News from the Chief Executive

I would like to start by offering my condolences to John Crawford and his family upon the sad loss of his partner, Ailsa, who died recently following a period of illness. John was Chairman of BIGGA in 1993 and is Section Secretary for Central Scotland.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate my fellow members of staff who, under the able stewardship of Ken, have helped BIGGA pass an Investors in People audit with flying colours. In the inspector's report we have been praised for our achievements and commitment and he placed us within the top 10% of companies in the country. The Association first gained the award in March 1999.

The main theme for June has been meetings, meetings and yet more meetings. During the month the General Purposes' Committee met to progress the development of an updated business plan, certain sections of the plan have now been referred back to the other sub-committees for their consideration.

I have had several meetings with companies, including Ransomes, who have confirmed that they will once again sponsor the National Tournament in October, and also Berhard & Co, who will be sponsoring a delegation of 10 BIGGA members to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in New Orleans in February 2006.

On June 27 the Association held its annual golf day at Aldwark Manor and the chosen charity this year was Macmillan Cancer Relief. I would like to thank all those companies who sponsored a tee for the day, thereby making this event possible. Anyone involved with raising sponsorship will appreciate how difficult it is, as companies see their budgets being more and more restricted and I would ask members to acknowledge the support given over the year by the various individuals and companies. A simple word of thank you is all that is sometimes needed but all too often forgotten!

The Association continues to work closer and closer with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and at my most recent meeting with their National Secretary, Keith Lloyd, we discussed joint production of recommended health and safety policy documentation and also the development of an educational programme at Harrogate for AGCS members. We agreed to set up a health and safety working party comprising four Course Managers, four Club Secretaries, BIGGA and AGCS staff and an independent adviser with other advisers being invited to contribute in due course. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for early September and I will keep members advised of progress.

Finally, I would like to wish Patrick Gosset, the Chief Executive of the IOG, a long and happy retirement when he closes his office door for the last time at the end of July. Pat and I have enjoyed a very close working relationship and I am sure he will be a difficult act to follow.

John Pemberton