



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!



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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



Steve (green cap) at The Open 2012

OPEN Q&A

Last month we featured a Q&A on the Open Support Team. This month we've spoken to a member of last year's team and an excited first timer to find out their views on the showpiece event in July.

Steve Hopkins, Greenkeeper at Burghley Park Golf Club, took time out from being tormented by badgers on the course (see the bulletin board!) to fill us in...

What's being on the Support Team like?

It's fantastic. You're never going to get that close to professional golfers in any other situation, and it's awesome to see them in action. You also get to spend a good length of time with greenkeepers from all sorts of different courses from around the world.

Can you pick out a highlight?

All of it! It's extremely well organised and planned. You really

are a part of the tournament, and it's an honour to get 'inside the ropes' and watch the world's best players at the closest proximity you can get.

What advice would you give?

Go and enjoy it! Also, ask questions. You've got a hell of a lot of experience there in the BIGGA Support Team and beyond so you can learn a lot from them, and also seeing how things are done at one of the world's top courses.

Meanwhile Jaey Goodchild, Head Greenkeeper at Bowood Golf & Country Club, is gearing up for his first taste of the world's most famous golf competition.

What was your reaction when you found out you had selected for The Open Support Team?

I've played a part on support teams at the BMW PGA Championships in the past, and

got so much from it, but The Open is the ultimate really and I can't wait for July to come round.

What are you hoping to gain from the week?

I'm looking to get an insight into tournament preparation, the presentation and the operational side of things.

We do hold some quite high profile tournaments at Bowood – but obviously these are nowhere near as prestigious as The Open! I'm sure I'll learn a lot from the week and maybe even bring some knowledge back which I can use on my own course.

What are you most looking forward to?

I've never attended The Open even as a spectator so I'm looking forward to experiencing the buzz of the whole event. I know it's going to be an intense few days but I'm looking forward to the adrenaline rush when I'm there.