Improving on success is something which is never easy but, that said, it doesn't mean you should stop trying.

Last year's BIGGA's 10th Anniversary Golf Day was an outstanding triumph. The sun shone; Aldwark Manor looked its majestic best; the golf was scintillating; the food was superb and the company, provided by some of the best known personalities in the industry, was second to none.

The day had originally started out as a one-off occasion to celebrate the Association reaching the age of 10, but such was the response from both those who had attended and, indeed, those who heard how successful it had been, that a campaign was launched to make it an annual occasion.

And so it has come to pass that on Monday, June 22, the second BIGGA Golf Day, sponsored by BT Mobile will be held, and yes it will be improved on last year’s superb day.

The field will be stronger than ever with 34 teams competing for the stunning crystal glass bowl won in marvellous fashion by the Watermation team last year.

The winning quartet, comprising Watermation Managing Director, Ray Lewis; Distribution Sales Manager, Joe Turner; George Brown, of Turnberry Hotel, and Jan McMillan, of Hankley Common and the holder of both the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and the BIGGA Environment Award last year, was presented with the prize by former England and British Lion winger, Rory Underwood, who was the special guest for the day.

The Texas Scramble format, favours all levels of golfer, giving everyone a chance to be a hero at least once during the round, and that will be repeated this year.

Among the stars who have had the date ringed in their diaries for some time now are Coronation...
The BIGGA Annual Golf Day now has a prestigious new sponsor, some special guests and is guaranteed to be a day to remember...

Street legends Des Barnes and Gary Mallet, alias Phil Middlemiss and Ian Mercer, and former Leicester and England rugby forward Dean Richards. They will all be putting their golfing prowess under the microscope.

Aldwark Manor is under new ownership and, anyone who is making a first return visit since last year will see some major changes.

Aldwark Manor Head Greenkeeper, Richard Gamble, has recently obtained a stable full of new Ransomes kit so the course will be pruned to new levels of excellence. The hotel has undergone a major renovation and Manager, Richard Harrison, will ensure that no-one will be left wanting when it comes to refreshment and nourishment - last year’s barbecue set a high standard but this year’s he is set to surpass it.

Another highlight of the day will be the drawing of the Buy a Brick raffle prizes, some 30 of them, for which tickets have been sold up and down the length and breadth of the country.

Those attending the day will also be able to gauge the progress of the new Headquarters and Training facility which is currently under construction a mere 50 yards from the existing building.

Due for completion in September work is on schedule and well underway and everyone who has bought a raffle ticket or made a donation on some other form will be able to see that the money raising is being put to good use.

The training facility is being kitted out using money donated by BIGGA’s Gold and Silver Key supporters.

BT Mobile, the UK’s largest cellular service provider with over one million business customers, knows how important it is for businesses to operate with the very best back-up and conditions and is therefore pleased to be the sponsor for the 1998 BIGGA Golf Tournament.

The company has a long tradition of supporting corporate and community events such as the Institute of Directors annual dinner and the Leeds Rugby Union Youth Development Programme.

As a solutions driven company, BT Mobile’s product portfolio covers cellular paging, mobile data and voice messaging services. Most recent developments have included the enhancement of its Business Mobility solutions package, which incorporates the latest mobile data technology allowing businesses to become more productive and efficient.

BT Mobile connects its business cellular customers exclusively to the Cellnet network. It is a wholly owned division of BT and employs over 1,000 people at its headquarters in Leeds.

The companies which will be represented at the day are:

- BT Mobile
- BT Internet
- The Toro Company
- Scotts/Miracle Ransomes
- John Deere
- Kubota
- Hayter
- Supaturf
- Rigby Taylor
- Watermation
- Rainbird
- Charterhouse
- Ocmis
- Hepworths
- STRI
- New Holland
- Walrus Golf Ltd
- British Seed Houses
- Coursecare
- Olivers Seeds
- Turfmec
- ING Farm Finance
- Barclays Bank
- Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
- Granada Studios Harrogate
- International Centre
- Lambert Fenchurch
- Aldwark Manor G&CC
- Hi-Tec Print

Clockwise from left: The barbecue last year was a big draw; Last year’s champions, The Watermation team receives the trophy from Rory Underwood; Des Barnes and Gary Mallet alias Phil Middlemiss and Ian Mercer