

## Threat to Edinburgh's Public Courses

The Scottish edition of the Daily Mail has reported that Edinburgh City Council is considering turning their underused municipal golf courses into allotments to meet the demands of the city's gardeners.

The Mail reported that "Thousands of gardeners are waiting for allotments while the city's six municipal courses lie empty for much of the time."

The paper went on to say that a recent council audit had suggested that there were too many public courses which take up a quarter of the capital's green space but that the potential move is sure to raise eyebrows among traditionalists as Scottish golf faces one of its biggest crises in more than a



century.

"Golf is the biggest participation sport north of the Border after football, with as much as 12.7% of Scotland's adult population playing the game at least once a month.

The article closes with a quote from SGU Chief Executive Hamish Grey who warned that "public courses are vital in encouraging youngsters to take up the sport."



## Sales Team Back up to Strength

Jill Rodham, who joins the Association as a Sales Executive, is BIGGA's newest recruit.

A direct replacement for Sharon Price, who left the Association at the end of July, Jill brings with her extensive sales experience, having worked as an Account Director for a Telecoms Company and, more recently, in recruitment, where she was based in her home town of Harrogate, as well as Leeds.

Recently married, Jill, and her new husband, Simon, honeymooned in Chicago and the pair enjoy hill walking, particularly in the Lake District and skiing on the slopes of Val d'Isere one of their favourite destinations. She is also an enthusiastic tenpin bowler and socialiser.

"From what I've been told this is a lovely industry to work in and I'm looking forward to learning about the industry and getting to know the people who work in it," said Jill.

## BB&O Visit DLF



Home counties and southern greenkeepers heard how turf care innovations to be unveiled next year could transform the method and cost-effectiveness of sowing and overseeding.

Members of BIGGA's B,B&O Section were the guests of DLF Johnsons Seeds at its turf-growing demonstration centre in Inkberrow, Worcestershire, for a training day in early October

Included in the schedule was a conducted tour of DLF's turf development plots showing examples of the seed producer's leading cultivars, including bents, fescues and ryegrass, as well as a tour of the production plant where seed is mixed and bagged ready for delivery.

Amenity Sales Manager, Derek Smith, assisted by Martin Townsend, Turf and Amenity Manager of distributor, Countrywide Farmers, presided over the day, revealing some of DLF's plans for 2010, which he said would

be a watershed year for the seed producer, after several years of trialling turf grass seed treatments at sites across Britain.

"The day was a most valuable one for BIGGA members," said Simon Marsh, Course Manager of Harleyford Golf Club, in Marlow, who helped organise the event.

"It offered an opportunity for greenkeepers of all ages to converse on issues that affect them throughout the year. I'm excited about the new generation that are coming through now and the impact that they will certainly have on the industry."

Derek Smith added: "We were heartened to attract nearly 20 BIGGA members, some of whom travelled long distances to attend the day. Greenkeepers rarely have a chance to see our demonstration areas close up. They certainly proved an eye-opener for some, who went away with firm ideas about how to tackle their day-to-day turf issues."

## Scottish Package

The Scottish Region is pleased to offer the following package for the Holiday Inn, Harrogate. The accommodation is from Monday 18 January.

Three nights Bed & Breakfast in en-suite rooms on 18, 19 and 20 January, 2010.

To obtain a booking form for the accommodation contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J Boyd on; 0141 616 3440/07776242120 or email; [pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)