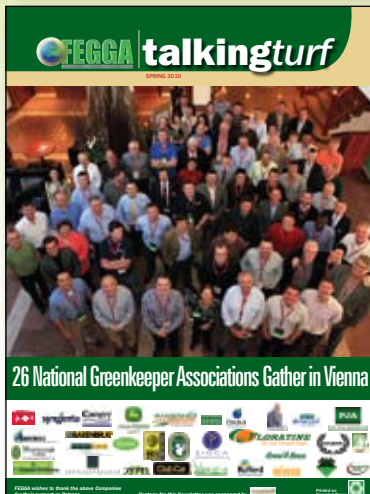
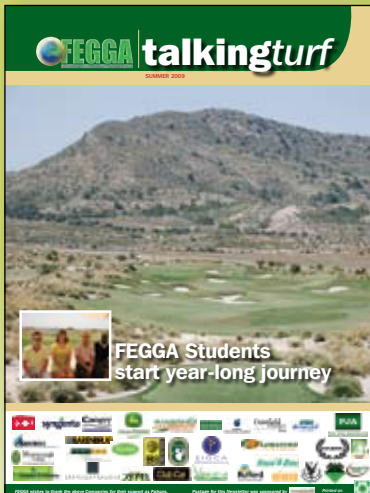
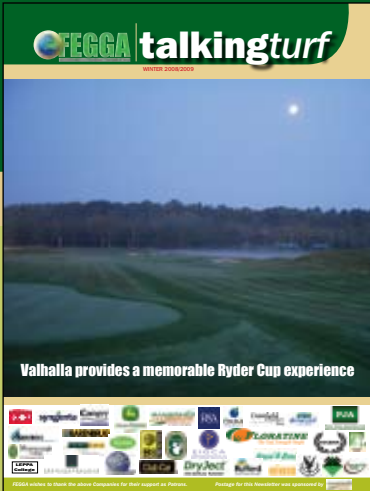


SUMMER 2011



VIEW FROM MY DESK

The year started in remarkable form for FEGGA, with our Conference being a real success. The Icelandic Greenkeepers Association did an excellent job in playing host and providing a real commitment in helping us to achieve the end results we were seeking. The highlight of the event was that the President of Iceland opened the Conference with an excellent 15 minute speech that really set the tone for two excellent days of work and social networking. You will see as you look through the Newsletter that we have been very busy with the many initiatives and programmes that we are involved with, and it's great that most of these are both rewarding and beneficial to our profession and the game of golf. One new initiative that we have been focusing on is a new series of Roadshows that will be made up of workshops that will deliver specialised education on Machine Management, Water Management, and Golf Course Design, all with an environmental theme supported by GEO. We plan to run two pilot Workshops in November in the South of Sweden and if successful we will announce further dates for 2012 and beyond. I want to take this opportunity to welcome three new Patron Members, Indigrow, Herbatech, and Krause Golf Design. I also want to thank all our Patron members for the support that they give to FEGGA and

the benefits that come from that support. Whilst on the subject of our Patron members, we have recently made a decision for a Patron Member to sit on the board of FEGGA. We believe this will bring many benefits to FEGGA and also improve further the communication reach with all our Patron members. Bob Buckingham (Bernhard & Company) was selected to be the first Patron representative. Finally we have recently taken a decision to discontinue the hard copy version of this Newsletter "Talking Turf". We will in the future be producing an electronic Newsletter that will be sent out monthly with our first edition being sent out in October 2011. In keeping with our ethos as a Federation we strongly believe this is the way forward. It will continue our strong environmental lead and also it will have the scope to reach more people. **If you would like to receive the new electronic Newsletter then please send your email details to me at deancleaver@fegga.org**

Dean Cleaver, Executive Officer, FEGGA
deancleaver@fegga.org
www.fegga.org



Introducing the Greensmaster® TriFlex™ Hybrid.

Setting a new standard by which all other riding greensmowers will be measured.

We gave our engineers the ultimate challenge – design the greensmower that will redefine precision cutting. With the new Greensmaster TriFlex, they exceeded all expectations.

Advanced cutting performance.

Imagine a rider that cuts with the precision of a walker. All Greensmaster TriFlex models give you superior contour following by combining industry leading Flex™ technology with a **double A-arm suspension system** that keeps the cutting units



floating freely. It prevents step cuts – particularly on the cleanup cut, with a unique **“lift-in-turn”** feature. Hybrid models also help to eliminate unsightly clip marks with an **energy storage system** that delivers instant power when you engage the reels.



The ultimate in versatility.

The new TriFlex isn't just the best cutting greensmower, it's the most versatile. It has a new **flip-up footrest** to enable easy access to the center cutting unit. The exclusive combination of open cutting unit access and **tool-free, quick-connect cutting units** allows you to switch from mowing greens one minute to tees or surrounds the next – with the same tractor!



Time is money.

By raising the bar on productivity, we lowered your total cost of ownership. Each TriFlex rider offers **faster travel time** between greens. The machine has **no daily maintenance** requirements. Fast cutting unit change-out, fluid tank level “windows”, and easy access to routine service areas are just a few features that will help save you time and money.



EnergySmart™

What's good for your greens is also good for the environment. The Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid riding mowers are the first “EnergySmart™” labeled products offered by The Toro Company. **EnergySmart™ is about efficiency with an eye on environmental and financial sustainability**, a visible sign of Toro's ongoing commitment to customer valued innovation.

The right choice.

Experience the future of greensmowers today. Contact your local distributor for more information.

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www.toro.com/triflex



Count on it.

The process of preparing a course for an Open Championship is far more complicated and strategic than many people realise, with the set-up beginning many months before the start of play. "As at each and every Open Championship, the objective is to present a fair, consistent and challenging test of golf in a classic links setting" said Steve Isaac, The R&A's Director of Golf Course Management. "As the official agronomists to The R&A Championship Committee, the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) supported the greenkeeping team at Royal St George's to ensure that the course was at its very best and was delivering the true, firm and running conditions that are characteristic of The Open."

To facilitate the development and maintenance of these desired playing conditions, there is now an array of scientific equipment available to objectively assess playing surface characteristics. "Using specialist measurement tools, target ranges for the surface qualities of the course's putting greens were determined in advance of The Open" said STRI's Championship Agronomist, Alistair Beggs.

Throughout the week of The Open, STRI gathered daily numerical data to analyse how the putting surfaces were performing. With this information it was possible to micro-manage the greens, making tiny adjustments in cutting height and rolling, as and where needed, to guarantee the desired degree of consistency across the links.

"The tools make a contribution towards a better understanding of the effect of our management on the quality of the putting surfaces", added Beggs. "For The Open, course preparation is all about delivering and maintaining optimum levels of firmness, speed, smoothness (vertical displacement) and trueness (lateral deviation) throughout the Championship. Our objective was to ensure that all 18 greens, as well as the practice green, offered a consistent and uniform response to a golf ball in play. In this respect, we were working to ensure that the skills of the players were rewarded, and that the condition of the course was testing enough to allow a worthy champion to emerge."

Having access to surface performance data throughout a major championship is invaluable in being able to adapt rapidly to changing weather conditions. "The greens were double cut at 3.5 mm on Saturday, having been single cut on Thursday and Friday", explained Graham Royden. "This decision was made as it was anticipated that the greens were going to slow down due to the rain and wind which was forecast. We were, therefore, able to keep the greens running within the window of what The R&A asked for."

Assisting the greenkeeping team at Royal St George's was The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) Open Support team. This 60 strong group

On course for an Open Championship

The world's best golfers take centre stage at The Open Championship, but behind the scenes there is a team of people working tirelessly to prepare the golf course to the standard required for hosting golf's oldest Major. For The Open Championship 2011 at The Royal St George's Golf Club, The R&A worked closely with Course Manager Graham Royden and his squad of greenkeepers, to keep the course in excellent condition, despite some very inclement weather.



of volunteers has been providing practical help and support to the course management team at the host venue of The Open every year since the initiative's inception at St

Andrews in 1984. The volunteers, who are all greenkeeping professionals from the UK and abroad, were assisting with bunker preparation and the mowing of putting and chipping greens throughout the week of the Championship. The supplementary assistance provided was invaluable in helping with the extra pressures placed on the resident staff throughout an Open Championship.

The effort put in by all involved in preparing the course for The Open was covered during the Championship on the brand new R&A Golf Course website, www.randa.org.thegolfcourse

Targeted at decision makers in golf facilities with the executive power to initiate and drive change, this new site focuses on the sustainable management and development of golf courses. "The launch of the new The Golf Course website is a natural evolution of The R&A's continuing commitment to improving the sustainability of the game's playing environment" said Peter Dawson, The R&A's Chief Executive. "As golf's environmental credentials come under ever-increasing legislative scrutiny, The R&A remains dedicated to providing front-line support and guidance to assist golf courses to meet these challenges."

With guidance on sustainable practices and a database of international case studies, features and news bulletins, the website will provide decision makers at golf facilities with practical help, so that they can realise the benefits of adopting the principles of sustainable management.

Adherence to the core principles detailed on The Golf Course website promises:

- increased revenue through the development of greater year round playability
- reduced costs through more efficient practices and reductions in unnecessary inputs
- enhanced nature on the course, which has been shown to be a draw to potential customers

improved relations with the community, through promotion of social responsibility, local co-operation and by broadening the potential market for golf.

Golf's intimate relationship with its environment requires courses around the world to build resilience into their future operations. The new website encourages a four-fold process of developing and maintaining high standards of playing performance, building financial security, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems and promoting the game's environmental benefits to wider, non-golfing audiences.

For more about how golf courses can become more profitable, for the business, the environment and the community, and to find out how The R&A employs environmental best practice at The Open each year, please visit www.randa.org/thegolfcourse

Green-e project is running with full speed!



College CZ (Beneshov) and Kauno Kolegija LTU (Kauno) have been going through a development process. Both institutions created a completely new education program, curricula and relationships with local golf courses and Beneshov's cooperation with national greenkeeping association of Czech Republic. One working package of the project was to identify resources and it was a big surprise to both colleges that almost all of the needed resources to organize greenkeeping level education exist in house. Neither Beneshov nor Kauno has a golf facility to be able to train and supervise on the job training to students. It was essential to create relationships to local golf courses to teach students the practical skills of greenkeeping. During education development process Beneshov and Kauno received assistance from Elmwood and KAO.

Both Elmwood and KAO have education programs running. The biggest challenge to

them now is to create a common template of e-learning environment. Kauno made a huge step to establish an e-learning template and it was very good so naturally it was chosen to use among partners. E-learning material will be produced in four different languages and partners will manage and update information during the project. KAO's been offering assistance to the other partners by checking ICT facilities and offering space to store documents within SharePoint, through portal and hosting on line partner meetings. Elmwood has been assisting with the contextualizing of the standards, identifying resources and the overall needs of education development.

Pilot education includes in each partner country three different methods to do studies: face to face learning (theory), distance learning (e-learning) and on the job training. At the end of the education project, feedback will be collected from students, teachers and trainers and conclusions will be made from collected data. It is too early to say about the results but so far it seems that PES are able to implement to very different national education systems and at the same time respect the education providers internal systems. Project will certainly give four examples of implementation and running education to use widely in Europe when it will finish and the work is completed.

Pan European Standards of Greenkeeping Education, the core element of Green-e project, is now implemented into four different education systems in four different countries. Two project partners, Elmwood College (Elmwood) from Scotland and Kainuu Vocational College (KAO) from Finland, are already running education and two partners will run pilot education starting in 2011 winter and spring.

The Project has been facing some challenges during implementing the standards. The two partners from new developing golf countries Beneshov Secondary School and Agricultural

Pan European Standards of greenkeeping education can be found at the moment from the webpage of FEGGA www.fegga.org and www.egeu.eu



Quality Turf Fertilizers For A Greener Tomorrow

The challenge facing today's golf course greenkeepers is to provide tournament quality greens and healthier turf in the most eco compatible way. Green and tees must look and play their best all season long and despite intensive use. There must be, in the same time, a constant concern for the environment. To meet this challenge Herbatech has introduced the Zeotech Mini range of green size fertilizers, premium quality controlled release N-P-K formulas, fully soluble, enriched with micronutrients. Zeotech Mini Fertilizers, based on a unique Italian manufactory technology, have, as main ingredient, Zeotech 300, an Italian

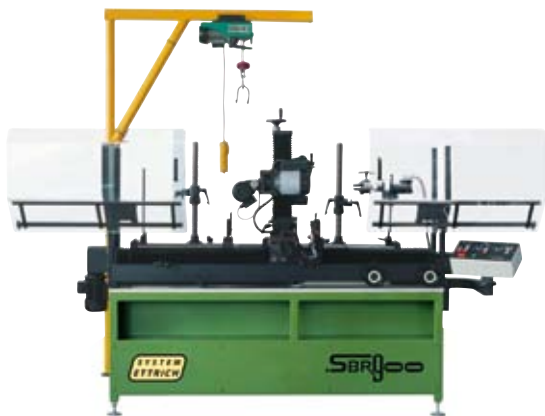


zeolite (chabazite) with the highest CEC in the world. They are combined at high percentages (from 7 to 19% in weight) with nitrogen and other elements in compound homogeneous micro granules (0,8-1,2 mm).

With Zeotech Mini the playing and aesthetic

function of a putting green is maximized in terms of growth, colour, disease resistance. Plus, thanks to Zeotech 300, there is a significant reduction of losses of nitrogen in the environment (up to 25%), saving money and helping mother nature.

The Zeotech Mini range is introduced in 4 original formulas: Zeotech Mini Ready 14-0-7+2Fe and Zeotech Mini Spring and Summer 16-0-14 +2Fe for the active growing phases of the season, Zeotech Mini Autumn 7-5-14+4Fe for the stress periods of the year and Zeotech Mini Rooter 10-15-10+2MgO for new seeding and for the airification operations.



Reel Grinding Machine SBR 900

HÖFINGER SOLUTIONS

LÖSUNGEN FÜR GOLFFANLAGEN

HÖFINGER SOLUTIONS is a young and dynamic company made of experts from and for the greenkeeping business. We specialize in modern solutions aiding the greenkeeper to resolve the issues of today's golfcourse and sportsfield maintenance with environmentally sound and economically efficient products.

SBR 900 REEL GRINDING MACHINE

The only high precision grinding machine worldwide where you grind the reel AND bedknife AND sharpen the groomer in one single set-up operation on ONE grinding machine! With the SBR 900 we created a new technological innovation to grind reel mowers with high precision inexpensively. The disassembling, installation and adjusting of the reels is minimized and the precision is unmatched because everything is done in a single clamping operation.

TURF ARGENTUM

A new revolutionary plant strengthening product with dual-mode action! Turf Argentum acts like a natural antibiotic. It improves significantly the root length and root mass (up to 3-times the root mass). The results are stronger, more vital grasses that are more resistant against bacteria, viruses, fungal pathogens and mechanical stresses. More than 100 satisfied superintendents on Europe's finest golf courses have seen the amazing results and trust Turf Argentum in their maintenance programs.



NEW IN OUR PRODUCT LINE:

Double flat-fan air injection nozzles for better efficiency and coverage when applying foliar feeds. Due to the double fan system (30° & 30°), the grass blades are not sprayed from above but will be covered with the spray mist from the sides. The result is more material on the grasses and not wasted on the ground or lost to drift.

Visit www.hoefingersolutions.at for more information on these and other great products.



Before TURF ARGENTUM



After TURF ARGENTUM – one month later



INFO-VIDEOS
on the website

HÖFINGER SOLUTIONS · Alexander Höfinger · Jochbergerstraße 28 · A-6370 Kitzbühel

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CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEGGA AND CAMPEY TURF CARE SYSTEMS TO CONTINUE

Working closely with FEGGA this past year has provided Patron Sponsor Campey Turf Care Systems with a wealth of opportunities to spread its knowledge and experience of turf maintenance and renovation techniques across a wide spectrum of European sporting facilities. The European Demonstration Tour provided an ideal platform for FEGGA members to come and see a whole fleet of equipment in action. Such has been the enthusiasm shown that Campeys has extended its support through sponsorship for FEGGA for another year and is considering another demonstration tour for 2011.

The co-operation between the two organisations was highlighted during the European tour when a demonstration was arranged at Trnovo Ljubljana Golf Course, Slovenia with the assistance of active FEGGA member and President of the Slovenian Greenkeepers Association Gorazd Nastran. Gorazd arranged for a number of local golf contractors to attend and for many it was an opportunity to see the equipment in action for the first time.

Gorazd Nastran is an Agronomist, who has vast experience in greenkeeping and as part of his involvement with the Slovenian Golf Association founded the Environmental Council to raise awareness on environmental responsible management on Slovenian golf courses. He also acts as a Consultant under his own company; GREEN CONSULTING Ltd.

"I have known Richard Campey for over ten years" said Gorazd "We are both strong advocates of the belief that it is essential to understand how the structure of the soil directly affects the state of the playing surface, be it football, golf or whichever sport. The method of construction followed by correct maintenance is vital to achieving consistent play. I have no doubt that the machinery supplied through

Campey Turf Care Systems has been developed with this ethos in mind."

A number of machines drew particular interest at the demonstration.



One was the Imants Sandcat for its ability to aerate, drain and sand slit in a single pass. Although compact it is extremely effective in reducing compaction, breaking up thatch and promoting healthy root growth. It can of time turn around an unplayable sports surface or golf green in a remarkably short period of time. The other was the Imants Shockwave.

One contractor who attended went on to purchase an Imants 2.10m Shockwave is Miha Gregorc. Miha is responsible for contract work on several golf clubs in the Ljubljana area and was invited to the demo by Gorazd. "He is a turf producer who I work closely with using my technical support and is now also offering maintenance services on football pitches and golf courses." Said Gorazd. "There is a particular problem with heavy compacted soils in this part of Slovenia which are predominantly loam based, although some areas are also very stony."

Miha had considered several other machines before choosing the Imants Shockwave. The Imants Shockwave is reputed to be the world's fastest PTO driven rotary, linear decompactor, designed to revitalise heavy wear

areas by relieving soil compaction, improving aeration and removing surface water. The 210 model is a heavier, wider unit and is ideal for fairways and sports fields. As with all Shockwave models, it features a no-chains direct drive, "sealed for life" bearings and mechanical overload protection provided by a torque limiter PTO.

The Shockwave will be used on many contracting projects at golf courses including the Ljubljana Diners Club golf club and additional work at Trnovo Golf Club in the early spring.

GLENMUIR TO OFFER FEGGA BRANDED CLOTHING

FEGGA are delighted to be able to launch a range of branded clothing in association with Glenmuir. The range of clothing will include a range of shirts and sweaters taken from Glenmuir's current range. The clothing range can be viewed and purchased via the FEGGA website, and will be available to purchase at the end of September 2011.

Dean Cleaver, Executive officer said "We are delighted to be associated

with a strong brand such as Glenmuir and to be able to offer our own branded range of clothing in partnership with them"

Glenmuir is a major Partner to many golf organisations and respected world-wide within the game of golf. Glenmuir is also proud to have designed and supplied shirts and knitwear for twelve European Ryder Cup Teams.

GLENMUIR
1891

TRANSFORM YOUR WORST GREENS INTO YOUR BEST GREENS



DO YOU WISH TO HAVE PLAYABLE GREENS ALL YEAR ROUND?

If the answer is yes, you need to try the **Imants Sandcat**.

The Sandcat moves lightly over the playing surface, and introduces sand to improve and enhance the properties of the rootzone, leaving a firm playable surface.



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WWW.CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM

Green Light for Golf

Golf has an incredible opportunity over the next decade and beyond to make a very significant contribution to an important part of the global agenda; sustainability. It's gratifying to look at how we are collectively responding to this responsibility and moving ahead around an ethos of continual improvement.

The Golf Environment Organization was founded to bring people together around sustainability in golf and FEGGA members have been an important part of this effort. For fourteen years, FEGGA has facilitated discussion around sustainable golf management and that knowledge and experience have been invaluable to GEOs work to promote, support and recognise golf's achievements.

Today golf has its own customised sustainability eco-label, GEO Certified™, which is widely endorsed as the most

working together we are demonstrating, more and more, that golf can unite around sustainability, and that as an industry and as individuals we can be confident in expressing our continually improving environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Two acts of leadership on a grand scale really stand out during the past year.

Firstly Iceland, where, during the week of the FEGGA Conference and International Greenkeeping Summit, all 62 Icelandic golf clubs registered in the GEO OnCourse™ programme, publically pledging their

and achievement of the individual clubs, shows that sustainability can be practically and beneficially delivered by all types of golf clubs.

Momentum on the ground

More and more greenkeepers and course managers are now using the OnCourse™ programme to coordinate, plan, record and gain recognition for their continuing environmental and social responsibility efforts.

Golfplatz Klosters, Switzerland, GEO Certified November 2010

This 9-hole 1,200m altitude alpine meadow course opened for play in 2005 and is characterized by a layout that sits into the mountain topography, with rough and



credible, constructive and comprehensive recognition programme in golf and a leader among all sport.

Your investment of ideas and candid feedback have been invaluable, as we worked to create the programme that makes achieving GEO Certified straightforward and practical for greenkeepers and club managers. The result of this effort is GEO OnCourse™, an online suite of step-by-step templates and guidance.

Participation in the programme by golf clubs throughout the world is gaining momentum as a powerful way to tap into cost-saving business benefits while at the same time demonstrating the positive impact golf facilities can have for people and the environment in villages, towns, and cities across Europe and beyond.

Leading by Example

This sustainability initiative for golf has taken time to pull together, requiring both leadership and collaboration in equal measure - across political and climatic boundaries and across different types of people in golf. This isn't easy, but by

commitment—as an entire country of golf—to achieve GEO Certified. The announcement garnered a lot of positive attention, including participation from the Icelandic President and Minister for Environment.

Hörður Þorsteinsson, the General Secretary of the Icelandic Golf Union said: "This is a significant milestone. It demonstrates that we not only recognise the value that Iceland's outstanding environment offers to golf, but we also understand the responsibility that golf has, like others in society, to minimise our consumption of resources, to reduce waste and to protect landscapes and ecosystems. We are proud to be champions of sustainability, in Iceland and also in world golf".

Pioneering leadership is also being shown in the Netherlands. Just over a year ago, the Netherlands Golf Federation announced their commitment to transition all of their excellent 'Committed to Green' work, into the OnCourse™ programme and to date this has led to 23 Dutch golf clubs proudly displaying the GEO Certified eco-label with several more to follow.

This collective commitment, and the effort

out of play areas composed of indigenous alpine meadow grasslands. Klosters is low on management inputs and high on biodiversity. Of the 21 hectare site only 8 hectares is devoted to intensively managed surfaces and the extensive meadows are all no-fertiliser / no-pesticide zones. This is real golf in the natural landscape of Switzerland.

Head Greenkeeper Johannes Vogt, President of the Swiss Greenkeeping Association, said: "Protecting landscape character and responsible management practices are just normal for the Swiss. Respecting local and federal legislation goes without saying, but most people are genuinely concerned for the land.

"Existing stone heaps from former agricultural management have been protected as micro-habitat features and the two strips of glacial moraine are essentially untouched. There are also many old hay barns dotted across the golf course that were protected and are still used by the local farmers. They are important cultural landscape elements and also provide habitat for different animal species."

Machrihanish Dunes, Scotland, GEO

Certified November 2010

Machrihanish Dunes on the rugged west coast of Scotland, has been called the world's most natural golf course. A unique project, this was the first golf course ever developed in a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) protected landscape.

Through careful planning, design and construction Machrihanish Dunes has established an ecological legacy.

From the very beginning architect David McLay Kidd used the natural layout of the land to craft 18 links holes, altering just 7 of the course's 275 acres in the process. "At Machrihanish Dunes we took minimalism to the extreme; if Old Tom Morris himself saw how the course was created it would not have been a shock," said Kidd.

Today, maintenance of the course is also done in an environmentally collaborative manner: sheep are brought on in the off-season to help keep fescue grasses in check and no chemicals or irrigation systems are used on the fairways.

The Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau, Hong Kong - GEO Certified December 2010

In Hong Kong, the GEO Certified award has brought wide recognition to a fifteen year effort by the Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau (JCKSC) Public Golf Course to transform a disused military range into a living landscape.

Now the busiest public golf course in Asia averaging over 180,000 rounds every year, JCKSC is an impressive example of environmental innovation featuring a solar hybrid ferry, solar powered electric golf cars and a restored landscape and thriving ecology.

General Manager Cameron Halliday believes ecological and environmental quality can help build golfer loyalty: "The sustainable golf experience sits at the very heart of what we offer. Achieving this prestigious award enables the Jockey Club to showcase its commitment to providing environmentally friendly golf facilities on the world stage. Hopefully our GEO Certified distinction is an inspiration for others".

Auchterarder Golf Club, Scotland, GEO Certified December 2010

Established in 1892 on the edge of a small town in rural Scotland, Auchterarder Golf Club can be considered typical of many of Scotland's traditional members' clubs. Its environmental programme however is an outstanding example of what can be achieved by the commitment of a strong core team.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper at the club: "GEO Certification is an important ongoing project, helping to shape our

environmental programme and provide a basis from which we will work to make our club more sustainable year on year.

"The main thing about working to the GEO model is that we've achieved a lot more through it than we would have done otherwise, including a grant for heather restoration equipment and newly established links with the local environmental scene which have resulted in great local publicity for our work.

Belas Clube de Campo, Portugal, GEO Certified February 2011

Situated close to the town of Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Belas Clube de Campo has been employing innovative sustainable management techniques since it opened in 1998.

Pedro Texeira, Belas's Environmental Manager, is proud to have added the GEO award to the club's existing accreditations: "As well as building our profile and international reputation, GEO's guidance programme helped us to understand and develop the environmental actions carried out on our golf course, highlighting sustainability issues and opportunities, and enabling us to identify our needs and future goals."

"Belas Clube de Campo fully understands the ecological value of our site and has embraced the opportunity to present a naturalized golf course, as have many other courses in Portugal. Belas sits comfortably within the local landscape, contributing to the protection, enhancement and function of local ecosystems".

"We worked hard at times during the comprehensive GEO OnCourse programme, but we completed it in our own time and it ultimately proved straightforward. We even have some new project ideas and focus areas from our on-site verification visit to look forward to".

GEO - Dedicated to Golf

Since GEO was founded in 2005, we have been entirely dedicated to working for sustainability, working for golf and working for you. GEO is 100% stakeholder funded, and as a not-for-profit, all of the investment from golf organizations around the world is put back into bringing advocacy, guidance, certification, and unity around the sustainable golf initiative. This summer will bring:

Ease-of-use refinements, additional resources and language translation within the GEO OnCourse programme;

Launch of GEOSA, a global network of individual sustainable golf experts, accredited to do onsite verification visits for GEO Certified, and also available for advisory and educational support;



A new guidance and recognition programme for golf development and renovations - GEO Certified Legacy™ ;

Continued advocacy and communications efforts, raising the awareness of GEO Certified to audiences from governments to golfers – maximising the impact of your efforts.

Golf – Dedicated to Sustainability

Infusing sustainability throughout golf is an extension and encapsulation of five centuries of golf tradition: to enjoy a positive outdoor activity in a pleasing natural setting, in a respectful and fair way, that benefits everyone.

Whether a golfer shoots three under par or three putts 12 greens, they take away far more from golf than simply playing the game. Golf is about people coming together, playing outside, in nature. On a nine-hole or championship venue—golf and the environment are inseparable.

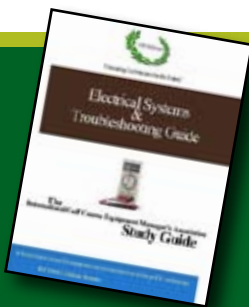
The sustainable golf proposition is a rare genuine win-win scenario, bringing business benefits that save money and satisfy customers alongside the altruistic benefits of doing the right thing for the greater good.

It is encouraging to see golf embracing this opportunity. We are privileged and excited to be working with greenkeepers and your associations in the coming years to help push the sustainability movement over the line. Green light, go!

Please visit golfenvironment.org today to find out more and join in.



IGCEMA LAUNCHES NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME FOR TURF EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS



The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association has launched its Certificate Programme, providing technicians with education and accreditation tailored to their specific job.

The programme, which has been developed over the past three years, has come to fruition due to the hard work of the association's board members, committee members and hired developers.

The IGCEMA's Board of Directors hired a Certification Consultant to assist them in putting together a road map to develop the programme. In consultation with many of the equipment manufacturers and technicians, they have taken time to understand the training needs of its members and the most effective way of meeting them.

CEO Stephen Tucker said: "The IGCEMA wants to give its members the tools they need to succeed: that's why we are here and that is exactly what we're going to do. We're delighted that the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) has pledged its support for the programme and we hope other industry bodies will follow suit."

"For the past 18 months, we've worked with a test developer who specialises in turf equipment to create study guides and tests specific to our industry. To avoid 'reinventing the wheel', we looked at the existing provision too, and sought feedback on what works and what doesn't. The end-result, the IGCEMA's Certificate Programme, is the first International turf equipment-specific development programme available for technicians.

The association has now released first two Study Guides and examinations for equipment technicians, superintendents, distributors and service managers, Hydraulics and Electrical Systems. These will be followed in the coming months by two further programmes on Engines (2/4 cycle and compact diesel) and Drivetrains.

The study guides in paperback format are available to order online from the IGCEMA bookstore at www.igcema.org. Testing will be carried out online using a bespoke testing system sponsored by The Toro Company. The association is working to establish proctors around the world to administer the testing at their facilities and also plan to allow public libraries to proctor the exams as well. They will need to obtain access codes to unlock the site in order to commence testing.

The full programme will be released next month, where the IGCEMA will specify the examinations that will need to be passed to gain its Certificate. Successful completion of each exam will allow you to print off a certificate for that module. Completion of all the competencies will result in the attainment of the IGCEMA Certificate.

Stephen Tucker thinks the new programme will provide a number of benefits for employers and employees alike: "We'd like the IGCEMA Certificate to be the benchmark for measuring the technical ability of equipment technicians around the world. We also believe it help develop and progress their careers. The number of colleges offering education for golf technicians is reducing and someone has to take responsibility for the future of our profession. The IGCEMA has worked hard to establish itself as the organisation of turf equipment manager and our membership numbers reflect that. That's why we're best placed to deliver this education programme. In the future I think you're going to see the certificate program become a requirement of employment whether it's at a dealership or at a golf course."

www.igcema.org

The European Greenkeepers Education Unit (EGEU) unveils its plans for the next stage of its development

A new Management board will be made up of Dean Cleaver (FEGGA) David Golding (GTC) and John Holliday (GTC).

The EGEU was formed in 2008 and during that time has established Pan European Standards at three levels, Greenkeeper, Supervisor, and Course Manager. The current work to date can be seen on the EGEU website at www.eg.eu

The EGEU and its work has been supported and acknowledged by golf, with the European Golf Association and the R&A being totally supportive of this strong move to Europeanise Greenkeeping educational Standards for the benefit of the game that some six million golfers enjoy playing in Europe today.

The Standards have already had an influence on Countries focusing on their educational programmes and will be of real benefit to the new emerging golf nations as they take their first steps in creating new educational programmes to support the future development of the game.

Building on the work by the Pan-European working group it is now important during the next stage of development that the aims and objectives of the EGEU are accelerated, these include:

- To encourage the **Sharing of Best Practice in greenkeeping and golf course management.**
- To encourage all aspects of **Environmentally Sustainable Golf Development and Management.**
- To provide **Quality Standards** which each Country in Europe can adopt.
- To Support **Greenkeeping and Golf Organisations** in each Country to achieve this.
- To develop and **Promote Quality Education Providers across Europe.**

Dean Cleaver will take responsibility to promote the EGEU and in his role as Executive Officer to FEGGA he is well placed to assist member organisations and Countries looking to use the EGEU standards in greenkeeping training.

David Golding GTC's Education Director will advise on all matters relating to the content of the three levels of Occupational Standards; Greenkeeper, Golf Course Supervisor and Golf Course Manager. Quality of education and training provision will also be within David's advisory responsibilities.

John Holliday will operate as the EGEU's Finance Director and looks forward to ensuring the EGEU has a sustainable future beyond the three years funding awarded by the R&A.

A website designed to be an information portal can be accessed at www.eg.eu

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