

WELCOME FROM BIGGA

BIGGA



BIGGA President
Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE

**BIGGA Board of
Management
Chairman**
Tony Smith
Vice Chairman
Chris Sealey

BIGGA Past Chairman
Andrew Mellon

BIGGA Board Members
Gary Cunningham, Stuart Greenwood,
Arnold Phipps-Jones, Jeremy Hughes, Kenny
MacKay, George Barr, John Keenaghan

BIGGA Chief Executive Officer
Jim Croxton

BIGGA General Manager
Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

BIGGA Learning & Development Manager
Sami Collins
sami@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us
BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York,
YO61 1UF
info@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the
British and International Golf Greenkeepers
Association Limited.



Production
Design & Brand
Executive
Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 513
tom@bigga.co.uk



Editorial
Communications
Executive
Steve Castle

Tel – 01347 833800
ext 510
steve.castle
@bigga.co.uk



Advertising
Business
Development
Executive
Jill Rodham

Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
jill@bigga.co.uk
ext 519

Printing
Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor
Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise
reproduced without written permission.
Return postage must accompany all
materials submitted if return is requested. No
responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited
materials. The right is reserved to edit
submissions before publication.
Although every care will be taken, no
responsibility is accepted for loss of
manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions
expressed are not necessarily those of the
Association, and no responsibility is accepted
for such content, advertising or product
information that may appear. Circulation is by
subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per
year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World
£95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA
members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf
industry, libraries and central government.



ISSN: 0961-6977
© 2013 British and International Golf
Greenkeepers Association Limited



Muirfield Clubhouse courtesy of Alastair Brown

Great Scott triggers Open countdown

Browsing social media on the Monday after Adam Scott's magnificent Masters win it was clear that a lot of Greenkeeper International readers had been glued to the TV coverage and were going to be a bit bleary eyed as they prepared their courses that morning.

For as long as I can remember I have considered it compulsory to watch the year's first major unfold on television and whilst the early hours conclusion does not combine well with greenkeeper hours it is clear I'm not alone in this industry with that view. Once again the Augusta National golf course provided a fantastic examination for the best players on the planet and whilst it was unfortunate that a couple of rules incidents threatened to overshadow the play, the thrilling finish giving Scott his first major was a great advert for the sport. The immaculate conditioning once again showcased course management to a worldwide audience - whether it creates unrealistic expectations amongst our own golfers or not it is clearly a great shop window for the profession.

Augusta weekend marks the traditional start to the golfing season and, with due deference to the intervening US Open, also whets the appetite for the upcoming Open Championship which this year is to be held at the wonderful Muirfield. I vividly remember the last time the tournament was held there when strong winds on the Saturday blew some of the world's finest off course with Tiger Woods registering the worst round of his career. The current champion Ernie Els then came through a four man playoff to claim his first Claret Jug. Els is in the unusual position of being both the defending champion and the last man to win at this year's venue. In this month's magazine (page 20) we take a look at the preparation work that the Course Manager Colin Irvine has put in as he builds up to what is in my view the world's greatest golf tournament.

The BIGGA Open Support Team are also gearing up to the event and I am looking

forward to getting to know this year's successful group as they play their part in ensuring the success of the Championship.

Last month I was privileged to attend the inaugural Future Turf Managers Initiative made possible by Jacobsen.

Held at Ransomes Jacobsen's impressive Ipswich headquarters the Initiative offered an intense management training and mentoring experience for the twenty BIGGA members who had been selected to attend. The event was both inspiring and informative and it was fantastic to see the young, aspirant Future Turf Managers interact with each other and their mentors who had given up their time to participate. In depth sessions on communication skills, budgeting, organisational politics and managing different personalities were all hugely relevant to the skills needed by the modern course manager, or any manager for that matter. I would like to publicly take this opportunity to thank Jacobsen for their superb support of the Initiative and the five mentors for their generous commitment to the event itself and to their role as group mentors.

These pages contain a review of the event and also the first part of an excellent two-part article by Kevin Munt who explores the '18 holes' to a successful career as a course manager. The front nine commences on page 30 with the homeward stretch to follow in June.



Enjoy the read
Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO