



## News from the Chief Executive

I would like to start by offering my condolences to John Crawford and his family upon the sad loss of his partner, Ailsa, who died recently following a period of illness. John was Chairman of BIGGA in 1993 and is Section Secretary for Central Scotland.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate my fellow members of staff who, under the able stewardship of Ken, have helped BIGGA pass an Investors in People audit with flying colours. In the inspector's report we have been praised for our achievements and commitment and he placed us within the top 10% of companies in the country. The Association first gained the award in March 1999.

The main theme for June has been meetings, meetings and yet more meetings. During the month the General Purposes' Committee met to progress the development of an updated business plan, certain sections of the plan have now been referred back to the other sub-committees for their consideration.

I have had several meetings with companies, including Ransomes, who have confirmed that they will once again sponsor the National Tournament in October, and also Bernhard & Co, who will be sponsoring a delegation of 10 BIGGA members to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in New Orleans in February 2006.

On June 27 the Association held its annual golf day at Aldwark Manor and the chosen charity this year was Macmillan Cancer Relief. I would like to thank all those companies who sponsored a tee for the day, thereby making this event possible. Anyone involved with raising sponsorship will appreciate how difficult it is, as companies see their budgets being more and more restricted and I would ask members to acknowledge the support given over the year by the various individuals and companies. A simple word of thank you is all that is sometimes needed but all too often forgotten!

The Association continues to work closer and closer with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and at my most recent meeting with their National Secretary, Keith Lloyd, we discussed joint production of recommended health and safety policy documentation and also the development of an educational programme at Harrogate for AGCS members. We agreed to set up a health and safety working party comprising four Course Managers, four Club Secretaries, BIGGA and AGCS staff and an independent adviser with other advisers being invited to contribute in due course. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for early September and I will keep members advised of progress.

Finally, I would like to wish Patrick Gosset, the Chief Executive of the IOG, a long and happy retirement when he closes his office door for the last time at the end of July. Pat and I have enjoyed a very close working relationship and I am sure he will be a difficult act to follow.

**John Pemberton**

### SCOTTISH REGION

#### West

Welcome to this month's report. I hope I find everyone with great optimism for the season ahead. Congratulations to Peter Boyd for once again arranging a fantastic Scottish Conference. There was a great attendance even though the weather was horrendous in March with heavy snow around the country.

The Club Masters versus Greenkeepers match was played over Clydebank and District Golf Club on March 14 and may I thank my team for playing so well on the day and returning the trophy to the greenkeepers. We are due to play again in October and hopefully it will be as good as the last one. I would like to thank Ronnie Manson for arranging the day and we look forward to our match in October.

This year's Convenors versus Greenkeepers match was held over Millport GC. There was a good turnout with Millport retaining the trophy. Well done to Joe Bell and partner, they must have played well in the gale force conditions.

This year's spring outing was held over Ranfurly Castle GC and there was a great turnout, with approximately 50 playing. The course was in first class condition with a lot of hard work put in from Course Manager, John Barr, and his staff. Many thanks to the Captain and Board for courtesy of their fine course. The competition was Stableford format.

The results where: Scratch. Stuart Taylor. First class. 1. Chris Kerr, 33pts; 2. John Brown, 32pts; 3. Scott Ballantyne, 30pts. 2nd Class. 1. Craig Wylie, 38pts; 2. Gavin Jarvis, 38pts; 3. Neill McLennan, 36pts. 3rd Class. 1. Robert Phillips, 31pts; 2. Michael Maxton, 29pts; 3. Alan Dykes, 29 pts. Trade Prize. Jim Smith, 30pts. Longest Drive. Scott Ballantyne. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Taylor. Visitor's Prize. Marshall Sloss. Marshall is the Chairman of the Ayrshire Section, many thanks for attending our outing.

A presentation was held on the day for Trade member Ian Mackay. After 30 years' service with Sisis Equipment, also a short time with Mc Nabs and Scottish Grass, Ian was calling it a day or so we thought. He will still be around, he will be carrying out freelance work for Sisis and you can contact him on his mobile as before. On the day he was presented with a silver Quaich for services to the West Section over the years.

John Scott Snr, a long time member of the West Section, recently passed away after a long illness. John was known to most members, as he called on them over the years working for various companies in the trade. He attended most of the Section's outings and was always in good form. Our deepest sympathies go out to the family at this sad time.

It's with sadness that I inform the members of the death of David Peacock, who was the Head Greenkeeper of East Kilbride Golf Club from 1955-1986. Our thoughts go out to the family at this sad time.

On the job front there has been some movement in the Section during the last few months. Ronnie Myles is heading down south to Scarcroft Golf Club, in York, after many years' service at Helensburgh Golf Club. Ronnie, I hope you enjoy your new challenge.

Gavin Jarvis is taking over the post at Helensburgh after 14 years' service at Lenzie. Also Garry Burns, the First Assistant, has been appointed as Gavin's successor. Gary has been at Lenzie for 24 years. Many congratulations to all.

New members this month are Bobby McDougall, Hilton Park, Sean Quinn, Hilton Park, Vincent McNally, Elderslie, and McLaughlin Cathkin, Braes Arm. Welcome to all the new members.