

# WALTER HELPS GRADUATES CELEBRATE TURF DIPLOMAS

**BIGGA Life Member Walter Woods helped a dozen graduates celebrate their diplomas in turf maintenance at the home of golf.**

Walter served as Superintendent for the St Andrews Links Trust for 21 years, and was on hand as the 12 graduates from WINSTONuniversity passed their six-month course.

The trip to St Andrews topped off six months of a unique education for golf course and club managers at the university, which is based in Germany and focuses on teaching all manner of disciplines in the turf industry.

During the trip to Scotland the group gained new insights in the maintenance of world class courses like the Duke's Course and the links of Kingsbarns.

On the way to Scotland the group visited the headquarters of Ransomes Jacobsen in Ipswich where they received first hand information on the turf care equipment of one of the world's leading manufacturers.

One of the graduates, Frank Ahern, said: "We not only learnt about turf and resource management but also gained a solid background in the economics and strategic marketing of golf courses."

Ian Butcher, the English director of WINSTONuniversity added: "Proof of how much our graduates are sought after is demonstrated by the fact that all the graduates are now working in



the industry. At present the application process is open for the second course at WINSTONuniversity starting in October. Hubertus von Treuenfels, CEO of WINSTONuniversity, said:

"The demand is already very high. Since we only can accept 20 students per course

we are in a very comfortable situation where we can choose the best applicants. This being said I like to stress that we do not want to deter anyone to apply for the new semester which will start in October 2014 and run until the end of March 2015."

## BIGGA AND EVERRIS PARTNERSHIP

BIGGA are delighted to announce further details of our latest Partnership as we join forces with Everris.

As we announced last month, we've created a series of new packages designed improve the recognition given to our supporters.

We've enjoyed strong links with Everris for many years, who are well-known across the turf industry for developing technologically advanced fertilisers, nutritional programmes, turf seed and plant protection products.

This Partnership will build on our existing relationship while promoting greenkeeper education and promoting new initiatives and events, more details of which will be revealed over the coming months – including the exciting Turf

Rewards initiative.

BIGGA's Business Development Manager Jill Rodham said:

"We're very excited about this partnership which consolidates our relationship with Everris, and will allow us to join forces more effectively.

"It's been a pleasure working with them over the last few years and their status as BIGGA Partner reinforces how much we value their support."

Richard Walton (shown with Jim Croxton), Business Manager at Everris, said:

"As a company, we believe everyone benefits from working and learning together, and we're delighted to have become a BIGGA Partner.

"As new research is carried out and turf management



products and practices develop and evolve, our partnership and the launch of Turf Rewards offers all

greenkeepers the opportunity to develop their own knowledge and expertise both on and off the golf course."