As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

My month started with Board of Management meeting at Aldwark Manor where one of the major decisions taken was the acceptance of the findings of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers' Salaries and Conditions of Employment. These came about following a series of meetings at which the Secretaries and the Golf Club Owners, as well as Bob McLaren the Chairman of the GTC, were involved.

The structure which is now in place will be useful for anyone who wishes guidance on greenkeepers' salaries. Also discussed at the Board Meeting was a major new money raising initiative aimed at boosting the new building fund. This will be launched shortly. The identity of next year's Vice Chairman was also revealed. Gordon Child's right hand man is going to be George Brown, of Turnberry. I've known George for some time and I'm delighted that he will be coming in. It's the first time that the new constitution, which allows for someone to be appointed from outside of the current Board, has been put to such a use.

The day after the Board Meeting I had the sad duty of attending the funeral of David Spurden. There were so many there that many of us were unable to get into the crematorium many of them David's colleagues from around the UK, greenkeepers and trade alike, who had made the journey to Scarborough.

That was followed by a trip to Northern Ireland for the IOG Show where I was royally looked after. Allison Sloan fulfilled the promise he made to me at the Hayter Final to buy me my first pint of Irish Guinness while another member of one of the newly formed Northern Irish Section committees Graham Wylie deserves thanks for driving me to the airport.

Other committee men were quick to help Janet, Amanda and I on the BIGGA stand.

Amazingly, on returning, I was able to spend some time at my own golf club. We have two new tees under construction while on the 8th and 9th we hollow cored the greens.

Next up was the Kubota Challenge at The Belfry and a chance to meet up with more friends, including Derek Ganning, and talk with others from the English Golf Union, the Secretaries and the Golf Foundation.

It was an excellent competition as always and congratulations are due to Rene Orban and his team at Kubota for their hospitality. I'd also like to thank The Belfry for giving me a buggy so I could get about in support of the greens.

Holiday? What's that?