

Familiar Faces Everywhere

As I was lying on my sun lounger in the garden recently, enjoying the sun and admiring the sight of wife and lawn mower operating in perfect harmony, my mind wandered off into thinking about the industry we are all fortunate enough to call our own and in particular our Association.

I began musing that now, after five years in the job and having visited so many of golf clubs up and down the length and breadth of the country, if I were to be carried off in a space ship and deposited anywhere within the United Kingdom that no matter where it was I would bump into someone I knew by walking only a matter of a few miles.

I know it does seem a bizarre thing to be thinking about as I was supposed to brushing up on my tan but the sun does these things to you - particularly when you can overdose on its rays in our little piece of the Yorkshire Riviera.

But think about it. The beauty of this business is that it is small enough to know a large proportion of those people working within it but large enough to have many of those people spread all over the country.

I often play the game of hearing a place name on the television, or in the course of conversation, then working out who I knew in that place. I'm rarely stuck and normally the list can reach double figures. To make matters worse, I bore the pants off my aforementioned long suffering wife by providing her with the name of the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper when we pass golf clubs in the car. She now knows quite a number of you by name, if not sight, as well as having a better than average knowledge of tractor makes and colours, again having benefited from my generosity in passing on such information.

As I said I'm lucky that I do travel around the country a lot but within your Section or Region area you can no doubt do the same while with people moving to new jobs and relocating your group of friends widens and you'd be surprised just how many places you could bump into a familiar face.

Now the great thing is not only do we know these people but we also know we can call on them in times of need. If we have a problem there will always be someone happy to lend a tow rope, money for a pint, a piece of kit, offer some useful advice or even just provide a shoulder to cry on.

That is the real value of BIGGA as an Association. Not only are there so many benefits to membership that can really help you - read Steve Dixon's letter about the insurance money he received after a recent accident - but the things we can't list in among membership packages such as lasting friendships and camaraderie, within the trade as well as fellow greenkeepers, are just as important, if not more so.

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INTERNATIONAL

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