

WELCOME FROM BIGGA

BIGGA



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An American theme

With the 2012 majors out of the way the focus now turns to the Ryder Cup matches in Chicago later this month.

The American players had appeared to be in the ascendancy in recent times but Rory McIlroy's stunning eight-shot victory at Kiawah Island in the USPGA Championship coupled with seven of the top ten places being filled by Europeans was a strong riposte from the Cup holders and sets the event up brilliantly. Home advantage may play a part but I'm sure the matches will be close.

The Ryder Cup is an event that attracts interest way beyond the normal golfing audience, we've been thoroughly spoilt by the amazing London Olympic Games and this is golf's chance to make as thrilling a statement.

In this edition we feature an insight from Curtis Tyrrell, the superintendent at the host venue, Medinah Country Club and one of the most recent recipients of BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper award, into his preparations for the most watched golf tournament in the world.

Another American destination under discussion this month is San Diego, host city for the Golf Industry Show in February 2013.

We are delighted that Bernhard and Company are continuing their support of the BIGGA Delegation to the GIS which will see ten members get a fantastic opportunity to visit the show, experience the GCSAA's excellent education programme, visit some renowned golf facilities and make lasting friendships with their fellow delegates. Witnessing this year's group bond together in Las Vegas was a privilege and having spoken with many of them since I know that the experience is genuinely in the 'once in a lifetime' category.

The flyer on the front cover gives details of how to apply to be considered for the Delegation and I would urge all members who believe their

careers could benefit from the experience to try their luck and complete the online application form. We are hugely grateful to Stephen Bernhard and his colleagues at Bernhard and Company for their generous sponsorship of this activity.

On September 1st we opened registration for BTME in January, exhibition space is filling up fast and the education programme is bigger and better than ever.

Pre-registration ensures smooth access to the halls of the Harrogate International Centre, go online at www.harrogateweek.org.uk and click the **Register Now** icon.

Then, simply enter your details to receive your access badge.

During BTME the aforementioned Curtis Tyrrell will be joining Jim McKenzie of Celtic Manor and Steve Chappell of Gleneagles for a unique presentation on the greenkeeping demands of the Ryder Cup past, present and future.

Details of the full Continue to Learn education programme will be contained in the October edition of Greenkeeper International.



Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO