

The hustle and bustle of life at BIGGA

Who said life at BIGGA would ever be boring? Well no-one actually but I had to start this column somehow and it has been a particularly eventful few weeks since I last penned an Editorial.

In that time we have seen the successful culmination of three major events each of which has involved months of detailed planning.

I'm referring to the move from the old BIGGA Headquarters to BIGGA HOUSE; the second Hayter International Cup in Atlanta, Georgia, and, finally, the official Royal opening of BIGGA HOUSE. All fell within a mad two and a half weeks for everyone involved in the Association.

To the uninitiated a move of a mere 50 yards from a cramped old building to one custom built with space and a place for everyone and everything seems a piece of cake, but I can assure you that it takes weeks of preparation, and the commitment and endeavour of everyone, to make it work smoothly. And I can tell you that anyone watching from the outside would have witnessed the entire BIGGA staff showing all the precision of a good quality Swiss watch coupled with brute strength honed through hours in the gym, for two days of the actual move. The very next day the office was fully functioning again, even although it was another week and a half before the builders completed their work.

Those lucky enough, and I was one of them, to attend the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta found another event where thorough planning - by BIGGA, the GCSAA and, in particular, Kim Macfie of Hayter - ensured an occasion that will not be forgotten.

Five golf clubs were visited in all, each ranking among the finest in the country and at every one the 24 players, two non-playing Captains and various officials were made to feel welcome.

It was a wonderful week, only made possible by the magnificent commitment and sponsorship of Hayter, with the only downside the fact that it was the Americas team which retained the trophy and not the Rest of the World team which brought it back over the Atlantic.

Finally, it is not every day that you get a chance to mix with Royalty but the opening of BIGGA HOUSE gave a remarkable number of people just that. HRH The Duke of York put everyone at his or her ease during his visit. He spoke warmly of the work of the Association and its members and took time to speak with as many of the invited guests and members of BIGGA's staff as he could. Other special guests were BIGGA President, Viscount Whitelaw and Lady Whitelaw and R&A Secretary Sir Michael Bonallack who also spoke well of the Association.

BIGGA HOUSE itself proved a big hit with everyone who had a chance to look round and, indeed, there can be no better symbol as to how far the Association has come in its short 11 year existence.

It will also act as a springboard for the next phase in BIGGA's development and the next few years should prove exciting.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum



Greenkeeper

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