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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the
British and International Golf Greenkeepers
Association Limited.



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expressed are not necessarily those of the
Association, and no responsibility is accepted
for such content, advertising or product
information that may appear. Circulation is by
subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per
year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World
£95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA
members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf
industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961-6977

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FTMI Delegates and mentors 2014

Back to the future (part 2)

Last month I was privileged to attend the 2nd Future Turf Managers Initiative, made possible by Jacobsen, at which 20 BIGGA members descended on Jacobsen's Ipswich headquarters for three days of intensive education, mentoring and networking.

The purpose of the event is to give the delegates the additional non-agronomic skills and knowledge that they need to progress to greater achievements and substantial career development. The delegates, one of whom – Joe Buckley from Queenwood – has contributed an excellent technical article this month (pages 28-30) lapped up the education on offer and will use the experience, the knowledge gained and the contacts made to full effect in their greenkeeping career. We are hugely indebted to Jacobsen for their generous support of this superb Initiative.

At the opening dinner the internationally renowned turfgrass scientist, Dr Frank Rossi from Cornell University, spoke on 'The Future of the Industry'. His key message to the ambitious young greenkeepers present was succinct – 'you guys are in the service industry, and if you can't accept that, then it's time for a change of career!'

It was fascinating to hear such a bold statement from someone who has spent their whole life in the agronomic side of this business. It really brought home to me that, now more than ever, greenkeepers need to play their part in delivering the experience that golfers want and expect. With news arriving that, due to adult participation targets not being met, Sport England is reducing its financial support of golf development, it is fair to say our sport is in a battle – against other sports, hobbies and the increasing pressure on people's time and money.

It is crucial that everyone involved in delivering the golfer's customer experience plays their part. Attention to detail, a focus on

presenting the appropriate level of challenge and a sunny disposition all have a role to play but will also serve to make the greenkeeping team far more secure in their positions at a time when many golf clubs are looking to cut costs. I believe many greenkeepers are in a position to take the lead within their clubs and help ensure that golfers enjoy their time on the course and choose to hurry back.

In this month's magazine we carry news of two exciting developments for the Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2015. We are delighted that Everris has agreed to support an education voucher scheme for Continue to Learn as part of their iTurf Rewards scheme.

Feedback suggests this will be a hugely popular opportunity to earn substantial contributions towards taking part next year. Additionally we are introducing a new process for determining a sizable proportion of the educational content at BTME 2015. The 'Proposal to Present' scheme will ensure that we cast the net as widely as possible in terms of presenters and content and will put you the member firmly in position to choose which are relevant to you and your facility.



Enjoy the read.

Jim Croxton, Chief Executive

APRIL 2014

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Turf insect pest control on a knife-edge

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at how you can control chafer grubs and leatherjackets – the “economic pests” of UK turf

grass, 3–4 cm long and with a tough, knobby head and feet, as the common name suggests. That such a delicate white insect like the creature should prowl there with a robust and damaging larva never ceases to amaze.

The seemingly innocent appearance of cranflies in August is a prelude to something altogether more sinister for professional turf. Adults emerge from pupae in de-

covered turf in the morning and immediately restart the life cycle by laying eggs in the grass sward.

Eggs hatch into larvae within two weeks and feeding on lime in starting to feed on the grass roots.

Leatherjackets feeding occurs throughout winter, accelerating in spring as the larvae approach maturity and pupation. This is the time when leatherjacket damage first becomes apparent, showing up as slow growth of grass and yellow patches of dead and dying turf. Leatherjacket infestation is

grubs, 3–4 cm long and with a tough, knobby head and feet, as the common name suggests. That such a delicate white insect like the creature should prowl there with a robust and damaging larva never ceases to amaze.

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small scientific microscope and in precise biological terms have jointed legs. The group includes insects, arachnids and crustaceans.

Only two true insects, chafer grubs (larval stage of chafers) and leatherjackets (larval stage of cranflies) are economic pests of UK turf. They cause significant direct damage in their own right and have larger brains like those keeping for a heavy meal and tearing up turf in the process.

Chafer grubs are the larvae of the garden chafers beetle (*Phyllopertha horticola*) and the Welsh chafers beetle (*Hypha plintharia*) while the leatherjacket is the larval stage of the cranfly (*Ephialtes* sp) and commonly called black boggy. Both juvenile stages are soil-dwelling pests living under turf and feeding on grass roots.

Chafer grubs sport a brown head on a white, distinctly curved and finely-segmented body some 3cm long. Eggs occur as three pairs on the front segments of the body in contrast to leatherjackets which are legless. Leatherjackets are greasy, earth-coloured segmented

PEST CONTROL

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Calendar, Calculator, WhatsApp, Skype, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn

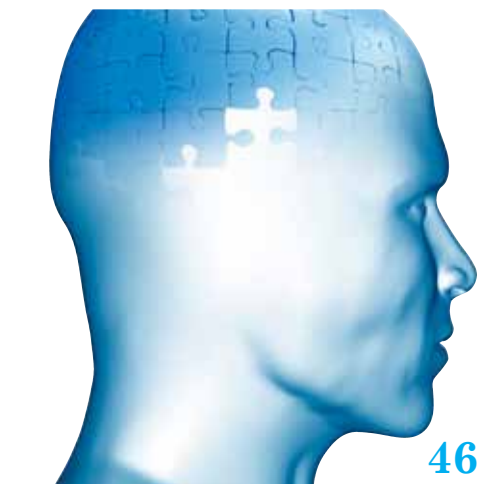
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A new page featuring the industry's best Tweets



**British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association**



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Chris Sealey, gives his thoughts for the month

No rain in Spain...and get well Clive

A few weeks ago I was privileged to attend the FEGGA Conference held near Girona in sunny Spain, and it was interesting to see how so many of their aims align with ours. It was clear they are looking to modernise, and explore exactly how they can best serve the needs of their members.

We visited PGA de Catalunya, venue of the Spanish Open in May, which was just stunning. In many ways the course and setup were similar to those I had seen in Orlando just a couple of weeks earlier. Ransomes Jacobsen gave us an overview of the course's ecology work before Course Superintendent David Bataller gave us a fascinating insight into agronomic work and the course's history.

The educational seminars were excellent and it was also a terrific opportunity to catch up with brand new equipment from Campey, Toro and Syngenta. John Deere also presented a 'Q&A' session with a difference where you 'interviewed' other delegates, which was good fun!

I then headed to Dunfermline for the Scottish Regional Conference. It was superbly well-attended with over 200 delegates. Scottish Regional Administrator John Young had arranged a terrific line-up of speakers - Paul Miller from SRUC Elmwood, Gordon Moir from St Andrews, Alistair Eccles from Germinal Seeds GB, Cameron McMillan from Queenwood, Stuart Green from our L&D Department, Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity and Steve Chappell from Gleneagles. A superbly varied range of presenters and topics, and I know each and every person there will have learnt so much from the day. I would like to personally thank the Scottish Region for inviting me to attend and the fantastic hospitality and friendship shown to me on the day.

My next port of call in a very busy month was Walton Heath Golf Club for the South East Annual Golf Day. This was yet another very well supported event on a great golf course. I played alongside Jim Croxton and successfully managed to drag him down to my level with a particularly poor round! Sadly my excuse that I'd barely played in months seemed to fall on deaf ears. This is now the tenth successive year the event has been held at Walton



Chris with David Langheim MG, a prize winner at the SE Golf Day

"It's great a club so prestigious is backing this important event in the greenkeeping calendar"

Heath, and I think it's great that a club so prestigious is backing this important event in the greenkeeping calendar. Long may it continue.

Unfortunately one key figure was missing from the day. As many of you will know our South East Regional Administrator and former Chairman Clive Osgood has been unwell and was unable to attend. Clive - it wasn't the same without you, and everyone at the Association and in the industry wishes you a full and speedy recovery.

Next up was the Board Meeting at BIGGA House. It's fair to say that following a very positive BTME, things are on the up and it was a productive meeting. Now the dust has settled I have one important message you will hear me returning to during my time as Chairman because I feel it's critically important.

All members should remember that BIGGA is a members Association. The structure that was put in place at the very

beginning is there to ensure the voice of the grassroots greenkeeper is heard and that there are open lines of communication to the team at BIGGA House and to the National Board. If you have any questions or ideas please don't hesitate to talk to your Section or Regional committee members. They'll be able to answer many of your questions and will give your ideas their full consideration.

At Chippenham we will shortly be opening three of our new holes as part of our project to extend the course. We've managed to overcome one problem I've heard many greenkeepers mention recently. Because of the terribly wet winter, we struggled to get hold of any turf. Now it's finally been delivered, it's drying out and dying! Just another example of the challenges Mother Nature poses for us greenkeepers.

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SCOTTISH PATRONS AWARD

The Scottish Region has relaunched its Patrons Award Lunch which was held at The Dormy Clubhouse Gleneagles. This event enables the region to thank our Patrons for their generous support of the association in Scotland during the course of the year and at the same time recognise the five section winners of the Patrons Award.

Through the support of our Patrons, the Scottish Region is able to provide the winners with a prize of attending BTME. The prize fund of £500 per member entitles each to accommodation for three days, a contribution to their travel expenses and most importantly, the region will pay for seminars of the members choosing from the Continue to Learn programme.

The section winners for 2013 were:

- Ayrshire Section – Gregor Wilson, Greenkeeper at the Turnberry Resort
- Central Section – Craig Boath, Head Greenkeeper at Carnoustie Golf Links
- East Section – Alan Campbell, Greenkeeper with Edinburgh Leisure
- North Section – Dennis Green, Head Greenkeeper at Huntly Golf Club
- West Section – Bryan Ramsey, Greenkeeper at Glasgow Golf Club

Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara hosted the lunch and welcomed the guests, introduced the award winners and also our presenters Scott Fenwick, Courses and Estates Manager for Gleneagles and Sami Strutt, Learning and Development Manager from BIGGA. Scott providing an excellent and detailed presentation on the preparations for that small tournament to be held in Scotland during September called the Ryder Cup. Sami then followed, providing key details on BIGGA's future education programme and objectives.

Without the patronage scheme in Scotland, the region would not be in a position to target its main objectives:

- Fully recognising greenkeeping as a profession in clubs
- Increasing education opportunities for all members
- Improving networking opportunities
- The promotion of BIGGA as a professional association

The association would like to place on record their appreciation of the support the patrons give the Scottish Region. Your support is invaluable in providing a service to the members through the various events that have been mentioned. Our thanks

to you and on behalf of BIGGA Scottish Region we look forward to continuing our relationship.

Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara said: "I am sure that the Patrons Award will become a prestigious award in Scottish greenkeeping circles over time. Our patrons generously provide funds to the region and it is vital that we use these funds to promote education among our members.

"Previous winners have included greenkeepers from various types of courses and trainees. This fits in with the aim that BIGGA is all-inclusive and that greenkeepers from all backgrounds should be encouraged to involve themselves."

Over to the winners! How did they gain from the award? Alan Campbell said: "The awards lunch at Gleneagles was a fabulous start to the whole process, delicious lunch followed by an entertaining and educational afternoon of awards and presentations. It was good to meet some of our Patrons and award winners from other areas and really interesting to learn about the big build up to the Ryder Cup. I would highly recommend that greenkeepers are active in their local section activities and sign up for BIGGA's CPD programme."



Craig Boath added: “BTME encompasses every product in the industry including course furniture, drainage, fertilisers, grounds care machinery and equipment, irrigation, mowers, soil biology, spraying, turf and seeds, water, lake and pond management, wetting agents and so much more. If you have never been to BTME or even thought about going, for me the opportunity to not only catch up on advancements in machinery and agronomic technology at the exhibition but also to meet a lot of professional people is invaluable.”

Gregor Wilson added: “Having been nominated by my colleagues in the Ayrshire Section to receive the 2014 Patron’s Award, I was delighted to be recognised by the Association and receive the funding towards education and development.”

Bryan Ramsey said: “I managed to do a bit of networking at BTME, seeing some old and new faces. It was great to get some ideas from guys who are higher up the ladder, also just getting my name out there should help me in my career. Hopefully I will get the chance to visit BTME again as I love my job, and hope I can work my way up the ladder to be a head man someday.”

Dennis Grant commented: “I chose to attend lectures on grass identification and dealing with conflict at BTME which I found very interesting and useful. The grass identification lecture was a great opportunity to brush up on my basics from college. Dealing with conflict was very interesting and showed me how I can improve my interactions with people using better body language and word choice.”

“It has made me feel like I am more prepared to deal with certain difficult situations.”

“After attending BTME and considering how beneficial I found the seminars and classes, I am keen to learn as much as possible to improve my knowledge as best I can.”

“I feel that receiving the patrons award has been a big boost to my confidence in my own abilities and hope this could potentially lead to bigger opportunities down the line in my career.”

John Young

Anyone reading this article should feel free to offer any comment on this award to either their section committee, regional board, or to John (Regional Administrator).



TOP LEFT: Craig Boath. TOP RIGHT: Dennis Grant with Scott Fenwick. ABOVE LEFT: Gregor Wilson. ABOVE RIGHT: Bryan Ramsey



FANTASTIC TURNOUT AGAIN FOR SCOTTISH CONFERENCE

Yet again the Scottish Conference had a fantastic turnout with over 200 delegates coming along to the Carnegie Conference Centre on Tuesday 4 March. Scotland Regional Administrator John Young reports...

Delegates were treated to presentations covering a diverse range of topics throughout the day with the double act of Paul Miller from SRUC Elmwood and St Andrews' own Gordon Moir kicking off proceedings with the tale of Kingarrock Golf Club in Fife. This little known course is dedicated to tradition with players using 'Hickory' clubs and a mix of techniques employed. David Anderson, proprietor of the course, attended the day as a guest of the Region and commented that he thoroughly enjoyed all presentations as well as being thankful for the promotion of Kingarrock to our members.

Alistair Eccles from Germinal Seeds GB then had the unenviable task of following on from Paul and Gordon by delving into a subject that permeates across the country - 'To overseed or not to overseed, that is the question?'. Alistair performed extremely well on the day considering that this was the largest audience he has faced and left our delegates to ponder the methods used at their own courses.

Cameron McMillan from Queenwood Golf Club in Surrey provided a presentation on this prestigious club and the maintenance issues that he has faced over the years. Included in his presentation was the remarkable story of having to redesign 22 greens in 10 days! I'm sure all in attendance were left in awe at the job required and other maintenance required to meet member expectations at Queenwood.

During the split lunch break, Stuart Green, Learning & Development Executive (Technical) from BIGGA House provided delegates with an overview of the CPD programme



that should help them understand the benefits of this greatly improved system.

Once everyone was fed and watered, Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara took to the stage to reflect on his first 12 months in office and his hopes for the year ahead, paying particular attention to the development of a regional website to improve links between members and patrons while also enhancing links between sections, regions and the national association. Andy then introduced the National Chairman Chris Sealey. He began by thanking the region for inviting him to attend the conference and he expressed his hopes for the association in the future, including adding members and providing further education opportunities for all.

The afternoon session then kicked into full gear with Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity providing a talk on climatology and other issues that all greenkeepers must take into account when managing their course. Mark is well known among the greenkeeping community and his talks always hit the mark

as they are so interesting and thought provoking. A number of delegates will no doubt be joining his blog at weather.headlandamenity.com

Scotland has always had a great tradition in all things golf especially through the number of major tournaments that are held in the country. This year of course, a small competition called The Ryder Cup returns to Scotland for the first time since Muirfield in 1973.

Steve Chappell completed our presentation line up by providing delegates with an insight into the changes required to the course prior to the event. He also explored all the peripheral work required in staging one of the biggest sporting events on the calendar. Good luck to Steve and all at Gleneagles with the event, everyone in the association are right behind you guys!

Delegate Robert Patterson, Course Manager at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, spoke for many when he said: "What an excellent conference with very informative speakers passing on a wide range of knowledge. It was a credit to the Scottish region.

Special thanks to my colleagues for assisting on the day. This was a true team effort with Sami Strutt monitoring the timings of the presentations and my fellow Regional Administrators Tracey Harvey (South West & South Wales) and Sandra Raper (Northern and Midlands) for being there to provide an exceptionally welcoming reception desk.

Planning for next year's conference is well under way and indeed all five presentation spaces have been taken already including Steve Chappell returning to let us know his experience of the Ryder Cup.

Thanks to our patrons: Aitkens, Amenity Sales, Bayer, Brysons Tractors, Double A, Everris, Fairways, Farmura, Franklin Soil, Germinal Seeds, Greentech, Hamilton Bros, Hendersons, Hugh King, Indigrow, MacGregors, McNab Sport, Nairn Brown, Oakland Amenity, Rigby Taylor, Scotlube, SGM Contracts, Sheriff Amenity, Souters, Sports Turf Services, Stewart Plant Sales, Symbio, Terra Firma, Thomas Sheriff, Thorntrees, Turf Irrigation Services, Turftec Amenity.