DOUG BELL

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Doug Bell who died in hospital on 2 August following a short illness. Doug had served as Regional Administrator for the Northern Region since September 1997. Before joining BIGGA he had been Secretary at the West Lancashire Golf Club and prior to that at Wootton Golf Club. These appointments followed 25 years spent in public administration.

During the last five years Doug had become a much respected figure in the Northern Region as well as more widely within BIGGA. Many members have benefited from his golf club visits whilst he proved a great friend and adviser to those experiencing difficulties in their lives or careers. Doug was quiet and reserved, in many ways a private man, but blessed with a dry sense of humour. His passions in life were golf and football. In the football world he served for many years as Treasurer of the Liverpool County FA while in golf his extensive knowledge of the game was there for all to witness at BIGGA events. Doug was an excellent Administrator for the Northern Region and BIGGA has lost a much valued member of staff.

“Doug Bell was a huge asset to the Northern Region and he worked extremely hard on behalf of its members. His untimely death was a great shock to everyone who knew him and he will be greatly missed,” said Bert Cross, Northern Region Chairman.

HARRY DIAMOND MEMORIAL QUAICH

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich was played over The Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr, on Sunday, July 14. The tournament was inaugurated last July as a memorial to Harry. His wife, Jessie, and his close family, Ann, Linda and Rosemary, have been deeply involved in the organisation, together with members of the Belleisle Golf Club.

The format is a Stableford Competition of foursomes with the two best scores counting at each hole. The shotgun start enhances the whole day and enables the participants to finish at the same time thereby allowing everyone to be at the presentation. The family, together with sponsors, put up the prizes for the day. The Quaich which was purchased by the family is large enough to hold their memories engraved. Seven greenkeepers were invited to take part in this unique competition, three from the West Section and four from the Ayrshire Section. Unfortunately, none of us got our name on the Quaich!

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich is a reminder of the esteem and high regard the Club and his friends still hold to the memory of Harry. I know of no other Club who have respected the memory of their Greenkeeper in the setting up of an annual competition such as this. The attendance alone of some 130 golfers speaks for itself.

The Course was in excellent condition and the presentation was second to none. The Head Greenkeeper and his staff were greatly praised for the course and the organisation together with members of the Belleisle Golf Club.

PASSES ALL ROUND!

BIGGA Staff members Sami Collins (left), Education and Training Administrator and Sarah Sowerby (left), PA to Neil Thomas, have both recently passed their European Computer Driving Licence. The ECDL is a Europe-recognised qualification, comprising seven modules, which demonstrates a holder’s ability to operate a computer and various software programmes.

Sami and Sarah now join Brad Anderson, BIGGA’s Administrative Assistant, who passed his ECDL at college earlier in the year.

NEAREST THE PIN...

Rob Gee, of Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brough, West Yorkshire and part of the British Seed Houses team in the BIGGA Golf Day was the Nearest the Pin winner on the 18th hole. Congratulations Rob and sorry for missing out your name last month.