



LINCOLNSHIRE CGA

Helping groundies since 2000

NEXT TIME WE MEET!

Another new venue will host our next meeting on the 13th of February, Lincoln Moorlands club are our hosts as we welcome Peter Fell from Aitkens Sportsturf, Aitkens are a family run business in Yorkshire supplying the industry with ground care products.

As well as a time served representative Peter is also groundsman at Barnby Dun CC so enjoys plenty of experience in cricket. The evening begins at 7.30pm, hope to see you there!



HEADINGLEY VISIT! LATE MARCH TRIP.

Delighted to announce that award winning Head Groundsman Andy Foggerty has kindly invited The CGA to Headingley on the 27th March. Our trip to this iconic stadium will involve us spending the morning with Andy as he goes through his pre season regime in pitch preparation, obviously I'm delighted that he has allowed us to share his award winning experiences with us at this very busy time. Yorkshire begin their attempt to regain the county championship with a home game against Hampshire beginning on the 7th of April so this will be a chance to see first hand what a multi award winning groundsman preparations for county cricket involve. The day will also include a q&a session with Andy & a light buffet style lunch, there will be a small charge for this event tba shortly. Transport is not currently going to be provided due to the close proximity to Lincs of the ground, we can work out car sharing options dependent on numbers. Places are limited to 20 fully paid members of The Lincs CGA on a 1st come basis, please email myself to express an interest in this event

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The CGA costs just £10 per year to join & you don't have to be a groundie to join, we would love to see more club members come along & see what is involved in pitch production.

This fee entitles the club to subsidised ECB Pitch Advisor visits, access to the email ground help desk, regular meetings with industry experts, discount from our sponsors whose adverts surround this newsletter.

We also offer knapsack chemical application, groundsman training & assistance through a mentoring package for new ground recruits, Use of the cga's 2 aeration machines, please continue reading inside.

Modernizing The CGA. It's not just Cricket!

Most of our grounds are multi usage with winter sports taking over once the cricket season finishes, its essential these area's are maintained throughout the winter as you would do through the summer. Here at The CGA we can help advise and mentor clubs who maybe experiencing difficulties with their winter surfaces which will form their outfields during the close season. As an award winning FA Groundsman myself along with a fantastic collection of industry partners we can offer the right advice at the right time to help maintain and improve your surfaces, as mentioned



Previously chemical application has become illegal without the necessary qualification, worm control will soon be losing its label & with glyphosate under scrutiny its important that the cultural practises we employ throughout the year are going to give us the best performing surface year round. Please don't suffer in silence if you are experiencing any issues get in contact and we will happily send an advisor to asses the problem and point you in the right direction of a remedy, contact us through the email helpdesk at martindeans@btinternet.com.



Our Move Down South, A Positive Result!

With driving conditions almost impossible due to the thick fog which formed over the Sleaford area on the 5th of December the prospects of anyone venturing out to our 1st CGA meeting away from our normal base of Lincoln looked as bleak as the weather. However with the promise of a pie & peas supper & the chance to hear one of the most informative speakers in ground care circles a hardy turn-

out of 15 all new delegates was warmly welcomed. All coming from clubs in the south of the region whom had previously never attended a CGA meeting proving the decision to take this event on the road a successful one. The food in

Typical Sleaford CC style was delicious with ample helpings for all, the talk was informative & entertaining with much knowledge shared. Many thanks to Andy Clarke who is the south eastern pitch advisor for delivering such an informative talk to our group of new CGA members.

We hope to see the new members at future cga events, & we aim to continue to reach out to all corners of the county!

This Month's Top Tip sponsored by Brush the dew away!



If conditions permit particularly when heavy dew is present take to the square with a drag brush or swish boom and disperse the moisture particles 'from the grass plant, this will not only



help in the prevention of Red Thread & Fusarium which can quickly attack the grass at this time of year but it will also keep the plant upright allowing for good air movement around

the base preventing against organic matter build up, it will flick to the surface any debris that may have buried itself in the surface along with preventing the square forming a matted appearance creating ideal habitats for further pest and disease outbreaks, this procedure done consistently will strengthen the plant in preparation for pre season rolling!

How Safe Is Your Ground!

After suffering at the hands of a criminal who broke into their storage units, Jon Taylor From Hibaldstow CC offers advice on what we could do to stop it happening to you.

How would your club cope if suddenly you had no machinery?

It's not a question any of us want to face but we did earlier this year. Our shipping containers were broken in to and the kit we had spent nearly 20 years assembling was gone overnight.

Like many clubs we were uninsured. We'd had quotes in the region of £1000. We'd been quoted by the ECB for their "shipping container insurance" only to find out this only covered the container itself, not the machines inside (buyer beware!) These prices sound exorbitant, but think of the replacement cost of your kit and you might realise that one robbery every 25 years would mean

the insurer hardly wins out.

We learnt the hard way that today's robber comes equipped with tools that can cut through 6mm plate steel and high quality padlocks. They use levers to bend and break metal, cracking open padlock bodies. They wear gloves. They work out where to park to minimise the risk of detection. Bottom line, the determined thief will get in to your container. Game over. All you can do is make it harder to do undetected so that they go elsewhere.

So we replaced the single 6mm plate lock box with three 10mm plate boxes each designed to make silent cutting difficult. We placed the lock boxes at the top, bottom and middle

of the door, making it harder to get the leverage to cut and bend such thick plate. The theory is that the thief will have to use a flame cutter or grinder to get to the padlocks. Both would draw attention as they work.

We also learnt how ill equipped today's police forces are to cope with "rural crime". An hour down the road and you're in another police area. The crime report had a list of machines and serial numbers. The two forces don't appear to have shared data. The force that found the machines didn't contact the equipment suppliers whose details were plain to see and who knew all about the theft. The "Data tag" on one of the mowers was not

Continued from above.

read. Maybe welding a postcode in to the body of the machines would work, until the thief gets the machines home and grinds the weld off. For sure, don't imagine that hidden clues will be looked for!

The happy ending is that we were lucky and got our kit back, complete and almost undamaged. For that we have to thank an alert PC who spotted suspicious night time activity and Green Stripe machinery and others who saw pictures of our kit on a Police website.

If you want more details of our new security measures, contact me though the CGA.

Some great advice here by Jon , containers are notoriously an accessible target for criminals often located away from the clubhouse in dark corners of the ground making for easy un noticed break in. Consider lighting your unit from the outside with



sensor lighting, also try to disable as best you can the machinery inside, it maybe an inconvenience at the time but it will be more of one to the thief. Remove cutting units if possible, wheels, spark plugs also grass boxes as machines are almost worthless without one & multi chain machinery together., hopefully some valuable advice here to prevent crime!

Springing Forwards into Education.

We have here at CGA Towers had a small amount of interest in a spring cricket groundsmanship course since the last time we went to press but still not enough to warrant staging a course. Unfortunately I am unable at present to secure funding for such an event and costs would have to be met by the clubs/



individuals wishing to attend. You would however receive a certification of your attendance, breakfast buns and of course lunch along with tuition and guidance on the practicalities of cricket groundsmanship throughout the

season. The course will take the delegate through the initial set out of the square through to a match day preparation scenario ,if you're a newcomer to the industry these courses are a great base to learn the essentials. Time is running down on the organization of one of these so please contact myself if interested.

**THE LINCOLNSHIRE CRICKET GROUNDS
ASSOC**

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With thanks to our partners who have made this publication possible, we are continually looking for fresh ideas with companies or individuals, if you would like to help in The CGA'S existence and see us grow then please get in touch, your logo could be featured around this news letter or individual sponsorship of any item, invitation to be CGA guest at a future CGA night speaking to a collection of some of the county's most distinguished cricket groundspeople or the supply of any relevant article to appear within this provision

Also any clubs with information, or requests, please get in touch if you would like to be featured in here., be it job vacancies or machinery requirements let us know and we can share with our members!

Sleaford CC have asked us to ask you for applications in their vacant groundsman position, they are looking to combine the role as an employed/ volunteer role and would look to offer employment on a 1 day a week basis, if you would like to apply please contact The Chairman at Sleaford CC on 01529 303368, or apply To Sleaford CC London Road Sleaford NG34 7LE

Meet a Partner!

Nick Gladstone from Hurrells Seed Merchants has been a sponsor of The CGA for several years now, his help and support has been very much appreciated, here he talks us through some of the seed mixtures we may use in cricket. www.hmseeds.com

'Hurrells seeds have been at the forefront of grasses for 65 years and specialize in this area, we are based in Yorkshire but custom mix amenity grass seed cultivars for use and next day delivery across the UK.

Hurrells are renowned to supply seed cultivars that are very high performance and offer reliable sports performance in a seed mixture.

In respect to Cricket we work very closely with top award winning Groundsman John Dodd's who has been a Hurrells customer all his professional life and a brand ambassador.

Our aim is to select grass cultivars

that regrow well after wear, have exceptional root development to hold wickets together

And a nice fine leaf high quality appearance, with low crowns for superior wickets.

We now have a unique opportunity courtesy of Dave Hodgson at our trials ground at Kirkstall cricket ground, Leeds devoted to viewing the difference in cultivars, when grown in clay cricket loam, cultivars can be viewed side by side, with several dates for open nights to see cultivars for yourself.

I think this is unique and gives Hurrells a leading position on evaluating cricket Cultivars and their

performance on cricket loam.

All our Cricket mixtures offer well rated cultivars tested by the STRI at Bingley, and always come directly from seed breeders to Hurrells. We also offer varieties that are improved by Endophyte such as Topgun, giving better disease resistance and colour and now even a top rated Turf perennial that has the ability to creep sideways that is truly amazing for ground coverage and low growth, (CSI Corsica).

