

ACCIDENT REPORTING AND HEALTH & SAFETY WORKSHOPS

The Northern Region is holding a practical Accident Reporting and Health & Safety Workshop at Bradford GC on Thursday, March 29. The workshop will run from 9am until around 4pm and will involve practical group exercises looking at a simulated vehicle accident, H&S hazards in the greenkeeping shed, risk assessment on a hole and a confrontation with a golf club official – plus discussion on the use of pesticides and insecticides.

Attendance is open to BIGGA Members and golf club officials. Invitations will be sent out to BIGGA members and golf club secretaries in early February. Refreshments on arrival and lunch will be provided.

For more information please contact Peter Larter, Northern Region Administrator on: 01476 550115 or email: petelarter972@aol.com

The Midland Region of BIGGA held a Practical Accident Reporting and Health & Safety workshop at Gay Hill GC last November, 16.

It was attended by 64 BIGGA members and Golf Club Officials, who spent the day involved in practical group exercises deciding what to do at a simulated vehicle accident, spotting health and safety hazards in the greenkeeping sheds, carrying out a risk assessment on the 17th hole, and managing a confrontation with a golf club official. The day proved very successful and thought provoking, and is being used as a model for future regional workshops.

The Region's thanks go to Gay Hill GC for hosting the event superbly, to T H White for providing the accident vehicle, to Paul Woodham (Course Manager

at Gay Hill GC) whose original idea it was, to Frank Newberry, Jon Allbutt, Richard Minton and Ken Richardson for facilitating the day with great skill, and finally to the delegates without who the day would not have happened. The photo below shows one of the groups spotting hazards in the sheds.



HERITAGE ACCESS GUIDE SCOOPS PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund publication Easy Access to Historic Landscapes has won the Landscape Policy Award and the President's Award for the UK's most outstanding project by the landscape profession at the Landscape Institute Awards.

The comprehensive guidance for making historic landscapes easily accessible for visitors with disabilities was commended by judges for being "of excellent quality in terms of clarity, intelligence of advice, thoroughness of research and visual layout", "a refreshing approach" and "a very good resource pack for both professional and lay reader".

INDIA OPENS UP FOR SWAN

The Karnataka Golf Association, perhaps the premier club in India, will over the next two years see the renovation of its 30-year-old golf course by Swan Golf Designs, International Golf Course Architects from Essex.

Following Howard Swan's initial evaluation of the course last spring, the Club's council and membership approved the two-year renovation which began in January 2007.

Each phase will take six months, being completed with the regrassing of greens with dwarf Bermuda, and fairways and roughs with Tifway 419. Each will be completed and grown in before the monsoon season.

The renovation works, which will encompass a lengthening of the course to some 7200 yards, some design revisions to improve safety together with greens, tees and bunkers reconstruction throughout, and extensive fairway drainage.

EDUCATIONAL BURSARY

The first winner of a new competition sponsored by The Toro Company, and run by the English Region of the Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE), has been announced.

Amber Rawson, of the Reform Club, London, won the Club Managers Diploma Bursary for 2007. Amber received a Toro educational bursary of £1000, which will fund her first year's fees to attend the CMAE's Management Development Programme to study for the Club Managers' Diploma. The programme, developed with support from Elmwood College, is the first step to becoming a Certified Club Manager. Amber, who is

assistant house manager at the Reform Club, will also have a year's CMAE membership fees paid.

Richard Corbett, assistant to the golf operations manager at Woburn Golf Club, was runner-up and received a year's free membership of CMAE.

To win the award, entrants had to submit the best 400-word essay on why they believed the Club Managers' Diploma is very relevant to clubs. The competition was open to all supervisors and managers of the 500-plus clubs in the CMAE's English Region, which includes golf, country, tennis, city and athletics among others.

25 YEARS SERVICE

Julian Sykes Assistant Greenkeeper at Woodsome Hall GC, Huddersfield, recently completed 25 years exemplary service with the club. Captain Dr Phillip Shaw, presented him with a watch and a bottle of champagne to mark the occasion.



CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE INVESTMENT

The picturesque Duke's St. Andrews has made a major investment in the quality of its championship course having just completed a major construction project of its tees, bunkers and a renovation programme involving sand-banding and coring the fairways.

Souters Sports Ltd was appointed to construct the new tees and bunkers, with the emphasis on keeping the golf course open during the construction and renovation works. This project was quite unique in that all the construction works were completed during the main playing period of this year, making optimal use of the better weather and ground conditions expected at that time of the year.

Temporary tees were in place for holes if necessary but this was kept to a minimum for the time that the work was carried out and now the course benefits from five separate tee positions at every hole.

The bunkers also went through a complete transformation, being reshaped, drained and

sculptured to make them more aesthetically pleasing, consistent and strategic.

Additional bunkers were also added to some of the fairways and around the new greens, and strategically positioned.

The Duke's is regarded as one of the finest Heathland Championship Courses in the British Isles and a 'must play' course for any golfer. Its style ranks alongside the great inland challenges which demand accuracy and inventive play as well as power golf.

