

## As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER  
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

**T**he highlight of the month for me, and no doubt a great many other people, was The Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes.

I began the week at the Association of Golf Writers dinner in the R&A Tent on the Tuesday night. It was a great honour to be part of the evening and the terrific atmosphere certainly set the tone for the rest of the week.

I must pay tribute to Jimmy MacDonald and his team who set up the course perfectly and considering the weather the course stood up remarkably well. It was also nice to hear the kind comments of the Champion, Tom Lehman, about the course.

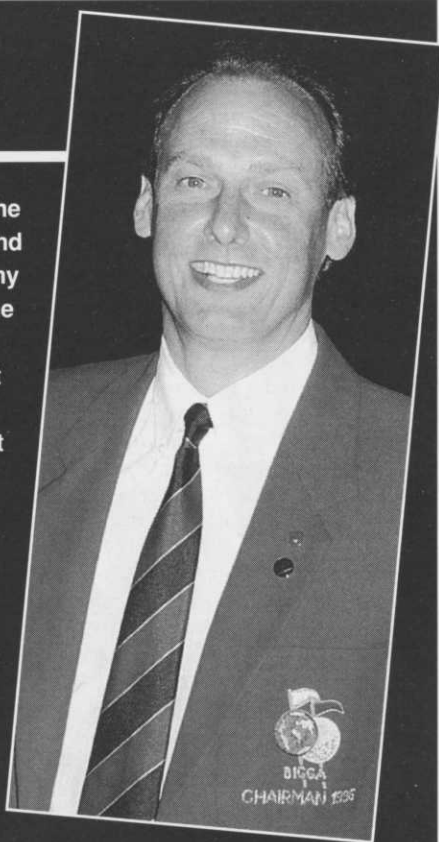
I'd like also to thank all the members of the Greenkeeping Support Team and the commitment shown by all the members throughout the Championship.

The recognition for the work done by the team is growing and it was nice to see Duncan Smith being able to assist the Championship officials in the confusion over a score at the 18th hole and the Chairman of the Championship committee visiting the marquee just to find out how many bunkers had been raked.

The information collected by the team and passed on to the media is also well received and becoming an increasingly valuable service provided by BIGGA.

Outside of The Open I attended a meeting about the possibility of forming a new Essex Section. It was a great success with over 60 greenkeepers attending and the green light being given to go ahead. I'd like to wish them all the best and hope that they become a successful section.

Elsewhere I attended the Hayter Regional Final at Abergele GC. I was lucky enough to play the course twice and found it to be in superb condition. I'm certainly looking forward to the Hayter Final at Fairhaven next month.



# NEWS



## BIGGA President hands out prizes

BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw paid a visit to the Cumbria Cup sponsored by Course Care, at Penrith for the second successive year.

An excellent day's golf over John Berry's excellently conditioned course and Viscount Whitelaw arrived in time for the meal and presented the prizes.

Cat 0-9. 1. C. Leeming, 42pts,

2. J. Berry, 36pts, 3. B. Howarth, 36pts; Cat 10-18. 1. J. Eilsbeck, 36pts; 2. M. Haines, 35pts, 3. S. MacCallum 34pts; Cat 19-28. 1. B. McCrae, 35 pts, 2. S. Thomson 33pts, 3. M.Doano.

● Ian Holoran is pictured presenting Viscount Whitelaw with a token of the section's appreciation for attending the Cumbria Cup.

## New Essex section

A meeting took place on June 27 in Bury St Edmunds of all interested members with a view to forming a new Essex Section.

The outcome of the meeting, attended by over 50 greenkeeper members, was that the new Section will be formed and the boundaries of the current East Anglia Section redrawn. Both Sections will form part of the South East Region. This will take place following the AGM of the East Anglia Section in December.

During the next few months discussions will take place with the present East Anglia Section Committee and also with those members interested in sitting on the new Essex Section Committee to ensure that all matters are appropriately dealt with prior to the new Section beginning to operate.

Members wishing to sit on either of the committees should make this known through local contacts or to Janet Adamson at Headquarters within the next few months.

Executive Director Neil Thomas commented, "The formation of a new Section is an important stage in the Association's development and the interests of members will be protected. At the end of the exercise it is vital that two viable and forward looking Sections are in place and it is the intention of Headquarters, the East Anglia Section committee and the incoming Essex Section committee to work to this end."

Members are invited to contribute to the current discussions and details will be reported in *Greenkeeper International* in due course.