

This month, Tracey Maddison from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to welcome over 100 new members to the Association, and bids you all a fond farewell as she is venturing to pastures new.

## Bidding a fond farewell ...

This has to be the hardest Membership Update column I've ever had to write, because I know that as you are reading this issue I will be but a distant memory in the BIGGA staff room! After a very enjoyable four years with BIGGA, fate has stepped in and indicated it is time to move on to something new. I have been appointed the Membership and Training Manager for the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, conveniently located in my home town of York, a short distance from my home. I commence employment with them on Monday 8th April.

I have many thank you's to say, so I hope that you will bear with me while I use this opportunity to say them. First, I would like to thank all the staff at BIGGA HQ, they are a great bunch of people to work with, I have made many friends I know I can count on after I leave. Not only are they great friends, but from a professional point of view I have learnt much from each of them, their skills, abilities, knowledge and enthusiasm for each of their

areas of expertise is to be admired. Your Association is in good hands.

I would also like to pass on my thanks to each of the Regional Administrators, Peter B, Doug, Peter L, Derek and Paula who work endlessly to administer each of the five regions. I have had the pleasure of accompanying each of them on regional and section seminars and conferences and experiencing their kind hospitality! Also, to each of the Section Secretaries, who, in their spare time administer each of their sections, which is important in the processing of membership recruitment and retention.

There have been many people throughout my four years at BIGGA who have given me valuable support and advice, they are all too numerous to mention by name but I would like to thank each of you. Finally, a big thank you to you, the members, because without you I wouldn't have had the opportunity, the fun and the valuable experience of working for BIGGA!

## ... and a warm welcome

Tracey's successor as Membership Services Officer is 25 year-old Rachael Palmer, who brings to the role extensive membership experience acquired at a prestigious club in another sporting arena altogether.

Brought up on the Isle of Wight, Rachael spent four years as Office Manager/Administrator for the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, at Cowes.

"I was involved in all aspects of administering the club for the 850 members," said Rachael, whose involvement during the famous Cowes Week will no doubt be good training for Harrogate!

"Because I have worked for a mem-



Rachael Palmer

bers' club hopefully I understand the issues that can arise from working with committees and I like to think that that experience will help me when it comes to dealing with BIGGA members who might be encountering similar situations," she explained.

There were three main reasons that persuaded Rachael and her husband, Stuart, to leave the Isle of Wight and move to Yorkshire - football, hills and beer!

They have a quite unfathomable love for Leeds United and moving to

### Don't Drift Away ...

If your membership expired on 31 December 2001, 31 January 2002 or 28 February 2002 and you haven't yet renewed, don't drift away from your Association, renew your membership this month. Providing you are working as a greenkeeper, we will still have your details on our database and can renew your membership with a new expiry date, you can even pay by direct debit if you wish. Don't leave it any longer, if you need a renewal form or further information contact the Membership Services Team, on 01347 833800.

### April's Membership Draw Winner



Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm.

Our congratulations go to April's winner, Michael Ward, of Bawburgh Golf Club.

York enabled them to become season ticket holders and expand on the 10, mainly away games a season, they had managed previously - among them last season the Champions League semi final at Valencia.

They are also keen cyclists and can often be seen aboard their 1950s tandem which they restored themselves.

Finally they are both agreed that northern brews are far superior to their southern counterparts and a move north would make them much more accessible.

"We both love it in Yorkshire and are delighted that we made the move. I am looking forward to my work with BIGGA and meeting as many members as I can," she said.

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



### APRIL 1992

This month we take a look at 'Around the Green' ten years ago

#### Prophetic?

The Devon and Cornwall Section notes reported that golf and an excellent lunch had been followed by Kerran Daly presenting a paper on 'Computers and Greenkeeping'. It was suggested that Kerran must have thought he was on the coach from Harrogate when water started to drip onto his overhead projector, but to his credit he waded on in fine style and brought home the point that greenkeepers do not need to be afraid of computers as those available are 'user friendly'. Kerran further suggested that all greenkeepers would be doing in the work place in the near future ...

#### A Right Dressing Down

A scribe to one Section's notes advised that he was ending his report on a sour note. One thing that did not go unnoticed at the Section's seminar was the number of greenkeepers who arrived wearing jeans, sweat shirts, training shoes and, would you believe it, tracksuit bottoms! This surely cannot go on any longer. If golf club members are expected to dress correctly at their own club, surely we owe it to them (and to ourselves) to do likewise. It is pure luck that these individuals have not been refused entry into respectable clubs and it is surely only a matter of time before such a refusal will face the culprits. Worse still, as a section we may not be extended the courtesy of many clubs, simply because of the few without pride, who cannot dress themselves properly. If individuals cannot take responsibility for their dress at such events, then their head greenkeepers must take it on themselves, if only to safe guard our interests. So come on, all you head men; if you are sending staff to represent your club at any future section event - golfing or non-golfing - get them in order, or don't send them at all!

#### Farmers do not make good Greenkeepers ...

This Section's notes make interesting reading. One of the many fields with 18 flagsticks that have been described as 'golf courses' has as an active farmer owner. He has a good Head Greenkeeper (for now) but over-rides everything the head man suggests. The greenkeeper, fed up with all the arguing, has decided to toe the line and do just what he is told - e.g. scarify and top dress in early February when there is a hard frost in the ground, never close the course, and if it snows the green staff will be laid off without pay! Not surprisingly, this course is going downhill even faster than Eddie the Eagle, and serves to highlight the enormous potential for 'quality' courses when one considers the vast numbers who play these 'mickey mouse' set-ups, simply because there is nowhere else to go.

### A BIGGA welcome...

#### Scottish Region

Jonathan Campbell, East  
 Graeme Flett, East  
 Fraser Gellan, North  
 Edward Hay, East  
 Robert Laing, North  
 Kenneth MacKenzie, East  
 Brian McCann, East  
 Steven Ness, East  
 Richard Ralph, North

Robyn Howard, N West  
 Frederick Ingleby, Sheffield  
 Stephen Lackey, N West  
 Brett Matusiewicz, Northern  
 Michael Moore, N West  
 John Parsons, Sheffield  
 John Taylor, Northern  
 Philip Teare, N West  
 Paul Thresh, Northern  
 Andrew Tickle, N West  
 John Watts, Northern

#### Northern Region

Gordon Butcher, Sheffield  
 Craig Callwood, N Wales  
 Shaun Chadwick, Sheffield  
 Duncan Dooner, N West  
 Keith Dunderdale, Sheffield  
 Ian Dunnabie, Cleveland  
 David Follows, Northern  
 Thomas Fenwick, N East  
 Gary Garner, N West  
 Peter Griffith, N Wales  
 Andrew Grundey, N Wales  
 Peter Hacking, N West  
 Neville Hayden, Northern

#### Midland Region

Daniel Adams, Midland  
 Barry Brown, Mid Anglia  
 Simon Caudwell, E of England  
 Ben Emerson, BB&O  
 Brian Hunt, Mid Anglia  
 Luke Hunt, E of England  
 Lee March, BB&O  
 Steve Phillips, Midland  
 James Plant, E of England  
 Craig Riches, BB&O  
 Matthew Townsend, BB&O  
 Alex Wright, Mid Anglia  
 Colin Yates, E Midland

#### South East Region

Mo Bah, London  
 Michael Bassett, Essex  
 Keith Buckingham, London  
 Aaron Crittenden, Surrey  
 Cyril Ellis, Surrey  
 Cassian Freeman, Essex  
 Keith Graham, London  
 Andrew Hemmings, Surrey  
 Matthew Lowe, Essex  
 Malcolm McGeoch, Essex  
 Marc Richards, Surrey  
 Dominic Rodgers, E Anglia  
 John Springham, Kent  
 Martin Trower, Essex  
 Lloyd Wright, Kent

#### S West & S Wales Region

Marc Batcup, S Wales  
 Jonathan Beynon, S Wales  
 Gareth Blake, S Coast  
 Antony Cailles, S Coast  
 Edward Cary, S West  
 Frederick Hartles, S West  
 Luke Haskell, S Coast  
 Mathew Leeson-Magry, S West  
 Tom Lowe, S Wales

Peter Marsh, S Coast  
 John Phillips, Dev & C'Wall  
 Stuart Ponfield, S West  
 Ian Reed, S West  
 David Rosselli, S West  
 Mark Sherwood, S Coast  
 Richard Unsworth, Dev & C'Wall

#### Northern Ireland

Robert Baile  
 Michael Leonard  
 Geoffrey Roulston

#### International Members

Chris Biagi, Bahamas  
 Michael Carlson, USA  
 Erik Gripenberg, Sweden  
 Tobias Hartmann, Germany  
 Jay Nalls IV, USA  
 Edward Walsh, USA

#### Associate Members

Matthew Bywater, Australia  
 Malcolm Colegate, Dev & C'Wall  
 Simon Doyle, Japan  
 David Eales, London

Scott Hoffmann, USA  
 Edward Powell, S Coast  
 Paul Walker, N Wales  
 Stephen Williams, N West

#### Corporate Members

Adrian Beynon, S Wales  
 Byron Brinkley, S Wales  
 John Cook, N West  
 Paul Discombe, S Wales  
 Richard Rainford, N West  
 Paul Rooney, N West  
 John Sullivan, S Wales

#### Golden/Silver Key Members

Colin Hood, E Midland  
 Sarah Mason, Mid Anglia  
 Justin Smith, Mid Anglia  
 Adam Mills, S Coast

#### Student Members

Jonathan Pendry, N West  
 Edward Short, BB&O  
 Matthew Wood, Midland