

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

Steve Mason, 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 Strutt
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 Manager
Jill Rodham

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

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Mallings, 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.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2013 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited



Over the last few weeks I have been involved in interviewing the twenty BIGGA members who were shortlisted for the BIGGA Delegation to next year's Golf Industry Show in Orlando.

As ever we were presented with a very difficult choice as there are only ten places available but the calibre of candidate was extremely high and I am confident that the selected few will represent the Association and the sponsors Bernhard & Company with distinction.

Making the telephone calls to the successful candidates ranks very highly in my favourite tasks of the year but conversely having to break the news to the ten unsuccessful ones is something I do not relish, particularly when all have worked so hard and demonstrated great passion for their vocation during the process. As ever, our thanks go to Bernhard & Company for their continued support of this fantastic member benefit.

A recurring theme throughout the interviews was the passion for the game of golf that drove practically all of the candidates into the industry in the first place. I was reminded of that passion during our recent National Championship held over the magnificent Red Course at Frilford Heath Golf Club when members, young and old, low handicap and high gathered for two days of golf and camaraderie.

In a revenge mission following the English plundering of the title north of the border last year it was the Scottish National Champion, Gordon Sangster of Cathkin Braes Golf Club, who left with the spoils after a first class performance capping a fine year for him on the course. Congratulations to Gordon and to all the winners in the various categories, and of course our gratitude goes to both of our generous sponsors, Kubota and Charterhouse, and to Sid Arrowsmith and his colleagues at Frilford Heath for their wonderful hospitality.

With the clocks going back the focus for the Association turns to education. It is conference season and I am immensely looking forward to this month's Regional Conferences for the

opportunities to learn and to spend time with so many BIGGA members. Without exception the conferences represent fantastic learning and development opportunities and are great value - I hope to see many of you there.

There are also many seminars and workshops being arranged at Section level and by the trade, all of which provide opportunities for Continuing Professional Development. As of 1 November it is now possible for members to update their CPD profile online through our website www.bigga.org.uk, please refer to the CPD pages within the Education section for more detail.

I am pleased to report a very encouraging start to bookings for the Continue to Learn programme at BTME in January. Places are already limited on a number of workshops and seminars. I have said before that a well planned visit to Harrogate cannot fail to make you a better turf manager, if you haven't already I would urge you to do that planning as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Elsewhere in these pages you will read of further developments at BTME, notably the launch of the BIGGA Welcome Celebration featuring the legendary Peter Alliss and his musings on the development of the game and its courses over his years in golf. Entry is free and I sincerely hope that all of you will take the opportunity to join us in celebrating the Association at what will be the centrepiece of BTME week.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO