

OPENING GOLF
TO THE WORLD.
Harrogate | 2026

R&A

JOIN THE
GOLFING WORLD
AT HARROGATE.



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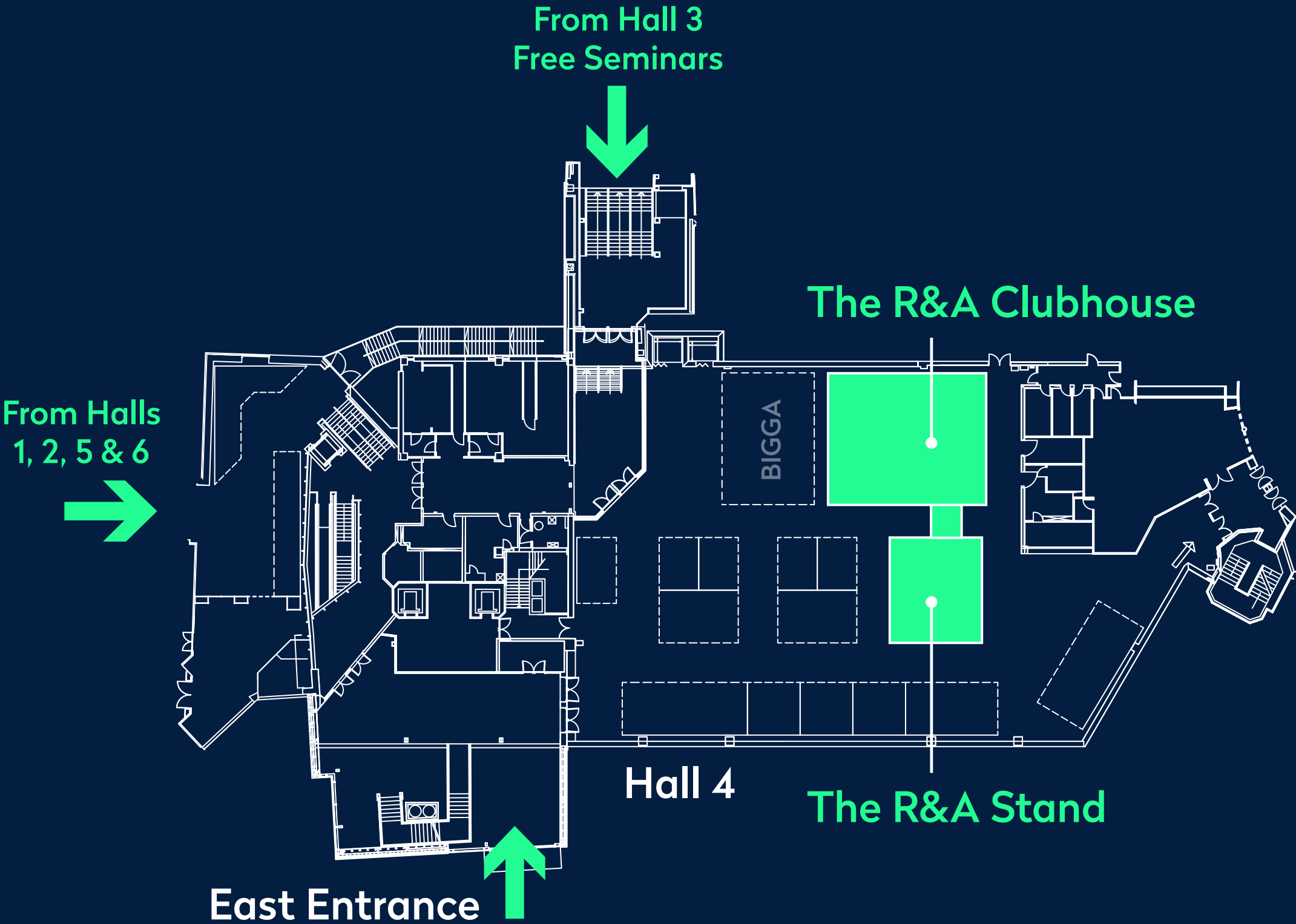
IT WILL MEAN THE WORLD IF YOU CAN ATTEND.

The R&A at
Harrogate 2026

The R&A Clubhouse at BTME
20 to 22 January 2026

This will be an exciting opportunity to network while learning about the latest developments in the world of responsible agronomy.

Meet our experts and take advantage of the various events we have on in The R&A Clubhouse.



ENJOY A WORLD OF EVENTS.

The Clubhouse, Day 1: Tuesday 20 January
Excellence in Agronomy Performance Delivered Sustainably.

9:00 – 10:00

The R&A Agronomy Brunch

Grab a coffee, meet and network with The R&A's leading experts in Agronomy. The Open Championship and AIG Women's Open Trophies will be on display.

10:30 – 11:15

Data Collection and the Golf Experience

Measuring golf green agronomic and surface performance in championship and club situations.

Paul Woodham, The R&A and Matthew Pringle, USGA

Join the USGA and The R&A to discuss the value of data-collection and the impact it can have on the golf experience. Taking lessons learned from USGA and The R&A research programmes and championships and apply them to your facility. No matter your budget or location, this is valuable information to help you meet your site-specific goals and provide an excellent golf experience.

12:00 – 12:30

Golf Course Drainage and Construction

Gordon Howat and Greg Smeaton, The R&A

The challenges in golf course construction are becoming more complex and extensive. Gordon will look at where the challenges are coming from and the impact this is having on the industry as a sustainable future that is resilient to these challenges is sought after. Greg will showcase technology and how the use of technology in construction facilities time, cost and resource benefits.

13:00 – 13:45

Hands on Sustainability for Golf Course Managers

Prof. Jacob Thomsen

In this interactive session, you'll discover your sustainability strengths, identify areas for improvement, and explore where to take your next steps - or how to begin your sustainability journey - with practical insights for golf courses of all types.

14:30 – 15:00

Understanding your Soil Analysis

Sharon Bruce, ETL

Overview of soil analysis and what it means. From the most common analysis such as Organic Matter content and Golf Green indexing to some of the lesser-known physical testing methods which may help you in areas such as material selection and depth of profile construction.

16:00 – 16:30

USGA Golf Green Guidelines Update

Richard Windows & Gordon Howat, The R&A and Jordan Booth, USGA

Richard, Gordon and Jordan will discuss golf green specifications, and the challenges that must be overcome in 2026. After reviewing current guidance and the reflecting on ongoing performance and management of USGA greens, topics such as climate change, turf health and limited resources will be considered as The R&A looks to plot a sustainable pathway for new golf green constructions in the future.

ENJOY A WORLD OF EVENTS.

The Clubhouse, Day 2: Wednesday 21 January
International Insights into Sustainability and Greenkeeping.

9:00 – 10:00

The R&A Agronomy Brunch

Grab a coffee and meet and network with the international team working for and with The R&A, providing leadership and expertise in Agronomy and Sustainability.

10:30 – 11:00

Measuring and Controlling Growth

A look into clip yield analysis.

Pablo Munoz and
Richard Windows, The R&A

Clipping volume measurement offers turf managers powerful insights into turfgrass growth consistency and plant performance. By tracking clipping yield trends, managers can detect early signs of stress, assess fertiliser and growth regulator effectiveness, optimise nutrient applications and improve ball roll performance. This session will review standard measurement protocols and share practical examples of how to interpret results and trends to guide data-driven agronomic decisions.

11:30 – 12:00

Good Irrigation for Great Agronomy

Pablo Munoz and
Luiz Conejo, The R&A

Efficient irrigation is essential to achieving uniform turf quality and sustainable agronomy. This session explores key factors that influence water application and how each impacts turf performance. Key new strategies for assessing and improving irrigation efficiency will also be reviewed, as well as water conservation practices that supports responsible resource use.

13:30 – 14:00

USGA GS3, Deacon and Moisture Meter

Richard Windows, The R&A
and Matt Pringle, USGA

A look back on data collection methods for golf green performance in the UK to present day with the introduction of the USGA GS3, Moisture Meter and Deacon platform. Learn how the technology works and what it can do for you to elevate green performance at the same time as optimising inputs by working to targets.

14:30 – 15:00

The R&A's and USGA's Approach to Championship Agronomy

Adam Newton, The R&A
and Jordan Booth, USGA

Join Adam and Jordan as they discuss the challenges and lessons learned from championship agronomy. Get insights into previous championships and preparations for the 2026 championship season.

16:00 – 17:00

BIGGA Elevates Women in Golf & Turf

In collaboration with The R&A and Syngenta. An invite to women from the industry to join us in The R&A Clubhouse for drinks, bites and networking. During a panel Q&A you will have the opportunity to hear from inspiring women from the world of golf, turf and sport.

ENJOY A WORLD OF EVENTS.

The Clubhouse, Day 3: Thursday 22 January
Championing Leadership of Golf Courses.

9:00 – 9:30

Welcome and coffee networking for golf club leaders

Grab a coffee and meet and network with The R&A's team, and fellow golf club and course leaders.

9:30 – 10:15

Market to Maintenance

Course condition and playability guidance for managers and committees.

Dr John Fry

This interactive workshop helps delegates assess their golf club's core market demographic and ensure course quality levels reflect this, by identifying key maintenance priorities. The session combines research insights with collaborative exercises, and attendees receive takeaway copies of The R&A's 'Golf Course Condition and Playability' resource documents for continued implementation.

10:30 – 11:15

Sustainability

How to get started in your club.

Prof. Jacob Thomsen

Sustainability is not a department in your club... it is a core part of your club! Before you start your first sustainable project you should measure your motivation to make sure it becomes a success - this interactive session will help you do that.



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WHY IN THE WORLD NOT COME?

We are really looking forward to seeing you.

With such an exciting and varied range of events, delivered by industry experts, there's never been a better time to catch up with all the latest insights and developments.

The Sustainable Golf Team

A world of learning.

A world of research.

A responsible world.

