



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

On the road with BIGGA

My hectic schedule has shown no signs of letting up over the last few weeks. I returned from the FEGGA Conference in Zurich and immediately headed straight to the Scottish Region board meeting.

Not only was this very well attended - it was also very constructive. This was followed up by one of the Regional Roadshows which Jim Croxton, Tracey Maddison and I have been involved in these last few weeks.

The roadshows are titled 'Working together for the future success of BIGGA' and the aim is to engage at a local level with Section and Region Committees to ensure that the Association's plans and ambitions are more widely known and supported.

We believe it's vital that we all work together to increase the profile and appreciation of the profession of greenkeeping.

The Scottish Roadshow was a very constructive exercise - as it also was in the Northern and South West and South Wales Regions - as it provided all parties with food for thought along with a clear understanding of how we can move forward.

It was then time for the Scottish Regional Conference in Dunfermline - and what a Conference it was. The programme was superb with some exceptional speakers and most importantly, over two hundred delegates in attendance.

Representatives from some of the finest golf courses in the world passed on their expertise, knowledge and opinions and I know feedback on their presentations was excellent, and this is no surprise now I've had the pleasure of enjoying them in full flow. I'd like to wish Grant Frogley at Roxburghe Hotel & Golf Course, Chris Haspell at Castle Stuart Links and last but not least John Bambury at Trump International Links the best of luck in their quest to continue to improve these fabulous courses.



Scottish Regional Conference in Dunfermline

The fourth roadshow was held in the Midlands Region with the final roadshow in the South East. In particular, the Midlands roadshow was an interesting day where it seemed my passion for the Association, and in particular my attempts to encourage members to play a part in its success, may have come across a little strongly. I make no apology for this and the chance to discuss it openly was very productive. I am passionate about the part members play in helping us promote BIGGA, after all, this is the key reason behind the roadshows. We need to shout about the role that BIGGA plays and the value of being a member.

Some members know some of these benefits very well as they're currently celebrating being selected to work on the Support Teams for the BMW PGA Championship in May or The Open Championship in July.

Their work really is vital - to find out more about this and how the teams were selected turn to page 32. Many congratulations to those who have been selected and to those who haven't, don't be too

Over two hundred delegates were in attendance at the Scottish Regional Conference

disappointed - come back and try again next year.

Additionally, twenty other mainly young members have won a fantastic opportunity to be part of the Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen. I am very much looking forward to meeting them all in Ipswich this month and witnessing the fantastic educational and mentoring opportunities on offer.

I was delighted to finally see some dry spring weather at the start of last month although sadly winter soon returned and much of the country has been badly affected by snow and strong winds. I know of one club in the South East who abandoned a tournament because the balls were being blown off the tees! Hopefully the weather will relent so we can get out and do some cutting on the courses, which is something we're hoping to focus on at Teesside.

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