Welcome to 2011

I hope you have had a great Christmas and New Year and are raring to go for 2011. To those who are going to kick start their year with a trip to Harrogate Week I look forward to meeting you there.

I often think that one of the great things about rolling into a new year is taking the opportunity to focus on the future and look ahead. You may be the type of person who sets yourself some goals both personally and professionally, if you are, a new year can be a good place to start.

So what does 2011 have in store?

There is no doubt that 2011 will be a challenging year for the Association, change will happen, that is for definite with the announcement of BIGGA’s Chief Executive, John Pemberton, leaving. But while change is something that pressures us out of our comfort zone and can be for the better or the worst, depending on where you view it, change is sometimes needed when all the props and practices of the past need revising. I believe that flexibility will be the key, even a roller coaster ride can be fun if you know where to look and can create new balance within the change.

Remember: Change is like driving in a fog – you can’t see very far, but you can make the whole trip that way.

Make 2011 a year in which you make the effort to support your local Section whenever you can. Each of the 26 Sections throughout the UK have a team of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to create events and golf days where members can get together, make new friends, exchange anecdotes, gain advice and exchange information among a group of like-minded individuals. Please support their hard work and your Section.

Membership Renewals

Traditionally, BIGGA used to operate a membership year that ran from January to December, but to allow more flexibility BIGGA now operate a rolling year. This means that a new member will gain 12 months membership from the month of joining BIGGA.

However, if any member has an expiry date, for example, December 31 or January 31, which doesn’t fit in with their personal circumstances and wish to change to a different month please contact the Membership Department directly so that we can discuss your options with you.

We are also finding that some teams of greenkeepers, at the same golf club, have differing expiry dates, if your golf club wishes to pay for membership of BIGGA for all the greenkeepers at the same time, again, please contact the Membership Department so that we can discuss your options. We can be flexible to your financial requirements, but you need to contact us.

Social Networking

Many of BIGGA’s Sections now have a Facebook page or group, below is a list of those that are now up and running. If you are a member of Facebook go and ‘join’ or ‘like’ a Section group or page and keep up to date with what’s going on locally not to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.

Facebook

• British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA)
  • BIGGA Golf Section
  • East of England BIGGA
  • BIGGA Devon & Cornwall Section
  • British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association South West Section
  • Essex Greenkeepers
  • North Wales BIGGA

For more info on new members log in to the Members’ Areas of the BIGGA Website.

Contact Details

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Tel: 0141 616 3440
Mobile: 07776 242120
Email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Northern & Midland

Tel: 01347 696 144
Mobile: 07841 948410
Email: Nicholas Lewis, South West Section

South East

Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07841 948110
Email: Jane Jones, South West & Wales

South West & Wales

Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110
Email: Jane Jones, South West & Wales

South West/South Wales

Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07841 948410
Email: Jane Jones, South West & Wales

Northern Ireland

Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07841 948410
Email: Jane Jones, South West & Wales

International

Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07841 948410
Email: Jane Jones, South West & Wales

Diary of Events

Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2010 can be found here.

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately, due to the bad weather in December a lot of Section AGMs and Golf Competitions had to be postponed, contact your Section Secretary for an update. A full list of Section Secretaries is available via the BIGGA website, select Contact Us in the top right hand corner, select Contacts List from the selection on the left hand side and the Secretary options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday January 14th</td>
<td>Sussex Section Event (Re-arranged)</td>
<td>Worthing Golf Club</td>
<td>George Barr Tel: 07714 459167.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday January 27th</td>
<td>Essex AGM (Re-arranged)</td>
<td>The Essex Golf Club</td>
<td>Dominick: Rodgers@<a href="mailto:domrodgers@talktalk.net">domrodgers@talktalk.net</a> or tel mobile: 07798 641529.</td>
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Harrogate Week: The Ultimate Turf Management Exhibition in Europe

Sunday 16th to Thursday 20th January
Continue to Learn, Harrogate
Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate
Rachael Duffy @ Rachael@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800 or book places at www.bigga.org.uk/events and select Jan 2011 from the browse events calendar.

Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th
BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (HTRM), Harrogate
Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate
Register to attend at www.harrogateweek.org.uk and select REGISTER NOW! From the options on the left hand side.

Wednesday 18th to Thursday 20th
BIGGA Stand
Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate
Make sure you drop by the BIGGA stand (Hall C) to buy your BIGGA Bespoke wool hat (£3.50), update your membership or join your friend!

Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th
Personal Development Zone
Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate
If you are looking to further your career or just gain more advice on how you can improve your personal development then a visit to the Personal Development Zone is a must!

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION | DATE | LOCATION | FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...
Scotland | 1 March 2011 | Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline | Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440 |
North Midlands | To be announced | To be announced | To be announced |

For More Information

Harrogate International Centre
Email: Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update
Email: brad@bigga.co.uk
Email: traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland
Tel: 0141 616 3440
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Other Useful Numbers

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
Debt Counselling Helpline
Greenkeepers Support Helpline
Debt Counselling Helpline

Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440
Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440
Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440
Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440