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WELCOME FROM BIGGA

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GREENKEEPER
INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited

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Tracey Maddison
BIGGA General Manager

Jim Croxton
BIGGA Chief Executive Officer

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National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

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On a lighter note - clearly turf grants in demand for all sorts of lawn consultancy!

I’m sure anyone who has retired gives his thoughts for the month and construction of bunkers as diverse as greens drainage, the management and construction of bunkers on limited budgets and dealing with winter disease on greens and I know it will be an informative and entertaining day.

Once SALTEX ends all the focus switches to our own exhibition, BTME in January. The team at HQ has done a superb job ensuring all the allocated stand space is now sold, and excitement is already building for this the 25th edition of our flagship event.

As we head into autumn after a good summer at last – probably the first decent one since 2006 – I hope you have all enjoyed the warm, sunny weather which we so desperately needed after last year’s relentless downsours and have got plenty of work done on your courses.

I’m jealous!

Contact details
Tony Smith / 07988 838956 / tony.smith48@ntlworld.com

I want all members to understand that the Association is here to help, we have specific Member Benefits that are always available as soon as I retired I found myself managing bowling greens and am currently in demand for all sorts of lawn consultancy!

By time you read this I will be in Woodside for IOG SALTEX. For a variety of reasons last year’s show was considered a disappointment, but I’m hopeful for an improvement this year as the industry needs healthy, strong trade shows.

As always I’m looking forward to meeting Association members, our friends in the trade and catching up with the latest innovations.

For the third year running we have organised some excellent seminars to be held during the event. Whilst SALTEX is mainly aimed at the IOG’s Groundsmen membership it is an important date in the general turf management calendar.

We are delighted to support our friends at the IOG and provide an opportunity for our members in the south east to take part in some excellent education.

The presentations are on subjects as diverse as greens drainage, the management and construction of bunkers on limited budgets and dealing with winter disease on greens and I know it will be an informative and entertaining day.

Once SALTEX ends all the focus switches to our own exhibition, BTME in January. The team at HQ has done a superb job ensuring all the allocated stand space is now sold, and excitement is already building for this the 25th edition of our flagship event.

As we head into autumn after a good summer at last – probably the first decent one since 2006 – I hope you have all enjoyed the warm, sunny weather which we so desperately needed after last year’s relentless downsours and have got plenty of work done on your courses.

I’m jealous!
**FULL HOUSE FOR BTME 2014**

BIGGA are delighted to announce that all the planned stand space for BTME 2014 next January has been sold – however there are still possibilities for anyone interested in exhibiting.

We’ve had a superb response from both returning clients and new companies keen to join the unmissable turf event of the year meaning all of the halls we opened last year are now full.

In fact, we’re very pleased to announce several new companies making their BTME debuts including; Amenity Sales, County Turf, Etesia, Hunter Industries, JK Sonics, JUB, Mansfield Sand, Sports Metals and Toms Locker.

However, if you are interested in showcasing your products to thousands of movers and shakers across the whole range of the turf industry please get in touch as we are considering opening another hall at the Harrogate International Centre to meet demand.

To add your name to the list or register your interest please call our Business Development Manager Jill Rodham on 01347 833800 or email jill@bigga.co.uk.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Registration for BTME 2014 is now open – and it’s still free! Simply visit our dedicated website at btme.org.uk and click on the ‘Register Now’ icon.

**NORTH WALES WIN CRICKET BATTLE**

The annual BIGGA cricket challenge match between North West and North Wales, sponsored by Bathgate Silica Sand, was held on 24 July at Ashley Cricket Club.

The North West innings of 154 from 20 overs seemed enough to secure a victory.

However, North Wales battled to victory in a thrilling final over Captain Paul Morten hit 53, ably supported by our very own Steve Wragg on 33. Steve also scored 6.2 for his dramatic dive to safety to avoid a run out.

Man of the match: Steve Backley OBE.

**BIGGA HOUSE CHARITY RUN**

Four BIGGA HQ staff have raised hundreds of pounds for charity after pounding the pavements of York on a 10k run.

From left, Membership Executive Elaine Jones joined Business Development Manager Jill Rodham, General Manager Tracey Maddison and L&D Executive Rachael Duffy in a 10k challenge in the city last month.

The quartet had undergone several weeks of training – clocking up the miles in the countryside around Aldwark Manor.

They then had to brave the summer heat on a glorious Sunday morning for the charity run, but managed to cross the line together in an impressive time of 1 hour 7 minutes. They’ve currently raised just under £700 for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was quite an achievement for the team and you can still donate to this extremely worthwhile cause at www.justgiving.com/TraceyMaddison

**GCMA CONFERENCE**

The GCMA Conference 2013 will take place between 11-13 November at the Hinckley Island Hotel in Leicestershire.

It will feature all manner of seminars, presentations and debates as well as the new ‘Meet Fair’ where attendees can display their words of wisdom on a visual board. Keynote speakers include trained psychologist Philip Hesketh, Steve Otto – Director of Research and Development at BIGGA, and has been appointed on a full time contract. Tracey is a skilled administrator with a strong track record in event organisation.

Originally from Bristol, Tracey spent eight years at Thornbury Golf club as events coordinator, then moved on to have a spell in event management in the hotel industry specialising in weddings. Her previous role prior to joining BIGGA was a PA for an environmental consultancy.

She said: “I’ve immersed myself in golf ever since the role at Thornbury. My partner and son are both very keen low handicap golfers, and as a family golf is a major part of our lives. “Everyone is so welcoming in the industry, and very passionate about what they do, and I can’t wait to get to know members in the South West and South Wales. It’s terrific to be involved in the sport again and I’m looking forward to the challenge.”

**NEW FACES AT BIGGA**

The Association is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Regional Administrator for the South West/South Wales Region to replace Jane Jones. Tracey Harvey has been appointed on a full time contract. Tracey is a skilled administrator with a strong track record in event organisation.

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We’re also pleased to welcome James Whitaker to the team at BIGGA House as Business Development Executive.

James, who completes our Sales and Administration team alongside Jill Rodham and Susannah Williams, has a wealth of business development and sales experience including working within the health club and cleaning industries as well as a spell working for Mercedes Benz.

He’s a keen AFC Wimbledon fan and has followed them throughout their journey from the lower leagues back to their rightful place in the Football League. He’s also part of the commentary team for Radio Wimbledon covering some away games and is also a talented amateur footballer.

James said: “I’m delighted to join the team at BIGGA and am already getting to know our client base. I’m confident I can transfer my skills and experience from my previous field based roles into the turf management industry.

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Beetle mania

Last month the Forestry Commission (FC) sent out a press release begging the public to help find populations of the Asian Longhorned beetle/ALB (Anoplophora glabripennis) and its close cousin the Citrus Longhorned beetle/CLB (Anoplophora chinensis).

Several outbreaks of CLB having arrived on infested Acers (maples), probably imported from plant nurseries in the Netherlands and originally sourced from China, have thankfully been eradicated over the last few years. ALB was found in spring 2012 at Paddock Wood in Kent (Greenkeeper International July 2012), having arrived in wooden crates from China, and was responsible for the precautionary felling of virtually all trees across eight hectares.

Hopefully this single ALB outbreak has also been eradicated since FC and FERA have said virtually nothing about it. The UK population can’t even identify from a huge oak tree and 50 per cent can’t even survey 80 per cent of the woodlands and workplaces to help us spot threats quickly before they become a serious problem. The Government plant health service cannot do this and was responsible for the alder outbreak in 1999.

The Scottish Region’s annual Norrie Whytock tournament sponsored by Bayer CropScience was held at Auchterarder Golf Club on 15 August. A strong field assembled to compete for the honour of winning this prestigious title for their respective sections. Although the weather forecast prior to the day was pretty dismal, the competitors were provided with warm and breezy conditions with a few light showers along the way. Indeed the weather was a distinct improvement on last year’s event that was plagued by heavy showers with play eventually stopping at the 15th following thunder and lightning.

As expected the course was in fabulous condition and praised very highly by all players. Our sincere congratulations to Archie Dunn and his team for providing an excellent playing venue for this competition. The fairways were immaculate, the rough fair and the greens true and firm, what more could the players want!

There were some excellent individual scores returned on the day with 2 players reaching the 36 point mark and a further 3 scoring 35 points. Indeed 2 players returned 3 over par gross scores of 72, Phil Butler (Murrayfield) had one to go along with his 36 points.

The chairman thanked Bayer CropScience for their sponsorship and Auchterarder Golf Club for hosting the event and providing the courtesy of the course and use of the excellent clubhouse facilities. Our partnership with the competition sponsors, Bayer CropScience is essential to the success of the Norrie Whytock competition. Dave Oliver, National Accounts Manager was on hand to present the prizes and to thank all for attending. Winning team captain, Dougie McIntosh, concluded the proceedings by accepting the Norrie Whytock Trophy and passed on his teams thanks to all concerned with running the event, to Bayer, to Auchterarder Golf Club and especially Archie Dunn and his team for presenting an excellent golf course for the competition.

Andy McNeill, Scottish Chairman, thanked all competitors for taking part and their continued support of the association.

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