



Carnoustie Legend Bows Out in Style

As John Philp retires from Carnoustie he leaves a great legacy, writes Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews Links Trust

John began his career at his home town club of Pitreavie in Dunfermline and after a spell there learning his trade, he moved to Newmarket GC as Head Greenkeeper/Professional, for a number of years before coming back to Scotland as Deputy Links Supervisor at St Andrews in 1979.

Many people perhaps don't realise that John was quite a proficient golfer in his day.

In 1985 he moved to Carnoustie Golf Links, which was in extremely poor condition at the time, as Links Supervisor. It had hosted the Open in 1975 but because of the condition and other factors it had dropped off the rota. John, with the support of Jock Calder,

Chairman of Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee, turned the Championship course around into the condition it is today, where arguably it is recognised to have set the benchmark for Open Championship venues in 1999 and 2007.

Under his tenure, Carnoustie has also staged the 1991 and 2001 Scottish Ladies' Close Amateur Championships, the 1992 Amateur Championships, the 1995 and 1996 Scottish Opens, the 1997 and 2008 Scottish Amateur, the 2002 British Boys Championship, no less than eleven Dunhill Links tournaments and this year, in his final week, the British Ladies Amateur Championship.

His outstanding work on restoring the Championship course is well documented but what must also be remembered is that he played a similar role in improving both the Burnside and Buddon courses. While not involved in the construction of the Buddon Course, which was built in 1979, he has since rebuilt 16 of the 18 greens.

He has been a regular speaker at various greenkeeper seminars and conferences over the years both in the UK and abroad and has also assisted Elmwood College where he has given presentations and field studies on grass species and identification.

In his time at Carnoustie he has also trained and inspired a number of staff who have gone

onto become Course Managers at some of the most prestigious courses in the UK and Ireland. Alan Strachan at Walton Heath and Gary Johnstone at Portmarnock are two that come to mind.

His training has also been recognised by Carnoustie as they have promoted the Championship Links head greenkeeper Sandy Reid to succeed him and Craig Boath has also ascended to Sandy's previous role.

He has also always been willing to discuss many matters with Course Managers and greenkeepers at all nearby clubs. Many a time I have turned up at Carnoustie on a Sunday morning in winter to drop my sons off at their football and wandered down to the course where I would find John busy on the course. I would always end up missing the first goal after getting into some technical discussion or other!

In 2000, his services to greenkeeping were recognised when he was awarded the MBE, an honour he received from the Queen.

Hole in honour

Earlier this year when it was announced John Philp was retiring, Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee agreed to name the 11th hole on the Championship course after him, this is an extraordinary honour to bestow on an extraordinary greenkeeper and will be the subject of a full report in the next issue.

PLAYER SALUTES LA MANGA ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY



South African legend Gary Player has delivered his own personal message of congratulations to La Manga Club as part of the Spanish resort's 40th anniversary celebrations.

The 76-year-old was La Manga Club's first director of golf when it opened in 1972 and played a key role in helping the resort establish itself during its early years.

La Manga Club hosted the Spanish Open five years in a row from 1973-77 and has gone on to become one of Europe's leading sports and leisure destinations.

Player said: "This is a very happy moment for me having been the director of golf at La Manga Club, a very beautiful place, a great resort with some wonderful courses and people.



Fond Farewell to BIGGA Chairman 2012



BIGGA's chairman, Andrew Mellon is leaving his position as Golf Operations Manager at Elmwood College having been appointed as General Manager for Hydroturf International in Qatar. Hydroturf are the Middle East's leading golf course and landscaping supply company.

Andrew who will take up his new post on September 1st has been with Elmwood for nearly 12 years, having been a student greenkeeper initially and then working through from Greenkeeper Instructor to his present position.

At the latest BIGGA Board of Management meeting Andrew informed the Board of his circumstances and it was agreed that he will step down from his role of BIGGA chairman during the Open

Championship at which time Tony Smith of Teesside Golf Club, the current vice chairman, will take over for the remainder of the year before beginning his intended full year of office at the AGM in January.

In the two and a half years Andrew has been involved on the Board of Management he has served the membership with great drive, passion and commitment. The entire board and staff of the association wish to recognise his huge contribution to BIGGA and wish him all the very best with his new challenge.

Andrew said, "BIGGA has always been a great support to me, from the very first day I became a Greenkeeper, and still is in my current role. It has been an honour and a privilege

to serve on the Board. I wish Tony Smith all the best during his term as Chairman.

The professionalism, the passion, and the friendship I've witnessed during my time at BIGGA from the members, the staff, and the Board has helped me understand why BIGGA is so important within this industry. I'm confident it will go from strength to strength under the current leadership and continue to further develop its support to the membership.

I've made many good friends, and I hope to keep in contact. I am sad to be leaving, but excited at the new opportunity I have. I'd like to thank everyone for their support to me, and wish everyone the very best going forward."



Derek Gould & Duncan Herd

BIGGA is sorry to have recently learnt of the sad news of the passing of two Life Members Mr Derek Gould and Mr Duncan Herd.

Derek, who lived in Sheringham, Norfolk was a long standing member of BGGGA and BIGGA. Duncan who resided in Longniddry, East Lothian, was a long standing member of the SIGGA and BIGGA.

BIGGA would like to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Derek and Duncan.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ian Morrison Captain Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society, Lesley Lowrie GOSTA Training, Markus Klausmann, Steve Miller GOSTA Training, Andrew Connor Head Greenkeeper Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society

Markus Klausmann: Student of the Year for GOSTA

GOSTA has been training golf course greenkeepers and landscape employees in the West of Scotland since 1982. Managing Director, Lesley Lowrie took the decision to commence delivery of greenkeeper qualifications in Edinburgh and Lothian in the summer of 2011.

Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society were one of the first golf clubs to send one of their employees for training. The employee was Markus Klausmann who originally came from Wildtal, a small village right at the edge of the Black Forest, an area of Southern Germany.

As a trained chef Markus relocated to Scotland to change

both his life and career. He worked as a car cleaner and hospital porter for nearly three years in order to finance his flight to Edinburgh until he was successful in finding employment on a golf course. During that time he also attended English Language School in Edinburgh. Markus commented "to say my English was bad would be an understatement."

He went on "by sticking to my plan to only befriend Scotsmen and not mix with other German students at the language school I quickly began to grasp English!"

Markus started work at Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society in 2008 and attended Oatridge

College prior to moving over to GOSTA to do his SVQ Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship in Sports Turf.

"Markus was an outstanding student who strives to achieve the highest possible standards at all times and is a worthy candidate to achieve this award" said his lecturer Steve Miller.

Lesley presented Markus with the GOSTA Training Student of the Year Award which was an inscribed Quaich.

If you are interested in SVQ's, Modern Apprenticeships or short courses (Certificates of Competence) in your area please contact GOSTA Training on 0141-556-3999.

SCOTLAND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

CHAIRMAN TRIUMPHS AT RATHO PARK GC

John Young, BIGGA's recently appointed RA for Scotland, reports from the Scottish National Tournament 2012



The 2012 Scottish National Tournament took place at Ratho Park Golf Club on Wednesday, 20th June.

Ratho Park, situated 30 minutes from Edinburgh city centre, provided an excellent setting for the competition. The parkland golf course, designed by James Braid was first established in 1928, although the history of the club can be traced back to the turn of the 19th Century through a merger with Corstorphine Golf Club on land that is now part of Edinburgh Zoo.

In 1955, the club purchased the estate of Ratho Park with the mansion house transformed into a magnificent clubhouse.

Playing conditions were excellent for competitors considering June's inclement weather.

The course was actually unplayable over the previous weekend, and Billy Hudson and his team are to be congratulated for producing a course in superb condition for the tournament.

As with all golf tournaments, the weather plays a significant role in competition scoring and the enjoyment for players. With the exception of a couple of light showers in the afternoon, the weather was excellent and very much welcomed by all.

Although playing numbers were down on the previous year, a very competitive field assembled for the tournament. This was highlighted by an extremely close and hard-fought duel between 3 times winner David Simpson of Crieff Golf Club and Scottish Regional Chairman, Stuart Taylor of Glasgow Golf Club for the Scottish Championship. Both returned an excellent one under par score of 68 with the Chairman prevailing on count back over the last nine holes. Kenneth Mitchell from St Andrews Links Trust won the Friendship Trophy for the best nett score of 67 using his handicap of 5 to good effect.

After receiving the Scottish Challenge Cup, Stuart Taylor thanked Vice Captain John Dea, the committee and members of Ratho Park for their hospitality and for the courtesy offered to players.

A Quaich was presented to the Vice Captain, who then paid tribute to the hard work of all greenkeeping staff and remarked that the club was delighted to host the tournament.

Congratulations to all who took part and we hope to see everyone next year at Largs Golf Course for the 2013 tournament.

THE 2012 SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT PRIZE LIST

SGGA CHALLENGE CUP (SCRATCH CHAMPION)
Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC 68

FRIENDSHIP TROPHY (NET CHAMPION)
Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews Links Trust 72 5 67

RANSOMES TROPHY - 1st CLASS
1. David Simpson, Crieff GC 68 +1 69
2. Paul Murphy, Fife Golf Trust 78 5 73
3. Gavin Neill, St Andrews Links Trust 81 6 75

PATTISON TROPHY - 2nd CLASS
1. Graeme Bolton, G West 78 9 69
2. Ian MacLeod, Tain 78 7 71
3. Thomas Adams, Crieff GC 83 12 71

STRI TROPHY (St. IVES JUBILEE) - 3rd CLASS
1. Dale Robertson, Newmacher GC 83 15 68
2. Gerard Broadley, Glasgow GC 94 17 77
3. Bryan Ramsey, Glasgow GC 94 16 78

DICK AITKEN TROPHY - BEST HEAD GREENKEEPER
Euan Grant, Turnberry Golf Courses 83 14 69

M & M TROPHY - BEST ASSISTANT
Craig Berry, Leven 77 7 70

SIGGA TROPHY - BEST VETERAN
Charles MacDonald, Crieff GC 73 3 70

ST MUNGO TROPHY - SECTION TEAM WINNERS - Central Section
Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews 67
David Simpson, Crieff 69
Graeme Bolton, G-West 69
Charles MacDonald, Crieff 70
TOTAL 275

QUAICH - TRADE PRIZE
Kevin Brunton, Greentech 74 0 74

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS
Scratch, Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC
Nett, Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews Links Trust

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

Southwood and Brockenhurst Taste Victory

The first of the South West and South Wales Region's Golf Management Competitions, sponsored by Tacit, have taken place and two clubs have secured their places in the finals of the event.

The South Coast Section event was recently held at Liphook GC where the winning team from Southwood GC came in with 82 points. In second place was the team from Brockenhurst GC with 81 points. Both teams have won a place through to the final which is taking place later in the year at Frilford Heath GC. Just missing out on a place in the finals were Wareham GC in third place on 80 points and Test Valley GC in fourth place on 79 points. The nearest the pin competition was won by Paul Cooper from Wareham GC and the longest drive competition was won by Chris Hudson from Southwood GC.

BIGGA South West and South Wales Region would like to thank Tim Webb and Tacit for their support of the region in sponsoring these events.

A First for Two Clubs with Green Credentials

Forsgårdens Golf Club, Sweden

Widespread recognition of golf's positive social and environmental impacts is gathering pace – and is being led by a group of clubs who have shown the way toward ever-stronger achievements and credible communications through the GEO Certified™ ecolabel.

Sweden's Forsgårdens Golf Club is a leader among leaders, stepping up in 2009 as one of the very first golf clubs to become GEO Certified™. Three years later, they are the first club in the world to be re-certified by the Golf Environment Organization.

Re-certification is a vital point of credibility for all ecolabelling, demonstrating how sustainability can extend deeper into decision-making and communications over time, and affirming the important 'continual improvement' principle that makes sustainability a mindset and a journey rather than a static destination.

The announcement represents a milestone in golf's sustainability movement; the first time that any golf club, anywhere in the world, has been re-certified via a dedicated, third-party verified and transparently reported programme for golf.

Gordon Shepherd, GEO Board Member and former Head of Global Policy for WWF

International recognized the significance:

"Having worked on the development of many industry certification programmes and ecolabels, from forestry to fisheries, I have seen landmark points in time, when something significant demonstrates a clear path to a more sustainable future. This is one of those moments.

"GEO was founded to support clubs in their sustainability actions and bring forward real, transparently reported results; steering away from one-time awards that

risk bringing complacency, in favour of driving continual improvement."

It is to Forsgårdens' considerable credit that through this re-certification, they demonstrate clear and quantifiable improvements across a comprehensive range of issues. Amongst all the processes and protocols, we are reminded that it's positive individual, personal engagement and action that environment and society needs."

Ole Riger-Kusk, an independent verifier accredited

by GEO, conducted the initial certification and the recertification and found that Forsgårdens upheld and strengthened a solid environmental performance.

Making more improvements in the three years since becoming GEO Certified™, especially around landscape and ecosystems, energy and resource conservation, waste management, and also more communications with authorities and the surrounding community.

Coventry GC First in England to be GEO Certified™

Coventry Golf Club is the first golf club in England to be awarded the international ecolabel GEO Certified™ in recognition of outstanding sustainability efforts.

Established in 1887, the club celebrated its 125th anniversary this year and also the centenary of the re-location of the course to Finham.

Many of England's nearly 2000 golf courses are community based clubs like Coventry, making this an important example of how sustainability can be embraced with positive results for the environment and the economic performance of the golf business.

Phil Weaver, Coventry's Head PGA Professional & Course Manager and Chairman of the PGA of Great Britain and Ireland, was part of the driving force behind the journey through the programme that led to the GEO Certified™ ecolabel, and remarks:

"We recognise the pressures on the

environment at large and understand that golf clubs have an important responsibility to take their stewardship of the land seriously. In the last few years we have become much more aware and active, making sustainability a consideration in every decision we make."

"The GEO OnCourse™ programme was easy to follow and made sure we thought about a wide range of practical areas and there were suggestions for improvements as we went along. The on-site verification with Matt Johns was extremely constructive and left us with new ideas and motivation for the future. We will fly the GEO Certified™ flag with a great deal of pride."

Weaver worked in close conjunction with colleagues Club Captain Keith Lindsay, Club member Professor Ian Foster, and past Captain and President Robin Bussell to drive the project forward and become the first Golf Club in England to achieve this prestigious award.



Changing of The Guard

Following a dramatic conclusion to the 37th Curtis Cup, a ceremonial changing of the guard has taken place at The Nairn Golf Club. The handover, which marked the conclusion of an exceptional 31-year tenure, saw golf course manager Iain Carson pass on the reigns of the club's proud greenkeeping tradition to Ritchie Ewan, his deputy of 25 years.

In a career spanning more than three decades at the Highland course, Iain Carson masterminded a Walker Cup, Scottish Amateur Championship, a Seniors Amateur Open and one of the most keenly contested Curtis Cups in recent times.

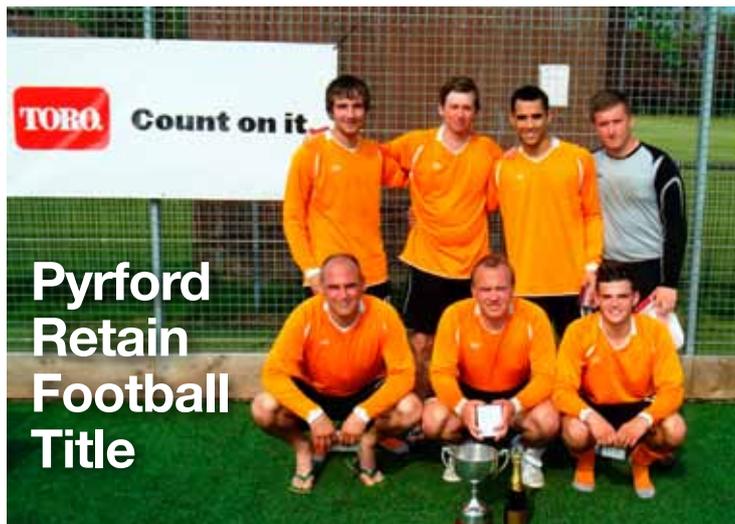
"One of the biggest changes has been the development of Nairn from a relatively small club in the north of Scotland to one that is recognised throughout the world," he said. "We are all part of a team here, committee and management, and we have all been involved in bringing the club forward."

The staging of the Curtis Cup coupled with the club's highest entry (23) in Golf World's recently published Top 100 Golf Courses in Britain & Ireland has ensured Mr Carson leaves on a high. "For me, having the Walker Cup here in 1999 and getting the Curtis Cup in 2012 has been a great honour. No other club in the north of Scotland has had both of these events and it means Nairn is one of only ten clubs to host both," he said. "It has been a fantastic adventure which I have enjoyed from the start."

In what many see as a continuation of what came before, the new keeper of the green will be tasked with ensuring the famed Highland links preserves its reputation for its exceptional greens. Discussing his new position, Ritchie praised his former boss and looked forward to the future.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside Iain for the last 25 years," said the club's new golf course manager. "He has worked hard to achieve the playing surfaces that we have at Nairn which are admired by so many. This shows through in how the course is presented and the feedback we get from the members. My job will be to continue this tradition so that Nairn can be enjoyed long into the future."

It's not just the members who enjoy the club's smooth-running greens. Former Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie is also a fan, describing Nairn as "one of the best links courses in our great country", while World Number One Luke Donald said he "considered it a great test of links golf and one of Scotland's best courses".



Pyrford Retain Football Title

With the only goal of a cagey final which looked destined for penalties, Pyrford Golf Club saw off the challenge of West Hill Golf Club to retain the JSM Cup.

The preceding rounds of very competitive 5-a-side football were played out during one of the warmest days of the year. The commitment of all the teams led to penalties having to decide 2 of the quarter final matches as well as the semi-final in which Pyrford sneaked past Cuddington Golf Club. West Hill defeated Queenwood 2-0 in the other semi-final.

Before the presentations could take place a penalty shoot-out also had to decide the winner of the 'golden boot' for tournament top scorer. Zane Percival (Pyrford) narrowly defeated Ben Edwards (West Hill) during sudden-death penalties, both having finished level on 6 goals at the end of the final.

JSM's Managing Director David Cole remarked, 'The commitment and standard of play has been great to see, particularly on such a warm day. Our football tournament is turning into a great social event and we must thank Toro/ Lely UK for their support in making it such an enjoyable success'.

Entry to the JSM Cup was open to teams of greenkeeper's, groundsman and other turf and landscape professionals from around the south-east. First played for in 2008, the competition is held biannually.

GTC ANNOUNCE NEW DATES FOR CHAIRMAN OF GREEN WORKSHOPS

The Greenkeepers Training Committee has announced three new dates and venues for their very popular Chairman of Green Workshops. Presented by Laurence Pithie MG the Workshops provide a first class introduction to the role and responsibilities of the Chairman of Green and are a must attend for all golf club officials who have responsibility for liaising with the course management team.

Events will take place as follows:

Thursday 13th September 2012

at Priory Barn, Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre, Rodway Hill, Cannington, Bridgwater TA5 2LS.

Thursday 20th September 2012

at Conwy (Caernarvonshire) Golf Club, Morfa, Conwy LL32 8ER

Tuesday 25th September 2012

at Llanishen Golf Club, Heol Hir, Cardiff CF14 9UD.



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On Course Foundation Charity Golf Day Success

The On Course Foundation which seeks to find work opportunities for injured servicemen in the golf industry held a Charity Golf Day at Royal Birkdale. Alex Harrison, who is employed full time as a greenkeeper at Gainsborough Golf Club after being placed there by the Foundation, took part in the Chandley Properties Ltd team. Alex was joined by Royal Birkdale

Captain, Sid Ludlow, Formby Captain, Niall Roy and Peter Unsworth of Chandley Properties.

Pictured, from left to right, are Niall Roy, Sid Ludlow, Bert Beddow, Peter Unsworth and Alex Harrison.

For further information about the On Course Foundation email info@oncoursefoundation.com or telephone **0208 334 2010**.



25 YEARS FOR STUART AT JOHN O'GAUNT



IGCEMA Board Member Stuart Hall recently celebrated 25 years service as Workshop Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club in Bedfordshire and was presented with a commemorative gift by the Club Captain, Martin Pettit.

2012 is turning in to a landmark year for Stuart, following his selection to be part of the BIGGA Delegation to attend the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas (courtesy of Bernhard and Company). In 2010 he was also part of the workshop team at Celtic Manor for the dramatic Ryder Cup Matches.

On receiving the presentation he remarked, "It doesn't seem like 25 years since I first arrived at John O Gaunt for my first day's work, hand cutting greens of all things.

Since then I have done many different jobs in an ever changing environment, it's been an enjoyable journey to where I am now and along the way I have met and worked with many different people from all areas of the industry, each and every one of those people have helped, encouraged or influenced me in some way during my time here.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of those people for their help and support over the years and thank the staff and committee of John O Gaunt for their continued help and support."

Grand Finale

Wentworth's Chris Kennedy is honoured during the 2012 BMW PGA Championship

The sun beamed down on Chris Kennedy, Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth, for the BMW PGA Championship, his 52nd and final European Tour event as world number one, Luke Donald produced a dominant display to successfully defend his BMW PGA Championship title.

Chris described the conditions running up to the tournament which brought drought then heavy rain with low temperatures throughout, as 'the most difficult build up I have ever known', a strong statement after 22 years at Wentworth and 50 all told in the industry!

Nevertheless the yet again rejigged West Course was immaculate and the most recent course changes notably at holes 12, 15 and 17 as well as the raised landing area on 18 were seamless in appearance.

The great weather for the week brought out a record crowd of over 95,000 for the four tournament days to witness Europe's finest players



competing for the Tour's flagship title. Donald's closing 68 for a 13 under par total of 275 saw him cruise to a four shot victory over Paul Lawrie and Justin Rose.

It was an eventful week for Chris beginning with a tribute from the Association of Golf Writers and closing with the presentation of a silver salver on the 18th green during the main prizegiving from the European Tour's Chief Executive George O'Grady (right).

Congratulations to Chris on his well earned retirement and we wish him well as he relocates to his native Scotland.

Good luck also to Kenny Mackay as he takes over the reins from Chris for the next

chapter in the Wentworth story.

As usual a Support Team of BIGGA volunteers co-ordinated by Clive Osgood assisted with the event, providing back up on the first two days and then each individual match was accompanied over the weekend, by a member.

A full complement of forty-five BIGGA Members, from all over the country, took part and had to take on plenty of water in the course of their duties, because of the high temperatures with hardly a cloud to be seen in the sky over the last two days.

By all accounts everybody was kept on their toes with frequent visits being made into many of the well-placed and



formidable West Course bunkers throughout.

27-year-old Mike Ellis, Course Manager at the Lakeview Country Club in Cornwall, had the honour of accompanying the last match out, and safely brought the winner home on Sunday.

Thanks to all of the volunteers for giving up their time to assist with the event, they did the Association and the event proud.

Wentworth Club's Chris Kennedy Awarded Tribute from AGW

The Association of Golf Writers paid tribute to Chris Kennedy, the retiring Golf Courses Manager at Wentworth Club, during their annual lunch at Wentworth Club on the eve of the BMW PGA Championship.

The BMW PGA Championship was the 52nd European Tour event where Kennedy had managed the course preparation at Wentworth and his contribution was recognised by the AGW with Chairman Bill Elliott and John Jacobs,

the founding father of The European Tour and Honorary Life Vice President of the AGW, presenting a silver Quaich.

Elliott said: "We as golf writers talk so much about how much equipment has moved on in our lifetimes and so much over the last 20 years and actually I think the greatest advance in that time is the conditioning of golf courses.

That's down to fantastic skill, commitment, enthusiasm and passion, no



one has that more than Chris Kennedy here at Wentworth. You have been a terrific asset to this club and an example to greenkeepers across the country and we thank you for what you have done here."

Jacobs was also joined by Judy Williams, the wife of the

late Michael Williams, golf correspondent of the Daily Telegraph for some 25 years, to present Colin Harding with the Michael Williams Hoggett, awarded to the winner of the Golf Writers' Spring medal played over Wentworth Club's Edinburgh Course.

and the great opportunities available to budding Greenkeepers are in large part down to their efforts all those years ago. There is still work to be done though, and we have a duty to ensure that the Association they created continues to drive forward better education, support for all its members, and recognition of the huge contribution they make to the game of golf, and the pleasure and livelihoods it provides to so many.

I would like to thank all the current and previous staff at BIGGA. In some ways they work for the biggest greens committee in the country – imagine what that must be like! Their dedication and professionalism provides all the services and benefits BIGGA now brings to its members and I'd like to thank them sincerely for their friendship and continued commitment during an economic period which has not been the easiest for any organisation and brings added pressure to us all.

At the helm we have Jim Croxton, who has succeeded John Pemberton as CEO. I'd like to thank both of them for their support to me while on the Board. Their professional management of every aspect of the Association has ensured that BIGGA developed successfully and will continue to do so going forward. I've worked closely with Jim this last year, and his energy and enthusiasm, and his wealth of industry knowledge will be a great asset to us.

In July, Tony Smith from Teesside will step into my shoes. I've known Tony for about ten years, since he bought me a few pints in Southport at a conference (I've bought my fair share since in return). He has become a close friend, and he is totally dedicated to ensuring BIGGA serves the best interests of the members. His considerable experience will be of great benefit to the Board and I'd ask you all to support him and the Board in ensuring the Association continues to be of valuable service to its members.

I've made many new friends during my time in BIGGA, and I will continue to offer any support I can to an association, which has helped me so much. I intend to continue making the annual pilgrimage to Harrogate to keep up with all the developments in the industry and to catch up with everyone.

My wife and kids have been very patient, thankfully, during my time as a greenkeeper and all the time I spent obsessing about the course, and lately with BIGGA. Although I will be working hard in my new job, I'll definitely be spending more time with them and I'm looking forward to it. (I hope they are!)

So over to Tony – I must admit, not having HQ chasing me every month for the column is not something I'll miss, but I will look forward to receiving Greenkeeper International and keeping up to speed with everything. Thank you sincerely to everyone in BIGGA and I wish the Association the very best for the future.

My best regards, Andrew Mellon
Chairman 2012, 07780 995602
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk

Save the Date - 2013 Turf Managers' Conference at BTME



The third edition of the very popular Turf Managers' Conference will take place on Monday 21st January 2013 during BTME at Harrogate.

The finishing touches are just being applied to the conference programme and full details will be available on www.bigga.org.uk shortly.

We are pleased to announce that the world-renowned expert on green speed and performance Dr Thom Nikolai will be opening the conference and further topics to be covered include the latest news on Turf Diseases, Communicating with employers and golfers and Organisational Politics amongst others.

The Turf Managers' Conference is a not to be missed opportunity to broaden your knowledge of cutting edge turf management whilst improving your wider managerial skills.

Turf Grass Information File Closer to Full-Text Availability

The Turf Grass Information File (TGIF), the largest online collection of turf related research and information has passed a truly significant milestone – as of June 2012, 50% of all TGIF records link to full-text of the item.

This is a particularly important achievement for users of TGIF worldwide.

Full-text availability is highly desirable in these instances, saving valuable time and effort dedicated to locating physical copies for personal use. With half of all TGIF records linking to full-text, this means thousands and thousands of records link directly to content.

BIGGA announced recently that the TGIF has been made available free of



charge to all Members through bigga.org.uk by visiting the Members Area, selecting Member Resources from the options on the left hand side and scroll down to Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), from here you can click through to the site.

Back at the end of 2005, TGIF had 108,741 records with only 21% linked to full-text, approximately 23,000 records.

Today, however, TGIF has about 204,000 records total, meaning a little over 102,000 records are full-text accessible.

In the span of just six years, the TGIF database has nearly doubled in strength, while the availability of full-text has tripled.