



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Welcome to 2011

I hope you have had a great Christmas and New Year and are raring to go for 2011. To those who are going to kick start their year with a trip to Harrogate Week I look forward to meeting you there.

I often think that one of the great things about rolling into a new year is taking the opportunity to focus on the future and look ahead. You may be the type of person who sets yourself some targets both personally and professionally, if you are, a new year can be a good place to start.

So what does 2011 have in store?

There is no doubt that 2011 will be a challenging year for the Association, change will happen, that is for definite with the announcement of BIGGA's Chief Executive, John Pemberton, leaving. But while change is something that presses us out of our comfort zone and can be for the better or the worst, depending on where you view it, change is sometimes needed when all the props and practices of the past need revising. I believe that flexibility will be the key; even a roller coaster ride can be fun if you know when to lean and create new balance within the change.

Remember: Change is like driving in a fog – you can't see very far, but you can make the whole trip that way.

Make 2011 a year in which you make the effort to support your local Section whenever you can. Each of the 26 Sections throughout the UK have a team of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to create events and golf days where members can get together, make new friends, exchange anecdotes, gain advice and exchange information among a group of like-minded individuals. Please support their hard work and your Section.

Membership Renewals

Traditionally, BIGGA used to operate a membership year that ran from January to December, but to allow more flexibility BIGGA

now operate a rolling year. This means that a new member will gain 12 months membership from the month of joining BIGGA.

However, if any member has an expiry date, for example, December 31 or January 31, which doesn't fit in with their personal circumstances and wish to change to a different month please contact the Membership Department directly so that we can discuss your options with you.

We are also finding that some teams of greenkeepers, at the same golf club, have differing expiry dates; if your golf club wishes to pay for membership of BIGGA for all the greenkeepers at the same time, again, please contact the Membership Department so that we can discuss your options. We can be flexible to your financial requirements, but you need to contact us.

Social Networking

Many of BIGGA's Sections now have a Facebook page or group, below is a list of those that are now up and running, if you are a member of Facebook go and 'join' or 'like' a Section group or page and keep up to date with what's going on locally not to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.

facebook

- British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA)
- BB&O Golf Section
- East of England BIGGA
- Bigga Devon & Cornwall Section
- British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association South West Section
- Essex Greenkeepers
- North Wales B.I.G.G.A

If you have trouble finding the groups above log into the members area of the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) and click on the news section, this article holds links to all the above, but remember you already need to be registered as a Facebook user.



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For more info on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891
Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

John Duncan, Central Section
Jack Morrison, Ayrshire Section
Nigel Scott-Smith, Central Section

Northern Region

Terry Heppenstall, Cleveland Section
Paul Wrigley, North West Section

Midland Region

Michelle Hall, Mid Anglia Section
Sam Hamer, Midland Section
Justin Lee, Midland Section
Graham Leeke, Midland Section
Wendy Moggridge, BB&O Section
Luke Sheldon, Midland Section

South East Region

David Bedford, East Anglia Section
Simon Campbell, Surrey Section
Wayne Dudley, Surrey Section
Craig Easton, Surrey Section
Kevin Finch, Kent Section
Laurence Gibson, Essex Section
Mark Heveran, East Anglia Section
Greg Kendrick, Surrey Section

South West/South Wales Region

Majed Albarkoumi, South Coast Section
William Barnes, South Coast Section
Sam Cornish, Devon & Cornwall Section
Mariusz Drag, South West Section
Ceri Fearnley, South West Section
Richard Garrard, Devon & Cornwall Section
Paul Gerdes, Devon & Cornwall Section
Harry Keenaghan, South West Section
Nicholas Lewis, South West Section
Cameron McMorris, Devon & Cornwall Section
Alvin Michael, South Wales Section

Northern Ireland

Trevor Camley
Christopher Young

International

Stein Erik Ebbesvik, Norway
Martin Sorensen, USA



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