



News from the Chief Executive

Regrettably the meeting with the IOG scheduled for July has had to be postponed until the middle of August due to Wimbledon commitments of two IOG representatives. This will inevitably put pressure on the original timescale and I will report to members on the outcome via the Association's website and in the September edition of GI.

We have once again witnessed a remarkable Open Championship. The course was in excellent condition and congratulations are well deserved to John Philp and his staff. The course was tough but fair - a true test of ability. Once again BIGGA had a marquee in the tented village, it was heartening to meet members and their guests. The BIGGA Support Team operated in a very professional manner and their work is valued by the R&A. Congratulations also go to David Coupland who, until as recently as April, was a greenkeeper at Boston GC. David battled his way through qualifying (actually winning his final qualifier at Monifieth GC) to compete in his first Open. I understand he has only been playing eight years and currently plays off +2. Time is on his side and this won't be his last Open.

Inside this copy of GI you should find details of the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota (UK) Ltd. The venues are excellent and we are due some better weather! If you wish to play please ensure that you return your entry form promptly as places are limited. There is a 'Trade' category and it would be encouraging to see some support from within our Trade and Associate membership. In July the launch of the long awaited Safety Management System (SMS) was completed. I would like to express my thanks to Exact and Ken Richardson who have worked extremely hard on this project. We are already receiving accolades for the comprehensiveness of the SMS and I believe that this demonstrates once again that BIGGA continues to work in the best interests of its members. Some greenkeeper members continue to question why the Association needs to get involved in commercial business matters. The reality of life is that BIGGA needs the income to provide benefits such as this. Were it not for the sponsorship of Ransomes Jacobsen then the SMS project would still be at the conceptual stage. Sponsorship is getting harder and harder to source and I take the opportunity to point out that in the case of the SMS the sponsorship covered the production cost however Exact were paid nothing and there was no recompense for staff costs in respect of either BIGGA or GCMA nor the members who assisted the development process. While on the subject of commercialism I can report that arrangements for Harrogate Week are progressing well. There is a full education programme planned with a particularly interesting event being organised for Monday night. You will have to wait for the programme to discover more details however I think that the evening will be highly entertaining, very educational and demand for seats will be high. Demand for exhibition space remains buoyant and with some careful planning it has been possible to reincorporate the major machinery manufacturers into Halls A,B,C and M. Having listened to members' comment regarding the BIGGA website I can confirm that programming has been started on a spell check and edit facility for the Bulletin Board.

Finally, I hope that none of you have been badly affected by the severe weather. I sympathise with those that have seen their homes and lives ruined by the flooding. While the Association does not have a formal benevolent fund it is never-the-less always prepared to consider help in cases of genuine hardship. Any contact should be with myself, in writing.

John Pemberton



SCOTLAND - AYRSHIRE

Hello all, just a few things to let y'all know about. Firstly to congratulate John Wilson (Irvine GC) on winning the third class division at the Scottish National Tournament last month.

A reminder to get Tuesday, September 25 highlighted in the calendar as that's the day I lift the Harry Diamond Jug over in Arran and I'd like as many of you there to celebrate with me as possible, unless of course you've got something you'd rather be doing?

Our trip to Northern Ireland will be fast approaching as you read this so those looking for a nice relaxing break across the water need not apply! We need fearless warriors and lad's who aren't afraid of getting a round in! Seriously though I 'm looking for names. We will be sailing the morning of Friday, October 5 and returning Sunday, 8. Two nights B&B is £50 pp while Big Brian will be sussing out a deal on the ferry for us. Any questions call me on: 07939 104701 or email: denis.t@hotmail.co.uk. Ta Ra for now then.

Denis Tweddell



SCOTLAND - CENTRAL

At this time of year the summer should be well underway and the monsoon season hopefully behind us. This spring has been one of the wettest I remember and I'm sure that it has created many challenges for us all. The hard work of the club competitions and Opens should be over and we may be starting to plan the winter programs for this year. If you have any projects or pictures you would like to share with others let us know and we'll post them on the website.

Welcome to the following new members: Thomas Adams, Kieran Coll, Graham Copland, Barry Currie, Gary Kilday, Scott MacFarlane, Raymond Perrins, Joseph Smith, and Craig Sword. I hope to meet you sometime this year at one of our golf outings or educational events.

By the time you read this John Philp and the team at Carnoustie will have hosted The Open Championship. I'm sure it will be a great event and that the players will have faced a stern test of their skills to find the Champion Golfer of 2007.

I have just returned from attending the Scottish Tournament which this year was held over the border in Northumberland for the first time and was played at Goswick golf course. It was a great day. Geordie Thompson and his team had the course looking great and playing great, a real test of golf for everyone. Many thanks on behalf of the Central Section to the golf club for their first class hospitality on the day, and also to Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, who once again organised a fantastic event for us all. I know from experience how much work it takes to organise these events, but Peter makes it all seem so easy. The Section was proud to have scratch winner, Kenny Stirling and the handicap winner, Dougie Barr, both playing on form. Well played guys.