

At 3.20pm on Wednesday, October 21, His Royal Highness The Duke of York unveiled a plaque in the foyer of the new Association headquarters and BIGGA HOUSE was officially christened.

Open for business



HRH, The Duke of York officially opens BIGGA HOUSE

It was an occasion for which many people had waited for a very long time, and a few never thought they would see, and it certainly didn't disappoint the members, dignitaries and industry representatives who attended.

The warmth generated by the Duke, and his genuine affection for BIGGA, and the game of golf in general, was obvious and quite infectious and he made the assembled gathering over around 120 feel as comfortable as they were welcome.

The ceremony was started by a few well chosen words from BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, during which he outlined just how far the Association had come in its short 11 year existence. The Duke then made his own personal contribution before the clicking of cameras heralded the

drawing of the cord to unveil the engraved slate plaque.

The Duke was followed by R&A Secretary, Sir Michael Bonallack, who thanked His Royal Highness for finding time in his busy schedule to perform the opening ceremony and, on behalf of the R&A, paid tribute to the work and development of the Association.

The whole ceremony had taken less than 10 minutes but in that time BIGGA had grown up and will face the future with its reputation, as a body highly regarded and respected within the game of golf, enhanced and as solid as the foundations which hold up its impressive new building.

After the official element of the visit The Duke toured the building in the company of the Chairman and Executive Director Neil Thomas, and

assisted with the production of a page of this magazine, before retiring to Aldwark Manor Hotel for a reception.

"This was a historic day in the life of the Association and I was extremely proud to be here to see BIGGA HOUSE opened by His Royal Highness," said Gordon Child, later.

"I'm also pleased by the reaction of those people who have had a chance to visit BIGGA HOUSE. To a man they have been delighted by what they have seen," he added.

Neil Thomas reflected on BIGGA's progress since 1987, "From a room in the STRI at Bingley, a Portakabin and then rented offices at Aldwark Manor and finally to BIGGA HOUSE - the Association has come a long way and now has the facilities to enhance further its services to its members and the greenkeeping profession."

A huge thank you to all the Golf Clubs who have contributed to the building of BIGGA HOUSE, without whose help and support, this momentous occasion could not have taken place. Our appreciation is shown here on these pages, with the listing of all contributors, among a selection of poignant photos of the official opening.

- Addington Palace Golf Club
- Alton Golf Club
- Alwoodley Golf Club
- Aroot Hall Golf Club
- Army Golf Club
- Ashton-in-Makerfield
- Baldon Golf Club
- Banchory Golf Club
- Beaconsfield Golf Club
- Bedale Golf Club
- Beeston Fields Golf Club
- Berkhamsted
- Bingley St Ives Golf Club
- Birchwood Golf Club
- Bishops Stortford Golf Club
- Blackmoor
- Blackwood Golf Club
- Blyth Golf Club
- Brancepeth Castle Golf Club
- Bristol & Clifton Golf Club
- Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club
- Bromborough Golf Club
- Brookmans Park Golf Club
- Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club
- Burford Golf Club
- Burhill Golf Centres
- Burnham Beeches Golf Club
- Bury St Edmunds Golf Club
- Bush Hill Park Golf Club
- Canterbury Golf Club
- Cardigan Golf Club
- Cathcart Castle Golf Club
- Cawder Golf Club
- Chestfield Golf Club
- Chigwell Golf Club
- Chipping Norton
- Chorlton-Cum-Hardy Golf Club
- Ghurston Golf Club Ltd
- Clitheroe Golf Club
- Conwy Golf Club
- Cooden Beach Golf Club
- Coombe Hill Golf Club
- Coombe Wood Golf Club
- Coventry Hearsall Golf Club
- Coxmoor Golf Club
- Graham Hurst Golf Club
- Crompton & Royton Golf Club
- Denbigh Golf Club
- Doncaster Golf Club
- Dore & Totley Golf Club
- Drayton Park Golf Club
- Dunfermline Golf Club
- Edenmore Golf Club
- Enfield Golf Club
- Epsom Golf Club
- Fairhaven Golf Club
- Fereneze Golf Club
- Fishwick Hall Golf Club
- Flamborough Head Golf Club
- Gerrards Cross Golf Club
- Glenbervie Golf Club
- Goodwood Golf Club
- Goring & Streatley Golf Club
- Habberley Golf Club
- Haggs Castle Golf Club
- Halifax Golf Club
- Hallamshire Golf Club
- Haltwhistle Golf Club
- Ham Manor Golf Club
- Hampstead Golf Club
- Handsworth Golf Club
- Hankley Common Golf Club
- Harpenden Golf Club
- Hawkstone Park Golf Club
- Haywards Heath Golf Club
- Henley Golf Club
- Heswall Golf Club
- Hickleton Golf Club
- Hillside Golf Club
- Hindhead Golf Club
- Huddersfield Golf Club
- Ipswich Golf Club
- John O'Gaunt Golf Club
- Kilmarnock (Barassie) Golf Club
- Kirby Muxloe Golf Club
- Knole Park Golf Club
- Knowle Golf Club
- Letchworth Golf Club
- Lincoln Golf Club
- Lindrick Golf Club
- Little Aston Golf Club
- Littlestone Golf Club
- Loch Lomond Golf Club
- Longniddry Golf Club
- Macclesfield Golf Club
- Malone Golf Club
- Manchester Golf Club
- Mapperley Golf Club
- Masham Golf Club
- Maxstoke Park Golf Club
- Meltham Golf Club
- Mendip Golf Club
- Merrist Wood Golf Club
- Moor Hall Golf Club
- Moortown Golf Club



Above: Past and Present Chairmen, Pat Murphy and Gordon Child

Left: BIGGA HOUSE in all its splendour

Below: Sir Michael Bonallack addresses the invited guests

Bottom: The Duke greets Viscount and Lady Whitelaw





Top: Design Editor, David Emery, and Editor, Scott MacCallum, explain the production processes involved in publishing Greenkeeper International

Above: The Duke leafs through the finished magazine

Left: Neil Thomas and Gordon Child explain the naming of The Key Room to the Duke

- Moray Golf Club
- Mullion Golf Club
- Murrayfield Golf Club
- Royal Musselburgh Golf Club
- Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
- Newcastle-Under-Lyme Golf Club
- Normanby Hall Golf Club
- North Hants Golf Club
- North Oxford Golf Club
- North Wilts Golf Club
- Northenden Golf Club
- Old Fold Manor Golf Club
- Cradoc Golf Club
- Penrith Golf Club
- Peterborough Milton Golf Club
- Pleasington Golf Club
- Pollok Golf Club
- Potters Bar Golf Club
- Purley Downs Golf Club
- Puttenham Golf Club
- Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club
- Ranfurly Castle Golf Club
- Ravelston Golf Club
- Ravensworth Golf Club
- Reigate Heath Golf Club
- Ringway Golf Club
- Roehampton Golf Club
- Romsey Golf Club
- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club
- Royal Burgess Golf Society
- Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club
- Royal Guernsey Golf Club
- Royal Jersey Golf Club
- Royal Liverpool Golf Club
- Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club
- Royal Porthcawl Golf Club
- Royal Portrush Golf Club
- Royal West Norfolk Golf Club
- Royal Wimbledon Golf Club
- Rugby Golf Club
- Sandy Lodge Golf Club
- Scarcroft Golf Club
- Seacroft Golf Club
- Seaton Carew Golf Club
- Sedbergh Golf Club
- Sherwood Forest Golf Club
- Shipleigh Golf Club
- Sitwell Park Golf Club
- Skipton Golf Club
- Sleaford Golf Club
- Sonning Golf Club
- Spalding Golf Club
- St Andrews
- St Austell Golf Club
- St Bees Golf Club
- St Enodoc Golf Club
- Stafford Castle Golf Club
- Stand Golf Club
- Stanmore Golf Club
- Stanton on the Wolds Golf Club
- Stocksfield Golf Club
- Sundridge Park Golf Club
- Sunningdale Golf Club
- Sutton Coldfield
- Swinley Forest Golf Club
- Tain Golf Club
- Tandridge Golf Club
- Taunton & Pickering Golf Club
- Temple Golf Club
- Tenby Golf Club
- Tenterden Golf Club
- The Childwall Golf Club
- Copt Heath Golf Club
- Dyke Golf Club
- Eastwood Golf Club
- Erewash Valley Golf Club
- Knutsford Golf Club
- Lees Hall Golf Club
- Long Ashton Golf Club
- Moffat Golf Club
- Nairn Golf Club
- Northumberland Golf Club Ltd
- Plassey Golf Club
- Ross-on-Wye Golf Club
- Royal Birkdale Golf Club
- Royal St Georges Golf Club
- Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club
- West Derby Golf Club
- Sussex Golf Club
- The Wisley Golf Club
- Worcestershire Golf Club
- Worksop Golf Club
- York Golf Club
- Thorpeness Golf Club
- Tidworth Garrison Golf Club
- Tulliallan Golf Club
- Turnberry Golf Club
- Tynemouth Golf Club
- Tyrrells Wood Golf Club
- Uttoxeter Golf Club
- Verulam Golf Club
- Wakefield Golf Club
- Walmley Golf Club
- Walsall Golf Club
- Walton Heath Golf Club
- Wentworth Golf Club
- West Byfleet Golf Club
- West End Golf Club Halifax Ltd
- West Essex Golf Club
- West Hill Golf Club
- Whitchurch (Cardiff) Golf Club
- Whitley Bay Golf Club
- Whittington Heath Golf Club
- Willingdon Golf Club
- Woburn Golf & Country Club
- Woking Golf Club
- Woodbridge Golf Club
- Wortley Golf Club

Open for business

BIGGA is also indebted to the many companies and individuals who donated money to The Building Fund and in particular the Golden and Silver Key supporters whose donations helped to fund the new state-of-the-art training room. In addition Rolawn supplied the turf for the surrounds of the building and many many thanks must go to the Elvington-based company.



Above: Mrs Betsy Walkington, Chair of Hambleton District Council, with her Consort, Mrs B. Kendrew, and Sales & Marketing Assistant, Cheryl Broomhead, enjoy the reception buffet

Above right: A delighted Elaine Thomas after meeting the Duke of York

Right: The Duke takes time out to chat with Board of Management members, Richard Barker and Robin Greaves

