**Chairman’s Word**

**BIGGA National Chairman, Tony Smith, writes with his regular update**

Firstly, I’d like to say thank you to the board and I recently enjoyed hosting the Board of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) at BIGGA House.

We have many members who work in different countries across Europe and there are many areas that affect greenkeeping that are governed by the European Union.

It is therefore important to FEGGA that FEGGA has our strong support and as the largest association within Europe we do all we can to ensure our members are well represented. As part of our meeting we welcomed the FEGGA board for a joint session which was positive and constructive on both sides.

As the levels of support in Europe increase, so do the levels of responsibility and/or individual and regional club support, but to encourage as many other people to attend as possible and bring them along. Everything you could possibly need is on our dedicated website at btme.org.uk.

We are grateful to Ernest Doe Sponsors Charterhouse and Kubota for their hospitality, and also the sponsors Charterhouse and Kubota who once again offered excellent support for the event.

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On my own course, it’s very hard work this summer as I know it has been for everyone. We’re working on improving the drainage as the wet weather has highlighted problems in certain areas of the course. We’re also continuing work on the long-term tree management programme.

I was very fortunate to attend the Ryder Cup on behalf of BIGGA – what a fantastic experience. It was a privilege to meet Medinah’s Director of Golf Course Management Curtis Tyrrell and see the knowledge Steve Chappell and Lee Strutt were gainning ahead of the next tournament at Gleneagles. BTME offers a unique opportunity to share their reflections on a stunning event and share their knowledge - don’t miss out.

As always, I’d be delighted to hear from BIGGA members. I’m available on 07998 839856 or at tony.smith@biggaworld.com.

**Contact Details**

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