



AN ISLAND BLOG

The latest impressive blog set up by a BIGGA member is from the Head Greenkeeper at Royal Jersey Golf Club - Ben Blampied-Smyth. Ben has used some spectacular photography of the links course in tandem with pages of in-depth greenkeeping information, all set out in a clear and attractive format.

Ben said: "As a fairly new Head Greenkeeper it's allowed the members to get to know me professionally. It's also been extremely helpful when I've changed maintenance practices to inform the members why I'm changing things and the benefits of these changes.

"For the greenkeeping team as a whole it has hopefully allowed the members to get to know the team better. It's massively improved communication to the members in terms of why certain procedures are necessary, what is involved in carrying out the procedure, timescales and potential inconvenience.

"In my first year we had TPL Thomson Perrett & Lobb golf course architects do an audit of the course. My first winter program involved implementing some of these changes to the course which were fairly major. The blog became very important to a lot of members to keep them up to date with these changes and how they would improve the course long term.

"This winter we also carried out changes to three holes from the TPL proposal and started upgrading our irrigation system which is a massive investment for the club. Again we were able to inform and educate the members on this work via the blog."

See for yourself at <http://royaljersey.getrefined.com>



JIMMY READ RETIRES

Jimmy Read (above left) has retired from his position of Head Greenkeeper at Hunstanton Golf Club. Jimmy spent 37 successful years at the Championship links, 34 of which were as Head Greenkeeper. Jimmy's son Peter is currently Acting Head Greenkeeper.

Club Secretary Bob Carrick said: "He has overseen many amateur competitions over the years and is

proud to leave the course in superb condition.

He has seen great changes in the course as part of the recent development work masterminded by Martin Hawtree and Gordon Irvine. All members and staff wish Jimmy all the best for his retirement and we would like to thank him for his tireless work over the years."



BY GEORGE! BIGGA LIFE MEMBER'S DOUBLE ACE

Former BIGGA Chairman George Brown recorded two holes-in-one in the space of ten days - and was rewarded with two exclusive Hugo Boss watches!

Seven handicapper George, 74, began his winning streak by hitting a four-iron into the cup on the 160 yard 6th at Turnberry's Kintyre course during a seniors competition.

He followed this up with an ace in a medal competition on the 175 yard 11th at the Ailsa course - and he is now the

proud owner of two Hugo Boss Watches because the luxury brand is rewarding club golfers with a special timepiece for every hole-in-one recorded during official competitions.

All official competitions are recorded on the HowDidiDo system, so anyone hitting a hole-in-one between April 15 and October 31 can claim a watch.

George, former Course Manager at Turnberry, has now taken his career total of aces to nine.