This has to be the hardest Membership Update column I've ever written. For one thing, I will be but a distant memory in the BIGGA staff room! After a very enjoyable four years with BIGGA, fate has stepped in and indicated it is time to move on to something new. Not only are they great friends, but from a professional point of view I have learnt much from each of them, their skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm for each of their areas of expertise is to be admired. Your Association is in good hands. I would also like to pass on my thanks to each of the Regional Administrators, Peter B, Doug, Peter, L and Paula who work endlessly to administer each of the five regions. I have had the pleasure of accompanying each of them on regional and sectional seminars and conferences and experiencing their kind hospitality! Also, to each of the Section Secretaries, who, in their spare time administer each of their sections, which is important in the processing of membership recruitment and retention.

There have been many people I have encountered throughout my four years at BIGGA who have given me valuable support and advice, they are all too numerous to mention by name but I would like to thank each of you. Finally, a big thank you to you, the members, because without you I wouldn't have had the opportunity, the fun and the valuable experience of working for BIGGA.

Don't Drift Away!

If your membership expired on 31 December 2001, 31 January 2002 or 26 February 2002 and you haven't yet renewed, don't drift away from your Association, renew your membership this month. Providing you are working as a greenkeeper, we will still retain your details on our database and you can renew your membership with a new expiry date, you can even pay by direct debit if you wish. Don't leave it any longer, if you need a renewal form or further information contact the Membership Services Team, on 01347 833800.

This month, Tracey Maddison from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to welcome over 100 new members to the Association, and bids you all a fond farewell as she is venturing to pastures new.

Bidding a fond farewell ...

Tracey's successor as Membership Services Officer is 25-year-old Rachael Palmer, who brings to the role extensive membership experience acquired at a prestigious club in another sporting arena altogether.

Brought up on the Isle of Wight, Rachael spent four years at the prestigious club in another sporting arena altogether. There have been many people I have encountered throughout my four years at BIGGA who have given me valuable support and advice, they are all too numerous to mention by name but I would like to thank each of you. Finally, a big thank you to you, the members, because without you I wouldn't have had the opportunity, the fun and the valuable experience of working for BIGGA.

**April's Membership Draw Winner**

Just introduce one or more new, greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator and calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to April's winner; Michael West, of Rowhedge Golf Club.

Rachael Palmer

... and a warm welcome

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**A BIGGA welcome...**

Scottish Region
Jonathan Campbell, East
Greene Pett, East
Fraser Callan, North
Edward Hay, East
Robert Lums, North
Kenneth MacKenzie, East
Brian McCrae, North
Steven Ness, East
Richard Ralph, North
Northern Region
Gordon Dutcher, Sheffield
Cris Corley, S Wales
Sheun Cheswell, Sheffield
Doris Gibbons, North
Keith Duncombe, Sheffield
Ian Durnsford, Cleveland
David Fovett, Northern
Thomas Fenwick, East
Gary Glick, North
Peter Griffith, N Wales
Andrew Grundey, N Wales
Peter Hodgkin, N West
Niall Huish, N Ireland
Anne McAllister, N Ireland

Midland Region
Daniel Adams, Midland
Barry Barnard, Midland
Simon Caudwell, E of England
Ben Ennen, BB&B
Brian Hunt, Midland
Luke Hunt, E of England
Lee March, BB&B
Steve Phillips, Midland
James Porter, E of England
Craig Rishas, BB&B
Matthew SPending, BB&B
Alex Wright, Midland
Colin Walsh, Midland

Seesth East Region
Mbe, London
Michael Bassett, Essex
Keith Buckingham, London
Aimee Cridland, Surrey
Craig Ellis, Surrey
Cassia Freeman, Essex
Keith Graham, London
Andrew Hemmings, Surrey
Matthew Lewis, Essex
Malcolm McGoohan, Essex
Marc Richards, Essex
Dominic Rodgers, Essex
John Spurgeon, Essex
Martin Trevor, Essex
Lynden Vivian, Kent

S W & S Wales Region
Mark Battsop, S Wales
Jonathan Bowers, S Wales
Gareth Blake, S Wales
Anthony Colley, S Wales
Edward Cary, S Wales
Frederick Hartwig, S Wales
Luke Haskell, S Wales
Matthew Leesom-Magey, S Wales
Tom Love, S Wales

Peter Mars, S Wales
Keith Reeves, S Wales
Stuart Pretty, S Wales
Ian Read, S Wales
David Rossall, S Wales
Mark Shepherd, S Wales
Richard Upton, S Wales

Northern Ireland
Robert Bailey
Michael Leonard, N Ireland
Matthew Lewis, N Ireland

International Members
Chris Bagg, Bahamas
Michael Carnall, USA
Erik Enberg, Sweden
Tobias Hartmann, Germany
Joy Nishi, N Ireland
Edward Walsh, USA

Golden/Silver Key Members
Colin Heath, E Midlands
Sarah Mason, Mid Anglia
Justin Smith, West Anglia
Alexander Lilley, Mid Anglia

Member
Matthew Bywater, Australia
Malcolm Colegate, Devon & Cornwall
Simon Doyle, Japan

Associate Members
Scott Hoffmans, USA
Edward Powell, S Wales
Paul Walker, Wales
Stephen Williams, N West

Student Members
Jonathan Pender, N West
Edward Short, S Wales

**Scottish Region**
Jonathan Campbell, East
Greene Pett, East
Fraser Callan, North
Edward Hay, East
Robert Lums, North
Kenneth MacKenzie, East
Brian McCrae, North
Steven Ness, East
Richard Ralph, North

**Northern Region**
Gordon Dutcher, Sheffield
Cris Corley, S Wales
Sheun Cheswell, Sheffield
Doris Gibbons, North
Keith Duncombe, Sheffield
Ian Durnsford, Cleveland
David Fovett, Northern
Thomas Fenwick, East
Gary Glick, North
Peter Griffith, N Wales
Andrew Grundey, N Wales
Peter Hodgkin, N West
Niall Huish, N Ireland

**Midland Region**
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Barry Barnard, Midland
Simon Caudwell, E of England
Ben Ennen, BB&B
Brian Hunt, Midland
Luke Hunt, E of England
Lee March, BB&B
Steve Phillips, Midland
James Porter, E of England
Craig Rishas, BB&B
Matthew SPending, BB&B
Alex Wright, Midland
Colin Walsh, Midland

**Seesth East Region**
Mbe, London
Michael Bassett, Essex
Keith Buckingham, London
Aimee Cridland, Surrey
Craig Ellis, Surrey
Cassia Freeman, Essex
Keith Graham, London
Andrew Hemmings, Surrey
Matthew Lewis, Essex
Malcolm McGoohan, Essex
Marc Richards, Essex
Dominic Rodgers, Essex
John Spurgeon, Essex
Martin Trevor, Essex
Lynden Vivian, Kent

**S W & S Wales Region**
Mark Battsop, S Wales
Jonathan Bowers, S Wales
Gareth Blake, S Wales
Anthony Colley, S Wales
Edward Cary, S Wales
Frederick Hartwig, S Wales
Luke Haskell, S Wales
Matthew Leesom-Magey, S Wales
Tom Love, S Wales

**Peter Mars, S Wales**
Keith Reeves, S Wales
Stuart Pretty, S Wales
Ian Read, S Wales
David Rossall, S Wales
Mark Shepherd, S Wales
Richard Upton, S Wales

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Joy Nishi, N Ireland
Edward Walsh, USA

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Sarah Mason, Mid Anglia
Justin Smith, West Anglia
Alexander Lilley, Mid Anglia

**Member**
Matthew Bywater, Australia
Malcolm Colegate, Devon & Cornwall
Simon Doyle, Japan

**Associate Members**
Scott Hoffmans, USA
Edward Powell, S Wales
Paul Walker, Wales
Stephen Williams, N West

**Student Members**
Jonathan Pender, N West
Edward Short, S Wales

**APRIL 1992**

This month, we look at 'Around the Green' ten years ago

Prophetic?
The details in Cornwall Section notes reported that golf and an excellent lunch had been followed by Karen Dely pre- serving a paper on 'Computers and Greenkeeping'. It was suggested that Karen must have thought he was the only coach from Hampshire when water started to pour in on his first coach, but to his credit he waded on in fine style and brought home the point that greenkeepers do not need to be afraid of computers as these available are 'user friendly'. Karen further suggested that all greenkeepers would be using them in the work place in the near future.

A Right Dressing Down

A scribe to one Section's notes advised that he was ending his report on a sour note. One thing that did not go unnoticed at the Section's seminar the number of greenkeepers who arrived wearing jeans, sweat shirts, training shoes and, what is perhaps most offensive, tracksuit bottoms! This surely cannot go on any longer. If golf club members are expected to dress correctly at their own clubs, surely we owe it to the greenkeepers to do the same. It is a pure lack that these individuals have not taken on board that golf club members are expected to dress correctly at their own clubs and it is surely only a matter of time before such a refusal will face the culprits. Worse still, as a section we may not be extended the courtesy of many clubs, simply because of the few without pride, who cannot dress themselves properly. If individuals cannot take responsibility for their dress at such events, then their head greenkeepers must take it on themselves, if only to save our interests. So come on you head men if you are sending staff to represent your club at any future section meetings, get them in order, or don't send them at all.

Farmers do not make good Greenkeepers

This Section's notes make interesting reading. One of the many folds with 18 suggestions that have been set as 'golf courses' has as an active farmer turned golf course manager (for now) but overides everything the head men suggest. This is a farmer who has fed up with all the arguings, has decided to tee the line and do just what he is told - i.e. earn himself a few bob in early February when there is a hard frost on the ground; never close the course, and if it snows the greenkeepers must play against the wind! Not surprisingly, this course is going downhill even faster than Eddie the Eagle, and seems to be heading for the anonymity potential for 'quality' courses when one considers the vast numbers who try these 'mickey mouse' set-ups, simply because it is nowhere else to go.