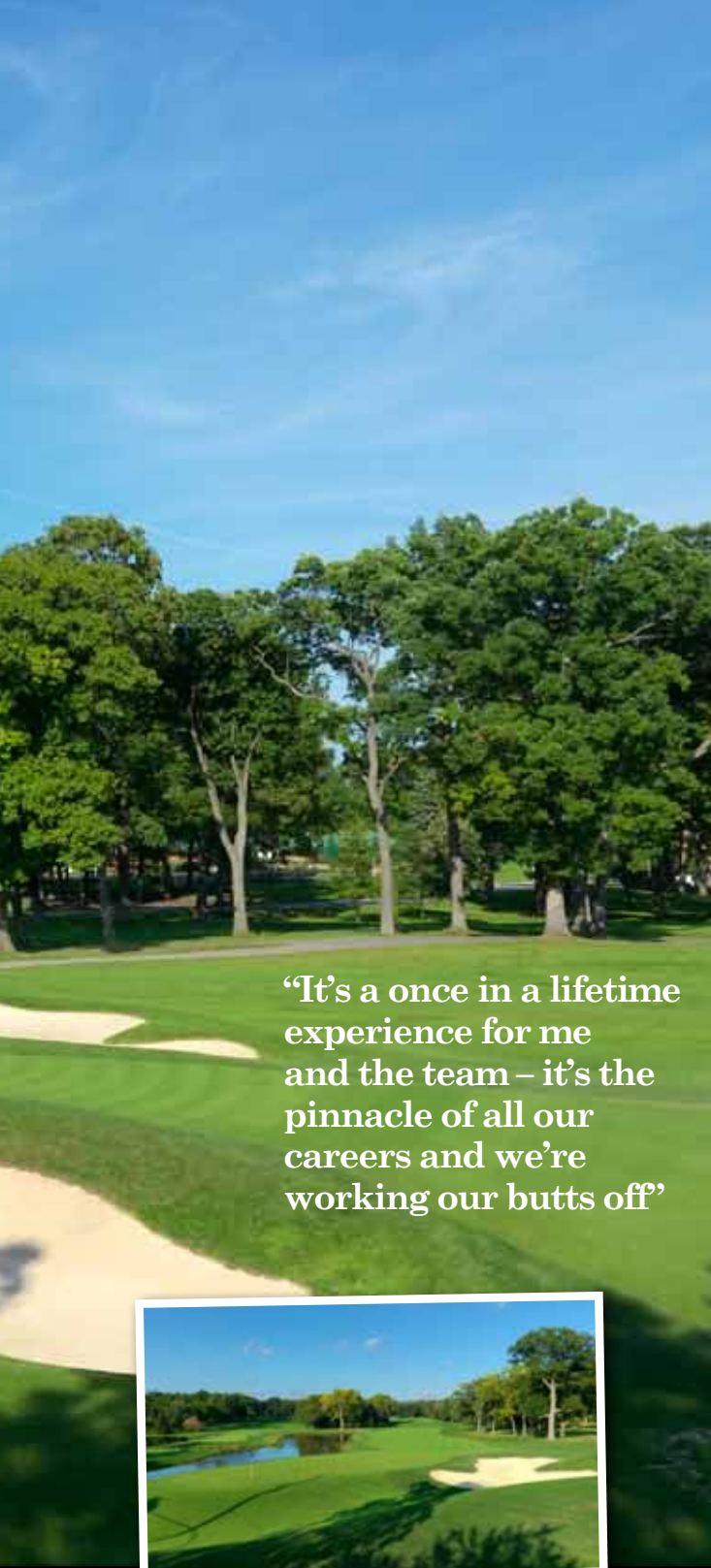
okay, although some fairways with high *Poa annua* have suffered.

“A lot of people don’t realise we have three courses here and it’s number three that’s hosting the Ryder Cup. To help recovery after the summer’s unprecedented heat, we’re closing this course a month before the tournament for deep aeration and overseeding, and some areas are being returfed.

“The greens are running at 11 on the stimpmeter and green speed will be decided nearer the time by myself and the US captain Davis Love III.”

Curtis was not slow to make alterations soon after his arrival at





**“It’s a once in a lifetime experience for me and the team – it’s the pinnacle of all our careers and we’re working our butts off”**



the club, which opened in 1925. The all-important third course has previously hosted the PGA Championships and US Opens.

“Medinah is a family club, and when I arrived I felt we needed to set it up for the future. Of course we knew we had the Ryder Cup on the horizon so that obviously played a huge part in our planning.

“But I also want our membership to be proud of the course and proud of how well it plays while the world’s greatest players are here.

“Course three will be open to members the day after the tournament ends.

“We rebuilt all the greens in late 2009. Some were already USGA constructed greens so we brought all the others up to the same standard.

“We then re-grassed all the fairways, rebuilt all the bunkers and entirely rebuilt the 15th hole.

“These changes were mainly for the members’ benefit. They love this course and want it to be the best that it can be.

“We carried out extensive work last winter. We did some fan installation to help us with air movement and temperature management around certain greens.

“Then in June we started bringing in the infrastructure for the tournament – grandstands, corporate hospitality and paths. This will all span 43 acres so it’s quite an undertaking.”

During the tournament Curtis will be assisted by 100 volunteers including BIGGA members Lee Strutt, Course Manager at the new G West Golf Club, and Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper from Gleneagles which hosts the next Ryder Cup.

While some may expect Curtis to have several weeks off to recuperate after the Cup, nothing could be further from the truth. The very day after the champions are crowned,

work will begin on a huge \$6.4m redesign and renovation of course one.

Curtis first caught the green-keeping bug while working at the Country Club in Woodmore, Maryland, and after graduation he moved to Southern California to work as an assistant at PGA West in Palm Springs.

He then took on two superintendent positions before moving on to the Lake of Isles Golf Course in Connecticut, and finally secured his current role in 2008.

Curtis is a proud member of BIGGA and added that his membership is crucial for keeping up to speed with developments in the UK.

“I’m a BIGGA member because I wanted to expand my knowledge, and learn as much about green-keeping on the other side of the pond as I could. I wanted to cover all bases, and that’s exactly how it’s turned out.

“I’ve learned so much from the BIGGA members I’ve met, it’s been awesome.

“The magazine every month has been invaluable, I’m keen to know what challenges are facing people in our industry in the UK and how they’re facing them and tackling them.

“I didn’t think my career would progress to the point where I was preparing the Ryder Cup course.

“There are so many talented guys over here in your average country club, you never think you will get to this level so it really is a dream come true for me.

“I want everyone here to be proud of their contribution towards the Ryder Cup.

We’re lucky to have a fantastic team and they’re really excited, everyone’s really enthusiastic and energetic.

“After that, my only remaining wish is for an American victory!”



- The greens are USGA Spec with 100% Creeping Bent of 007 and SR1119 and the tees are also a sand-based construction with a USGA rootzone, also 100% Creeping Bent.
- Greens preparation will involve light topdressing once a week up to ten days before the event with mowing six days a week and rolling five days a week.
- Curtis bases his fertilizer on a solid agronomic philosophy of soil testing and mixing his fertilizer from bulk purchased liquid nutrients, adjusting according to environmental conditions. He also uses an organic fertilizer based on chicken manure for his granular programme.
- Medinah has a significant fleet of equipment including a couple of TruTurf rollers and items from Toro.

