



JOIN THE TURF CLUB

Jack Sims, assistant greenkeeper at the Wentworth Club, has started The West London Turf Club – a series of sessions where greenkeepers learn and chat about hot topics in the industry. The first club that GI knows of was set up by Anthony Stockwell at The London Club. Jack is now urging other BIGGA members to get involved.

Jack said: “I started my NVQ2 in sports turf management while working full-time at Ealing Golf Club under Greg Evans.

“Throughout my studies I felt a little behind compared to some of the other young greenkeepers, but once it was completed I went on to start my NVQ3, again with Distance learning.

“I still felt I was missing out on that ‘classroom effect’ that I witnessed at school, where people would ask questions that others hadn’t even thought to ask, debate different theories and come to a solution as a group.

“Greg then told me of a ‘Turf Club’ that was being advertised on the BIGGA bulletin boards at The London Club. I knew this was what I was looking for, other Greenkeepers in the same situation, going through some of the basics, as well as more advanced areas and some of the hot topics of the time.

“In January 2011, I took part in my first ever turf club at The London Club. The organiser Anthony Stockwell gave a great presentation on Creeping bent grass. This was followed by an exercise in which



involved us breaking down into smaller teams and discussing the pros and cons of different grass species.

“A month or so later I was stood in front of a screen, talking about ‘TurfGrass for putting Greens’, in a room full of other Greenkeepers at Ealing Golf Club. The day was a success so it was announced we would be doing it again the following month at Richmond Golf Club, with a new topic. This was the start of The West London Turf Club’.

“We are still going strong, and with each one, new faces appear. I have learnt a lot, and met a lot of new people. I would urge greenkeepers up and down the country to get together and do something similar.”

The next meetings of the West London turf club are; 9 January at Richmond GC, 6 February at Ealing GC, 6 March at Richmond GC and 3 April at Ealing GC. For more information contact@jacksims1991 on twitter or jacksims91@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Greg Evans at @gregevansmg on twitter or gregevansmg@gmail.com

RT
rigby taylor



What will be
the hot news
spreading around
the show?

BTME

STAND C62

has the answer!



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

BTME will kick-start 2013

Firstly, I hope you and your families had a very enjoyable festive period, and you're ready for a positive 2013...and BTME!

BTME is a huge highlight of the year for me, as I'm sure it is for many of you. I'm sure you've all made arrangements for accommodation and what you'll be doing while you're there. If you truly have left it until the last minute, get it sorted now!

At the time of writing there were still places available on our superb education workshops and seminars – visit the BIGGA website or btme.org.uk and if you're lucky you may snap a place up.

I've attended every single day of every BTME since it began and can honestly say I've thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

I've visited as a delegate, Section committee member, Regional/National Board member, Vice-Chairman and am proud that this year I will be representing the Association as Chairman, cutting the ribbon to officially open the exhibition.

I will of course be attending the AGM. It will be held on the Wednesday of the exhibition at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

I really would encourage you to come along, it's an opportunity to find out more about our future plans and the direction we intend the Association to be heading in.

Our CEO Jim Croxton will make a presentation outlining the main strategies for BIGGA over the next year or two and will concentrate, I am sure, on the role that the current membership has to play in helping drive the Association and the profession of greenkeeping forward. As usual he and I will be available for questions thereafter.

January is of course a time for looking forward to the New Year,



Tony (right) with BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton, and past chairman, Andrew Mellon at BTME 2012

and I feel that this year it's more important than ever to be positive and really go for it in 2013. We all know 2012 was a tough year, and no-one was immune from the appalling wet weather.

As I write this in mid-December, my golf course, Teesside, has been closed for weeks. It was also closed for a period in summer, and all in all it's been closed for longer in 2012 than it ever has been in the past. Our sewage pipe has also overflowed twice due to the wet weather, and you can imagine the problems that caused (or maybe you shouldn't).

I have great sympathy for all greenkeepers who are giving their all in these conditions.

Of course you can plan for the worst weather and react - up to a point - but there can't be many industries where things are so beyond your control as they have been this year.

To keep our heads above water (sorry about the pun!) we need to pull together, and if we do we'll emerge refreshed, able to give golf-

BTME always helps the industry come together and I fully expect this to be the case again this year

ers the courses they expect and hopefully looking forward to a fine and dry spring.

BTME always helps the industry come together and I fully expect this to be the case again this year.

I would like to close by congratulating the ten BIGGA members who have been selected to form the Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego next month.

As ever the standard of applications was incredibly high and I know the successful candidates will represent the Association with distinction while having an amazing opportunity to improve their greenkeeping knowledge and network.

See you in Harrogate.
Regards, Tony

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Learning & Development

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

The jingle bells have been put away, Santa's elves have gone on holiday and we've sung Auld Lang Syne so that can only mean that it's 2013. Happy New Year from all of us in the Learning and Development Department, may it be happy, healthy and prosperous.

You all know what January means in the greenkeeping calendar – BTME, and more specifically for L&D, the Continue to Learn education programme.



Continue to Learn

The Continue to Learn programme this year offers more than 180 hours of education with subjects ranging from IT skills to the A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance. The education offerings range from 30 minutes in length to 2 days and everything in between. You can view the full programme on the BTME website www.btme.org.uk.

Our American friends, Thom Nikolai from Michigan State University (aka The Doctor of Green Speed) and Curtis Tyrrell MG, CGCS from Medinah Golf & Country Club in Chicago will both be featuring on the education programme, discussing subjects including the Ryder Cup and putting green speed.

Have you pre-booked your place at the seminars? As a BIGGA member you have the opportunity to guarantee your seat for the seminars that you want to attend. 70 vouchers have been made available for each of the 28 seminars on offer. The remaining 40-50 seats will be available on a first come, first serve basis as in previous years.

Please remember that if you have pre-booked vouchers they will need to be exchanged for a ticket at least one hour before the seminar takes



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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01347 833800 (option 3)
www.bigga.org.uk



place. You can exchange your vouchers in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre.

Bookings can be made through the website, by calling Rachael on 01347 833800 (option 3) or completing the booking form in the Continue to Learn brochure.

The closing date for bookings is Friday 11 January 2013.

We look forward to seeing you all in Harrogate.



BTME

The BIGGA stand at BTME 2013 (Stand B23) will have an area dedicated to Learning and Development. Stuart Green will be in residence to provide you with information on a range of topics including:

- Apprenticeships
- Continuing Professional Development
- Assistants Development Programme
- Future Turf Managers Initiative
- Master Greenkeeper
- Scholarships and funding
- Online learning provision

BIGGA James Bond Evening

If you haven't planned your Tuesday night entertainment for BTME week why not join BIGGA at the James Bond Evening?

Held at The Old Swan Hotel from 7.00 pm you will be treated to all things related to Bond, James Bond. Tickets are £25.00 each and include a drink on arrival, dinner and casino chips.

To purchase your ticket call Elaine Jones on 01347 833800 (option 1) or email moneypenny@bigga.co.uk.





BIGGA Membership

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

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2013

Pre-register for BTME 2013

Why not start your year off with a visit to BTME 2013? You can still pre-register to avoid the queues, visit www.btme.org.uk and click on the 'Register Now' button.

Opening times for BTME 2013 are: -

Tuesday 22nd January 2013 - 9am - 5pm

Wednesday 23rd January 2013 - 9am - 5pm

Thursday 24th January 2013 - 9am - 4pm

If you have previously used the Park and Ride, please note this will not be in operation for 2013. For a full list of car parks in Harrogate visit www.btme.org.uk or see pages 23 of this issue. The hopper service will still be in use.

BIGGA Stand - B23

Remember to plan a visit to the BIGGA Stand to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on: -

- Membership and Merchandise
- Member Services and Benefits
- Learning and Development
- Sales and Exhibition information
- Sections and Regions, meet your Regional Administrator and Section Committee Members

We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A, plus an offer where BIGGA members can take advantage of offers from SkyCaddie. Please note: The Showfloor Theatre will now not be appearing at BTME 2013 as previously stated in this column.

BIGGA Annual General Meeting

The BIGGA AGM, open to all Members of BIGGA (only FULL Members are entitled to vote) will be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite, remember to bring your membership card with you. If you are unable to attend and wish to send your apologies please email



membership@bigga.co.uk or visit the BIGGA Stand during the show.

Personal Accident Insurance Cover for FULL Members

As part of the membership benefits BIGGA cover all full members for personal accident insurance. This means that if any full member has an accident, at work, at home, or even playing sport and is off work through that injury they can potentially claim through the personal accident insurance.

The insurance provides cover for accidental bodily injury which results in death, loss of limbs or sight, hearing and speech, permanent disability or temporary disability. There are additional payments for medical expenses, funeral expenses, hospitalisation, bodily injury resulting in a coma, retraining and relatives travel expenses.

Temporary total disability is a weekly compensation resulting from bodily injury which temporarily prevents you from carrying out the whole of your occupational duties, e.g. you may have an accident whilst playing football which means you are unable to go to work, an amount of £50 (increased in 2012 from £35), please note there is no amount payable for the first 4 weeks.

Members Bulletin Boards

All members can gain access to

the Members area of the BIGGA website and gain access to the bulletin boards, if you want to take advantage of a vast network of professional greenkeepers, this is the place to be!

The current top 5 postings are: -

- Fire Risk Assessment
- Keeping a clean shed
- T1 creeping bentgrass
- File sharing
- Rain water harvesting



Why not pay your membership subscription monthly?

If you want to pay for your membership subscription monthly then why not join our direct debit scheme, if you choose to pay by monthly direct debit you can pay over 1, 5 or 10 instalments spreading the cost of your subscription. There is a small administration charge involved but if you pay by this method your membership will just continue year on year.

Keep up to date instantly with Twitter and Facebook

Keep up to date with all that's happening BIGGA wise on Facebook and Twitter. You can find us on Twitter on @BIGGALtd and search for British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA) Facebook group.

Information on all the membership benefits and services can be found at www.bigga.org.uk and log into the members area.





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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

BTME 2013

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

incorporating:



**BIGGA Seminars
& Workshops**

**20-23
January 2013**



Your essential 8-page guide to the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

It's now just days until the event of the year – BTME 2013. A host of exhibitors are launching exciting new products during the exhibition – see our sneak preview in our New Product Special on pages 18-21.

Here's some key last-minute information.

EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

Opening times: Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd (9am-5pm). Thursday 24th January 2013 (9am-4pm).

CONTINUE TO LEARN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

At the time of going to press some seminars and workshops still had spare places – however these are limited so please book NOW to avoid disappointment. To reserve your place please click on the Continue to Learn logo at www.btme.org.uk

MEDIA CENTRE

If you are press and PR, please visit btme.org.uk/media for the full timetable

CATERING

Hot meals will be available in Hall C, which will also house a coffee bar, a licensed bar and an internet café. Hot snacks will be on sale in Hall B.

WIFI

Delegates and exhibitors can enjoy free wi-fi access during the show in Halls A, B and C. Please note that the speed of the connection – 0.5MB - will be suitable for checking emails and browsing rather than playing videos or demonstrations.

Any exhibitors requiring a large bandwidth need to order this directly from Harrogate International Centre.

Further details are available at www.harrogateinternationalcentre.co.uk

BIGGA STAND B23

Our stand is based in the same spot as last year and we expect it to be a hive of activity – so come and see us. Remember to plan a visit to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on: -

- Membership and Merchandise
- Member Services and Benefits



- Learning and Development
- Sales and Exhibition information
- Sections and Regions, meet your Regional Administrator and Section Committee Members

BIGGA merchandise will also be available, so if you have any ques-

**Win
an iPad!**

**Come and see
CourseTracker on
the BIGGA stand
(B23) for the chance
to win an iPad!**

22-24 January 2013 at the Harrogate International Centre

BTME

Tuesday 22nd January 9am-5pm
 Wednesday 23rd January 9am-5pm
 Thursday 24th January 9am-4pm



CONTINUE TO LEARN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

Sunday 20 January

Continue to Learn Workshop
 Registration
 9.00 am – 9.30 am
 Continue to Learn Workshops
 9.30 am – 5.30 pm

Monday 21 January

Turf Managers' Conference
 Registration
 8.15 am – 8.55 am
 Turf Managers' Conference
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
 Continue to Learn Workshop
 Registration
 8.30 am – 9.00 am
 Continue to Learn Workshops
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Tuesday 22 January

Continue to Learn Education
 Programme
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Wednesday 23 January

Continue to Learn Education
 Programme
 9.00 am – 5.00 pm



tions – or just want to put a face to a name! – we'll see you at B23.

We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A – and a special offer for BIGGA members from SkyCad-die.

GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

BTME
SPECIAL



Here's just a small selection of some of the new products, competitions and other surprises you can enjoy at BTME 2013...



New Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle launch for BTME

Syngenta is to launch its new XC range of turf sprayer nozzles at BTME. Designed to improve the accuracy and results from every application, the Syngenta Turf XC Nozzle range overcomes the key issues facing turf spray operators to achieve even application.

An entirely new engineered solution incorporates a unique orifice design with a wide spray angle, to produce an improved droplet distribution - capable of delivering even turf coverage at low nozzle heights. This resolves problems with slopes and undulations that can result in uneven spray distribution.

Furthermore, the XC Nozzle design utilises new air induction technology to reduce the risk of spray drift, whilst still creating significantly more droplets to enhance leaf coverage. To deliver more effective results, each nozzle in the range has a specifically calculated and tested rearwards facing spray pattern, which counteracts the forward movement of the sprayer to coat and protect all sides of the turf leaf.

The XC Nozzle range will launch at BTME with three sizes: 025; 04 and 08 - selected to cover most turf applications at appropriate water volumes and typical spraying speeds.

To find out more and see a demonstration of the nozzles, along with calibration tips and practical ideas to improve the Art of Application, visit the Syngenta stand B52 at BTME, or visit www.greencast.co.uk



GRASS SUBBUTEO

British Seed Houses is looking to put an extra 'kick' into its stand at BTME by staging a penalty shoot-out competition on a Subbuteo-size soccer pitch made up of real grass!

The UK's largest privately-owned grass seed company is offering 40 kilos of the Bent grass of their choice to the winner of the competition, to be held at BTME.

The pitch is being grown on one of BSH's cultivars, with timing critical to have it in best condition for 'the big kick-off'.

"Visitors to our stand, A45 in Hall A, will be invited to take five penalties against their favourite BSH representative. The highest score over the three days will win," said Richard Brown, Amenity Sales Manager for BSH.

Richard, who is acting as 'head groundsman' for the pitch, said: "It's a labour of love to get the pitch ready. I'm monitoring it regularly and every few days give it a trim with a pair of clippers.

"In the meantime, my colleagues have been practising being goalkeeper, with varying degrees of success. No-one has yet shown themselves to be the table football equivalent of Peter Schmeichel or Gordon Banks!"

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



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Monitor your course performance
Get started

How does my club benefit?

Win an iPad!
Come and see CourseTracker on the BIGGA stand (B23) for the chance to win an iPad!

coursetracker

TRACKING SUCCESS WITH COURSETRACKER

CourseTracker, the new free digital business management tool for golf courses, is being launched on the Tuesday of BTME on the BIGGA Stand (B23). It has been developed by The R&A specifically to help your club establish and maintain a secure business model and become better equipped to deal with the growing economic and environmental challenges facing our industry.

CourseTracker gives you the power to track and assess course related revenue streams and course-related expenditure, staff allocation, help with benchmarking and successfully plan for the future.

For a time investment of only one hour a year, and using simple information available from your annual balance sheet, CourseTracker will deliver easy to follow charts and reports that will give you a clear indication of how you are currently performing and will enable you to make the best decisions for future operations.

CourseTracker will provide you with the clear, transparent, specific and direct information you need to make the case for how your course needs to be managed. The tool will help you to justify your decisions and support your proposals for cost effective and resource efficient management. CourseTracker will highlight your contribution and your value to the club.

CourseTracker is completely free and all entered data is totally secure and confidential. As an added benefit, the tool also enables anonymous in-country comparisons for benchmarking your operation against that of other similar facilities. In these tough economic times, it can be of great benefit to have a good understanding of how you are performing compared to other golf facilities of similar size, resources and structure.

Developed by The R&A in direct consultation with hundreds of Course Managers, Club Managers, Secretaries and Owners from around the world, CourseTracker is a pioneering new management tool for decision makers at golf facilities.

You can begin using CourseTracker today at www.golfcoursemanagement.randa.org



GRASS GROUP LAUNCH VACUUM SWEEPER AT BTME

The Grass Group will be exhibiting the Trilo S3 trailed Vacuum Sweeper for the first time at BTME. Purpose developed for use behind compact tractors delivering 28hp plus at the PTO, the 1.5m working width Trilo S3 has a large, high tip 3m³ capacity container.

Suitable for the collection of grass clippings, leaves and litter, the full floating brush head sweeps and gathers material that is vacuumed into the container to leave a clean finish. A key design feature is the unit's low ground bearing pressure. This enables it to be used on fine turf with minimal surface disturbance and allows operation in conditions where heavier designs may be compromised.

Among other equipment on display will be the Rota-Dairon RGD140 Disk Overseeder. Well-proven in the care and renovation of all types of turf, to include fine turf, the 1400mm working width machine uses discs to cut a slice through the turf, a coulter opening the groove out to allow the accurate placement of seed. The opening is then closed and firmed by a rubber press. A key advantage of the unit is that it leaves a surface that can be pressed back into play immediately. Pay us a visit at Stand A35.

DLF TRIFOLIUM OFFER PRIZES

Following on from the successful launch of their new 'Tenuis Bent' cultivar, Arrowtown, visitors to the DLF stand at BTME 2013 will have a chance to win a bag of Johnsons All Bent mixture that includes this top performing cultivar. In fact everyday will see a winner walking away with a bag, with one lucky person over the three days picking up a Virgin Experience day for 2 people!

Whilst a Virgin Experience day will allow the winner to experience one of many activities, a bag of Johnsons All Bent will show how Arrowtown delivers the tight, dense surface that is demanded of a high-speed modern green. With the added benefit of high disease tolerance, Arrowtown has a natural vigour that enables it to recover quickly from renovation, with improved drought stress and colour retention in a dry summer.

Also on stand will be the new 2013 Johnsons Sport Seed catalogue and a chance to discuss the latest mixtures, and review the cultivars, with a free copy of the 2013 Turfgrass Seed booklet.



Visit www.btme.org.uk and click the Register Now icon



Headland Amenity is bringing its range of innovative turf nutrition, health and management products to BTME 2103 at Harrogate.

Using the latest technology to offer greenkeepers practical solutions to turfcare issues, Headland will introduce Xtend 10-10-10+2Mgo at the show. This is a unique pre-seeding fertiliser ideal for use on golf tees, fairways and surrounds as well as winter sports pitches, cricket outfields and racecourse turf.

Suitable for application after any renovation work and after cutting, Xtend 10-10-10 uses Crystal Green, a new source of slow-release phosphorus, nitrogen and magnesium recovered from UK waste water. With additional slow release nitrogen providing release for up to three months, a composted organic base, seaweed meal and humic acid, the product is able to aid germination and gentle establishment of new grasses.

Xtend 10-10-10 will provide natural, effective nutrition over a long period while helping to cut workloads for greenkeeping teams with its slow release action.

Headland will also feature its mini prilled fertiliser formulations, Multiverdo 13-0-46 and Multigreen 24-0-24.

Multiverdo is a fine prilled potassium nitrate suitable for all turf, providing immediately available nitrogen along with good levels of plant hardening potassium. The sulphur free formulation works rapidly under cooler temperatures to aid early establishment, and plant hardiness.

Headland Amenity's Sales and Marketing Director Andy Russell comments: "We have some exciting products to show to Course Managers and Greenkeepers at BTME, spearheaded by Xtend 10-10-10 which takes the latest technology to utilise a waste product which can really enhance establishment and turf recovery. Headland fertilisers not only offer great results from the turf but can also help to cut greenkeepers workloads by providing nutrition over a longer period."

Aquatrols: The Creation of an Industry

Roughly 60 years ago, Robert A. Moore pondered over a puddle in a friend's garden – a seemingly minor moment that would go on to forever change the water management practices of green industry professionals worldwide.

A chemical engineer in research at Mobil Oil, Moore's science-driven curiosity led him to experiment with various surfactant blends to remedy water movement issues.

Recognizing that using surfactants to improve water penetration and reduce water waste had implications beyond the garden, Moore decided to patent and market his novel discovery.

In 1954 he founded Aquatrols Corporation of America, the first surfactant company specifically tailored to the needs of the Green Industry. Nearly six decades later, Aquatrols remains the market leader.

There have been plenty of changes in the field of turf management since Aquatrols introduced Aqua-Gro as the first commercially produced surfactant solution for turf maintenance. Aquatrols has over the years continued to develop Water Management products with Primer 604, Revolution and Dispatch.

There have also been changes for Aquatrols. After Robert Moore's retirement and subsequent passing, his three children helped navigate Aquatrols through a period of increased competition by channeling his spirit of innovation.

Though it no longer stands alone in an industry it created, Aquatrols continues to set itself apart with a commitment to science, education and conservation of precious resources. Today Aquatrols is proud to offer a line of cutting-edge surfactants and other specialty technologies that address a wide variety of turf managers' needs.

With its own fully staffed research and development department, a technically knowledgeable sales force, and a long history serving turf professionals, Aquatrols has no fear of the great number of competitive products that have flooded the market since the early days.

In an age of large corporations and constant mergers, it's refreshing to see a family owned and operated business that has not only survived for 58 years but has maintained a strong position of leadership in the industry. And to think it all started with a single puddle.

Demie Moore, Daughter of Robert A Moore will be talking on "The Evolution of Soil Surfactant Technology for enhanced Water Management" at BTME 2013 on Wednesday 23rd January 9.45am – 10.15am.

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