



# Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

## A grand National for BIGGA

**What a couple of days at Frilford Heath Golf Club for the National Championship. The Red Course was absolutely fantastic. I had the great pleasure of playing with the host Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith on the first morning and it was a fantastic opportunity to hear the knowledge and opinions of a Master Greenkeeper. I got to know a lot about various elements of the course itself, its history and the various challenges he's faced over the years.**

He admitted the biggest challenge was ensuring all three courses at Frilford Heath are up to the same standard and in my opinion it's something Sid and all his team have certainly achieved.

It's undoubtedly one of the best golf clubs we've held the National Championships at.

It was great to see members coming to Oxfordshire from as far afield as the north of Scotland and Switzerland, and I'd like to thank each and every member who came to play.

With the increased prize fund, two rounds of golf on a course that held European Tour qualifying the previous week plus the official dinner and breakfast and lunch thrown in, it represents superb value for money.

I urge you to head to Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire on 6/7 October next year to pit your wits against fellow BIGGA members.

Congratulations to Gordon Sangster on his amazing achievement of winning the double of the Scottish Championship and the National this year, and well done to all the prizewinners.



Tony with Gordon Sangster, Colin Hennah from Kubota and Frilford Heath men's captain, Mike Chapman

**“It was particularly pleasing to see many young greenkeepers at the tournament, who have real golfing talent to go along with their skill and enthusiasm in their everyday roles”**

The standard of golf was excellent (apart from mine!). I'd like to personally thank everyone at Frilford Heath Golf Club, the BIGGA team for their hard work in ensuring the whole event ran very smoothly, and of course the sponsors Charterhouse and Kubota, it can't be underestimated how vital and welcome their support is.

It was particularly pleasing to see many young greenkeepers at the tournament, who have real golfing talent to go along with their skill and enthusiasm in their everyday roles.

I had a good chat with several of them, and coming so soon after the Toro Student of the

Year final it again reassures me the future of the industry is looking bright.

I think it's vital that younger greenkeepers become involved at Region and Section level.

I'd like to see some of this young blood have a voice – if you're good enough, you're old enough.

November is Regional Conference month and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, I will be attending all of them.

The Regional Administrators have done a marvellous job in securing very informative and interesting line-ups and I really do want to see full venues for them, so come along – again

they represent excellent value for money.

With the National over, the next major event is BTME.

The exhibition itself is a sell-out and the Continue to Learn programme is looking better than ever. Places are filling up very quickly so don't miss out – there's something for every level of greenkeeper across the board.

I hope everyone's winter programmes have started well.

Keep up the good work and I hope to see you soon.

### Contact details

Tony Smith / 07988 838956  
tony.smith48@ntlworld.com