

WELCOME FROM BIGGA

BIGGA



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Photography of High Post GC, Salisbury in Wiltshire by Paul Hope

Water, water everywhere

What a challenge for BIGGA members the last few weeks have been; an amazing early spring that raised golfer expectations was swiftly followed by drought orders, golf courses being labelled 'gardens' and then torrential rain seemingly throughout April!

One thing is for certain, our weather cycles are no longer reliable and that means that golf clubs need to take steps to ensure they have access to essential resources, particularly water for irrigation, in future years.

As this edition of Greenkeeper International goes to print a softening of the water authorities views on golf course irrigation is emerging which may mean that golf clubs that rely on mains water for their irrigation will be allowed to do so.

It is clear however that the golf industry needs to do more to convince the powers that be that we are responsible users of water and that there is a genuine commercial need to keep grass healthy. In this magazine we focus on some of the work that is taking place behind the scenes to improve the position whilst looking at some examples of good practice that all clubs can learn from.

This month witnesses the 23rd and final PGA Championship to be played on a course managed by Chris Kennedy, this astonishing record is surely unparalleled in British, if not world golf, as is his total of 52 European Tour sanctioned events.

All of us here at BIGGA House wish Chris the best of luck with his final event and more importantly a well-earned retirement.

I know the BIGGA Support Team that will assist the excellent Wentworth crew will enjoy the privilege of being involved in this historic event.

We are committed to a programme of improvements to this magazine and are determined to make it as relevant as possible to you the reader.

In the next few weeks we will be surveying all BIGGA members for their views on how we can achieve this. Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback when the survey arrives or feel free to get in contact with me, or any of the BIGGA team in the meantime.

Finally I'd like to thank Peter Larter for his superb service to the Association as he prepares for his well-earned retirement at the end of the month.

Peter has worked for BIGGA since 1996 as a Regional administrator and latterly has had the tough task of managing both the Northern and Midland Regions. He has done a great job and been extremely popular with members and trade alike. On a personal note to have the chance to work with a former British Lion and Northampton Saints legend has been a privilege.

Enjoy the read
Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO

