



BMW Support Team at Wentworth

Once again a full contingent of BIGGA members, some having travelled from all parts of the country, were on hand to offer support on all four days for the European Tour's flagship event the BMW PGA Championships held at Wentworth.

The weather was kind again this year although rather cooler with a brisk wind blowing on all four days.

Play was delayed for 45 minutes on Thursday because of the close proximity of thunder and lightning, that fortunately did not amount to much, but did cause the inconvenience for the final players out on the course who had to complete their rounds early the following morning.

This year's event again attracted record crowds on all four days who enjoyed some excellent golf on the West Course with a few modifications having been carried out over

the past year including the much publicised changes to the 18th green.

Chris Kennedy and his team, as always, produced a superb golf course, magnificently prepared and appreciated by all, with absolutely no help from the weather and the distinct lack of rainfall experienced by all greenkeepers in the south east following the long cold winter.

Visitors to the BIGGA tent included Past Chairmen Paul Worster and Kenny MacKay.

The popular winner of this year's event was Luke Donald who won the first hole of a play-off beating Lee Westwood whose third shot to the 18th found water, enabling Donald to replace him as number one spot in the world rankings.

Words: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator.

Photograph: Arnold Phipps-Jones



Appointment

Headland's new Regional Technical Manager, Andy Ward has a wealth of hands-on experience with a background encompassing both Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

Starting his career, 17 years ago as a trainee Greenkeeper at Overstone Park Golf Club he moved to become Assistant Groundsman at Northamptonshire County Cricket Ground before rising to Head Groundsman at Slough Sports Club. Latterly in sales, Andy will be responsible for serving existing customers and promoting new business in Kent, Sussex and South East London.

"Headland is a company that is well perceived and has a fantastic knowledge base that is passed on to customers," he said.



New BLEC Sandfiller

BLEC's new GKB Sandfiller in action at Crow Wood Golf Club, Muirhead, Scotland, watched by groundmen and greenkeepers

A new tractor-mounted scarifier and sandslitter which removes and collects spoil and fills grooves with sand in one pass has been on a demonstration tour with BLEC Managing Director Gary Mumby.

The Sandfiller, manufactured by GKB Machines, has been specifically designed for aerating and draining sports turf. "This is an ideal

machine for sports areas that previously had to be treated twice by using at least two machines," said Gary.

"One would cut the grooves and another would apply the sand. Now this operation can be carried out by the Sandfiller in one pass on the back of a tractor."

Gary launched BLEC (now BLEC GLOBAL) in 1986 with wife, Sue, and was previously a landscaper who realised he could design and manufacture specialist machines for the grounds care industry.