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 entire week – the first time he had attended such a prestigious event.

“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.”

Joe Dormer, Greenkeeper at West Sussex Golf Club, supported the team at Wentworth for the entire week. He said: “It was the best week of my career. I’ll 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 bunker on the 18th for the play-off right in front of the grandstand. That was just amazing.”

“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 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.”

Which task do you like doing? To be recognised for my hard work that goes into maintaining a golf course and not just be seen as a grass cutter.

Which team do you support? England cricket team.

What is your claim to fame? 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.

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.

What would you do to get involved? I don’t think there is one.

Which team do you support? England cricket team.

What is your claim to fame? I don’t think there is one.

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!