



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800



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Company	Tel: Head Office
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Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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It's not golf!

As I write the Hansie Cronje affair is in its infancy and we await the flood of revelations those in cricket tell us to expect over the next few weeks.

The inquiry is still to be undertaken and it may well be that the former South African Captain will be proven innocent of many of the supposed crimes with which he is being mentioned but one this is certain, cricket's reputation has been soiled and the well worn cliché about things "not being cricket" now has a completely new meaning.

To my mind it merely reaffirms golf's place at the pinnacle of sport when it comes to its participants, whether they be club golfers of Major winners, doing the right thing. I know Sandy McDivot last month wrote wittily on the subject of bending rules and retold some apocryphal tales of cheating but there is no doubt the Royal and Ancient game is devoid of much of sport's sleaze.

In recent months football, rugby union, athletics, boxing and even Formula One racing have had their reputations dragged through the mud and linked to doping, fights in tunnels, eye gouging, ear biting, illegal pieces of electronics, you name it. If some people feel they can get an advantage by fair means or foul they've gone for it.

But outside of some very rare and isolated incidents, each of which has been dealt with speedily and effectively by some of the most draconian powers in any sport, golf has remained unsullied.

It is remarkable because golf affords more opportunities than most sports to gain an illegal upper hand. We all police ourselves when we are out on the course and do so to the best of our ability. Sure there are times when the rules of the game can often come up and bite us on our rear end but 99.999% of the time it is done purely out of ignorance and not deviousness.

The rules are complicated and have trapped many of the top names and scholars of the rules. Who will forget Craig Stadler using a towel to protect his trousers as he played from beneath a bush and being disqualified for building a stance? That's a prime example. Others have lost the chance to pick up cheques for using a different compression golf ball or taking a drop from the wrong place or even finding a child's cut down club in their golf bag. These aren't examples of golfers breaching a rule to get one up on someone but merely people inadvertently finding themselves on the wrong side of them. In every case, no matter how costly the error or trivial the breach the player accepts the decision without quibble... even on many occasions bringing it to the attention of the officials themselves.

We should be proud of golf's high standards and the sport should be held up as an example to every other sport out there.

From now we should be hearing the call of "It's not golf" when unsportsmanlike behaviour on or off the sports field is being discussed.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Westurf paid its second visit to Exeter, and the indoor exhibition centre of Westpoint... and a good thing that it did, because the weather outside was just the type which had made the South West and South Wales Region decide to go under cover in the first place. Scott MacCallum found that it didn't dampen spirits, though...



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