

Fond Farewell to BIGGA Chairman 2012



BIGGA's chairman, Andrew Mellon is leaving his position as Golf Operations Manager at Elmwood College having been appointed as General Manager for Hydroturf International in Qatar. Hydroturf are the Middle East's leading golf course and landscaping supply company.

Andrew who will take up his new post on September 1st has been with Elmwood for nearly 12 years, having been a student greenkeeper initially and then working through from Greenkeeper Instructor to his present position.

At the latest BIGGA Board of Management meeting Andrew informed the Board of his circumstances and it was agreed that he will step down from his role of BIGGA chairman during the Open

Championship at which time Tony Smith of Teesside Golf Club, the current vice chairman, will take over for the remainder of the year before beginning his intended full year of office at the AGM in January.

In the two and a half years Andrew has been involved on the Board of Management he has served the membership with great drive, passion and commitment. The entire board and staff of the association wish to recognise his huge contribution to BIGGA and wish him all the very best with his new challenge.

Andrew said, "BIGGA has always been a great support to me, from the very first day I became a Greenkeeper, and still is in my current role. It has been an honour and a privilege

to serve on the Board. I wish Tony Smith all the best during his term as Chairman.

The professionalism, the passion, and the friendship I've witnessed during my time at BIGGA from the members, the staff, and the Board has helped me understand why BIGGA is so important within this industry. I'm confident it will go from strength to strength under the current leadership and continue to further develop its support to the membership.

I've made many good friends, and I hope to keep in contact. I am sad to be leaving, but excited at the new opportunity I have. I'd like to thank everyone for their support to me, and wish everyone the very best going forward."



Derek Gould & Duncan Herd

BIGGA is sorry to have recently learnt of the sad news of the passing of two Life Members Mr Derek Gould and Mr Duncan Herd.

Derek, who lived in Sheringham, Norfolk was a long standing member of BGGGA and BIGGA. Duncan who resided in Longniddry, East Lothian, was a long standing member of the SIGGA and BIGGA.

BIGGA would like to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Derek and Duncan.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ian Morrison Captain Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society, Lesley Lowrie GOSTA Training, Markus Klausmann, Steve Miller GOSTA Training, Andrew Connor Head Greenkeeper Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society

Markus Klausmann: Student of the Year for GOSTA

GOSTA has been training golf course greenkeepers and landscape employees in the West of Scotland since 1982. Managing Director, Lesley Lowrie took the decision to commence delivery of greenkeeper qualifications in Edinburgh and Lothian in the summer of 2011.

Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society were one of the first golf clubs to send one of their employees for training. The employee was Markus Klausmann who originally came from Wildtal, a small village right at the edge of the Black Forest, an area of Southern Germany.

As a trained chef Markus relocated to Scotland to change

both his life and career. He worked as a car cleaner and hospital porter for nearly three years in order to finance his flight to Edinburgh until he was successful in finding employment on a golf course. During that time he also attended English Language School in Edinburgh. Markus commented "to say my English was bad would be an understatement."

He went on "by sticking to my plan to only befriend Scotsmen and not mix with other German students at the language school I quickly began to grasp English!"

Markus started work at Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society in 2008 and attended Oatridge

College prior to moving over to GOSTA to do his SVQ Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship in Sports Turf.

"Markus was an outstanding student who strives to achieve the highest possible standards at all times and is a worthy candidate to achieve this award" said his lecturer Steve Miller.

Lesley presented Markus with the GOSTA Training Student of the Year Award which was an inscribed Quaich.

If you are interested in SVQ's, Modern Apprenticeships or short courses (Certificates of Competence) in your area please contact GOSTA Training on 0141-556-3999.