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Position at Club/Company/College

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 Email: membership@bigga.co.uk www.bigga.org.uk
Membership
BIGGA HOUSE
Aldwark
Alne
York
YO61 1UF
A guide to who's who at BIGGA

President
Sir Michael Ronalack, OBE

BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Richard Barker
Vice Chairman - George Brown
Post Chairman - Clive Ogsood

Board Members
Ian Simple
Paul Jenkins
Liam Madeod
Neil Thomas

Executive Director
Scott MacCallum

Email: john@bigga.co.uk

Editorial/Media
Ken Richardson
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Education & Training Manager
Ken Richardson
Email: ken@bigga.co.uk

Membership Services Officer
Rachael Palmer
Email: rachael_palmer@bigga.co.uk

Contact us
You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:
Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Althwick, Aire, York, Y061 1UT
Email: reception@bigga.co.uk
Internet: www.bigga.org.uk
Tel: 01347 833800
Fax: 01347 833801

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Editorial
Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising
Sales & Marketing Department:
Jennifer Whitchello, jennifer@bigga.co.uk
Cheryl Bloomhead, cheryl@bigga.co.uk
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
Email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Design
Design and Production Editor: Marie Whyld
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
ISBN: 01347 830020
Email: marie@bigga.co.uk

Printing
Warmer Midlands Plc, The Maltings,
Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

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September 2002
Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by October 7, 2002

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A TRUE “SPORTING” EVENT

It has been said, and I have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement, that the Ryder Cup is the third biggest event on the world’s sporting calendar, collecting a bronze medal behind the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics. I’m not sure which of the others pick up the gold, or even how it is judged. That’s beside the point, however. What it means is that the biannual match, which pitches the best golfers America has to offer against Europe’s finest is larger, more prestigious and produces more newspaper and magazine column inches than any of golf’s four Majors.

Having been to three of them, the last in ’93, I can vouch for the intensity of the competition. During the three days, and five series of games, it sometimes appears as if a point - and 14 and a half of them are drink for the rest of his life!

That this year the build up has lacked the usual interest and the Olympics. I’m not sure which of the others collecting a bronze medal behind the FIFA World Cup prestigious and produces more newspaper and magazine column inches than any of golf’s four Majors.

It must be hoped, and this year it must be said what it means is that the build up to the Ryder Cup is of more value than Colin Montgomerie’s weight in gold. Anyone who wins a point, or even halves his match, immediately achieves God-like status and doesn’t have to buy a drink for the rest of his life!

This year may be slightly different. No-one can surely argue with the reasons behind postponing the match last September, but it has meant that this year the build up has lacked the usual interest and speculation. That is partly down to the decision to retain last year’s selected teams – another I agree with. Some players may be struggling for form 12 months on but it is the same for both sides.

What it must be hoped, and this year it must be said that the chances of it happening are greater than at any of the recent matches, is that everything is kept in perspective and speculation. That is partly down to the decision to retain last year’s selected teams – another I agree with. Some players may be struggling for form 12 months on but it is the same for both sides.

Let’s hope this month’s Ryder Cup is a true sporting event remembered for all the right reasons, including the quality of the Brabazon course.

One man who will be hoping so is Bevan Tattersall, Course Manager at the De Vere Belfry. Bevan and his team have worked extremely hard to ensure that the Brabazon Course, which has improved as a layout almost out of all recognition, is in tip top condition and we must all hope that the Weather Gods are smiling on the event so it is seen at its best by the enormous television audience.

Good luck Bevan. I hope it all goes well for you.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

DOUG BELL

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Doug Bell who died in hospital on 2 August following a short illness. Doug had served as Regional Administrator for the Northern Region since September 1997. Before joining BIGGA he had been Secretary at the West Lancashire Golf Club and prior to that at Wootton Golf Club. These appointments followed 25 years spent in public administration.

During the last five years Doug had become a much respected figure in the Northern Region as well as more widely within BIGGA. Many members have benefited from his golf club visits whilst he proved a great friend and adviser to those experiencing difficulties in their lives or careers. Doug was quiet and reserved, in many ways a private man, but blessed with a dry sense of humour. His passions in life were golf and football. In the football world he served for many years as Treasurer of the Liverpool County FA.

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich was played over The Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr, on Sunday, July 14. The tournament was inaugurated last July as a memorial to Harry. His wife, Jessie, and his close family, Ann, Linda and Rosemary, have been deeply involved in the organisation, together with members of the Belleisle Golf Club.

The format is a Stableford Competition of foursomes with the two best scores counting at each hole. The shotgun start enhances the whole day and enables the participants to finish at the same time thereby allowing everyone to be at the presentation. The family, together with sponsors, put up the prizes for the day. The Quaich which was purchased by the family is large Scottish drinking vessel presented to the winners whereon they have their names engraved. Seven greenkeepers were invited to take part in this unique competition, three from the West Section and four from the Ayrshire Section. Unfortunately, none of us got our name on the Quaich!

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich is a reminder of the esteem and high regard the Club and his friends still hold to the memory of Harry. I know of no other Club who have respected the memory of their Greenkeeper in the setting up of an annual competition such as this. The attendance alone of some 130 golfers speaks for itself.

The Course was in excellent condition and the presentation was second to none. The Head Greenkeeper and his staff were greatly praised for the amount of effort they put in getting the course up to scratch for the Competition. The greens, in particular, were excellent and taking into consideration the weather we in the West of Scotland have suffered this summer, it is no less than a miracle that regular golf has been played. The seven greenkeepers who took part were invited back to the Market Inn to a buffet and to meet the Diamond family, from the very young to the more mature. The whole day was a pleasant affair and, as we said to Jessie and the girls, we greenkeepers would consider it an honour to be invited back next year.

Cecil George

HARRY DIAMOND MEMORIAL QUAICH

BIGGA Staff members Sami Collins (right), Education and Training Administrator and Sarah Sowerby (left), PA to Neil Thomas, have both recently passed their European Computer Driving Licence. The ECDL is a Europe-recognised qualification, comprising seven modules, which demonstrates a holder’s ability to operate a computer and various software programmes. Sami and Sarah now join Brad Anderson, BIGGA’s Administrative Assistant, who passed his ECDL at college earlier in the year.

PASSES ALL ROUND!

NEAREST THE PIN...

Rob Gee, of Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brighouse, West Yorkshire and part of the British Seed Houses team in the BIGGA Golf Day was the Nearest the Pin winner on the 18th hole. Congratulations Rob and sorry for missing out your name last month.

Email press releases and new product updates to, scott@bigga.co.uk.
TEXTRON

A threat to jobs at Textron’s Ipswich headquarters has receded following a review on the future viability of the manufacturing facility. In the last few weeks Textron initially announced that the review "may potentially place some jobs at risk" and added that "the company will be working with its workforce and relevant interested community agencies in the review. The study does not affect the Sales, Marketing, Customer Service or Engineering parts of the company".

The initial statement, by Steve Chicken, Textron Managing Director continued, “Uncertainty in the worldwide golf and municipal markets, as well as tough global market conditions, has increased the difficulties of maintaining financial performance. We need to find ways of more efficiently delivering our brands to our customers and maintain competitiveness in an aggressive marketplace.”

However, despite such an ominous warning there was better news when the review was completed and Steve Chicken was able to make a more positive announcement a few weeks later.

In the statement he said, “It has quickly become clear that we can serve our European customer base best by maintaining our current manufacturing facility, as such the Ipswich plant will not close. We shall continue to produce the municipal and European golf-related products in the Ipswich plant. We shall continue to improve efficiencies within the manufacturing process by adopting contemporary world-class automotive practices as employed in our American factories. This is good news for everyone associated with the company and the news was unanimously welcomed by the entire workforce and enthusiastically embraced by the local Trade Union representatives and community leaders.”

“The decision to continue with production in Ipswich was strongly supported by our American parent company. We have secured the future financial success of Ipswich with an aggressive plan for the sales of our products over the coming months and years. The continued support of our dealer network, who have been particularly positive over the past few weeks, to make these plans a reality is a key factor. We intend to continue to produce top quality turf equipment for the global marketplace from the Ipswich site as well as from our facilities in the USA.”

“The current range of golf and municipal products built in Ipswich today will continue unaffected with the exceptions of the Multi-mower, the T-Plex 180, the Triple 18 and the Greens Super range which will be discontinued as stocks run out during the months ahead.”

“As I said in my previous statement, we remain totally committed to the Ransomes brand and to Ipswich as a base for manufacturing, selling, supporting and designing high quality products for the worldwide market.”

The appointment is seen as a strengthening of the two companies relationship and market positions. Both Companies have recently launched the “Award” brand of granular and liquid fertilisers and hold similar distributorships. Mr. Rod Feltham who will remain Managing Director of Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited said “This joint marketing venture will result in further developments of innovative products and services that will be offered to turf managers across mainland UK. The move will give real benefits to the industry, not only for our customers but our suppliers as well. We are very excited for the future”.

NEW AREA MANAGER FOR SCOTTS

Gary Smith has joined the Scotts Company (UK) Ltd as Turf & Amenity Area Manager for Scotland, Cumbria and North Northumberland. Gary began his career working as a greenkeeper in Scotland having qualified some 12 years ago. He subsequently changed role to take on sales positions - notably for Scotts distributors Stewarts - in fertilisers and chemicals for the sports and amenity turf, local authority and landscape industries.

He is a keen sportsman, playing golf regularly and holding a black belt in Taekwon-do.

AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited has announced that Richard Aitken of Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) Limited has become a Shareholder and Director of the Company.

The appointment is seen as a strengthening of the two companies relationship and market positions. Both Companies have recently launched the “Award” brand of granular and liquid fertilisers and hold similar distributorships. Mr. Rod Feltham who will remain Managing Director of Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited said “This joint marketing venture will result in further developments of innovative products and services that will be offered to turf managers across mainland UK. The move will give real benefits to the industry, not only for our customers but our suppliers as well. We are very excited for the future”.

NATIONAL TURFGRASS FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

As an entertaining addition to the National Turfgrass Foundation Conference in Southport from November 18-21, a Ryder Cup-style match is being organised for American superintendents and European greenkeepers.

A party of superintendents from some of the major courses in America is attending the Conference and will be playing in the Match on November 22.

Captained by Melvin B. Lucas GGCS, past-President of the GCSAA, they hope to beat the European Team, strongly captained by BIGGA’s inaugural Chairman, Walter Woods BEM, past Links Supervisor at St. Andrews. The two Captains may even look on it as a return match after an American victory in 1980 at Anaheim, California when GCSAA members played SIGGA members under the same captancies. This could be as much of a needle match as this month’s clash at The Belfry!

Sponsored by Bernhard & Co in their support of the National Turfgrass Foundation, the event should prove to be great fun, despite the inevitable competitiveness. Attendees at the Conference who would like to be considered for the European Team should contact Martin Jones on +44 (0) 1995 670675 or Louise Clegg on +44 (0) 7759 755844 or Email: NTFoundation@aol.com.

Royal Inverdavit GC... Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk

Morning boys! Keep up the good work guys! Morning boys! Keep up the good work guys! Morning boys! Keep up the good work guys!

Blimny Bravo Blimny Bravo Blimny Bravo

It’s Be Nice To Green Keepers Day... The club has it once a year... It’s Be Nice To Green Keepers Day... The club has it once a year... It’s Be Nice To Green Keepers Day... The club has it once a year...

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SPORTS TURF AND AMENITY GRASS
BY D E ALDOUS AND I H CHIVERS

This recently published book extends the knowledge that can be gleaned from the BIGGA Field Guides, Grasses on the Golf Course and Grasses in the Rough. Published in Australia, the book contains most of the common cool season grasses as well as, a host of warm season grasses that might be important to the British Greenkeeper.

Written by David E Aldous, an Associate Professor in the School of Resource Management at the University of Melbourne and Ian H Chivers, a private consultant and grass breeder/seed producer, the book starts by introducing ten, major cool season grasses and 16 warm season grasses.

HYW’S EXCELLENCE BRINGS ITS REWARDS

It’s been an exciting year for Huw Morgan, holder of the prestigious Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. The reaction of everyone at Wildernesse to the winner announcement was heartfelt. The quality of the manufacture and the pride they take in their work is quite inspiring. I also had the welcome, co-operation and catering at both clubs.

The courses were in excellent condition, and our thanks are extended to David Stenton and his staff at Hartsbourne and David Bellamy and staff at Beeston Fields for providing wonderful playing conditions.

The Professional Products business will operate in the consumer lawn and garden sector and will manage the consumer lawn and garden and horticultural companies in other product categories.

Consumer Products business will operate in the consumer lawn and garden sector and will manage the sale of active ingredients and concentrates to other companies in this market.

The process of integrating the two companies has begun and will continue over the coming months. The aim is to adopt the best features and practices of both organisations. This will enable Bayer Environmental Science to fulfil its potential and be the leader in the markets in which it operates. In the meantime Bayer Environmental Science will operate through the two existing organisations.

FORMATION OF BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Bayer Environmental Science was formed recently following acquisition by Bayer of Aventis CropScience incorporating Aventis Environmental Science (formerly Rhone-Poulenc Amenity). Bayer Environmental Science is one of three major business groups within Bayer Consumer Products business will operate in the consumer lawn and garden sector and will manage the sale of active ingredients and concentrates to other companies in this market.

The aim is to adopt the best features and practices of both organisations. This will enable Bayer Environmental Science to fulfil its potential and be the leader in the markets in which it operates. In the meantime Bayer Environmental Science will operate through the two existing organisations.

JOHN STRATFORD JOINS GEM

Joseph Metcalf Limited has announced the appointment of John Stratford as Sales & Marketing Director. He has responsibility for all three operating divisions - Gem Gardening, Gem Horticulture and Gem Professional.

Prior to joining Joseph Metcalf, John held senior positions within the fertiliser, chemical and growing media industry and has been a consultant to several garden and horticultural companies in other product categories.

He hopes to build on the close relationships that Gem enjoys with their customers and is particularly keen to accelerate the new product development programme, whilst continuing to offer the traditional Gem virtues of consistent quality and value for money.
Available October this year

Tillers Rootzone Turf

If you’re planning to turf your new greens, talk to us now.

Our new Rootzone Turf produces firm, fast, free draining greens. It ensures compatibility with the rootzone used in your construction. And avoids the problems of layering and soft, waterlogged greens associated with normal turf.

Tillers Rootzone Turf will be available this October. It’s grown on three commonly specified rootzones:

1. USGA spec rootzone from Prestige, using sand from Messingham, plus peat.
2. USGA spec rootzone from Banks, using sand from Leighton Buzzard, plus Fensoil.
3. 1742 Grade rootzone from Rufford, using sand from Messingham, plus soil.

A full particle analysis for each rootzone can be supplied on request, or visit our website. The grass used in our rootzone turf is a Barenbrug 50/50 bent/fescue seed mixture, giving a bent dominated sward at maturity.

Custom-grown Rootzone Turf

In addition we can grow any mixture of grasses on any rootzone to match your individual specification. But you do have to plan ahead as it takes 6-8 months from sowing to delivery.

Trouble-free establishment

Maintained at a height of 8mm, all Tillers Rootzone Turf is regularly top-dressed with the same rootzone that it’s grown in. This produces a dense, firm sward that can be brought into play within a short time after lifting and relaying. Compared to washed turf, root damage is kept to a minimum, leading to healthy, trouble-free establishment.

Main agent Rigby Taylor

Tillers Rootzone Turf can be ordered now through our main agent, Rigby Taylor. Please call your local representative, or Freephone 0800 424919. Or contact us on 01652 678000.

Further information is available on our website at tillersturf.co.uk

Tillers Turf

growers of fine turf

Tel: 01652 678000 www.tillersturf.co.uk
**TEXTRON**

Alan Prickett has been promoted to the position of Textron’s UK Sales Manager, with immediate effect. Reporting to David Withers, Director Sales and Customer Support, he will be responsible for sales of Textron’s extensive range of turf maintenance equipment throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Over the past 20 years, Alan has gained extensive experience of Ransomes products in both the retail and manufacturing sectors. He joined the Jacobsen division of Textron UK in early 1997 after a career with Ransomes distributors PA.Turney Ltd and E.T Breakwell Ltd.

Last year he was charged with establishing Textron’s branch network in the Midlands and N. Yorks, following the resignation of two dealerships covering the branches in Redditch, Mansfield and Selby in early August from what doctors believed to have been an enlarged heart brought about by the extremely overwhelming love of the great outdoors and was truly content at work and play. A guiding star and inspiration to those who had the great pleasure to know him. 'Joggy' was a unique man who will be sorely missed, this world has indeed lost an outstanding individual.

David Brierley, Marcus Cordingley, Andrew Chipendale, John Moonie and Martin Shaw the team at Bradley

John Taylor, an Assistant at Bradley Park, in Huddersfield, and a top international athlete died in early August from what doctors believed to have been an enlarged heart brought about by the extremely demanding position and we are delighted to welcoming him to Ipswich,” said David. Alan is married to Sue and has three young children. They currently live in Banbury, Oxfordshire, but will be relocating to the Ipswich area over the next few months.

**SCOTTISH GRASS MACHINERY**

Providing a dedicated sales and support function to some of the world’s most famous golf courses has seen Scottish Grass Machinery increase its golf business by over 40% this year. Over the past 12 months, Inverkeithing-based SGM Golf division, led by Divisional Manager Brian Goudie, has increased its turnover by £1 million to nearly £4 million per annum.

Of particular satisfaction to Brian is that around 70% of this increase in business has come from totally new custom.

**HAYTER**

Hayter has promoted David Sturges to Associate Director, Sales and Marketing. The appointment is with immediate effect. His responsibilities will include management of the outside sales force, maintain links with key overseas customers, oversee the development of new products and look after specific key accounts in the UK. He will continue to report to Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director.

David has an MBA from Cranfield University and a BSc Honours in Agricultural Technology and Management from Silsoe College. He has been with Hayter since 1990, transferring from Polymark Beaver after their acquisition by Hayter. With a background in product design he has been responsible for export sales for nine years and from 1997 has also assumed the responsibility for product management. David is in his mid thirties, married with a baby son and lives in Sussex.

This appointment follows on from a major restructuring of Hayter’s outside sales force earlier this year which included the appointment of a National Account Manager and Field Sales Manager.

Commenting on the new appointment Kim Macfie said: “We are delighted to be able to announce this new appointment. Our business, particularly on commercial products, has continued to grow at a very encouraging level and the appointments made this year will ensure that we not only manage that growth but also continue to build on the success of the last few years.”

**LOUISE TOPS AT KAWASAKI**

Every successful company has key individuals working behind the scenes to ensure targets are achieved and Kawasaki Motors UK is no exception. Sales and Marketing co-ordinator Louise Topp has been doing exactly that as one of theynchpins within the Japanese manufacturers Commercial Products Division in the UK.

Louise, who manages the day-to-day running of the division’s UK sales and marketing operation has just completed ten years with the company having risen through departmental ranks from junior secretary to her present position. The service milestone is to be recognised by a special presentation.

“Since joining Kawasaki my goal has always been to get involved in the marketing side which is always exciting and challenging. There’s plenty going on all the time taking part in the promotion of an ever-growing product range, product launches and shows all over the country,” explained Louise.

The extent of Louise’s product knowledge means she has long had her leg pulled for her ability to identify a Kawasaki generator, water pump or engine from 100 yards, often right down to the model number.

**OUTSTANDING OFSTED RESULTS**

Outstanding Ofsted results confirm that Reaseheath College, Nantwich, is one of Britain’s top colleges for sports turf management, horticulture and floristry.

The education report, released in July, identified high standards in teaching and resources, strong industry links and an adult ethos within college as key strengths. Sports turf, horticulture ad floristry facilities were singled out as ‘excellent’, with inspectors being particularly impressed with the high standard of students’ work ad with the employment opportunities available after graduation.

The report highlighted well-managed courses, resulting in good retention and pass rates, with frequent celebration of student success. It was also noted that students are encouraged to take additional qualifications and benefit from external visits.

Principal Vic Croxson said: “We are delighted that inspectors found the Reaseheath Experience to be as outstanding as our students know it to be. We are extremely proud of the efforts of our sports turf, horticulture and floristry students, who have consistently proved to be among the best in the country.”

**JOHN ROBERT TAYLOR -1969- 2002**

Johnson had worked at Bradley Park Golf Course in Huddersfield as greenkeeper for 15 years and was a great friend to his colleagues, a young man whose humour and spirit could be relied upon to brighten the greyst day. He was an inspiration to all who followed his great success in athletics where in Fell Racing, Cross Country and Mountain Running he represented his County, Country and Great Britain both as a Junior and Senior Athlete and was never more at home than racing up Alpine Tracks in Switzerland, his favourite venue, from the many international competitions for this Holmfirth and Bingley Harrier.

John was soon to be married to his beloved Kirsten and they had planned to build their home together in Huddersfield where he had begun to consolidate a greatly promising career in greenkeeping with studies for his NVQ Level 3 at Askham Bryan College.

At work, as in his sport John applied himself with great dedication and commitment, he had an overwhelming love of the great outdoors and was truly happy in the company to brighten the greyest day. He was an inspiration to all who followed his great success in athletics where in Fell Racing, Cross Country and Mountain Running he represented his County, Country and Great Britain both as a Junior and Senior Athlete and was never more at home than racing up Alpine Tracks in Switzerland, his favourite venue, from the many international competitions for this Holmfirth and Bingley Harrier.
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50% Barcrown – Slender Creeping Red Fescue
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10% Bardot – Browntop Bent
10% Heriot – Browntop Bent

This is the most successful mixture used today. Bar 2 includes Europe’s No. 1 slender creeping red fescue, making it ideal for density, disease resistance, drought tolerance and close mowing. It's the perfect mix for golf greens, bowling greens or croquet lawns.

For the perfect seed mixtures whatever the sports turf, call 01359 272000 and get on the ball.

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We test where others guess
This Month sees the Education and Training Department finalising the programme for The Continue to Learn Week in Harrogate, co-ordinating the final stages of the Golf Environment Competition and organising Regional and Section Training Courses.

Regular visitors to the BIGGA week in Harrogate will have seen that the Continue to Learn programme has a range of opportunities for all levels of greenkeeper. There is a wide range of options throughout the week and you will need to study the Continue to Learn brochure very carefully, when it is delivered with your October copy of Greenkeeper International. Remember to book early to reserve your place(s) on the sessions of your choice.

BIGGA Local Training Courses

The STRI Ecology Team has been busy judging the entries in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, visiting clubs around the Country and trying to select Regional Winners. The Competition continues to attract high quality entries from around Great Britain, helping clubs to assess their environmental management policies against the Competition Standards. The Competition continues to run thanks to the support of the R&A but a major sponsor is still required to give the Competition a long term future. If there are any companies or individuals out there who wish to sponsor this high profile competition then please contact BIGGA House. Clubs selected to progress to the next round are:

WALES
Cardigan Golf Club

SOUTH EAST
Thorpness Hotel and Golf Club
Aldeburgh Golf Club
Rookwood Golf Club
Gerrards Cross Golf Club
Ipswich Golf Club

SOUTH WEST
Warren Golf Club
Parkstone Golf Club
Bath Golf Club

GUIDANCE ON health and safety topics is given in HSE’s booklet: Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance, although the booklet does not have specific guidance on the recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards. However, a general risk assessment of any water hazard should include risk control measures to prevent foreseeable accidents such as drowning. If recovery of golf balls requires the use of divers at work then the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 apply. If divers are not at work then the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 still applies and a similar duty of care standard would be expected.

DOES YOUR CLUB COMPLY?
Following the stories in the media, early this year, the Health and Safety Executive has issued a release about the recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards. The managers of golf courses have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all of their employees and of all visitors to the course. This includes golfers, contractors working on or visiting the course and members of the public.

BIGGA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TEXTRON TURF CARE

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Textron Turf Care, BIGGA is pleased to announce the launch of the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships. All greenkeeper members of BIGGA in, or about to enter, higher education in, N/SUV Level 4 in Turfgrass Management, Higher National Certificate in Turf Science and Golf Course Management, Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management, BSc in Turf Science and Golf Course Management or MSc in Sports Surface Technology, could apply for a scholarship. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on demand but should range from £500 for a Level 4 to £1500 for an MSc.

Applications would be assessed by a panel of assessors, who would look for:
- Type of course
- BIGGA Member
- Number of years as a BIGGA member
- Contribution to BIGGA
- Previous training and development

The Scholarship should be for the whole course ie, a one off payment.

Sponsors would be expected to maintain contact with BIGGA and provide feedback on research, work experience etc. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship then contact BIGGA for an application form. The deadline for applications to be received at BIGGA House is 25 October 2002.