Welcome 2012
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new year and to thank all the many BIGGA members who currently volunteer in one role or another to a BIGGA team at BIGGA Headquarters.

Without their valuable help, advice and countless hours of volunteer work your Association would not be what it is today.

By working closely with your Section committee the membership team are looking forward to a successful and prosperous new year. But the best people to promote any membership professional body are the members themselves.

Please encourage your fellow greenkeepers to take a look at the benefits of joining BIGGA, all information is available on the BIGGA website including membership forms.

Save money if you pay for your own BIGGA membership!

Are you one of the 31% of BIGGA members who pay for their own membership subscriptions? If the answer is ‘yes’, then you can claim tax relief on your annual membership subscription.

When you can get tax relief for professional fees and subscriptions: The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website states that if an employee pays for their own professional fees and subscriptions then they may be able to reduce their tax bill by getting tax relief on any professional fees and subscriptions they pay.

If you are working as a)
1. greenkeeper, a greensman, or are involved in the fine turf industry, and
2. you are a member of BIGGA and
c) pay for your own annual membership subscription:

Then you may be able to deduct the cost of the membership subscription from your taxable income and reduce the amount of tax you pay.

The HMRC recognise that membership of BIGGA is helpful to your job and BIGGA’s activities are relevant to your work.

BIGGA has been approved by the HM Customs and Excise and we appear on their approved list http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/intl/intl.htm

It is possible for a person to go back several years to get tax relief.

How to get tax relief

BIGGA produces an easy to complete ‘Tax Relief Claim Form’ for members to fill in and send to their local tax office, instructions are clearly given on the form but your membership team are always here to help if you have any queries.

Download a form from the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk select ‘Membership’ from the options across the top, select ‘Tax Relief Forms’ from the menu on the left, here you can download the form.

Or contact a member of the Membership Team at BIGGA HQ to send you a copy.

Increased Pressure at Work

During my travels around the Sections I’ve become increasingly concerned to hear how many members are under increased pressure at work. Apparently, one in five of us are stressed at work, with workload, management style and relationships at work as the top three causes of work-related stress.

Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure.

Pressure turns into stress when you feel unable to cope. People have different ways of reacting to stress, so a situation that feels stressful to one person may in fact be motivating to another.

Many of BIGGA’s demands can cause stress, especially work, relationships and money problems, and when you feel stressed, it can affect everything you do.

Stress can affect how you feel, how you think, how you behave and how your body works.

Sleeping problems, sweating, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating are common signs of stress.

If you are a full member of BIGGA you are entitled to access to a CONFIDENTIAL Helpline where you can speak to, in complete confidence, a trained counsellor 24 hours a day 7 days a week, your details will never be passed on to any third parties.

BIGGA has been approved by BIGGA HQ Tel:01347 833800 or email: info@bigga.co.uk

Please encourage your fellow members to use this service.

Websites:

www.bigga.org.uk
www.bigmaintenance.com

Contact Details

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Tracey Maddison
T: 01347 833800 Ext 116 (Membership)

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland
Tel: 01377 249570
Mobile: 07777 909120
email: bigga.scotland@btinternet.com

Northern & Midland
Tel: 01956 623255
Mobile: 07549 000510
dave@biggaworley.co.uk

South East
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 938410
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

South West & Wales
Tel: 01795 476455
Mobile: 07702 900000
petelarter972@aol.com

Other Contact Details

Peter Boyd (Scotland & Northern Ireland)
Mobile: 07776 242120 
peter.boyd@btinternet.com

Jane Jones (South East)
Mobile: 07841 948410
tel: 01737 819343

Jane Jones (South West & Wales)
Mobile: 07841 948110
tel: 01454 270850

South east

Greenkeepers Support Assistance
Greenkeepers Legal (Full Members only)

Other Greenkeepers

Aaron Bell, Assistant Greenkeeper, northern Ireland
Martin Coe, Greenkeeper, Devon & Cornwall
edward Michael, Greenkeeper, South Coast
Jordan Taylor, Greenkeeper, South West

South East Region

Joe Leadbeater, Assistant Greenkeeper, Mid Bucks & Oxon
Christopher Davies, Assistant Greenkeeper, east of England
Tom Wright, Assistant Greenkeeper, Midlands

South West/South Wales Region

Oliver Berkley, Greenkeeper, Sussex
Aaron Launchbury, Assistant Greenkeeper, south East Region

Northern Ireland

Jack Slade, Assistant Greenkeeper, London
Steve Garcia, Greenkeeper, London
Oliver Berkley, Greenkeeper, Sussex

Northern Region

Daniel Hiney, Student, North West
Shaun Bradbury, Student, North West
Steven Christie, Greenkeeper, north
Jono Hunter, Assistant Greenkeeper, east

Overseas

Daniel Hiney, Student, North West
Shaun Bradbury, Student, North West
Steven Christie, Greenkeeper, north
Jono Hunter, Assistant Greenkeeper, east

February 2012
Date Event Venue Contact
January 9th First Aid at Work Berkhamsted Golf Club Gerald Bruce Tel:07774 921606 or email: geroldkJ@ berkhamstedgc.co.uk
January 10th 3 Day PA1/2/6A Pesticide Kingswood Golf Club, Surrey Jane Glassett at Jon Allibutt Associates Tel:01959 575575 or email: jane@jonallbutt.co.uk
January 12th Devon & Cornwall Section Event Trescove Golf Club George Pitts Tel:07929 754401 or email: gotts,yelvertonyj@gmail.com
January 22nd –January 26th Continue to Learn Harragote International Centre BIGGA HQ Tel:01347 833800 or email: info@bigga.co.uk
January 24th – January 26th HTME Harragote International Centre BIGGA HQ Tel:01347 833800 or email: info@bigga.co.uk
January 30th 5 Day Chainsaw Course CS30/CS31 Deddwell Manor Farm, Guildford Jane Glassett at Jon Allibutt Associates Tel:01959 575575 or email: jane@jonallbutt.co.uk
February 1st Evening Greenkeeping Workshops - Pest & Diseases Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285
February 8th Evening Greenkeeping Workshops - Golf course presentation Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285
February 8th Devon & Cornwall Section Event Bighury Golf Club George Pitts Tel:07929 754401 or email: gotts,yelvertonyj@gmail.com
February 15th Evening Greenkeeping Workshops - Turf Renovation Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285
February 21st Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Course CS30/CS31 Kingswood Golf Club Georgie Pitts Tel: 07929 754401
February 22nd Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Environment & Sustainability Hadlow College John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285
February 29th Devon & Cornwall Section St Mellion Golf & Country Club George Pitts Tel:07929 754401 or email: gotts,yelvertonyj@gmail.com
February 29th Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Outing (All Day Visit) Hadlow College John Millen on Mobile: 07967 092285

Diary of Events

Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...