**BAREBRUG APPOINT NEW R&D MANAGER**

Barebrug has appointed Dr David Greenshields as its new Research and Development Manager. The appointment follows the departure of Jayne Leyland, who has left for pastures new after 13 years with the Bury St Edmunds-based business.

Boasting a Master’s degree in Environmental Biology from St Andrews University and a PhD in Plant Genetics from Edinburgh University, David has strong technical and practical knowledge across golf, sports and amenity applications. “I’m delighted to take on the responsibility for our research and amenity applications. Having been very heavily involved at all levels, learning the importance of all aspects, eg. planning, resources, effective execution, evaluation, and communication. Preparing the course for another season is also top of the agenda.”

**Event Update**

This year’s South West and South Wales Region’s BIGGA Golf Management Competitions sponsored by TACIT will be taking place at three venues.

South Coast Section Event at Lipook Golf Club on Wednesday, June 20. South Wales Section Event at Newport Golf Club, Gwent on Thursday, June 28. South West Section Event at Bewood Hotel, Spa and Golf Resort, Calne. Withdrawn on Wednesday, August 15.

This team event consists of four players and must include either the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. The other members may be chosen from the GC Secretary or Manager, the Chairman of the Greens, Member of the Greens Committee or GC Committee, the Club or Vice Captain.

Entry forms will be sent to golf clubs in each of the three sections and should be returned to Jane or via e-mail; jane@bigga.co.uk on 07841948110, 01454 270850 or e-mail: jane@bigga.co.uk

In a similar vein BIGGA work continues. The staff have met to evaluate BTME 2012; the members have also been surveyed online and findings will be discussed at the March Board meeting. The Board and the Chief Executive met in early February to continue work on the Strategy and Business plan. This will also be advanced at the March Board meeting.

I attended the FEGGA conference with the CEO in Prague, Czech Republic. The hospitality of the Czech Greenkeeping Association was warm, friendly and extremely well organised. It was good to meet representatives from so many of our European Associations and to hear about the issues affecting them and to discuss potential solutions to address them. We were invited to attend the Board meeting, and we took the opportunity to represent the views of BIGGA’s membership. We will continue to press for more involvement in order to ensure BIGGA members are represented in the work FEGGA undertakes and can make an appropriate contribution, alongside all the Associations of Europe to our mutual benefit.

I’m just back from the Golf Industry Show hosted by GCSAA in Las Vegas. We had many meetings with our counterparts, to discuss how to help our members. Rob Randquist (President), Rhett Evans (CEO) and The Board took time to meet with us and to plan and discuss ways forward. We have formally signed a Strategic Agreement with GCSAA which will strengthen both Associations and enable us to advance our missions and promote cooperation and goodwill between our members.

The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf must be sustainable in the true sense of the word. Opportunities for successful collaboration exist in the specific areas:

- Annual education conferences and trade shows
- Support from industry vendors, sponsors and partners
- Professional development and education, and recognition of qualifications / awards
- Commitment to sustainability
- Membership products, services and information

This is a great opportunity to ensure that we can share good practise, and the spirit and goodwill which was shown to us during this visit gives me confidence that this work will bring real benefit to our members.

Our staff will be working together to see how they can best implement these opportunities and we will communicate this to you in due course.

GCSAA has at it heart, the same as BIGGA; passionate, professional and dedicated members and staff, for whom the camaraderie of a Professional Association provides a network through which we can constantly strive to improve, gain support when necessary, and share our experiences for the benefit of others. I was very proud to witness this professionalism demonstrated by our very own Bernhard’s contributions. Who thanks to such generous support were able to benefit from this experience. This will be reported in more detail next month.

An International meeting also took place and discussions were held on further collaboration globally among all our Associations. This will be developed further by our CBOs who communicate regularly, and hopefully we will see what progress can be made.

Since Golf’s origins in Scotland in the early 1800s, the demands on Course Managers and Greenkeepers have increased dramatically. As golf courses were developed in increasingly diverse terrain and climate conditions the challenges grew and our profession adapted to cope with these challenges. Many lessons have been learned with tens of thousands of courses being built in the established golf markets. Such vast knowledge, skills and experience has great value and we need to ensure it is shared. The economic climate has brought about the latest challenge we face, and this has led to a greater understanding that golf developments and maintenance practices must be sustainable in the true sense of the word. This is a vitally important area in which we can all learn from one another, and will be at the forefront of collaborations we seek.

The future of the game of golf depends on growing the game, in a way that it is recognised as a responsible part of the community. Golf can be a leader in sustainable sport and business, universally valued for good environmental and social contributions. It is encouraging to see the growth of interest in golf, with new golf courses opening up all around the world, and the standards expected and achieved in terms of course condition and presentation.

Andrew Mellon, Chairman 2012
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk

**Chairman's Word**

National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the month.

**GI NEWSDESK**

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