Team support for Walter at Open

Mr. Walter Woods, was one of the greenkeepers instrumental in getting the Association involved in the world’s most important golf tournament. This year Walter will be hosting his third Open and I know he is proud of his profession and BIGGA.

The first Chairman of BIGGA really had his work cut out this year but, as ever, Walter and his team have come up with a course to test the world’s best golfers.

The Association is proud of his achievements in the profession and our colleagues in the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America have also acknowledged his services by presenting him with their much coveted ‘Old Tom Morris Award’.

Certainly over the last two years the Association has had much more involvement at the Open Championship starting with the flooding at Royal Lytham and baking last year at Royal Troon. This year the Support Team will be resident at Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife, one of the G.T.C. Approved Colleges for Greenkeeper Training. The team will be breakfasting early and most will arrive at the course before 8.00 a.m. On the first two championship days play will commence at 7.15 a.m. and BIGGA will have a member with each match.

Prior to commencement of play Walter and his team will have been cutting from first light and the final touches applied to give the first class conditions the players now come to expect from our members. The Open Championship amongst all the other tournaments including the American Master, still has that certain air of expectancy about it and the final scenes are fantastic to behold.

Members, after completion of their rounds wait at the 18th green for the finale. Those who will be involved for the first time will be part of a professional team supporting Walter to ensure the world’s greatest golfing tournament is played on a course in first class condition.

As our tribute to Walter Woods, Head Greenkeeper at this year’s Open venue at St. Andrews, Greenkeeping Management highlights the man himself and BIGGA’s role in helping Walter make the world’s greatest golfing tournament run like a well oiled machine . . .