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As we read this, I hope you have all had a good Christmas and are off to a good start in 2012.

As I write this, my 12th column, I find myself trying to think ahead and plan for what will be happening and where we will be.

In these changing times this is something that is harder for everyone now, across every part of society. However we must learn to look for and exploit all the opportunities that such an environment creates. There is no point in dwelling on the difficulties. We need to be able to adapt, and sometimes think outside the box to find ways of dealing with what we face.

I believe that Greenkeepers are naturally good at this, as we are constantly managing an environment in which some of the aspects change rapidly, outside our control, yet the standards demanded by our customers is ever higher. We have always been innovative in finding solutions to meet these demands.

That all sounds easy on paper doesn’t it? The reality is a more difficult situation, and one which is not easy to face alone. Many mistakes are made along the way, lessons learned, difficult consequences faced, but hopefully we get through those and come out stronger on the other side.

To me this has been the main benefit of my membership of BIGGA, I always have someone to turn to and will find someone who can shed some light on a problem I’m facing, has been there before, got the T-shirt and can help me find a solution, or at least the best way forward in dealing with any issue I have. In what can sometimes seem a lonely job, that extra support goes a long way!

I have spent some time reflecting on my time as Chairman over the last year, and it has not been without some significant challenges and major changes, as well as many highlights. I’m honoured to have had the privilege of serving the Association.

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year at Harrogate we will reflect on the many successes of our members and supporters and the impact they have had on the Golf Industry which we all work.

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