



News from the Chief Executive

Having spent a week at the 2004 Open Championship at Royal Troon I was reminded when talking to the members of the BIGGA Support Team, and the many visitors, of the great camaraderie that exists in greenkeeping.

Living up to its name, the Association also played host to international members from Sweden, Spain, USA and Canada. The opportunity to participate in this prestigious event is only one of the many benefits of membership, however places in the team each year are regrettably limited. It was heartening to learn how members value the Association and how they either take advantage of or are involved with a wide range of its activities.

All too often in my travels I hear of members, or past members, who are disillusioned but when asked what more they would like they have nothing to say. Talk with those members who are involved at Section, Region or National level and you soon realise that the Association has come a long way since its formation in 1987. Perhaps too quickly for some! All too often though the work falls on the same shoulders and in many instances those who complain the loudest are the ones who are least willing to give up some of their time.

BIGGA has established itself as a leading body within the golf industry and as such is being involved more and more in the shaping of the future of golf and in both developing and delivering education. It enjoys a good working relationship with most other organisations and its trade partners and I have recently spent a great deal of time developing these links for the benefit of the Association and ultimately its members.

Like it or not times are changing and BIGGA needs to be proactive rather than reactive. I have again been warned of mounting pressure on company's budgets, especially with regard to exhibitions and marketing and I urge you to support BTME and ClubHouse, which is not only our flagship event but also our greatest financial resource.

We are doing our best to improve communication from Headquarters down to members however please remember that communication is a two way process!

My colleagues and I welcome any constructive comments and I would hope that you feel confident enough to contact the staff at any time.

Finally a 'plug' for the National Championship sponsored by Ransomes Jacobson which is to be held at Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, on October 4th and 5th.

There are only a few places left and further details can be found on page 38 of the July edition of Greenkeeper International or by contacting Sarah Norris at Headquarters.

John Pemberton



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SCOTTISH REGION

Central

This month's news begins on a sad note with the untimely passing of Fraser Waterson, Head Greenkeeper at Canmore Golf Club in Dunfermline at the age of 33 on June 30.



Fraser began his career in greenkeeping as a YTS trainee at Dunfermline Golf Club at 16, serving his apprenticeship there before moving to Canmore as assistant at the age of 20. After a year in this post he was promoted to Head Greenkeeper some 12 years ago. Fraser will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him, and our thoughts are with his family at this very trying time.

New Members joining us this month are Jon Methven, from the Dukes Course at St. Andrews, and David Gray, from Wellsgreen Golf Centre, at Windygates, both in Fife. As usual we extend a warm welcome to them both and hope to meet them at some of our future events.

The most recent winners in the Club 2000 draw are A. Dunn, S. McKnight, P. Boyd, D. McNeil, S. Cruickshank and J. Wilson; hopefully they have all received their cheques by now.

Everyone should have received their entry form by now for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield next month, **Please return them in plenty of time!** I have it on good authority that the BIGGA Communication Manager / Editor (that's Scott from the magazine to you and me!) will be in attendance, so if you play your cards right you might even get your photo in Greenkeeper International.

It was pleasing to see so many Central Section members in attendance at the Scottish Tournament, held at Kilmacollm Golf Club in June, and it was even more pleasing to see so many of them in the prize list.

Well done to everyone who attended, especially Brian Heggie from Auchterarder Golf Club, who qualified to play in the BIGGA National Championship.

I wouldn't name all the prize winners, it would take up too much space or it might make the other Sections jealous (before anyone gets upset I am only kidding!).

John Crawford

West

Well I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, I've got a bit of a backlog from my last report.

The greenkeepers / convenors match was held over at Glasgow Golf Club on April 15, the weather was terrible with heavy rain the whole day, but the course was in first class condition which is testament to the hard work of Stuart and his staff.

Once again Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery sponsored the event, many thanks for your ongoing support and to the captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course. Millport were the eventual winners so it's a trip over the water next spring, book early to avoid disappointment.

My own club Renfrew hosted this year's spring outing and after a heavy night of rain, and a few prayers, the sun was out for the whole day.

The results are Scratch. Chris Kerr, Cowglen, 72. First Class. Dougie McIntosh, Cathkin Braes, 75—2—73. Second Class. Neil McLehnan, Cawder, 80—12—68. Third Class. Robert Philips, Mulgavie, 104—28—76. Trade prize. Derek Duthie, Aitkens, 75—6—69. Apprentice Prize. Graham Ferguson, East Kilbride, 123—28—95. Visitors Prize. Joe Rae, Renfrew, 88—18—70.

Thanks to Captain Ian Murchison and the committee for the use of the course and to my staff who had the course in first class condition for the time of year.

History was in the making as there were four greenkeepers in attendance