



IMAGE: Left to right Stuart Greenwood, Stuart Taylor, Andy O'Hara, Jim Paton

ANDY O'HARA TAKES THE REINS IN SCOTLAND

During the recent Scottish Board meeting held at Terraces Hotel, Stirling, Andy O'Hara from Leven Links took over chairmanship from Stuart Taylor. At the same time, Jim Paton was selected as Vice Chairman.

Stuart Taylor said: "I was delighted to hand over the Chairmanship to Andy O'Hara but would like to thank all those in the Scottish section for their help and assistance

over the last two years as I have considered it an honour to serve the region and the association over that period.

Can I also express thanks to Peter Boyd and John Young for their help during this time along with all the staff at head office for their support.

I look forward to the association advancing in stature and professionalism over the coming years as responsibility seems to be in

good safe hands."

Andy added: "I am honoured to be given the opportunity to represent the Scottish region as chairman.

"I follow a long list of my respected peers and feel privileged to be in the company of such greenkeepers.

"I shall enjoy carrying out the various duties involved and strive to further the associations aims as outlined in our mission statement."

GRAHAM WOOD

It is with deep regret that we have been informed of the death of Graham Wood, BIGGA life member and former Head Greenkeeper at Dunbar Golf Club, at the age of 61. Stuart Greenwood from North Berwick Golf Club has paid tribute to his great friend.

He said: "Graham was Head Greenkeeper at Dunbar Golf Club for over 30 years before he suffered a major stroke in February 2007.

He was a BIGGA stalwart, who had served at Section and Regional level for many years, and at the time of his stroke was East Section Chairman.

He enjoyed nothing better than attending BIGGA golf days and functions, and mixing with his wide circle of friends and colleagues, and enjoying a pint of fine beer afterwards.

"Graham was well respected in all greenkeeping circles and always had the time and energy to pass on his skills and knowledge to future greenkeepers.

He was someone who loved the game of golf and played the game at a very high standard.

His other passion in life was supporting Heart of Midlothian Football Club.

"Our thoughts are with his wife Helen, daughter Lisa, son Paul and all his grandchildren, and I am sure that all his friends within BIGGA and the greenkeeping industry share their sadness following his death."

Everyone at BIGGA echoes Stuart's words and pass on our condolences to all his friends and family at this time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

BIGGA volunteers are once again required to help Kenny MacKay and his team at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship between May 23-26 2013.

Assistance will be required for any period of time during the tournament – from all four days to just one day.

The last two days will feature bunker raking.

It's a great chance to see at first hand the preparation for this European Tour flagship event, which will be held on the West Course.

All assistance will be greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator at cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk or call Clive on 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

BTME is back for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013

MICHAEL STARS AT DEAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Golf is a sport of mind, body and soul where we attempt to utilise all our senses to try and outwit the little white ball at our feet.

But how many of you are aware of the golfers who manage to excel at the game we love without having all the attributed five senses?

I am referring to deaf golf and the English Deaf Golf team have just competed in the World Championships in Japan.

One of the stars of the English team was Kent section regular Michael Roberts, a 29-year-old greenkeeper at Knole Park Golf Club in Sevenoaks, Kent.

Michael (shown right) lost his hearing having contracted meningitis when only eight months old but it never stood in his way of forging a superb ability to play golf.

Having been introduced to the game by his father at the age of eleven, Michael quickly realised his potential and joined his local club to compete in their regular competitions.

In order to raise vital funds to represent his country Michael approached the Course Manager at Knole Park, Gavin Kyle, to see if he could earn a wage by carrying out work on the course.

Gavin was only too happy to get Michael out divotting the fairways, and he also worked hard to get his handicap down to 5.5.

A couple of years later Michael became a full-time assistant greenkeeper.

He relishes the regular in-house training sessions that Gavin organises for his staff.

At these events a 'signer' is brought in and some of his colleagues are now quite proficient at communicating in this fashion to ensure he does not miss out.

It's fair to say that Michael's recent trip to Japan wasn't one of his most successful events.

He told me that the Tsu Country Club in Japan was one of the toughest courses he had ever played.

This was probably compounded by the fact that five members of the English team shared one room in their cottage accommodation in order to keep costs down.

Michael is now firmly focused on raising his game again for the 2014 championships with qualifying next year at the Players Club in Bristol.

As mentioned above all funds have to be raised individually and Michael has planned to complete the 'Three Peaks Challenge' to raise much needed sponsorship and he would be very appreciative if his greenkeeping colleagues around the country would visit his 'just giving' page to help his and your country's cause.

For more details please visit www.justgiving.com/englishdeafgolf
Rob Holland



CONFERENCE SUCCESS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Delegates at the South West & South Wales Regional Conference in Bristol

One of November's undoubted highlights was the quartet of BIGGA Regional Conferences held across England. All four were extremely successful and well-attended, with a range of highly interesting and engaging speakers speaking to hundreds of members in Leicester, Rotherham, Thorpeness and Bristol. Luminaries from across the turf industry gave presentations in a forerunner to the educational output on offer at BTME. Feedback from the conferences has been excellent.

Many thanks to everyone who attended, the speakers and of course the Regional Administrators and staff from BIGGA HQ who organised and supported these events.

All who attended and signed the CPD register also received two CPD points – yet another benefit.

Don't forget we've still got the Scottish regional conference to look forward to on Tuesday 5 March at the Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline. For more information please contact Regional Administrator John Young at johnyoung@bigga.co.uk or on 07776 242120.

Visit www.btme.org.uk and click the **Register Now** icon



NEW COURSE MANAGER AT HOCKLEY

Glenn Kirby has been appointed as Golf Course Manager at Hockley GC. Glenn leaves his position as Assistant Courses Manager at The London Club where he spent nine years managing the Nicklaus designed Heritage course.

He brings with him nearly 20 years turf management experience gained from some of the top golf courses in

England, Europe and America. Glenn said: "Hockley is a fantastic piece of Braid architecture on a great downland site.

"This coupled with the management and membership's professional and progressive attitude seemed too good an opportunity to miss, I believe we can do something very special here."

Marc Dryden, General

Manager at Hockley, added: "We are very pleased to have someone of Glenn's calibre join our team.

"I know he will make considerable contributions helping the club work towards its goal of being one of the very best members' clubs in Hampshire and help place us amongst the very best downland courses in the South of England."

FREE MONEY FOR GREENKEEPERS!



Graeme Gallimore, Gavin Moore, Martin Cornish

A thrifty bunch of Cornish greenkeepers have claimed money back from the taxman after discovering a loophole online – and you can too.

Graeme Gallimore, Head Greenkeeper at Launceston Golf Club, was browsing Money Saving Expert when he found a page focusing on free uniform tax rebates.

Anyone wearing a work uniform who has to wash, repair and replace it themselves is entitled to a tax rebate.

Graeme and his colleagues filled in a form and received £60 each – well worth applying for.

For full details visit www.moneysavingexpert.com/reclaim/uniform-tax-rebate.



BIGGA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will once again be held during BTME on Wednesday 23 January at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

HELP AND ADVICE AVAILABLE TO BIGGA MEMBERS

In conjunction with BIGGA, York Wealth Management, financial advisers, now operates a free e mail financial help line. Simply e mail admin@yorkfm.co.uk with your financial question.

We can help you with any issue to do with money.

Be sure to enter in the e mail header FREE BIGGA MEMBER FINANCIAL HELP.

HELPLINE

The stress and debt helpline has been revamped and is now the 'Lifestyle Counselling Helpline & Online Support Service'.

There is a new telephone number – 0844 770 1036 – and a new online service.

All members and BIGGA staff can access this at www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst - both username and password are BIGGA.

It also features in the Members area of the BIGGA website under 'Member Services'.

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JOHN PHILP'S RETIREMENT MARKED

Prior to the Scottish Central Section's AGM there was a presentation to John Philp of Carnoustie to mark his retirement and for thank him for his marvelous efforts in raising the profile of greenkeeping.

John – who was awarded an MBE for his services to the

industry – had the 11th hole of the legendary course named in his honour upon his retirement, and at the AGM he was presented with a picture of the 13th hole from the 1999 Open.

Shown above, past chairman Derek Robson presents the picture to John Philp.



HUNT AND HARVEY SCOOP SURREY BOWL

After a close fought battle Jason Hunt of Addington Palace GC – a former BIGGA National Champion - and Mark Harvey of Epsom GC managed to beat last year's winners Ian Morrison of The Berkshire GC and Scott McMurray of Wentworth GC in the final of the Surrey Bowl.

A huge thank you to the sponsors Winchester Garden Machinery Ltd, and many thanks to Dave Wyborn and his team at Foxhills Club and Resort for a beautifully prepared course.

BIGGA ENDORSES JACOBSEN FUTURE TURF MANAGERS INITIATIVE



Some of the most experienced and high profile course managers in the golf industry have signed up to BIGGA and Jacobsen's new scheme to train and mentor the greenkeeping stars of the future.

The Jacobsen Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI) will target the next generation of greenkeepers who demonstrate the ability and drive to become leaders of their profession in the future.

A maximum of 20 students will be selected for FTMI in any one year to attend a three-day residential course in the early part of the year and then be mentored throughout by a high profile course manager.

BIGGA's Assistants Development Programme (ADP) has been rolled out across its five UK regions giving delegates in each region an insight into the key skills they require to move up the greenkeeping career ladder.

The ADP programme includes the 'So You Want to be Promoted' seminars which have already begun featuring presentations by the likes of Murray Long of Sunningdale Golf Club, Stuart Yarwood of Lymm Golf Club and Rob Hogarth of Remedy Oak Golf Club on subjects ranging from people skills to communication to interview skills and CV preparation.

The annual residential course will include hotel accommodation, all meals, half-day workshops presented by the various mentors and Ransomes Jacobsen staff, off-site visits and a round of golf on the RJ National par three short course.

A lunch and presentation of certificates on the third day will close the programme.

It will also highlight some of the other fantastic opportunities open to BIGGA members such as volunteering at The Open Championship, The Scottish Open and the BMW PGA Championship.

Open to BIGGA members who are first assistants and deputy head greenkeepers, candidates can be nominated for this superb opportunity by their general managers, course managers, head greenkeepers and staff at BIGGA HQ.

Candidates will be selected by a panel from BIGGA and Jacobsen, and they will be looking for greenkeepers who show initiative, are actively involved in education and have the potential to emulate their mentors and go on to enjoy successful and fulfilling careers.

Visit www.btme.org.uk and click the **Register Now** icon