Change Is In The Air

As I write my column this month my thoughts are focused on the men and women managing golf courses across Europe, who have had to deal with one of the most extreme weather patterns that we have encountered over recent years. Here in the southwest of England the weather continues to be dry and warm with records being broken each month, October looks as if it's becoming one of the warmest on record. The weather has also, at times, been very localised with many of you during the summer in the southeast crying out for a decent days rain, at the same time only a few miles away a club is blessed with enough to keep the course going another week. It's been hard enough for us to deal with tournament standards by Gavin Robson and his team who put so much hard work in presenting the course for our enjoyment. Well my enjoyment was watching the lads three put the last!

Meeting the membership is one of the parts I have enjoyed the most during my year in office, meeting and talking to so many new faces was very pleasing and I thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. During my year in office I would have liked to visit each Section, but I hope you will understand that this isn't possible with all the commitments that I have. I hope to meet many more new members, to enhance your skills through further education. The companies exhibiting at Harrogate week deserve your support both in enquiries of their products and your attendance at Harrogate week and don't forget Harrogate week is more than a show - it's an opportunity for you, the members of your association and this is where you can help by networking with your fellow professionals highlighting the benefits on offer.

At the present time a working group with representatives from BIGGA, the Secretaries Association and health and safety consultants are busy finalising a new Health and safety management system which will hopefully be launched at Harrogate week, this highlights how far we have come as an association within our industry - we are now part of a working party driving this forward for the benefit of golf. It is planned to launch, during Harrogate week, the new look website. The new site will have many new items for members to access, the new site will allow our staff to update and change items without having to go to a costly web designer, which occurs at present, if you have any ideas you would like to be considered please contact Scott MacCallum as soon as possible.

Chairman of BIGGA

This month my champion of BIGGA is Graeme Taylor, Course Manager of the Eden Course at St Andrews Links Trust. Although Graeme isn't, at present, on the Sections committee, he is a keen supporter of the Association and Section and has given up a lot of his own time in helping the Section set up and develop its own website. This provides a valuable service to the Section in keeping its members informed of what is happening in the Section and Region.

Richard Whyman
Chairman