

Change at the top for BIGGA

New BIGGA chairman Tony Smith officially took the reins from outgoing Andrew Mellon on the first afternoon of the Open Championships.

Andrew Mellon, who is departing to become general manager of Hydroturf in Qatar, handed the badge to current vice-chairman Tony Smith, of Teeside Golf club, who has been a member of the Board of Management since 2007.

Tony thanked the now ex-chairman for his terrific efforts during his tenure, adding: "I hope to keep the flag flying for the Association."

Andrew said: "The members are the strength of the Association. The work you do can't be underestimated – without you there wouldn't be any golf courses.

"We've got a fantastic, diverse and passionate team and wish you all the best for the future."

The Board have formally elected Chippenham Golf Club's Chris Sealey, who has been the Board Member representative of the South West and South Wales Region for four years, to be Vice Chairman in support of Tony Smith. Chris (right) is delighted to accept and has the full support of his Golf Club who are thrilled with his appointment.



A Technical Move for BIGGA L&D



As the focus of BIGGA continues to be on developing the Learning and Development pathway for members it has moved to strengthen the L&D Department.

Stuart Green, formerly of Askham Bryan College, has joined as L&D Executive.

He joins long serving L&D Manager, Sami Collins and L&D Executive, Rachael Duffy.

Stuart brings a wealth of technical greenkeeping knowledge alongside his

valuable experience within the greenkeeper education system having had more than eight years service as a greenkeeper including time at Gleneagles and Bushey Hall Golf Club."

"I'm really looking forward to working for BIGGA," says Stuart.

"Education is fundamental to the professional standing of greenkeepers and BIGGA is at the forefront of delivering and supporting its members.

"This is where I want to be."