



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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Is it essential or desirable?

Although by the time you read this, everything should hopefully be back to normal, as I sit and write, I have no idea where my next gallon of petrol is coming from and I have had to throw myself at the mercy of colleagues to get here to BIGGA HOUSE to complete this month's magazine.

It does show how modern day living has become so reliant on fuel - I don't think any of us really conceived just how much chaos could be inflicted on the country in such a short space of time.

Nowadays not many of us live within walking distance of our work and we have become so dependent on out of town shopping centres that a car is a necessity and not a luxury. Having said that we have to be responsible and I'm looking at certain car journeys and wondering whether they are really necessary - walking, or cycling, the mile to the shop for last minute groceries and sharing lifts where possible.

The situation makes me think a bit more about how golf could be affected by being so reliant on modern style living.

In debates about the growth of the game, the comparison about how many cars you find in the club car park, midweek, is often made. Back in the 60s you'd invariably find just a couple of cars, whereas now it's hard to find a parking space at all most days.

In the past, clubs were often built beside railway stations - or vice versa - because people would use the train to get to their golf clubs, but in reality very few golf clubs are in walking distance of anywhere. I do recall cycling to my club as a youngster with clubs strapped to my back, but it's not something you would generally see anyone over school age doing. The point is that it highlights how reliant golf is on the car. I'm sure that in the height of the blockades, golf clubs were quieter.

Thinking about it a bit more, it is not just the member who would be struggling if such situations were to become more regular. You would all find it difficult to put your hand on a piece of machinery which didn't rely on some sort of fuel to make it operational.

You might be forced into a position of deciding what jobs you could do with the amount of fuel in your possession. Do I cut the fairways fewer times a week or let the semi rough grow up a bit? It needn't necessarily be a bad thing and it would make you think about the real priorities.

It brings to mind a phrase which I heard from a publisher a few years ago when cut backs were to be considered on a magazine I used to work on.

Ask yourself, "Is it essential or is it desirable?"

We just need to hope that members still consider it essential to drive to the club otherwise golf could be in real trouble.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Greenkeeper

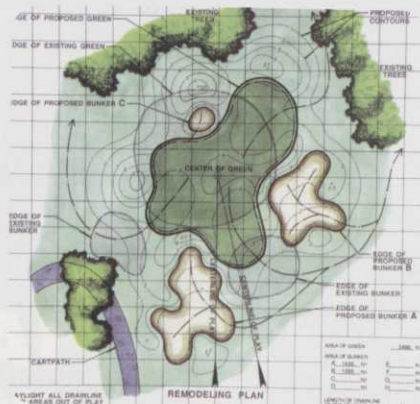
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