WHERE DO YOU READ GI?

Jack Davies, Greenkeeper at Five Lakes Hotel Golf & Country Club in Essex, posted this terrific picture on the BIGGA Message Board, showing him reading February’s GI on a boat!

Jack said: “After a spell of prolonged wet weather we now have a sixth lake lying on the fifth fairway. I thought I could read February’s magazine on the flood while we pumped it out—my boss was a bit sceptical of the plan though February’s magazine made a great read while I was on the water”.

In what unusual locations have you read GI? Send a picture to steve.castle@bigga.co.uk and we’ll print the best…

BOB’S BLOG

We’re continuing to receive some excellent suggestions for blogs posed by greenkeepers across the land. The featured blog this month is Bob Moble’s at Crail Golfing Society in Fife, Scotland.

Course Manager Bob has used the blog for three years, and it features regular updates, pictures of Bob and his team working on what is one of the oldest clubs in the world.

Encouragingly, it also features on the main website meaning members and visitors alike are able to discover exactly what the team are up to—and why they’re doing it.

Bob said: “I started it mainly to make our BIGGA section website more relevant and up to date. Barely a day goes by without a member mentioning to me that they’ve been looking at it, and a lot of the complaints we used to get have stopped because people know what’s happening. It helps them understand what we are trying to achieve on a regular basis by keeping them informed on what’s going on—everything from basic cutting and aeration to winter projects.”

“Visitors to the blog also find it informative because we have particular issues at Crail, such as high tides damaging the course in spring and autumn depending on wind direction. It also helps them understand what we are trying to achieve on a regular basis by keeping them informed on what’s going on—everything from basic cutting and aeration to winter projects.”

Check the blog out for yourself at: www.craillgreenkeepersblog.blogspot.co.uk and we’ll print the best…

MARATHON MAN PLANS TO SKIN COMPETITION

On April 14 Greg Skinner, Head Greenkeeper at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, is running the Brighton Marathon.

He’s running in aid of Leukemia & Lymphoma Research in memory of a good friend named Paul Glennon who passed away in 2012 aged 56.

Greg would welcome any donations to this extremely worthwhile cause or small to donate and for further information please visit: www.justgiving.com/Greg-Skinner1

If there was a time when we were playing catch-up with American education, I believe that time has passed and we’re now on an equal footing with them.

Education is taken extremely seriously on both sides of the Atlantic—’it’s great to see, and it’s about time.’

The International Briefing I attended during the Show was invaluable, particularly as I’m now lucky enough to look at it from a Chairman’s perspective.

I quickly got the impression that we’re not alone with our problems in the UK—various Associations from all corners of the world share similar challenges relating to the economy and also retaining and increasing membership.

We made plans to host an international gathering during BITME 2014, which is a really exciting opportunity.

I also attended meetings with the American and Australian Associations and also with GEO over environmental issues—in particular we focused on our sustainability strategy.

We will hopefully see real long-term progress as a result of these meetings.

I also spent a lot of time with the BIGGA Delegation sponsored by Bernhard and Company, and they were equally enthusiastic about the week.

They represented a really good cross-section of our membership with a diverse mix of Course Managers, Deputies and Assistants and I know they got a lot from the week.

There was a particularly good mix of ages and characters and I know this experience will stand them in good stead as they progress in their careers.

The delegation were taken round the fabulous Torrey Pines and La Costa courses and said it was unbelievable—another world.

One major difference was, of course, the weather—they’re winter is similar to our summer! I was also fortunate enough to see these courses and they were truly stunning.

A frantic and fruitful February