



News from the Chief Executive

By the time you read this column news will have got around about the appointment of Clive Osgood as the Regional Administrator for the South East Region.

Clive was one of four candidates short-listed for interview in mid-September following a rather protracted recruitment process. Until earlier this year he was Course Manager at Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey, a position he had held for many years.

He is also a past Chairman of BIGGA (2001) and is well known to many, both within the Region and elsewhere. I am sure his enthusiasm for BIGGA, his passion for greenkeeping and the respect that he commands will set him off to a good start in his newly chosen career.

He will be working from home and full contact details for Clive will be announced in next month's issue of Greenkeeper International once a business telephone line has been installed. Meanwhile should you need to contact him then this can be done through Headquarters.

The search for a Regional Administrator for South Wales and the South West Region continues at the time of writing although a few CVs have now been received and will be considered at the regional board meeting on September 20.

Hopefully this will result in an appointment in the not too distant future. In the interim period the affairs of both Regions have been administered through Headquarters with help from members in the respective Region. The fact that it has been 'business as usual' is a credit to those few unsung heroes who seem always ready to rally together. They know who they are!

The Association's financial year-end is September 30 and the management accounts to July 31 showed that we are ahead of budget, hopefully this trend will be carried through into August and September. In what has been a difficult year on many fronts I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters for their support and their determination to progress the Association.

During the month I was pleased to be able to send a cheque for £1,918.06 to St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate, in respect of the surplus from the golf day held in memory of Neil Thomas. It is proposed that this is an annual event in aid of this very worthy cause.

I would like to remind Sections that it is also their year-end at the end of September and that, in accordance with the Constitution, Section accounts should be submitted to the Regional Administrator by October 31 having been approved by an AGM.

Many Sections are looking for help on their committee or help running specific events. If you feel you can spare a few hours, even on an ad hoc basis, then I would ask you to give it serious consideration. It does not have to be too onerous and there is always plenty of assistance on offer from the Regional Administrator and Headquarters.

To avoid any doubt I would like to clarify that the position of Regional Administrator is that of a permanent member of the Headquarters staff and as such their salary and all employment and administrative costs are paid for out of central funds.

In talking with members there seems to be some confusion over the role of the Futures Committee and its powers. This committee was set up with the specific aim of looking at the future of BIGGA through the eyes of a cross section of members, with a view to making suggestions on development and improvement of the Association to the Board of Management.

The committee has no power to force issues or make policy or management decisions and is ably chaired by Elliott Small who was the Association's Chairman in the year 2000. Details of the current committee can be found in the recently distributed member's handbook and this group forms another medium through which you can express your own ideas.

I hope in any event all members feel able to approach Headquarters staff at any time, the Board of Management or their own Regional Board members.

Next month I will be able to report on the progress of BTME and Clubhouse and the outcome of the September steering committee meeting that includes exhibitor representatives.

Having spoken to several industry representatives at SALTEX there is still concern in some quarters about the number and frequency of trade shows in the UK. Our show is vital to the future of your Association and the future of greenkeeping, please give it your maximum support.

John Pemberton



Peter Boyd
SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region is once again offering a subsidised package deal for BTME 2005. The package includes a coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and three nights bed and breakfast in en-suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on 18, 19 and 20 January, 2005. The package costs £175. Partners are welcome at a cost of £150 for travel and accommodation. Banquet tickets cost an extra £35 per person.

For a booking form contact Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Contact Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

West

I hope every one has had an enjoyable summer even though the wet weather over the last few weeks has been disappointing.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to the Section. Steven Briody, Daziel Park GC, Kevin Cross, Whitecraigs, Graham Kirkpatrick, Clydebank Hargate, Niall McDonald, Drumpelieir, Stephen Duffy, Cochrane Castle, and Victoria Cavinue, Hamilton GC, a warm welcome to all new members.

Once again the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich had a great turn out and this was played over Bellisle GC during July.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was held at Auchterarder GC with Brian Bolan, Neil McLennan, Chris Kerr and Robert Phillips representing the West and they scored a commendable 90 points, finishing fourth. Well done lads.

The Stewards match against the greenkeepers will be held at Clydebank Hargate on October 4.

This year the annual night out will be held at Madness in Glasgow. It's a bit different from the norm so hopefully there will be something for everyone. We are limited to 40 tickets so it's first come first serve. Give me a phone nearer the time to find out starting time.

As I said in my last report the AGM will be held at Hampden on October 27 with a tour of the premises and a presentation from Scottish Grass Machinery who always put on a first class day. I hope there's a big turn out as I am taking over as Chairman.

During July I had the pleasure of going to the Drymsine Estates in the Ayrhill Hills where I played golf over their nine hole course and I must say after preparing Renfrew for the Open pre-qualifier it was nice to see a lovely course situated in this fantastic setting and to play golf with Bryce Houston, the Head Greenkeeper, who does a fantastic job and who made it a terrific day for myself and Robert Bruce. We look forward to playing again in the near future.

You can contact me on 07970 366 355 for any info or ticket sales for the night out.

Fraser Ross

NORTHERN REGION

BIGGA NORTHERN REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Thursday November 25 at Penrith Golf Club.

The subjects to be discussed will cover many aspects relating to the environmental management of golf courses and how new European Legislation will impact on the sustainable management of golf courses.

It will be a full day programme, with speakers including Bob Taylor, from the STRI; Bronia Allen, from the Government sponsored Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP); Tim Earley, from ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd; John Albutt, from John Albutt Associates, Steve Oultram, from Wilmslow Golf Club, and others.

If you would like to attend please contact Peter Larter (Northern Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham,