

The Tuckwell Golf Team Championship was held at Bentley Golf Club; Tuesday, July 20 a warm day greeted the 26 three man teams that took part, with a greenkeeper and two club officials making up the team. First place went to Romford Golf Club with 57 points for the Texas Scramble format. With a tenth of the combined.

Ian Wood's 25 handicap with his team mates 3 & 4 giving a combined 32 and with just three shots to play with the end result was a great score.

I understand they had three eagles in their round. James Tuckwell thanked Bentley Golf Club and Mark Stopps and his team for a fine day and the compliments about the courses' condition flowed.

We were very sorry that Neil could not be with us on such a great day, he was greatly missed. Robbie assisted James in the running of the day and we all enjoyed the fine hospitality that we were given. Our thanks once more to, P. Tuckwell Ltd and Bentley Golf Club.

I spent five very happy days up at the Open Golf Championship's in St Andrews with the

BIGGA Open Support team. I thoroughly enjoying the experience, meeting up with old friends and learning one or two things to boot, the camaraderie and friendship is something I will never forget, thank you to all those that made it such a worthwhile trip. What a course! If you ever get the opportunity to play or walk the course, grab it with both hands, it really is the true test of golf.

The knockout competition is down to the semi-finals stage and we will have a new winning team this year, with the overall winner's prize a trip to the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse.

Next month I will have the results of our golf day at Boyce Hill Golf Club for you, plus some other information from the Section.

If you have any news for insertion in this section of the GI magazine or on our website www.essexbigga.co.uk then please contact me at essexbigga@talktalk.net or on 07764-862.337.

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

September already and it is noticeable how the nights are beginning to pull in with the start of Autumn just around the corner. A depressing thought and with this year's New Year resolutions now a distant memory there is not enough time left in 2010 to make up for lost time. I wonder how many of you have managed to fulfil your own ambitions in these very testing times.

As you will read in the Chairman's Column, BIGGA attended a meeting at the NEC to discuss the future of trade shows in response to pressure from a number of companies. There is no doubt that exhibitions in general are not as strong as they used to be and both the IOG and ourselves need to look at how we can evolve and adapt to suit a changing market place. A further meeting has been scheduled and we will keep members updated on a regular basis.

The Continue to Learn brochure, that outlines the education programme at Harrogate Week, next January, will be released at the start of next month and I hope that as many of you as possible, take advantage of the opportunities on offer. It is equally important that clubs recognise the value of Continuing Professional Development and encourage their staff to participate in Harrogate Week, in the quest to improve the standard of both their own performance, as well as that of their team. I am hoping that by working more closely with some of the other major bodies in golf that this message can be delivered to golf club owners and committees with greater conviction, better success and that participation in the event will be understood to be a must.

Times are difficult and I don't think we are anywhere near being through the worst of the economic struggle. However, I never fail to be amazed at the actions of some clubs. The golf course must unquestionably be the club's most valuable asset and yet we so often see greenkeeping staff being the first resource that is targeted in a budget cut. More worryingly, the victims of cuts are sometimes the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, mainly because they tend to be the higher paid members of staff, and yet it is they who have the greatest skills, the very skills needed to give the club that competitive edge.

Perhaps it is time that BIGGA, the GCMA, the Home Unions and the PGA got together to create some form of business advisory service to ailing clubs. Now there's a thought!

BIGGA will be exhibiting at SALTEX and a warm welcome awaits you on our stand. We will also be pleased to welcome non-members and talk to them about the work that we do and the benefits of being a member.

BIGGA is working closer and closer with the IOG and so please support their event if you can. It is however paramount that Harrogate Week 2011 is a success - the success of the Association and the success of your future membership depends upon it. Many companies are still sat on the fence and have not committed to exhibiting because they do not feel that the membership is supportive enough of their Association's key event.

Tell them they are wrong. Prove to them that they are wrong!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

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