



Membership News



The latest news from BIGGA


Following the Greenkeeper International survey, we've revamped the Membership pages – and we want you to get involved.

As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members.

We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you've

found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!

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 You can follow BIGGA on Twitter @BIGGALtd



Steve (green cap) at The Open 2012

Last month we featured a Q&A on the Open Support Team. This month we've spoken to a member of last year's team and an excited first timer to find out their views on the showpiece event in July.

Steve Hopkins, Greenkeeper at Burghley Park Golf Club, took time out from being tormented by badgers on the course (see the bulletin board!) to fill us in...

What's being on the Support Team like?

It's fantastic. You're never going to get that close to professional golfers in any other situation, and it's awesome to see them in action. You also get to spend a good length of time with greenkeepers from all sorts of different courses from around the world.

Can you pick out a highlight?

All of it! It's extremely well organised and planned. You really

are a part of the tournament, and it's an honour to get 'inside the ropes' and watch the world's best players at the closest proximity you can get.

What advice would you give?

Go and enjoy it! Also, ask questions. You've got a hell of a lot of experience there in the BIGGA Support Team and beyond so you can learn a lot from them, and also seeing how things are done at one of the world's top courses.

Meanwhile Jaey Goodchild, Head Greenkeeper at Bowood Golf & Country Club, is gearing up for his first taste of the world's most famous golf competition.

What was your reaction when you found out you had selected for The Open Support Team?

I've played a part on support teams at the BMW PGA Championships in the past, and

got so much from it, but The Open is the ultimate really and I can't wait for July to come round.

What are you hoping to gain from the week?

I'm looking to get an insight into tournament preparation, the presentation and the operational side of things.

We do hold some quite high profile tournaments at Bowood – but obviously these are nowhere near as prestigious as The Open! I'm sure I'll learn a lot from the week and maybe even bring some knowledge back which I can use on my own course.

What are you most looking forward to?

I've never attended The Open even as a spectator so I'm looking forward to experiencing the buzz of the whole event. I know it's going to be an intense few days but I'm looking forward to the adrenaline rush when I'm there.



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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS
 (Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
 0207 2048952

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
 0800 177 7891

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline
 0844 770 1036
www.arclegal.co.uk/carefirst

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Keiran Gibson, SRUC (Elmwood), Student, Central Section
Charles Lee, Scoonie Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Central Section
Adam Lindsay, Peterculter Golf Club, Greenkeeper, North Section
Shaun Balfour, Auchterderran Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Central Section
Morris Rodgers, Fraserburgh Golf Club, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, North Section
Grahame Taylor, The Gleneagles Hotel & Golf Courses, Greenkeeper, Central Section

Northern Region

Clinton Hare, Crookhill Park Golf Club, Greenkeeper, Sheffield Section
Adam McKay, Southport Golf Academy, Greenkeeper, North West Section
Stuart Wright, Ingol Golf Club, Course Manager, North West Section
Robert Doyle, Withington Golf Club, Greenkeeper, North West Section
Adam Hutchinson, Heysham Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, North West Section
Warrick O'Brien, St Idloes Golf Club, Greenkeeper, North Wales Section
Cefyn Owen, Henllys Hall Golf Club, Greenkeeper, North Wales Section
Matthew Walmsley, Nelson Golf Club, Greenkeeper, North West Section

Midland Region

Neil Adams, Toro Commercial Products/Lely UK, Midland Section
Nigel Stacey, Toro Commercial Products/Lely UK, Midland - Andrew Smith
Shaun Bullin, Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Asst Greenkeeper, East Midlands Section
Lee Carratt, Belton Park Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper, East of England Section
Harry Jones, Wrekin Golf Club, Head Greenkeeper, Midlands Section
Niall Rose, Wrekin Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Midlands Section
Ben Waters, Shrewsbury Golf Club, Greenkeeper, Midlands Section
Ryan Hursey, Brickendon Grange Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Mid Anglia Section

South East Region

Daniel Gibb, West Sussex Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Sussex Section
Lee Clary, Impulse Leisure, Affiliate member, Essex Section
Bradleigh Porter, Worpleston Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Surrey Section
Zak Gittins, Queenwood Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Surrey Section

South West/South Wales Region

James Whittick, Greenbest Ltd, Affiliate Member, South West Section
Michael Burke, Painswick Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, South West Section
Alex Graham-Brown, Trevoze Golf Club, Greenkeeper, Devon & Cornwall Section
Shaun Cuffin, Falmouth Golf Club, Asst Greenkeeper, Devon & Cornwall Section
Toby Goodyear, Blacknest Golf & Country Club, Student, South Coast Section
International
Michael Carlson, Virginia Country Club, International Member, USA
Sajid Shah, DA Country & Golf Club, International Member, Pakistan
Robert Brooks, J-Spray (TriEst Ag Group Inc), Affiliate Member, USA
Olafur Por Agústsson, Golfklubburrinn Kellir, Iceland

For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.

www.bigga.org.uk

Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: Jamie Robertson
Age: 23
Club: Meldrum House Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Cakes



How long have you been greenkeeping? Four years

What was it about the career that attracted you? I love playing golf, and being on a golf course all day making it look and play great is really enjoyable for me

If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? I worked as an assistant professional in a golf shop for two years, so probably would have turned pro.

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Rolling the greens, I like getting the green speed up, which I hope the members appreciate

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Clearing the snow, which is normally six months of the year up here

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Greenkeepers getting the recognition they deserve for their work

Hobbies? Golf, rugby, five a side football

Favourite Band? Linkin Park

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? Turriff United

What is your claim to fame? In the last three years I've been to T in the Park and been on TV a few times in the crowd

ALFA MALE GREG BACK ON THE ROAD THANKS TO BIGGA

In future editions we're hoping to feature examples of how BIGGA members have taken advantage of the various ways BIGGA membership has helped out in difficult times. Whether it's personal accident guidance, legal assistance, debt counselling or general support we want you to get in touch and let us know how we helped you.

First up is Greg Skinner, Head Greenkeeper at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, who contacted our dedicated (and free!) Legal Assistance line on 0800 177 7891 after having a series of problems with his car.

Greg takes up the story...

"Those of you that know me will have heard me curse my car over the last year for its desire to be pampered in the garage. I have learnt two really important things during my ownership of my Alfa GT. Firstly, never buy an Alfa Romeo and secondly the BIGGA Greenkeepers Legal Assistance phone line is

absolutely fantastic in terms of giving quality legal advice free to full members.

"I bought it on finance and had endured numerous problems with it, yet the garage insisted I had to pay £1,400 despite it still being under warranty. I knew they were in the wrong but what I needed was the legal ammunition to respond to them.

"The Legal Assistance team advised me exactly where I stood with the garage and the correct terminology and Acts of Parliament to quote. I was then confident enough to relay this to the garage. They immediately backed down and agreed to repair it, and as a result I've been able to exit the finance agreement due to the issues I've had with it.

"Making that one phone call made such a difference to me and for an annual subscription of £140 I would suggest incredible value for money. BIGGA membership has many valuable benefits - use them to your advantage."

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