



## Welcome

### START OF A CAMPAIGN

I know most of us like to believe that we don't really care what other people think of us. Why should we? We are paid to do a job as well as we can and invariably have more knowledge of what we are doing than the people who are doing the criticising. Best to ignore such comments - water of a ducks back and all that.

However, if we are completely honest, none of us like criticism, particularly the uninformed variety.

So what should you do when the criticism becomes deafening? Bend to public opinion in the hope of a quieter life? Amending your ways in response to the opinions of a few, never mind an entire membership, is a sure fire way tie yourself in knots.

Tackling it head on is perhaps the best way. If you can't justify your actions you probably are in trouble. Having said that, admitting an honest mistake can also win friends and often respect. The perfect person hasn't yet been created and every one of us makes mistakes once in a while.

To make it work critics have got to be prepared to listen but, in many cases, they were at the front of the queue when mouths were being dished out but nowhere to be seen when ears were being allocated.

In the absence of all else a thick skin is definitely a help.

At the same time, it is useful to know how you are perceived by others.

Next month the magazine will feature an article by Colin Callander, a former Editor of Golf Monthly magazine, under the heading "See Yourselves as Others See You" which is aimed at giving you an idea as to how someone in the golf business sees you, the greenkeeper. Colin is a former Greens Convenor at a club in Scotland so has seen your role from "inside the ropes", as it were, and he does have some interesting things to say about the greenkeeping profession.

I'd be delighted if you could contribute to the feature. Write to me at BIGGA HOUSE or email me at [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) giving some examples of how you have been treated by golfers or club members - anonymity will be preserved if requested! That way I can paint a picture of what life is like for the nation's greenkeepers.

Without anticipating what will be said I know that the cloth cap and wellies image of greenkeepers is as hackneyed and out of date as the image of professional footballers wearing clumpy boots, baggy shorts and kicking heavy laced up leather footballs.

I'm also hoping to speak with a few other people from different elements of the golf industry to see what they think of greenkeepers.

I see it as as starting point of a campaign to educate the golfer into what you, the greenkeeper, actually does with the aim that in time you will be treated by golfers as the professionals you undoubtedly are.

It will be a difficult task but any signs of improvement will more than justify the effort.

**Scott MacCallum, Editor**

### A WIN FOR BIGGA

The annual fixture between the Secretaries Association and BIGGA Scottish Region took place over the West Links, North Berwick Golf Club, on April 14.

This year was the turn of BIGGA to host this match and we are grateful to the Captain and committee of North Berwick for granting us courtesy for the day.

We have been successful in winning this match for the last few years and no doubt the Secretaries' Association were out for revenge and hoping to regain the trophy.

With the course in superb condition and with very favourable weather conditions everyone was looking forward to the match.

Our number one pairing of Iain Barr, our Chairman from Largs GC, and Stewart Greenwood, Course Manager, North Berwick GC faced Allan Osborne, Captain of the Secretaries' Association, and Norman Wilson, Secretary, North Berwick. Unfortunately our top pair failed to lead the way and lost by 5&4 but this was our only defeat, as we either halved or won the remaining matches, eventually winning by seven and a half to two and a half.

Wins for C. Yeaman and A. Holmes, G. Thompson and P. Boyd, J. Manual and G. Jarvis, A. O'Hara and D. Scott, D. Tweedle and B. Aitken and finally B. Bolland and E. McGhee, with halved matches for A. Dunn and D. Wilson, S. Sullivan and A. Williamson and S. Cruickshank and J. Mair. Congratulations to everyone on a splendid result.

The scenic views from North Berwick are truly outstanding with the East Lothian coastline and the Bass Rock providing a truly splendid backdrop and the Kingdom of Fife in the distance made for a superb day.

Our grateful thanks to the Captain and club for allowing us the facilities of the club and course for the day. Congratulations to Stewart Greenwood and his staff for the excellent condition of the course.

Our thanks also to Alex Beveridge, Secretary of the Secretaries' Association, for his assistance and help in organising the match. We are all looking forward to renewing our friendship in 2005.

**Peter J. Boyd**  
Regional Administrator

### DESIGN WITH WATER IN MIND

Independent irrigation engineer Giles Wardle of IrriPlan has called on golf course architects to make efficient water use a key design feature at the European Institute of Golf Course Architect's AGM in Italy.

Speaking at the invitation of Ken Moodie, the Institute's Vice President at the historic Castello Di Carimate, he told members that the uniform application of water is often overlooked as an objective in the design of irrigation systems.

"Maximising the efficiency of an irrigation system through good design has aesthetic, agronomic and golfing implications for the course.

"In the quest to save water, appropriate design is arguably more influential than merely adopting technologies such as valve-in-head sprinklers, computer controls and weather stations," stressed Giles.

While the appearance of wet and dry patches on a golf course can be caused by wind or variations in root-zone, drainage or topography, it's often poorly uniform irrigation application that's at fault, he said.

"Having emphasised that, achieving a uniform application of water from an irrigation system is a far more complex issue than just specifying a head-to-head sprinkler spacing."

Giles went on to explain the scientific principles of uniformity and the approaches available to the irrigation designer to optimise it.

Using densograms generated by SPACE (Sprinkler Performance And Coverage Evaluation) software, he illustrated the dramatic effect that seemingly unimportant design options can have on the efficiency and uniformity of an irrigation system.

"The EIGCA arrange Continuing Professional Development seminars on a regular basis to keep our members up-to-date with advances in technology. We were very pleased that Giles agreed to speak and he delivered an excellent talk. With growing environmental awareness, the need to conserve water and apply it efficiently has never been more important," said Ken Moodie, who's also Chair of the Institute's Professional Development Committee.

