

# Chairman's Column

## WHATEVER THE WEATHER

As I write we are only in the middle of August and we are getting into holiday season in terms of school holiday cover - the guys among you who are also parents will know what a hassle that can be.

At The Belfry we need to make the most of our quiet times, and August is generally a quieter month in terms of corporate golf, we also want the guys to have some rest-bite before tournament preparations for the Quinn Insurance British Masters in September.

We will be stepping up the hours from after the Bank Holiday in August until the end of the event.

I would like to thank the guys who applied to work at this year's event, we have now notified all the successful applicants and we have final numbers now going into the event.

It has been a strange year but I have been seeing all the bent grass population doing better than in previous years. The golf course is in good shape in terms of preparations, and mainly the bunker renovations are the biggest jobs, checking for sand levels is something that needs attention.

The main concern for the late September event is daylight hours and rainfall. Any delay due to weather means we could struggle to get the event through four days.

Weather wise, this month has been a complete wash-out for the first 15 days of August, we are now starting to see loss of revenue in terms of buggy and trolley use, it feels more like winter golf with rakes and roping off out there.

This is when you wish you were working on a links course or in warmer climates. As you all know in these commercial venues, these lines of revenue are crucial to the business and the decisions we have to make are not only greenkeeping agronomy based but also we have to take account of the business interests in terms of cash flow which pays the wages in a resort.

I would like to recognise Paul Woodham, Course Manager at Gay Hill GC, for the training workshops that he puts so much in to for irrigation and Health & Safety. Once again Paul has hosted a course and it has been really well received with people travelling from far afield which proves there is a big need out there for training. So thanks for that.

We have the IOG Saltex show at Windsor on September 2, 3 and 4. We hope to see many visitors this year on the BIGGA stand and a recruitment drive for new members.

I will be attending the Toro Student of the Year final at Aldwark Manor on Monday, September 15. I am very much looking forward to meeting future stars within our industry. It will be a great day.



I am sure we are all looking forward to the Ryder Cup, as it is not far away as all the Majors have now passed. We are now approaching the final qualifier at Gleneagles and I am sure Nick Faldo will have some thinking to do about his wild cards as it is getting very tight within the qualifying group. I would like to wish Scott Fenwick and his team at Gleneagles all the best for that tournament.

I am looking forward to seeing all our volunteers and anyone within the industry at the Quinn Insurance British Masters here at The Belfry. More about this in next month's column.

**Kenny Mackay**  
Chairman



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