Course Manager at St Mellion and has worked extremely hard to further his career over the years. Mike is the first to achieve the MG status in our Section and has even been on local BBC News being interviewed on the course. So good PR for the industry! Well done Bushy, and congratulations from the whole Section.

News from Duchy College. Kingston Maurward College (Dorset) and Duchy College have made a strategic decision to work together. This is good news for greenkeepers in the region. Kingston Maurward College will work under the GTC Quality Approved Centre status of Duchy College. Together the colleges will offer progression in greenkeeper training from Level 2 to Level 4. The greening team at Kingston Maurward will be headed by Alan Jacobsen, a greeninga who has recently moved to the Dorset College from Oatridge College.

NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture Management (Sports Turf). Congratulations to Mike Bush, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club; Mark Campbell, Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club; Victor Driver, Thurstlestone Golf Club, Graeme Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club, and John Scott, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club, for being the first candidates to achieve the NVQ 4 Sports Turf through Duchy College from Devon and Cornwall.

Their success in establishing the NVQ 4 Sports Turf allows other greeningers from the area to further progress their careers.

Their success also marks the amazing achievement of approaching 200 greeningers from Devon and Cornwall who have completed NVQ/Work Based Diplomas since March 2004. Duchy College achieved its GTC Approved Training Provider status in May 2006. Well done to each of these and to their Club, employers and to the Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers who have contributed to their training and assessment.

Ongoing trade support. Again the trade has been generous this year in its support to the college through the provision of posters, seed samples, catalogues, publications, etc. I am a little embarrassed not to have formally thanked the individual companies before as many have supported the college for a number of years to the great benefit of the students. I am also a little cautious at listing these for fear of missing someone out but here goes. John Palfrey who has worked hard for a number of years to collate materials from Scotts, Barenburg, Rigby Taylor, Bayer. Thanks also to Barenburg and Johnsons (Phil Seedhouse and Dave Chammings) for the seed samples. Ron Skinner, George Pitts Section Secretary; Bigga Devon & Cornwall 07929 754401

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BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland
Stephen Barber, East Section
Richard Baff, West Section
Jack Farbalm, North Section
Dyev, North East Section
Mark Hills, Central Section
Dennis Grant, North Section
Paul King, West Section
John McMurchie, East Section

Northern Region
Neil Barrett, Northern Section
Daniel Clarke, North West Section
Aidan Cott, Cleveland Section
Victor Cox, North East Section
Ben Goodchild, North West Section
Robert Hayworth, Northern Section
James Lee, Sheffield Section
Andreas Noes, North West Section
Neil White, North West Section
Benjamin Williams, North Wales Section

Midland Region
Daniel Anstiss, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Adam Burley, Midland Section
James Fox, Midland Section
Golf Clubs, East Midland Section
Anton Holliday, Midland Section
Steven Howes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section

David Ingletton, East of England Section
Sarah Lashbrooke, East Midland Section
Jason Molesworth, Midland Section
Craig Tatton, East Midland Section
John Whitehouse, B&B

Craig Wyatt, Midland Section

South East Region
Sam Bethell, Surrey Section
Joe Clarke, Surrey Section
Jack Cheever, Surrey Section
Brian Eggleton, London Section
Charlie Evans, Sussex Section
Wesley Linsen, Sussex Section
George Morley, Sussex Section
Kate Stone, London Section

South West/South Wales Region
Matthew Clark, South Coast Section
Richard Hatfield, South West Section
Iain Moore, South West Section
Edward Ried, South West Section
Neil Scott, South West Section
Amy Thomas, South Coast Section

Overseas
Daniel Green, Thailand
Zhisheng Wang, China

For more listings, log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website

I must begin by thanking all of the BIGGA members, supporters and friends for all the kind wishes that I have received in my first few weeks in the Chief Executive’s office. Many of you have offered support, assistance and advice for which I am very grateful, but be warned, I will be taking you up on your offers!

In my first few weeks I have had the chance to meet many members, representatives of the trade and other golfing bodies and the message has been consistent and clear: There is a great deal of warmth and respect for the Association and its members and there is strong support for our ambition to continue to improve the quality of course presentation and condition which by extension will improve the quality of overall golfing experience that is enjoyed by the nation’s nearly four million regular players. Our challenge is to harness that support so that all of us are working together in a focused way.

I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right

I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right, I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity. Witnessing the dedication and professionalism of the BIGGA Support Team at the recent Open Championship gave me an insight to how much we have to be proud of as an Association. The ground work was admirably carried out by Royal St George’s Head Greenkeeper Graham Royden and his team who provided a course in magnificent condition. The commitment of the 56-strong team of highly qualified volunteers to provide greening support in testing weather did BIGGA proud.

At the conclusion of the Championship the Chairman and I took the opportunity to thank and congratulate the Support Team. We also gave our commitment that we intend to work tirelessly to raise the awareness and the profile of the excellent job that BIGGA members do up and down the land, day in and day out. This is a big task and to achieve it we need to engage stakeholders at all levels of the game but it also requires the support of all our members. We know what a great job you do for your respective employers, members and visitors and we need you to help us get that message across by continuing to strive for excellence, to represent the profession with pride and to take every opportunity to promote the good work of the industry.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks and months to come.

Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO