Visit to America. I represented BIGGA at the GCSAA Trade Show in San Diego in February 2010. Some interesting facts from the Show: the San Diego Convention Centre is over half-a-mile in length; the show contained some 660 exhibiting companies, and was absolutely crammed to the rafters with greenkeeping equipment and materials! There were a surprising number of similarities between BIGGA and GCSAA members. American Superintendents are increasingly concerned about issues such as bunker maintenance and cost-saving on labour and materials throughout their operations. They are also paying increasing attention to the impact that golf may have on their environment.

The 3 ‘P’s – ‘People’, ‘Planet’, ‘Profit’. Environmental concerns in the USA are summed up very nicely by this phrase the ‘Three P’s’. This means that profit is not a dirty word, but a necessary part of being sustainable, going hand-in-glove with “People” and “Planet”. If a business is not profitable, it will not function for long. To quote a glove with “People” and “Planet”. If a business is not profitable, it will not function for long. To quote a

A good example of the spread of education was the host country, The Austrians have about 300 members and almost three-quarters of these have achieved accreditation via a system provided by the GTC. For me this shows the kind of results achievable through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. I look forward to the day when the UK boasts similar achievements. We, in BIGGA – Members, HQ and Volunteers – have such key roles in taking the profession forward in the UK.

BIGGA. Interestingly 2012 is the 100th anniversary of the formation of the first Greenkeeper Association in Britain (BGA – British Greenkeepers Association). There is some evidence of a Scottish Greenkeepers Association possibly pre-dating this, but I’m told all records were destroyed in a fire.

British Greenkeeping was interrupted as our forefathers fought their way through two World Wars. However, such was the dedication and tenacity that, each time, the industry came back to life and continued where it left off, building towards what it is today.

In this month’s column Paul Worster reports on a busy first month as National Chairman: travelling and comparing and contrasting what we do in the UK with what is being done by greenkeeper trade associations in the USA and Europe. He also reviews what greenkeepers achieved during difficult times in the past and concludes this month’s column with a message to all BIGGA volunteers and members.

Chairman’s Word

National Chairman, Paul Worster, gives his thoughts for the month

You can learn more about taking yourself and the profession forward through volunteering for BIGGA by contacting your local BIGGA Section whose details are on the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk or, if you prefer, by contacting Paul Worster direct on talktopaul@hotmail.co.uk.