North

It is now the beginning of January that I’m writing this and thankfully the snow seems to have disappeared. It’s still pretty cold so by the time you read this in February the snow will probably have come back! It is every year but it doesn’t half set you back with your winter programmes, especially if it’s a wet winter. We at Murcar Links were in the middle of building bunkers and renovating bunkers before the snow arrived and now we’re only just getting back to normal. There’s been a couple of bad news bits of news sent to me recently. The first bit is that Mike Gray, 30 pts, has had a stroke and is unable to play for us again. During November and December, six weeks in my case.

South

Seasons greetings to all and hopefully we have all been busy making the course playable for the golfers who were unable to play for so long during November and December, six weeks in my case. It’s getting to that time of year again when we get our burning caps out from under the stairs and dust them off just in time to head up to the Carnegie Conference Centre, in Dundermuir, for the Scottish Regional Conference. This year’s event is on Tuesday, March 1. With members from all over Scotland, John McKer- nie, Estates Director at Celtic Manor; Chris Kennedy and Jack McMillan, both with Club, and Simon Watson, Syngenta, this year’s event is sure to be one of the highlights of the year. Booking forms will be posted to all Scottish members by the 1st February, or you can collect one from the DGGA office.

West

Well, not much to report about this month, other than I am writing this report earlier than usual so if anything comes in it will still be time to use. As I am writing this letter all the snow has gone thank goodness for once. I hope that soon that as soon as the snow goes out come the golfers, pros etc. wondering why the course is still unplayable. We are working hard over to compact the snow and the water is going nowhere quick. The weather is not helping at all.

Northern

I don’t know what it is with you guys but everyone I ask for some news or info about anything. Yup anything. I get no feedback! So come on, get in touch…. You don’t even have to speak to me just send me a text or drop me an email, I don’t bite, honest.

Scottish Region

P.S. It is now the beginning of February 2011 thanks to George Paterson for this.

East Midlands

Hello all, with the dust settling on another BTME week I hope all of you who attended get out of it what you expected and the very least had made some new friends or picked up some new ideas for the coming year. Back in the East Midlands the numbers have continued to increase for all of you getting prepared for the coming year with our Regional events for the coming year, with the first event being in March. The Regional Manager at Snowdowells, moving to Victoria, in South East America. I would like to welcome Stuart Lindrick GC in December with the date for the Scottish Open. As I am writing this letter all the snow has gone thank goodness for once. I hope that soon that as soon as the snow goes out come the golfers, pros etc. wondering why the course is still unplayable. We are working hard over to compact the snow and the water is going nowhere quick. The weather is not helping at all.

North East

I like February it’s my birth- day month and I always book some time off to celebrate and kick my wounds around at being another year older. I don’t think it’s unusual for the 1st of February to be useful once again. As I am writing this letter all the snow has gone thank goodness for once. I hope that soon that as soon as the snow goes out come the golfers, pros etc. wondering why the course is still unplayable. We are working hard over to compact the snow and the water is going nowhere quick. The weather is not helping at all.

Sheffield

Unfortunately we start this month with some bad news. Run Cheetham who was a long time member of our Committee Manager at Snowdowells GC recently passed away. I’m sure that all of you who know Run very well and it is very sad news. We thought of you as well as many of you who as past Harrogate members. I hope all of you who attended Harrogate GC will be happy to have the event to be useful once again and anyone one who attended any of the regional events found them useful as well.

Dumfries & Galloway

We held our Region AGM at Lindrick GC in December with only a few people attending the Christmas meal. The Committee from 2010 has needed to stand for 2011 and we have one new member on our Committee to this year, along with the Annual Pairs competition we will be holding five competitions this year for all abilities.

South Wales

The first event will be our Regional Championship with a rescheduled trip to the Notting- hamshire GC, the second being the Summer comp at Cavendish GC. Both of these competitions will be for the Regional Championship and played as a Stableford. Winners will then be invited to our two events of golf and are worthy of a visit to experience the challenge presented, or if that faxes you too much you can admire the setting. For those that want to experience both golf and the prize dinner we have the Wales Strokeplay which is a great event for all and is on the following Saturday for the coming year.

Midland

Hopefully by the time you receive this magazine we will have heard of the latest tournament news and we will have a fantastic turnout for our Scottish Open. How stupid can you get? Then we have a war and their commis- sion was cancelled, due to the course been flooded, while some other courses were open that day.

The Scottish National outing held at Cowglen Golf Club and the date in May which unfortunately I cannot attend I will be sum- ming myself in Turkey at that time. However I have heard of back to all who try and attend.

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South East

**Weston Park and Aldeburgh.**

**Our latest meeting at Thorpeness was another amazing event.**

**What do you think you'd be?**

**East Anglia**

**Thorneworld Golf Club - December 2010**

Here we go again then. Hope you had a merry & happy Christmas.

**Our cancelled Christmas Tournament at Woburn last December because of snow has now been re-scheduled!**

**As it’s the season for new resolutions, new teams, and best run outfit in the country and special prize for Colin (The Mitten) and his team for being at least a year in front for fixtures** (2011 is already done, and 2012 is looking good). When the English Open was won by a man on entry into those chilly waters but who on exit were somewhat less so.

**The event was attended by over 120 people and was a big success.**

**What is your dream club?**

**What will your golf club do in 2011?**

**What is your golf club doing to attract new members?**

**Would you like to work for a golf club?**

**Who is your golf club's biggest supporter?**

**At the Christmas fixture, the raffles so big everyone’s a winner, but for the golfing competition there can only be one.**

**We hope you have a fantastic time!**

**South West and South Wales**

**We've done it again, that's the right side of the line.**

**The actual day was brilliant.**

**To all my merry readers, please enjoy doing and why?**

**Want to appear as an Assistant Golfer?**

**To receive a questionnaire, email scott@bigga.co.uk**

Assistant Golfer

**Our monthly look into the life of an assistant golfer...**

**Name:**

**Luke Codery
Club:**

**Cardiff Lakes Golf Club**

**Position:**

**Green Staff
Nickname:**

**Hockey Boy**

**How long have you been greengripping for?**

**15 years**

**What do you think you’d be doing if you weren’t golfing?**

**Testing computer games**

**Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**

**Cleaning greens**

**What task do you least enjoy doing and why?**

**Testing golf clubs**

**Extra days holiday.**

**Favourite Band**

**Oasis**

**Which team do you support football (or) otherwise?**

**The mighty Royals! (Reading)**

**What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeeping?**

**Peace and quiet.**

**Colin Montgomerie took the mick out of me for having the first iphone!**

**Want to appear as an Assistant Golfer?**

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the safety of getting people to and from the venue at that time. We then had to leave early. As my usual, except for Yours Truly!

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...
of 2010, down in Southampton we had more snow than I can remember sledding and snow ball fights better than ever.

Section news is a bit slow this time of year as it is either under snow or later than usual so more news next month.

Hope every one had a great time at Hainault, met up with old friends and made new ones. Try this year to keep in contact with all of them as you promised late at night in Wetherspoons.

Make this the year that you play all the Section golf days, do extra education, get fit, read that book you have been wanting to read, start to play a musical instrument and last that place that you have always wanted to visit in the world that you have always liked the look of.

Look forward to seeing you at our Section events this year as we have some great venues, so practice well get your handicap down and join in, meet new people get some great ideas and solve problems by asking other greengrocers, so please support your Sections.

Chris Bitton

South Wales

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all well.

As I write, the heavy snow of the Christmas period has finally gone and many of you returned to work to find you greens in a better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year festivities. Mainly because there weren’t any! The snow didn’t help most clubs finances, but since returning to work, I have seen many full car parks, with golfers keen to try out their new clubs, electric trolleys and loud sweaters! And on that subject I can give you the results of the Christmas competition.

The results from the Christmas competition at Royal Porthcawl were as follows: Winner - Andy Roach, 34pts; 2nd Leigh Davies, 30pts; 3rd Gareth Knight, 29pts. Nearest the Pin – Alan Abel, 31pts. Christmas Spoon – about 2 miles! Best Trade – Alan Abel, 31pts; 2. Leigh Davies, 34pts; 3. Gareth Knight, 29pts.

The evening lecture for February will take place at Penrose college on Wednesday, Feb 23 at 7pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thankyou to all our friends from Countrywide for sponsoring the night.

On the education front, the annual Avoncrop Amenity Products Education Seminar will again be held at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday, February 9, from 9am to 4pm and includes a bacon roll and coffee on arrival and also a buffet lunch. Give me a call if you would like to reserve a place.

That’s it for now. See you all soon I hope.

Ceri Richards 07831 108684 cerictcrico@york.com

Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Apologies for no notes last month, but there wasn’t much that I’d like to report as I managed to get the summary of the Perthamine meeting in front of the deadline and in the December edition. Our Annual Christmas meeting was held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 15 with 80+ attendees enjoying a fresh but gorgeous sunny day. The event was kindly sponsored by MST and Britech. The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk led by Ray Day, Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club. Starting with the Golf (Apologies if I have left anyone out, as unfortunately I misplaced my notes).

The format was Greensomes playing on the traditional Christmas dinner which didn’t so disappoint our thanks to Jo and her team for looking after us. Thanks also to Wyn Davies and Chris Hopekins, from Ted Hopkins, & John Pike, from Toro, for sponsoring the day. Finally thanks to Royal Cornwall and Saunton Golf Club for agreeing to host the event.

We also wish Tony Horne a speedy recovery after Tony suffered a heart attack before Christmas. We wish him and his family well.

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That’s it for now. See you all soon I hope.

Ceri Richards 07831 108684 cerictcrico@york.com
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Hope every one had a great time at Harrogate, met up with old friends and made new ones. Try this year to keep in contact with all of them as you promised late at night in Wetheropes. Make this the year that you play all the Section golf days, do extra education, get fit, read that book you’ve always wanted to read, start to play a musical instrument and visit that place in the world that you have always liked the look of.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Section events this year as we have some great venues, so practice well to get your handicap down and join in, meet new people get new ideas and solve problems by asking other greenkeepers, so please support your Sections. Chris Bitten

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all well.

As I write, the heavy snow of the Christmas period has finally gone and many of you returned to work to find you greens are in a better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year festivities. Mainly because there weren’t any ‘Artic’ The snow didn’t help most clubs’ finances, but then since returning to work, I have seen many full car parks, with golfers keen to try out their new clubs, electric trolleys and loud sweaters! And on that subject I can give you the results of the Christmas competition.

The results from the Christmas Competition at Royal Portrush are as follows: Winner - Andy Roach, 34pts; 2nd Leigh Davies, 30pts; 3rd Gareth Knight, 29pts.

Nearest the Pin - Alan Abel, Longest drive - Davy Jones (about 3 miles) Best Trade - Alan Abel, 31pts. Christmas Special - Lucy Sellick, 12pts. Guess the baile lots - Lucy Sellick (39) Sorry Lucy! Steve Chappell put that lid on.

SILVER SALVER prize for best scores throughout the season - Chris Bitten.

A great day was had by all 33 golfers, or should I say hardy souls, braved the murky winds and slate showers to play 18 holes over the wonderfully pre- poned course. Huge thanks to Ian Kinley and his team for their hard work in such testing conditions. Ian told me that they basically couldn’t prepare the greens in any way, saw changes in the holes on the morning of the competition and yet the feedback was that the greens were excellent! 38 sat down for the traditional Christmas dinner which didn’t so disappoint our thanks to Jo and her team for looking after us. Thanks also to Wyn Davies and Chris Hopkins, from Ted Hollis & John Pike, from Torc, for sponsoring the day. Finally thanks to Royal Cornwall Golf Club for agreeing to host the event.

We also wish Tony Horne a speedy recovery after Tony suffered a heart attack before Christmas. We wish him and his family all the best.

The evening lecture for February will take place at Pensnett college on Wednesday, Feb 23 at 7pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thank you to our friends from Countriside for sponsoring the night.

On the education front, the annual Avoncrop Amerity Products Education Seminar will again be held at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday, February 17th and includes a bacon roll and coffee on arrival and also a buffet lunch. Give me a call if you would like to reserve a place.

That’s it for now. See you all soon.

Ceri Richards 07833 106664 cerrici@aj.com

Devon and Cornwall

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The event was kindly sponsored by MST and BirtEEK. The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk led by Ray Day, Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club. Starting with Make this the year that you try this year to keep in contact with the Milton Keynes based company, Colm Webster. Two extra raffle prizes were awarded, one being a hamper supplied by Jon Paul, from Avoncrop. The second was a free trip to Harrogate, funded by the Section, won by Christy Worthen, Saunton. A big thank you to all the committee members who helped with organising the day and to Saunton Golf Club for their help and hospitality in making this a successful and memorable day.

By the time you have read this, Harrogate would have been and gone. Again this year the Region organised travel and accommodation for our members. Thanks to Jane for seeing this one through.

A big thank you to Scott Gibson, St Enodoc, and Keith Kemp, West Cornwall, for sponsoring the bus. Again this was very much appreciated by the Region.

Another special mention is to Tredover Dave, Head Greenkeeper, Looe Golf Club, Cornwall, who celebrated 40 years at the club on January 3 this year! An amazing achievement, well done Trevor!

During February, there are two gatherings, firstly on Wednesday, Feb 9, Section Meeting at Waverley Golf Club and secondly on Wednesday, Feb 23, Greenkeepers Drainage Workshop at St Mellion International. Please contact me for further details and to book yourself a place on either of these events. George Pitts

Secretary

Bigger Devon & Cornwall

07729 754401
gatta.yevertion@gmail.com

BE YOUNG BY THE BIGGER MEMBERSHIP

Advertise in GI, the monthly magazine for BIGGER members

Manchester 2011

Date Event Venue Contact

FEBRUARY 2011

February 7th – 11th National Golf Course Owners Association Annual Conference Orlando, Florida George Pitts at gatta.yevertion@gmail.com or telephone 07729 754401

February 9th Devon & Cornwall Section Event Devon Golf Club Adam King at ajl@adley.co.uk or telephone 01335 543119

February 9th HIBKO Turkey Trot (revenue day) The Oxfordshire

February 23rd Devon and Cornwall Drainage Workshop St Mellion Golf Club George Pitts at gatta.yevertion@gmail.com or telephone 07729 754401

MARCH 2011

March 1st Scottish Regional Conference Carnegie Conference Centre Durmandurine Peter Boyd at gpij.boyd@btinternet.com or telephone 0131 616 3480/07776 281210

March 16th Devon and Cornwall Section Merlin Golf Club George Pitts at gatta.yevertion@gmail.com or telephone 07729 754401

March 17th Joint BIGGA/OGA Event Chippenham GC Karen Drake at wsm@kciol.co.uk or telephone 07709 620968

March 30th Midland Regional Conference Newark Golf Club Peter Larter at petelarter972@aad.co.uk or telephone 01476 500115

APRIL 2011

April 15th North East Section Event Newcastle United Golf Club Jimmy Richardson at jasenrichardson217@btinternet.com or telephone 07500 528542

April 19th Scotland Section Spring Meeting Craigielaw Golf Links Stuart Ferguson at studen@btinternet.com or telephone 07934 620968

April 21st South West Section Chipping Sodbury Golf Club Adam Matthews at adam.l.mathew@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855

April 21st North East Section Event Newcastle United Golf Club Jimmy Richardson at jasenrichardson217@btinternet.com or telephone 07500 528542

April 23rd Jacket BIGGA/OGA/Eden Event Ray and all the green staff at Saunton. A great day was had by all! A great day was had by all! A great day was had by all! A great day was had by all!
As a Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager you may be faced with challenges for which you feel you are not completely prepared. Management and greenkeeping often require very different skills from those which have got you where you are...

BIGGA could help you bridge that gap in a number of ways. We can put you in contact with others from your field, and as a result can provide information about best practice. BIGGA also offer training for managers and team leaders.

Now is the time to get involved in your section events. If you don’t already, make a deal with yourself to go to at least two section events this year and take advantage of meeting other BIGGA Members in your area. The golf industry is facing some challenging times; the section events provide you with the opportunity to discuss relevant issues with your colleagues from other golf clubs. It’s reassuring to know that you do share some common problems and there may be somebody out there who can give you the benefit of their experience.

THE WEEK THAT WAS ‘HARROGATE WEEK 2012’

Each year the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Continue to Learn a Clubhouse serve as vital components of the membership benefits and services BIGGA offer and 2011 didn’t fail to deliver.

Although smaller than previous years (reflecting the current economy) the show offered the same buzz, excitement and atmosphere as last year, in fact Continue to Learn experienced a growth in numbers. Many of the workshops were already full before the week started.

The BIGGA Stand in Hall C welcomed many visitors, from those who visit us year on year to say hello and catch up on the past twelve months to new visitors who come and see us for the first time to chat about the benefits of being a BIGGA Member.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership
Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

This month, BIGGA welcomes the following members...

Scottish
Duncan Reddie, West Section Paul Holyoake, Central Section Gordon Ross, Northwales Ian Robinson, Central Section Steven Anderson, South East Section Paul Holyoke, West Section

Northern Region
Glyn Howard, Stafford Section Lee Robson, Stafford Section Paul Peard, Stafford Section Daniel Glyn, North East Section Jane Jones, Stafford Section Steve Tovey, Stafford Section

Midland Region
Christopher Holmes, Mid Anglia Section Michael Price, East Midlands Section

South East
Paul Reilly, Central Section Paul Ruby, West Section Matthew Russ, South East Section

South West & South Wales
Launder Williams, Devon & Cornwall Section Daniel Egan, South West & South Wales Section

International
Vipul Dabdiwala, General Manager Indian Golf Club, Kolkata, India

For more information on new members log in to the Membership Area of the BIGGA Website.

CONTACT DETAILS

Head Office
Overstone Park
Kibworth, Leicestershire LE8 0XR
Tel: 01455 637000
Email: info@bigga.org.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

Regional Offices
Scotland & Northern Ireland
Tel: 01724 742100

Northern & Midlands
Tel: 01737 819343

South East
Tel: 01737 819343

South West
Tel: 01737 819343

South Wales
Tel: 01737 819343

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance for more information on Greenkeepers Legal Assistance please contact: Tracey Maddison on 07472 669489 or email: tracey.maddison@bigga.org.uk

Josephine Bantick
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
07472 669489
josephine.bantick@bigga.org.uk

Useful USEFUL

Useful
Useful

in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9x9 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9x9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Quick ’n’ Hole’ Quiz

How Many?
1. How many tennis Majors has Roger Federer won?
2. How many times has AP McCoy been Champion Jockey?
3. How many goals did record England scorer Bobby Charlton score?
4. How many Majors did Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo win between them?
5. How many trophies has Sir Alex Ferguson won as a manager?

Down
1 Capital of Ethiopia (5,5)
2 People willing to debate a fair price (8)
3 Protective boot, popularised by Arthur Wellesley in 1917 (4,4)
4 1970’s type of dance (5)
5 Miss (4)
6 Counterpoint (3,7)
7 Stringed instrument - also used in music (5)
8 Brainwave (4)
9 The author of 95 poems (1,1,8)
10 Roman poet, and Dante’s guide through Hell and Purgatory (6)
11 Latin dancer and courtesan, executed for espionage in 1917 (4,4)
12 Sex, enemy of The Mekon (4,4)
13 Original host of Radio 4’s Counterpoint (3,7)
14 Footballers’ partners and a happy dog does this (4,4)
15 The fictional Tom Swift’s electric rifle (5)
16 NZ born speedway star who won six world championships (4,4)
17 Original host of Radio 4’s Skit Show (4,4)
18 Electric gun, named after the fictional Tom Swift’s electric rifle (5)
19 Card game similar to poker (4,4)
20 Guitar of the Romans, Romanians’ speech in Julius Caesar (5,6)
21 Boycott of a country following one of their cricket nations (5,6)
22 Brothers in name of two Spanish Ballad band members (4)
23 Goat’s beard, nicknamed ‘Scarface’ (2,5)
24 19th century sporting event (4,4)
25 The gambling piece, such as even or odd (4,4)
26 A famous songwriting duo (4,4)

Quick Answers on page 73

Sudoku Answers on page 73

Puzzle Answers on page 73

1. How many times has AP McCoy been Champion Jockey?
2. How many Majors did Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo win between them?
3. How many goals did record England scorer Bobby Charlton score?
4. How many trophies has Sir Alex Ferguson won as a manager?
5. How many tennis Majors has Roger Federer won?
6. How many Test Match centuries has Sachin Tendulkar made?
7. What is the lowest score anyone has shot in a Major Championship round?
8. To the nearest 10 how many runs did Alastair Cook score in the recent Ashes series?
9. Prior to this year Six Nations or the nearest 10 how many points has Johnny Wilkinson scored for England?

This year we were able to launch the new BIGGA Membership Benefits brochure, a guide to the opportunities and rewards of being a BIGGA member.

The brochure contains information on the different categories of membership and the benefits and services each one offers with testimonials from members of BIGGA.

Application forms for membership are available from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk, select ‘MEMBERSHIP’ from the options along the top and select ‘Application Form’ from the options on the left hand side, here you can download the information you need.

BIGGA has now firmly established itself as the professional body for golf greenkeepers and of course now BIGGA welcome applications for membership from other sports turf professionals working at a sports facility.

So what makes BIGGA different to other organisations that provide a platform for people to interact and exchange information?
This month BIGGA welcomes the following members...

Scottish
Daniel Macdonald, West Eastern
Peter Downie, East Eastern
David Macleod, East Eastern
Gordon Wood, North Eastern
Ian Thomson, Central Section
Nicola Strachan, Central Section
Paul Underwood, Central Section
Kevin Spence, Central Section

Northern Region
Glyn Howse, Stafford Section
Lee Rowan, Stafford Section
Richard Page, North Eastern
Mark Hanmer, North Eastern
Daniel Egan, North Eastern
Sion Williams, South Eastern
John Walsh, Central Section
Davina Thomas, Stafford Section

Midland Region
Christopher Hoare, Mid Anglia Section
Michael Price, East Midlands

South East
Paul England, South Coast Section
Michael Walsh, South Eastern
Robert Watts, London Section

South West & Wales
Peter Larter, South West
Clive Osgood, South East
Paul Heaven, Surrey Section
Simon Jacob, Surrey Section
Will Clark, Surrey Section
Kevin Leighton, Sheffield Section
Jamie Jacklin, Sussex Section
Michael Price, East Midland Section

Midland Region
Tony Milan, North East Section
Joshua Lowe, Sheffield Section
Lee Mason, Sheffield Section
Glynn Hancock, Sheffield Section
Paul Reilly, Central Section
Steven Fitchet, Central Section
Ian Morrison, Central Section
Ian MacMillan MG, Central Section

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

Membership Benefits
Brochure (see pic inset)

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So what makes BIGGA different to other organisations that provide a platform for people to interact and exchange information?

Well, as a professional Association also called a professional body, professional institute, professional organisation, or professional society BIGGA is a non-profit organisation seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of the individuals engaged in that profession and the public interest.

This means that any profit made on commercial activities is put right back into the Association for the benefit of its members.

Why join a professional body?

Professional bodies aim to raise standards among those in their industry, promoting best practice, training and recognised qualifications. Members can benefit from support, networking and access to news and training opportunities.

How BIGGA can help you become a better Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager

As a Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager you may be faced with challenges for which you feel you are not completely prepared. Management and greenkeeping often require very different skills from those which have got you where you are. BIGGA could help you bridge that gap in a number of ways. We can put you in contact with others in your field, and as a result can provide information about best practice. BIGGA also offer training for managers and team leaders.

Now is the time to get involved in your section events, if you don’t already, make a deal with yourself to go to at least two section events this year and take advantage of meeting other BIGGA Members in your area. The golf industry is facing some challenging times; the section events provide you with the opportunity to discuss relevant issues with your colleagues from other golf clubs. It’s reassuring to know that you do share some common problems and there may be somebody out there who can give you the benefit of their experience.

CRROSSWORD

A...00BB
9 Brainwave (4)
8 The author of 95 poems (1,1,8)
7 10 Roman poet, and Dante’s guide through Hell and Purgatory (6)
6 11 Eclectic dancer and courtesan, executed for espionage in 1917 (4,4)
5 12 Ian, enemy of the Nation (4)
4 13 Original host of Radio 4’s Counterspace (3,7)
3 17 Footballers’ partners and a happy dog does this? (4)
2 18 Electric gun, named after the fictional Tom Swift’s electric rifle (5)
1 19 Card game similar to poker (4)

DOWN
1 20 Glier of the “Friends, Romans, Countrymen” speech in Julius Caesar (5,6)
2 22 Brothly surname of two Spandau Ballet band members (4)
3 23 Gun-shy, nicknamed ‘Scarface’ (2,5)
4 27 Discourts mark, two-dots placed over a vowel to change its pronunciation (6)
5 28 US actor who stars as ‘Ismett’ in Curb Your Enthusiasm (5,5)
6 29 Relative position within a graded group (4)

USEFUL OTHER NUMBERS
(Pull Members only)

Personal Accident/Health
FIRE/EMPLOYMENT/RH
RISK/DERMATITIS/ACCP
LIVESTOCK/INSECTICIDES
TRAFFIC/PARKING/ENVIRONMENT

Quick ‘Hole In One’ Quiz

How Many?
1. How many tennis Majors has Roger Federer won?
2. How many times has AP McCoy been Champion Jockey?
3. How many goals did record England scorer Bobby Charlton score?
4. How many Majors did Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo win between them?
5. How many trophies has Sir Alex Ferguson won as a manager?

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9x9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Puzzle Answers on page 73

IN THE SHED

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you’re forced indoors.

Contact Details
Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update.

Membership
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The week that was: ‘Harrogate Week 2012’

Each year the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Continue to Learn and Clubhouse serve as vital components of the membership benefits and services BIGGA offer and 2011 didn’t fail to deliver.

Although smaller than previous years (reflecting the current economy) the show offered the same buzz, excitement and atmosphere as last year, in fact Continue to Learn experienced a growth in numbers. Many of the workshops were already full before the week started.

The BIGGA Stand in Hall C welcomed many visitors, from those who visit us year on year to say hello and catch up on the past twelve months to new visitors who come and see us for the first time to chat about the benefits of being a BIGGA Member.

Membership Benefits

Brochure (see pic inset)

This year we were able to launch the new BIGGA Membership Benefits brochure, a guide to the opportunities and rewards of being a BIGGA member.

The brochure contains information on the different categories of membership and the benefits and services each one offers with testimonials from members of BIGGA.

Application forms for membership are available from the BIGGA website at www.biga.co.uk, select ‘MEMBERSHIP’ from the options along the top and select ‘Application Form’ from the options on the left hand side, here you can download the information you need.

BIGGA has now firmly established itself as the professional body for golf greenkeepers and of course now BIGGA welcome applications for membership from other sports turf professionals working at sports facility.

So what makes BIGGA different to other organisations that provide a platform for people to interact and exchange information?

Well, as a professional Association also called a professional body, professional institute, professional organisation, or professional society BIGGA is a non-profit organisation seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of the individuals engaged in that profession and the public interest.

This means that any profit made on commercial activities is put right back into the Association for the benefit of its members.

Why join a professional body?

Professional bodies aim to raise standards among those in their industry, promoting best practice, training and recognised qualifications. Members can benefit from support, networking and access to news and training opportunities.

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Rubber Grass mats assisted Eoin Riddell, Course Manager at Royal Dornoch, in the preservation of grass pathways. Eoin has been at Dornoch for 25 years and in charge for the last 10 years and found that the multi holed 1 x 1.5m x 23mm rubber grass mats are an ideal solution to some of his grass wear problems on pathways, where it has been impossible to maintain a grass surface in the past. He first saw them being used on a children’s play areas and was one of the first Course Managers in Scotland to apply this idea to the golf links.

He cuts out the worn area and returf allowing a clearance of one inch, he then inserts the 16 kilo mats and links them together with cable ties. The grass grows through the holes and soon obscures the mats from view. Mats inserted during the winter programme have disappeared from sight by the following June and do not reappear again. After less than 12 months it is possible to play off the surface.

"Tributt’s rubber grass mat is best solution to pathway wear that if have seen in my 25 years in the business," said Eoin.
Solving the wear problem

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