

Course Manager at St Mellion and has worked extremely hard to further his career over the years. Mike is the first to achieve the MG status in our Section and has even been on local BBC News being interviewed on the course. So good PR for the industry! Well done Bushy, and congratulations from the whole Section.

News from Duchy College. Kingston Maurward College (Dorset) and Duchy College have made a strategic decision to work together. This is good news for greenkeepers in the region. Kingston Maurward College will work under the GTC Quality Approved Centre status of Duchy College. Together the colleges will offer progression in greenkeeper training from Level 2 to Level 4. The greenkeeping team at Kingston Maurward will be headed by Alan Jacobsen, a greenkeeper who has recently moved to the Dorset College from Oatridge College.

NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture Management (Sports Turf). Congratulations to Mike Bush, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club; Mark Campbell, Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club; Victor Dyer, Thurlestone Golf Club, Graeme Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club, and John Scott, St Mellion Hotel, Golf and Country Club, for being the first candidates to achieve the NVQ 4 Sports Turf through Duchy College from Devon and Cornwall.

Their success in establishing the NVQ 4 Sports Turf allows other greenkeepers from the area to further progress their careers.

Their success also marks the amazing achievement of approaching 200 greenkeepers from Devon and Cornwall who have completed NVQ/Work Based Diplomas since March 2004. Duchy College achieved its GTC Approved Training Provider status in May 2006. Well done to each of these and to their Club, employers and to the Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers who have contributed to their training and assessment?

Ongoing trade support. Again the trade has been generous this year in its support to the college through the provision of posters, seed samples, catalogues, publications, etc. I am a little embarrassed not to have formally thanked the individual

companies before as many have supported the college for a number of years to the great benefit of the students. I am also a little cautious at listing these for fear of missing someone out but here goes. John Palfrey who has worked hard for a number of years to collate materials from Scotts, Barenburg, Rigby Taylor, Bayer. Thanks also to Barenburg and Johnsons (Phil Seedhouse and Dave Chamings) for the seed samples.

Ron Skinner, George Pitts  
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Bigga Devon & Cornwall  
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## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Stephen Barber, East Section  
Richard Bull, West Section  
Jack Fairbairn, North Section  
David Hay, Central Section  
Mark Hills, Central Section  
Dennis Grant, North Section  
Paul McAulay, West Section  
John McMurchie, East Section

### Northern Region

Neil Barrett, Northern Section  
Daniel Clarke, North West Section  
Aidan Coates, Cleveland Section  
Victor Cox, North East Section  
Ben Goodchild, North West Section  
Robert Hepworth, Northern Section  
James Lee, Sheffield Section  
Andrew Noon, North Wales Section  
Neil White, North West Section  
Benjamin Williams, North Wales Section

### Midland Region

Daniel Anstiss, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Adam Burley, Midland Section  
James Fox, Midland Section  
Geoff Gibbons, East Midland Section  
Anton Holliday, Midland Section  
Darren Howes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
David Ingleton, East of England Section  
Sarah Lashbrooke, East Midland Section  
Jason Molesworth, Midland Section  
Craig Tatton, East Midland Section  
John Whitehouse, BB&O  
Craig Wyatt, Midland Section

### South East Region

Sam Bethell, Surrey Section  
Joe Clarke, Surrey Section  
Jack Cleaver, Surrey Section  
Brian Eggleton, London Section  
Charles Lance, Sussex Section  
Wesley Lenihan, Sussex Section  
George Morley, Sussex Section  
Kane Stone, London Section

### South West/South Wales Region

Matthew Clark, South Coast Section  
Richard Hatcher, South Wales Section  
Iain Moore, South West Section  
Edward Read, South West Section  
Neil Scott, South West Section  
Amy Thomas, South Coast Section

### Overseas

Daniel Green, Thailand  
Zhiheng Wang, China

**For more listings, log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website**



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive

**I must begin by thanking all of the BIGGA members, supporters and friends for all the kind wishes that I have received in my first few weeks in the Chief Executive's office. Many of you have offered support, assistance and advice for which I am very grateful, but be warned, I will be taking you up on your offers!**

In my first few weeks I have had the chance to meet many members, representatives of the trade and other golfing bodies and the message has been consistent and clear: There is a great deal of warmth and respect for the Association and its members and there is strong support for our ambition to continue to improve the quality of course presentation and condition which by extension will improve the quality of overall golfing experience that is enjoyed by the nation's nearly four million regular players. Our challenge is to harness that support so that all of us are working together in a focused way.

## I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right

I believed I was joining a fantastic industry and the events of the last couple of months have proved me right, I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity. Witnessing the dedication and professionalism of the BIGGA Support Team at the recent Open Championship gave me an insight in to how much we have to be proud of as an Association. The ground work was admirably carried out by Royal St George's Head Greenkeeper Graham Royden and his team who provided a course in magnificent condition. The commitment of the 56-strong team of highly qualified volunteers to provide greenkeeping support in testing weather did BIGGA proud.

At the conclusion of the Championship the Chairman and I took the opportunity to thank and congratulate the Support Team. We also gave our commitment that we intend to work tirelessly to raise the awareness and the profile of the excellent job that BIGGA members do up and down the land, day in and day out. This is a big task and to achieve it we need to engage stakeholders at all levels of the game but it also requires the support of all our members. We know what a great job you do for your respective employers, members and visitors and we need you to help us get that message across by continuing to strive for excellence, to represent the profession with pride and to take every opportunity to promote the good work of the industry.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks and months to come.

**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**