

GREENSIDE

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USING RAINWATER
FOR SPORTSTURF
IRRIGATION

THE GHANA GOLF
PROJECT, PART 2

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- Greenkeeping and the Emotional Toll • Making Difficult Decisions • Regional Reports
- The Irish Abroad - Greenkeeping in Serbia • Sportspitch Drainage • Trade News



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From the Editor



By the time you get this copy of Greenside, the first of the golfing Majors will be about to start - The Masters at Augusta National in Georgia. This is a wonderful time to be a golf enthusiast or golfer and to be able to watch the best players in the world play their best shots. Even if you have no interest in golf, The Masters is a great spectacle to watch – seeing the beautiful Azaleas and Rhododendrons planted around the course, hearing the birds singing and the sight of so many mature trees hugging each golf hole, is like being in a garden of paradise.

The Masters gives a kick-start to the fine weather and encourages summer time golfers to shine up their golf irons in anticipation of the season ahead. But it may not be such a pleasant time for some greenkeepers. I am sure you have often heard stories of club officials putting pressure on the Course Superintendent to make their course as pristine as Augusta, but without the extra financial and staffing inputs required to do so. Maybe you were, or are, a victim of such pressure yourself. This is an unfortunate situation to be in and I hope that these occurrences are becoming less frequent. I would like to think that club officials today realize that such high expectations cannot be achieved without extra resources. Michael Stachowicz gives a heartfelt account on his frustrations dealing with club officials and trying to manage a golf course. You can read about Michael's experiences on page 26.

We all have our pet hates. One of the things that annoy me most is when I am sitting down having a chat with someone and during the conversation they check their mobile phone for text messages or look to see who said what on Facebook and then they apologise and say 'Keep talking I'm still listening to you'.

I got an email request from Michael J. Healy, who is a regular contributor to Greenside. Michael is doing a survey on 'Pet Hates' of Course Superintendents to discover which is the one big problem that irritates Superintendents the most, and which they would like to eradicate permanently from their greens. The findings will be published in the future edition of Greenside, so watch this space.

Alan Mahon

REMINDER

The deadline for receiving advertising and editorial for the next issue of Greenside is:

26 June 2013



Back issues of Greenside can now be seen on the GCSAI website:
www.gcsai.org

Contents

Silvery Thread Moss - Control Methods	8
Communicating Difficult Decisions - Part 2	12
Using Rainwater for Sportsturf Irrigation	16
The Ghana Golf Project - Part 2	20
Greenkeeping and the Emotional Toll	26
The Irish Abroad - Golf Club Belgrade	28
Regional Round-up	33
Sportspitch Drainage	42
Trade News	49



Front cover: Dún Laoghaire Golf Course showing water feature.

Photo: Alan Mahon

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Dates for your Diary



GCSAI AGM | 23 April 2013

The **Annual General Meeting** of the GCSAI will take place at Westmanstown Golf & Sports Centre on Tuesday April 23rd 2013 at 8:00pm. All members of the GCSAI are encouraged to attend as some important matters will be discussed.



Wilderness in a Modified European Landscape: Conference | 14-16 May

Coillte (Ireland's state forest company), in cooperation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Mayo County Council, and supported by Pan Parks and Wild Europe, are organising an international conference on - The Potential and Challenges of Developing Wilderness in Modified European Landscapes, to be held in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, on 14th May - 16th May 2013 during Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Conference will bring together experts, representing national and international organisations, to share information and exchange ideas on current and possible future approaches to rewilding modified landscapes particularly former plantation forests and other impacted landscapes.



The conference will be of particular interest to large land owners, both public and private, who maybe considering re-wilding or wilderness projects in Europe.

Registration for this conference will be €100 and will include the conference dinner and field trip transport. All other travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will be the sole responsibility of the delegates. To register your interest in participating or for further details please email: wildernessconferencemayo@coillte.ie

Bloom | 30 May - 3 June 2013

Bloom, Ireland's largest gardening, food and family event is taking place in the Phoenix Park Dublin over the June bank holiday weekend. (From Thursday 30th May - Monday 3rd June 2013).

Bloom 2012 was the 6th year of the event and continues to attract thousands upon thousands of people every year. Bloom 2012 attracted almost 80,000 visitors to the 70 acre site at the Visitor's Centre in the Phoenix Park, Dublin.



KPMG Golf Business Forum 3-5 June 2013

KPMG has announced the 2013 Golf Business Forum will take place at the Home of Golf, St Andrews, Scotland, June 3-5, 2013.

Fairmont St Andrews will host the special 10th anniversary edition of the annual conference, which has become the most important golf industry event in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, bringing together up to 300 leading players from the golf, real estate, finance and tourism sectors from more than 40 countries. The event, which is being supported by Visit Scotland, Scottish Development International and Fife Council, with the assistance of Golf Tourism Scotland, attracts some of the biggest names in golf, and has previously welcomed golfing icons Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Greg Norman, Sir Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie and Annika Sorenstam. For more information about the Golf Business Forum visit: www.golfbusinessforum.com

2013 Irish Open | 27-30 June 2013

This takes place at Carton House, Maynooth, Co. Kildare from 27th to 30th June. See the best of Europe's best golfers fight it out to win this coveted title. Last year's winner, Jamie Donaldson, will be doing his best to defend his title. The 2012 event, which was held in Royal Portrush, attracted a record number of visitors. John Plummer and his greenkeeping team are preparing the course to be in great condition for the tournament.

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CROKE PARK Open Day



BY MICHAEL MCFEELY

On a wet and overcast day, on the 5th of March, I, and a large number of greenkeepers, sports turf managers, college students, lecturers and many others from the industry, attended, what I would describe as a technical/ education event.

The venue was Croke Park and this event was being hosted and sponsored by Everris, who had put a lot of effort into the planning and securing of Croke Park as the venue.

Colman Warde made us all welcome, introduced the speakers from Everris and explained how the day would be organised.

Dr. Simon Watson started the morning off with a detailed talk on wetting agents, their use in a wet summer, and the research that has been carried out to indicate that they can still be of benefit during wet summers. It was also pointed out that, due to our economic climate, and our recent wetter summers, wetting agents are not used as frequently as they should be. Hopefully we can look forward to better weather during the coming months and put wetting agents to the test.

Simon Barnaby, also from Everris, continued the morning talk, which concerned the recent trials in Powerscourt Golf Club with Primo Maxx.

From the trials we learnt how Primo reacts with other turf products in a tank mix such as liquid feeds etc. The trials also showed the decline in microdochium and also anthracnose. We had a lot of discussion from the audience on this topic and it brought up some interesting questions and created a lively debate.

Colman Warde gave an interesting talk on a number of new products which will be arriving very soon, in particular, a new fertilizer product.

I was able to say a few words on behalf of GCSAI and it is always positive to see so many of our members at these events, so well done to all who made the effort to attend.

After lunch we moved outside to view a practical demonstration on the recently launched Syngenta nozzles. We, as turf professionals, like to see the practical end of our job and this was the perfect example - we could see for ourselves how the nozzles performed on the day in Irish conditions.



Mark Harris demonstrating the new nozzle technique. Photo: Kevin McFeely

This concluded the education part of the event and we then had a choice of a stadium tour or the new skyline roof tour. It was an interesting day and I feel that everyone had a good time, so thanks to Everris, to Colman and the two Simons.



Michael McFeely addresses delegates. Photo: Kevin McFeely

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Top Results

// In 2012 SierrablenPlus was applied to all of the fairways, semi-roughs and greens, and it was evident that the product kept on working right through to the autumn, helping reduce the number of summer foliar treatments required. I like the Sierrablen range and its wide variety of formulations. It's proved itself a quality product that spreads easily and consistently, while delivering the cost-effective results that I've come to expect from Everris.

Sierrablen[®] Plus

// We used SierraformGT K-Step 6-0-27+2MgO+TE (6-0-22.4+1.2Mg+TE) for the first time last year, looking to increase root mass at the start of the year without applying significant levels of Nitrogen, and for pre-stress conditioning, making use of the product's slow-release Potassium. Last year, we put on 95kg of Nitrogen and that was including the K-Step at around 15kg of Nitrogen per hectare per application, so we've reduced inputs of Nitrogen significantly. Very much a believer that 'lean is mean' and that's the way forward. K-Step has certainly set us up for the year ahead.

Sierraform[®] GT

// We started using Greenmaster Liquids Effect Iron Fe in June after moss control trials we'd conducted over the last couple of years. We've now integrated it into our main programme. We tank mix it with a fungicide to get the best results and colour and to make the best use of our time. In the past we used sulphur-based products, sulphate of Iron, but I find that a good chelate of Iron suppresses disease on the greens without overloading on sulphur. We have increased the rate to 30 litres per hectare on fine turf, rather than the 20 litres, and have seen fantastic results.

Greenmaster[®] Liquid

// Working with greatly reduced budgets, I have to get 'bang for my buck' from every single product I use.

Sportsmaster[®] CRF Mini

I applied Sportsmaster CRF mini to our 2 tees, approaches and fairways last June. When costing up this sort of application, I have to consider how long it takes to put the product out, which is why I've opted for liquids over granular in recent times.

When applying fertilizer to fairways, my priority is to control growth and prevent disease. The location of our course is 'Fusarium-heaven'. It follows the path of a river through a steep valley. Our fairways flood frequently, becoming covered in silt, and we have areas which don't receive any sunlight. In the past we've had a lot of disease because too much Nitrogen had been applied. The application of a controlled-release product meant I was able to reduce the number of fairway applications from two to one, where normally I'd be topping them up again in September. Preventing any flushes of growth also helped pull the clip rate right back during the busy period.



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MOSS INVASION ON GOLF GREENS

BY DAVID BEHAN, COURSE SUPERINTENDENT, NAAS GC

SIMON BARNABY, TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, EVERRIS

DR MICHAEL J FOXE, CONSULTANT AGRONOMIST

COLMAN WARDE, EVERRIS

Introduction

Silvery thread moss (*Byrum argentum*) has become a major problem on golf greens in Ireland and is on the increase. The rise in the incidence of silvery thread moss is associated with the development of sand based greens and the desire for increased green performance. *Byrum argentum* invasion disrupts the uniformity of turfgrass and lowers performance and aesthetic quality. This article examines the factors favoring moss development, evaluates results from trials on chemical control and suggests approaches to managing silvery moss.

What is Silvery Moss

Mosses are nonvascular plants that lack roots and a vascular system. They are composed of leafy tissue (thallus) and filamentous root-like rhizoids. The rhizoids form at the base of shoots and anchor the moss in the root zone. Rhizoids and thallus develop from a slimy black mat called the protonema that can be mistaken for algae. Mosses can germinate from spores but are believed to spread through asexual propagation. Silvery thread moss reproduces almost exclusively from the vegetative stage under low mowing on golf greens. Silvery thread moss normally develops under shady and moist conditions but can grow in non shaded conditions during extended periods of overcast and very wet weather.



FIG.1 *Silvery moss on a green.*



FIG.2 *Protonema stage of silvery moss.*

Factors Encouraging Moss Development

Where turfgrass vigour is reduced, leading to sward thinning through poor design, excessive maintenance and high performance expectations, invasion by silvery moss will occur. The major factors that have been associated with moss development are:

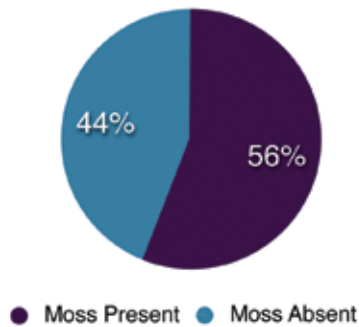
- **Weather conditions** - prolonged wet and overcast weather increases the likelihood of moss development. Overcast conditions reduce photosynthetic efficiency leading to poor turfgrass growth and development, while wet weather means that the green is saturated encouraging moss development.
- **Green design** - severe contouring leads to scalping and thinning of the sward encouraging moss invasion. Commonly, initial moss development occurs on high points on greens.
- **Height of cut** - low heights of cut (below 3 mm) encourage moss development as the green becomes stressed and sward thinning occurs. At very low heights of cut turfgrass cannot photosynthesize properly and becomes less vigorous and stressed leading to a significant reduction in sward density. Increased moss invasion has been observed with heights of cut of 3mm compared to 4mm.
- **Thatch depth** - increasing thatch depth encourages moss development due to moisture retention at or near the surface of the green.
- **Root zone conditions** - impaired percolation rates lead to moisture retention at or near the surface of the green encouraging moss development. This is the development of perched water tables at or just below the surface of the green.
- **Nutrient concentration** - very high or low nitrogen levels increase the likelihood of moss development. Fertilising with liquid nitrogen only will increase moss development. Low potassium levels, which are common in all sand based greens in Ireland, increase susceptibility to moss invasion. Excessive nutrient inputs will increase moss development by encouraging excessive thatch development that will disrupt water infiltration.

Almost all of these factors play a role in the development of moss on sand based greens in Ireland.

A survey was carried out in 2011 among golf superintendents to gain an understanding of the factors that they considered most important in encouraging moss development. Survey questionnaires were sent to 30 superintendents. The results of the survey are illustrated in the following pie charts (FIG 3 - 6).



Fig. 3 Golf Greens with Silvery thread Moss

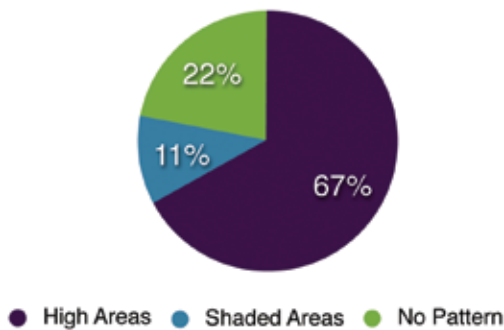


The results of the survey show a high prevalence of silvery thread moss on sand based greens in Ireland. Silvery thread moss was mainly associated with contouring on greens, demonstrating that green design is a major contributor to moss development. Control of moss was achieved mainly using either Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P (sold under the trade name Jewel) or iron sulphate. This clearly shows that low height of cut is considered to be the major cause of moss invasion with other factors, such as, nutrition and verti-cutting considered to have much less importance.

Chemical Control Trials

In an attempt to find the right product and the right product mix for controlling moss, trial work was carried out at Naas Golf Club and STRI in Bingley UK.

FIG. 4 Where Silvery thread moss is most prevalent on greens



Trials at Naas Golf Club

The trials assessed the efficacy of Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P either by itself or in combination with Iron and/or a wetting agent in eliminating moss from trial plots of creeping bentgrass. The trial also looked at the effect of the treatments on the turfgrass; did yellowing of the leaf tissue occur? The results of the trial were:

1. Total blackening of Silver thread moss occurred after 5 days.
2. Spraying can take place year round once air temperature is above 6C.
3. Mixing chelated Iron with Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P prevents phytotoxicity from developing.
4. Tank mixing liquid iron with Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P improved its efficacy against moss and increased turfgrass recovery.
5. Best results were obtained using Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P with liquid Iron in the morning on a dewy green followed by a dew brush. 25% Chemical Application of Sulphate of Iron No control Measures
6. Best results were obtained by hand picking silvery thread moss days after spraying.
7. The trials also showed that in every trial plot redevelopment of moss occurred within 28 days.

FIG. 5 The main factors influencing Silvery thread moss invasion on golf greens

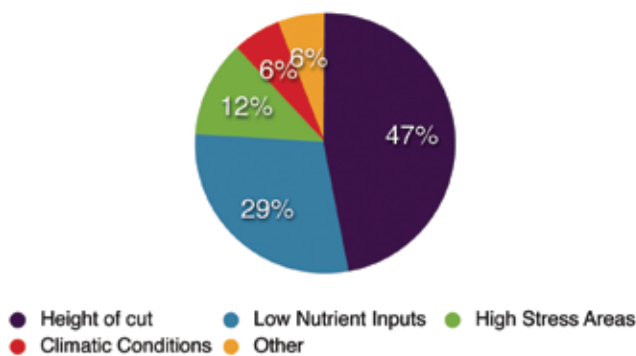


FIG. 6 The main control measures used

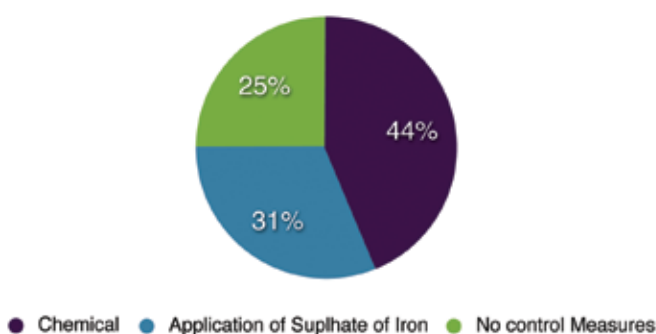


FIG. 7 Assessment of silver thread moss prior to start of trial.



FIG. 8 Effect from Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P, liquid iron and wetting agent on moss development 21 days after treatment.

Moss Control Programme

Following the recent STRI trial we now know that a combination of Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P, liquid iron and a wetting agent creates a good tank mix for controlling moss in turf. In addition, the trials carried out at Naas Golf Club have shown that the following programme is efficient in controlling silver thread moss in fine turf areas.

1. Only use Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P when there is active turf and moss growth, e.g. Mid April/May - September.
2. Lightly irrigate before and after application.
3. Tank Mix Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P with liquid Iron increases moss control performance and enhances turf quality.
4. Wetting agent tank mixed with Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P + liquid Iron application, has improved the control of silvery thread moss – see trial data below.
5. For heavy moss infestations it may be necessary to apply two applications at 21 day intervals.
6. Once the treated area has died off, scarify to remove the dead moss.
7. Overseed the treated area with an appropriate grass seed to restore good turf conditions (following final moss control treatment).
8. Liquid fertiliser applications are recommended after renovation, to encourage new seedling development and aid restoration of the turf area.

These trials, which are continuing, demonstrate that while short-term control of moss can be achieved, long-term exclusion of moss is much more difficult. The main reason for the short term effect of Carfentrazone-ethyl and Mecoprop-P is that the underlying conditions that encouraged moss development in the first place still exist on the green. This suggests that while we can kill moss using chemicals we need to be looking at a moss management programme to prevent its recurrence by understanding and managing the critical factors in moss invasion.

Managing a Moss Management Programme

It is abundantly clear that moss is on the increase on sand based greens in Ireland, and that chemical control measures offer only short-term solutions because underlying conditions on the green encourage moss development. Management programmes focussing on increasing green performance, particularly, green speed, increase stress on greens and reduce turfgrass vigour, leading to moss invasion. This has been the case in Ireland where the desire for green speed has led to widespread use of extremely low heights of cut (below 3 mm), that severely stress greens. We also know that excessive nutrition, thatch buildup and moisture retention in the root zone increase moss development. Bearing this in mind a moss preventative programme should concentrate on promoting healthy turfgrass growth through balanced nutrition, frequent aeration and top dressing, plus a height of cut that does not induce stress in the turfgrass. Nutritional programmes should ensure that excessive levels of nitrogen are avoided and that deficiencies in potassium are corrected. Aeration and top dressing treatments should control thatch development and ensure good moisture percolation in the root zone. The inclusion of root zone improvers, such as, Zeolite in top dressing programmes will increase moisture infiltration and prevent development of perched water tables. Higher heights of cut (>3.5mm) will induce less stress and reduce moss invasion. Green performance, particularly, green speed can be maintained at the higher heights of cut by using good management practices.

In summary, management programmes on greens need to stimulate turfgrass development and minimise stress in order to lower the potential for moss invasion.

For more specific results of these trials, particularly chemical application rates, you can email David Behan at: riveroaks1@gmail.com

Golf Survey Report

A new report supported by FEGGA members has revealed that golf is worth a staggering €15.1 billion throughout Europe. Key economic findings across the 27 European Union nations plus Norway and Switzerland, which represent a combined population of 510 million, show the sport is responsible for a minimum of 180,000 full time jobs and employee wages of €4.4 billion.

And based on models employed by the Australian Golf Industry Council (2010) and Golf2020 in the USA (2011), the results show total expenditure per golfer throughout Europe of €1,911 which is in line with Australia (€1,917) and America (€2,007) golfing counterparts.

While the well-documented economic downturn has hit popular European golf destinations such as Spain and Portugal, golf tourism still contributes €1.5 billion of the annual impact.

On the actual golf course, the strength of the game matches the economic impact with eight European men in the top 20 end of year world rankings and nine women in the top 50 of the Asian dominated standings. International team success is exemplified with the Ryder Cup, Solheim Cup, Walker Cup and Curtis Cup all residing this side of the Atlantic.

In addition golf is also a huge contributor to charitable causes in Europe and last year generated more than €85 million supporting a range of good causes.

A comprehensive report is of great value to all stakeholders in the golf industry. The largely unsung work of FEGGA Member Associations in providing the tools e.g. education, training and personal development has allowed greenkeepers to play a huge part in maintaining and improving golf courses. It is a proven fact that the better the course condition, the more golfers play on it. In delivering acknowledged improvements to the playing conditions, greenkeepers have hugely contributed to the growth and success of the sport, which in turn improves public health and provides endless hours of passtime and pleasure for ordinary people.



Students Get Their Just Rewards



Successful FETAC Level 6 recipients pictured outside the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, Dublin. Photo: Alan Mahon.

It was a big day for fifteen greenkeeping students at the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin last December when they received their FETAC Level 6 Certificates in Greenkeeping.

The certificates were presented to each student by Mr. Pat O'Dwyer of the Golfing Union of Ireland. In an encouraging speech to the students Pat said that a successful career can still be achieved in greenkeeping, despite the difficult times that the golf industry is experiencing. He encouraged students not to miss opportunities abroad. "I was recently in contact with a person who was a student in America only two years ago and I got word from him that he had just been appointed an Assistant on a golf course in the US. I have no doubt that he will return to Ireland as a Superintendent."

John Mulhern, the College Principal, noted that student numbers were down on previous years and thanked the golf clubs and other employers for funding the students to participate on the course.

Declan Nolan from Coolattin Golf Club received the Student of the Year award and was presented with a book from the College and a GCSAI engraved crystal which Michael McFeely, Vice President of the GCSAI, presented to Declan. The Practical Student of the Year award went to James Morgan.

When the students received their certificates, a group photograph was taken in the grounds of the beautiful Botanic Gardens, which was bathed in glorious sunshine. After the photo, family and friends joined with the students for light refreshments.



Left: John Mulhern, Principal National Botanic Gardens; Declan Nolan, Student of the Year, Michael McFeely, Vice President GCSAI; Pat O'Dwyer GUI. Photo: Alan Mahon

Successful FETAC Level 6 Recipients

[Dermot Brian Burke \(Carrick-on-Suir GC\)](#)

[John Cullen \(Killeen GC\)](#)

[Colin Delaney \(Midland Sport Surfaces\)](#)

[Vivian Dwyer \(Foxbrook Landscapes\)](#)

[Peter Keane \(Balinrobe GC\)](#)

[Stephen McCabe \(Blackbush GC\)](#)

[Fionnbhar McHugh \(Hermitage GC\)](#)

[Patrick Meehan \(Ardee GC\)](#)

[Gavin Morgan \(CUS Sportsgrounds\)](#)

[James Morgan \(Mullingar GC\)](#)

[Derek Murray \(Stackstown GC\)](#)

[Declan Nolan \(Coollattin GC\)](#)

[Jason O'Brien \(Malahide GC\)](#)

[Perry Power \(Tipperary Race Course\)](#)

[Aaron Tobin \(Woodlands GC\)](#)

Communicating Difficult Decisions

BY FRANK NEWBERRY

*As discussed in part one, difficult decisions can be very hard to make, and communicating them can sometimes be even harder. In this, the second of two articles, **Trainer and Motivational Speaker Frank Newberry** considers how we can respond positively to the challenge of communicating difficult decisions.*



Sadly, as this deep recession progresses, organisations in the turfcare sector continue to make difficult and unpopular decisions.

Reading this, you too may have recently experienced, or at least know of pay freezes, reduced hours in which to do the same work, friends or relatives that have been made redundant and so on.

Difficult decisions do not get easier once they have been made. Suspicion and intrigue always seem to surround difficult decisions. Is the employer using the recession to get rid of the people s/he does not like? Are they keeping only the less expensive or least assertive staff?

In the case of redundancies there is also 'survivor guilt' to contend with. Those who have kept their jobs (for the time being) feel bad about their workmates losing theirs. Their ex-workmates even turn up at work or social events wearing their 'victim' status for all to see. Meanwhile the guilty survivors buy them a drink and wonder who will be next for the chop.

People still 'bottle out' when communicating difficult decisions

Having experienced both being made redundant and having to make other people redundant it is with concern that I view the extent to which people still 'bottle out' when

communicating difficult decisions. It is as if supervisors and managers are not aware that those still in work, are judging them by their performance in these difficult situations.

If bosses want their work teams to do the same work (or even more) with less people then they need to be seen to be handling these situations competently and fairly.

How bad news is being delivered

You may have heard the news stories about redundancy notices being texted to people, or even a survey that revealed the primary methods used by organisations to deliver bad news to be:

29%	E-mail message
19%	Face-to-face meetings with direct supervisors
18%	Face-to-face meetings with senior managers
12%	Letter or memo from senior managers
8%	Internal employee website
6%	Teleconference/videoconference
3.5%	Organisation newsletter
0.5%	None
4%	Other

It is rather sobering, to see the number of organisations that let the internet deliver their bad news for them.

Russell Grossman (a senior manager at the BBC) put it best for me when he said: "Difficult news is best received from people you trust ... the more leaders cultivate trust when times are good, the more they will reap the benefits when the cream turns sour."

For the purposes of this article I will assume that you will be asked (like I was) to have face-to-face meetings with people to give them the bad news. Some good advice on what to say was given by a man called Bob Kustka, (formerly with the Gillette Corporation).

He said there are a few things to remember when delivering a difficult message.

1. 'First, whenever people receive negative information, there is a tendency to go into selective listening mode. This means you will need to choose your words carefully so your message will be understood.
2. Be empathetic, but do not say things like "I know how you feel," "I wish I didn't have to do this," or "This isn't my decision" because if you're delivering the bad news, you're accountable and need to support the decision of management.
3. Lastly, plan your meeting. Don't wing it. Write down what you intend to say to make sure you cover all the key points.



Always be firm yet professional and you will be able to get the right message across.

You may find it more practical and cost-effective to have group meetings followed by one-to-one sessions with those involved.

You will need to factor in that - well before the facts emerge - there will be rumours about what is happening and who is to go. Some of it will be surprisingly accurate. A lot of it will be quite wrong but people will believe it in the absence of an official statement from someone they trust.

People are already on their guard and have been for some time now

The problem I had when I was required to make people redundant was that the gossip had taken hold well before we knew precisely who was going to be made redundant.

The situation I faced is likely to recur now that we have a recession as pervasive as the one we have now. People are already on their guard and have been for some time now.

I have spoken to one person in the turf sector who is changing jobs to go somewhere more secure - even though it will be at a lower level and for less pay.

There are many people who will experience fear as a motivating force

The gossip, the rumours, the 'hoping for

the best' and 'fearing the worst' is a very natural reaction but we need not let it sabotage what we are trying to do. So what exactly are we are trying to do?

We should be seeking to maintain morale and motivation - at a difficult time - so that work performance does not suffer. There are many people who will experience fear as a motivating force. They will work harder in the hope that they will keep their job that way.

Here then is an acronym I like to use to help smooth the transition of changes in the workplace and minimise the gossip and the rumours. It is formed from the word CHANGE.

Communicate Frequently

Gossip never sleeps so have weekly updates on the ongoing situation at work.

Help Understanding

Put it in writing, put dates on the changes, and check understanding regularly.

Answer Questions

Put FAQ's (frequently asked questions) in writing, be patient as people come to terms with the bad news, sensitive repetition will help people to understand.

Never be Cynical

Put up, or shut up. If you do not agree with the changes then get the answers you need to be able to communicate the bad news. If you are cynical it gives everyone else permission to be the same, and then things could get much worse.

Get Ideas

Ask for ideas. People may be much closer to the problems than you are. Ask team members what they can do to help the transition to succeed. Set a good example yourself and then ask staff to do their best.

Explain the Benefits

Get the team engaged in the process of change by explaining the benefits i.e. the organisation survives, the team pulls together, we help each other, efficiencies and economies emerge.

Good luck communicating those difficult decisions. I hope you never need it.

Frank has been coaching and training groundsmen and greenkeepers for over 20 years. If you need a little help with communicating difficult decisions you can reach Frank via the contact tab of his personal website www.franknewberry.com
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GCSAI Members Survey 2013

A sincere thank you to all of our members, who took the time to participate in our recent survey. We had a huge response rate, far exceeding our most positive expectations. Respondents had varied roles and were from across the country.

Like many industries, the golf industry in Ireland is experiencing extremely hard times and, as a result, greenkeepers are dealing with a great deal of change. To help ensure our Association is aligned to the views of its membership, the National Executive of the GCSAI took on the task of gathering as much feedback as possible. We are now taking that feedback and using it to drive meaningful change.

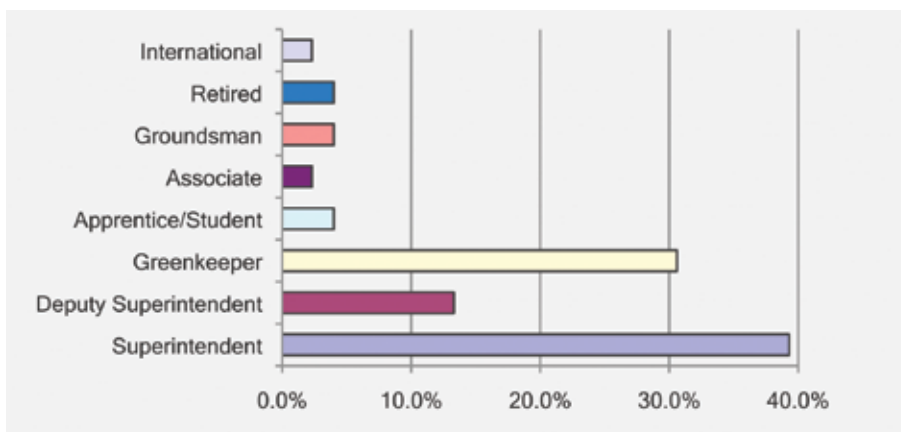
One of the first changes asked for in the survey was to change the name of the association. As you see in Fig.3, 63.5% of respondents would like the name to be “Irish Greenkeeper’s Association”, 28.8% would like to continue as “Golf Course Superintendent’s Association

of Ireland” and 7.6% people suggested an alternative. Based on this feedback it is clear that the majority would like a name change. As all of our members would have noticed, this is already being pushed forward. We combined the preferred names into a new list, which was included in the member renewal pack. Please complete the form and return it to ensure that your opinion is counted.

Over the coming months you will see survey feedback being incorporated into our activity. Additionally, the National Executive will continue to reach out to you to ensure that activity aligns to the ever changing environment.

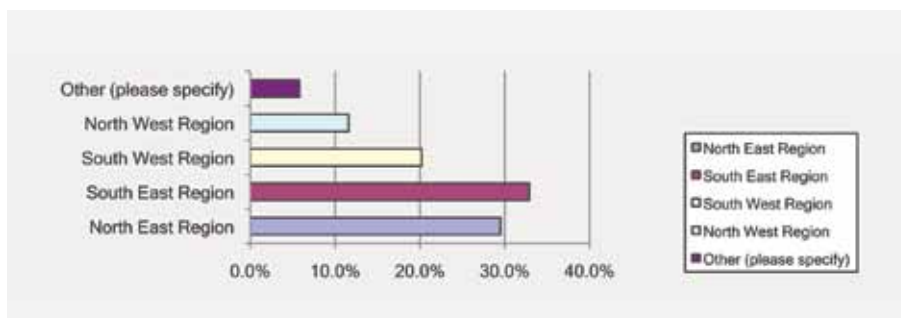
Which word best describes your current job/membership type?

Fig. 1	Percent Response
Superintendent	39.3%
Deputy Superintendent	13.3%
Greenkeeper	30.6%
Apprentice/Student	4.0%
Associate	2.3%
Groundsman	4.0%
Retired	4.0%
International	2.3%



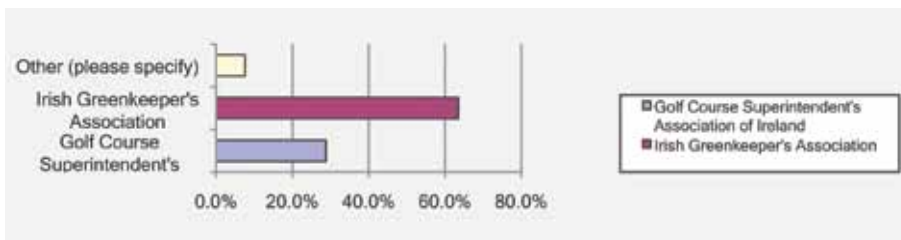
Which region are you a member of?

Fig. 2	Percent Response
North East Region	29.5%
South East Region	32.9%
South West Region	20.2%
North West Region	11.6%
Other	5.8%



What do you think is the most appropriate name for our organisation?

Fig. 3	Percent Response
Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Ireland	29.5%
Irish Greenkeepers Association	63.5%
Other (please specify)	7.6%





Bullfinches Remain Faithful to their Partners

NATURE ON THE GOLF COURSE BY JIM HURLEY



Male Bullfinch. Photo: John Keogh

Anois Teacht an Earraigh. Now that Spring has arrived it is great to hear the birds singing again in the mornings. Among our feathered friends, singing is part of the process of reproduction, of securing and holding territory and of attracting a mate.

For many birds, pairing at this time of year is for practical reproductive purposes, without any long-term commitment. However other species, like the Bullfinch, remain faithful to their partners all year. They stick together and nurture their pair bond outside of the breeding season giving them a head start when spring arrives.

You may have noticed during winter time that if you spot a Bullfinch it is often usual to see two birds together rather than one on its own. Bullfinches are scarce in my neck of the woods so winter is the best time to see them when the thin resident population swells with an influx of birds from mainland Europe driven ahead of harsh weather conditions there.

If you do see a pair of Bullfinches, be they locals or immigrants,

the difference between the sexes is immediately striking. Both genders appear to have no necks, a condition known as 'bull-necked,' hence their common name.

In addition to the bullish neck, both sexes are stocky and plump-bodied for their size. Both have big heads and short, stubby bills. Both have jet, glossy black caps and faces. Both have similar markings with one striking difference. The chest and under parts are pinkish-red in the male but are grayish-buff in the female.

And if either bird flies away it shows a white rump patch in sharp contrast with its all-black long tail.

Bullfinches will come to garden bird tables but they are naturally shy birds that do not like to stray far from the thick cover of dense hedgerows. Their short stubby bills are designed for cracking open and crushing seeds, berries and fruit. They are mainly vegetarian and feed on a range of plant parts. They have a particular taste for buds of Hawthorn, Cherry, Ash and Oak.

Their habit of feeding on buds does not endear them to those who keep apple trees and other fruit crops. In orchards and fruit farms Bullfinches are regarded as pests.

The normally vegetarian Bullfinch parents feed their newly-hatched young on insects to give them the nutrients they need for a good start in life. However, when the young fledge they become vegetarians.



Using Rainwater for Sportsturf Irrigation

BY DR. IAIN JAMES



What is Rainwater Harvesting?

Rainwater Harvesting collects rainwater from roofs using standard guttering, filters it to remove debris and then stores it in an underground/above ground tank. The stored water is then pumped to the area to be used in irrigation. Where supply is sufficient (areas of high rainfall) harvested rainwater can also be used to flush lavatories, supply washing machines and clean vehicles.

Once the collection system has been installed, the water supply is free and the only on-going costs are pumping the water to irrigate, regular maintenance and system depreciation.

The suitability of rainwater harvesting will depend on a number of things:

1. The amount of water you use, both in terms of annual requirement and peak demand.
2. The amount and intensity of rainfall in your area.
3. The area of roof that you have to collect the rain from (including the pavilion roof and any outbuildings such as grounds sheds).

It is important to look at how much water you will need, how much can be collected

and when it will be available very early on when considering rainwater harvesting. It might be that at some facilities with small roof area and low rainfall, rainwater harvesting will not be suitable.

It is also possible to collect rainwater from paved areas but this can become contaminated with hydrocarbons and other pollutants from cars and animals, all of which need to be removed by filtering and treatment, so is generally less suitable than water collected from roofs.

The quality of water should be checked regularly to ensure it will not endanger players during or after pitch or course watering. The microbial quality of water should be checked, particularly where large bird populations, can foul roofs and cause contamination.

It is possible to put a back-up supply of water from the public mains water supply to top up the tank in dry periods but this must be compliant with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 in its prevention of backflow of rainwater in the public mains water system and can mean that the system cannot be used during water restriction periods.

The storage tank is usually underground to insulate it from heating and light from the sun, which limits the growth of algae and bacteria that can harm water quality. It also means that the drainage levels to the tank are easy to manage. It might be cheaper however to have an aboveground tank, where site conditions allow. The tank is equipped with an overflow device so that when the tank is full, excess water is diverted into either a soakaway or a sewer.

Designing and Installing a Rainwater Harvesting System

Using an experienced rainwater harvesting consultant is essential in the design and installation of a rainwater harvesting system, as the following issues must be considered:

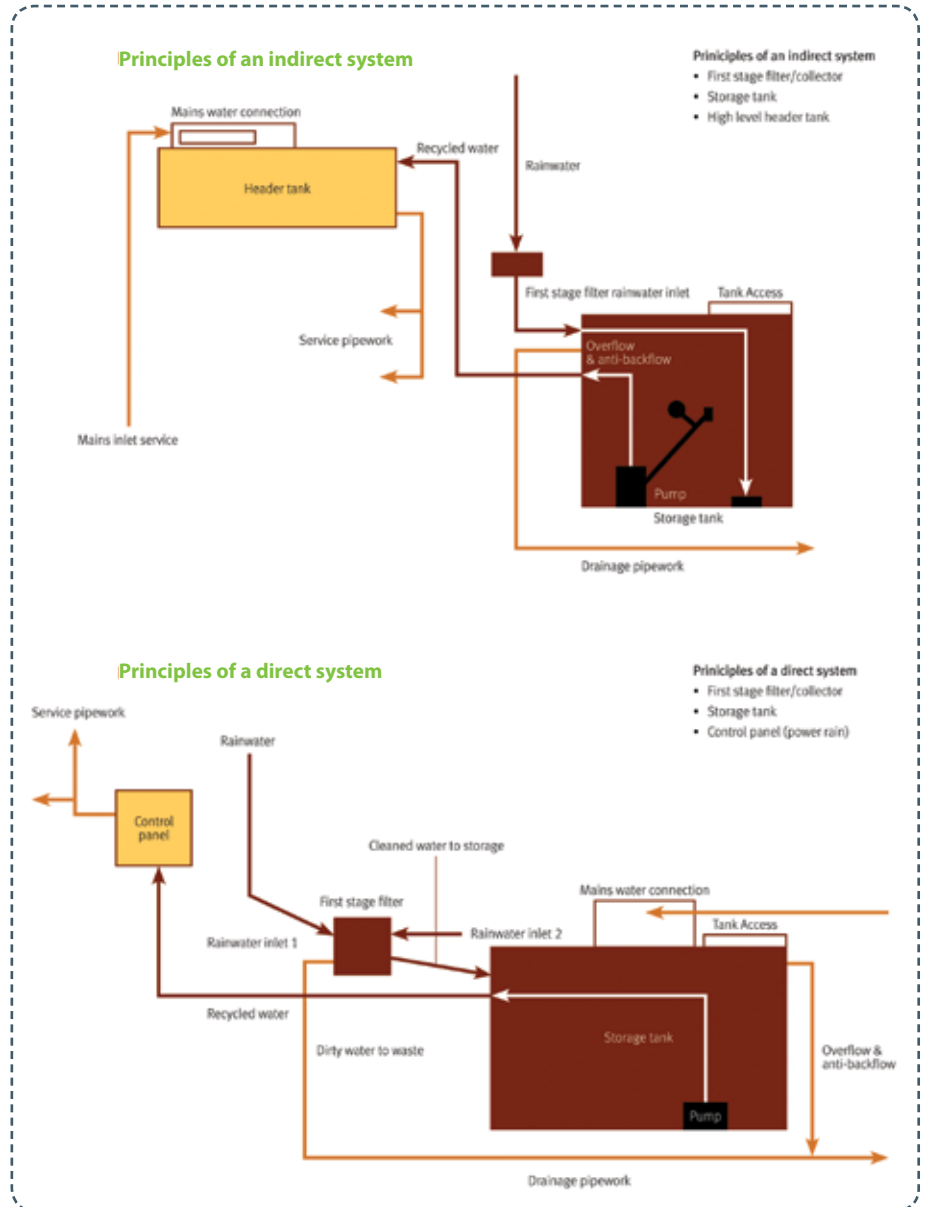
1. Planning permission might be required, particularly where underground tanks are being installed. You should consult your Local Planning Authority as soon as possible to determine whether this is the case.
2. The specification of storage tank size and pumping system can be complicated and require specialist data and analysis. The design of a rainwater harvesting system needs to consider the demand for water from irrigation (and other potential uses such as lavatory flushing) and the supply of water from rainfall. Those calculations should consider any potential effects of climate change on both rainwater supply and irrigation demand.
3. The plumbing of rainwater and public mains water must be kept separate.
4. The tank must be installed so that it isn't loaded or floated by groundwater variations, or crushed by vehicle traffic – but it must be adequately and safely vented.
5. The pumping and control system needs to function properly.
6. The system needs to be designed so that filters and tanks are accessible for maintenance but not by unauthorised persons as confined spaces and stagnant water can be a risk.
7. Design needs to consider water quality for safe irrigation.
8. Excavation of soil at depth can result in subsidence and collapse that can cause death - all excavations need to be conducted in a safe manner by experienced personnel.

Experienced sports turf irrigation consultants should be able to assist in designing a rainwater harvesting system.

Including a Backup Supply

Whether or not to include a backup supply from public mains water must be considered carefully. A backup supply is essential if a lavatory flushing system is incorporated, otherwise it will not be possible to flush during extended periods of dry weather - particularly if storage is insufficient.

Public mains water back up supply must be protected from backflow of rainwater into the public mains supply – this will require the installation of a cistern with an air gap. You should consult an experienced plumber/fitter. The control system (that operates the pump) should be designed so that it indicates when the back-up system is in use.



Including a backup supply might mean that the system cannot be used during certain water restrictions (e.g. a hose pipe ban) because the system could be running on the back up supply only during very dry periods. If the water is to be used for irrigation only, it might be preferable to install the rainwater harvesting supply in parallel with any existing public mains supply (ensuring there is no chance of back flow into the public mains supply). You should speak to your system designer/installer about this.

Overflow

Storage tanks should be fitted with an overflow so that the roof drainage system does not back up when the tank is full. It is essential that the bore of the overflow is larger than the bore of the inflow but there is a choice of where the overflow should connect to.

It might be possible to connect the overflow to the stormwater sewer on site but this

puts load on the stormwater system during high intensity rainfall events and your water company could charge you for stormwater drainage.

A preferred option would be to divert the overflow into a soakaway system which allows the excess rainwater to infiltrate into the soil at depth over time - ultimately this water is used by plants or becomes groundwater. This has the benefits of reducing load on the sewer system during high intensity rainfall events and reduces the area of impermeable drainage into the public sewer, reducing any surface drainage charges the club might be liable for. It is preferable to locate soakaways outside the playing area and away from routes used by maintenance machinery including mowers and rollers.

Benefits of Rainwater Harvesting

- Rainwater Harvesting is a highly sustainable source of water for irrigation

because water is diverted from stormwater drains and used on site.

- The issues related to water resource supply and protection associated with surface water abstraction are not applicable to rainwater harvesting.
- The source of water is free. The rain is not owned by water companies, and they will not charge for its use in this way.
- As well as saving public mains water on grounds maintenance, harvested rainwater can also be used to reduce water consumption in the clubhouse by using it to flush lavatories for example.
- When tank capacity is large relative to rain supply and/or overflow is diverted to a soakaway, the system can help attenuate stormwater, reducing flooding risk.

Disadvantages of Rainwater Harvesting

- System design must consider supply versus demand. If there is insufficient rainfall, roof space and/or storage the system will run out of water during dry periods. Appropriate design is critical.

How to determine need for rainwater harvesting

Businesses can determine their need for rainwater harvesting by assessing their water usage bills. It is also beneficial to assess how much water on the premises is used for potable activities and how much for non-potable activities.

Step 1: Quantify the amount of water you currently use.

This can be done by checking recent water bills. It would also be useful to create a spreadsheet to record your water consumption for different seasons of the year. This will allow you to see the effect rainwater harvesting is likely to have on your cost.

Step 2: Quantify the maximum water you can harvest in a year. This can be done by using the following equation:

$$\text{Annual rainwater yield (Y) in m}^3 = P \times A \times 0.8$$

Where P = annual precipitation in metres
A = collection area in metres squared

0.8 = typically you should expect to collect 80% of this rainwater each year due to losses in filtering and small rainfalls that do not generate enough runoff.

Step 3: Quantify the cost.

Check your water bills to find out how much you pay for water and how much you could save by using rainwater instead.

It is strongly advised that sportsclubs appoint a suitably qualified and experienced consultant in planning and executing any work of this type. The reader should note that this advice is for the production of water for irrigation only and not for drinking. In any case the water produced should be routinely tested for water quality for irrigation purposes.

Guidance written by Dr Iain James, Cranfield University on behalf of England Cricket Board (ECB).

Version 1 - 15/03/2012

TRIP TO GLENEAGLES



The GCSAI are organising an educational trip to Gleneagles Golf Resort next October, the exact date is still to be confirmed. Gleneagles will be hosting the Ryder Cup in 2014 so it will be a great opportunity for those travelling to see what preparations are being made for the event. The planned itinerary is as follows:

- Flight to Edinburgh or Glasgow airport
- Bus transport from the airport to Gleneagles
- Walk and talk tour of The PGA Centenary Course (venue of the Ryder Cup 2014)
- Brief tour of the machinery facility
- Overview of the new sub - air system installed on 19 greens in preparation for the Ryder Cup
- Walk and talk tour of the Kings and Queens championship golf courses
- Tour of the resort (if time allows)
- One night accommodation
- Return to Dublin the next day



GCSAI have secured sponsorship from Lely Ireland and Toro for the lunch and bus hire, so the cost to each delegate will be for the flight and accommodation. Up to date members of the GCSAI will get first preference. Any member interested in attending please email Tom Carew on carewtc@yahoo.ie

Greens Survey

You are a practicing golf course superintendent in Ireland and early one morning the Fairy Godmother of putting green turf appears to you and makes the following offer:

“What specific putting green problem would you most like to have go away and never return on your course?!” I will grant you that one wish, but remember; the problem needs to be SPECIFIC, like a specific weed, disease, insect, or other. Please tell me your putting green turf type (bentgrass, annual bluegrass, other), and general location of your golf course (for example, SW Ireland, etc).

Please communicate your wish to Michael J. Healy at: mjhealy@gulftel.com

Mike will summarize your wishes (no superintendents named!), and report back to Alan Mahon at Greenside Magazine.



Rainwater Storage Options

It is important that you have sufficient storage to meet your needs and can accommodate the amount of water to be harvested. It is also recommended that the tank should be sized, so that it overflows at least twice a year to remove floating debris.

Above Ground Storage

There is usually adequate space on the course for the use of above ground storage tanks and, the height of modern maintenance facility and clubhouse buildings is sufficient to enable rainwater harvesting by gravity. Where tanks are above ground, fitting insulation and frost protection to pipes and pumps close to the tank, is recommended. Covers for the tank are also needed to prevent debris, leaves and access of animals and birds. Covers can be made of the same material as the tank, or with canvas.

The advantages and disadvantages of above ground tanks include:

Advantages

- Ease of inspection.
- Ease of repair and maintenance of the tank and equipment.
- Lighter and less expensive construction.
- Easier to add or increase capacity.
- Lower cost of installation.
- Avoids groundwater problems (high water table).

Disadvantages

- Risk of frost damage to the pipe and equipment.
- Occupies ground space.
- Susceptibility to damage/vandalism.
- Appearance.
- Requires a cover.
- More susceptible to algal growth and poor water quality.
- Requires a tank specifically designed for use above ground.

Underground Storage Tanks

Many RWH systems use underground storage tanks. Installing a tank underground will result in additional installation costs in excavating the ground and, where water tables are high, securing the tank - however, there are also a number of advantages. An underground storage tank is used at Humberstone Golf Course in Leicestershire, UK, which aimed to keep the stored water out of view.

Advantages

- It helps to prevent algal growth by shielding the tank from daylight.
- Protects the tank from extreme weather conditions such as frost damage.
- Protected against mechanical damage.
- Helps to regulate the water temperature in the tank, keeping it cool and limiting bacterial growth.
- Saves space on site.
- Hidden from view at ground level.

Disadvantages

- Additional cost of excavation.
- Additional cost of installation, particularly in high water tables.
- Less accessible for inspection and maintenance.

Reservoirs

Where water is collected over a large area, such as on polythene tunnels or glasshouses, a clay or synthetic lined reservoir is often used. More information on what you need to consider before constructing a reservoir can be found in 'Thinking of an Irrigation Reservoir' booklet. Copies of this booklet are available from the UK Environment Agency by contacting them on 0044 8708 506506 or by downloading it from the Publications Catalogue at: <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/>



Be aware of health and safety when using above ground stores



A new large above ground store

THE GHANA GOLF PROJECT - PART 2



BY BARRY DRENNAN



Barry Drennan and Stephen Mackey from Reeltech Ltd/Irish School of Golf Course Mechanics (ISGCM) returned to Ghana to complete the Machinery Installation and training on three golf courses for Paul McGinley Golf Course Design and Tullow Oil as part of the Golf Projects. The Ghana Golf Projects have been given a great lift with the appointment of Paul McGinley as the Ryder Cup Captain for 2014. "Paul is a great visionary and has been actively involved in every aspect of the Ghana Projects" says Barry "his leadership of the entire Ghana Team bodes well for 2014, he is a gentleman to work for."

It's November in Ireland, the cold weather is really starting to bite and everyone is battenning down the hatches for the winter. When we arrived in the hot and busy city of Accra, Ghana, West Africa to complete Phase 1 of the project, it marked 12 months since Reeltech were asked to be involved. Our brief was to deliver three fleets of new and reconditioned used machinery to three golf courses in Ghana and to put together staff training programs to include machinery maintenance and set up, as well as basic greenkeeping tasks.

First we headed to The Royal Golf Club - Kumasi where the container was on site ready for us to unload. The container had been quite badly damaged and had a huge gash across the side, so I was relieved to see that all was fine inside. After unloading we got stuck into the installation and training.

Stephen installed the grinders and tools in the workshop while I concentrated on the machinery operator training. I chose to use two holes to complete the greenkeeper training and go through all tasks of mowing, aeration, spraying, top dressing etc. Every day began with a machine check over, and staff brief, before going through each task on the course. They had a good playing surface on



Left: Barry Drennan, Paul McGinley and Pat Pearmain

some greens and other playing areas but it was badly maintained and they had a habit of cutting the greens in circles rather than up

and down so it was quite easy to make the place look good after a few cuts. At the end of each day the machines were washed down

and stored away. Friday has been declared, "greasing and servicing day". We had brought all the necessary safety gear that we would use in Ireland but it's really hard to instil safe working practice when the common footwear is flip-flops, old golf shoes and bare feet!

As the days progressed I oversaw the team get used to the machines and deal with the different issues that arose (with great help from Kofi, the Superintendent and Kwasi, the Club Captain, who had taken time off work to translate and kick ass). It was amazing to see how well the golf course looked after just four days using good machinery and a bit of training.

Stephen spent most of his time in the workshop, training various staff on maintenance and sharpening. After a slow start and almost fear of using the new equipment, he managed to get things moving.

They were then all quite clear about their new routines. There were some issues with the power supply which gave us a few problems with the grinders and the compressor. The available voltage in the building varied from 170V - 198V so everything struggled. They told us that even in the clubhouse they struggle with low voltage issues.

As I felt that we might not get the



Barry with some of the staff at Achimota Golf Club

“

On our final day we spent some time going through their existing machines and we got their ride-on mower going which has been sitting idle for over a year.

maintenance staff up to a self-sustaining level in such a short period, we invited two local mechanics to take part in the training. They had a good understanding of the machines and were used to keeping things going with very little resources (something I have seen a lot of in Ireland over the last few years!). They were quick to get involved and I am in no doubt that they will be able to grind the cutting units and change the blades, oils etc., alongside the course staff, in effect continue the training when we are gone. We have also left them a login access to our website which contains all manuals and parts breakdowns. On our final day we spent some time going



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Mowing one of the target greens

through their existing machines and we got their ride-on mower going which has been sitting idle for over a year. After taking six baby rats out of the air filter housing, and draining the water from the fuel system, we fitted a new belt and away she went. The Royal Golf Club Kumasi really embraced the new machinery and training, and I feel that they will look after the equipment, continue with the maintenance and, as a result, they will have much improved playing surfaces. We finished the last day with a much needed cold beer in the golf club bar, where we bumped into Tony Yeboah, a Ghanaian professional footballer who played for Leeds, and is a member of the club. He was delighted to see the improvement in the course having played around the world and knowing the potential for golf in Ghana.

Next stop Achimota Golf Club and back to the Capital

Achimota is centred in the Capital, Accra and is set around a busy crossroads that runs through the middle of the course. It made for a great experience being on the golf course with amazing trees and wildlife in the middle of the bustling city. We had timed



18th green at Achimota Golf Club



Final preparations for range opening day

our arrival in Achimota to coincide with the opening of the newly completed Paul McGinley driving range and golf academy which was due to open in four days time. This amazing academy had been designed by Paul McGinley, while the project was coordinated by Joe Bedford and built from scratch. The shaping and grow-in was managed by Pat Pearmain, Paul's leading Shaper and Project Manager for the projects. I take my hat off to Pat who battled conditions which included no rain for four weeks into the rainy season, which should have gotten the playing surface grown in; then monsoon rains washed all the seed and top soil into the run off areas; then, after re seeding, the local water supply was cut off; when the driving bays and proshop were being finished off on the night before the opening ceremony, the power was cut off, and all trades men had to share a small generator, but with a few torches and a 'Hail Mary' everyone worked into the night and got the job completed.

In the days coming up to the opening of the range I concentrated my training on the holes around the club house

especially the 1st and 18th and as there were over 100 guests coming to the club. These included Ghanaian Government Ministers and dignitaries, Tullow Oil Executives including Kevin Quinn, as well as Paul McGinley. Paul's very high standards and eye for detail meant we were under severe

pressure to show we had delivered on our brief. It felt like we were preparing for the Ryder Cup!

While this was going on Stephen continued to train the two mechanics on the grinders and machine maintenance and spent some time getting the old machines up and

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Kumasi Golf Club

running. The temperatures were close to 40°C inside the workshop which is tough going but he soldiered on!

On the day of the opening I took a team out to the range, and cut the target greens and academy which Pat had been growing in, while leaving the other areas around the greens un-seeded, un-shaped and un-raked to keep the beautiful contrast between African soil and the lush green grass. It made an amazing spectacle but also was sustainable as the amount of water needed to keep the green areas alive was minimal. The opening was a huge success and the Paul Mc Ginley Golf Academy was open for business and the income would be directed to developing the club and improving the standards of the Club.

On to Tema Golf Club

Tema's greenkeepers and manager are young and hungry to learn. They had managed up to now with very little resources, and the training felt easy because they were so keen. We spent four days here and on the final day all the club representatives and staff came out to meet Paul McGinley and the Tullow Team. We left Tema with a great sense that they would look after the equipment and tools and use them properly to improve the course.

Summary

The people we dealt with in Ghana were friendly, easy going and they have a great sense of humour. Stephen and I really

enjoyed the experience and the climate. I can see great things coming for the three golf clubs as a result of this investment from Tullow Oil and the amazing work done by Paul, Joe and Pat. We will continue to give technical support to the clubs and advise them how to make sound purchases and how to avoid them getting ripped off, as often happens in Africa. I am happy we got the right equipment for the clubs and they are well set up for their future development.

The Future

As a result of the success of Phase 1 (supplying machinery and training to three golf clubs in Ghana), all of us at Reel-tech were delighted to be asked to supply a full fleet of construction equipment in order to re-shape and re-design Achimota golf course to a tour standard golf club. This included a Caterpillar dozer and excavator, Kubota tractors, mini digger and RTV's, Toro Sandpro 5040 with Box grader, Blec stone buriers and box scraper, Terex dumpers etc. As we are now supplying Toro Irrigation we were also lucky enough to get the contract to supply the components and control system also.

Phase two will see a huge investment by Tullow Oil and will give the club the potential to be sustainable well into the future, as well as giving much needed employment and business to the citizens of Accra. Many more Irish professionals are being employed to

ensure the project is a success. As a leading expert in his field Stephen Daly of Aquaturf was drafted in to design and complete the irrigation system, Paul Kelly has moved to Ghana to complete the grow-in; Cormac Sheridan of The Green Branch will be taking care of the tree surgery. Alan Mackey will be Reel-techs representative in Ghana and first on his agenda is to complete the building of the tank under the supervision of Stephen Daly and the tank supplier. The redesign is being completed by Paul McGinley Golf Design and the whole project is being coordinated by Joe Bedford, who has put every available hour into the success of this project as well as keeping Hollystown Golf Club at the top level of golf in Dublin. All the professionals for this job have been chosen by Joe and it is to his credit that he is creating great opportunities for so many Irish companies and professionals around the world, especially at a time when work is sometimes hard to come by. Paul McGinley and Joe Bedford stressed that as long as we could get a good price for the machinery we should, where possible, purchase them from Irish suppliers and this would create a huge amount of business of over half a million euro in Ireland.

Greenside will keep you informed as the story develops and we will check in with "The Irish Abroad" in our next edition.



Further Training Options - USA

Everyone needs a visa if they want to add value to their CV and get further training in America. The safest and most affordable way to get great experience and an opportunity to do an apprenticeship, or internship, on some of the top courses in America, is to go through a reputable, well established exchange program such as The Ohio State University Turf program, otherwise known as The Ohio Program.



They bring young, single 19-28 year old men and women from around the world to the States every year on J-1 Intern/Trainee visas. You need to have been working in the profession for at least one year or have one year of education in the field or more, i.e. NCVA level 3, possess a clean drivers licence and have a clear criminal record anywhere in the world you've travelled.

Housing

The word "single" is used above because The Ohio Program only work with courses that arrange housing and most of the housing is arranged whereby you live with other trainees. Therefore, the program is not suitable to married couples. Housing costs are often subsidized by the golf courses and in some cases they charge only a minimal cost, but each golf course is different, and you will be told upfront costs and unique to each location requirements before you make any decisions and spend any money on fees.

Wages

Due to the weak dollar, the wages currently paid, which range from \$7.00 to \$12.00 per hour, with time and a half for over-time,

seem very little. Just remember the cost of living is much less in the States and their taxes are minimal compared to Ireland and the rest of Europe. You should not go to the States, just for the wages. The responsibility and experience you will get far outweigh the difference in wages. In saying that, many interns or trainees can make enough money to pay back all the expenses they incurred due to the ample opportunity for overtime in the northern States from March to October.

Length of Programme

The best time to apply is November to February, and the best time to go out is in late March/early April. Their cool season starts in April and finishes in late October. If you go through a program such as The Ohio Program, they can then find you a course down south i.e. Georgia, Florida, South Carolina for the Winter months, on Warm Season grasses, from October to March.

This experience has turned out to be very valuable to Irish residents as many go on to work in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the middle East and the Caribbean.

Please feel free to contact Mike O'Keeffe, who was raised on a Dairy Farm near

Newmarket Co. Cork. Mike went to Pallaskenry Secondary School and Warrenstown to study Horticulture. He went on to study Business Management/Human Psychology at The Ohio State University.

Mike is a loyal supporter of the GCSAI and is accountable for many of the people who wrote in the "Irish Abroad" section of GREENSIDE.

You can find more information about the program by going on their website: www.ohioprogam.org and clicking on "Apply Now" and then clicking on "Inbound Programs" Be sure to include a clean cut photo and a current up-to-date CV.

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Child Language

A group of children in junior school were asked to write about pollution.

One child wrote: 'A snog is a kind of dirty fog. It is made by plution. In some countrys they have snog every day and people even have to wear masks to stop it from hurting them.'



GREENKEEPING *and the*

Michael Stachowicz, Boston, MA:

“Being a Golf Course Superintendent is very much like being in an emotionally abusive relationship. The signs are all there. Think about it: destructive criticism, verbal threats and browbeating, a claim of always being right, exclusion from making decisions, trust is harmed by duplicitous behavior, the concealment of important information, a display of disrespect, embarrassment in front of others, harassment by following you or checking up on you, and a denial of any of these behaviors.

...in order to have a relationship with the golf course, you have to put up with the dark side of the club...

Someone reading this might push back and say that describes a lot of bosses... but this is certainly more poignant in our industry because of our love for the golf course. It is a bifurcate relationship where in order to have a relationship with the golf course, you have to put up with the dark side of the club which is a little bit mother nature but mostly a small but vocal group of members. All of those characteristics above come from an online quiz that helps one recognise if they are in an abusive

relationship. It is hard to understand what it is about being a greenkeeper that makes one a flashpoint for the worst behavior in people. I have known peers that have been the victims of all those things listed above... basically bullied. Bullying is on the rise in our society and even as we are taking huge measures to minimize the effect of bullying on our children online and in school with anti-bullying laws, we are accepting bullying, or at the very least rudeness, into our homes with quality of reality tv. Frank talk and the promotion of oneself is what we are being fed through our entertainment and celebrity culture as keys to success. ‘It’s a seriously conflicted message: Bullying is bad when kids do it in school, but hugely profitable when adults do it in front of a TV camera. Small wonder we’re all a bit confused when an earnest celebrity faces the camera and

tells us bullying kills. Because, too often in Hollywood, it’s just a really good career move,’ writes Eric Deggans of NPR. I shudder to think what a country club’s culture will be like as the millennials who are fed this age and become members of a club of privilege.

On the noble and romantic side, the golf course herself is very seductive and loyal. Even though she might give you fits a couple of times a year, most of the time she rewards the hard work that is done with her in mind. People in the industry might complain that member’s memories are short, but so are greenkeepers’. All that it takes is a morning when the humidity and heat are gone... the sky looks a little bluer and the grass a little greener. As we start to forget how bad that period of time was, we start to plan how we can avoid the same incident again



eggshells at work follows one home, and the inevitable short fuse? **As time goes on, we start to believe our abusers;** that the ills of the course are our fault. That is not always the case unless we are neglecting basic agronomics

The phenomenon where a greenkeeper either avoids going to visit a green that is damaged or if he does, he does with a feeling in the pit of his stomach, is very much a sign of the emotional toll the abusive relationship exacts on us. Why do we get this feeling? Is it the amount of work ahead to get the green back? Not at all. No greenkeeper is afraid of hard work. It is because what is coming from the members due to the condition of the green is that you are the worst person in the world for letting/making this happen.

Emotional Toll ...

Our love of the course, loyalty to the majority of members, the hope that good will come out of all the work we do...

We greenkeepers actually start to believe that it is our fault and that we are truly awful organisms for not knowing how to avoid it or recover more quickly from it. It is truly the special greenkeeper who can distance himself from the product to see what is really at fault for the damage. **Greenkeepers are the most derided employees of any club.** We are in a unique position to become victims of an abusive relationship. Our love of the course, loyalty to the majority of members, the hope that good will come out of all the work we do, when coupled with the verbal abuse, public humiliation, the micro-managing, the disrespect, and the harassment make us more susceptible to this abuse more than any other position at a golf facility."

This article originally appeared on the TurfNet blog. Visit Michael's blog at: mstachowicz.wordpress.com/

next year. Love and hope are the first two reasons on any list of why someone stays in an abusive relationship. Some other reasons people stay in abusive relationships include blaming oneself ("if I could just come up with the right mix of chemicals, fertilizer, and biostimulants the twelfth green would not have thinned out"), loyalty, and a rescue complex ("I can work through this, I can change her for the better"). Not that these are all bad qualities, in fact they are needed to work successfully in the field, but one cannot personally blame themselves for the failings of a natural entity such as a golf course. Trying to rectify a problem is different than taking the failings personally.

...these people are not aggressive (have manners) and stay out of cultural dust-ups, and that leaves a vacuum for the negative 2%.

Then there is the silent majority of members who exemplify what is the best in golf and our society as a whole. They have a way about them that makes you want to work harder... not all of us work



primarily for a paycheck, we work to please people and provide a product all can enjoy. But these people are not aggressive (they have manners) and they stay out of cultural dust-ups, and that leaves a vacuum for the negative 2%. The effects of the emotional abuse on a person in this job are substantial. Alcohol abuse and divorce rates are the easy things to point to. But what about being emotionally unavailable to your family, when the act of walking on

THE IRISH ABROAD

Golf Club
BELGRADE



— BY SIMON CONNAUGHTON —



Simon Connaughton has been a greenkeeper for seven years. Throughout his career he has had some amazing opportunities, ranging from gaining valuable hands on experience at Powerscourt Golf Club to receiving a scholarship from the R&A to study Golf Course Management at Elmwood College in Scotland. In this article you can read about the experiences and challenges he encountered while working at the Golf Course Belgrade, Serbia.



Simon Connaughton

The person most responsible for sparking my interest in greenkeeping is my older brother Jason, who used to bring me along to help him change holes at 6am during my summer holidays. I can only thank him now, as I love the career path I have chosen and I would never look back.

I received my Higher National Diploma in the summer of 2010 and then returned to work again at Powerscourt Golf Club. Unfortunately by the end of the summer in 2011 my work at Powerscourt had come to an end. It was at this point that I began looking for other opportunities in greenkeeping, this proved to be quite difficult given the economical situation. Although I did not find work as a greenkeeper I was fortunate enough to come across a position in Reeltech as a parts man. It was not exactly the role that I was looking for but it was still in the greenkeeping industry and it was a start.

Though my enjoyable time at Reeltech was short lived, it did provide me with a much greater understanding and insight into greenkeeping machinery. Despite gaining a lot from this role, Barry Drennan,

the company manager, knew that my true passion was greenkeeping. With this in mind Barry introduced me to Joe Bedford, the Superintendent of Hollystown, who offered me the position of head greenkeeper at Golf Club Belgrade in Serbia.

What caught my eye was the golf course location; it is situated on an island called "Ada Ciganlija" about five minutes drive from the city centre of Belgrade. The island had such character and from what I saw it was just one big sports complex and I was drawn to it immediately. A visitor once said "it's like having a golf course in the middle of Hyde Park". During my visit to Belgrade for an interview and to assess the course, I realized the full extent of the work that desperately needed to be done. Up to this I had only seen photos and reports what Joe had done, as he

was the consultant for the golf course at the time.

He had explained to me that there had been very little attention given to detail on small things that could make a huge difference such as edging bunkers, trimming over grown trees and bushes, strimming around the whole course and adding some colour.

On receiving the news that I had got the job I was thrilled. To come from a background where golf was a huge inspiration in my family and where there are ten golf courses in a ten mile radius of my house, was a fantastic opportunity. To see this golf course was an eye opener for me. I was very eager to get started as the condition it was in presented a challenge that I could not turn down.

On the 16th of July 2012 I returned to Golf Club Belgrade to take on the role of Head

“

He had explained to me that there had been very little attention given to detail on small things that could make a huge difference such as edging bunkers, trimming over grown trees and bushes, strimming around the whole course and adding some colour.

Greenkeeper. It was 38°C, and to be honest I was a bit lost, there was so much to do and I didn't know where to start. The golf course was a big challenge but not the only one as out of ten greens staff, including myself, there was only one other person that could speak fluent English, my associate Slaven.

At this time the green staff were currently undergoing the work that Joe had left for them - a lot of tidying, removing eyesores and giving the place a general clean up, which was badly needed. Whilst the greenkeepers were doing this I thought it was a good time to get familiar with the golf course, start planning and get to know everyone as well as I could, despite the language barrier.

The Ninth Green

With the short time scale before the competitions started I knew I had to prioritize what needed doing. There had been five greens reconstructed between 2009 and 2010 and they needed a lot of work, especially "The Ninth Green" which really was my top priority. It had been the main topic of conversation throughout my interview, had been closed and needed to be in playing condition for September.



The ninth green, before.

Let me give you a brief rundown of the state this green was in. I couldn't believe it when I first saw it. It was completely burnt out, parts were completely anaerobic, there was thriving disease; roughly about 30% grass density; parts had been turfed and not leveled; G.U.R had been sprayed on which had burnt the turf; the whole green was floating; no rooting - it was just a disaster.

The condition the ninth green was in was something I had never come across before. The time scale was tight and it was proving to



The ninth green, after.

be tricky but my only option was to take it back to basics.

After an intense watering program, some light feeds of fertilizer, some hand spiking, light topdressing and over seeding we started noticing a great deal of improvement. I was blessed with having a supply of wetting agents and fertilizer that the previous head greenkeeper had bought in advance. To get these products in the timescale I had in Serbia would have been near to impossible. I never thought it was possible to have sleepless nights over a bit of turf - how wrong I was.

As this was the first main task that I undertook I felt I had really been thrown in at the deep end but in a good way as I was learning a

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Rooting, before.



Rooting, after



The seventh green.

lot, and was becoming familiar with how accessible, or should I say non accessible, products and materials really were in Serbia. This was something that I had to accept, there being only two golf courses in the country. For example the sand that was used in the previous construction of five of the greens was a very coarse bunker sand, the particles were far too big and I wasn't happy using it. The search began to source alternative sand. We visited quarries all over Belgrade, sent samples to European Turf Laboratories in Scotland and visited the Red Star and Partizan football stadiums to see what they were using. After receiving the test results for USGA recommendations from European Turf Laboratories we had a better idea as to what we should purchase. Again it wasn't that easy as the available sand that was best suited for the greens was far too coarse and we had to manually sieve it as none of the quarries would do it for us.

Comparing this to just phoning a local supplier in Wicklow and ordering a few tonnes of green top dressing sand it seemed nuts.

It also proved difficult to source chemicals as there were no golf course products on the shelf. I tended to go with active ingredients and order agriculture products and although this might seem simple you have to be very careful of the application rates. With regard to fertilizers, there was one supplier that could offer the product I wanted but they were not stocked and had to be registered before entering the country. These are but a few things I have had to get used to.



The eighth green approach.



Spraying greens.

Seeing how tasks were done on the golf course here compared to at home was incredible. For instance, instead of one person using a sprayer, it was a three man job, where one drove the tractor mounted sprayer, one wheeled the home made sprayer, that looked like it was made from a golf bag trolley, and the other would move the hose for that person. When I was told it took three people to spray greens I couldn't get my head around it until I was shown. Top dressing greens and tees by hand were something that I can safely say I had never done until now. It all just seemed to me like it was still a few years behind, but this was just another part of it, it was a longer process but this is how they managed.

On my return in January 2013, the pressure is off as competitions are not starting till late April. Now having a better understanding of the course and sourcing products I feel I have found my feet. Friends have always asked me 'why Serbia?' but for me this experience is invaluable. I am very keen to get back working after an enjoyable holiday at home and commence with the 2013 calendar.



New Year, New Start

Happy New Year to all our members in the Northwest region and further afield. 2012 will live long in the memory for many reasons - Rory McIlroy clinching his second major in the US PGA Championship, Europe staging the greatest comeback of all time in the Ryder Cup and Padraig Harrington's walrus like effort for Movember. One thing we, as greenkeepers, will not be reminiscing on is the severe levels of rainfall we experienced throughout the 2012 season. Therefore we will be relying on various signs and signals for the year ahead which, we are told, are a sign of a good summer to come. Some of us may resort to means of a superstitious nature, like myself ...

There was a family wedding in our house back in December 2012. In an attempt to stave off any rain my mother took out the Child of Prague as is tradition, and placed it on the mantel piece. Thankfully our prayers were answered and it worked. I have since installed the statue in our maintenance facility as a permanent fixture.

December Outing In Claremorris

The Christmas outing for the northwest region was held at Claremorris Golf Club on the 6th of December. On a day when weather conditions were challenging, to say the least, a reasonable number of members played through the torrents of rain. A raffle for all prizes was held in the clubhouse afterwards. Some of the winners of the raffle included Joe Diskin of Claremorris, Stephan Munnelly of Castlebar and Mike Ryan of Gort. A special thanks must go to Kenneth Kelly and Joe Diskin for providing such a great venue for the occasion.

Galway Bay Golf Resort

The first outing of the 2013 season was held at Galway Bay Golf Resort on the 7th



Mark Kinnevey Struggles for Double Bogey on the 12th Green



John Fahy Tees off the 12th Hole at Galway Bay Golf Resort

February. Thankfully the weather was a little kinder to us. There was some great golf played on the day, despite a strong westerly wind making conditions very difficult. A presentation was made in the clubhouse after a much needed hot meal. The scoring could not have been tighter, with the top three scoring the same. The top three were as follows:

1st: Joe Diskin 33 Pts (Back 9)

2nd: Mike Ryan 33 Pts (Back 6)

3rd: Damien Coleman 33 Pts

Trade Members

We would encourage any trade members who are not currently members to join the GCSAI. For those who are already members, we encourage you to take part in our golf outings. Of course these outings need sponsorship and therefore any members of the trade who wish to provide such sponsorship, your help would be greatly appreciated. To those who have already kindly provided sponsorship we thank you very much. To sponsor the Northwest Region please contact the regional representative, for whom details can be found at the back of this magazine.



Dry spell, at last!

As I sit looking out at a snow covered golf course in the middle of March and try to revise a plan for spring aeration, I hear on the radio that Rory McIlroy is only playing one more tournament before the Masters. I can hear the age old question already ringing in my ears, how can Augusta always have the course so good in April and our greens are all sand and bumpy.

Since the last week in May 2012 we had to wait until March of this year to get a full week of dry weather and we got two and a half weeks of it. This was a god send as it gave courses a great chance to dry out and verti draining and sanding was a regular sight on courses in March. I think members

have finally started to see the benefits of this over the past nine months as they compare the fairways that have regularly sanded over a number of years to the ones not.

Some greenkeepers have even used this dry spell to get coring started, but although conditions were dry, growth was none existent as the cold north and east winds blew, sand continues to lie on the greens surface. The questions remain: (1) When is the best time for spring aeration, take a chance if you get a dry week in February or March or wait until April; (2) What is the best form of aeration, coring, scarification or are we putting the grass plant under too much stress at this cold time of the year with all the work associated with working sand in. This begs the question should we be doing more minimal aeration at this time of year with something more substantial in the autumn when recovery is much better.

Everyone will have an opinion on this but it will depend on each individual courses circumstances with thatch, black layer etc. I have found aggressive coring in March causes major surfaces disruption and given that we don't get full growth until the second half of May there are two months in between I found my green had only average putting surfaces in the past. Each green keeper has to make a call based on what they think is best for their course.

Outings

We had to cancel our Christmas outings in December and February due to the bad weather. Weather permitting we hope to have one towards the end of April and possibly an afternoon outing in May. We would once again encourage all to join the association and try to attend some of the outings as it is a way of networking with fellow greenkeepers and trade members and can be very beneficial.

Sympathy

The Southeast Region would like to offer its deepest sympathy to Frank and Ned Browne on the recent death of their father, Francis, who passed away last February. Brothers Frank and Ned manage and maintain their Abbey Par 3 business in Winningtown, Co. Wexford and regularly attend the GCSAI golf outings. May he rest in peace.

Sponsors

I would like to thank our sponsors for their continued and if there are any other companies out there that would like to come on board and get involved with the region please contact us.

So Augusta will come and go as it always does and in each club the next competition will always be the most important one.



Rules of the Road

One of the delights of being a senior citizen is it's easy to annoy young people.

Step 1: Get in the car. Step 2: Turn the indicator on. Step 3: Leave it on for fifty miles. David Letterman



Hello

Hello to our members in the Northeast region. I hope that you are all well and in good form after what was a very wet and miserable start to the year.

Committee Change

Firstly, there has been a change in our region's committee. John Egan has decided to stand down as chairman of our region. We would like to extend our utmost appreciation and gratitude to John after his six years of long and hard work. It is often gone un-noticed but the work that is put in when organizing different golf outings and other such events every year is huge. So we would like to thank you John for your Trojan work over the last six years, we all really do appreciate it! The new committee has been put in place and currently consists of:

• Dean Brock	Chairman
• Stephen Kelly	Hon. Secretary
• Mark Bewley	Treasurer
• Ken Boyle	Committee Member
• Gerry Byrne	Committee Member

If anybody else feels that they would like to come on board and help us out then we would be glad to hear from you. One other thing that must be said is that if you have an idea on how improvements could be made on how something is done, please do not hesitate to let us know. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Rosslare Golf Outing

We have had one golf outing since the last edition of Greenside and that was in Rosslare Golf Links on 23rd of November last. This outing has become very popular with our members over the last number of years and we would encourage everybody to go down and experience this gem of a links course for themselves. On the day we were blessed with



Above: The Rosslare winning team: Paul Fitzgerald, Castle Golf Club; Giles McDonagh, Tacit Golf; Brian Harvey, Unichem. Looking on is Pat Murphy and John Egan.

Right: Iain Wakeman (Links Superintendent, Rosslare Golf Links) receives a gift from Pat Murphy of Anthony D'Arcy Sands.



the weather. Everybody who played also commented on the great condition of the course. Credit must go to Iain Wakeman and his team on the great job they did in presenting the course to us as they do every year. I must say, personally I really enjoyed it. Pat Murphy of Anthony D'Arcy Sands once again came up with the generous sponsorship with some superb prizes on offer. The winning team in the end was Paul Fitzgerald of Castle Golf Club, Giles McDonagh of Tacit Golf and Brian Harvey of Unichem. Well done lads!

Outings For This Year

We are currently working on organizing our golf outings for the year. We are hoping to have around 5 in total throughout the season. We hope you will enjoy playing the courses that we can get.

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Kesmac 9 gang belt driven cylinder mower with floating heads.

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Will 2013 be a good Year?

Hello to all our Greenkeepers and to everyone involved in the Sportsturf business. I hope you are looking forward to the year ahead. It would be most welcome if, at long last, we could have a good summer to look forward to, as our past winter was a very mixed bag, throwing up a varied selection in which we experienced black ice, gale force winds, flooding, frost, rain, snow, thunder and lightning and a mixture of all the fore-mentioned. Still, I suppose it was not too bad as at least we could travel safely most of the time.

2012 was probably the most consistently wet year on record, leaving the land saturated and making a lot of grassland almost impossible to travel on. At least the final three weeks in February and the first week of March, 2013 were very dry, though it was extremely cold, but at least it gave the land a chance to dry out once again. At the moment it looks promising for some decent weather during the middle part of the year or at least that is what some of the supposed experts tell us, so who are we to argue. After all, good weather encourages people to get out and enjoy a game of golf and other outdoor sports. It also brings a lot of visitors to our shores to enjoy our fine selection of top class amenities as well as some of the best scenery in the world. Can we look forward to a good year ahead? Well, I suppose we have to be optimistic, but only time will tell. Anyway, I hope we all have a great two thousand and thirteen.

Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. of the South West Region took place at Tralee Golf Club in conjunction with our Christmas golf outing. Many important items were discussed and up to date information was relayed to all those members who were present. The Chairman thanked the large number of members for making the great effort to attend. He said the South West Region had had a very successful 2012 and thanked everyone for continuously



Fine conditions



Saturation conditions

supporting the Region which was very much appreciated. He also said that he had been an officer of the South West Region since October 1999, had spent most of it as Chairman and felt it was now time for some new blood to take the reins. He would have retired two years ago, but had been asked to stay on for a while longer and duly obliged. He also spent many years on the National Executive which he really enjoyed and made many new friends there over the years.

He told the meeting he was not going to disappear and said he would be available to help if the need arose. He thanked everyone for their help and support over the years and

wished the new officers and committee of the South West Region the very best of luck for the years ahead.

Sincere Thanks

A sincere thank you to all our dedicated sponsors who have supported us over the years and a cead mile failte to our more recent ones. Your continued support is very much appreciated and without it we would not survive. We look forward to meeting you at all of our outings. We wish you and your companies continued success for many years to come.

Mile bhíocas díbh go leir a chairde!

List of Officers and Committee for 2013

Chairman:	Finbarr O'Mahony	Kanturk GC	087 7728720	fomahony75@yahoo.co.uk
Vice-Chairman:	Simon O'Hara	Fota GC	087 7777467	sohara@fotaisland.ie
Treasurer:	David MacIndoe Jnr.	Killarney GC	087 9843325	Imacindoe@monexfs.com
Committee:	Seamus Lyons	Charleville GC	086 1902897	
	Trevor Norris	Castlemartyr GC	086 3897477	norristd@gmail.com
	Tommy Barrett	Charleville GC	087 6815590	



Snow scene 16th hole Killarney's, Killeen course



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A Conference to Remember

Seventeen greenkeeper associations gathered in Zurich, along with many of its Patron Members, and prominent European and global golf organisations.

Day one was held at the Syngenta European technical and research headquarters in Stein. The focus of the day was totally centred on all aspects of environmental golf course management. Excellent presentations were delivered by the R&A, launching their On Course Tracker. Syngenta gave an introduction to their research facility, which followed with a full tour given by their excellent scientists and research staff.

GEO have been a long standing partner of FEGGA from the beginning, and their participation this year was aimed at sustainability - it's about time that greenkeepers got recognised for what they do.

Sterf, presented on the Priorities for Sustainable Golf Course and Turfgrass Management, which received excellent feedback. Following the conference Maria Strandberg of Sterf commented "I really enjoyed the FEGGA conference and the discussions with representatives from greenkeeper organisations outside the Nordic countries and the industry partners were very beneficial". These series of presentations were complemented by three excellent case studies delivered by greenkeepers coming from UK, Finland, and Denmark. All three demonstrated the expertise that lies within the greenkeeper profession, and the great strides that have taken place over the last number of years. The day also demonstrated the leadership of FEGGA over the years and the role it has clearly played in all aspects of environmental decision making and leading us to where we are today. There is so much more to do, but clearly much has been achieved. FEGGA reflected on this towards the end of the day, and talked about now setting new challenges for FEGGA and its members, and this will be an area that the management board will be focusing on during the next months.

The day concluded with an excellent panel discussion, made up of industry representatives, which really challenged all organisations in their thinking and future decision making.

On Saturday many varying subjects were tackled. These ranged from the importance of tackling successful renovation, presented in association with Campey Turfcare. Ransomes Jacobsen and BIGGA both



Left: Stig Persson (Past Chairman-FEGGA); Johannes Vogt (Past President-Swiss Greenkeepers Association); Norbert Daverat (Chairman-Swiss Greenkeepers Association); Olafur Por Agustsson (Chairman-FEGGA); Kamil Pacenka (Vice Chairman-FEGGA); Giovanni Nava (Board Member-FEGGA); Dean Cleaver (Executive Officer-FEGGA); Michael McFeely (Past Board Member FEGGA); Barbara Albisetti (Swiss Golf Association); Richard Heath (General Secretary European Golf Association).

presented their Future Turf Managers Initiative. This is a great programme that will help potential course managers in the UK, and already being looked at by other countries. FEGGA will certainly be supporting and encouraging all associations to look at this initiative.

Toro gave a talk on meeting the demands of today's golf course maintenance; John Deere showed an insight into engine emissions - today and tomorrow. Both looked at the challenges that companies are facing with new regulations on emissions.

The EGEU and the work it has been engaging in continues to grow, and David Golding discussed the goals facing the industry during the next twelve months. Greenkeeper education plays a major role in the work of FEGGA, and sets the standard for professional recognition for all greenkeepers everywhere that golf is played. It's therefore vital that we continue to drive this forward to enable these professional standards to continue to grow.

Group work has become a major ingredient of the FEGGA Conference, and has covered some very engaging subjects over the past few years, ranging from the existing economic situation, how we can work together to resolve the situation, and also the effects it is having on the

industry. This year the group work was run with an open agenda. Only greenkeeper associations participated within specific groups, whilst the Patron Members came together with FEGGA to have their own informal discussions. The results were very productive, and will help FEGGA to continue to move forward in serving its members and to work closely with its Patron Members.

FEGGA is very proud of its relationship with its conference patrons for the commitment they make in enabling us to bring all our member associations together and the benefits this has to them. Their support is considerable, and we thank Campey Turfcare, Ransomes Jacobsen, John Deere, Syngenta, and Toro for this valuable support.

Finally, as we welcome new board members and bid a farewell to others, I would like to pay tribute to Michael McFeely. Michael served on the FEGGA board for four years, with great commitment. FEGGA has gained from his time on the board. We wish him well as he now takes on the bigger task of President of the GCSAI, and we know he will do a good job leading the association in these present difficult times - Good Luck Michael.



FEGGA Comes to Ireland



The first FEGGA roadshow in four years was held in Westmanstown Golf and Sports Club last December where almost seventy delegates were in attendance.

Dean Cleaver, FEGGA CEO, welcomed everyone and promised a very informative day of seminars and practical demonstrations. His promise was duly kept with topics such as:

- Electric mower technology by Andy Campbell and Richard Comely of Ransomes Jacobsen
- A student's experience attending greenkeeping college abroad by Dean Brock of Grange Golf Club
- Overseeding Poa greens by Colman Warde (Everris) and David Behan, (Course Manager Naas Golf Club)
- New nozzle technology for sprayers by Simon Watson and Rod Burke of Syngenta
- Focusing on environmental golf course management by Kelli Jerome of GEO.

The seminars were tailored to be of value and interest to the members of the GCSAI which also included an outdoor demonstration, after lunch, of Syngenta's new nozzle technology. Judging by the feedback, those in attendance viewed it as a very successful day for them and of real value to their golf clubs.

One other aspect of the day was the launching of a new FEGGA Foundation Fund. This will help many of FEGGA's member greenkeeper association countries to develop, especially new emerging association organisations. These organizations find it difficult to fund themselves as they have only a small number of golf courses in their country and therefore membership numbers within their organizations would be low. The kind of support that will be made available would be:

- Web site design and building
- Production of working materials for their own greenkeeper members
- Subsidies for attending FEGGA supported events
- Speaker support for their own events
- Support for their own association events
- Education needs
- Environmental Support and guidance

There will be strict guidance on the use of these funds from the Foundation. FEGGA are looking at a number of ways of generating funds to help support the work of the Foundation. These will include future initiatives such as involving its patrons, greenkeepers, delegate



Back left: Andy Campbell (Ransomes Jacobsen); Dean Brock (Grange GC); Richard Comely (Ransomes Jacobsen); Michael McFeely (Vice-President GCSAI); Colman Warde (Everris); David Behan (Naas GC); Simon Watson (Syngenta). Seated: Damian McLaverty (President GCSAI); Dean Cleaver (CEO FEGGA).



Left: John Bishop (Bray Golf Club); Phil Murray (Bray Golf Club); Robert Foley (Kevin Broderick Ltd).

fees for attending roadshows. Greenkeepers attending the Dublin roadshow raised €1000 to the Foundation.

When the seminars were finished, Dean Cleaver thanked sponsors Everris, Golf Environmental organisation (GEO), Ransomes Jacobsen and Syngenta for supporting the event.

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FORECASTING SYSTEM FOR POA SEED-HEAD SUPPRESSION

Dr MICHAEL J FOXE, Consultant Agronomist and

DAVID BRADY, Superintendent Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort

Introduction

Poa seed-head production on golf greens is undesirable, as seed heads adversely affect the quality of the green by reducing green speed and comprising ball roll. Also, greens with large amounts of seed heads look unsightly. Large-scale production of seed heads can lead to weakened poa plants and significantly decrease quality, disease and stress tolerance of the turf.

Poa is characterised as a 'weed' species due to its ability to produce large amounts of seed. For example, each flower will produce 2-3 seeds with between 150,000 and 675,000 seed produced per square meter per year. Typically, poa seed-head production in Ireland commences in late March or early April and lasts for up to 10-12 weeks. Seed-head development occurs in two phases, firstly, the acute phase where large numbers of seed-heads are produced in approximately 3 weeks and, secondly, the chronic phase, starting approximately 21 days after the acute phase, where a much lower number of seed-heads are produced over an extended period lasting 8-10 weeks. It is not uncommon for poa greens to have visible seed-heads for up to 3 months.

Golf course superintendents have been using the growth regulator Ethephon to limit poa seed-head production on greens. Successful seed-head suppression is based on applying Ethephon to greens before seed-head emergence. However, inconsistent results in seed-head suppression rates have been obtained, mainly, due to the inability to accurately determine the onset of seed-head emergence. The development of a forecasting system, with the ability to accurately predict the onset of poa seed-head emergence, would assist golf course superintendents to greatly enhance suppression rates, as it would ensure correct timing applying Ethephon prior to emergence of seed-heads.

Forecasting systems based on growing degree-days have been developed in the United States to predict when poa seed-heads would emerge. A degree-day is a measure of the temperature above a threshold for one day. The threshold used in the United States is 10°C. Simply put, degree days above the threshold value are added up until a specific total is reached at which point the first Ethephon application is made.

Based on this work it was decided to develop a degree day forecasting system for poa seed head emergence for Ireland.

This article details the development of a forecasting system for the onset of poa seed head development based on a degree day system.



Dr Michael J Foxe

Development of the Forecasting System

The forecasting system was based on defining a degree day as that above a threshold value of 7°C. For example, a recorded temperature of 8°C was 1 degree day and a temperature of 10°C was 3 degree days. Recorded temperatures below 7°C equalled 0; in other words there are no negative degree days. Recording daily temperatures commenced on January 1 and continued until onset of seed-head emergence was observed. At that point the cumulative total of degree days was recorded and the first Ethephon application made with a second application 28 days later to coincide with the start of the chronic phase of seed-head development.

The trial work was carried out at Tulfarris Golf Course from 2010 to 2012. Daily temperatures were measured and recorded on site; seed head initiation was identified by regular examination of poa plants in the greens. Initiation was determined to have occurred when the seed-head could be seen in the boot. Suppression rate was assessed by visual examination of the treated greens over a 10 week period.

Table 1: Results of Trial to achieve suppression of Poa Seed-heads using a Degree Day Forecasting System.

Year	Total of Degree Days	1st Ethephon Application	Suppression Rate(%)
2010	108	April 13	90
2011	139	April 3	92
2012	122	March 2	94

The results in Table 1 clearly show that using a degree day system for determining onset of poa seed-head emergence ensures excellent suppression rates with Ethephon. The critical issue in obtaining high suppression rates is the timing of the first Ethephon application; this must occur before seed-heads have emerged. Failure to do this will result in poor suppression of seed-heads. The high number of degree days recorded in 2011 relates to extremely cold weather in January that delayed growth and development of poa plants.

Overall, it is clear if such a forecasting system is used that once the total number of degree days exceeds 110 then the critical period for seed-head initiation has been entered and examination of greens for seed-heads should commence.

In conclusion, this trial shows that excellent seed-head suppression can be achieved when Ethephon is applied between 110 and 122 degree days.



Strimmers and Mowers Leave Council Workers Suffering from HAV Syndrome

Twenty-nine grounds maintenance workers at Wirral Council, UK have been diagnosed as suffering from the effects of Hand Arm Vibration syndrome (HAV). The workers routinely used vibrating power tools in their work, for cutting and strimming grass, hedges and trees.

The council has now been prosecuted and fined for failing to manage the risk and for not restricting hours worked with vibrating tools. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuted Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council after 29 workers in the parks and leisure department were affected by HAV syndrome between July 2005 and December 2009.

One of the workers, Nick Bower, began noticing problems with his hands after several years working as head greenkeeper at Hoylake Golf Course, where he regularly worked with strimmers and mowers. The 47-year-old was diagnosed with the syndrome in 2009, and suffers dexterity problems and intense pain in his hands during cold weather.

Mr Bower has since changed jobs and is now undertaking other duties for the authority that do not involve working with vibrating machinery. He is on permanent medication to help with blood flow to his hands and nerve damage. HAV



syndrome results in poor grip, numbness, tingling and acute sensitivity to cold resulting in pain. Once the condition has developed, reducing or eliminating exposure to vibrating tools will prevent it from getting worse, but the damage is largely irreversible.

An HSE investigation found that the council did not properly assess the risks faced by using such equipment or implement suitable control measures, such as limiting exposure to the tools or providing alternatives.

The council was fined a total of £25,000 and ordered

to pay £9,417 in costs after pleading guilty to two breaches of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005.

HSE inspector Christina Goddard said "Wirral Council failed to take action to prevent damage caused by vibrating tools, with the result that 29 workers now suffer from a debilitating condition. The council should have limited the amount of time workers spent using vibrating equipment or provided alternative tools. If appropriate action had been taken then the workers' condition could have been prevented."

Michael Williams RIP

The Buggyman Ltd is saddened at the loss of a longstanding member of staff, Michael (Mick) Williams, who passed away 23rd November 2012. Michael was with the company for over 20 years as Parts Manager and previously of Owen Baxters and founder member of Slade Valley Golf Club. He will be greatly missed and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.

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Sports Pitch Drainage

Why are there still failures?

BY GORDON JAABACK

Even with the highest annual rainfall ever recorded, the failure in sports pitch drainage must give concern. Time and again assessments of poorly drained and muddy sites are made - the most common situation being the collection of surface water on pitches that are unable to promote any degree of surface drainage. Strange, after so much has been said and written on drainage installation techniques - particularly related to slit drains and grooving - standards of installation have reached new levels and current specialised equipment has become so efficient



Drainage is more than installing pipe and slit drains - understanding how surface water moves both on and below the surface is probably the most important consideration. Water lingering on the surface of heavy clay topsoiled pitches becomes a scourge to footballers. This water must be removed as soon as possible - at least before firm playing surfaces becomes soft muddy quagmires.

Rainfall becomes a vital consideration, and it is the intensity and duration that is most important. Wallingford research (FEH,1993) rates the occurrence of in the region of 25mm in one hour to be the maximum intensity expected over a ten year period in central and southern England.

It may be startling to some that over 80% of rainfall in the south is less than 10mm per day, with up to 50% being less than 2mm per day. Nevertheless, although average rainfall intensity in Britain is in the region of 5mm per hour, short duration heavy downpours in five to ten minutes can far exceed this rate falling at up to 100mm per hour. This is especially significant with the realization that rain can fall on average twelve days in the month during the winter season when, for much of the time, the surface soil is saturated and evapotranspiration is negligible.

Impact of water moving over and above the soil surface (run-off)

Naturally, on commencement of rainfall, there is water retained in the turfgrass foliage, the micro-depressions within the soil surface and porous surfaces to drain installations. Estimates of the water retained



have not been researched, but it is expected that they could amount to between 3mm and 5mm. What is certain is the fact that rainfall must exceed the retained amount before run-off commences (Tindell and Kunkel, 1999).

Secondly - and often overlooked - water run-off on to the pitch from higher ground always results in wetter areas. This flow must be diverted above the cut slope, if it exists. A practical measure to halt the movement of water over the soil surface is the installation of ditches and swales. The latter can become an integral means in attenuation (CIRIA,2000). In preventing run-off on to the pitch, shallow mowable swales at the base of cut slopes have proved very effective - particularly with pipe drainage installed in the invert of the swale.



Water does not move quickly laterally within the soil surface. On the surface, compaction, and the presence of organic matter and thatch, reduces infiltration significantly and, with persistent rain, saturation soon develops. Run-off is inevitable provided there is a suitable gradient over which to run. The degree of run-off after short sharp showers is underrated - yet it is always evident in depressions in a pitch, and has been significant in the swales down the sides of three cambered pitches without installed drainage over the last eighteen months.

What are the gradients necessary for satisfactory surface drainage of a sports pitch? Adams and Gibbs, 1994 are not specific, suggesting a diagonal fall between 1:67 and 1:100, but McIntyre, 1998 contends that a cross-gradient should not be flatter than 1:70. In cut-to-fill construction, gradients of 1:40 to 1:50 are well accepted and have been very effective. On level ground, the creation of a camber with side slopes of 1:70 is hardly noticeable and has also proved very successful. In fact, both Sport England and the Football Foundation do not state preferred gradients other than to say the maximum gradient across the line of play should not exceed 1:40 to 1:50.

If a gradient is essential to move water laterally over the surface, and this water is to be removed as quickly as possible to retain firm topsoil conditions, then it goes without saying that close-spaced slit drains, intended to bypass the heavy relatively



mentioning the folly of ameliorating the upper rootzone by incorporating relatively small quantities of sand into heavy clay loam soils. Since the objective is to improve resistance to compaction and increase porosity, the particle size distribution of the sand is vital and there must be a dominance of sand in the resultant mixture (Waddington et al, 1974).

Where an improved rootzone is imported, it should be fully evaluated in laboratory tests. The depth is determined on assessment of the critical



impermeable topsoil, should be as close as possible. Spacing of one metre appears to be most practical and suitable to retain firm conditions. What we do know, is that this method of bypassing the heavy clay soils does work, and soft muddy conditions can be prevented if this surface water is removed quickly in this manner.

Contrary to desired normal summer procedures of aerating with the vertidrain and earthquake, any loosening and opening up of the firm clay loam topsoil in the winter months can lead to disaster - surplus water enters and is collected in the upper layers, making them wetter and softer. At this time, firm surface conditions are vital to sustain play, and surplus water should be despatched quickly into the bypass system of slit drains or grooves.

Water moving below the soil surface

Infiltration rate is critical and so dependent on the condition of the soil matrix, the homogeneity of the particle size distribution and the organic matter content. At this point, it is worth

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tension. There has been extensive research into the criterion in rootzone design. Awareness of the capillary fringe above a drainage carpet or slow draining base is essential in drainage design - particularly the fact that water is held in the fringe to almost saturation before being released into the lower layers or adjacent drainage (Adams, and Gibbs, 1994, McIntyre, 1998). The nature and condition of the base (subsoil) are often overlooked and little is done, during construction, to create optimum transition between the subsoil and topsoil. Generally, compacted subsoil adequately ripped contains a finer combination of soil particles than indigenous topsoil above it. In this instance, pore continuity is maintained and there will be downward movement of water without suspension in the capillary fringe.

On the matter of water flow in slit drains and grooves, there can be misunderstanding. With lateral piped drains, often installed in the steepest gradient in order to despatch drainage water to collector drains and on to the outfall, the installation of slit drains and grooves at right angles serves to check and collect the surface water, permitting nothing more than - in the words of Geoffrey Davison - 'seeping' of water towards the nearest lateral drain. This fact is hard to appreciate given the fact that surface water must be removed as quickly as possible. It is only at times of sustained heavy rain, when all pores are saturated in the slits and grooves, that water flow may be more rapid.

The ironic fact is that successfully slit drained or grooved pitches depend on the speed with which surface water can be removed. Slits and grooves are only functional so long as entry access at the top of a mini-drain is maintained in an open condition, allowing the surface water to easily get away. This means it becomes imperative to regularly apply sand dressing to the playing surface (Adams and Gibbs, 1974).

In practice, at the cost of in the order of £3500 per pitch annually, this expenditure generally is out of reach for many schools, clubs and local authorities. This leads to an inevitable conclusion that no surface drainage system employing slit drains or grooves should be installed if regular sand dressings are not going to be undertaken.

A final comment - following the difficulties experienced, and the effort made in topping up slit drains in the first year of establishment, thoughts have been directed to reducing the spacing of lateral drains to three metres and cutting out the installation of slit drains.

Time will tell, but the removal of collecting slits at right angles to the laterals reduces the potential for removing surface water - particularly if the laterals are installed down the steepest slope, probably the cross-gradient. However, by installing the



close-spaced laterals, and following with grooving at right angles, this alternative system has much merit.

Though grooving is narrower, being 20mm in width, the close spacing of 260mm apart makes this alternative a worthwhile consideration. On the downside, the effectiveness of these narrower slits under heavy wear, over time, is under question. Repeat treatments may well be needed within a few years.

Gordon Jaaback may be contacted at: gordonjkb@turfandgrass.com
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FEGGA Announces its new Chairman

The FEGGA Member Associations recently voted in their new Chairman Olafur Por Agustsson from Iceland. Olafur has served on the board for the past four years, serving as Vice Chairman to outgoing Chairman Stig Persson from Sweden for the past two years. Olafur is currently the Club Manager at Keilir Golf Club.



Olafur Por Agustsson

Olafur commented following his election "After being on the FEGGA board for the past four years. I am honoured and looking forward to working as chairman for the next two years. The challenges that face FEGGA are exiting and show how much we have as a Federation developed and grown over what is a very short time. I hope that we can visit many countries that are part of our Federation with our new initiative The FEGGA Roadshow. Being from a small organisation in Iceland I know how much FEGGA has to offer, especially to new smaller associations. We all have to start from somewhere and the support that we were given through Dean Cleaver and FEGGA in Iceland has proven to be dynamic for our association".

Olafur also made the National news in Iceland regarding his new role as Chairman, to see more please follow the link:

<http://kylfingur.vf.is/frettir/olafur-thor-kjorinn-formadur-fegga/22295>

<http://visir.is/olafur-ordinn-formadur-fegga/article/2013130229341>

Kamil Pacenka of Czech Republic takes on the Vice Chairman role, having served as a board member for the past four years.

FEGGA also welcomed two new members to the board, these being Paul Worster from United Kingdom, and also Tuukka Monttinen from Finland. Both are past Chairpersons of their respected associations, these being the British & International Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) and the Finnish Greenkeepers Association (FGA)



Golfers should pass test on course care

Golfers should take an etiquette test...74% of golfers directly blame greenkeepers if the course is below expectations...almost half of golfers repair pitch marks badly. These are just some of the fascinating findings after Today's Golfer surveyed selected members of BIGGA recently, and published the results in their latest issue (now on sale).



Today's Golfer acknowledged that golfers are quick to criticise when they feel elements of the course are unsatisfactory, but slow to praise greenkeepers when the course looks good and plays great.

So they contacted BIGGA and with their advice came up with the survey. Its aim was to help golfers across the UK understand in more detail the skill and hard work that enables them to play on well-maintained courses and to show greater appreciation of the huge amount of work that goes into maintaining a golf course. Hundreds of BIGGA members responded! More than nine in ten greenkeepers believe that golfers should pass a test on course care before they are allowed to play the game.

Today's Golfer enjoys a large readership and BIGGA hopes that this survey will not only raise the profile of greenkeeping but also educate golfers on the intricacies of golf course care. It is clear that 'communication' and 'education' are the key words when it comes to increasing the respect golfers have for greenkeepers, and a lack of understanding of a greenkeeper's role is a real bugbear for BIGGA members and, no doubt, course superintendents around the world.

The survey has been reproduced in the March edition of Greenkeeper International with the kind permission of Today's Golfer: www.todaysgolfer.co.uk

GCSAA President Elected

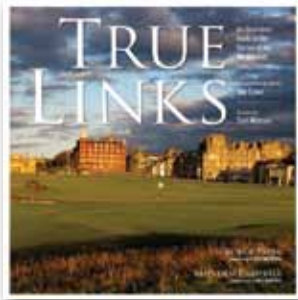
Certified Golf Course Superintendent Patrick R. Finlen, director of golf maintenance operations at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, Calif., since 2002, was elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Finlen's election continues a busy schedule for him as this past summer he hosted the U.S. Open at the Olympic Club's Lake Course and completed a renovation of its Ocean Course. A graduate of Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Finlen cut his teeth in the business in Kansas City at Lake Quivira Golf and Country Club, and has stops in Virginia and at the Bayonet and Black Horse Courses (1998-2001) in Seaside, Calif. A GCSAA member for 27 years, Finlen is a member and past president of both the California GCSA and the GCSA of Northern California. He is also a past president of the Heart of America GCSA.

Keith A. Ihms, CGCS at Country Club of Little Rock (Ark.) was elected vice president, and John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J., was elected secretary/treasurer.

'True links'

This 308 page, 11" by 11" glossy hardcover, is written by two of golf's most highly respected journalists, George Peper (ex-editor of American Golf Magazine) and Malcolm Campbell (ex-editor of Britain's Golf Monthly).



After researching in depth and combining all their enormous knowledge of golf, they have created their definitive list of 246 of what they call 'true links courses' across the world. (210 in GB&I).

- Hardcover: 304 pages
- Publisher: Artisan Division of Workman Publishing (15 Oct 2010)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 1579653952
- ISBN-13: 978-1579653958
- Available from Amazon: £20.00

Turfgrass Seed 2013

The new Turfgrass Seed 2013 guide contains all the information needed to help professional users assess the suitability of different cultivars for a range of applications, and to determine which grasses best suit their particular needs.

Produced by the British Society of Plant Breeders Limited in conjunction with the STRI, the guide provides comparative information based on the results of comprehensive trials designed to test suitability in three key areas of application:

- Winter sports pitches and municipal recreation areas
- Lawns, summer sports pitches, tennis courts, turf and general landscaping
- Intensive, close-mown surfaces such as golf and bowling greens

The new guide is available at www.bspb.co.uk/news.html or contact Robert Jackson on 00441353 653202 for a hard copy. Cost £4.00



Challenge to £100m Golf Project Near Giant's Causeway is Dismissed

A High Court Judge in Northern Ireland has rejected a legal challenge by the National Trust which claimed that building a new golf resort near the Giant's Causeway would have a major environmental impact upon the country's only UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site.

Work can now begin on an 18-hole championship golf course, designed by David McLay Kidd, clubhouse, golf academy, a five-star 120-bedroom hotel, 75 golf lodges and a spa to be known as Bushmills Dunes Golf Resort and Spa. The project will create 300 new jobs in addition to 360 jobs during its construction. "There is no reason why Bushmills with its sand dunes and Atlantic wind cannot become a top 100 course," said Kidd.

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New Free Golf Course Management System Launched

A free and easy to use new online system that helps golf courses manage themselves more sustainably and efficiently has been launched by The R&A.

CourseTracker was unveiled at BTME in Harrogate and is designed for golf course managers and club secretaries to record the income derived from the course and what is spent on its maintenance.

The secure system allows golf clubs to monitor their performance over time and identify strengths, weaknesses and areas where savings could be made in terms of energy and water, for example.

CourseTracker also enables golf clubs to anonymously benchmark their performance against that of other clubs of a similar size in their country. It produces accurate performance reports for the use of course managers and club secretaries and can be used to keep committees informed and to aid decision making.

The system has been extensively tested with course managers, club secretaries and industry bodies and their feedback has been used to develop and refine its range of functions. It has been endorsed by England Golf, the Golfing Union of Ireland, the Scottish Golf Union and the Golfing Union of Wales.



(Left to right) Steve Isaac, Director - Golf Course Management, The R&A; Kevin Weir, Golf Services Manager, Scottish Golf Union; Paul Keeling, Club Services Manager, England Golf; Phillip Russell, Manager - Golf Course Affairs, The R&A, pose for a photograph during the CourseTracker press conference launch at the Majestic Hotel on January 22, 2013 in Harrogate, England.

CourseTracker can be accessed online at: www.coursetracker.org Golf clubs need only spend a few minutes registering before using the system. It is simple to use and there are full online tutorials available for guidance.

Teagasc Appoints Head of Education

Teagasc has appointed Tony Pettit as Head of its Education programme. He takes over from Paddy Browne who was appointed Head of Teagasc's Crops, Environment and Land Use Programme in May 2012.



Tony Pettit will lead the delivery of the Education programme nationally through the four Teagasc owned colleges, its three associated private colleges and the twelve Teagasc Regional Education Centres. In addition to its further education provision Teagasc has a major involvement in higher education delivery through seven Institutes of Technology partners and its two University partners. In 2012 over 1,900 learners enrolled in Teagasc further education and Teagasc linked higher education programmes and over 3,600 learners are currently participating in Teagasc education programmes. In addition Teagasc also provides a comprehensive

suite of short courses for around 6,000 adult farmers and industry personnel.

A native of County Roscommon, Tony Pettit has held a number of senior education posts in Teagasc including Head of Curriculum Development and Head of Kildalton College. He began his career as an Adviser with Teagasc before going on to be a Beef Specialist and to work as a Specialist in Food Assurance.

He is a graduate of University College Dublin with a BAgrSc and went on to receive a MAgrSc (Hons). In 2001 he was awarded a Masters in Business Studies (Management of Change) from Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). He is a former Council member of FETAC and a former President of the Irish Grassland Association.

Teagasc Director Professor Gerry Boyle congratulated Tony Pettit on his appointment saying: "The education programme is one of the priority areas for Teagasc, equipping the next generation of farmers with the knowledge and skills to grow and develop the agriculture, horticulture, forestry and food sectors."





TYM Compact Tractor range from LELY

TYM tractors have introduced a new range of compact tractors. Models range from 23hp to 100hp to cater to a variety of needs, but Lely says that the 40hp and 50hp tractors are particularly suited to the turf sector. A popular choice is the 40hp T433 model, with its maximum working speed of almost 20mph making it ideal for general turf management. For a mid-duty model, opt for the 50hp T503 tractor, which has a top speed of just over 20mph and is perfect for larger venues like multi-course golf clubs, sports training grounds and racecourses.

As with all TYM tractors, both models benefit from a powerful four-cylinder, liquid-cooled diesel engine that maximises fuel efficiency. Dual-air filter elements protect and extend engine life. Some models also feature hydrostatic power-steering for effortless manoeuvrability and a wide turning radius. A heavy-duty, four-wheel-drive front axle, meanwhile, offers greater traction where needed.

All TYM tractors can also be upgraded with optional heated and air-conditioned cabs for maximum operator comfort. A radio and CD player can be fitted, too. The cabs are easy to get in and out of, plus provide plenty of working space as well as superb visibility. But models without cabs boast a handy feature as well - the ROPS can be folded down for compact, convenient storage under a low roof.

And, with Lely also distributor for the Toro range of turf maintenance machinery, TYM tractors can be used with popular Toro units, such as ProCore aerators and ProPass topdressers. The tractors can be mounted with an array of other attachments, too, such as loaders and backhoes from other manufacturers.

For more information on TYM, call Lely on: **01480 226800**
email: janguige@lely.com
or visit www.lely.co.uk



New top-performing Creeping Bentgrass makes commercial debut

More than eight years of intensive plant breeding, selection and improvement by Everris, and the company's predecessor, Scotts, has culminated in the launch onto the European market of Memorial, a brand new creeping bentgrass suitable for golf greens, tees and other close-mown fine turf. Memorial is recommended also for inclusion in blends for the seeding of golf course fairways.

Among the key characteristics of Memorial are

excellent resistance to Dollar Spot, Microdochium (Fusarium) Patch and drought, accompanied by rapid establishment, good wear and frost tolerance, and the ability to achieve and maintain dense ground cover. Once established, Memorial is remarkably tolerant of dry, low-nutrient conditions, helping turf managers reduce input and maintenance costs.

Memorial was also one of eight creeping bentgrass cultivars assessed for their resistance to Dollar Spot by the O J Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

In addition to its proven resistance to a major fungal pathogen, Memorial, displays an attractive medium-dark green colour, a fine leaf and low growth habit.

Memorial, is available now from Everris distributors.

Above: Memorial is the latest high-performing creeping bentgrass from Everris.



The Buggyman Ltd on the Expansion Path

The Buggyman Ltd is proud to announce the opening of their new sales and service depot in Little Island, Cork and the appointment of three new staff members, John O'Reilly, Jack Nestor (Sales) and Simon Mills (Service and Repair). This new depot will cover the full Club Car and Range Servant range of equipment.

All enquiries to:

John O'Reilly (Sales): 087-2518106
Jack Nestor (Sales): 087-2796399
Simon Mills (Service & Repair): 087-9291110
The Buggyman Head Office: 045-878200

The Buggyman Ltd is also proud to announce the promotion of Charlie Timpson to specialist Utility Sales Manager. Charlie will deal with Course Superintendants and greenkeepers nationwide.

The Buggyman Ltd welcomes Ray McCormack to its service team.

Finally, from all her colleagues in The BuggyMan, a heartfelt congratulations to Aoife Cullen on the arrival of her baby girl, Teagan.

THE BUGGYMAN LTD

New Online Shop for European John Deere Fans

A new online merchandise shop has been launched on the John Deere website for customers and fans of the brand in Europe. Featuring an updated design and improved user interface, it replaces the previous version introduced in 2007.



The popularity of the John Deere brand is such that John Deere merchandise reaches many fans that are not linked to the land or agricultural and turf machinery. The collection now features more than 1000 items including office accessories, watches and radios; practical workwear and stylish clothing; ride-on pedal tractors, Gator utility vehicles and go-karts; beautifully crafted scale models, and numerous other gifts and practical items for the home and garden.

John Deere licensed products are created with the same attention to detail and finish traditionally found in John Deere equipment. Highlights of the 2013 collection include new detailed collectible models, toys and ride-ons for kids, as well as new designs for John Deere clothing lines.

Over the years, shoppers have shared many of their wishes and new ideas for additional John Deere merchandise; many items, such as John Deere branded bed linen, have been developed as a result and are now available for online ordering, based on this customer feedback.

The new online shop, which features prices in both pounds sterling and euros, complements the merchandise offered by local John Deere dealerships in the UK and Ireland; to find your nearest dealer, visit the website at www.JohnDeere.co.uk and look for the dealer locator.

Campey's Recycling Dresser MK II and latest Shockwave

The benefits of recycling are widely accepted and are common place in the domestic and industrial workplace. Not so well known are the enormous advantages to be gained from applying the same principles to the structure of the soil.



Campey Turfcare Ltd launched a new machine at the last BTME show in Harrogate. The Koro Recycling Dresser MKII is a heavy duty aerator and root-zone recycler. It aerates the underlying soil vertically and horizontally, removing soil from the root-zone and re-distributing it across the playing surface.

The result is that compaction is eliminated, biological activity increased and existing fertilisers are re-distributed to greater effect. This in turn reduces the amount of topdressing required, saving labour and material costs and promoting sustainable maintenance.

There are 3 working widths; 1.6m, 1.9m and 2.2m for tractors from 40hp to 90hp.

Imants has produced an additional model of Imants Shockwave with increased working width 2.75m. The new wider working width will provide an even greater weapon for combatting and alleviating excessive water on sports surfaces, quickly and with minimum disruption.

Turfcare Group Emerges from Successful Examinership

Turfcare has successfully emerged from a total restructure and are now firmly on solid ground and looking forward to 2013 and beyond.

Neil Hughes of Hughes Blake and Associates had been appointed as Examiner to the three companies in Turfcare Group last October. The objective of examinership is to help companies, who are experiencing difficult times, to financially restructure and to move forward with the jobs secure

and the business on a more solid footing. The business continues to trade as normal during examinership. While there are strict criteria surrounding the process, the basis of this restructure is the formulation of a scheme of arrangement by the examiner which requires the approval of the High Court. The scheme, which received very strong support from the creditors, was put before the High Court on 21st December 2012. The Judge gave it his full approval and wished the company and the staff every success in the future.



Greentech Appoints Irish Sales Manager

Greentech Sportsturf Ltd of Stirling, Scotland, is delighted to announce that it has been appointed exclusive distributor for The Andersons INC granular fertilisers throughout the UK and Ireland. In order to support this move, Kyle Irwin has been appointed as Sales Manager in Ireland for Greentech Sportsturf Ltd.

Supporting the distribution Greentech have also appointed Spray-Chem Environmental as the sole distributor for Ireland. Spray-Chem have three representatives taking care of the golf market and can be contacted on the following numbers:

Yvonne Ritchie: 087 2365858

Aisling Kilcullen: 087 7858050

Sam Leech: 087 9793621

Greentech was established in 1998, and specialises in sports turf management, design and construction and has an extensive range of fine turf products.

Kyle Irwin has worked in the industry for over 20 years since leaving college. He has worked as a Greenkeeper at Malone Golf Club and Down Royal Golf Club and was Head Greenkeeper at Lurgan Golf Club for almost 10 years before moving into sales. Kyle attended several colleges including Greenmount, Elmwood and Myerscough. Greentech are also exclusive distributors in Ireland for Floratine. Speaking about his appointment with Greentech Kyle said "I look forward to continuing to give a personal and professional service to greenkeepers and groundsmen throughout the region, backed up by the excellent staff at Greentech Sportsturf Ltd and our suppliers." Greentech Sportsturf Ltd can be contacted on 01786 480020 or email: info@greentechsportsturf.co.uk

To contact Kyle Irwin direct, please call 07879 775527, (ROI) +447879 775527 or email: kyle@greentechsportsturf.co.uk



LELY Strengthens TORO Irrigation Ireland Operation

Toro Irrigation distributor Lely UK has improved its route to market for Northern and Southern Ireland.



The new Toro Irrigation Ireland team - from left are Stephen Daly, Robert Jackson, Peter Drennan and Barry Drennan.

Lely has now brought its two best and biggest sales and installation/servicing partners together to provide a more streamlined and higher standard of service.

Reel-Tech, based in County Meath and already an established Toro machinery dealer, has become the new authorised agent for Toro Irrigation products and spare parts in Ireland. Any new sales enquiries should be directed to Reel-Tech's parts department by calling +353 (0) 1 824 0706 or emailing parts@reeltech.ie.

Installation and servicing, meanwhile, will continue to be carried out by Aquaturf Solutions Limited. Also based in County Meath, the Aquaturf team, led by Stephen Daly, are highly experienced in golf course and sports field irrigation, and can be contacted on +353 (0) 86 083 8747 or

aquaturf@eircom.net Existing customers can continue to direct sales enquiries to Aquaturf.

Toro's 14-blade Cylinder

Most Toro Greensmaster pedestrian and riding greensmowers can be quickly and easily upgraded from the 11-blade cylinder fitted as standard to a 14-blade cylinder unit.

More blades mean a much smoother, truer cut - which is key to producing tournament-standard golf greens, bowling greens, croquet lawns and other fine turf surfaces. Players will enjoy faster and truer ball roll (something that will be confirmed by your Stimpmeter), and a more challenging game as a result.

It also enables you to raise the height of cut slightly for healthier, stress-free greens without compromising ball speed. Similarly, the cleanness of cut, even at the lowest cutting heights, helps you reduce the chemical inputs sometimes needed to maintain very short grass, saving you money as well.

Toro's 14-blade cylinder is available on the following greensmowers: the Greensmaster 1000, Flex and eFlex 1800, and Flex and eFlex 2100 pedestrian mowers; and the Greensmaster 3250-D, Greensmaster 3150-Q, Greensmaster Triflex 3400 and Greensmaster Triflex Hybrid 3420 riding mowers.

Pictures opposite: Smoothly does it - The Greensmaster Flex 2100, fitted with Toro's 14-blade cylinder, in action.



Cushman Introduces 1600XD-R 4X4 Utility Vehicle

Cushman has introduced the newest addition to its vehicle line-up - the 1600XD-R 4x4 utility vehicle.

The 1600XD-R combines four-wheel-drive capability with a powerful 22 hp, 1,007cc three-cylinder OHV diesel engine to handle large tasks on tough terrain. Its performance is further enhanced by an automatic, continuously variable transmission (CVT) with low - and high-gear ratios, a user-selectable locking rear differential which can be engaged in both two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive operation, four-wheel independent suspension, and exceptional hauling and towing capacity, with a maximum vehicle load of 726 kgs. The 1600XD-R is homologated as a tractor and as such can be licensed for road use in European countries. (Local legislation may apply as to how the vehicle is registered).



The Cushman 1600XD-R's many features include:

- 22 hp, three-cylinder OHV liquid-cooled 1,077cc diesel engine
- Automatic continuously variable transmission (CVT) with selectable gear ratios: Top speed is 40 km/h in high range, and 17 km/h in low range.
- User-selectable 4WD: which can be engaged quickly and easily.
- User-selectable locking rear differential.
- Large payload and towing capacity: A total load capacity of 726 kgs, and its 0.4 cubic metres steel cargo bed can hold a maximum of 500 kgs. The vehicle also can tow up to 590 kgs from its rear tow hitch.
- Four-wheel independent suspension: MacPherson struts on its front wheels and a double A-arm wishbone suspension on its rear wheels.
- Essential safety features: A tubular steel rollover protection system (ROPS) and seat belts protect operator and passenger. Full road lighting is standard featuring headlights with high-beam functionality, which provides maximum visibility in low-light situations.
- Unexpected conveniences: A 12-volt accessory outlet in the dashboard allows for on-the-go charging of mobile phones and other electronic devices.

For more information on the Cushman 1600XD-R 4x4 Utility Vehicle visit: www.cushman.co.uk

Everris Launches New Fertilizer Range

Everris have launched a brand new, high-impact, controlled-fertilizer range.

ProTurf is designed for use on tees, surrounds, outfields and lawns. It contains Polyhalite, a unique mineral sourced from the company's mine in the north east of England.

ProTurf contains a combination of Poly-S controlled-release fertilizer technology, readily available urea Nitrogen, and a unique multi-nutrient compound fertilizer. The controlled release Poly-S technology leads to consistent, regular growth over a 2-3 month period without growth peaks. The uncoated Nitrogen portion of the fertilizer provides an immediate turf response, even in cooler conditions. The multi-nutrient compound fertilizer component contains four macro-nutrients (K, MgO, CaO & S) all in one granule.



ProTurf - Key Benefits

- Ideal for spring and summer applications
- Specially selected technology for quick reaction in cooler conditions
- Encourages healthy balanced growth at the start of the season
- Contains Potassium for pre-stress conditioning
- High Calcium content for stronger plant cells and harder wearing turf
- High Magnesium content for enhanced photosynthesis and improved colour response

Introducing Polyhalite

Polyhalite is a new naturally occurring mineral fertilizer containing Potassium, Magnesium and Calcium. Deposited over 200 million years ago, it is a complex crystal product which has been discovered at a depth of 1,300 metres in the Cleveland Potash mine in the UK.

"Polyhalite is certainly an exciting new addition to our fertilizer portfolio," confirmed Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager for Everris UK & Ireland. "Extensive trial work has confirmed that the principal nutrients of Potash, Magnesium and Calcium in Polyhalite are fully available to the plant, performing in trials with the same plant-efficiency as standard individual sources of Potassium and Magnesium sulphate."

ProTurf is available now from all Everris distributors. www.everris.com

SOLO Launches New and Improved Sprayers

German grounds equipment manufacturer Solo has launched two new backpack sprayers featuring improved corrosion-resistant Tivilon seals.

By enhancing the 485Pro and 475Pro sprayer seals - which are manufactured from Tivilon, a material more robust and resistant to chlorine-based chemicals in particular. The 485Pro and 475Pro benefit from spraying capacities of 15 and 20 litres respectively and provide even liquid distribution using a maintenance-free membrane-pump operation - a higher-specification alternative to the existing piston-operated versions of the 485 and 475 models. Spray tanks are manufactured from high-grade, UV-resistant polyethylene plastic. Easy to operate and maintain, the sprayers' light weight of just 4.6 and 5.2 kg each also allows

for longer working periods. Distributed by Lely UK, Solo sprayers are already favoured by operators applying fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, disinfectants and formulations for tree, shrub and plant protection as well as wood and concrete finishing and treatments. But these new Tivilon seals also make the 485Pro and 475Pro suitable for chlorine-based cleaning applications; for instance in poultry, dairy and livestock production settings, in the construction sector and for food, leisure and health industry disinfection.

The Solo sprayers' range is also supported by an array of accessories.

For more information on Solo's new sprayers and wider product range, call distributor Lely UK's Roger Lupton on 01480 226800 email: solo.uk@lely.com or visit: www.solo-germany.com

Above: Solo's new 485Pro backpack sprayer feature more-resilient Tivilon seals.





New Cab for John Deere 5E Series Tractors

Designed to provide more comfort, performance and versatility, John Deere's 5E Series three-cylinder utility tractors will be available from this spring with a new John Deere designed cab. The tractors are suitable for a wide range of customers in the commercial, golf and grounds care markets when fitted with turf tyres, as well as equestrian centres, private landowners and country estates, part-time farmers and smallholders.

The 5055E, 5065E and 5075E models from 55 to 75hp (97/68 EC rating) can be ordered with two new cab options, equipped with either basic roof-mounted heater/ventilation outlets and controls or a higher specification air conditioning and heating system. The cabs also feature opening front, rear and side windows for extra visibility when required. An additional new feature is a digital instrument panel, as featured on the bigger 5M Series tractors from 70 to 100hp.



All three models feature a John Deere PowerTech M Tier III engine, providing good fuel economy and low emission levels, and an open centre hydraulic system with independent pumps. A single rear SCV is operated by a dedicated lever as standard. Additional options include a second rear or mid-mounted SCV, operated by a joystick control.

The synchronised nine forward/three reverse inline transmission follows an H pattern and can be shifted on the move via side-shift levers within the range. A standard 540rpm pto operates at a rated engine speed of 2400rpm, while the 540E economy version runs at 1700 engine rpm.

The tractors can be fitted with a choice of two mechanical self-levelling or non self-levelling loaders, with lift capacities of either 873 or 989kg to a maximum lift height of 3.38m, and rear lift capacity is 1.8 tonnes at the hitch balls. Prices are still to be confirmed.

Headland's new Fertiliser Range

Headland have introduced Xtend 10-10-10+2Mgo. This is a unique pre-seeding fertiliser ideal for use on golf tees, fairways and surrounds as well as winter sports pitches, cricket outfield and racecourse turf.

Suitable for application after any renovation work and after cutting, Xtend 10-10-10 uses Crystal Green, a new source of slow-release phosphorus, nitrogen and magnesium recovered from UK waste water. With additional slow release nitrogen providing release for up to three months, a composted organic base, seaweed meal and humic acid, the product is able to aid germination and gentle establishment of new grasses.



Xtend 10-10-10 will provide natural, effective nutrition over a long period while helping to cut workloads for greenkeeping teams with its slow release action.

Headland have also introduced its mini prilled fertiliser formulations, Multiverdo 13-0-46 and Multigreen 24-0-24.

Multiverdo is a fine prilled potassium nitrate suitable for all turf, providing immediately available nitrogen along with good levels of plant hardening potassium. The sulphur free formulation works rapidly under cooler temperatures to aid early establishment, and plant hardiness.

Sulphur content is a key factor in the treatment of anaerobic soil conditions or 'Black Layer'. Many turf areas show anaerobic conditions (oxygen deficiency) at certain times of the year, primarily as a result of water-logging caused by excessive rainfall, compaction, poor rootzone construction and/or drainage.

Multigreen 24-0-24 is a mini controlled release fertiliser for fine turf. Nutrients are released according to soil temperature alone over a period of up to six months during the growing season. Multigreen 24-0-24 can be used as a low rate, 'base feed' to supplement liquid overfeeding and is ideal for use in free-draining sand dominated rootzones, which may be deficient in potassium. It can be used for turf cut below 6mm, providing a gentle but consistent release of nutrients.

Wiedenmann Introduces 'Fold on the Fly' Commercial Cutting Deck

Wiedenmann UK has launched a 'Fold on the Fly' cutting deck. Aware that professionals need exceptional build quality and easy operation, they introduce an infinitely versatile front mounted cutting deck, the Super Pro FXL 230 H mower.

With up to 2.3 m cutting width, its 'fold on the fly' side wings enable operators to vary the width of cut through three width settings without stopping. This gives the potential for approximately 30% higher productivity in comparison to a 180 cm mower, greatly reducing the number of 'passes' required while minimising soil compaction and potential wheel tracks.

Both hydraulic wing decks lift and lower independently.* A unique double pivoting system means that while the side wings are raised, crucially the belt tension remains constant and there is no risk of the belt coming off. The height of the cut remains the same between the centre and the side wings, even on undulating surfaces. Overlapping blades ensure a stripe-free cut.

Ideal for use on both on level and graduated areas, the side



units can tilt by 10° allowing them to cope with uneven surfaces. In tight areas the side wings can be retracted so the cutting width can be just 140 cm. The high overcut between the blades ensures uniform distribution of the

clippings and clean mowing even in tight corners. Rounded edges on the mowing deck mean that the 'flow' of grass clippings exit freely without blockage. Anti-scalp rollers come as standard and the mowing deck can be easily raised for maintenance.

RRP is from £11,350 with the optional mulching kit at £930.

*Additional spool valves are required for the power unit



Contact Points

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Mark Murphy (SE Rep)
Tullamore Golf Club - 087 2609255
Email: marktgc@gmail.com

GCSAI Website:
www.gcsai.org

REMINDER

The deadline for receiving
advertising and editorial for
the next issue of *Greenside* is:

26 June 2013

A Chairde

First and foremost I would like to thank everyone who responded to our national survey. Overall the response was far greater than expected and most importantly has provided the information to enable us to tailor specifically how we move forward on a range of issues. As you know from our membership renewal forms we have immediately moved to respond to the definitive call for a change of name for our Association. It is hoped that in the coming weeks when all the membership forms come in we will have a result on this issue.

While talking about membership I would like to take this opportunity to urge you all to continue to support and join our Association. It is only through your support that we can continue to



Westmanstown Golf Club, venue for the GSCAI AGM to be held on Tuesday 23 April 2013.

function at a regional and national level. Also on membership matters I want to highlight and invite as many of you as possible to our AGM, which is being held in Westmanstown Golf Club at 8pm on Tuesday the 23rd of April.

As this is my last report as President of our Association, I would like to say what an honour and privilege it has been to represent our profession, our members and our Association. I would like to thank our executive committee for all their help, dedication and support over what has been a testing time for our Association. To Alan Mahon and Maria Doyle I also offer my sincerest thanks and gratitude, your continued loyalty, dedication and enthusiasm to get the job done, over what has been a difficult period has been both refreshing and inspiring.

Finally I would like to wish our incoming President Michael McFeely all the good luck in the world over the next two years of his Presidency.

Sin é.
Daoibh ulig ó cheartlár mo chroí.
Beir bua agus beannacht.
Is Mise le Meas.
Damian McLaverty



The GCSAI thank each and every one of our Trade Members for supporting us throughout these challenging times. Please support them when purchasing goods and services.

Company Name	Contact	Telephone	Email
Advanced Landscape Services	Karl Dooley	087 9402650	advancedlandscapeservices@eircom.net
Amenity Turf Supplies	Shay Phelan	087 2765259	sphelan@amenityturfsupplies.com
Anthony D'Arcy Sands	Pat Murphy	087 2585653	info@darcysands.ie
Barenbrug UK Ltd	Paul Warner	00441 359 272000	pwarner@baruk.co.uk
Bayer Environmental Science	Conor Egan	086 2643001	conor.egan@bayer.com
Campey Turfcare Systems Ltd	Brian O'Shaughnessy	087 9274521	brian@campeyturfcare.com
Cropcare Ltd	Rose O'Donovan	01 2874485	info@cropcare.ie
Dar Golf Construction Ltd	James D'Arcy	087 2573550	james@dargolf.com
Declan Branigan Designs Ltd	Ronan Branigan	041 9846627	ronan@declanbranigandesign.com
Drummonds Ltd	Rosalyn Drew	041 9838986	rosalyn.drew@drummonds.ie
Dublin Grass Machinery	Robert Mitchell	01 8386867	dublingrass@eircom.net
Eddie B. Connaughton Ltd	Eddie Connaughton	01 6283300	eddieconn@eircom.net
Emerald Lawns	Colin Sherrard	01 6852655	colin@emeraldawns.ie
Everris Ltd	Colman Warde	087 7799527	colman.warde@everris.com
Goldcrop Ltd	Mark Booker	087 9580110	mark.booker@goldcrop.ie
Harris Turf Improvements	Mark Harris	087 2540166	info@harristurf.ie
Headland Amenity Ltd	Andy Russell	00 44 1223 597834	andy.russell@headlandamenity.com
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Irish Grass Machinery Ltd	Michael Smyth	01 8991212	sales@irishgrassmachinery.ie
James Coburn & Son Ltd	William Cartmill	048 40662207	sales@coburns.co.uk
Jeff Howes Golf Design	Jeff Howes	056 7701007	jeffhowes@jhgd.com
JFB Golf Supplies Ltd	Frank Byrne	087 2374285	jfb_golf@yahoo.com
John Deere Ltd	Joedy Ibbotson	00441949 860491	ibbotsonjoedy@johndeere.com
Kevin Broderick Ltd	Kevin Broderick	01 2572255	kbroderick@brodericks.ie
Leinster Turf Equipment Ltd	Derek Inglis	086 8308033	sales@leinsterturfequipment.ie
Lely Ireland Ltd	Richard Harris	045 526170	turfcaresales.ie@lely.com
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Ransomes Jacobsen	Gina Putman	0044 1473276370	gputman@tip.textron.com
Reel-Tech	Barry Drennan	087 6388955	barry@reeltech.ie
Sea Nymph (Galway Bay Marine) Ltd	David Casburn	087 6788481	david@sea-nymph-ireland.com
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Safety Training Programme

for the **Golf Industry**



**The New
Industry
Standard in
Training for the
Golf Industry**

The GCSAI & The HSS Group are delighted to offer

The Green Pass Safety Training Programmes for the Golf Industry, throughout the 32 counties of Ireland.

These programmes have been developed following much preparation & consultation amongst the stakeholders in the Golf and Safety Industries. They are aimed at all workers within the Golf Industry.

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