

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

21-23 JANUARY 2014

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19-22 JANUARY 2014



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Section Notes

Please email your notes to
steve.castle@bigga.co.uk
by the 10th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section,
in your new-look notes pages...



Around the green

Scotland

Contact your Section correspondent with news,
events or anything else for Around the green...



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Events Coming Up

North - Two outings next year at two great courses. Spring outing is at Moray GC on 1 May 2014 and the Autumn at Inverurie GC on Thursday 11 September.

Central - We are still working on staging a mini conference at Auchterarder GC in early December. Once all the speakers and subjects are confirmed then we will email the information to all Section members as normal as well as putting the information on Facebook and the Central Section website. What we can confirm is that the event will be free for Section members and depending on the uptake places may be available to members of other Sections.

East - The 27th AGM will be held at Ravelston GC on Tuesday 5 November, registration will be from 10am with the AGM starting at 10.30am, this will be followed with a Guest speaker and 9 holes of golf to contest the Jimmy Neilson Trophy, this event is free and all members are welcome to attend. We are currently setting up our Christmas event/night, more details to follow shortly.

West - By the time you get this magazine the AGM at Haggis Castle GC will be over - I'll report on this next month.

West - The annual dinner proved very successful with 28 turning up for a pre theatre meal and then on for a few drinks. This year a similar format is planned and the intended date is Friday 29 November, meeting at Qui Italia around 6.30pm.

Ayrshire - AGM Thursday 14 November at The Irvine Golf Club, Bogside at 7pm.

News

Central - A report from the Section AGM on 29 October is available on the website. Prior to the meeting Lynn Jopling of the Scottish Golf Environment Group gave a presentation on the free services available to Scottish Golf Clubs by SGEA as well as offering many tips on how to improve the green credentials of your Golf Club without breaking the bank.

Central - Congratulations to Phil Hind and Scott Watson of St Andrews Links for winning the Pairs competition by 1 hole against Scott Robertson from Strathmore Golf Centre and Stuart Griffiths of Blair Atholl GC. Thanks also to Carnoustie Links for allowing the final to be played over the Championship Course just a couple of days after the Dunhill Links Championship. Beaten semi-finalists were Adam Turner and David Braid from St Michaels GC and Richard Devlin and Alex Walker from St Andrews Links.

Central - Commiserations to Gavin Neill at St Andrews Links. On the first practice day of the Dunhill Links Championship, a golf ball hit from the practice range came over the netting which protects the greenkeeping facility, bounced up off the concrete yard and struck him directly in the eye. Gavin spent 3 days in hospital while doctors tried to reduce the swelling and assess the damage and he was off work for over 3 weeks.

Central - Welcome to David MacFadyen, a new member who has started at gWest.

North - The new look Patrons Award scheme has changed with just one winner nominated by their fellow members, and they will be asked to attend a dinner at Gleneagles to accept the award in December. The first winner of this award from the North section is Dennis Grant from Huntly Golf Club so congratulations to him.

North - Two new members Roddy Kelly from Moray Golf Club and Dylan Meinen from Newmachar Golf Club welcome to them both.

North - Royal Aberdeen are gearing up for the Scottish Open with a new practice tee platform being built for use next year. Championship tees at the 10th, 12th and 16th have been extended and rebuilt for the championship. The next job is 30 bunkers being revetted and new pathway irrigation will be installed.

East - Our Patrons Award winner this year is Allan Campbell (Carricknowe GC), well done Allan and we hope that you enjoy BTME.

East - It is with great sadness that we report the sudden passing of Steven Lamb (Muirfield GC), our thoughts are with his family at this time.

West - The outing held at Eastwood Golf Club on 19 September was a pretty dreach affair with rain and wind for quite a few holes, The course was in great condition and having noted the recent changes enforced through the M77 construction the course has benefited. The biggest difference I noticed was the height of the fir

trees at certain of the older holes, they were quite imposing. Well done to Neil Lindsay and his staff for their efforts. The Eastwood committee have to be commended for allowing our presence, this is very much appreciated, and please take my comments positively as I felt the course was a better layout than the old one but it's sad to see a few characteristic holes missing. Thanks to the bar staff and catering staff for attending to our needs, I think all who attended enjoyed the day's golf.

West – Well done to Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braes in winning the BIGGA National Championship. What a brilliant year he's had winning this and the Scottish National. It's brilliant to see somebody who has real talent although it means the rest of us need to get our act together and practice!

West – To Fraser Ross, everybody is thinking about you after the passing of your father. The section's best wishes go to you and your family.

West - I bumped into Gordon Peebles of Tacit who gave me his tales of woe regarding van engines falling to pieces and broken flywheels but it looks like everything has been sorted.

Ayrshire - We held an instruction day at West Kilbride Golf Club on the use of Grinders. Willie Nisbett of Bernhards provided an excellent talk and demonstration - thanks to Willie for providing this.

Ayrshire - Section patrons award winner is Gregor Wilson of Turnberry Hotel Golf Course. Congratulations to him - the Section Committee hope he enjoys the Harrogate experience.

Results

North - Autumn outing at Edzell went very well and our thanks to the Course Manager Graham Mackie and his team for a great day and a fantastic golf course. Results: Nearest the pin at 14 Gary Tough Montrose Links; Trade Winner Gareth Rodgers Souters; Committee trophy Ross Macrae Turriff; Apprentice trophy Jack Craig from Royal Aberdeen; Veterans winner Roy Donald Oldmeldrum; Sweep Winner Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen; Class 3 Brian Cocker Alyth; Class 2 Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen; Class 1 Simon Hoy Royal Aberdeen. The big prize on the day the scratch was won by Gary Tough Montrose Links. Mark Main Memorial Trophy (best net) Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen so well done to all the winners.

East - Our recent Section event took place at Haddington GC in the form of an Autumn Stableford/Lecture, the day went well albeit with a low attendance on the day. The course was presented in a fine condition for the day ahead, thanks go to Stevie Smail and his team for their hard work.

The scoring was good on a windy day with Scott Corrigan (Greenburn GC) lifting the Scratch Winners trophy with a 74, The 1st class winner on the day was Phil Butler (Murryfield GC) with 35 points, 2nd class winner Robbie Murdoch (Dundas Parks GC) 34, 3rd class winner Allan Campbell (Carricknowe GC) 27, best nett went to Sean Cunningham (Mortonhall GC) 75 nett, Patron winner was Jim Darling (Aitkens) 31, guest prize went to Lindsay Muir (Dundas Parks GC) 35. Nearest the pin winner was John Young (Regional Administrator) and longest drive went to Stuart Ferguson (Dundas Parks GC).

West - The prize winners at Eastwood; Scratch Gordon Sangster gross 70; 1st class winner John Brown 36 points, Runner up Stuart Taylor 35, Third Chris Prior 34 B.I.H; 2nd class winner Bryan Ramsey 32, Runner up John Young 31, Third Bruce Cruickshanks 29; 3rd class winner Robert McDougall 34, Runner up Stephen Shenan 33 points, Third Michael Maxton 30. Nearest the pin Jack Steadward, Visitors prize Robert Hart, Longest Drive Alistair Reid.

35 people attended and enjoyed the event which is a better turn out, it was nice to see a few different faces.

Ayrshire - Autumn Golf Outing at Prestwick St. Nicholas Golf Club. The Section would like to thank the Captain and Committee of the club, thanks also to John and his staff for the excellent condition of the course. Results: First Class 1 Peter Boyd, 2 Ian MacDonald, 3 Derek Duthie; Second Class 1 Duncan Gray, 2 Davy McLroy, 3 Andrew Wentworth. Harry Diamond Trophy winner with best combined Spring and Autumn outing score - Duncan Gray.

Thanks to Sponsors

East – Thanks to Lynn Jopling from SGEG for a very informative educational topic in the form of 'Encouraging Wildlife on Your Golf Course', this topic went down well and was delivered superbly.

Welcome New Members

Roddy Kelly - Moray Golf Club, David MacFadyen - Ochil Developments - G West, Callum Christison - Newbattle Golf Club, Dylan Meinen - Newmachar Golf Club



Northern

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...



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Events Coming Up

North East – We're organising a one-day Lantra Basic Chainsaw Maintenance and crosscutting course £60 per person, email Simon on spolver@hotmail.co.uk for details. We are also hoping to arrange a golf get together sometime in December to incorporate the AGM

Sheffield - Our Christmas Competition will be held at Workspol Golf Club on 11 December. Tee off 10.30am followed by the AGM and Christmas Dinner and the day will be sponsored by Mike Brear of Rigby Taylor.

North Wales - The Christmas tournament is at Royal Liverpool GC on 25 November, the starting sheet for this has been over subscribed, we can only apologise if you missed out.

Northern - Our final golf day will be the Xmas bash on the moors at Baildon GC on 11 December first tee off at 10am. It's a fun day out, teams of four playing Texas scramble for a fantastic booty of prizes. To all you guys who have never been to these events before, it's a great way to introduce yourself to the section so please come down!

News

North East - The visit to St James Park proved successful - many thanks to Vinny Price of Myerscough College for organising the event. More educational events to follow.

North East - Alnmouth GC have recently constructed a new green and practice area all of which was done in house! Jim and his team have done a really good job.

North East - Percywood GC are in the process of reconstructing the 13th hole comprising of a new green, bunkering and fairway bunkering. Check out the club's Facebook page for regular updates and pictures of this work.

Sheffield - Just to let people know that there have been several incidents of theft from sheds in and around Sheffield, so please be aware and vigilant.

North Wales - A big thank you goes to the players that represented the section at the national tournament.

Northern - The Autumn Tournament at Woodsome Hall was another great day out for us, a fantastic course, great food and brilliant company. The club made us feel very welcome and as always we thank them for the support shown to our section. A special mention to Philip Haigh, Course Manager at Crossland Heath GC, on reaching forty years at the clubwow!

Cleveland - Thanks to all the volunteers who helped the team at Rockcliffe for the PGA English Seniors Open. More info in Newsdesk.

Movers and shakers

North East - Chris Wood has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Garesfield GC, we wish him well in his new role.

North Wales - Best wishes go to Rhys Butler as he officially takes the reins as Links Manager at Royal St Davids GC from 1 November and also best wishes go to Owain Aeron as he steps up to the role of deputy.

Results

North East - The Autumn competition was held over Westerhope GC in very testing windy conditions. The course was in excellent condition and thanks go to the club, catering staff and Brian Sharpe and his team. Again it was nice to see a lot of new faces and a good turn out. Results: Best Gross (Salver) - J Hogg; Div One (Ransomes Cup) - 1 S Olver, 2 S Harrison; Div Two (Greenlay Cup) - 1 J Grey, 2 S Pope; Div Three (Ransomes Shield) - 1 R Griffiths, 2 G Dawson; Trade - G Baxter

Sheffield - Our Autumn Competition was held at Hillsborough GC and we would like to thank Ian Whitehead and his staff for use of the course that was in great condition, thank you. Results: The winner of the 0-14 handicap was Lee Greveson with 41 points playing off 5 and Neil Peters winner of 15-28 handicap with 37 points playing off 16. The overall winner was Lee Greveson from Hallamshire GC, well done. Thanks to everyone for attending the day.

Northern - Results from Woodsome Hall - Div 1 winner Dean Gosney, Runner up T Gerrard; Div 2 winner Andy Slingsby! Runner up Ben K Jackson; Div 3 Winner Paul Wild, Runner up Ian Brown; Scratch cup winner Dave Collins; Trade winner Nick Bissett; Nearest the pin Dave Collins & Gary Feron.

Thanks to sponsors

North East - Thanks to Everiss/Sherriffs for sponsoring prizes. Shorts of Whitburn for sponsoring food, Rigby Taylor and TSL for donating raffle prizes all at the Autumn Tournament.

Sheffield - We would like to thank Glen Sawyer from Russell Ground Care for sponsoring the Autumn Tournament, much appreciated.

Welcome New Members

Mark Shepherdson - Cave Castle Golf & Country Club.
Joe Bell - Askham Bryan College, Sam Grace - Wensleydale Golf Club, Andrew Oddie - Stonyhurst Park Golf Club.

Midland

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



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Events Coming Up

Mid Anglia – Our final event of the year is the Winter Texas Scramble at Stocks Golf Club on 11 December 2013. Arrive early - at 8.30 coffee and bacon rolls will be available. Then it's on to the main event - a shotgun start at 9.30 so allow enough time to make your way to your designated tee. Priority entry will be given to members who have attended our other events in 2013 as numbers are limited to 80 places. We feel that players who support events should get the opportunity to enter a team above those who haven't managed to attend this season. Hopefully there will be places for all early applicants so please apply swiftly so you don't miss out on this very popular team event.

Please send your cheques to Richard Saunders in advance as this cuts down the administration on the day for the busy match secretary so he can relax and enjoy his day of golf too. Entry forms will be winging their way to you via email in the near future with Richard's address for all applications and team payments. This is the perfect way to end the golfing season - catching up with all from the section with lots of banter amongst the teams, and some real quality golf being played on a cracking course with hopefully some pleasant weather conditions.

Movers and Shakers

Mid Anglia - Congratulations to Trevor Smith of Brookmans Park GC and Stan Power of Hanbury Manor GC on their recent promotions to Directors of Golf at their excellent clubs.

Thanks to Sponsors

Mid Anglia - A massive thanks goes to Rigby Taylor, ALS, Avoncrop Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Headland Amenity, Farmura, Tuckwells Machinery and Vassgro Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year - once again your support means a lot. please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Results

Mid Anglia - Autumn Golf Day at Berkhamsted GC. 1 Gerald Bruce (Berkhamsted GC) 37pts, 2 Robert Groves (Letchworth GC), 35, 3 Richard Goddard (Ashridge GC) 34. Nearest the Pins went to Simon Woolley and Richard Goddard. We would like to thank Gerald and his team for providing us with a superb course which was enjoyed by all who attended.

The course stood up really well to the rather testing weather conditions with a severe soaking for everyone so credit to you all for some fantastic scores on an extremely tough day to be playing golf and for making it round all 18 holes in literally monsoon conditions.

Mid Anglia - Thanks to Ransomes / Ernest Doe's for the halfway refreshments at our Autumn Golf Day which went down well.

Welcome New Members

Chris Minton - The Belfry Golf Club, Nicholas Fox - Kenwick Park Golf Club, Tom Mallon - Aldersey Green Golf Club, Michael Curtis - Welwyn Garden City Golf Club, Jon Jo Pitts - Royston Golf Club



South East

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the green...



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Events Coming Up

Sussex - Our next event is the Turkey Trot which at Worthing GC on 29 November. Please contact Pete Smith if you want to enter on 07748 776761 or on pds1@btinternet.com. Please contact me with anything of interest for future articles.

Essex - Next golf day is at Colne Valley GC (Please note the change of venue) Tuesday 3 December. AGM & Christmas team event, £65 per team of four. Jacket and tie please for the evening meal and prize presentation. The AGM precedes the golf at 9am and we would like all members to make an effort to attend. The position of Chairman and three committee members are due for election/re-election, nominations please to myself at essexbigga@talktalk.net Entries to Antony Kirwan: at "Play Golf Colchester" Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex. CO3 4AU or antz16@btinternet.com by Wednesday 27 November please.

Essex - Ben Scrivener is still waiting to hear from those seeking further education. For more information please contact Ben at gingermunky@hotmail.com

London - The London Section education day is at Oaklands College, Welwyn Garden City, on 18 February. Next year the golf events will be at Northwood (Spring) and Hendon (Summer), dates to follow.

London - Next is the Xmas tournament at Verulam GC on Thursday 12 December, so let's all get together after a years work and play some golf. Also it's our AGM. Please return your entry forms.

Surrey - Regional Conference 19 November at Hadlow College. Speakers include Henry Bechelet, Gareth Roberts, John Ross, William Swan and Alec and David MacIndoe. CPD points are available for attending.

Surrey - Guildford GC Turkey Trot 6 December. BIGGA members and club officials are invited to attend with AGM Surrey Section. Walton Heath GC Regional Dinner confirmed to be held on March 7 2014.

News

London - Matt Plested has recruited 5 new committee members: Wes Walker Northwood, Martin Smith Porters Park, Chris Carpenter Verulam, Kevin O'Neill Muswell Hill and Andy Wight Oaklands College have all joined.

Surrey - Ashley Allpress has been updating the web site with all sorts of interesting garb, so please take a peek.

Movers & Shakers

Surrey - Gary Ogilvy has at last been moving and shaking in his new Audi A3 after a few near misses.

Results

Sussex - 32 attended the Sussex section's event on 20 September at Beauport Park GC The course was in lovely condition and thanks go to Eric, Glenn and Brian. We were very well looked after including an unexpected BBQ at the 9th - so good it took its toll on some of the score! A very enjoyable day spent with good friends.

Results: 1 The Green Team 87pts, 2 Bogborough 86, 3 Hassocks 82. Longest drive Mark Harvey. Nearest the pin in two Matt Hutchinson. Nearest the pin, Gordon Bell. Many thanks to all of the sections annual sponsors again for their support and also to Pete Smith for all his organisation.

Essex - Braintree Golf Club was the venue for our Autumn Trophy, and what a day we had, great weather and the golf and course were a real treat. Our thanks to Martin Guy, John Barnard and his team plus the Club Captain John Still and Greens Chairman Mick Parmenter.

Results: Blind Pairs 1 Liam Springett & Wayne Wilson, 2 Andy Cracknell & Steve Crosdale. 1 Greenkeeper Darren Shuttle 37 pts, 2 Greenkeeper James Taggart 25 (countback), 3 Greenkeeper Liam Springett. 25. Trade Steve Crosdale 43, Guest Rob Galley 41. Nearest Pin 7th James Taggart, Nearest Pin 14th Gary Mason. Congratulations to Stuart Rogers on winning the BIGGA Challenge Plate on Day Two of the National Championships, and to Antony Kirwan for the Longest Drive on Day One.

Surrey - Wimbledon Park GC hosted The Cresta Cup on 24 September. 1 Dan Norsworthy, 2 Danny Murray, 3 Graham Keller, Longest Drive Big Les Howkins and Nearest Pin and longest traveller Andrew Cornes. Thanks to Dave Langheim for preparing first class surfaces and all the staff at Wimbledon Park GC.

Surrey - The Surrey Bowl final held at Foxhills GC on 1 October featured an exciting matchplay finale. Ian Morrison and Scott Murray edged past Marc Raisbeck and Grant Headley on the 18th. Roger Tydeman organised this event with military precision. Thanks to Foxhills GC for hosting.

Surrey - Hankley Common GC hosted the Trade v Greenkeepers. Captain Ogilvy starred on this occasion and it finished Trade 2 Greenkeepers 4.

Thanks to Sponsors

Surrey - Thanks to Surrey Bowl sponsors Winchester Garden Machinery.

Welcome New Members

Alan Baker - East Sussex National Golf Club, Simon Bailey, Sam Pease - Chartham Park Golf Club, Johann Van Der Merwe, Derek Ives - Farnham Park Golf, Thomas Lea - Bognor Regis Golf Club, Toby Giles - Hockley Golf Club, Tommy Heaney - Malden Golf Club, Harry Wells - South Herts Golf Club, Stuart Kearney - The Warren Golf & Country Club, Gareth Hunt, Richard Curtis, James Duffield - Hampton School, James Taggart - Frinton Golf Club

South West & South Wales

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...



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Events Coming Up

South West - It's almost raffle time! This year's South West Section Christmas Tournament will be held at Ogbourne Downs GC on 19 December, don't miss your chance for a day full of fores, food and festivity topped off by the almost world famous Christmas raffle, as always in aid of a local charity.

South West - At press there were two remaining places on the chainsaw certification course at Bath GC at the end of November to cover maintenance, cross cutting and medium tree felling. To quote Paul: Be safe and be legal! Contact Paul Worster for your place. paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

South Coast - AGM and half day seminar free to all that can get there at Wellow GC on 13 November. Speaker is Mark Hunt from Headland. Arrive by 9.30 includes a light lunch. Golf in the afternoon is optional, contact the secretary at Wellow if you want to play. Please let Alex know of numbers on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

South Coast - Next Golf is the Turkey Trot at Weybrook Park GC on 10 December. A change of address to send your cheques this time: T Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire SO41 0QL Cost for the day is £20 and the format is Texas Scramble so get together in teams of 3. Contact me on greenkeeper@gmail.com

South Coast - Don't forget the Regional seminar on 21 November some great speakers, more info contact tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk

News

South West - Congratulations to section members Leigh Mordy of Knowle GC and Lee Whyte of Bowood GC who both scooped prizes at the BIGGA National Championship recently at, well done guys.

South West - We are seeking interest in an excavator operation update training session to coincide with the five year cut off from the last certification programme, please keep an eye on the BIGGA Bulletin Boards for details or contact Paul Worster directly.

South West - The section will again be sponsoring a place to attend BTME in January 2014 to include accommodation, transport and education. Contact a committee member to express your interest.

South West - We're updating contact details for all South West section members - please email me to confirm your name and email address.

Results

South Coast - Autumn Tournament held at Meon Valley GC. Great course thanks to Phil Walker and his team. Results: 1 Rob Mabb Weymouth 36 pts, 2 Pete Corrick Weymouth 35, 3 Rod Byng 35. Longest Drive Derek Cunliffe, Nearest the pin Bill Ridgley.

Thanks to Sponsors

South Coast - Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our Autumn Tournament

South West - Special thanks to all of our Section Patrons for their ongoing support: EcoSol, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura.

Welcome New Members

Daniel Crocker - Worlebury Golf Club, Karl Szakal - Sherfield Oaks Golf Club, John Say, Alex Forrister - Test Valley Golf Club

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Greenkeepers Training Committee

In a new series, the GTC has invited representatives from its Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to discuss their particular specialism within the sports turf sector

In this latest article from a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider, Jon Allbutt, Britrisk Safety's Technical Director reminds us of our responsibilities for Health & Safety whether you are an employer or employee.

There is no doubt that we have moved forward in golf course safety management in the last twenty years or so. The GTC rescued HS (G) 79 "Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance" and produced an updated and expanded edition as a joint industry funded project, fully endorsed by HSE and The R&A.

We have also seen a whole series of workshops and roadshows involving BIGGA, the British Home Unions with support from industry experts, and HSE that drove home the message that practical safety management is essential and achievable with quality information, training and support.

Yet there are still accidents, dangerous incidents, investigations and some prosecutions that continue to cause concern.

A further problem is the low level of reporting, particularly of incidents and near misses. The lack of a positive safety culture dulls an awareness of the importance of consistent reporting and investigating and the role this plays in managing the safety of a site for all.

Where any group of greenkeepers gather it won't be long before someone tells a story of slipping into the lake, pond, bunker or down a bank, smiles and nods confirming the



truth – yes we have all been there! Such unreported incidents / near misses will quickly come to light when an individual is being interviewed – under a Caution – by the H&S investigating officer! Apart from the negative non-compliance aspects, it's worth remembering that there are vital lessons to be learnt from accident and particularly near miss incidents.

If something could have happened and didn't, next time there could be serious injury – or worse – so an investigation is called for to determine the root cause. How detailed this is will depend on the nature of the event. What can we do to change our thinking on this?

The route to good safety management and the achievement of continuous development and improvement of standards is set out in HSE Guide HSG65 "A Guide to Measuring Health and Safety Performance".

As part of the review of health and safety by Professor Löfstedt this document is changing to a new approach based on PLAN – DO – CHECK – ACT (see right page).



The GTC is funded by:



A new guidance document is currently in draft form and publication is expected soon. This is a fresh approach that greatly simplifies and streamlines the evidence an employer needs to have of his health and safety management of the workplace. The burden falls to the management team to make sure that the employer's policies are put into an action plan based on this new approach.

David Golding, GTC's Education Director, invited Britrisk Safety to write this H&S update. He added:

"Jon Allbutt has for many years assisted the sector with his advice and guidance to make the workplace a safe environment. In many cases Health & Safety responsibilities have been taken seriously and great strides have been made.

"Jon's business 'Jon Allbutt Associates' has been absorbed within the umbrella Britrisk Safety which now brings a new, innovative and in many ways altogether simpler approach to safety management and training within the golfing industry and wider land-based sector."

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You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

PLAN – DO – CHECK – ACT

Plan

- Prepare your safety policy
- Set out the detailed arrangements for managing safety
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of duty holders
- Prepare the organisation's H&S flowchart – the family tree of H&S duty holders
- Plan the implementation strategy – a programme of actions for all

Do

- Present the safety policy and arrangements for approval, and signing, by the employer (the owner, committee or board of directors)
- Provide information and training, raise awareness, improve skills, develop positive attitudes by changing the negative H&S culture
- Identify and record the main hazards making sure to take account of seasonal factors
- Assess the risks to staff and others – be site and task specific – avoid trivia
- If the actions to be taken in a risk assessment do not effectively reduce the risk, prepare a method statement that sets out exactly how a task is to be carried out safely
- Implement your plan within an agreed timeframe

Check

- Measure your progress and performance with regular safety audits
- Record, investigate and review accidents and incidents/near misses
- Review the effectiveness of risk assessments and method statements

Act

- Review performance against the implementation strategy and programme
- Be prepared to learn the lessons, make changes, be active not passive about health and safety management



Tom Searle, MD at Britrisk, added: "I sometimes think that Health and Safety Consultants make compliance issues more difficult for their clients rather than easier.

Getting bogged down in paperwork and red tape doesn't help to prevent accidents; in fact it can make them more likely to occur as people simply will not read long-winded policy statements and risk assessments, let alone apply the contents!"

About the author

Jon as co-author of The GTC's H&S in Golf Course Management and Maintenance guidance booklet has assisted many golf club managers and owners as has the Ransomes Jacobsen – Cutting Edge sponsored Wall Chart which is now seen in many maintenance facilities. Both of these H&S products are available from the GTC and will feature in a half-day workshop to be held during the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2014. The workshop on Tuesday 21 January will involve Britrisk Safety and Swan Golf Designs, please see the Continue to Learn programme or visit the GTC website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

For Health & Safety advice Jon or Tom Searle Britrisk Safety's MD can be contacted via...

www.britrisky.com

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Email:
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or tom@britrisky.com

BUYERS' GUIDE

Speedcut Contractors celebrate busy year of golf course projects



Speedcut Contractors have had one of their busiest years on record with sports pitch construction and golf course projects right across the UK – including Wales, Somerset, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Essex, Kent and Sussex.

From reservoirs to bunkers, paths to greens drainage and bridges to tees, Speedcut staff have used their considerable experience on a wide variety of golf courses.

At Foxhills Golf Club and Resort, Surrey, Speedcut have completed more green reconstruction and bunker reshaping projects as well as carrying out tee levelling, path works and drainage on several greens and the driving range.

Also in Surrey, tee and bunker improvements have been made at Surbiton Golf Club.

And at Orpington Golf Centre, Kent, they have levelled and regraded three tees – with a fourth built from scratch as an addition to the facilities at the centre.

The two courses at Orpington - Cray Valley and Rushley Park - are owned by MyTime Active, who use Speedcut as their regular contractor. Paths were also improved at Bromley Golf Centre for the same group. Speedcut have also completed tee levelling at Upminster Golf Club, Essex, while at Hampstead Golf Club, North London, they relaid the third tee and installed Super Verde artificial turf.

New tees have been built or established ones levelled at Newbury and Crookham Golf Club, Berkshire and Wimbledon Park Golf Club. The same services have been carried out in West Sussex at Pyecombe Golf Club, The Dyke Golf Club and Copthorne Golf Club.

In Kent, Speedcut have also built a new tee at the 15th at Langley Park, Bromley - designed by James Edwards Golf Design - and created new paths and reformed existing bunkers on the 14th. At Chislehurst Golf Club they rebuilt the 7th hole to a Weller Golf Design.

At Piltdown Golf Club, East Sussex, Speedcut are undertaking the complete rebuild of 14 greens amongst the re-established heather with seven being completed this year.

Dick Franklin, Speedcut managing director, says: "We have been lucky with the weather in the summer months of 2013 and this enabled us to complete many projects on every type of sports surface."

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Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.



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