I remember as a young lad the floods of 1947. At that age it was exciting to watch dead sheep and cows and even 60 foot trees being swept downstream through the centre of my hometown.

Watching the television pictures of the flooding in the past two weeks one can only feel sympathy for all the victims of these torrents of water. Golf courses are not important in the scheme of things when conditions are as bad as they have been, the care of lives and homes are obviously the priorities. However, as things return to normal, which hopefully will soon, I am sure there are some of you out there who will return to your courses which have also been flooded. I have never experienced it so I don't know what it is like and all I can do, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of all the greenkeeping staff rowing to switch the greens and doing what they can to keep the water off the course. I'm sure Scott would love to hear some of your humorous and frustrating stories after you have all returned to normal.

As I sit typing this, and I look upward for dietine inspiration as to what to say next, my eye catches the BIGGA calendar open as it should be at November 17. I have played there so it brought back memories, but what is most striking is how dry it is but with fairways and the comparison with what we are suffering now. Never mind roll of Scottish Grass Machinery to present their sponsorship of a wonderful event to the people of 1947. At that age it was exciting to watch dead sheep and cows and even 60 foot trees being swept downstream through the centre of my hometown.

I would just like to finish by wishing the best for all the greenkeepers and students who have gained so much from the Awards over the years and the best wishes for a speedy recovery to your courses which have also been flooded.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone and wish you a good night's sleep.