



News from the Chief Executive

Firstly I would like to congratulate Alan Pierce for winning the Student of the Year Competition, sponsored by Toro, and also Noel Crawford for winning the BIGGA National Championship that was sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. Both of these companies put a great deal of money into activities outside the remit of the Education and Development Fund and I would like to express my thanks for their support.

I hope that by now every member will have received the programme and guide to Harrogate Week 2006. Please take time to study the booklet. The guide includes a day of education for Golf Club Secretaries/Managers and other such officials, these seminars have been organised in conjunction with the English Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries. The R&A are also very supportive and have arranged a mini-conference on 'The Sustainable Golf Course' during which speakers from both the UK and Denmark will put forward for debate their views on this very topical subject. If a copy of the programme has not yet found its way into your clubhouse then I would ask for your cooperation in making sure that the club management become aware of what is on offer.

I am only too conscious of the changing times in golf club and golf course management and more than ever before do those involved in such management need to work in harmony to try to provide what the golfer expects. Often these expectations are unreasonable given the resources available and this is where we must try to educate the golfer. Only by working in unison can the various bodies involved in the management process hope to make progress. I am pleased to say that, in my opinion, the level of collaboration between the professional organisations has taken a huge leap forward over the last two years.

I am aware that I keep referring to Harrogate Week in my recent columns, however I cannot stress too much the importance of this event on the well-being of the Association. There remains a great deal of pressure from certain major manufacturers who have already stated that they will not be supporting the Association's event in 2007 and while there are also a significant number of exhibitors who also support an annual show the ensuing restructuring could cause long term problems.

I would reaffirm that the BIGGA Board of Management is committed to a policy of providing an annual education and exhibition event in Harrogate. As part of a planned development the accent of the week has changed from being an Exhibition with some education to that of an education opportunity with an Exhibition along side. Some members have asked if we intend running a separate conference next year. We at BIGGA HOUSE feel that the whole week can be deemed a Conference Week with the choice to opt in and out of seminars and workshops as relevant and in between times take in the Exhibition. The new conference complex at Harrogate International Centre has made it possible for BIGGA to run its education programme for the week under one roof.

If you have not already done so then why not take a look at the Association's website that is dedicated to the event, www.harrogateweek.org.uk, where you will find up to date information on exhibitors, products, education and what's on, as well as the ability to pre-register online. One late addition to the programme is a discussion forum for users of the BIGGA website, in particular the bulletin board. Ideas on how we can improve this facility will be welcomed.

Over the coming weeks I will be attending some of the Section and Region events, and speaking at a few too. Rachael Palmer and I will also be meeting with all Section Secretaries in an attempt to improve communication between Headquarters and members.

BIGGA has an important role to play in the world of golf, however it can only be successful if the members support it. Please help the staff help you!

John Pemberton

Around
the Green

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region has several changes to announce in relation to Harrogate Week 2006. It has been decided to withdraw travel to and from the Conference venue at Harrogate. Having taken everything into consideration the Board has decided it is no longer practical or cost effective to continue with this service.

As in previous years Harrogate Week will provide Seminars and Workshops. Two day, one day and half day workshops will be available. The cost of these will be intimated nearer the time but it should be noted they are not part of the Scottish Region package. However there will be a series of Seminars ran by Trade firms at which everyone is welcome to attend free of charge.

The Regional Administrator will continue to arrange and book accommodation for anyone who wishes to attend. The accommodation will, as usual, be the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate. The cost of three nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis in en-suite rooms on January 24, 25 and 26 2006 is £155.00.

Once all accommodation has been confirmed the Regional Administrator can provide names of all attendees, this will allow members to contact each other, make travel arrangements and perhaps share the cost of travel. The Regional Administrator has already contacted the National Rail Help line, 0845 7 225 225, and has confirmed that competitive rates and lower cost travel is widely available.

Booking forms for accommodation at Harrogate Week 2006 are available from the Regional Administrator.

Peter J. Boyd.
Regional Administrator

Ayrshire

Hello everyone and no you're not hallucinating this is the news from Ayrshire. To be honest I haven't had much to report, but I will get back on the ball and try to get something in the magazine because I know how much you all look forward to it.

Anyway, our autumn outing, in association with the two leg Duval sponsored Harry Diamond Jug, was hosted by Ardeer Golf Club on September 15. The rain cleared and it was reported all had an enjoyable day's golf. Our appreciation to Stephen Higgins and his green staff for presenting a fine course. Thanks also to the Captain and Committee for allowing us the use of the course and facilities, also to all the catering staff that I am told helped all members enjoy the event.

Onto the results: Harry Diamond Jug. J. Mair. 1st Class. 1. J. Mair; 2. S. Higgins; 3. M. Wilson; 4. A. Storie. 2nd Class. 1. D. Norquoy; 2. J. Wilson; 3. D. Gray; 4. G. Haughie. Trade Prize. J. Smith.

Congratulations to all the winners as there was an excellent turn out. Next year's outings should be just as well attended, as I know Derek is trying to get the Section two more excellent venues.

I will try and catch up with new members for the past few months here. So welcome and hope to see y'all soon! William McBride, Dundonald Golf Club, Stuart McCormick, Ballochmyle Golf Club, Kerr Rowan, Dundonald Golf Club, John Wilson, Ballochmyle Golf Club, David Wilson, Ballochmyle Golf Club, Philip Dick, Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club, Neil Cochrane, Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club and John Tait, Dundonald Golf Club.

News from the AGM will be reported in next month's edition.

"Yeah right," I hear you say, but it will, trust me!

Any news, call me on 07939104701.

Denis Tweddell