

IN THE NEWS IN THE NEWS IN THE NEWS  
**People**  
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You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...



## Ian Semple

BIGGA Board Member for the South East Region

**Name:** Ian Semple

**Golf Club:** Old Fold Manor Golf Club

**Association Position:** Board Member for South East Region

**How long have you been a member of BIGGA?**  
 Nearly 14 years

**Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?**  
 At the same high profile level as the European Tour

**For what would you most like to be remembered?**  
 Just to be remembered would be enough

**For what would you least like to be remembered?**  
 Over indulging at Harrogate

**Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?**  
 To help progress the Greenkeeping industry

**Name one thing which would improve the Association?**  
 More high profile press coverage

**What is your claim to fame (None not acceptable)?**  
 Single figure handicapper for the last 28 years

**Describe BIGGA in 15 words.**  
 An association run by Greenkeepers for Greenkeepers, available to everyone in the Golf Course industry

## A very fishy tale indeed!

Carl Horrax, Course Manager at Salisbury and South Wilts GC found himself in the news in a most unexpected way last month when he was called upon to comment on the downpour of goldfish and koi carp which landed on the golf course.

Golfers took cover when it started raining and when they returned to their game the fairway was covered in the fish.

"It's not a particularly believable story but I drove over the area about ten minutes before I got the call and everything was fine then, so if it had been a prank I would have seen them," said Carl, who appeared in the local and national papers as well as on television and radio.

It is thought that a mini whirlwind may have sucked up the fish from a garden pond and dumped them on the course.

## Golf Course Solutions

Two well known faces in the industry have formed a new company covering course surveying, agronomy and golf course design.

Steve Jones MG, formerly the Superintendent at The London Club and Bill Farnham, who has been involved in golf course design for over 25 years and had an article on Global Positioning System survey work published in the May 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International have formed Golf Course Solutions.

"We are proud of the client base we have built up in such a short period, having provided our services to such clubs as, Sunningdale, Loch Lomond, The Oxfordshire, Chart Hills. GCS also offer a worldwide service, and we already have clients in Poland, Spain, France and the USA," said Bill.

Based in Kent, the nucleus of the business is the survey work, using GPS at sub-centimetre accuracy, usually to within +/- 10mm.



"The two other main thrusts of the business are quite naturally Agronomy and Golf Course Design both of which tie in with our survey work.

"Having both come from a golf background, we fully appreciate the needs and requirements of the golf club and the Course Manager, we aim to the client a tool to aid in the efficient and cost effective management of the golf course without sacrificing on quality," said Steve.

## Remodelling work for Midland courses

Golf course architects, Gaunt & Marnoch, have recently started significant new remodelling work on existing golf courses in the Midlands.

From their Head Office base in Bakewell, Derbyshire, proposals for work on eight courses in the west Midlands and Cheshire are now underway. The courses vary considerably from vintage courses, such as Atherstone in Warwickshire, Trentham Park and Newcastle in Staffs, through to younger courses such as Brandon Wood, Coventry.

"Four of the courses in this batch are at least sixty-five years old and the oldest is well past its' first century. You can see some common problems, particularly with bunkers and drainage but, invariably there are specific issues like internal and external safety and the impact of new highways which affect an individual hole or part of the course," said Jonathan Gaunt.

According to co-director, Steve Marnoch, the expansion in remodelling work is not simply a response to the ageing process.

"Many of the new courses built in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980s have raised the awareness of the golfing public to the high standard of facilities that can be offered at a reasonable cost. Today's British golfer is discerning, demanding and prepared to travel for good quality golf facilities.

"Course remodelling can be crucial to the delivery of quality service and customer satisfaction. Linked to our skills as landscape architects, we are also improving golf courses by adding aesthetic interest and artistic flair, particularly in our planting proposals."

## All go at Algarve Course for Howard Swan

The new 18-hole course at the Boavista Resort in the Portuguese Algarve is advancing well and now has ten holes completed and the remaining eight nearing seeding and planting.

The 6,065 metre par 72 course, which also includes a range and large Golf Academy is designed by Howard Swan.

Much effort by the golf course architects has been concentrated on conversion of a spectacular cliff top location, with outstanding vistas. All the natural stone from the site has been reused in waterfalls and lakes, and to restore many of the ancient walls of the land. In addition where it has been necessary to remove trees, they have been transplanted in new locations to suit the design.

The greens, tees and fairways of the new course are being irrigated with treated sewage effluent with specially designed aeration features - 800m of spilling waterways - and all rain and irrigation water is being reclaimed through a recycling system.

The new course is scheduled to open early in 2002.

