**Membership Benefits Update**

Tastecard success

If you're able to report that quite a number of you took advantage of the tastecard offer last month, as advertised in last month's magazine and on the BIGGA website.

We hope you enjoy playing the family to a great lunch or dinner at one of thousands of national chain restaurants around the country.

Don't forget if you have an iPhone or Android or Blackberry download your 'app' now (Blackberry coming soon). Or visit www.tastecard.co.uk website to search for your nearest participating restaurants.

Brad Anderson, Membership Services Administrator is leaving BIGGA

After ten years with the Association Brad is moving on. He is taking up the post of Manager of a local pub in Harrogate where he has been working part time on an evening for around two years.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing him all the best for his future career and thank him for all his hard work over the last ten years.

Most skin cancers are caused by long-term exposure to the sun and research has shown that those who work outdoors are more at risk of skin cancer due to this fact.

It is thought that there could be as many as 100,000 cases of skin cancer each year in the UK but many aren't reported.

Some Sun Smart advice

- Make sure you never burn
- Aim to cover up with T shirt, hat and sunglasses
- Use factor 15+ sunscreen (sun screen)

Cheap sunblocks are usually just as good as expensive ones. They are all tested the same way and it is the level of protection they give you against the sun that matters most.

This is the 'sun protection factor' or SPF.

The SPF tells you the amount of protection the sun cream gives against UVB radiation. Cancer Research UK recommend at least factor 15. This is because it gives the best balance between protection and cost.

Prevention is better than cure.

Social Networking

Many of BIGGA’s Sections now have a Facebook page or group, if you are a member of Facebook go and ‘join’ or ‘like’ a section group or page and keep up to date with what’s going on locally not to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.

**Contact Details**

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

**BIGGA welcomes the following new members**

Scotland

Garry Duchan, Current Section Captain, Scottish Association of Golf Writers

Northern Region

Richard Blackwood, North West Section Captain

Northern Ireland

Timothy O’Rourke, Captain

Midland Region

Edward Brown, Secretary Section Captain

South East Region

Richard Buckland, Surrey Section Captain

South West and Wales

Clive Osgood, Secretary Section Captain

Colin Hebben, Captain

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

1 Host city of the 1972 Olympics (6)
2 Medical device used to decrease cholesterol (8)
3 Hip (4)
4 Medical device used to manually propel a boat (6)
5 1983 Tom Cruise film (9)
6 1992 Olympic gold medalist (8)
7 1986 League Cup winners (6,6)
8 Name the brothers who dominated the snooker world in the sport’s formative years (2,4)
9 Not same family but… which US state with a capital of Lincoln (8)
10 1973 (5,2,5)
11 Clarice..., played by Jodie Foster in Silence of the Lambs (3,3)
12 Male model who provided the voice of the British Raj (5,2,5)
13 American Football player who played for the Dallas Cowboys (8)
14 1940s TV series about a group of young trees (6)
15 Bookie shortlisted novel by David Mitchell (5,5)
16 Whitewashed dressed spinster of Great Expectations (4,8)
17 Last brothers before them to do the double (8)
18 2007 Eurovision Song Winners (6)
19 1992 Olympic gold medalist (8)
20 1986 Olympic silver medalist (4)
21 Army officers, directly subordinate to Generals (10)
22 Threezone (4)
23 Faculty (8)
24 Undergraduate (5,2,5)
25 Popularised by James Dean and Marlon Brando (1-5)
26 Oudeheide (6)
27 1986 Tom Cruise film directed by Tony Scott (3,3)

**DOWN**

1 African American Muslim minister and human rights activist (7,7)
2 Cultural movement for social justice (6)
3 Hip (4)
4 1965 Tom Cruise film directed by Francis Ford Coppola (5,9)
5 King Arthur’s nephew, and Knight of the Round Table (3,7)
6 Offered at a lower price than previously available (2,4)
7 Pass (6)
8 11 Key figure in the creation of the British Raj (5,2,5)
9 Indefensible but necessary quality for stardom (3,5,6)
10 Sir Clive, played by Jodie Foster in Silence of the Lambs (8)
11 Host city of the 2001 World Athletics Championships (8)
12 Flattened at the poles (20) A unanimously imposed settlement on a defeated party (6)
13 Largest city in Norway (4)

**SUDOKU**

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to I.

**MONSTER SUDOKU**

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

**Quick ‘Nine Hole’ Quiz - Talented Families**

1. What is the surname of the cricketing twins Eric and Alec, who played together for Surrey and in Alec’s case, England?
2. Who were the last brothers to play football for England?
3. Which English brothers both have World Cup winning medals?
4. Name the three sets of brothers who played for Scotland and the British Lions in the front row, back row and in the backs in the 80s and 90s.
5. Andy and Jamie Murray have both represented Great Britain in the Davis Cup but who were the last brothers before them to do the same?
6. Which father and son captained the England cricket team?
7. What is the surname of the National Hunt jockeys, Ruby and Katie?
8. Name the brothers who dominated the snooker world in the sport’s formative years?
9. Not same family... which two top players in their respective sports – cricket and golf - were born on the same day, April 24, 1973?

**Puzzle Answers** on page 57
RECO – the machinery you need, the support you deserve.

RECO supply a wide range of groundcare and agricultural machinery throughout the UK via an extensive dealer network. Established over 125 years ago, the Huntington-based, family-owned business, has developed from its early manufacturing roots to become the sole importer for a large number of premium brands across the two sectors.

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Recruitment

Camberley Heath Golf Club, Surrey require a COURSE MANAGER

Camberley Heath is a Harry Colt gem and many of its original features remain intact. The course boasts a fine set of par 3s that vary in length from 160 to 235 yards and a wonderful quartet of short par 4s. The course is well known on a bumpy terrain toclassic Surrey heathland.

Under its current ownership since 2004, many of the operating company’s shareholders are active playing Members of the Club.

Over the years the Club has hosted many important competitions including Regional Open Championship qualifying and most recently in 2009, qualifying for the Senior Open Championship.

As well as a fantastic golf course the Club boasts a substantial modern Clubhouse which attracts golfers, social events, weddings and conferences from the surrounding area and beyond.

The new position of Course Manager will be a senior member of the Club’s management team. Reporting directly to the General Manager, the successful candidate will be responsible for the course presentation and condition, management and development of the greenkeeping staff, management of equipment, irrigation system and greenkeeping compound, and the course budget and expenditure.

The successful candidate will be developing a long term career in greenkeeping.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Candidates should apply by submitting an up to date CV and covering letter to: Mr D. Spillane, Club Manager, Rothley Park Golf Club, Westfield Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire, LE7 7LH.

The closing date for applications is 20 May 2011

The Royal Automobile Club

Leicestershire’s premier golf club has an opportunity for a qualified mechanic / greenkeeper to become part of their team.

Rothley Park golf club is looking for a suitably qualified mechanic, who has also attained skills in greenkeeping, to join our committed course management team.

The successful candidate will report to the Course Manager and be responsible for all aspects of machinery maintenance, servicing, grinding cylinders, repairs, service records and health & safety in the modern workshop facility. The role also includes carrying out general greenkeeping duties on the golf course to support the rest of the team.

You will ideally have a proven track record and experience of working in a golf club environment. You will be self motivated, reliable, produce and maintain high standards of work, have the ability to work within an established team and work on the weekend rota as required.

You will have a proven track record and experience of working in a golf club environment. You will need to be a qualified to NVQ level 2 in sports turf maintenance or equivalent qualification, spraying qualifications Pa1, Pa6 would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Candidates should apply by submitting an up to date CV and covering letter to: helenb@royalautomobileclub.co.uk or post to: Mr D. Spillane, Club Manager, Rothley Park Golf Club, Westfield Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire, LE7 7LH.

The closing date for applications is Friday 27th May 2011

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

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Quick '9 Hold '9' Quiz Answers:

1. Bedser
2. Gary and Phil Neville
3. Jack and Bobby Charlton
4. Iain and Kenny Milne
5. Colin and Chris
6. Walsh
5. John and David Lloyd
8. Bedser
9. Joe and Fred Davis
10. Jackie Torrance and Lee Westwood

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For further information contact Kirstin Black on 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

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Mechanic / Greenkeeper

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You will ideally have a proven track record and experience of working in a golf club environment. You will be self motivated, reliable and able to work both as part of an established team and work on the weekend rota as required. You will have a proven track record and experience of working in a golf club environment, be qualified to NVQ level 2 in sports turf maintenance or equivalent qualification, spraying qualifications Pa1, Pa6 would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

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The closing date for applications is Friday 27th May 2011.

Camberley Heath Golf Club, Surrey

requires a

COURSE MANAGER

Camberley Heath is a Harry Colt gem and many of his original features remain intact. The course boasts a fine set of par 3s that vary in length from 162 to 235 yards and a wonderful quartet of short par 4s. The course is set on a hilly terrain which attracts golfers, social events, weddings and conferences from the surrounding area and beyond.

The new position of Course Manager will be a senior member of the Club’s management team. Reporting directly to the General Manager, the successful candidate will be responsible for the course preparation and condition; management and development of the greenkeeping staff; management of equipment, irrigation system and greenkeeping compound; and the course budgets and expenditure.

The successful candidate will be developing a long term career in greenkeeping and will be currently either employed as a Course Manager HEAD Greenkeeper or be a deputy looking for their first head of department role. Experience on a beautiful course is essential, as is an understanding and appreciation of the game of golf.

An excellent salary is on offer and on-site accommodation available. Candidates should apply by submitting an up to date CV and covering letter, explaining why they are interested in and qualified for this exciting new role.

Applications should be emailed to kirstin@bigga.co.uk or mailed to C. Donovan, General Manager, Camberley Heath Golf Club, Golf Drive, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1JG.

The closing date for applications is 30th May 2011.
Synthetic surfaces for golf are proving ever more popular. They help extend the season, improve the member offer, and offer consistent, reliable practice and play. It wasn’t always the case, however, as courses were struggling to cope with ever increasing amounts of play due to the growing popularity of golf. People who previously would put on their golf shoes in the car park and head for the first tee, now wanted to practise whenever they wanted throughout the year, even when the grass wasn’t growing. Despite maintenance programmes becoming mechanised, intensive and sophisticated, the UK weather meant courses found it difficult to meet the demand for year-round practice surfaces. Divots on tees and practice ground took weeks to recover during the growing season and many months during the winter.

We researched the specification and availability of suitable, purpose designed synthetic surfaces for golf and, much to our surprise, we found that it didn’t exist.

Some courses had tried using turf that was designed for football, hockey or tennis. In most cases it was a disaster - too shallow to take a tee peg, like a sheet of glass to putt on and giving a ball roll that was frankly terrible. No wonder synthetic turf had a bad name. There was an urgent need for good quality synthetic surfaces to complement natural grass and provide the means for it to rest and recover.

We had heard that synthetic turf had been used for tees and greens in the USA, so we went there, made contact with friends in the golf industry and carried out extensive research.

We then purchased some American specification turf for greens and tees and paid for installation training. This was a valuable exercise, but it soon taught us that turf specifications and installation methods in the USA were largely unsuitable for UK requirements and conditions.

The ball roll on typical sand-filled polypropylene greens, while not good enough for UK courses, was acceptable in the USA for ‘backyard putting greens’. Maintenance was far too high, if any attempt was to be made to achieve a reasonable ball roll. Surfaces for tees were not quite so poor as for greens but still below what UK players would expect. So, back home, we were faced with the immediate challenge of producing new specifications of turf suitable for UK playing surfaces and introducing installation and maintenance procedures.

As the years went by, we learned more about maintenance methods and, importantly, what customers were happy to do and what they weren’t. We found that many customers struggled to make time for staff to carry out even the modest maintenance procedures required for all-weather tees and practice ground areas. A better, lower maintenance solution would be needed.

We also began installing all-weather synthetic turf for golf course pathways, sand-filled polypropylene greens we had seen in the US. We invested a considerable amount of time and money in R&D to achieve the right materials, base construction and installation procedure and, when we were ready, we invited golf professionals to try the surface.

We decided to focus on putting and chipping practice surfaces. It didn’t exist in the UK but we do help golfers to practise all year round. Both in the USA and overseas, there will be an increasing number of commercially run small golf courses with all-weather greens and tees which will allow juniors and beginners to play at competitive prices because of the low maintenance costs.

There will even be full size golf courses featuring synthetic grass in certain parts of the world where golf is required but where extreme conditions will not allow natural grass to grow, such as in high mountainous areas.

Despite maintenance programmes becoming mechanised, intensive and sophisticated, the UK weather meant courses found it difficult to meet the demand for year-round practice surfaces. Divots on tees and practice ground took weeks to recover during the growing season and many months during the winter.

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We also began installing all-weather synthetic turf for golf course pathways, standing areas and some lawns.

Synthetic greens came next. We knew we had to provide surfaces that top players judged to be as good as the highest quality natural grass greens. We also knew that maintenance had to be minimal, unlike the providing the required greens and tees that would be impossible with natural grass. There will be a continued growth of outdoor and indoor golf academies with synthetic greens and practice tees, allowing keen golfers to practise all year round. Both in the UK and overseas, there will be an increasing number of commercially run small golf courses with all-weather greens and tees which will allow juniors and beginners to play at competitive prices because of the low maintenance costs.

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We do not attempt to replace natural grass, but we do help golfers to practise and enjoy their golf all year round on high class surfaces with minimal upkeep, so that natural grass can be more easily maintained and used when required.

On a roll - the growth of synthetic surfaces for golf
Synthetic surfaces for golf are proving ever more popular. They help extend the season, improve the membership offer, and offer consistent, reliable practice and play. It wasn’t always like this.

Back in the late 90s there was considerable prejudice against synthetic turf largely because of poor installations and low quality surfaces. There was interest, however, as courses were struggling to cope with ever increasing amounts of play due to the growing popularity of golf. People who previously would put on their golf shoes in the car park and head for the first tee, now wanted to practise whenever they wanted throughout the year, even when the grass wasn’t growing.

Despite maintenance programmes becoming mechanised, intensive and sophisticated, the UK meant courses found it difficult to meet the demand for year-round practice surfaces. Divots on tees and practice ground took weeks to recover during the growing season and many months during the winter.

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