

DEAR READERS...

That's everybody, although this short piece is more specifically for the "maintainers" and "repairers" of turf maintenance equipment.

With thanks to BIGGA, who have kindly offered this magazine as a platform, I would like to inform you of a relatively new association that is free to join with benefits to those involved as Mechanics & Technicians on the equipment we all use daily.

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) is the brainchild of an Equipment Manager in Florida called Stephen Tucker. Although based in the USA the Association is aimed at technicians and maintainers worldwide.

Founded in September 2006, this association is already effecting changes that will benefit mechanics such as us all over the world. Nine countries are currently represented in the membership, which is growing daily.

There is now a website www.igcema.org, (see picture, right) with background information, aims, ideas, an active forum and where you can join if you would like - Membership is free.

Online education is available to all for no cost and in the near future will be in two languages, English and Spanish (possibly others depending on demand).

The educational offerings, which are the underpinning idea in forming the association, will lead to certification with recognised qualifications that are accepted internationally. Having demonstrably improved knowledge will enable Technicians to improve their position with employers by showing greater worth and justifying increased rewards it is hoped.

You may be aware that there is a severe lack of dedicated college courses available in both the UK and America, specifically for Turf Equipment Technicians. In addition there are the stumbling blocks of time and money for Companies to release personnel and justify the cost of hotels, travel and course fees. Online education can help with all of these, students can access courses in "off duty" time, travelling is not required and the cost will certainly be affordable to all.

I urge you to not only join the association but to pass on this information to others you know by any means that you have; personal contact, email, snail mail, Company Representatives within the industry, or just tell them about it by telephone.

Please visit the website and have a look, you have nothing to lose and if you decide to join us, an awful lot to gain.

Patrick Callaby
Board Member

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Rae at Fairways GM Ltd and Ransomes Jacobsen very much for the invite to Anaheim for the GCSAA Golf Industry Show.

I was invited on the trip along with five other Course Managers from

the North East of Scotland - Hugh McLatchie from Peterhead Golf Club, John Littlejohn from Fraserburgh Golf Club, John Morton from Alford Golf Club, James Piece from Newburgh Golf Club and Roddie Mess from The Aspire Golf Centre.

Special thanks must also go to our Fairways representative Wilson Morrison and from Ransomes, Ian Bridges, you looked after us and made sure we were fed and watered at all times and also showed us some of the great American places like hooters (but there lies another story).

Davie Wilson from St Andrews Links also joined us on the trip so a big thank you to him for his company.

It was a long distance to travel but was well worth it in the end, the show was fantastic and the company even better.

Many thanks

Dale Robertson

Course Manager, Newmachar Golf Club



LONDON MARATHON 2007

Dear BIGGA

On Sunday, April 22, we managed to complete the London Marathon (26.2 miles).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. We managed to raise around £4,000 for Asthma UK.

Many thanks

Andy Reason and Steve Richardson

Sunningdale Golf Club