

## WELCOME FROM BIGGA

### BIGGA



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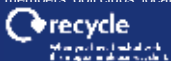
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Oly with the BIGGA Challenge Trophy, in front of the Irvine clubhouse

## A champion autumn

**Congratulations to Oly Browning of Stocks Golf Club in Hertfordshire on becoming the BIGGA National Champion at Irvine Golf Club recently.**

Derek Wilson and his team presented the golf course beautifully for the Championship and we are very grateful to Kubota and Charterhouse for their generous sponsorship of the event.

I really enjoy attending the National Championship and having the chance to spend time with so many members who are passionate about playing the game. Frilford Heath Golf Club in Oxfordshire has kindly agreed to host the event in 2013 and I very much look forward to seeing who will take Oly's crown.

**Congratulations also to Curtis Tyrrell MG and his team for preparing the Medinah No. 3 course for what turned out to be one of the most exciting and memorable Ryder Cup Matches ever.**

Having coped with fifty straight days of temperatures in the 90s during the Chicago summer, Curtis put in to action a plan to bring the course in to the immaculate condition the players found when they arrived and was maintained throughout the week. Within these pages is a review of the event from the course maintenance standpoint.

**As I write this piece the leaves on the trees around BIGGA House have turned beautiful shades of yellow and red.**

Autumn is one of my favourite times of year but I know it is far from welcome to those greenkeepers who manage tree lined golf courses.

The various social media forums are already alive with members bemoaning the fall of leaves and of course this comes at a time when many are flat out with important maintenance tasks. This month we feature a range of labour saving devices to make the leaf problem a little easier to deal with.

**November traditionally marks the start of the education season for BIGGA with many of our Sections holding a variety of excellent seminars and conferences over the coming months and of course the Continue to Learn programme at BTME in January is the centrepiece of our Learning and Development schedule.**

Bookings have been good for Harrogate so don't delay in reserving your place at the Turf Managers Conference or the wide ranging array of workshops and seminars.

Four of our Regions are holding their annual Conferences during November, by the time you read this the Midland and Northern Region events will have taken place and there are details of the South East and South West & South Wales Regional events elsewhere in this magazine.

These Conferences are a great opportunity not just to learn more about the technicalities of golf course management but also to network with your peers and interact with the many supporters from the trade who support the events. I hope you take the time to attend your Region's event. Enjoy the read.



**Jim Croxton**  
Chief Executive