



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!



Recently we've focused on the terrific work of The Open support team – but this month it's time to turn the spotlight on the members who helped out at Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship.

Congratulations to those who were accepted, and to those who missed out – try again next year and hopefully your luck will be in.

Similar to The Open, the team were required to rake bunkers as well as early morning prep plus assisting Kenny Mackay's existing team at Wentworth, and were available in case of bad weather.

One of the team is Craig Kilgour, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Ponteland Golf Club. He drove over 300 miles from Newcastle to Wentworth to take advantage of this membership opportunity, so we spoke to him beforehand:

What was your reaction when you found out you'd been selected?

"I was really, really pleased and excited. I'm a massive golf fan and I've been to Wentworth for the last couple of years as a spectator, but I wanted to get more involved and get inside the ropes so I applied to join the team. It's a long journey but I think it will be well worth it."

What are you hoping to gain from the experience?

"It's a great opportunity to see how an event like this operates up close. I'll be able to see the quality of the turf, some of the machines, and how it all comes together. I'm also looking forward to meeting greenkeepers from across the country. I speak to a lot of them on Twitter, but it will be good to meet them in person."

Congratulations to the following who supported on the Saturday and Sunday:

Russ Bain – Deputy Course Manager, Chislehurst Golf Club; Dylan Rennick – Deputy Course

Manager, Northwood Golf Club; Phil Worth – Greenkeeper, The Mere Golf Resort & Spa; Jaey Goodchild – Head Greenkeeper, Bowood Golf & Country Club; Iain Jones – Head Greenkeeper, Leighton Buzzard Golf Club; Myles Wood – Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club; Gary Britton – Greenkeeper, Notts Golf Club; Darren Burton – Head Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club; James Boorman – Greenkeeper, Lydd Golf Club; Phil Slater – Greenkeeper, West Herts Golf Club; Simon Bell Tye – Head Greenkeeper, Botley Park Hotel Golf & Country Club; Darren Heskins – Greenkeeper, Botley Park Hotel Golf & Country Club; Kevin Armstrong – Head Greenkeeper, John O'Gaunt Golf Club; Martin Brown – Greenkeeper, Aldwickbury Park Golf Club; Kevin Weller – Head Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club; Mark McCann – Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park




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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

Golf Club; Jamie Waitt – Greenkeeper, Lingfield Park Golf Club; Sam Bethell – Greenkeeper, The Richmond Golf Club; Craig Kilgour – Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ponteland Golf Club; David Smith – Greenkeeper, Links Newmarket Golf Club; Glenn Rayfield, Head Greenkeeper, Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club; Andy Baker – Head Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Club; Rob Boyce – Head Greenkeeper, Links Newmarket Golf Club; Dan Breden – Greenkeeper, Surrey Downs Golf Club; Jason O’Keefe, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Gatton Manor Golf Club; Peter Hogan – Head Greenkeeper, Eccle Riggs Golf & Leisure Club; Paul Simpson – Greenkeeper, Winter Hill Golf Club; James Lomas – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Hadley Wood Golf Club; Steve Mason

– Course Manager, Stocks Golf Club; Richard Saunders – Course Manager, Mowsbury Golf Club; Rob Elliott – Greenkeeper, Bath Golf Club; Josh Dunn – Greenkeeper, Bramcote Waters Golf Club; Andrew Weeks – Greenkeeper, Hockley Golf Club; Steve Hopkins – Greenkeeper, Burghley Park Golf Club; Mike Lake – First Assistant Greenkeeper, Blackmoor Golf Club; Will Law – Greenkeeper, Aldeburgh Golf Club; Dan Perring – Greenkeeper, Aldeburgh Golf Club; Niall Gibb – Groundsman, Fawley Parish Council; Mark Burniston – Deputy Course Manager, Old Fold Manor Golf Club; Andrew Hart – Greenkeeper, Old Fold Manor Golf Club.

Also, the following members offered terrific support on the early morning prep team for

either five or six days:

James Briggs – Greenkeeper, East Sussex National Golf Club; Joseph Dormer – Greenkeeper, West Sussex Golf Club; Andy Haskell – Greenkeeper, Farnham Golf Club; Dan Woodcraft – Greenkeeper, Bradfield College Golf Club; Nick Hull – Greenkeeper, Shirley Park Golf Club; Nicholas Chapple – Greenkeeper, Woburn Golf & Country Club; Simon Torr – Greenkeeper, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club; Joe Clark – Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club; Adam Brown – Greenkeeper, Roehampton Club; Tony Bartram – Greenkeeper, The Richmond Club; Peter Corrick – Greenkeeper, Weymouth Golf Club; Geoff Fenn – Course Manager, Bedford & County Golf Club.



ENTER THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT LARGS GOLF CLUB

The Scottish National Tournament takes place on Thursday 13 June at Largs Golf Club.

It’s a long-established private golf club with a superb 18 hole parkland course, situated in front of Kelburn Castle overlooking the Firth of Clyde with the islands of Cumbrae, Bute and Arran in the background, with Arran’s Goat Fell and the ‘Sleeping Warrior’ dominating the landscape.

The course is enduringly popular with visitors, who return regularly year after year. The well-balanced layout offers an interesting and challenging experience to golfers across the broad spectrum of enthusiasm and ability, with positional play rather than big hitting paying dividends.

If you would like to take part in this year’s event then please visit the ‘Events’ section of this

website where the entry form is attached, and complete the form along with your entry fee payment and return to John Young, Scottish Regional Administrator at 2/1, 19 Cardwell Road, Gourrock, PA19 1UG.

If you would like to pay electronically then please contact John via his email address of johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or call him on 07776 242120 for further details.

Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: Steven Morris
Age: 26
Club: Royal Dornoch Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: ‘Big Man’



How long have you been greenkeeping? Nine years

What was it about the career that attracted you? Working outside, interest in maintaining sports turf areas, using machinery

If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? Snowboard instructor, or working at a ski resort in Austria

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Working tractors, changing hole positions as you can decide where it goes!

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Cutting greens with a walk-behind mower because it is such a long job!

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot? More respect from the golfer and general recognition for what we do as greenkeepers

Hobbies? Golf, skiing/snowboarding, cycling, hill walking, camping, working on cars

Favourite Band? Changes but at the moment Mumford and Sons

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? I follow the golfers Paul Lawrie and Darren Clarke

What is your claim to fame? None as yet