



News from the Chief Executive

August - what a month for rain and I wonder if we have seen the last of summer for this year. I realise how time seems to pass quicker and quicker each year as preparations for the forthcoming BTME and Clubhouse become more involved.

The staff at headquarters have been out of the office to several region and section events during the month and the feedback that I am getting from members on this policy is positive and reassuring. These included several Golf Management Trophy days sponsored by Scotts and also the final of the John Deere Team Championship that was held at Forest Pines Golf Club in Lincolnshire. Our thanks go to both companies for their support.

August has also been a busy month with regard to staff. My congratulations go to Marie Whyld, BIGGA's designer, who gave birth to a baby girl, Jessica. Marie is on maternity leave until 31 January 2005 when she hopes to return to full-time work. In the meanwhile we are employing the services of a freelance designer.

There has also been a change in the Sales Department with the appointment of Sarah Craven who replaces Sam Richardson. Sarah will be working mainly on display advertising tele-sales. The two vacancies for regional administrators have been re-advertised and the response for the South East post in particular has been encouraging.

My own change of role has resulted in a change in the accounts office with Tony Cocker, my old assistant – "less of the old," says Tony - stepping up from four to five days a week and taking on the responsibility for the day to day accounting. This has left a vacancy and I am pleased to announce that Stephen Coates will join the Association on 1 September.

We are now back up to a full complement with the exception of a part-time cleaner following the resignation of Sue Hancock, who has been offered more hours at her main job. The search for a replacement goes on and we hope to come to some agreement with the hotel to use their housekeeping services. In the meanwhile we are all having to learn to be far more responsible for our actions.

I don't wish to sound patronising but what a pity I cannot say the same about some of our members. I have been in many mess rooms in greenkeeper's sheds and mess is an appropriate word. In my opinion there is no excuse for lack of hygiene and care.

Before everyone starts jumping up and down I must add that I have also been in some rooms where it has been a pleasure to sit down and enjoy a chat and a mug of tea. I know at times greenkeeping can be a dirty job but it does not need to spill into the canteen and become a health and safety risk!

I am also aware that golf club funds do not always stretch to providing the most modern of facilities, however, it's not always about money more a question of basic housekeeping.

Mugs not washed, floors not swept, litter not disposed of properly, surfaces not kept clean, filthy toilets, perhaps a coat of emulsion on the walls now and again would not go amiss. Do you recognise the scene? If so what are you doing about it?

The biggest investment is time and effort not money. BIGGA is working hard to raise the public opinion of the greenkeeper and gain recognition for the professional job that its members do. The Association however can only do so much, the rest is up to you.

John Pemberton



Peter Boyd
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SCOTTISH REGION

East

Well here we are, after a few months away we're back! So anyway down to business. I hope you are all enjoying this weather, I think over the last few weeks the grass growth has been more than it has been all season due to the moisture and rise in temperature, which is good for the rest of the season.

Well congratulations to some of our East Section clubs, namely West Linton Golf Club and Gullane Golf Club, on achieving top environment status by becoming winners of the Scottish Golf Environment Groups National Environmental Excellence Award. This prestigious award puts both clubs into the top thirty clubs in Europe for care of the environment. So congratulations to them and their continued drive forward in environmental excellence, also congratulations to the other winners of this award St Andrews Links Trust, and Downfield Golf Club, well done to them.

Well done to Andy Forrest, Swanston GC, and wife Kirsty on the birth of a baby son Cameron in July, mum and baby are doing well but Andy is having a few sleepless nights (shame), so congratulations to all the family and a little brother for Nathan which he will enjoy, so well done from everyone in the Section.

At our last Section meeting we decided on a few changes. Firstly I am taking on the position of Education Officer for the East Section as we don't have one at the moment and I have thought about this for a long time and after being asked at the meeting I was very pleased to accept this position.

As I am coming to the end of my term as Chairman for the second time I wanted to give something back to the Section, because after 23 years on the committee its become part of my life and I look forward to this new chapter with vigour as education is a very big part of our profession, so I cant wait to get started on your behalf.

Secondly, the Willie Woods Tournament has had a revamped as it had become stale, we've now changed this to a three man Texas scramble with you inviting guests from your committee/green staff, but preferably your committee members, for a fun day with the emphasis on fun because golf is becoming to serious. You will receive notification of this along with your Autumn Tournament entry form so lets see a big turnout for both events.

The AGM this year will take place at Gullane Golf Club on October 26, details will be with you soon, hope to see you all there.

Apologies for no report from the Spring Tournament, but here it is. We had a great day at Craigiellaw Golf Club. A first visit for a number of us and what a test of golf it is, I look forward to returning soon to tame the beast. A big thank you to the management team who made our day most enjoyable, the bar and restaurant staff and last but not least Head Greenkeeper Mark Reid and his staff, the course was in great condition apart from a few severe pin positions?? Well done lads.

There was some good scores and some high scores to say the least and here are the results;

Scratch. Stephen Gray, 78; Class 1. 1. Craig Gilholm, 82-7-75; 2. Keith Burgon, 83-7-76; 3. Ryan McCulloch 87-9-78. Class 2. 1. Colin Irvine, 80-10-70; 2. Rory Campbell, 85-10-75; 3. Chris Yeaman, 89-11-78. Class 3. 1. Jimmy Neilson, 106-21-85; No other players in 3rd class handed in a card. Best Nett. Alan Russell, 89-10-79. Veterans Prize. Graeme Wood, 88-7-81. Trade prize. Iain Lauder, 73-0-73.

Well done to all prize winners and yes your handicaps have been adjusted in time for the Autumn Tournament, hope to see you all there.

Well that's it all for this month and I WILL be back with more news, etc next month, so if you have any news let me know so we can get it into print ok. The usual numbers (h) 01968661313 (w) 01968661721 (m) 07719580449 (ADDRESS) Westwyn, West Linton GC, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN.

So I'm ready and waiting for your info so will be back next month - see you then.

Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

Hello everyone just a few things to let you know about. Loch Lomond Golf Club has generously offered the Dundonald Course to the Section for our Autumn outing.

The date for the outing is Thursday October 7. Tee times will be from