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Communal Massage seemed to be just the ticket for Ronan McKeown, Mark Ellis but particularly Neil Whitaker

BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team

saw more sand than Lawrence of Arabia at the 125th Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

There are 185 bunkers on the magnificent Royal Lytham & St Annes course. That's an average of more than 10 a hole and by any stretch of the imagination an awful lot of sand.

BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team must have shifted every grain of that sand during the four days of The Open Championship because during that time between them the 52 greenkeepers raked an incredible 1618 bunkers – to put that in perspective at St Andrews last year the figure was a mere 701.

The work was appreciated by everyone from the Championship Committee Chairman, Peter Greenhough who made a visit to the BIGGA Marquee to find out the three day figure on the final morning, and BBC commentator Peter Oosterhuis, who also visited the marquee to collect results, to the caddies, whose job it is at regular Tour events to rake the bunkers. The general consensus being that slow play would have been a real problem had the caddies had to rake such a huge number of bunkers – the same player frequently visited more than one bunker on a hole. Indeed one player was in four bunkers on one hole.

For the second year

BIGGA IN THE LYTHAM RHYTHM

BIGGA ON THE INTERNET

BIGGA was launched onto the Internet during The Open and the new service will offer "surfers" a range of information on the Association's services.

The BIGGA Web site can be accessed on – <http://www.bigga.co.uk> – and will initially display five pages including information on Golden Key sponsors, BTME 97; Greenkeeper International.

"This is a new and exciting vehicle for BIGGA to utilise and we are sure that as the Internet grows the benefit from our involvement with it will increase immeasurably," said James McEvoy, Sales and Marketing Manager.

"This will enhance our reputation as a truly international Association and will enable us to offer our sponsors added benefits and spread the word about Association membership," said Executive Director Neil Thomas.



Iain MacLeod was called into action to rake the bunker Nick Faldo found on the very first morning