



Chemical Control Measures

'Pistol', a formulation of 250g/L glyphosate and 40g/L diflufenican, gives excellent control of buddleia seedlings. The diflufenican in this product helps to prevent germination of seeds long after the spray has been applied.

For young plants, where the stems remain green, glyphosate formulations such as Roundup Pro Biactive' will provide good control. Mature plants need a brushwood killer such as 'Timbrel', which contains 480g/L triclopyr.

However, 'Timbrel' and five other approved products containing 480g/L triclopyr are scheduled for withdrawal by 30 November 2014, so manufacturers are providing alternatives with lower concentrations of triclopyr but mixed with suitable co-formulants; e.g. aminopyralid, clopyralid, fluroxypyr, dicamba and 2,4-D, to bridge the gap and provide a similar level of weed control.

High on the list of new products specifically suitable for controlling the butterfly bush in amenity situations are mixtures of aminopyralid and triclopyr, developed by Dow AgroSciences and launched under the brand names 'Icade' and 'Speedline'.

Cultural control measures

The initial approach to curb the spread of this plant using non-chemical means is to control the spread of seeds. Dead-heading plants as soon as the flowers have died back is recommended for garden specimens but on larger bushes this may not be practical.

Landscapers and gardeners should be encouraged to choose new dwarf varieties of *Buddleia* that do not produce fertile seeds; such as 'Blue Chip', which is equally attractive to butterflies but does not present any risk of spread by wind dispersal.

Seedlings and young plants can be pulled up relatively easily and established mature plants can be felled and disposed of by burning on site if this is permitted. It is inadvisable to leave any branches on the ground after they have been cut as they can take root and create a new plant.

Biological Control measures

Authorities in New Zealand have carried out quarantined studies on the leaf eating weevil *Cleopus japonicus* to ensure it did not harm endogenous plants and crops. This insect originates in China where it





feeds on the leaves of the butterfly bush. In 2006, following the success of these studies, the weevil was released on several sites on the North Island and so far results have been encouraging. These quarantined studies would need to be repeated in the UK before we could consider adopting this approach to control. Scientists in New Zealand are also looking at a stem boring weevil *Mecynolobus erro*. for *Buddleia* control, the adults of this insect feed on the tender terminal shoots causing the tips to wither and die.

The controversy

There is no doubting the attractive power of the *Buddleia davidii* for butterflies, bees and other insects.

The development of our urban environment has depleted the numbers of many butterflies, insects and wild animal species, so it is no surprise that organisations involved in conservation of wildlife are sympathetic to planting the butterfly bush as a means of encouraging some to re-establish.

However, we should remember that this is an aggressive invasive plant species which, despite the abundance of pretty, fragrant flowers, contributes very little to the support of the larval stages of these insects. Back in its original native environment, the butterfly bush evolved alongside a host of predatory wildlife that help keep the species in check. It is amazing that despite being resident in the UK for over 100 years it has encountered very few natural enemies – hardly

any insects have adapted to feed on the leaves and stems.

In 2008, DEFRA and the country agencies for Wales and Scotland published a new strategy to control invasive species and listed *Buddleia* on their non-native species website www.nonnative-species.org.

Butterfly Conservation have stated their position with regard to the planting and maintenance of the butterfly bush as follows: “*Buddleia* provides an important nectar source for adult butterflies, moths and other insects in townscapes and the countryside.

This has become increasingly relevant because wildflowers have become so depleted following habitat loss and the general lack of nectar sources in the countryside. It also brings enjoyment to many people, both because of its heavy scented and beautiful blooms but also because of the butterflies and other insects it attracts. It therefore plays a role, alongside other non-native garden plants, in helping to maintain or restore the link between people and native UK wildlife such as butterflies.”

They acknowledge that the butterfly bush can be a problem in brownfield sites and suggest that gardeners should prune the plant in the autumn to remove seed heads and reduce the potential for spread in the wild.

However, *Buddleia* is not included with the wild invasive non-native plants listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and is not scheduled for future inclusion.

BASIS

SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim BASIS points by visiting the ‘BASIS Points Article’ section on the Sherriff Amenity website – www.sherriff-amenity.com and answer the questions correctly.

1) Who was responsible for naming the genus *Buddleia*?

- a) The Reverend Adam Buddle
- b) Carl Linnaeus
- c) Dr William Houstoun
- d) Père Armand David

2) When did the butterfly bush arrive in the UK from china?

- a) 1896
- b) 1715
- c) 1662
- d) 1789

3) What is the estimated annual seed yield for a full sized butterfly bush?

- a) 40,000
- b) 300,000
- c) 700,000
- d) 3,000,000

4) Which species of insect has been introduced in New Zealand as a potential biological control agent?

- a) *Malacosoma Neustria*
- b) *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*
- c) *Cleopus japonicas*
- d) *Euproctis chrysorrhoea*

5) What date has been set for the withdrawal of products containing high concentrations of triclopyr such as ‘Timbrel’?

- a) 30th November 2014
- b) 1st November 2013
- c) 30th November 2013
- d) 1st August 2014

For further information, please contact Sherriff Amenity on 01638 721 888 or email info@sherriff-amenity.com

For more news and insightful views, you can follow Sherriff Amenity on Twitter @SherriffAmenity.



Are you ready for winter?

Stuart Hall, former Workshop Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, urges you to take a few simple steps to ensure your machinery is ready for winter



It's strange to think that after the majority of the country has finally enjoyed a good, dry summer we're now starting to think about winter setting in, but its only round the corner – and all greenkeepers need to be ready.

Now is the ideal time to start a few pre winter checks, as we enter autumn, leaves and heavy dew start to interfere with early morning mowing. The extra moisture on the ground can find its way into every small space, so it's time to check your cutting unit's roller seals are sound to prevent water penetration and lead to further damage, a quick check now could save you the cost of a bearing replacement in the near future.

Also as the temperature starts to drop leading to frosts, ensuring your engine coolant has enough antifreeze protection is an absolute must. Protection of your engine's water jacket now can save you costly engine damage. You can buy good quality antifreeze testers now for around £12 - well worth the investment - but as a rule of thumb

most manufacturers recommend a solution of 50% antifreeze and 50% water.

However, most of them also provide a ready mixed solution, this acts as a summer coolant and frost protection all rolled into one, alternatively you can get a relatively cheap 10l container with a tap, add 5l of antifreeze, 5l of water and you have a year round mixture ready to go. If your operators have this to hand when they're doing their pre start checks, and you use it all year round, you don't ever have to worry about unexpected early frosts.

At the same time, as daft as it sounds, as the temperature drops and damp weather arrives giving the radiator a good clean out is essential. As dust and debris start to mix with the moisture in the air it starts to form a solid mass, this has a nasty habit of blocking the radiator's cooling fins. Then just as you're not expecting it the machine overheats, so it's well worth a having a look, then while you're checking the radiator, check the radiator cap itself. This important piece of the cooling system is vastly





overlooked, but it's an integral part that acts as a vent when overheating occurs. But, if the cap is in poor condition with a damaged seal or a weak spring, it gives the impression that you have an overheating cooling system when actually it's just a damaged cap.

Another good one to check early is the battery, again a check now could save you having to fork out for a costly replacement. Batteries struggle in cooler conditions and frost can wreck them if they're not in good condition, so now is the best time to check fluid levels. A simple tester is available from most dealers and show up any any cells in bad condition. At the same time you can clean up the terminals and apply a coating of protective terminal spray or electrical grease, then once complete why not check your charging system with a volt meter (normally around 13.8v) and the condition of your fan belt, all this only takes

a few minutes but can really save you money.

Lastly we come to fuel. Modern fuels have changed dramatically over the last few years, firstly petrol now goes stale in around three to six weeks and can really catch you out over the winter period as machines are used less frequently. You can either use a fuel additive, or a cheaper option is to drain petrol out of the tanks and carburettor bowls so when you go to use them next fresh fuel goes in and starting isn't an issue. Secondly as diesel now has a minimum of 5% bio fuel in it there is a greater chance of water build up and fuel freezing in your tanks, so if you don't top your machine fuel tanks up after each use, start doing so now as it helps keep condensation to a minimum and helps reduce bacteria build up.

All these tips will allow you to approach autumn and winter with your machinery ready for the freez-

ing temperatures and frosts – and many of these will take just a few minutes of your time but will save you lots of money and disruption when you least need it in the depths of a British winter.



about the author



Stuart Hall

Stuart began his working life in greenkeeping before moving to machinery maintenance, and became Workshop Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club. Earlier this year he accepted a role as Groundcare Services Manager for P Tuckwell Ltd, a John Deere machinery dealer supplying Ground care machinery near Stevenage. He covers Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, a huge area with many golf clubs, sports grounds, schools and colleges.

What does FEGGA mean to you?

Newly elected FEGGA Board Member Paul Worster takes a look behind the scenes at FEGGA

Until recently, I was aware of the existence of the Federation of Golf Greenkeeper Associations or FEGGA, but like many had little idea what it did, what its mission was, and who ran or participated in it.

However – all that has changed now as I'm a newly elected Member of the FEGGA Board and I would like to share the aims and ideas of the organisation with you.

FEGGA was formed in 1996. It actually augmented, and eventually replaced, a 'European Greenkeepers Association'. Dean Cleaver – former Course Manager at Gay Hill GC and BIGGA Chairman in 1996 – was the first FEGGA Chairman, and is currently the organisation's Executive Officer. FEGGA is registered in Sweden and currently has 23 members.

"Only 23?" I hear you ask. That's correct – because it is the actual Greenkeeper Associations that are the members, and those 23 member associations represent the interests of around 13,000 greenkeepers in Europe. Impressive by any standards.

So what does FEGGA do exactly? Well – we in BIGGA are perhaps spoilt. The UK has 2,500 golf courses which is by far the highest density of golf courses anywhere in Europe. We have our own very strong association which now employs 17 people. No other European country has a similar number of courses, and their greenkeeper associations are virtually all volunteer-led, and volunteer-administrated – not many other European Greenkeeper Associations have any paid employees.

So, FEGGA, with its links to GTC, EGEU (recently rebranded to Greenkeeper Training – Europe), GEO and the EGA (European Golf Association) brings training, education, development and encouragement to the greenkeeping profession in the smaller golfing nations where in some cases there are actually very few golf courses. Of course, despite a low number

of courses, well educated, well led, and well motivated staff teams are a primary requirement, and there is the familiar pressure to improve and develop.

Now I'm still learning, but already I've discovered that there are at least three different scenarios within FEGGA. There are the Northern European Courses, for example in Scandinavia where some people actually have two jobs. They have a summer job when the golf course is open, and a winter job somewhere else when the golf course is frozen over and closed.

In general the Superintendent and his Deputy are retained, but most other staff are released to go to other jobs. Many return to greenkeeping year on year and often to the same facility. Compare that with Southern European greenkeepers, whose courses are open all year round, but of course face extremes of a completely different type in mid-summer when heat and drought are significant factors. Then there are courses in the mid-zone which are more akin to the UK. So, a pretty broad canvas on which to base training aims and objectives.

Don't underestimate this – countries such as Slovenia, Slovakia and Bulgaria have only a handful of golf clubs – less than ten perhaps. But this doesn't stop the greenkeepers and Superintendents from being hugely keen to learn and very proud of their achievements. These people are part of our community, part of our profession. They deserve our support and our input. In giving support and making connections, the BIGGA Board and I firmly believe that by helping FEGGA and getting involved we can also open doors and create opportunities for our own members to find advancement within Europe, which is why I am so pleased to be working with the FEGGA Board.

Work on this Board is very different. Firstly there is the language issue. All meetings have been conducted in English as are the conferences. I am really impressed with



the command of English displayed by the vast majority of people I've come across so far.

Currently we are working to update the Constitution of FEGGA (the rules and regulations that give the framework for business). After that review, the business plan will be upgraded to map out how to meet revised aims and objectives (as outlined in the new Constitution).

FEGGA holds an annual conference which incorporates the AGM. This is sponsored by patron members and is an opportunity for Member Associations to meet with sponsors and carry the sponsors' message back to greenkeeper members within their own countries. I spoke at this year's conference in Switzerland, the opening day of which was held at Syngenta's European HQ in Stein. Stein was a fascinating place showing the tremendous research into the development and safety of pesticides for use in golf and agriculture.

Next year the FEGGA Conference is in Girona (in the Catalan region of Spain) and the learning subjects will appeal to a broad cross-section of greenkeepers.

In short – FEGGA has much to offer greenkeepers in Europe and, through supporting it, can help make opportunities in Europe more available to British greenkeepers. I'm supporting FEGGA – I hope you will also.

Visit our Website –
www.FEGGA.org
and become a
friend of FEGGA
on Facebook.

about the author



Paul Worster is Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club and a former BIGGA Chairman. He is now a director of FEGGA and believes in strong Greenkeeper Associations preparing and equipping their greenkeeper members for management



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All the latest news from your Section,
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Around the green

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Contact your Section correspondent with news,
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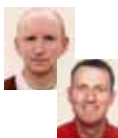
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Events Coming Up

Central - Next event on the calendar is the Section AGM at Elmwood training room on 29 October. This will be preceded by a presentation from Lynn Jopling of SGEG. Details for this were emailed out at the beginning of October.

Following on from that is the 2-day "Train the Trainer" course to be held at St Andrews Links on 19/20 November.

West - Coming up is the AGM on the 24 October at Haggs Castle GC followed by a short talk from a couple of different suppliers on what's new in the industry.

Also, the social night is on 29 November at Qui Italia near Cad- dleriggs or the old Glasgow Herald building, this is similar to last year with a pre theatre meal and then onto a few pubs or nightclub. The section would appreciate your support in both of these events as last year they had a very good turn out.

East - A workshop day at John Deere (Sherriff's) Haddington is on 9 October (BAGMA) approved, please contact Steven Burrell for enquiries at gcservice@thomassherriff.co.uk, please note spaces will be limited.

East - The 27th AGM will be held at Ravelston GC on Tuesday 5 November, more details to follow next month.

News

Central - The irrigation course on 25 September was fully subscribed, thanks to Adrian Mortram and Callum Oliphant for

delivering the course and to Elmwood for the use of the facilities for the day.

Central - The turnout for the autumn outing at Stirling GC on 4 September wasn't so good with only 28 people in attendance. On a glorious sunny day, those who did come along enjoyed playing a course that was excellently presented by James Lindsay.

Our thanks to James and his team and all at Stirling GC for their assistance. Kevin Webster of Leven Links was a new name on the Scratch trophy while Graeme Bolton of gWest was a clear winner of the best nett on the day.

A full list of prize-winners can be found on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk or by liking us on Facebook. From next year the prizes will all be based on Stableford scores apart from the Scratch prize.

Central - Work is still progressing at a considerable speed on the new course being constructed at Feddinch just outside St Andrews. Not so much in the news lately though about the proposed development just along the coast from Elie.

West - A report on the Autumn outing will follow next month but I would like to take this opportunity to ask if any member has a subject they might wish to raise at the AGM please contact any member of the committee before the event to allow a full and frank discussion to take place.

The blog is available for members to look at and obtain information or the magazine, failing that contact myself on 0141 9425554 or 07790823914, or e-mail me at stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com.

East - Our recent Willie Woods tournament went well with a good attendance on the day, held at Mortonhall GC that was in its usual fantastic condition.

The scoring was good with Graeme Davidson and Martin Fith- eridge (both Mortonhall) lifting the trophy with a superb 62 in a betterball format, with Alan Campbell and Dougie Melville (both Edinburgh Leisure) coming second with a 65 (bih). The nearest the pin winner was William Kelly (Mortonhall) and our longest drive went to Craig Hempseed (Mortonhall).

Thanks to Sponsors

Central - A special thanks to Otterbine, Toro and Lely for provid- ing the coffees and lunch at the irrigation course.

East - Thanks must go to Gary Smith (Sherriff Amenity) for a very informative educational topic in the form of 'Nutritional Movement Through the Plant', this topic went down well and was delivered superbly.

Welcome New Members

Kjell Torbjorn Berggren - Trump Golf Scotland, Iain McFarlane, Gavin Millar - Elderslie GC, Barry Munro, Peter Munro - Zoar Cottage Lawn Tennis

Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

Sheffield - Christmas Competition on 11 December at Worksop GC, tee times from 10.30am followed by AGM, meal and presentation, sponsored by Mike Brear of Rigby Taylor. Also remember to book your place for the trip to St Georges Park on 16 October.

North East - We're hoping to organise a couple of course walks in near future, more details soon.

North West - Bert Cross Trophy and AGM at the Wilmslow GC on 12 November. Contact Phil Dewhurst on 07768 180604 if you wish to attend.

Cleveland - Boulby Potash Mine Visit Thursday 3 October. Eight places only so get in touch asap to reserve your space. Contact me (Pembo) 07791 695768

Cleveland - Autumn Tournament Wednesday 9 October tee off 10am till 11am at Sharpley Springs GC. For just £16 you will get the usual bacon sandwich and coffee, 18 holes of golf followed by a two course meal and raffle. Limited to 24 spaces.

Cleveland - The annual bring a bottle challenge at my place Cleveland GC is on Tuesday 10 December 10.45am tee off.

Northern - Our final golf day of the year is the Xmas bash at Baildon GC in Bradford on 11 December.

North Wales - The autumn tournament took place at Royal St David's GC on 18 September - results next month. The Christmas tournament is at Royal Liverpool GC, Hoylake on 25 November, all entries and monies to be returned asap.

News

Cleveland - I'm submitting the monthly notes so if you have any news let me know. Even small bits of info are good, like trying to find the greenkeeper from our area that was spotted at a local bus stop and now has a modelling contract with Vogue magazine. Pembo

Cleveland - Well done to Lee Cameron from Teesside GC in completing the coast to coast bike ride raising over £3000 for the Great North Air Ambulance, a fantastic achievement.

North East - Jimmy Richardson has retired as section secretary after 31 years service. The section wouldn't have operated to the level it has without Jimmy's time and commitment. On behalf of the section we wish him well in his retirement. We plan to give him a well deserved send off at our Autumn tournament at Westerhope GC on 9 October and it would be great if you could attend.

Sheffield - On 13 September Ashley Brear married Grace. Ashley is Mike Brear's son of Rigby Taylor and we wish them all the very best and hope it all goes well for Ashley in his new post at Luffenham Heath GC. Can members please send any news items to the NEW SECTION MOBILE NUMBER 07944 392155.

Northern - Best wishes to Stu Mason from Woolley Park GC in Wakefield on his forthcoming marriage.

Northern - We recently played a fantastic competition of greenkeepers v trade at Cookridge Hall in Leeds. A great day but unfortunately apart from myself and Joe Walsh destroying Nick Bissett and Simon Hardcastle in the last match we lost 3-1.

North Wales - Arthur Evans, Head Greenkeeper at Abersoch GC, celebrated 25 years at the club in September; we wish him many more happy years in greenkeeping.

Movers and shakers

North East - Congratulations to Brian Hughes of Whickham GC, who after his hard work and dedication in his senior role has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper.

North Wales - Roger and John Kerry retire from their jobs as course and deputy course managers on the 31st of this month, after 36 years of loyal service to Royal St. David's GC we wish them all the best in retirement.

Results

North East - New summer competition held at Percywood GC, massive thank you to Simon Olver and the club for the course condition and hospitality shown, it was also nice to see a lot of new faces at the event.

Best Gross - J Hogg, Div One - 1 S Olver, 2 C Donaldson, 3 J Friar; Div Two - 1 S Pope, 2 B Brown, 3 D Thompson; Trade - G Baxter; Nearest Pin 10th - J Friar, 14th - V Cox; Longest Drive - S Olver. The best score of the day was by S Pope who is 82 years old - putting all us young guys to shame. Well done Steve!

Thanks to Sponsors

North East - Rigby Taylor for sponsoring prizes at Percywood and to Lloyds for sponsoring the food.

North East - Thanks to Paul and Freddie Wade and our chairman John Watts for sorting the day at Cookridge - a great addition to our golfing calendar. Also thank you to Sandra our RA for all her help at our golf days, they would not be the same without her.

Welcome New Members

Kevin Thompson - Tyne Green GC, Robert Leitch - Furness GC, Robert Wood - Castle Hawk GC, Jacob Field, Steven Zoing - Rudding Park GC, Daniel Edgecombe - Affiliate, Jubbs Signs Ltd.

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

East Midland - You should have received your invites to our AGM Competition at Lutterworth GC on 31 October. Exclusively sponsored by Farols there will be some tremendous prizes on offer and of course the usual top quality raffle. In addition there is the Midland Region Education Seminar on November 6 held again at Forest Hill GC, remember that CPD points are available for all attendees.

Midland - The Autumn golf tournament is to be held at North Warwickshire GC on 16 October, starting at 12. Get your entry in to Rhys Thomas as soon as possible on 07774 164173 and check your tee time soon via www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk

Midland - Our Autumn education day is a visit to Villa Park, kindly sponsored through Everris on 23 October. If you're interested and would like further details please visit www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk to book your place to visit the world's most famous football club!

Midland - The Midland Section AGM will be held following the golf at North Warwickshire GC on 16 October at 6.30pm before the evening meal. All members are welcome.

Mid Anglia - Autumn Golf Day at Berkhamsted GC on 16 October. Get your entries in asap to avoid missing out. AGM to follow.

Movers and Shakers

East Midland - A very warm welcome to the section for Simon Graham who has taken on the role of Head Greenkeeper at Lingdale GC. Simon joins Lingdale from The Buckinghamshire and I'm sure I speak for everyone in wishing him the very best of luck with his new challenge.

Mid Anglia - Congratulations to Hayden Drinkwater on becoming Course Manager at Mentmore GC and to his Deputy at Redbourne GC taking over his old role. We wish you all the best in your new positions.

Results

East of England - Newark Golf Club 25 July. 1 Peter Orbine 38pts Gedney Hill GC, 2 Graeme MacDonald 37pts Newark GC, 3 Adrian Kitchenon 34pts Lincoln GC. Nearest the pin won by Peter Orbine. Longest straightest drive Bruce Hicks. Trade/Associate prize Peter Hainstock 36pts.

East of England - Match vs GCMA at Norwood Park 12 September. East of England greenkeepers won 4-2.

Thanks to Sponsors

Midland - This month's calendar sponsor is TH White. Many thanks for supporting the Midland Section, and please consider them when looking at replacement machinery. Contact TH White through Simon Bingham on 07813 835212 or www.thwhite.co.uk

Mid Anglia - A massive thanks goes to Vassgro Amenity, Avoncrop Amenity, ALS, Amtech Amenity, Headland Amenity, Farmura, Tuckwells Machinery and Rigby Taylor Ltd for your continued support with funds which really helps to make our section run successfully. Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year, once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements.

East of England - Many thanks to F.G Adamson & Son John Deere dealers for their sponsorship of the golf day at Newark GC. Also congratulations to Graeme MacDonald and his staff for the condition of the course and the caterers for the excellent meal as always.

East of England - Many thanks to all the staff at Norwood Park GC for the condition of the course and the excellent hospitality after the match.

Welcome New Members

Matthew Rich - East Berkshire GC, John Quinn - Caversham Heath GC, Earl Oakton - Mickleover GC, Steven Birtwistle, Ross Kerr - Chilwell Manor GC, Alan Sherlock - Trent Park GC, Jonathan Cox - Bedford GC, Ben Evans - The Tytherington Club, Gary Oliver - The Belfry, Harry Kelly - Lea Marston Hotel & Leisure Complex, Steven Smith - Ingestre Park GC, Adrian Barnes - Tamworth GC, Gary Price - Hill Valley Golf & Country Club

A new look

Based on feedback from the recent GI survey, we've refreshed and improved this section of the magazine.

Please send your news and photos in to your section correspondent or Steve Castle (steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 10th of each month