Congratulations!

Your Association now has a total membership of over 7,000 members. On behalf of the Association I would like to congratulate Kevin Dansdale of Northumberland Golf Club for being the 7,000th member. Kevin wins a whole host of goodies as well as his Head Greenkeeper, who referred him for membership, also winning educational videos.

Well done to all of you who are referring your colleagues and fellow greenkeepers for membership and introducing them to the valuable benefits, which I hope you are all taking advantage of. Don’t forget if you introduce 2 or more new members to the Association, your name will be placed into a draw to win one of three fabulous prizes. Keep up the good work!

Courtesy Golf

BIGGA is sadly aware that a minority of members (and in some cases non members) have been abusing the system of courtesy golf offered by many golf clubs to greenkeeper members. This has led to a number of clubs now refusing to offer courtesy to any BIGGA member or, indeed, to Section looking for a bright future for their golfing days. This is, obviously, of great concern to BIGGA. Once again, it would appear to be a situation of a small minority spoiling a wonderful opportunity for the majority.

BIGGA has already changed a number of its procedures to try and prevent people who are not eligible to join from obtaining membership. All greenkeeper members are now required to have their form authorised by their golf club and the membership card itself is currently under review.

In order to minimise abuse as far as is possible at the present time and as a reminder to members, BIGGA has issued the following guidelines:

- Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.
- On arrival at the club, members should report to the Secretary/Pro Shop and follow normal procedures for playing golf.
- Members should produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.
- Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.
- Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.
- Courtesy golf is always given at the discretion of the individual golf club and is not an automatic benefit of membership.

All suspected abuses of the card should be reported in writing to BIGGA. All such complaints will be investigated, initially, by the members’ Section. Members found guilty of abuse of the card will be disciplined under Paragraph 15 of the Association’s Constitution and Rules:

“If any Member shall be guilty of conduct likely ... to injure or discredit the character or interests of the Association ... the Section Committee shall have power ... to suspend or expel the member.”

There is plenty to look at on the BIGGA Web site, so log on and Surf our Site.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region
- Paul Anderson, Ayrshire
- Alastair J Patterson, East Dean
- Lee E Marston, Midland
- Northern Region
- Garry Porter, West
- Daniel Murray, East
- Mark Lindsay, West
- Richard Hastings, Central
- South East Region
- John Marshall, Ayrshire
- Mark C Smith, Far East

The new BIGGA Web site (www.bigga.org.uk) includes an Education and Development Area to record credits for education and training. The site is not an automatic benefit of membership. The BIGGA Essay Competition. Job Specifications, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition and the Bigga Awards, which are selling fast so check out our available courses at www.bigga.org.uk/edudev.html.


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In June, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA’s Membership Services Officer, welcomed almost 120 new members to the Association as BIGGA celebrated a total membership of over 7,000 members.