I turn to a BIGGA member who I do not know and say: "How lucky are we, sitting here on a beautiful day, in a beautiful place, listening to the banter and just enjoying the crack? I feel lucky just to be here sharing it."

And he says: "Lucky, what do you mean lucky? As greenkeepers, we have a difficult job, we have all worked really hard to get where we are. It is effort and reward, it is what we are due, it's not lucky!"

And I say: "Well yes, but what I meant was I am lucky to have had the opportunities. I am lucky my parents gave me a good start, I am lucky generous people have helped me along the way, some don't get that kind of luck."

And he says: "You make your own luck in this world!" I think about that for a minute or two. About the children of Beslan, about the London bombings, about the victims of the Tsunami and I just can't believe they deserved their luck. And I say: "You see, the thing is, I don't believe that you do make your own luck on your own. I believe other people make it for you. Every step forward I have made has been due to someone else's influence. Someone has always helped me or inspired me."

And I think about people like, Bob Young at Sparsholt College and all the guys from the South Coast Section and the South West and South Wales Region Harrogate crew and Gordon Child saying to me once, 'Kerran, why don't you join the Regional Board, I think you have a lot to offer."

"How lucky are we, sitting here on a beautiful day, in a beautiful place, listening to the banter and just enjoying the crack? I feel lucky just to be here sharing it."

I am at the final day of the National Championship at Sherwood Forest Golf Club. The course is splendid, the weather is great and I have met many members I have never met before and in no time at all we are like Robin's band of brothers. I am sitting on a bench on a fine autumn day in deepest Middle England, watching the merry men (there weren't any women) driving off from the 1st tee while I am thinking about how we might help the rich in spirit to support the poor.

"Ah, you will never change them Kerran, it's how people are today, they are just not interested."

And one of those old Dylan songs just bursts into my head. 'While one who sings with his tongue on fire Gargles in the rat race chair. Bent out of shape from society's pliers Cares not to come up any higher. But rather get you down in the hole That's him'.

And I am thinking, well, if people can exert enough pressure to bring down the Berlin Wall, surely if you believe in something enough you can achieve anything you want. And I say, "Well, I am not really trying to change anything, people change by themselves, change is inevitable. All I'm hoping to do is make more opportunities for positive change as opposed to negative change."

Just then, our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, taps me on the shoulder and says: "Kerran, can you just check an email I am sending to one of the members?"

So I go and read the email and it is to a member who wants to give his time to support fellow greenkeepers. John is offering him the opportunity to join with others to see if they can find the most positive and effective way of bringing this about. That is all you can do really, keep creating positive opportunities for all. Some will take them up and some won't, some will bear fruit and some won't, but the more we create, the more chance there is that those currently looking for something better will find it.

"Which particular apathy?"

"Well, members not helping with Committee and not turning up to Section golf days and education events."

"Well", I say, "I don't really know."

"But you're the Chairman Kerran, you should know!"

And I say: "Well, it's not really my job to know. It is my job to ask questions, to highlight issues and to find and motivate the people who do know. Somebody does know, because there are Sections that are very active and get good attendances. To be honest I don't know how they do it but all we have to do is give them the key to open up the opportunities to influence others."

Chairman's Column

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