

## WELCOME FROM BIGGA

### BIGGA



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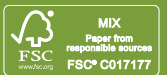
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Delegates enjoy the South West Assistants Development Programme

## Looking forward to 2013

**As the rain pounds down outside and much of the UK experiences yet more flooding I think it is safe to say this has been one of, if not the toughest years in living memory for greenkeeping.**

Many of my conversations with members recently have centred on the importance of communicating clearly with employers, members and visitors to ensure they understand the true extent of the challenging conditions and the impact they have had (and are continuing to have) on course maintenance.

With the weather being so discouraging to golfers it is likely that revenues are down bringing further pressure on the greenkeeping team to get courses open and playable.

Never has it been more important for Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to be able to effectively put across facts and figures in a way that is not seen as making excuses, and also to work with their employers to find ways of ensuring there is some revenue generation possible.

**It is challenges just like this that has led BIGGA to endorse the Future Turf Managers Initiative that is being funded by Jacobsen (more details on page nine).**

This initiative recognises that there is so much more to being a Turf Manager of any kind than agronomic knowledge.

The Initiative is looking to identify those with the desire and fundamental skills to make a career in the field of Turf Management and supplement those skills with high quality management training and mentoring by senior Course Managers who have themselves made the journey from apprentice greenkeeper.

The Initiative compliments our own Assistant Greenkeeper Development Programme, which has begun so successfully these last few weeks.

We genuinely believe, as do Jacobsen, that investing now in the future success of our membership is good for the golf industry and for the Association.

**Many of you will have followed, as I did, the recent debates on the BIGGA Bulletin Boards about Soil Microbiology and Compost Tea programmes.**

The threads generated over 7,000 views and at times opinions were heated.

The crux of the debate was the search for solid, scientific proof that the biological approach does benefit the turf so that a Course Manager has suitable grounds for asking their employer to invest in such a programme.

In this month's edition we feature a Course Manager in the SW (page 28) who has put his faith in the approach and like many is delighted with the results.

Next month and beyond we intend to continue the theme, we will feature scientific research and follow up information from the proponents of Compost Teas and the nay-sayers where available.

**I would like to congratulate Alan Kite (page 16) on his extraordinary feat of 50 years' service at the same golf club and wish him a relaxing and enjoyable retirement.**

May I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Harrogate for BTME 2013.



**Jim Croxton  
Chief Executive**