Hankley Common, Lindrick, Temple and The Dyke golf clubs are all proud to have won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition over the last four years.

It is a competition of undoubted significance within golf and a growing significance within conservation circles - you only have to listen to Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist with English Nature and a principal judge of the competition, to appreciate its growing importance.

Another indication came in 1998 when the prizes were presented by Royal golfing enthusiast, The Duke of York, while the R&A, the governing body of the game has provided funding for the competition. A book highlighting the excellent work of clubs who have emerged with credit in recent competitions is also currently in production.

Managing Director of Amazone UK, Rod Baker was the brainchild of the competition, having launched it in 1995, and before BIGGA's involvement he had crowned Purdis Heath and Rudding Park Golf Clubs as the first two winners.

Amazone remained a joint sponsor of the competition and Rod its most eloquent supporter, always on hand to make impassioned speeches on the subject of the environment and golf's positive role in promoting it at the presentations, but last year he took a well deserved early retirement and Amazone's support for the competition retired with him.

BIGGA is therefore looking for a partner to ensure that a competition which enjoys a high media profile and which has captured the imagination of golf clubs, the length and breadth of the country and helped raise the standard of environmental management of golf courses, can continue to thrive.

If you or your company feels that it wishes to be associated with the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition as a co-title supporter, the Association would be delighted to hear from you to discuss the matter.

Please contact Neil Thomas
Executive Director of BIGGA
Tel: 01347 833800

"Respect for the environment goes hand-in-hand with human well-being and indeed sporting excellence. This is certainly true for golf in which harmony with nature is part of the game's heritage and its enjoyment. Golf is a great opportunity to serve as a role model for good environmental practice and I urge you to seize this opportunity."

Jacques Santier, Past European Commission President

"It is right environmentally for us to protect this great legacy that we have got. If we abuse it we will only be sorry later."

Jackie Stewart
Three-times Formula 1 World Champion

"Golf Greenkeepers appreciate the precious landscape features and wildlife habitats. For centuries they have helped preserve and restore the magic of the beautiful living countryside on British Golf Courses."

Malcolm Peake - Course Consultant at former winning golf club, Temple.
CGSA trip thanks 1

Just a short letter to thank both Neil Thomas and BIGGA for the part they played in the forming of the delegation of the 10 lucky individuals who were selected to represent the Association at the CGSA Show & Conference in Vancouver and who were sponsored by Bernard and Company.

I think that the exercise was extremely successful from all points of view and I hope that many more greenkeepers get the opportunity to visit our counterparts in other countries and gain valuable knowledge of how others manage their golf courses and resources in different parts of the world.

Canada thanks 3

May 1, on behalf of the Northern Region, thank Bernhard & Co for allowing us the privilege of attending the recent CGSA Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

The experience of exchanging views and ideas with Canadian Green Keepers was most rewarding. The concerns on golf course management were not too dissimilar to ours. We try to achieve near perfect results in the same way as they do.

Without Bernhard & Co and BIGGA organising this trip, we would not have made new connections and new friends. Nor had the opportunity to promote BIGGA on the world stage where it so rightly belongs.

Thank you once again.

We remain yours in golf.

Anthony Davies and Jimmy Richardson
Northern Region

CGSA trip thanks 2

I would like to take this opportunity to thank BIGGA and Bernhard and company for their support and sponsorship of my colleagues and myself for the trip to the CGSA and WCTA. This was an absolutely wonderful trip which was made possible by the generous support of Bernard and company. Apart from the excellent trade show and seminars which had been very well organised, there was also a tremendous social programme of Salmon cruises and banquets etc.

Also Vancouver is a wonderful city to visit, with ski slopes, science museums, Stanley Park, Grouse Mountain, a fantastic harbour and shopping centre. But the highlight of the whole visit for all ten of us was the new friends we made and company. Apart from the excellent trip which was made possible by BIGGA, many contacts were made and friendships formed and not just in Canada but also amongst the party from the UK.

Everyone in Canada was extremely friendly and made our albeit short stay a very enjoyable one. Both Peter Hampton and Sam Maclean should be commended for their hospitality as should Stephen Bernhard for agreeing to sponsor this wonderful trip.

Thank you BIGGA for making this possible, for without being a member of our association, this would not have been possible at all.

Peter Lacey, Pennard GC

Clarification over mailing of Greenkeeper International

How pleased I was to read last night that a fellow member (in a far-away land!) gets his magazine in the middle of the month. I live in Margate, Kent, and my magazine turns up on the last day of the month. Why? Why? Why?

G. Mills, Chestfield GC, Whitstable

Editor’s Note: Sorry that you had to wait quite so long for your February Greenkeeper International.

The fact that it didn’t arrive until the end of the month suggests a postal problem as you should have received it within a day or two of February 19 which was the date billed in the January issue. I’m pretty sure the member in the far away land will have had to wait longer still this time.

Tom Smith & Raymond Day
South East Region

YOU’VE GOT MAIL!

If you’ve got an email account and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we’ll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We’ll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email. Simply send an email to:

updates@bigga.co.uk

quoting your name and Membership number, and we’ll do the rest - it’s that easy!

Dr Keith Duft, Chief Scientist with English Nature and competition judge.

"I use one criteria when judging a golf course which is; ‘Would what has been done here convince a sceptic?’ More often than not, yes is the answer as more and more golf courses manage their courses in an environmentally friendly way.

"To change what nature has done to a piece of property over the years is very stupid and is probably one of the most difficult things you are going to do because you are going against the grain. You cannot plant a different type of grass or different types of trees that are not indigenous to an area and are not used to that climate, it just doesn’t work properly." 

Nick Price, Former Open Champion and World Number 1 Golfer

Below: The Dyke GC, near Brighton, winner of the 2000 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition