

BIGGA



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High Post Golf Club, this month's Course Feature, taken by the winner of last year's BIGGA Photographic Competition, Paul Hope

Changes (also in the weather)

They say the British are obsessed with the weather and in my experience that is also true of the greenkeeping profession!

Last month I wrote of drought orders in the midst of about five weeks of constant rain, and this month we bring better news on the irrigation front whilst the sun absolutely 'cracks the flags'. The dramatic changes and extreme weather patterns we are experiencing make the need for highly trained, committed greenkeepers even more important, if we are to ensure that golfers have courses that are fit to play on.

The bright sunshine may be not what the water authorities are looking for but I was delighted that the European Tour's flagship event, the BMW PGA Championship was played out in stunning conditions.

It provided a glorious end to Chris Kennedy's epic career at Wentworth.

A tournament won by a British world number 1 in superb style was a fitting climax to the 52nd Tour event to be held under Chris's stewardship. Now retirement awaits, enjoy it Chris, you've certainly earned it.

Having watched Luke Donald show us all how it is done our attention turns to finding out who will be BIGGA's Champion Golfer of 2012.

I am delighted that Kubota and Charterhouse have once again chosen to support the BIGGA National Championship as title sponsors.

The event will take place on 8th and 9th October with the excellent Irvine GC on the West coast of Scotland providing the examination for all those bidding to succeed Jason Hunt to be engraved on our prestigious trophy.

The entry form is available now on page 58, and at www.bigga.org.uk

Entries are limited so don't delay.

Many of you will be aware that we have been going through a period of change at BIGGA House as we seek to ensure the Association is, to use the modern vernacular, fit for purpose.

The Board of Management and I have been working closely together to produce a Business Plan to provide direction over the next three to five years. The principles of the Plan will be made available to members on www.bigga.org.uk in the near future.

This month we welcome two new additions to the staff replacing the recently retired long standing Regional Administrators.

John Young from Gourock has taken over the reins from Peter Boyd in Scotland and Sandra Raper fills the sizable shoes of Peter Larter in the Midlands and North.

Both brought great energy and ideas to the recruitment process and will I am certain serve the needs of the membership with great diligence.



**Jim Croxton
Chief Executive**