

In June, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomed almost 120 new members to the Association as BIGGA celebrated a total membership of over 7,000 members

**BIGGA** welcomes...

## **Congratulations!**

Your Association now has a total membership of over 7,000 members. On behalf of the Association I would like to congratulate Kevin Dinsdale of Northumberland Golf Club for being the 7,000th member. Kevin wins a whole host of goodies as well as his Head Greenkeeper, who referred him for membership, also winning educational videos.

Well done to all of you who are referring your colleagues and fellow greenkeepers for membership and introducing them to the valuable benefits, which I hope you are all taking advantage of. Don't forget if you introduce 2 or more new members to the Association, your name will be placed into a draw to win one of three fabulous prizes. Keep up the good work!

## **Courtesy Golf**

BIGGA is sadly aware that a minority of members (and in some cases non members) have been abusing the system of courtesy golf offered by many golf clubs to greenkeeper members. This has led to a number of clubs now refusing to offer courtesy to any BIGGA member or, indeed, to Sections looking for host clubs for their golfing days. This is, obviously, of great concern to BIGGA. Once again, it would appear to be a situation of a small minority spoiling a wonderful opportunity for the majority.

BIGGA has already changed a number of its procedures to try and prevent people who are not eligible to join from obtaining membership. All greenkeeper members are now required to have their form authorised by their golf club and the membership card itself is currently under review.

In order to minimise abuse as far as is possible at the present time and as a reminder to members, BIGGA has issued the following guidelines:

Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.

On arrival at the club, members should report to the Secretary/Pro Shop and follow normal procedures for playing golf.

Members should produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.

Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.

Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.

Courtesy golf is always given at the discretion of the individual golf club

Scottish Region	Kevin Dinsdale, N East	Nicholas Root, E Midland	S West & S Wales	Q
Russell G Aird, West Cameron Anderson, East Steven Boyle, West Genry Camey, West Wayne Ford, East John Forrest, Central Scott Fraser, West Michael C Grant, N	Ngel Hamiton, Cleveland Paul Heam, Sheffield Daniel J A Richards, N Wales George Sallsbank, Cleveland Nell Sidebotam, N Wales Michael R Tabiner, N West Andrew Townsend, N West Matthew J Williams, N Wales Gyn Williams, N Wales	Anthony Sammut, BB&O Matthew Seaborn, E Midland Richard Seaborn, E Midland Christopher Shuttlewood, E Midland Raymond Tapper, BB&O Amy Warley, Midland Timotty Wise, Mid Anglia Peter A Yeoman, BB&O	Ian S Chenery, Dev & C'wall Ray E Cousins, S Coast Michael T Dee, S Wales Stephen T Finley, S Coast Kevin Frampton, S Coast Ian M Hatch, S Coast Roger J Head, S Wales Cent Lievellon, S Wales	Be Th lan Mi As Go
Richard Hastings, Central Mark Lindsay, West	Kevin D Wright, N West	South East Region	Trevor Moir, S West	0
John Marshall, Ayrshire	Midland Region		James W Morgans, S Wales	
Barry J McDonald, N Michael McLeod, N Scott N McTaggart, N Daniel Murray, East Gregor Norrie, N	Dean Akerman, E of England Mark Barber, E Midland Jason Birch, E Midland Andrew Blunt, E Midland	James Boyle, Surrey Vincent D G Bridger, Sussex Steven J Bridges, Surrey Ronald Cooper, London Andrew D Dennis, Surrey	Jason Morgans, S Wales Norman A Oram, S Coast Peter F Rosecouert, S West Jonathan Sacree, S Coast	
Alastair J Patterson, East	Dean Cooper, E Midland	Paul R Feneley, East Anglia	Stephen A Southern, S Coast Darrell B Thomas, S Wales	-
Garry Porter, West Andrew Reading, Ayrshire Kevin Smith, N James Swanson, N	Andrew J A Davis, BB&O Simon Douglas, BB&O Chris R Fellows, Midland Anthony Handy, Midland	Zach Georgiou, London Warren Grant, Sussex Rick Kennell, Surrey	Darren J Venables, S Coast John Wallwork, S Coast	D R V
Paul Todd, West	Paul Harper, Midland	Scott Litchfield, Sussex Dan McGrath, Kent	Northern Ireland	
Northern Region	Simon Lee, Midland Chris Lewis, E Midland Chris Marshall, Midland	Steve D Scott, Surrey Keith Skinner, Surrey Daniel Stone, Sussex	Alistair J Irvine Adrian McStraw	
Philip Ainscough, N West Robert J Boyle, Northern	Lee E Marston, Midland Nigel Morris, Midland	John T Thompson, Kent	Republic of Ireland	
Shaun Carroll, Cleveland Stuart Chivers, N West	Philip Pounds, BB&O Leigh Powell, BB&O	Simon R P Tipple, Sussex Geoffrey Woodward, Surrey	lan Hunter	
David Cook, Cleveland	James Robinson, E Midland	Matthew J Wright, Surrey	Aidan O Hara CGCS	

and is not an automatic benefit of membership.

All suspected abuses of the card should be reported in writing to BIGGA. All such complaints will be investigated, initially, by the members' Section. Members found guilty of abuse of the card will be disciplined under Paragraph 15 of the Association's Constitution and Rules: "If any Member shall be guilty of conduct likely ... to injure or discredit the character or interests of the Association ... the Section Committee shall have power ... to reprimand, suspend or expel the member." Clubs also have the right to refuse golf to any member not following the above recommendations. Golf clubs wishing to verify membership or requiring further details should contact BIGGA on 01347 833800.

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It is BIGGA's hope that the majority of members who seek courtesy golf only occasionally and follow the above procedure can work together with golf clubs and BIGGA to ensure that courtesy golf does not become a privilege afforded to only the few.

Courtesy golf requires courtesy on everyone's part, including the member.



BIGGA has provided and continues to provide a range of education and training opportunities which support professional development. The new BIGGA Web site (www.bigga.org.uk)

The new BIGGA Web site (www.bigga.org.uk) includes an Education and Development Area to keep you updated on the latest information. Continuing Professional Development (CPD), is a scheme which allows BIGGA Greenkeeper Members to record credits for education and training. The Web site Education and Development Area allows you to seek all the details you require to enable you to register for this scheme.

to register for this scheme. Details are now available on the Web site for BIGGA House Greenkeeper Training Courses and the 2000/2001 Regional Training Programme. Places are selling fast so check out our available courses at www.bigga.org.uk.

The Learning Experience 2001 is currently being prepared. Updates on the Programme and Speakers can be viewed allowing you to start planning your trip to The Learning Experience and BTME 2001. Other points of interest included in Education and Development Area are: The Toro Awards, The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition and the BIGGA Essay Competition. Job Specifications, Careers Information, Master Greenkeeper Certificate, BIGGA publications including books, videos and field guides and the BIGGA Book and Slide Library.

Slide Library. Remember, there is plenty to look at on the BIGGA Web site, so log on and Surf our Site.

