Chairman’s Column

An Open Mind and Honourable Intentions

One thing that can’t be said of the BIGGA Chairman’s duties are that they are boring! Life certainly is hectic, and true to the saying that the more you put in, the more you get out.

The now traditional visit to Canada for the Canadian Golf Superintendents’ Conference and Show back in March brought more opportunities for John and myself to meet with leaders of the CGCSA and trade representatives with a view to strengthening support for each other, all in extremely pleasant surroundings and backed up by an excellent educational conference.

You have already, and will continue to hear much in this column, with regard to forming and developing relationships with allied Associations. In trying to develop and further the aims of BIGGA and its members we obviously have to do what is right for our members, in our judgement, not just for now but also in the future. As a Chairman, Chief Executive, or Board Member we are rightly accountable for the actions we take. To this end we enter into dialogue with others with an open mind, and, I promise, honourable intentions. In a perfect world all our ideas and those of the people we are talking to would match the desires of each, and agreement would be easy. Life just ain’t like that and sometimes we have to pass on some ideas. Is this then, a waste of each others time? Not in our opinion, and we as a Board are certainly intent on continuing open dialogue to find ways of promoting BIGGA, its members and its clearly laid out mission statement.

Proof, if it were needed, that BIGGA has a voice in the macro sense, is to be had from the invites from the GCSSA for myself to serve on their education committee and for John Pemberton to serve on a committee formed to further collaboration between Greenkeeping Associations across the globe. Of course, as members you need to see an improvement in your benefits in a micro sense for any extra revenues raised, I can promise you (and I work in a VERY commercial environment), that the decision to raise subs by more than current inflation levels, was based on sound business lines. Put simply, this Association, partly because the original sub level was set very low, is overly reliant on our trade partners, for revenue. In these unpredictable and tough economic times it would be plain mismanagement for the Board not to recognise this fact and to address it. In addition, if we are to answer the further criticism that the service we offer is inadequate, then extra funds will clearly be needed. Finally the notion that the John Pemberton or the Board sanction inappropriate pay increases, is frankly disappointing. The accounts of the Association are freely available to any member on request, via your Section Secretary who each receive two copies and more if requested, and of course at the AGM where you have the opportunity to question the Board and its officers on the same- nothing to hide, transparent and HEALTHY accounts.

Of course as always should you have any comments, views or concerns, then like all the officers and volunteers, I am more than happy to talk to you. “Until next time” as Kent Walton used to say.

Andy Campbell MG GC SA
Chairman