



# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

**March at last! This year, the light mornings and evenings have felt like they would never arrive, but we are finally getting there.**

Your Section events will soon be gaining momentum, so make sure you have the dates in your diary, check out the Events Section on the BIGGA website for information, or log in to the Members Area, select 'Regions & Sections' from the menu on the left hand side and select your Section from the menu on the right hand side. Don't forget you can contact your Section Secretary directly.

## BIGGA Sections and Networks

The Association's Sections and networks are active throughout the UK, with 26 Sections hosting events there is literally something for everybody.

Current members of BIGGA can gain access to the Bulletin Boards where members can gain access to a vast amount of useful, important and vital information for greenkeepers and other sports turf professionals, golf clubs and businesses involved in the fine turf industry. Here you can discuss popular topics and keep updated about Section seminars and events, recent topics discussed are: -

- Growth regulator on shaded greens
- Animal Control
- Thatch products, do they work?
- Hollow core removal
- Greenkeeper appraisals

## The Importance of Networking including Social Networking

Whether you are just starting out as a sports turf professional (greenkeeper or groundsman) or at the pinnacle of your career, networking is likely to play a large part in your success.

Networking is about creating a set of contacts and subsequently building a trust and creating a genuine relationship with the people you meet. It provides the opportunity for you to discover people who may be able to help with



queries/problems you encounter during your career as well as the opportunity for you to offer your assistance to others.

For people new to networking, it might seem a daunting prospect. But by investing time in other people you might soon find that your career is reaping the rewards.

## Social Networking



Social networking, also referred to as social media, encompasses many Internet-based tools that make it easier for people to listen, interact, engage and collaborate with each other. Social networking platforms such as Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter, blogs, message boards, Wikipedia and countless others are catching on fast.

People use social networking to share recipes, photos, ideas and to keep friends updated on our lives. In many cases, you can use social networking tools from mobile devices, such as Blackberrys and iPhones, as easily as from a PC or Mac.

By its very nature, social networking is interactive. You can tell

anyone (that you want to talk to and that wants to listen to you) anything about your opinions and experiences—and vice versa—through blogs, Facebook pages, videos and even 140 character messages called tweets. You can also build communities based on common interests, causes and concerns.

Many BIGGA Sections now have Facebook Groups or Pages as do BIGGA itself, we now have over 400 members, search for the GROUP British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA) and ask to join. Contact your Section Secretary to find out if your section has a Facebook Group/Page.

## Membership

If your membership expired some time ago, you can renew immediately and your membership will be updated from the month you re-commence your membership. It's never too late to update your membership, don't wait until you need one of the great membership products or services BIGGA provide or you need to contact experts within BIGGA's membership and find that because your membership has expired you can't tap in to these invaluable resources.

Make sure your membership is up to date.




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**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