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Jason Dufner celebrates winning the USPGA Championship

A supreme sporting summer

What a summer of sport we've had: Andy Murray winning Wimbledon, the British & Irish Lions' triumphant Tour down under, the Ashes retained comfortably and just recently a thrilling and convincing win for Europe's Solheim Cup team, their first ever victory on American turf.

Additionally the reassuringly comfortably built Jason Dufner taking the USPGA Championship sealed a vintage year for golf's Majors. Attention now turns to the qualifying process for the 2014 Ryder Cup which began at Celtic Manor in August.

It doesn't seem a year since Europe's historic win at Medinah and the next twelve months will pass in a flash for Scott Fenwick, Steve Chappell and all the team at Gleneagles who are charged with preparing the PGA Centenary Course for golf's most exhilarating event. The last few months' clement weather will no doubt have been welcome as the changes made to the course for the event settle in.

Without wishing to usher 2013 too quickly to a conclusion it is now time for the Association to look forward, as registration has opened for the 25th edition of the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) to be held once again in Harrogate in January.

Go to www.btme.org.uk to register for your free entry and ensure you beat the queues on the door.

I am delighted that we are now officially sold out for stand space in all of the four Halls and have actually begun a waiting list for additional interested exhibitors, meaning there is the possibility of expanding into an extra 5th Hall.

The comprehensive and excellent Continue to Learn education programme is complete and will be contained within this magazine's next edition, demand is sure to be high especially for the very popular Turf Managers Conference

which features Ohio State's Professor Karl Danneberger amongst others.

This month entries close for our National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at the time of writing there were still some spaces left for this 36 hole event to be played over the excellent Red Course at Oxfordshire's Frilford Heath Golf Club, a course that will have played host to the European Tour's Qualifying School only seven days previously. I hope you can take part and compete for the increased prize fund for 2013.

Entries also close soon for the fantastic opportunity provided by Bernhards to be part of the BIGGA Delegation to the Golf Industry Show in Orlando in February. If you are not one of the privileged few to have been a BIGGA delegate in the past I would urge you to apply this time around. The combination of education, camaraderie, networking and industry insight that the Bernhards trip provides truly is an unparalleled career development opportunity.

This month's magazine features a fascinating diary provided by David MacIndoe (page 34) on the trials and tribulations of growing in Belarus's first ever golf course. Once again the adaptability of this industry's practitioners is tested to the maximum with outstanding success. Additionally there is an illuminating insight from Huw Morgan on the challenges of his dual role as Club and Course Manager at Ashburnham Golf Club (page 28).

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
BIGGA CEO