**Chairman's Column**

**Wallet Lighter But I’m Richer!**

Well I hope you all survived the madness this Spring! In this part of the country growth has been as prolific as I can remember. Even with a staff and machine resource like that at Carden it has been a real struggle to keep on top of cutting never mind all the other detailed operations expected of us at this time.

I know many of you are not as fortunate in terms of availability of machines and labour and I can only hope that your club has been supportive of your efforts. While we do have a comparatively large staff at Carden it has been under strength in numbers, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for an extraordinary effort during the last two months.

My Head Greenkeeper on the Cheshire course, Martin Thompson, has moved on to become a Work based trainer with Myerscough and I wish him every success for the future. He had a great input at Carden and I will miss him.

There will, no doubt be some of you out there who have less than understanding committees and members, and, I think we are all in agreement that this is where BIGGA needs to concentrate its efforts - the education of Golf Clubs leadership and the Golfing public. To this end, by the time you read this, I will have made a presentation at the EGU Chair of Green/Owners seminar, on the role of the Course Manager. The EGU have in the last few years been very supportive of BIGGA and its aims and we are grateful for the platform they give us. Of course, a few BIGGA members speaking at events is not going to be enough to change things and you all have a responsibility to communicate effectively with members and colleagues. If this is an area in which you are inexperienced or are anxious about then I encourage you to speak to Ken Richardson about training opportunities in this vital skill.

It hasn't all been pressure and doom and gloom in the last few weeks however. We have had several visitors to Carden and they have given Claire and I the opportunity to see some places we haven't been to in a while, renew old friendships and make some new ones. So, thank you to John and Judith Pemberton, Stan Zontek, Bruce Jamieson and Gordon and Marilyn Witteveen for your company. My waist line has expanded, my wallet's a little lighter but I am richer!