

BILLY'S HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE RECOGNISED AT BTME 2013

In December's GI (shown inset) we featured Alan Kite, Head Greenkeeper at Sutton Coldfield GC, who had marked 50 years of service at the club. Remarkably he's not alone, as another terrific servant to the industry was honoured at BTME.



Billy's good friend Brian Summers added: "I have known him for a good many years and we have grown old together, I wish him all the luck for the future."

Billy Mitchell has worked at Perranporth Golf Club in Cornwall for half a century and this achievement was a highlight of the South West and South Wales 'get-together' in Harrogate. He's been a key member of the BIGGA Devon and Cornwall section since its inception in 1977, and has been happy to remain in the background working away to help the section run smoothly.

He is well known in the BIGGA family and has made lots of friends through his many trips to Harrogate to visit BTME. He and his brother John, who has now retired from green keeping, were given Life Membership of the association for all the work they have done to promote BIGGA and the Devon and Cornwall section.

They have also been on the Open Support teams throughout the country and hugely enjoyed themselves assisting with the smooth running of the world famous tournament and also mingling with top professional golfers.

Billy is an assessor and helped set up the Duchy College training programme and remains very much involved with the assessing and education of trainees.

He's also involved with the Links Forum for South Wales and the South West. The promoting of pure links golf is Billy's passion and he will talk to anyone who is interested on the subject, giving them his knowledge he has gained after 50 years at one of the most unusual links golf courses in the country at Perranporth. He has no immediate plans to retire.



Billy is presented with a bottle of whisky by Richard Whyman, Course Manager at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club