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sami@bigga.co.uk

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Tracey Maddison

traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York,
YO61 1UF

info@bigga.co.uk

www.bigga.org.uk

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

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Editorial

Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum

Tel – 01347 833800 Fax – 01347 833801

scott@bigga.co.uk



Design

**Design and
Production Editor**
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800

Fax – 01347 833801

tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising

Sales Executive
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800

Fax – 01347 833802

jill@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor
Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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Here comes the sun

With Summer Time now officially upon us we can look forward to longer days and lighter evenings, but if you are in large portions of this country you may well be enduring the headache of water restrictions.

I can only imagine the sleepless nights induced by the helplessness you must feel from not being able to bring some relief to stressed out greens.

While we are supposed to live in a country of moderate climate the occasions when weather seems to be playing a part are increasing, although the anti Climate Change lobby will say that a few years of hotter temperatures and higher or lower rainfall is nowhere near enough to indicate a true change.

I must say it has been strange, living in an area where we have had a decent amount of rain, listening to the weather men and women beginning their forecasts by saying: "Those of you looking for rain are going to be disappointed."

The last major drought caused havoc within the industry with many courses suffering as a result and supplies of water being sought from any available source.

There were even cases of tankers being sent to Scotland to bring supplies of H₂O back down to the home counties to offer relief to some golf courses

This month Dr Kate Entwistle provides information on two new diseases which have emerged in recent times not previously found in this country.

The changes in climatic conditions may well have played a part in their less than welcome arrival within these shores. There are, after all, enough diseases around already to keep you on your toes.

It is clear that water is going to become an ever more valuable resource in the UK and

looking at ways of reducing your need for irrigation will become vital.

Whether that be with the adoption of more drought resistant cultivars or more sophisticated and accurate ways in which to administer irrigation no stone can afford to be left unturned.

To assist in this process this month we also carry an article on Water Management, which looks at variable speed pumps and what you can do to ensure efficiency in your use of an irrigation system.

The spotlight will undoubtedly fall on golf and any use of irrigation – irrespective of whether it is water from your own harvesting efforts or a licensed borehole – will draw adverse comment from some quarters.

In effect it is no different from a householder using water he has gathered from his own water butt, but it is all about perceptions isn't it?

I would like to add to the many tributes that have already been paid to Scottish Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, who retires at the end of this month.

He has become a friend to many, as well as a colleague, and has been the main point of contact with BIGGA for hundreds of Scottish based members.

Peter. Enjoy your retirement and keep that superb handicap of yours down as long as you can.

Scott MacCallum
Editor