On behalf of Tora, a BIGGA greenkeeper and myself.

My thanks go to: Clive Osgood, Jane Jones; Sandra Raper; John Young; Larry Pearman; Paul Smith; Nigel Lovatt; Gerald Bruce; Alan Percie MG, John Kernenagh; Gary Cunningham and Stuart Taylor for their involvement in the interview and selection process.

I wish all six finalists the very best of luck and look forward to welcoming them to BIGGA House in September.

The education programme is shaping up to be another not to be missed event!

We will be welcoming Dr Thom Nikul, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University.

Thom is a specialist in putting green management that maximizes turfgrass health, investment and customer satisfaction. He will be presenting several sessions during the week including a one-day workshop on ‘The A–Zs of Putting Green Maintenance’, a session on the Turf Managers’ Conference and a Seminar Session.

The workshop programme will also feature many of our very successful workshops and presenters including:

- So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager – Peter Jones and Kevin Hunt
- Moving into Management – Frank Neubeurger
- Irrigation System Management and Design – Adrian and Dennis Mortram
- How to be an Outstanding Manager Parts 2 and 3 – Shona Garner (above)
- IT Business Administration – Jacky Lowe
- Postcode Update for NPTC Certificate Holders – Jon Allbutt
- Basic Budgeting and Golf Club Finance – Jerry Kilby & Duncan Ritchie

New and returning workshops include:

- Health and Safety Documentation – Jon Allbutt
- The Glass Plant – Dr Paul Miller
- The Soil – Dr Paul Miller
- Basic Golf Mechanics – Hanfried Sievers
- Diagnostics and Problem Solving – Hanfried Sievers

With a full seminar programme and the introduction of Focus On sessions, this will be an education programme not to be missed!

The Open Championships 2012 – Thank you to the BIGGA Open Support Team

Last month I welcomed the BIGGA Open Support Team, this month I want to thank them for their commitment, hard work and team spirit. The team members this year were:

Greenkeeper Liaison Role:
- Richard Whymany, Burnham and Berrow GC

First tee representatives:
- Richard Whymany (as above)
- Paul Jenkins, Westridge GC

Team leaders and mini bus drivers:
- Kevin Glass, Brokenhurst Manor GC; John Kernenagh, Chippening Softbury GC; Billy Merritt, Beacon Park GC; Richard Saunderds, Mowbray GC; John Wells MG, South Herts GC

Support Team:
- Darren Atkins, Royal Norwich GC; Jamie Acton, Worlebury GC; Geoff Browne, Staplehurst GC; Mark Brooks, Torquay GC; Mark Brooks, Sunningdale GC; Allan Donley, Ashton-in-Makerfield; Aaa English, Rothley Park GC; Simon Forsnaw; Jack’s Point (New Zealand); John France, Furthlicher GC Bad Waldsee (Germany); Mark Fy, Weylesdon GC; John Geddes, McDonald GC; Philip Graham, Bishop Auckland GC; Paul Griffiths, Seaford GC; Bruce Hicks, Bostom GC; Robert Hill, Chichester GC; Stephen Hopkins, RAF Cottesmore GC; Brian Hunter, McDonald GC; Matthew Hutchinson, Hassock GC; Richard Jenkins, Orchard Development – G-W; Darren Jones, Blackmoor GC; Ashley Marshall, Matten Hall GC; Steve Mason, Stocks GC; Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes GC; Rhys Novele, Remuera GC; Paul Roberts, Baron Hill GC Ltd; Gavin Robson, Burton-on-Trent GC; Robert Sandlands, Grainger-over-Sands GC; Ben Scrivener, Abbottsford GC; Andrew Slingsby, Halifax West End GC; Tim Smith, Cohn Valley GC; Ben Sullivan CCCS; The Brierwood Golf Course; Scott Thomson, Wetherby GC; Miles Todd, Rhuddlan GC; Andrew Uwins, Rotherham GC; Tom Wood, Outlane GC; Daniel Woodcroft, Bradford College GC; Mya Wood, Berchemsted GC; Matthew Wormald, Buckinghamshire GC; Paul Young, Whitley GC

Board Members
- Andrew Mellin, Elmwood College
- Tony Smith, Tresise Golf Club
- George Bar, Worthing Golf Club
- Gary Cunningham, Trentinham Park Golf Club
- Stuart Greenwood, North Berwick Golf Club
- Jeremy Hughes, Vale of Langold Golf Club
- Arnold Phipps-Jones, Stock Brook and Three River Golf and Country Club

In addition to providing a greenkeeper to rake the bunkers for every match on Championship days, this year Paul Smith and the BA&SA asked BIGGA to provide an early morning preparation team and a late night dosing team.

We also weren’t without challenges this year due to the amount of rain that fell in a short space of time and the water table being so high. Many people were asking why the bunkers weren’t emptied, they were but the water just kept rising! All in all it was a fantastic week where the team showed true team spirit being called in to work at all sorts of early times, it just showed what a fantastic industry this is and when it’s needed we can all pull together. So well done Support Team 2012, a good job done, roll on Muirfield 2013.