We are excited to launch a new BIGGA Membership benefit available to BIGGA members who are interested in accessing thousands of turfgrass educational materials. BIGGA has recently secured an agreement with the Michigan State University Libraries (MSUL) to afford BIGGA Members, through the Members area of the website, access to a vast collection of turfgrass educational material.

The MSUL operates Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) which is a specialist unit containing the most comprehensive publicly available collection of turfgrass educational materials in the world.

TIC has over 175,000 records in its primary database and now BIGGA Members can access the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), a fantastic resource.

A bit of background information on the TGIF - it is designed to be flexible for all users, from those accessing for the first time to the more sophisticated researchers/users. TGIF provides bibliographic and descriptive records of all types of works related to turfgrass culture.

TGIF was established in 1983 by the United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee and the Michigan State University Libraries and is now maintained by the TIC, a division of MSUL. The ultimate goals of TGIF are to:

1) Identify all available print or online materials reporting on turfgrass and its maintenance;
2) To provide access to records for each item; and
3) To provide a direct link to the full-text or actual content of each item when possible.

This is a fantastic resource available to all Full Members and Student Members of BIGGA who are studying at any level.

To access the TGIF log in to the Members area of the BIGGA website, select ‘Member Resources’ from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to ‘Turfgrass Information File (TGIF)’ and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly. Happy researching!

*Access available to BIGGA Full Members and BIGGA Student Members

**BTME 2013 Visitor Survey**

We recently carried out a survey of visitors to this year’s BTME, thank you to all those people who completed the survey, we had a great response, and we appreciate and value your feedback.

BIGGA’s Chairman, Andrew Mellon, drew the winners name out of a hat at the recent National Board Meeting. I’m pleased to announce the winner is Marcus Phelps, Head Greenkeeper at Pitton Golf Club in Bristol. Congratulations Marcus and thanks again to all who completed the survey. All those who responded were eligible for a prize draw to win an iPad2.

**TasteCard offer**

Watch out for an update regarding the TasteCard offer on the BIGGA website and BIGGA Facebook Group. Last April and October BIGGA negotiated an exclusive deal with TasteCard, the nation’s largest book Group. Last April and October all members who responded were eligible for a prize draw to win an iPad2.

**Membership Subscription 2012/2013**

The subscription rates for 2012/13 are:

- Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper: £134.00
- Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head GK: £79.00
- Greenkeeper member aged 21 yrs: £69.00
- Greenkeeper member aged 20 yrs & under: £79.00
- Unqualified Greenkeeper member aged 21 yrs: £59.00
- Unqualified Greenkeeper member aged 20 yrs & under: £79.00
- International Member: £43.00
- Affiliate Member: £50.00
- Student Member: £26.00
- Retired Member: £31.00

**A personal thank you...**

Peter Boyd, BIGGA’s Scottish Regional Administrator, is retiring on April 20.

I have known Peter Boyd since my first stint at BIGGA back in 1998. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him and now I would like to thank him for all his support, help and humour!

Peter has always been very professional in everything he has done for BIGGA. I wish him and his wife, Eleanor, my very best wishes.