



## New Partnership

BIGGA and The Golf Environment Organization (GEO) have established a partnership that will see the two bodies collaborate in promoting sustainability in golf facility management.

The partnership seeks to make sustainability easier for greenkeepers and Course Managers to understand, and provide support for their ongoing, continual improvement efforts. Through the promotion of GEO Certified, the aim is also to enable golf facilities to attain credible and lasting recognition for ongoing environmental action and corporate responsibility.

GEO will be presented as BIGGA's Sustainability Partner, and BIGGA will become a Golf Partner of GEO.

Speaking on behalf of BIGGA, outgoing Chairman, Paul Worster, said: "We want to support our members further in playing an active leadership role, productively with their management team colleagues, to make the most

informed sustainability based decisions in the workplace.

"The BIGGA Board feels that GEO is extremely well placed to support our organisation and our members - strategically and practically.

"In recent years we have seen GEO dedicate itself to bringing forward the kinds of solutions based guidance and programmes that will help every one of our members in the field. There's a straightforward logic to what GEO presents, and they understand the needs and priorities of Course Managers extremely well."

Incoming Chairman, Andrew Mellon, added: "There are a number of reasons why BIGGA has decided to work with GEO. First of all, we recognise the importance of what they stand for and what they are trying to achieve as an organisation in support of greenkeepers. We see real value in widespread participation by BIGGA members in GEO Certified. In addition the partnership enables us all to

draw on the educational, advisory and verification support of their emerging GEOSA Network of 'golf ready' sustainability professionals. Collaboration with like minded bodies brings more strength to golf's efforts as we all move forward in an increasingly sustainability minded world," he said.

"We know that many other companies and organisations are also critical to this effort, both current partners of BIGGA and GEO, and also potential partners. For that reason we have drafted an action plan which will enable all those who are interested to get involved and gain visibility in a cohesive approach to this important subject," added Andrew.

Jonathan Smith, CEO of GEO, added: "We are delighted to make this announcement after many months of discussion. BIGGA is one of the world's largest and most respected greenkeeper associations, so its interest in, and endorsement of our work is incredibly valuable.



## NEW ROLE FOR PAUL

Symbio has appointed Paul Lowe as Regional Manager for the North West of England. Paul brings 22 years of greenkeeping experience with him, having spent the majority of his career as Course Manager at Rhuddlan Golf Course and the past four years as Course Manager at Bromborough Golf Club.

Paul, a member of the Gingerbread Men group, committed to environmentally sustainable management, said: "I am delighted to join the Symbio team. Moving from greenkeeping to Symbio has been a natural progression as we share the same passion for creating sustainable courses and landscapes built on healthy living soils."

Martin Ward, Symbio Managing Director, said: "As the industry increasingly adopts a sustainable approach to course management, it is great to have Paul on board with his exceptional knowledge and wealth of experience in managing sustainable golf courses."