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**JACOBSEN**

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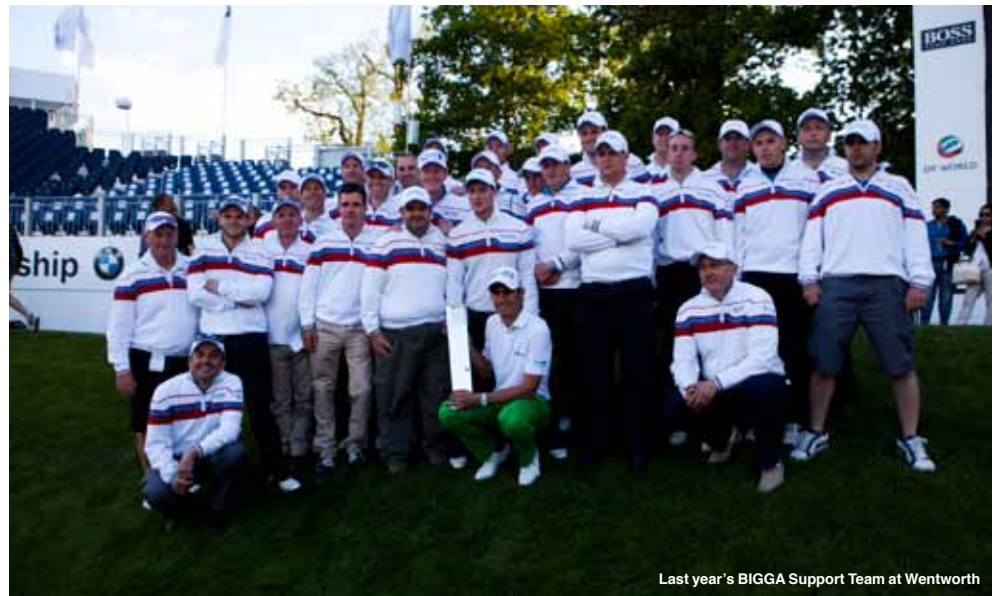


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Last year's BIGGA Support Team at Wentworth

## Xtra incentives for BIGGA members

**A priority for the Association in recent years has been increasing the amount and range of benefits that BIGGA membership brings. Whilst the mission statement of the Association focuses on Continuing Professional Development and raising standards of golf course management, it is important that membership must represent value to each individual member.**

The recent launch of the BIGGA Xtra Benefits Scheme has been a welcome addition in this regard as it provides our members with best in market deals on household and personal spending. Uptake is increasing and many of our members are now benefitting from discounts and offers specifically due to their membership of BIGGA. Additionally, we continue to provide a number of helplines, insurances and the recently launched BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund.

Gratifying that this undoubtedly is, the benefits we offer aimed at career development are far more important in the grand scheme of things and I'm delighted that this area is also very strong. This edition contains a report from the 25th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Luke Turner, on his intense but rewarding trip to America. A glance down the list of former winners gives a clear indication of what a great career development opportunity the Toro award is and I'm really looking forward to meeting up with all of the previous winners later in the year at the 25th anniversary celebration.

**BIGGA offers a variety of benefits aimed squarely at the early years of a greenkeeper's career.**

Complementing the Toro award we have scholarships provided by both Ransomes Jacobsen and Baroness, a refund of educational fees programme supported by our own Learning and Development Fund and the Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen. Our commercial partners are all

highly committed to supporting the Association in its ambitions to provide educational and career development opportunities to its members and I am confident we will add to our provision in the future.

**We also offer opportunities to widen greenkeeping experience at tournaments through Support Teams for both the Open Championship and the BMW PGA Championship.**

This year we have been asked to provide a larger team at Wentworth and I'm pleased but not surprised that we have been able to find sufficient willing and able volunteers. Also this month we preview the forthcoming Open Championship to be held at Royal Liverpool and hear how Links Manager Craig Gilholm and his team have been preparing. This year the BIGGA Open Support Team was again massively oversubscribed with volunteers wanting to play their part at Hoylake.

**I was saddened to learn of the passing of a stalwart of the Toro award, David Blackmur, who guided a number of multiple overall winners through his sterling work at Plumpton College.**

A real character and a hugely knowledgeable lecturer and mentor, he will be sadly missed.



Enjoy the read.

**Jim Croxton, Chief Executive**

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## In the picture

**BIGGA members can win an iPad in this year's Photography Competition - and for the first time you can submit smartphone images.**

Every BIGGA member is able to submit their best photos on their mobile - and these entries are now encouraged as we move to producing a desktop-calender for the first time.

We continue to welcome photos taken on digital cameras. The images will be reviewed at a

We'll also be giving members the chance to pick the winners. A panel at BIGGA House will whittle the entries down to the best 25, then you will be able to pick your favourite through a survey on our website.

The 12 leading entries will be included in the calendar and the winning image overall will win an iPad, plus a large framed version of the image.

We'll also be giving members the chance to pick the winners. A panel at BIGGA House will whittle the entries down to the best 25, then you will be able to pick your favourite through a survey on our website.

16/9 ratio. If you are taking your shot on a mobile phone, please ensure it's taken on the highest resolution setting possible.

To enter, please send your images to [competition@bigga.co.uk](mailto:competition@bigga.co.uk) with 'BIGGA Photo Comp 2014' in the subject field. Please include your name, the club you work at and your membership number.

Also, please state which course your photo was taken at to allow your picture to be considered. Entries are limited at five per person. The closing date for entries is Friday 19 July 2014.

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British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



# Chairman's Word

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

## Spring has sprung with a vengeance

**Having spent the early part of my Chairmanship travelling widely and focusing on Association business it has been good to spend time more recently closer to home where my heart belongs – managing the course here at Chippenham.**

I was honoured to attend the fantastic 2014 Future Turf Managers' Initiative made possible by Jacobsen.

I didn't go last year so it was my first opportunity to see at first hand what a superb event it is.

It's the ideal platform for young greenkeepers who are looking to move up through the ranks.

The mentors who gave up their time were superb, and the experienced presenters – several of whom I caught at BTME – gave a series of excellent seminars.

I'd like to thank the delegates, mentors, presenters and the L&D team at BIGGA House for all their efforts contributing to the success of this second event, and I hope there are many more in the future.

Lastly, I'd like to say how grateful I am to Jacobsen's kind sponsorship, their support was once again tremendous.

Another highlight in March was the South Wales spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl.

I was particularly fascinated by the presentation the Deputy Head Groundsman at the Millennium Stadium, Craig Campbell gave about the challenges posed as they install a new DESSO pitch.

I also enjoyed Jason Brooks' account of working in America, Noel MacKenzie's 'Drainage does work' and Matt Gresty and Andy Laing's seminar on using wildflower on your course.

Section events, be they educational, golf days, course walks or social/sporting fixtures, are hugely important to BIGGA and play a key role in keeping our members connected at local level.

Having a strong network of local peers has been massively important in my career, providing advice, support and a helping hand whenever I've needed them.

It has been my pleasure to be able to return some of that help over recent years, but to this day whenever I attend a Section event I come away having gained some



**“The mentors who gave up their time were superb, and the experienced presenters gave a series of excellent seminars”**

knowledge that can benefit me and my club.

I would love to visit all the Sections during my time as Chairman but sadly it just isn't physically possible! However I will try and get to as many events as I can, and chatting with BIGGA members young and old at these events is a privilege.

I would encourage all members to support the events that many of our members give up their own time to organise.

Spring has finally sprung with a vengeance, which has meant lots of work for us here at Chippenham and I'm sure an extremely busy month for all of you.

We've been getting stuck into all sorts of tasks from putting sand in bunkers to cutting fairways and firing up the irrigation system.

We've dropped our height of cut from 5mm to 4.5mm ahead of dropping it

further to 4mm very soon to give the greens that extra pace.

We have had a problem with leatherjackets, so the article focusing on dealing with them in last month's magazine was particularly timely.

We've been spraying to combat them and it seems to be doing the trick.

We're holding an Open Event on the weekend of 17/18 May where we'll be officially opening our new holes.

The intention is to allow members to play on the first day then hopefully attract lots of visitors and potentially new members on the second.

So fingers crossed for more good weather.

Chris

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# Funding your future

The funding and assistance provided by BIGGA Partners and BIGGA Education Supporters underpins the Association's considerable investment in Continuing Professional Development and all our educational activity. They are investing in the future of BIGGA members, we are hugely grateful and urge you to show them your support





## MY FTMI 2014

Kevin Glazier, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, was one of the delegates on the Future Turf Managers' Initiative 2014 at Ransomes Jacobsen's Ipswich HQ. Here's his report on a "fantastic" week...

On 25 March, the candidates made their journeys from England and Scotland and descended on Ipswich. A tour of the factory was first on the agenda which was a real eye opener for all.

The majority of us take machines for granted when we start work at 6am in the morning, however the attention to detail when a machine is being built is incredible to see from a nut to a cylinder. Jacobsen have a three hole golf course on site which is kept to a high standard by Jamie Hughes – the greens are immaculate. We had the opportunity to play the par three course, and the winner was Gregor Mackintosh from Turnberry with a score of one under par. The day concluded with each delegate completing an 'ice breaker' task, dinner and an insight from Dr Frank Rossi focusing on our futures in the industry.

We had an early start on the Wednesday, with Lorna Sheldon giving a detailed presentation on writing a CV which made us all realise how important CVs really are. Lorna then spoke about all aspects of interview techniques. Effective communication strategies followed later in the morning which was put into practice as we split into small groups to complete a presentation on 'your dream job'. The winner was Sam Evans from Oakland Park Golf Club who spoke about replacing Sam Allardyce at West Ham United. Dr Frank Rossi then returned to present on 'Maximising Performance and Minimising Stress' which we were all lucky

to listen to before he flew back to the States. Frank clearly feels passionately about the subject and was able to present evidence to support his beliefs.

Later in the afternoon, we enjoyed a seminar from one of the mentors, Steve Chappell. Steve is the Head Greenkeeper of the PGA Course at Gleneagles which will be hosting the 2014 Ryder Cup. Steve discussed his career to date and spoke about the volunteering opportunities at tournaments. The evening was completed by dinner and an open forum with Mike Sawicki.

After two intense days the pace continued on the final morning with 'Building a Budget.' This was presented by Lee Strutt MG. Candidates were introduced to budgeting, how to formulate a budget and costings to create their own budgets using Excel. The week was brought to an end by David Bancroft-Turner, who gave a presentation on dealing with club politics. This helped to identify politics in the workplace, how to manage them more effectively, provided tips and suggestions to improve performance and also introduced us to the four different political 'animals'.

For me, being selected for the FTMI was an honour and one that I would strongly recommend to any greenkeeper to apply for. Everyone on the course shares the dream of becoming a Course Manager and the FTMI showed many aspects which you don't think about necessarily when doing the day job.

As one mentor said, being a Course Manager is 10%

greenkeeping and 90% managing. All the seminars were beneficial and highly interesting, but if I had to pick highlights I would go for Lee Strutt's, David Bancroft-Turner's and Steve Chappell's.

Throughout my career I have been told that networking is a great way to learn, meet fellow greenkeepers and get yourself known around the industry.

To speak to 20 other candidates and five mentors was fascinating as you can

discuss aspects of the job you wouldn't normally discuss. The FTMI has made me focus more on what I want from greenkeeping - become a Course Manager.

The skills I have taken away will improve the knowledge and experience I've taken from Gavin Kinsella MG at Royal Mid Surrey.

To conclude this was a fantastic opportunity and one I would like to thank BIGGA and Jacobsen for hosting.



# WALTER HELPS GRADUATES CELEBRATE TURF DIPLOMAS

**BIGGA Life Member Walter Woods helped a dozen graduates celebrate their diplomas in turf maintenance at the home of golf.**

Walter served as Superintendent for the St Andrews Links Trust for 21 years, and was on hand as the 12 graduates from WINSTONuniversity passed their six-month course.

The trip to St Andrews topped off six months of a unique education for golf course and club managers at the university, which is based in Germany and focuses on teaching all manner of disciplines in the turf industry.

During the trip to Scotland the group gained new insights in the maintenance of world class courses like the Duke's Course and the links of Kingsbarns.

On the way to Scotland the group visited the headquarters of Ransomes Jacobsen in Ipswich where they received first hand information on the turf care equipment of one of the world's leading manufacturers.

One of the graduates, Frank Ahern, said: "We not only learnt about turf and resource management but also gained a solid background in the economics and strategic marketing of golf courses."

Ian Butcher, the English director of WINSTONuniversity added: "Proof of how much our graduates are sought after is demonstrated by the fact that all the graduates are now working in



the industry. At present the application process is open for the second course at WINSTONuniversity starting in October. Hubertus von Treuenfels, CEO of WINSTONuniversity, said:

"The demand is already very high. Since we only can accept 20 students per course

we are in a very comfortable situation where we can choose the best applicants. This being said I like to stress that we do not want to deter anyone to apply for the new semester which will start in October 2014 and run until the end of March 2015."

## BIGGA AND EVERRIS PARTNERSHIP

BIGGA are delighted to announce further details of our latest Partnership as we join forces with Everris.

As we announced last month, we've created a series of new packages designed improve the recognition given to our supporters.

We've enjoyed strong links with Everris for many years, who are well-known across the turf industry for developing technologically advanced fertilisers, nutritional programmes, turf seed and plant protection products.

This Partnership will build on our existing relationship while promoting greenkeeper education and promoting new initiatives and events, more details of which will be revealed over the coming months – including the exciting Turf

Rewards initiative.

BIGGA's Business Development Manager Jill Rodham said:

"We're very excited about this partnership which consolidates our relationship with Everris, and will allow us to join forces more effectively.

"It's been a pleasure working with them over the last few years and their status as BIGGA Partner reinforces how much we value their support."

Richard Walton (shown with Jim Croxton), Business Manager at Everris, said:

"As a company, we believe everyone benefits from working and learning together, and we're delighted to have become a BIGGA Partner.

"As new research is carried out and turf management



products and practices develop and evolve, our partnership and the launch of Turf Rewards offers all

greenkeepers the opportunity to develop their own knowledge and expertise both on and off the golf course."





## ON A ROLL IN SWITZERLAND

By using the technique of Koroing, Course Manager Richie McGlynn of Blumisberg Golf Can Country Club, Fribourg, Switzerland, has kept the course fully open during extensive changes.

BIGGA member Richie joined the club in 2011. He found that the fairways in particular had severe problems relating to compaction, excessive thatch and a dominant poa sward, resulting in issues such as dry patch, dieback and chafer grub infestation. So he began the first stage of an ambitious ten-year project to renovate all the fairways without closing any holes. Various renovation practices were considered to achieve this, culminating in the decision to strip the existing turf off the worst areas, decompact the ground and reseed with a new grass mixture.

Richie looked to other sports for inspiration. Knowing how professional groundsman in other sports achieved rapid pitch renovation, he wanted to know if the same method could be applied to golf fairways.

The Koro Field Top Maker is a heavy-duty fraise mower and is a primary tool in the pitch renovation process. It removes unwanted surface matter such as poa-annua, thatch, weeds or the entire surface to a depth of 50mm.

Richie bought a Koro Field TopMaker 1500 complete with digging rotor, an Imants Shockwave 220 and a Dakota 550 trailer.

In October 2012, after using the Shockwave 220 to decompact the fairways down to a maximum of 38cm, the worst part of a fairway was stripped with the Koro. The area was then overseeded with a Vredo Compact seeder, using a mix of 60% Fescue, 20% Ryegrass & 20% Kentucky bluegrass.

Some growth and regeneration was evident before the course went into winter dormancy, but by the time the course reopened in the spring, the results were outstanding.

Richie said: "We are now into the second stage of our ten year fairway renovation project, and I believe we made the right decision not to close any of the holes during the renovations."

"We are taking out sections of fairways one by one. When we tackled the third fairway last July, we removed a third of the section in question and the golfers could play towards the left of the hole.

"We then made three dropping zones for those that were just that bit too far right. Within five weeks we had it open again, first teeing up their shots, and a few weeks later they were able to play normally."

There was some initial opposition from members, but the difference between the untreated fairways and the newly renovated areas soon became very apparent during July and August.

Richie added: "The difference was so striking, that when we came to work on the other side of the fairway, there was far more support this time. In fact two members actually took the trouble to go to the office and remark at the huge difference it had made. So thankfully we seem to be winning the support of the players – which is half the battle!"

The effectiveness of Koroing and the fast recovery period is the secret of Richie's approach.

Over time he will completely renovate the whole course with minimum disruption and maximum improvement for the future quality of golf played at Blumisberg.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY POSTER

A reminder to BIGGA members that the old Health and Safety poster became illegal on 1 April and has been replaced by a new, legal version. For more details visit [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)



## David Blackmur

We are saddened to hear that Plumpton College's David Blackmur has died after a short illness. David Golding, Education Director at The GTC, has paid this tribute.

"David's passion for greenkeeping was second to none and many of today's Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers owe so much to him, as he was not only a great turf lecturer, but one of life's true gentlemen.

"He was synonymous with Plumpton College for nearly 40 years and instrumental in producing students and finalists for the Toro Student of the Year Award.

"I have a contact in BIGGA who has a lasting memory of David dressed immaculately as ever wearing cords and strolling down the Las Vegas Strip with his sunglasses on looking around as if he was in a dream. He could not have been further away from his love of the countryside and his beloved family and Sussex home!

"The GTC's thoughts are with his family and colleagues at Plumpton College. We have lost a true turf legend."