



Membership News

The latest news from BIGGA

Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we've revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.

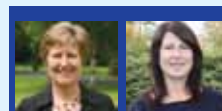
As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you've

found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!



The Support Team celebrate with Matteo Manassero



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John Young Sandra Raper



Clive Osgood

BIGGA Support at the BMW PGA Championship

This month we focus on the superb work of the BIGGA Support Team who assisted Kenny Mackay and his team during the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth.

Due to print deadlines we were unable to fully cover their efforts last month so here are details from a testing week which featured a row between two of the sport's leading lights, erratic weather and a young Italian winner celebrating with our team.

Clive Osgood, BIGGA's South East Regional Administrator, worked tirelessly to assemble the team and was in attendance for the whole week. He said:

"Once again a team of volunteer Greenkeepers travelling from all

parts of the country were on hand at The Wentworth Club for the European Tour's flagship event.

"This year in addition to the usual requirement a small team of volunteers were available for six days of the tournament including the official Practice Day and the Pro-Am. Volunteers were also on stand-by duty on the Thursday and Friday of the event in case of bad weather.

"Fortunately apart from the very cool conditions and a short burst of heavy rain on the Friday things improved for the weekend with relatively mild conditions and even some sunshine on occasions.

"A full contingent of forty volunteers were on hand for

bunker raking duties covering all the pairings on the last two days.

All agreed that Kenny and his team had produced an immaculately prepared course with absolutely no help at all from the appalling weather experienced by all greenkeepers over a long wet winter and cold spring."

Joe Dormer, Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, supported the team at Wentworth for the entire week – the first time he had attended such a prestigious event.

He said: "It was the best week of my career. I'd worked on smaller tournaments before but this was something else.

"On the final day James Briggs from East Sussex National Golf Club and myself ended up raking a

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst



Joe Dormer



Kenny (in grey jumper) and team at Wentworth

bunker on the 18th for the play-off, right in front of the grandstand. That was just amazing.

"It was great to meet the other BIGGA guys who were all really like-minded, we all had the same levels of excitement and the same focus to do a professional job and get the most from the week.

"The home greenkeeping team at Wentworth were incredibly welcoming and happy to go into great depth as they told us what they were doing and why they were doing it.

"I learnt so much, about bunker presentation in particular and the use of different rakes. The bunkers were so consistent with one inch of sand on the face and three inches

on the bottom. Each one must have played exactly the same.

"I'm soon going to be presenting a debrief to our committee on what I learnt, what I can bring back to my own course and it's all going to help my career enormously. I have to thank my Head Greenkeeper Ian Streeter for allowing me the time to go to Wentworth. I'd encourage every BIGGA member to try and get involved in opportunities like this."

Other members of the team echoed Joe's thoughts. James Briggs, Greenkeeper at East Sussex National Golf Club, said: "I had an amazing time and also gained so much from this experience.

"I met some amazing guys from other golf clubs and have kept in contact with, along with the Wentworth team who made us feel so welcome."

Phil Worth, Greenkeeper at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa, said: "Thank you for a brilliant four days at Wentworth. It was a fantastic experience and a real eye opener for me."

Kevin Armstrong, Head Greenkeeper at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, added:

"I had a fantastic time meeting some new faces and got to see some brilliant golf and a wonderful course.

"I will definitely apply again next year."

Assistant Profile



Name: Michael Llong
Age: 25
Club: Littlestone Golf Club
Position: Greenkeeper
Nickname: Bruce

How long have you been greenkeeping?
 8 years

What was it about the career that attracted you?

My dad is a groundsman and I used to go to work with him in the summer holidays

If you weren't a greenkeeper what would you be?

A farmer or a job involving animals

Which task do you most enjoy doing?

Hand cutting. The aesthetics of a hand cut green, approach or tee can't be beaten

Which task do you least enjoy doing?

I don't think there is one.

What one thing would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

To be recognised for the hard work that goes into maintaining a golf course and not just be seen as a grass cutter.

Hobbies?

Karate

Which team do you support?

England cricket team

What is your claim to fame?

With any luck being on the Assistant Profile