



News from the Chief Executive

Having recently returned from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries' Conference, in Liverpool, I was heartened by the positive manner in which the ACGS and BIGGA are moving closer together to develop the management roles in today's golf club. I had the opportunity to listen to presentations and talk with fellow delegates on such subjects as Health and Safety, Employment Law, Communication and Personal Presentation Skills, issues common to both the Secretary/Manager and the Course Manager. I also represented BIGGA on an 'Ask the Panel' question and answer session where I sat alongside representatives from the ACGS, the Home Unions, the R&A and the PGA, this once again gave the Association the opportunity to be seen to be working with some of the other major bodies in British golf.

Over the last 15 months BIGGA has been involved in consultative meetings for the development of a Whole Sport Plan for golf in England by the England Golf Partnership. The aim of the plan is to increase access to golf for more people, increase participation in the sport and membership of clubs and also to improve performance by both amateur and professional golfers alike.

There is Government funding available for the development of sport generally and it is hoped that some of this can be directed towards our industry. The final document was publicly launched in April and a copy can be obtained by contacting Rachael or Brad at BIGGA Headquarters.

There is growing concern over the future of pesticides, etc in the UK and I would like to allay any thoughts that BIGGA is not doing anything about the situation. We are a member of the Amenity Forum, Chaired by Jon Allbutt (Health and Safety consultant), which comprises of representatives from a wide range of interested bodies in industry, amenity activities as well as environmental and government agencies.

The role of the Amenity Forum is several fold: 1) To be available to government and industry as a consultative body; 2) To promote a Voluntary Initiative on environmental management with particular reference to the use of pesticides; 3) To act as a collective lobbying body to government.

More information can be found on their website, www.amenity.org.uk. There are also two leaflets available from BIGGA HQ that members may find of interest. These concern the National Sprayer Testing Scheme and The National Register of Sprayer Operators. The work of the Amenity Forum and the pesticide 'issue' will be featured in Greenkeeper International in the near future.

BTME and ClubHouse has again come in for some negative and inaccurate reporting in a certain publication, as has the role that some organisations play in the development of today's golf. What a pity the editor chooses not to do his homework otherwise he would have discovered that far from resting on its laurels BIGGA is in fact quite active and the above cases that I have quoted are only a few of the initiatives that it is involved with behind the scenes.

Amenity Technology's Managing Director, Carl Crome, in his publication has denounced the value of exhibitions and quotes that his company's absence at SALTEX has not been noticed by visitors. Will greenkeepers miss him when he is not at BTME 2006? We'll have to wait and see, in the meanwhile the exhibitor base for next year continues to grow and a much more intensive and expansive education programme is planned for what has become known as 'The Harrogate Week'.

John Pemberton

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

In order to improve the sending and receiving of Section Notes, where possible can all future notes be emailed to gareth@bigga.co.uk by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes. If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA Headquarters.

SCOTTISH REGION

The 2005 Scottish National Tournament will be held at McDonald Golf Club, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, on Thursday June 23 by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. The cost of the event will be £20, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, evening meal and prizes.

Entry forms are available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries, with remittance, must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA, by Monday June 13. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J. Boyd

North

No new members to report this month, it usually quiets down about this time.

There are a few of our members moving on or moving up this month. Two of these are at Newmacher GC, where George Mitchell and Patrick Wood have become Head Greenkeepers at the Hawkshill course and the Swailend course respectively. George and Patrick have been rewarded for many years of loyal service at Newmacher and fully deserve their promotion.

A greenkeeper on the move is Roger Martin, formerly of Reay GC, who is now back at his old club, Peterhead, as First Assistant. Good luck to these guys in their new positions.

Malcolm Macdonald, formerly of Kingussie GC, turned 80 a few months back and is still going stronger than ever. Good to see him looking so well. Stevie Sullivan and Stuart Robertson, of Craigie Hill GC, represented our Section in the annual Secretaries versus Greenkeepers match held at Royston GC. They won their match and so did the Greenkeeper team.

There are still 200 club tickets that have not been returned, if any members are not interested in renewing them could you please return them to Hugh Mclatchie at 24 Whitehill Place, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, AB42 2FU.

The outing at Murcar is on May 12 and hopefully the weather will hold up and the event will be well supported. The results will be in next month's report.

I don't know about the weather at all the other clubs in the area but at Strathpeffer it has been the wettest autumn, winter and spring I can remember. Hopefully things will dry up soon.

If there is anything you, as a member, would like to see in the report then by all means phone me on 01997420155.

Iain Gunn

