

Welcome



Backbone over Raw Talent

I've just returned from my annual fortnight's holiday – two weeks of melting in Florida's near 100 degree heat and stalking Mickey Mouse, Scooby Doo and Goofy in the theme parks – and am now hopefully refreshed and ready to push the pedal to the metal on life's accelerator once again.

So what has gone on while I was away? Well, there was a Foot and Mouth scare in the UK, a stock market crash worldwide and Tiger Woods won another Major – no doubt the most predictable of all. I'm not one of those people who feels short changed that one man is so dominant. I always support Tiger and, indeed, Roger Federer as we are very privileged to be around at a time when we can enjoy watching the best ply their trade. The one disappointment, in golf, has been that no-one has stepped up to the plate (you can tell I've been in the States) and offered Tiger serious competition. We've had David Duval, Ernie Els, Phil Mickelson all supply hints of a Palmer-Nicklaus; type rivalry but they have fallen short. It's therefore interesting to learn that while Tiger is head and shoulders above the rest he is still the one who spends most time in the gym.

It's the old thing - talent and application. We can all remember people at school who seemed to have it all but now do dead end jobs. It's a great example to everyone who has been in awe of the guy at the top of the class. If you work hard there is a fair chance you'll get further. It's strange to say it but a bit of backbone and a dose of application is a far greater gift than natural talent.

If you want a prime example of someone in golf with talent but no application you should look no further than John Daly. He spent the week of the US PGA not practising at Southern Hills, but at a Casino nearby playing the slots and when he did decide to practice he was given access to the Casino's own course for the day. His talent saw him to a great opening round but his lack of application meant he fell away. You've as much chance seeing Big John in a gym as you have of catching him eating a salad. It's when you get the rare combination of talent and application that you get real champions like Tiger and Roger and they deserve all the plaudits that come their way.

Another thing that happened while on holiday was that I had my 45th birthday.

When I was 35 it dawned on me that 15 years before I'd been 20 and that 15 years from then I'd be 50. It was a sobering thought but now here I am a mere five years away from being eligible to go on SAGA holidays!

But as I've said many times getting old is better than the alternative.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

THE BIGGA/GCMA SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System has been available to members of BIGGA and to members of the GCMA since the beginning of July. Since then, more than 100 golf clubs have signed up to use the system and the website has seen more than 500 hits.

Taking Health and Safety seriously is important for a number of reasons and it can help you to manage your golf clubs and manage your staff better. Moreover, as Environmental Health Inspectors target more and more golf clubs, good health and safety practice can save you money. A recent court case found a golf club guilty of not performing adequate risk assessments and of not giving adequate training and assessment to staff that had led to a member of staff being injured. They were fined £38,500 for what the judge called a serious breach of health and safety law.

Can you afford to ignore health and safety law?

Members of BIGGA should go to the Association website: www.bigga.org.uk and go to the member's area where they can use their name and membership number to log in as a member. Click on SMS Website then Click on Click here to visit the site. Enter the site and you will be taken to the BIGGA/GCMA Recommended Safety Management System page. Click on the docs/links tab and click on the SMS User Instruction button. The User Instructions will be downloaded into your computer's Word Processor and you can print the Instructions for later reference. You can now use the SMS to generate a policy document and to produce an organisation document for your club before attempting to use the Risk Profiles and Risk Assessments. You need to register your club's name and an e-mail address to gain access to them. Once you have completed your Risk Assessments and amended your Risk Profiles, you can produce your health and safety plan. This can be followed by the production of your Audit policy and a policy for reviewing your SMS.

The SMS site has been produced to make it as easy as possible for you to implement your SMS but if you need assistance and/or you do not have a competent person, contact Xact Consulting on: 0845 665 3006.

HEADQUARTERS EXPANSION

Rolawn have announced a major expansion of their headquarters near York.

Rolawn have continued to enjoy strong annual growth in turnover and to support their expansion plans in the UK market Rolawn have recently announced they are extending the size of their current headquarters by over 60% with work starting shortly.

Paul Dawson, Rolawn's Managing Director commented, "Our expanded headquarters marks an important stage in our development; it is a further illustration of our commitment to increasing our market share of both the UK turf and topsoil markets. With our existing range of products and with more on the way we are confident about continued growth."