Norman Fenwick

It is with regret that we have been informed of the death of BIGGA member Stanley Zontek, director of the USGA Green Section’s Mid-Atlantic region, at the age of 63, after suffering a heart attack.

Stanley was the son of a golf course superintendent — playing his first round aged just five — and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Agronomy and Turfgrass Management.

He became one of the most respected agronomists within the industry and was a frequent speaker at BTME as well as other seminars in the UK and worldwide where he delighted audiences with his knowledge and enthusiasm. One of his more unusual responsibilities was maintaining the putting green at the White House.

He also received many awards including the GCBAA Distinguished Service Award, the EGBAA Don Rosal Humanitarian Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Penn State — recognising his outstanding lifelong contribution to greenkeeping.

Everyone at BIGGA would like to extend their deepest condolences to Stanley’s family and friends at this sad time.

FLOODING HITS THE UK

The Indian Summer was sadly brought to an abrupt end in mid-September by a three-day deluge which swamped courses across the UK.

Nowhere was this more evident than at BIGGA HQ, where the River Ure burst its banks and flooded half of the Aldwark Manor course.

This amazing picture shows the 4th green at the height of the flood.

Norrie Whytock was a trade representative for a Scotland Region patron who passed away in 1997. In memory of Norrie, the patron provided funds for a Trophy to be established in his honour with Bayer CropScience now firmly established as the sponsor of this competitive and enjoyable team event.

John Young, BIGGA’s Regional Administrator for Scotland & Northern Ireland, fills us in on this year’s contest:

“The 2012 competition was held on Thursday 16 August at its spiritual home of Auchterarder Golf Club. Teams of four members represent each of the five Scottish sections in this stabilised competition.

Team members qualify through their participation and subsequent success at sectional outings along with representation from the section’s committee.

“Competitors were provided with a bright yet breezy start to their round. However as has been experienced by many this particular summer, the optimism for a dry round of golf proved unfounded with heavy rain, thunder and lightning disrupting play over the last six holes. Indeed, the course began to flood and the 15th green was unplayable for the last couple of groups.

“The weather during 2012 has certainly not been the greenkeepers’ friend but it is testament to the dedication of all our members that the care and attention to detail is present everywhere we look. Archie Dunn and his team must be congratulated for the excellent course provided for this competition. It was in immaculate condition as commented by all participants with Stuart Taylor, Scottish Regional Chairman singling out the maintained shape to the fairways as one of the many highlights on the course.

“Scoring was excellent even with the unfortunate restriction of only counting the scores over the first 14 holes. The best three scores from each team are combined to determine the competition results. Only one point separated the top three teams with the Central Section just missing out on the top two places with an combined score of 77 points.

“Reigning champions, the North Section and the West Section, both returned a score of 78 points resulting in the 4th team member’s score to be counted to determine the winner but they could not be separated on a total of 102 points. In this situation, the winner is determined on countback from combining all scores over the last five holes with the North Section being crowned Norrie Whytock Trophy winners for 2012.

“Congratulations are due to the winning team of Robert Patterson and Stewart Brown (both Royal Aberdeen Golf Club), Douglas Elrick (Newnacher Golf Club) and Scott Ribeck (Kings Link Golf Club).”

Stuart Taylor, Scottish Chairman, thanked all competitors for taking part and their continued support of the association. The chairman was represented by their National Accounts Manager Eleanor Jenks, for their continued support of this prestigious event in the Scottish Region’s calendar. He concluded his comments by thanking the host club for the courtesy of the course and their excellent hospitality.

Winning team captain, Robert Patterson, concluded the proceedings by accepting the Norrie Whytock Trophy and passed on his team’s thanks to all concerned with running the event and to Auchterarder Golf Club.

ANGUS TAKES UP DREAM POST

Angus MacLeod, former Course Manager at Belton Woods Golf Club, has been appointed Director of the Golf Course at The Belfry.

The born and bred Scot follows in the footsteps of the legendary Kenny MacKay.

Angus, 45, said: “I’m really excited, I’m still pinching myself that I’ve been given the opportunity to work at this legendary venue. Kenny’s left a superb legacy and it’s up to me to carry it on.”

“Had to make a presentation to the board of directors, that went well and it came down to a choice between me and another lad but I was a nerve-wracking few weeks, and I was just delighted when I found out I’d been successful.”

Angus will have responsibility for all three courses at the world famous location – the Brabazon, the PGA National and the Derby – and everyone at BIGGA wishes him every success in his new role.

GI NEWSDESK

Stanley J. Zontek
1949 – 2012

GI NEWSDESK

NORTH SECTION SCOOPS NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY

Robert Patterson accepting the trophy at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club.