



# News from the Chief Executive

## BIGGA BULLETIN BOARD

There has been much debate of late on the BIGGA Bulletin Board regarding the facility to edit postings, or more correctly the lack of edit facility. I personally am not in favour of giving contributors the chance to go back at a later date and change what they write. This, I hasten to add, is not the reason why this facility is missing. The main reason is unnecessary expense. Unlike some businesses we have to contract out all web programming since we cannot afford the luxury of employing someone with this skill.

Anyway, why would you wish to go back on what you have written? Bad spelling? Poor grammar? Something said in haste and later regretted? A mis-informed statement? The better answer is to be sure of what you write and if you are not sure then don't write it! As regards to grammar and spelling, then the solution is simple. Create your postings in MSWord and then use the grammar and spell check before copying the text and pasting it onto the bulletin board. It is surprising how your spelling will improve over time, some people have a natural ability for words or numbers, others have to work at it. I often find it useful to print out and proof read any lengthy text to make sure that it flows and that everything is kept in context. Using this method also ensures that you do not 'time out' from the website and removes the need for speed when writing. Carefully consider what you are going to write, perhaps make a few notes on paper of things that you wish to include, and above all else do not make 'knee jerk' responses to existing postings. The age old maxim of 'less haste more speed' is always a good one to bear in mind.

Harrogate Week 2007 has been a much better financial success than budgeted for due to a combination of increased revenue and savings on expenditure. The Association's Profit and Loss Account will still return a deficit for the current financial year although this will now not be as bad as anticipated. Next year should see a return to profit, but what of future years? This is one of the major issues facing the Board and one that does not have an easy answer. There was a further meeting with the IOG towards the end of April but there is no doubt that, with or without the IOG, the Association needs to strengthen its membership base and this is something that I intend to address over the coming months. BIGGA will continue to work for the benefit of both its members and the turf management profession, in particular greenkeeping and it will commit all reasonable resources in order to achieve this.

My colleagues and I at HQ are always open to constructive suggestions for improvement.

**John Pemberton**

## Central

Hi all, sorry there wasn't any news in last month's mag, but as you can appreciate getting our courses ready for the start of the season takes up all of our spare time. Welcome to all our new members. An updated list will follow next month.

The Section was well represented at the annual Secretaries' Match held at Glenbervie on April 5. The greenkeepers managed to regain the trophy in a 7-3 victory. Many thanks go to the staff at Glenbervie for having the course looking great, and the clubhouse for a superb meal. Anyone who would like to be considered for the next Secretaries' match next year should get in touch with the committee and will be added to the draw for places.

Congratulations go to Mike Lindsay, from Scoonie, on another addition to his family. A wee boy, Campbell. Well done Mike - the snip awaits!

Congratulations to Euan Grant on his appointment to the new project at Machrihanish. Euan has been an enthusiastic and active supporter of the Section and has helped enormously in developing all the activities we have been arranging for our members. He will continue as Vice Chairman until the AGM, after which he will be sorely missed. Perhaps a Section visit to Machrihanish could be arranged? Congratulations to Gordon Mckie, on his appointment to replace Euan as Head Greenkeeper at the Old Course, and to Davie Wilson on his move to the New Course. Good luck guys.

The Spring Outing at Panmure approaches, with an excellent field entered. It looks like being a great day. A full report will be included next month.

We have been very busy on the educational front, with four separate events.

First up was the Disturbance Theory presentation by Henry Bechelet and Richard Windows, from STRI, held at St Andrews. This was very informative and thought provoking. Next on the agenda was Kevin Cavanaugh, from Floratine, and Kevin Brunton, from Greentech Sportsturf, who discussed the importance of soil analysis for effective turf nutrition management. Adrian Mortram carried out a one day workshop on "Using Water Wisely", and this will definitely be a significant factor in the current climate. Finally, we had an excellent turnout to listen to three esteemed American speakers, who took a pleasant April evening off from their Scottish Golf Tour to provide three excellent presentations which sparked much discussion thereafter. Stanley J. Zontek, Director of USGA Green Section, gave an excellent presentation on the alterations at Oakmont GC to prepare for the US Open, Peter J. Landschoot Ph.D. discussed the advantages/disadvantages of the grass species used in the Northern U.S, and Peter H. Dernoeden Ph.D explained the "yellow" turfgrass diseases common to our climatic conditions, some of which will probably become more frequent as expected climatic changes develop. It was good to see so many new faces. If anyone has any requests for any other training, get in touch and if possible we will arrange it for you.

Please also let us know of any news. For up to the minute updates on Section events, check out the website: [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk), or call Andrew Mellon, Secretary on: 01334 658914  
Derek Scott

## East

Firstly I must apologise for the omission of our report last month. It was submitted but unfortunately doesn't appear to have arrived! We started on a sad note with the news that our Chairman, Graeme Wood, who was in the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh having suffered a major stroke. He was travelling to Stirling for a BIGGA meeting in the company of Stuart Greenwood when he became unwell. The latest news is that Graeme has been moved from the Western to the Stroke Recovery Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital, on Craigleith Road in Edinburgh. Although at present he is only allowed visits