

SIX MONTHS TO GO! MAYBE SOME TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR?

As I pen this article we are in mid June and have had an early glimpse of summer, before it has been snatched back from us. At least it is not as wet as last June but we have had some harrowing days. I don't think we should be surprised to see much more rain again as it is now the Tennis Season and Wimbledon coming up. We seem to be in for the usual interruption to what is always a great event.

I look forward to our own big event in the golfing calendar – our Major, The Open. I don't know Chris Whittle and his team but wish them the very best for the event. I look forward to meeting them, and hope we have some dry, warm weather in the lead up to Royal Birkdale so that we can have a true links style test of golf. There is a lot of work at BIGGA HOUSE preparing for our Association to support Chris and his Royal Birkdale team and the R&A through the event. We take around 60 people for the week and if you are not on the team this year and are planning a visit, come into to our spot in the tented village and meet up with your fellow professionals. You'll find our exact location on the maps on site.

On that note, I would also like to wish David Cole and his team at Loch Lomond all the best for the Barclay's Scottish Open.

Keeping with that theme for the moment, I am myself looking for volunteers for this year's Quinn Insurance British Masters at The Belfry, 21-28 September.

Applicants should be qualified greenkeepers. Accommodation and food during your shift will be provided, and polo shirts given at the end of the tournament. Applicants must provide their own transport, boots and wet weather clothing. Applicants should possess a good knowledge of machinery and be willing to work long hours.

If anybody is interested please contact:
kelly.dunkley@thebelfry.com or tel:
01675 470301.

The BIGGA Golf Day at Aldwark Manor was held at the end of June, in memory of Neil Thomas and I am sure some other prominent Greenkeepers who have been in our thoughts over last couple of



years - Board Members, Ray Day and Bert Cross. I picked a charity from Leeds for the money to go to that helps young children with heart problems. The reason behind this is that I have a niece who has a serious heart condition and has had great support throughout her life, helping her survive. It was great to see many colleagues and people from the trade at the Golf Day, all for a good cause.

We have a Board of Management meeting at BIGGA HQ on July 1 and there are many subjects up for discussion. We also have a new sub-committee structure and I fully expect the new format to work well. It makes more use of board members' time while at Aldwark Manor. And we are all working hard on behalf of Association. It is interesting to see the new staff structure that John Pemberton has put in place at HQ. It was also interesting to see the developments that are being made in membership to see if we can start to encourage some of the bigger clubs into a group membership package.

It is also great to see the new refurbishment that has now being completed at BIGGA HOUSE, which will allow the staff to be more efficient in a more comfortable environment.

Finally, as a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, I would like to wish Mark Woodward, the Chief Executive Officer of GCSAA, a successful future in his new role. I hope he can take it forward from where Steve Mona, who did a fantastic job, finished. I know Mark is coming straight into the job from being Superintendent at another Major championship - the US Open at Torrey Pines - I am sure his staff will give him a great send off. What a fantastic way to finish his golf course management career.

Kenny Mackay
Chairman



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