



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Welcome 2012

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new year and to thank all the many BIGGA members who currently volunteer in one role or another to help the team at BIGGA Headquarters.

Without their valuable help, advice and countless hours of volunteer work your Association would not be what it is today.

By working closely with your Section committee the membership team are looking forward to a successful and prosperous new year. But the best people to promote any membership professional body are the members themselves.

Please encourage your fellow greenkeepers to take a look at the benefits of joining BIGGA, all information is available on the BIGGA website including membership forms.

Save money if you pay for your own BIGGA membership!

Are you one of the 31% of BIGGA members who pay for their own membership subscriptions? If the answer is 'yes', then you can claim tax relief on your annual membership subscription.

When you can get tax relief for professional fees and subscriptions

The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website states that if an employee pays for their own professional fees and subscriptions then they may be able to reduce their tax bill by getting tax relief on any professional fees and subscriptions they pay.

If you are working as a

- a) greenkeeper, a groundsman, or are involved in the fine turf industry, and
- b) you are a member of BIGGA and
- c) pay for your own annual membership subscription

Then you may be able to deduct the cost of the membership subscription from your taxable income and reduce the amount of tax you pay.

The HMRC recognise that

membership of BIGGA is helpful to your job and BIGGA's activities are relevant to your work.

BIGGA has been approved by the HM Customs and Excise and we appear on their approved list <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/list3/list3.htm>

It is possible for a person to go back several years to get tax relief.

How to get tax relief

BIGGA produces an easy to complete 'Tax Relief Claim Form' for members to fill in and send to their local tax office, instructions are clearly given on the form but your membership team are always here to help if you have any queries.

Download a form from the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk select 'Membership' from the options across the top, select 'Tax Relief Forms' from the menu on the left, here you can download the form.

Or contact a member of the Membership Team at BIGGA HQ to send you a copy.

Increased Pressure at Work

During my travels around the Sections I've become increasingly concerned to hear how many

members are under increased pressure at work. Apparently, one in five of us are stressed at work, with workload, management style and relationships at work as the top three causes of work-related stress.

Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure.

Pressure turns into stress when you feel unable to cope. People have different ways of reacting to stress, so a situation that feels stressful to one person may in fact be motivating to another.

Many of life's demands can cause stress, especially work, relationships and money problems, and when you feel stressed, it can affect everything you do.

Stress can affect how you feel, how you think, how you behave and how your body works.

Sleeping problems, sweating, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating are common signs of stress.

If you are a full member of BIGGA you are entitled to access to a CONFIDENTIAL

Helpline where you can speak to, in complete confidence, a trained counsellor 24 hours a day 7 days a week, your details will never be passed on to any third parties.



Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)

Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd
Tel: 0141 616 3440
Mobile: 07776 242120
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Northern & Midland

Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07866 366966
petelarter972@aol.com

South East

Clive Osgood
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

South West & Wales

Jane Jones
Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110
jane@bigga.co.uk



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891
Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319
Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319