



## Welcome

### HOPES FOR 2005

As I sit here it is just before Christmas and, with the January magazine almost complete, my mind is wandering. What hopes do I have for 2005?

Well obviously Harrogate is at the forefront of all our minds here at BIGGA HOUSE, so wish number one must be for everyone to have a successful week. That of course is easy to say but when you arrive at the beginning of the week what do you want to achieve from your trip so that you can say it has been successful?

From a visitor's perspective I would imagine it is to update yourself on what the marketplace has to offer and perhaps arrange for some new equipment to be tested at your club. Of course, it is also an ideal time to whip out the club chequebook and buy, buy, buy. Companies are more than willing to take your money and there may be some special show discounts to make it even more tempting. Away from the Halls the Workshops and Seminars could provide a solution to a problem you've been wrestling with for a while and the chance to catch up with colleagues is always eagerly accepted.

From an exhibitor's point of view Harrogate is a superb opportunity to influence and expand your customer base. Many of the top Course Managers, not just in the UK but also Europe and the rest of the world, will pass the front of your stand, eager to be impressed by what you have on offer. A proactive approach to dealing with them could reap its own rewards. Wouldn't it be great if you left Harrogate having made contact with 50 Course Managers you hadn't previously dealt with; already an arrangement with a percentage of them to trial machinery and, with luck, some firm orders.

For we, the BIGGA staff, if all, or even part of the above comes true for you we will all be happy and if you are pleased with your week we will have had a successful week too.

Elsewhere, next year The Open is back at St Andrews and for the benefit of Gordon Moir and Ewan Grant I hope the weather in the lead up to the Championship is conducive to producing a fast running, burnt out links so that the famous Old Course will be a genuine test of golf.

Then I hope The Open produces some spectacular sporting theatre. The last two years have been fine, and it is great to see an underdog win, but I'd love the top players in the world to be battling it out on the final day and for one of them lift the Jug. What I want is an "I was there" moment from this year's Open.

Finally, as a long suffering Scottish rugby fan, I'd love our national team to produce some exciting moments in the Six Nations Championship and perhaps even register a win or two. Of all my hopes that's probably the least likely however.

Have a super 2005.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

### GOLF CLUBS WARNED OVER NEW FIRE REGULATIONS

Golf clubs across the UK are being urged not to penny pinch when it comes to new fire regulations soon to be introduced.

Michael Shaw, National Secretary of the National Golf Clubs Advisory Association (NGCAA), explained, "All golf clubs need to have a Fire Certificate in order to operate. These have always been supplied free of charge by the local Fire Service but from January 2005, such certificates will no longer exist.

"Instead, clubs will become responsible for their own fire risk assessments. Most clubs will need to rely on the expertise of an external consultant to undertake a review and this could cost quite a lot of money depending on the size of the club."

Although a system will be implemented to penalise clubs who fail to undertake assessments and implement suitable precautions, the NGCAA is concerned that many will flout their obligations.

"I'm certain that many clubs won't want to pay for an assessment and will just carry on without commissioning a fire risk assessment. The harsh reality is that these clubs could be jeopardising the health and safety of their members and guests in their bid to save a few pounds."

Shaw also added that further problems may arise on any conversion or variation of the club's registration certificate or licence when the new licencing regulations take effect in February next year.



### FOUR OUT OF SIX AS NORTH WIN AGAIN

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was once again played over the Auchterarder Golf Course and for the fourth time in six years the North Section ran out the winners.

Our thanks to our sponsors Bayer, for their continued support and to David Drummond, their Scottish representative, for his support on the day.

As usual Archie Dunn and his staff had the course in excellent condition despite the trying weather conditions that has prevailed this year. Our thanks also to the Captain and committee of Auchterarder Golf Club for allowing us the use of the facilities at Auchterarder.

With all five Sections competing the usual format applied. Four man team with the best three scores to count in a Stapleford format.

The North Section again run out the winners with a total of 99 points, with Ayrshire Section runners up on 93 points.

The winning team comprised Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC, George Mitchell, Newmachar GC, James McCormack, Kirriemuir GC, and Mark Main, Moray GC.

Next year's event will be played at Auchterarder Golf Club, on August 22 2005.

Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator

### PALMER TEAM UP WITH WIEDENMANN



Palmer's Groundcare premises at Selby (Inset) Dick Palmer.

Palmer's Groundcare Ltd, of Selby, North Yorkshire, has been appointed as the Wiedenmann UK dealer for the region.

Commenting on the appointment managing director Dick Palmer said, "We are delighted to have been appointed as the Wiedenmann dealer for this area of the UK. With the Terra Spike range, their blowers, rotary decks and grass collectors this will enable us to provide a complete service to the industry."

Bruce Alexander of Wiedenmann UK added, "We offer a warm welcome to Dick and his team. They have excellent facilities at Selby and are able provide the high service levels expected by our customers."

"We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial working partnership."