

Ali Barrett with the drone



ST ANNES OLD LINKS SOARS THANKS TO DRONE

For most Golf Clubs, like most businesses, marketing has become a key component of success and longevity. So when the St Annes Old Links (SAOL) Course Manager, the Professional and a club member chatted over a beer at the Club prizegiving, none of them thought that marketing and greenkeeping at the club would take such an innovative step forward so quickly.

Positioned within yards of Lancashire's Irish Sea coastline, the club prides itself on having one of the best maintained true Links golf courses in the UK; but maintaining this standard comes at a significant cost. Two of the key individuals responsible for ensuring the viability of the Club are the Club Pro Daniel Webster and the Course Manager Stuart Hogg.

It was whilst discussing the need to market the Club to a wider audience and bringing in visiting parties that Peter Barrett, a club member, suggested an innovative idea. Peter's son Ali had been developing a helicopter drone which he had used for filming extreme sports. So why not use this same technology to film the course and allow prospective visitors to see the quality and standard of the greens and fairways before they visit?

Stuart then suggested it was not only useful for marketing, but would also enable him, as Course Manager, to gain a more holistic view of the course using the aerial perspective to track progress of the course over time and to help the development of future short and long term improvement projects.

Working with Daniel and Stuart, a plan was put together to film the course during the Easter holidays.

The whole course has now been filmed and the results can be seen at the SAOL website www.stannesoldlinks.com.

SAOL is one of the first golf clubs in the UK to have a full aerial video of the complete course available on its website.

The results speak for themselves. As Club Captain John Gallacher said:

"I am extremely impressed by the end results. Utilising this innovative

technology enables us to showcase our wonderful course, providing an enhanced service offering to our visitors and guests. Equally as important it provides valuable information to our Course Manager in terms of course maintenance and development."

Work is ongoing to refine the videoing techniques and Ali and Peter have now set up a new business - www.heliphoto.biz - to further promote the use of lightweight, high tech drones for aerial filming of golf courses and other sporting events and venues.

St Annes Old Links clubhouse





Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we've revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.

As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you've

found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!



Recently we've focused on the terrific work of The Open support team – but this month it's time to turn the spotlight on the members who helped out at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship.

Congratulations to those who were accepted, and to those who missed out – try again next year and hopefully your luck will be in.

Similar to The Open, the team were required to rake bunkers as well as early morning prep plus assisting Kenny Mackay's existing team at Wentworth, and were available in case of bad weather.

One of the team is Craig Kilgour, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Ponteland Golf Club. He drove over 300 miles from Newcastle to Wentworth to take advantage of this membership opportunity, so we spoke to him beforehand:

What was your reaction when you found out you'd been selected?

"I was really, really pleased and excited. I'm a massive golf fan and I've been to Wentworth for the last couple of years as a spectator, but I wanted to get more involved and get inside the ropes so I applied to join the team. It's a long journey but I think it will be well worth it."

What are you hoping to gain from the experience?

"It's a great opportunity to see how an event like this operates up close. I'll be able to see the quality of the turf, some of the machines, and how it all comes together. I'm also looking forward to meeting greenkeepers from across the country. I speak to a lot of them on Twitter, but it will be good to meet them in person."

Congratulations to the following who supported on the Saturday and Sunday:

Russ Bain – Deputy Course Manager, Chislehurst Golf Club; Dylan Rennick – Deputy Course

Manager, Northwood Golf Club; Phil Worth – Greenkeeper, The Mere Golf Resort & Spa; Jaey Goodchild – Head Greenkeeper, Bowood Golf & Country Club; Iain Jones – Head Greenkeeper, Leighton Buzzard Golf Club; Myles Wood – Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club; Gary Britton – Greenkeeper, Notts Golf Club; Darren Burton – Head Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club; James Boorman – Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club; Phil Slater – Greenkeeper, West Herts Golf Club; Simon Bell Tye – Head Greenkeeper, Botley Park Hotel Golf & Country Club; Darren Heskins – Greenkeeper, Botley Park Hotel Golf & Country Club; Kevin Armstrong – Head Greenkeeper, John O'Gaunt Golf Club; Martin Brown – Greenkeeper, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club; Kevin Weller – Head Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club; Mark McCann – Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park



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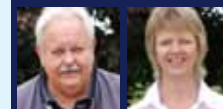
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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst

Golf Club; Jamie Waitt – Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club; Sam Bethell – Greenkeeper, The Richmond Golf Club; Craig Kilgour – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ponteland Golf Club; David Smith – Greenkeeper, Links Newmarket Golf Club; Glenn Rayfield, Head Greenkeeper, Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club; Andy Baker – Head Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Club; Rob Boyce – Head Greenkeeper, Links Newmarket Golf Club; Dan Breden – Greenkeeper, Surrey Downs Golf Club; Jason O’Keefe, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Gatton Manor Golf Club; Peter Hogan – Head Greenkeeper, Eccle Riggs Golf & Leisure Club; Paul Simpson – Greenkeeper, Winter Hill Golf Club; James Lomas – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Hadley Wood Golf Club; Steve Mason

– Course Manager, Stocks Golf Club; Richard Saunders – Course Manager, Mowsbury Golf Club; Rob Elliott – Greenkeeper, Bath Golf Club; Josh Dunn – Greenkeeper, Bramcote Waters Golf Club; Andrew Weeks – Greenkeeper, Hockley Golf Club; Steve Hopkins – Greenkeeper, Burghley Park Golf Club; Mike Lake – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Blackmoor Golf Club; Will Law – Greenkeeper, Aldeburgh Golf Club; Dan Perring – Greenkeeper, Aldeburgh Golf Club; Niall Gibb – Groundsman, Fawley Parish Council; Mark Burniston – Deputy Course Manager, Old Fold Manor Golf Club; Andrew Hart – Greenkeeper, Old Fold Manor Golf Club.

Also, the following members offered terrific support on the early morning prep team for

either five or six days:

James Briggs – Greenkeeper, East Sussex National Golf Club; Joseph Dormer – Greenkeeper, West Sussex Golf Club; Andy Haskell – Greenkeeper, Farnham Golf Club; Dan Woodcraft – Greenkeeper, Bradfield College Golf Club; Nick Hull – Greenkeeper, Shirley Park Golf Club; Nicholas Chapple – Greenkeeper, Woburn Golf & Country Club; Simon Torr – Greenkeeper, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club; Joe Clark – Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club; Adam Brown – Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club; Tony Bartram – Greenkeeper, The Richmond Club; Peter Corrick – Greenkeeper, Weymouth Golf Club; Geoff Fenn – Course Manager, Bedford & County Golf Club.



ENTER THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT LARGS GOLF CLUB

The Scottish National Tournament takes place on Thursday 13 June at Largs Golf Club.

It’s a long-established private golf club with a superb 18 hole parkland course, situated in front of Kelburn Castle overlooking the Firth of Clyde with the islands of Cumbrae, Bute and Arran in the background, with Arran’s Goat Fell and the ‘Sleeping Warrior’ dominating the landscape.

The course is enduringly popular with visitors, who return regularly year after year. The well-balanced layout offers an interesting and challenging experience to golfers across the broad spectrum of enthusiasm and ability, with positional play rather than big hitting paying dividends.

If you would like to take part in this year’s event then please visit the ‘Events’ section of this

website where the entry form is attached, and complete the form along with your entry fee payment and return to John Young, Scottish Regional Administrator at 2/1, 19 Cardwell Road, Gourrock, PA19 1UG.

If you would like to pay electronically then please contact John via his email address of johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or call him on 07776 242120 for further details.

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Steven Morris
Age: 26
Club: Royal Dornoch Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: ‘Big Man’



How long have you been greenkeeping? Nine years

What was it about the career that attracted you? Working outside, interest in maintaining sports turf areas, using machinery

If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? Snowboard instructor, or working at a ski resort in Austria

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Working tractors, changing hole positions as you can decide where it goes!

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Cutting greens with a walk-behind mower because it is such a long job!

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot? More respect from the golfer and general recognition for what we do as greenkeepers

Hobbies? Golf, skiing/snowboarding, cycling, hill walking, camping, working on cars

Favourite Band? Changes but at the moment Mumford and Sons

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? I follow the golfers Paul Lawrie and Darren Clarke

What is your claim to fame? None as yet



L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA

This month Stuart Green explores how to get more from CPD and explains changes to BIGGA's CPD Programme on page 16, and you'll find the second and final part of Kevin Munt's essential '18 hole' guide to becoming a Golf Course Manager on page 50. The Back Nine on page 66 also had an educational angle with tips on effective social media use



ADVANCED LEARNING LOAN AVAILABLE

If you're over 24 you can now apply for an Advanced Learning Loan to help with the costs of a college or training course.

The course must start on or after 1 August 2013 and be a Level 3 or Level 4 course such as an advanced or higher apprenticeship. Similar to student loan, loans have to be repaid but repayments do not start until April 2016 and when you're earning more than £21,000 a year.

How much you get depends on the type of course, course fees and the maximum loan available – the minimum loan is £300.

It's paid directly to your college or training provider. The first step is to check with them that your course qualifies.

Then ask them for a 'Learning and funding information letter' to help you complete the application, and apply online at www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk

EU EMERGENCY APPROVAL GIVEN FOR ASULOX® UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2013

The 2011 EU wide ban of the active ingredient Asulam was met with great disappointment by many of those involved in bracken control. Asulam, found in products such as Asulox had established itself as the primary choice of contractors who treated bracken and many have found it difficult to find a successful replacement. So it is great news that EU Emergency Approval has been given for the use of the active ingredient Asulam in the product Asulox for 2013.

The product is now available for

pre-order and can be purchased up until Sunday 18th August 2013. The Emergency Approval will allow for the product to be used up until 31st October 2013. As yet is it unknown as to whether approval will be given for next year, but at least this year there is a control solution for Bracken.

More information on the EU Emergency approval can be found on the Asulox listing on the following website www.progreen.co.uk or you can call them for a fuller update on 0800 032 6262.

www.brackencontrol.co.uk



MORE SUCCESS FOR THOMAS

Reigning Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Thomas Flavell is celebrating again after securing a new job.

Thomas has moved on from his post at Lingdale Golf Club in Leicestershire to Luffenham Heath Golf Club, a private members club in Rutland.

He said: "It's a great opportunity to advance my career at a top golf course which is due to hold Open Qualifying for the next five years. I can't wait to help the team prepare for these events. Winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award certainly helped me land this position, as I was able to use the knowledge I gained in the USA and through my Level 3 studied at Myerscough college.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale Golf Club for the support they had given me over the last six years. Without this help and support I would not have had the skills and knowledge to be able to win the Toro Award and to progress my career by moving to Luffenham Heath. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Lingdale making some fantastic friends and unforgettable memories."

In the meantime, thanks for all the nominations for this year's award. We will be in touch...



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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CPD

- Part Two

Make yourself valuable, not vulnerable

Last month BIGGA's Learning & Development Executive Stuart Green defined what CPD is. Now he moves on to discussing what makes good CPD and changes to the BIGGA CPD Programme



They say doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome is the definition of madness! To put that in the context of a professional, if you are not updating and improving your knowledge and skills or investigating better ways of doing things, then you won't be standing still, you will be going backwards. In this day and age, that is madness!

So what makes good CPD? Simply anything that is relevant to you, your work and your future.

The reason for having a plan is you need to know where you want to be before you can decide what you need to do.

CPD is a vast subject with scholars writing numerous papers dedicated to it.

However, there is one overriding concept that needs to be maintained when carrying out CPD.

That is - what's in it for me? That's all you need to remember. CPD is a personal journey and everything you do needs to help you towards that goal you have set. So be selective. Choose only what will get you to where you want to go.





Types of CPD

CPD can be divided into two categories - formal and informal. Formal CPD is professional qualifications such as NVQs, work-based diplomas, HNC/Ds, foundation degrees and degrees or skills qualifications such as certificates of competence like PAs and Chainsaw courses. These need to be updated regularly to ensure the licence is maintained. For PAs, I would recommend joining the NASoR or National Amenity Sprayer Operators Register.

Informal CPD is more difficult to quantify, but it is still essential to your growth and personal development.

It can be many things. It may be something you have never thought could be CPD such as volunteering. This could be at a golf event, as a football or cricket coach, helping out at a scout group or being on the committee of your local allotment

society - been there and done the last one!

What has this got to do with greenkeeping, I hear you cry? Everything, according to major studies conducted by the Carnegie Foundation, Harvard and Stanford Universities.

Their research showed that to be successful at home or work your technical skills will only cover 15% of the knowledge you need. The other 85% will be people skills and self-knowledge.

Therefore, investing in understanding ourselves, others and having the ability to adapt to different behavioural characteristics of others, is the basis of personal and career success.

By investing your time in informal CPD activities, as mentioned above, you are in fact developing those people skills. If you've been a sports coach, you are the motivator, the organiser or the counsellor. Or if you are on a local committee, you

“So what makes good CPD? Simply anything that is relevant to you, your work and your future”

will be learning the skills of communication and managing meetings. All these skills are vital, but are generally overlooked as opportunities for learning.

The Next Question...

I have discussed what CPD is and the types of CPD you can do. The next question is “What do I do with it?”. Many of you will already be registered on BIGGA's CPD programme and, after reading these articles, I hope many more of you choose to sign up.

The BIGGA CPD Programme has been running for 13 years and has now been reviewed. Due to the changing nature of our work envi-



ronments, the review highlighted the need for the Programme to have greater flexibility in what could be claimed for and the period for claims.

Therefore, BIGGA's CPD Programme is going to change from 1 July 2013. All members on the current Programme will be informed, during June, how they will cross over onto the new structure. The most significant change is the move to a three-year cycle. This was a fundamental requirement to a flexible system especially when there may be periods when CPD isn't an option, such as redundancy or starting a family.

1. On 1 July 2013, the BIGGA CPD Programme will change from an annual to a rolling three-year Programme.

2. Membership numbers will now be used instead of CPD numbers.

3. Credits will move from half a point to 1 point per hour of education.

4. A member must gain a minimum of 60 CPD credits within a three-year period.

5. There will be more options to obtain credits.

6. Between 1-59 credits, a member will be a CPD Active Member of BIGGA.

7. Once 60 credits have been achieved, they will become a CPD Approved Member of BIGGA.

8. The member will be

recognised with a CPD Approved certificate, with the year achieved, recognition in GI, the website, the Handbook and a discount on BIGGA's education opportunities.

9. All CPD credits will be recorded in a Lifetime Transcript (continuous credits forever) and Milestones will be recognised and awarded for achievement of 180 credits and at increments of 180 after that.

Categories of Credits

To allow better understanding of CPD and to provide a fair and transparent credit system, credits have been divided into different categories for members to claim for. In the meantime, it's worth remembering that one educational hour = one credit.

• **Professional credits (max 10 credits)** – Association questionnaires; section & region committee work, Advisory Panels

• **Networking credits (max 10 credits)** – exhibition attendance, section meetings, tournament support teams

• **Education credits (min 30 credits)** – education event attendance; presenting workshops and seminars; sports turf qualifications; management qualifications; short courses;

certificate of competence; writing magazine articles; book reviews.

• **Personal learning credits (max 15 credits)** – Those activities that aren't automatically eligible for credits or do not fit the educational requirements of the CPD Programme may be claimed if the you complete a Personal Learning Statement. Within this, you must identify what you learnt, how it has changed you or your work and how you will use this knowledge to improve and develop in the future.

Some of the credit categories have minimum and maximum levels. So, for example, you could claim for attendance at a golf day as a Networking credit. However, these will be limited to 3 credits per CPD cycle. It's a bit like weight watchers, you can have loads of education credits (vegetables) but are limited in the Networking and Professional credits (carbs)!

Credit claims are not limited to what is suggested here. If you feel that you have gained valuable knowledge to aid and further your development, then submit a Personal Learning Statement. In future articles, I will outline credit values for professional and skills qualifications and how to fill in Personal Learning Statements.

CPD is yours, plan it, do it, own it, think about it!

Registration forms can be found at:

www.bigga.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development



Patience. Not an easy virtue to possess when temperatures are only just reaching double figures weeks before a major tournament.

Sierraform[®]
GT

 **Qualibra[®]**
Wetting agent

H₂Pro[®]


But Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds at The Wentworth Club, was confident that the late start to his tournament preparations wouldn't prevent his greens providing a true challenge for the world's best golfers.

"We were in a far from ideal position, but I wasn't unduly concerned," he confirms. "Our greens overwintered well, due largely to two applications of SierraformGT K-Step 6-0-27+2MgO+TE with low Nitrogen and

high Potassium to harden the turf and bring it through the winter stresses."

Kenny used a combination of two wetting agents to help him achieve a level of firmness in his greens that will challenge the ball striking of the professionals competing in the Volvo PGA Championship.

To maintain the desired level of surface firmness, he managed the soil moisture content in the upper profile with Qualibra, which provides deep and even distribution



“Choosing an Everris iTurf programme is about more than the products we use. It’s about producing the playing qualities that top-flight sport demands from our surfaces.”

Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses & Grounds,
The Wentworth Club



through the profile, and H₂Pro Maximise, which aids the quick penetration of irrigation water and rainfall through the profile on the run up to, and during a tournament.

“On a recent course visit, we checked that moisture levels and firmness were progressing towards our tournament targets and were consistent across each green,” explains Henry Bechelet, Technical Manager for Everris. “We took Clegg hammer and Theta moisture probe readings at the end of April and during May and the results were as we’d hoped – 110-120 gravities on the Clegg at 15-18% moisture in the top 60mm of the profile.”



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RESORT

“Choosing one manufacturer to supply all the mowers was down to more than just securing a good finance deal”