Welcome 2012

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new year and to thank all the many BIGGA members who currently volunteer in one role or another to a BIGGA team at BIGGA Headquarters.

Without their valuable help, advice and countless hours of volunteer work your Association would not be what it is today.

By working closely with your Section committee the membership team are looking forward to a successful and prosperous new year. But the best people to promote any membership professional body are the members themselves.

Please encourage your fellow greenkeepers to take a look at the benefits of joining BIGGA, all information is available on the BIGGA website including membership forms.

Save money if you pay for your own BIGGA membership!

Are you one of the 31% of BIGGA members who pay for their own membership subscriptions? If the answer is ‘yes’, then you can claim tax relief on your annual membership subscription.

When you can get tax relief for professional fees and subscriptions

The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website states that if an employer pays for their own professional fees and subscriptions then they may be able to reduce their tax bill by getting tax relief on any professional fees and subscriptions they pay.

If you are working as a

a) greenkeeper, a groundsman, or are involved in the fine turf industry, and
b) you are a member of BIGGA and
c) pay for your own annual membership subscription

Then you may be able to deduct the cost of the membership subscription from your taxable income and reduce the amount of tax you pay.

The HMRC recognise that

membership of BIGGA is helpful to your job and BIGGA’s activities are relevant to your work.

BIGGA has been approved by the HM Customs and Excise and we appear on their approved list http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/intrct.htm It is possible for a person to go back several years to get tax relief.

How to get tax relief

BIGGA produces an easy to complete ‘Tax Relief Claim Form’ for members to fill in and send to their local tax office, instructions are clearly given on the form but your membership team are always here to help if you have any queries.

Download a form from the BIGGA website, www.biggag.org.uk select ‘Membership’ from the options across the top, select ‘Tax Relief Forms’ from the menu on the left, here you can download the form. Or contact a member of the Membership Team at BIGGA HQ to send you a copy.

Increased Pressure at Work

During my travels around the Sections I’ve become increasingly concerned to hear how many members are under increased pressure at work. Apparently, one in five of us are stressed at work, with workload, management style and relationships at work as the top three causes of work-related stress.

Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure. Pressure turns into stress when you feel unable to cope. People have different ways of reacting to stress, so a situation that feels stressful to one person may in fact be motivating to another.

Many of BIGGA’s demands can cause stress, especially work, relationship and money problems, and when you feel stressed, it can affect everything you do.

Stress can affect how you feel, how you think, how you behave and how your body works.

Sleeping problems, sweating, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating are common signs of stress.

If you are a full member of BIGGA you are entitled to access to a CONFIDENTIAL Helpline where you can speak to one person who is trained to help with any problem you may have.

Call BIGGA’s Helpline on 0800 177 7891

Details of your section’s forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...
Get the experts involved

David Figgins-Barrett looks at how bringing in a contractor can be the best way to get a project completed.

An advantage of outsourcing these projects is that you can manage the project budget more effectively as you have a clear project plan that a contractor has agreed to meaning that there will be little opportunity for the project cost to increase, and you get better value for money.

When planning your annual improvement programme and the associated budget it is wise to involve your preferred construction partner in the preliminary pricing. This way, when you go to the Green Committee you can be confident in giving them a clear picture of what can be achieved and at what price.

Steve feels that having a professional contractor involved in your improvement projects is invaluable, as their experience, knowledge and ability to share in your project vision is key to making projects a success.

When these types of projects are undertaken in-house, weather and ground conditions can play a big part in whether the project comes in on budget as it only takes a small amount of adverse conditions for the job to drag on, costing more every day.

An advantage of outsourcing these projects is that you can manage the project budget more effectively as you have a clear project plan that a contractor has agreed to meaning that there will be little opportunity for the project cost to increase, and you get better value for money.

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On a daily basis it can seem that we are bombarded with adverts in golf magazines for golf products that will improve a golfer’s game - clubs that strike better, balls that fly further and putters that are more accurate.

Over the years this has inevitably made golf courses less challenging than the original architects intended them to be, yet all players still want to play on challenging and entertaining courses. This means that all clubs are under pressure to constantly, or at least regularly, improve courses while retaining their original character.

“As a Top 100 golf club in England, it is essential for us to ensure that our course remains an exciting and interesting challenge for all that play it. This is why we have adopted a programme of continuous improvements,” said Steve.

This project indicates the start of the next phase of improvements to our course, and our preferred contractors will continue to be an important part of the further development of our course,” said Steve.
Get the experts involved

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“As a Top 0
Back in time

to this month in...1987

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by? Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away as the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so, we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century, but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman, elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Back in time looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 is a landmark year, being the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we will look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. This month we travel back to January/February 1987, to look at the magazine which was produced, as BIGGA was in the initial stages of its formation...

Back in Time 1987

The magazine provides a BIGGA update included in which was information on the appointment of a General Administrator (the magazine also contained an advert for the job), where the offices would be located; the Sections; Subscriptions; National Competitions and the magazine.

This magazine also contained articles by Jim Arthur on moss; Jack McMillan on aeration “Aeration is not a passing fad but a constant necessity”, and a piece by John Campbell on Laurence Pithie, who was Course Manager at Minchinhampton at the time.

Back in Time 1987

Turf problems?

What do you want?

LET THEM GET ON TOP OF YOU

with your turf and sanders with brushes of powerful pressure.

Three generations of McMillan - Jack with our BIGGA turf crown in the background.

Three generations of McMillan - Jack with our BIGGA turf crown in the background.

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BIGGA UPDATE...

At the meeting of the board of management held in York on January 13, it was agreed that the appointment should be advertised in the Press with an advertisement...
Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you’re forced indoors...

MONSTER SUDOKU

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.

Across
1. Run over (4)
2. Alliance (4)
3. Number of cards in a pack, excluding jokers (5-3)
4. Rotten apple (3,3)
5. Goes through to the next round (8)
6. Hull Kingston (6)
7. Old hat (8)
8. Escort eastwards (5,3)
9. Run in cricket not scored by a batsman (5)
10. Indoor bowls are an Olympic event. True or False
11. Two British Athletes have won the Blue Ribbon 100 metres since 1980. Name them.
12. Ben Ainslie is a three time Olympic Gold Medalist. In which sport does he compete?
13. How many Olympic Gold Medals did Sir Steve Redgrave win?
14. How many Olympic Medals has Sir Chris Hoy won?
15. How many Gold Medals did Michael Phelps win in Seoul?

Down
1. Bill Watterson comic strip about a boy and his tiger (6,3,6)
2. Decorative garment, designed to be tightened around the throat (7)
3. Cool (7)
4. Tactical (9)
5. Deal with (3,2)
6. Counterfeit (4,3)
7. “Poor is the ___ who does not surpass his master” - Da Vinci (7)
8. Arm joint located between the shoulder and wrist (5)
9. Say please (3,6)
10. Indoor bowls are an Olympic event. True or False
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SUDOKU

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

Continuous R&D has meant Wiedenmann UK’s innovative fleet has grown steadily since 1981. With ten specialist aerators, the Terra Spike™ is renowned for speed, precision and easy operation. From the extra fast XF to the extra deep XD there is a Terra Spike™ to suit you.

Now consider Wiedenmann UK as the name for artificial surface maintenance, snow and dirt clearance as well as mowing, collecting and surface conditioning. Featuring over 40 different products, you’ll find we have technically excellent machinery for council & amenity clients, contractors, golf courses, and professional and amateur sports clubs.

For your local Wiedenmann UK dealer call 0141 814 3366 or visit www.wiedenmann.co.uk

Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening

Sponsored by JACOBSEN

at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, 7pm-11pm, Tuesday January 24, 2012

Smart dress
Tickets cost £30.00 inc. VAT
Contact Rachad or Angela at BIGGA for further information on 01347 833800

Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA
## Quick ‘Nine Hole’ Quiz

The much awaited 2012 has now arrived and the Olympics are only a few months rather than years away. In tribute, this month’s quiz is Test your Olympic knowledge.

1. How many Olympic Gold Medals did Sir Steve Redgrave win?
2. In which years were the previous London Olympics held?
3. How many sports are represented in the 2012 Olympics?
4. In which two events did Dame Kelly Holmes win Gold?
5. Indoor bowls are an Olympic event. True or False
6. Two British Athletes have won the Blue Ribbon 100 metres since 1980. Name them.
7. Ben Ainslie is a three-time Olympic Gold Medallist. In which sport does he compete?
8. How many Olympic Medals has Sir Chris Hoy won?
9. How many Gold Medals did Michael Phelps win in Seoul?

## Monster Sudoku

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

```
   A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T
   F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E
   M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L
   J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I
   K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J
   L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K
   I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H
   J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I
   K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J
   L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K
   M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L
   N  O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M
   O  P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N
   P  Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O
   Q  R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P
   R  S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q
   S  T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R
   T  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S
   A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I  J  K  L  M  N  O  P  Q  R  S  T
```

## Sudoku

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

```
1 6 8 4 5
3 4 7
9 8 7 3 6
4 9 8
2 5 9
4 9 7
6 7 3 5 2
```

## Puzzle Answers

Answers are on page 73.
VERDE SPORTS LTD

Since this time Verde have been a leading supplier of artificial surfaces to the golf market, producing golf and fairway mats, winter tees, pathways, adventure golf and putting surfaces.

Verde are based in the manufacturing area of North West England and are a hands on, loyal and friendly team. Celebrating their 24th year in business, Verde believe that long-term relationships with trade distributors, golf clubs and private customers has contributed to their success.

Verde are acknowledged in the industry for their excellent customer service, often offering next day UK deliveries, distributing all over Europe as well as Worldwide.

The short to medium term objective is to produce a wholly British product – with all the consistency of supply and manufacturing base.

Recently, the company re-designed its website to produce all Weather Surfaces including the deep drill treatment for a FULL 6 MONTHS

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Tel: 01254 831666

www.verdesports.com

for a FULL 6 MONTHS

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

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VERDE SPORTS LTD

Since this time Verde have been a leading supplier of artificial surfaces to the golf market, producing golf and putting surfaces.

Verde are based in the manufacturing area of North West England and are a hands on, loyal and friendly team. Celebrating their 24th year in business, Verde believe that long-term relationships with trade distributors, golf clubs and private customers have contributed to their success.

Verde are acknowledged in the industry for their excellent customer service, often offering next day UK deliveries, long-term relationships with trade distributors, golf clubs and private customers have contributed to their success.

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LLOYD LTD

Location and Size:
Carlisle, Newcastle, Bishop Auckland, Penrith, Dumfries, Ayr, Kelso (not Toro).

Employees and size of premises:
20 to 25 on groundcare. Total combined depot size is 120,000 sq ft.

Number of service vans:
10

Brief history of company:
Founded in 1964 as a single tractor dealership in Carlisle, the Lloyd Group has now grown to over 25 sites across the north of England and the borders for Lloyd Limited and Lloyd Motor Group. At Lloyd Limited we specialise in agricultural, construction, machinery sales, and a full service support, including cylinder grinding.

Key services offered:
Machinery sales, parts sales and a full service support, including cylinder grinding.

Specialist services offered:
Machine demonstrations and short-term and long-term machine hire.

What would you like to see changed?
We would still like to see one major annual groundcare show so that all the manufacturers can attend every year.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (i.e., OEM parts supply)?
Yes, we offer parts impress.

Major customers:
We have invested heavily in these areas to ensure we give a first-class service to our customers.

To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured...
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Franchises:
• Toro, Kubota, new Holland, Graden, Amazone Groundsman, and many more too numerous to mention.

The series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country.

PRACTICAL IMPERIAL COMPREHENSIVE ADVICE

TEBBUTT ASSOCIATES
RUBBER CRUMB
Green Lake Construction Liners offer a comprehensive range of services to the golf industry. They can provide a complete package of drainage systems, from site surveys to installation of linear systems. Green Lake Construction Liners also offer a full range of rubber crumb for infilling of synthetic turf on tees and pathways.

www.geosynthetic.co.uk
Tel: 01206 262676
Please contact Jill on 01347 833 832

TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT

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The series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country.

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24 Months Factory Warranty
Separate Blade and Ground Drive Engagement
Sod Blades 12, 14, 16 & 18" plus Mole Drainage Blade
Low vibration levels, Easy to operate
Built for contract and hire