

E AT CONFERENCE



Tributes to BIGGA Life Member Henry Fry

Everyone at BIGGA was saddened to hear of the passing of Henry Fry on 29 January, aged 84, following a brief illness.

A Life Member of the Association, he replaced his father when he became Head Greenkeeper at Clyne Golf Club in South Wales and was also BIGGA's South Wales Section Secretary before his retirement in 1994. He was also a Chairman of the BGGA, as was his father.

Gareth Dunce, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Southerndown Golf Club in Bridgend, paid this tribute.

"Reserved and unassuming, Henry could be described as a gentlemen, a man of absolute integrity, great loyalty, and worth his weight in gold - a cliché which hardly does him justice. His father Harry Fry was appointed as Clyne Golf Club's first Head Greenkeeper in February 1920 and was directly responsible for the construction of the course as designed by golf architects H.S Colt and Harris.

"Henry joined the greenkeeping team in September 1958 and took over the Head Greenkeeper position upon his father's retirement in 1962. He gave many years of dedicated service on the course, often under extremely frustrating conditions. Henry was heavily involved within the industry from the start of his career and was very

keen to promote all aspects of greenkeeping, and went on to become BIGGA's South Wales Section Secretary.

"As a well-known and respected figure during this period he amassed many colleagues and friends whilst organising many golf days and other events, in which he could be found improving his game. He was a good golfer but never took the game too seriously. He was a very approachable figure and was happy to pass on his many years of experience and advice on to young greenkeepers.

"He was also well known for his mechanical skills and could often be found repairing, improving and improvising on machinery in the workshop. He was frequently many people's first port of call regarding any mechanical problems and always offered to lend a helping hand.

"Clyne Golf Club recognised his outstanding contribution by electing him an Honorary Life Member in 1994 and he also became a Life Member of BIGGA. To mark the end of his time at Clyne the Henry Fry Retirement Event was held in September 1994. The clearest ever indication of the respect in which Henry was held by the club's members was the fact that he was accorded a standing ovation by the large crowd present."