

WELCOME FROM BIGGA

BIGGA



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BIGGA support in attendance at The Royal St Georges, The Open 2011

Golf's turn in the spotlight

I want to begin this month by congratulating BIGGA's chairman Andrew Mellon on his new position in the Middle East. Having worked closely with him now for more than a year I know he has the business acumen and deep knowledge of the industry that will enable him to succeed in his new challenge. I must also thank him most sincerely both personally and on behalf of all the staff for the enormous commitment to the Association he has given during and before his time as chairman.

The first time I came in to contact with him it was clear that he was passionate about the Association and its members and he has worked tirelessly with his colleagues on the Board of Management to drive BIGGA forward whilst keeping the interests of the membership firmly at the forefront. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Andrew all the very best for the future.

Andrew's successor Tony Smith is a true BIGGA man with huge experience at all levels of the Association and I am very much looking forward to working closely with him to implement the Board's vision.

At the time of writing Spain has just retained the European Championship title and Andrew Murray has made it through to the second week of Wimbledon.

Our thoughts now turn to golf's turn in the British sporting spotlight – The Open Championship. Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club's head greenkeeper, Paul Smith provides a fascinating insight in to the preparations for this year's Championship in this magazine, meanwhile the BIGGA Open Support Team are steeled and ready to play their part in the world's greatest golf

tournament. So far this year Mother Nature has proved to be entirely unpredictable and with a grand total of 205 bunkers for the competitors to contend with I'm sure the Team will have a challenging but satisfying week. I'm delighted that Paul and the Championship organisers continue to embrace the experience and skill contained within the Support Team and will utilise it to the full.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to mention three of our most illustrious members who within the last month have begun very well earned retirement.

Congratulations to Iain Carson (Nairn), Chris Kennedy (Wentworth) and John Philp (Carnoustie) who between them boast of over a century of greenkeeping experience. That experience has been hard earned but generously passed on to many, many colleagues and associates over the years. All three leave a legacy far beyond the great courses they have managed.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive