



BIGGA SUPPORTS GALLACHER'S LIFESAVING CAMPAIGN

Left to right: Richard Hills (Ryder Cup Director), Lesley Gallacher, Bernard Gallacher, Jo Jerronne (deputy CEO Arrhythmia) and Sandy Jones (PGA chief executive)

BIGGA have backed Bernhard Gallacher's defibrillator campaign which could help to save the lives of golfers of all abilities and ages.

Drawing on his own personal experience of suffering a sudden cardiac arrest in August, the former Ryder Cup winning captain was joined by friends and colleagues from the world of sport and showbusiness at Wentworth Club to launch the Bernard Gallacher Defibrillator Campaign 2014.

It was only thanks to the availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) following his collapse during a dinner reception in Aberdeen, along with early-response CPR treatment at the venue, that Gallacher was able to regain consciousness and take steps towards a full recovery.

However, that close brush with death inspired Bernard and his wife, Lesley, to

announce plans to lead a campaign for AEDs to be widely available in every single golf club and driving range in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

With the Gallachers' profile and encouragement, allied to a fundraising campaign being run concurrently with the PGA and Arrhythmia Alliance – the Heart Rhythm Charity – an estimated 2600 golfing venues and around four million club golfers could benefit from the campaign.

He said: "I consider myself incredibly fortunate that a defibrillator was on hand in Aberdeen to resuscitate me following my sudden cardiac arrest. But for that AED and the quick-thinking, expertise and life-saving skills of the medical personnel in the room that night, I wouldn't be here today.

"Without early intervention, an individual has just a 5% chance of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest, so Lesley and

I felt it appropriate to try to ensure others are equally fortunate should they collapse in or around a golfing venue in future.

"Currently, just 30% of golf clubs have a defibrillator and our stated aim is to try to raise awareness of the importance of having an AED close by in case of emergency, and to increase that figure considerably by encouraging every club or driving range in the UK and Ireland to have at least one public-access defibrillator by the end of 2014.

"Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time, and possibly on the golf course. We want to do whatever it takes to raise the level of awareness of defibrillators and to get them into more clubs around the country."

Tony Smith, BIGGA Chairman, said:

"We are pleased to throw our weight behind this vital

campaign. I know from speaking to some of our members that they are often the first on the scene in an emergency situation.

"Bernhard Gallacher's campaign will hopefully provide defibrillators at many more of our members' clubs."

Sandy Jones, Chief Executive of the PGA, added:

"The PGA is delighted to join with Bernard in this campaign to install defibrillators in every golf club in Great Britain and Ireland. It has been a long standing ambition of my own and the PGA that this should happen, and as we have seen through the near tragic experience of Bernard, it is vital that such equipment is available at the time of need.

"Defibrillators in golf clubs, without doubt, will save lives and we thank Bernard and Lesley for allowing us to join with them in this campaign."



LES HOWKINS MG TO BE NEW BIGGA VICE CHAIRMAN

Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club, will be the next Vice Chairman of BIGGA after the Board of Management unanimously voted to invite him to take up the position at their recent meeting.

He will officially take up the post at BIGGA's AGM during BTME in January. Current Vice Chairman Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf Club, will take over the reins as Chairman at the AGM from Tony Smith, who has served the Association with distinction during his 18 months in the role and many years of Board involvement.

Les, who originally hails from Leicester, began his greenkeeping career at the age of 15 with a work experience stint at Kibworth Golf Club.

He really cut his teeth in turf management at Cleethorpes Golf Club, where he achieved the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Award in 2004 – considered to be one of the highest accolades in the industry.

He moved to The Richmond Golf Club in 2008 as Course Manager, where recently the greenkeeping team was honoured with the 'Renovation of the Year' award from the

highly respected Golf Inc magazine after completing a hugely successful £125k overhaul of the course's bunkers.

The club fought off competition from clubs with much larger budgets worldwide to clinch the award.

Les, who plays golf to a handicap of six, said: "I am delighted to accept the invitation to become Vice Chairman and am looking forward to having an extremely positive impact on the Association.

"I've been involved in the greenkeeping industry for about 25 years now so I've got an in-depth knowledge of it, and I'm keen to bring my enthusiasm and professionalism to the role.

"I'm a passionate supporter of the industry and have been a BIGGA member for many years, and I'm fully supportive of the strides forward the Association is making, particularly in education.

"I'm particularly keen to meet members from across the UK in my new role at various events and of course at BTME."

BIGGA's AGM will take place during BTME 2014 on Wednesday 22 January at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite of the Harrogate International Centre.

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BIGGA LAUNCH GREENKEEPERS BENEVOLENT FUND

We're pleased to announce the launch of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund at BTME 2014 - and you can support it by buying a wristband at the exhibition.

The Association has identified the need for such a Fund to assist current members or past members and their dependents who have suffered hardship - financial or otherwise.

The green wristbands cost just £2 and will be available at BTME - just head to the BIGGA Stand B23 where a BIGGA team member will be happy to sell you a wristband in aid of this extremely worthwhile cause.

After the Fund is launched at BTME, we will be fundraising on a permanent basis at all events we organise and there will be further details available over the course of 2014.



SHORE THING FOR BRETT

Congratulations to Brett Cornelius (far left) who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at North Shore Golf Club in Skegness.

Brett, who previously worked at Seacroft Golf Club in the coastal Lincolnshire town for 16 years, heads up a five strong team at the course.

He said: "It's an excellent opportunity for me. My

dad is the pro at North Shore so when I heard their previous Head Greenkeeper had retired it seemed perfect for me really.

"It's a really interesting site as it's half links half parkland, and I'm used to a straightforward links at Seacroft, so there will be all manner of challenges. The first major project will be revetting bunkers."

IMAGE: Brett Cornelius, Desmond Hardy, Stephen Briggs, Graham Larder, Phillip Newland.



IOG CEO Geoff Webb, BIGGA Vice Chairman Chris Sealey, IOG chair David Teasdale and BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton

IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS EXPAND INTO GOLF WITH BIGGA AGREEMENT

The IOG and BIGGA have announced they are to work together to extend the IOG Industry Awards by including three new greenkeeping categories at next year's event.

The cooperation between the two industry bodies was announced by IOG chief executive Geoff Webb at the successful IOG Raise the Game Conference at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry.

The conference preceded this year's awards ceremony, the fifth in the annual series.

The new greenkeeping categories are expected to recognise the achievements of greenkeepers the length and breadth of the UK, whether they are employed at large multi-course facilities or smaller venues.

Commenting, Geoff Webb said: "Our annual awards continue to grow from strength to strength both in popularity throughout the groundscape industry and in raising the profile of the sector in the public domain.

"The new golf-focused categories will not only broaden the awards into another major sporting arena but they will also help the IOG to continue to

improve and enhance an awards scheme that is the only event of its kind in the UK."

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton added: "BIGGA is delighted to be joining the IOG's highly successful annual awards scheme. It's been a long-established ambition to be able to work with the IOG on relevant projects - and a prestigious award scheme that recognises excellence in greenkeeping is the perfect example.

"It's an ideal opportunity for members of the greenkeeping fraternity to be rewarded for their dedication, skill, professionalism and adaptability, particularly in challenging economic times."

The IOG awards highlight the high standards of volunteer and professional grounds professionals and facilities, from grass roots to professional stadia level.

Covering categories such as sport, young people and the environment, the awards are judged by an independent panel on criteria that include effective use of resources, budgetary control, presentation and housekeeping standards, as well as environmental considerations.



STRI Golf Environment Awards 2013 finalists announced

STRI is pleased to announce the finalists for the Golf Environment Awards 2013. They have been selected as the top golf clubs in the UK that have made significant improvements to their local environment both on and off the golf course. Winners will be announced at the Golf Environment Awards Dinner at Hotel du Vin on 22 January 2014, during BTME.

According to the judges at STRI the standard of entries was high as well, with a number of golf courses undertaking new environmental and nature conservation projects, and others maintaining and building on the work done in previous years.

Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology & Environment at STRI, commented:

“All entrants to the Golf Environment Awards deserve recognition for their efforts and enthusiasm and it is particularly encouraging to find that many course managers are now using their natural resources for educational purposes.

“The message is spreading that golf courses can and do provide an important resource for nature conservation.”

The coveted awards are supported by a group of sponsors committed to supporting and promoting proven sustainable projects within golf clubs – BIGGA, Syngenta, County Turf, Ransomes Jacobsen, Farmura, Greenkeeping, Golf Monthly and Operation Pollinator.

Also supporting the awards is US Open Champion 2013, Justin Rose, who continues as the official ambassador of the awards for the fourth consecutive year.

Golf Environment Awards 2013 Finalists

Environmental Golf Course of the Year: Dundonald Links, Hankley Common, John O’Gaunt, North Foreland.

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year: Boston West, Hankley Common, Lymm, Pyecombe.

Outstanding Environmental Project of the Year: Dundonald Links, Fairhaven, Luffness, Minchinhampton.

For more information on the awards go to golffenvironmentawards.com.



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DAVID WILSON

Many of those involved in the greenkeeping industry will be saddened to hear of the passing of David Wilson, former course manager of the Strathtyrum Course at St Andrews Links.

David only retired some 15 months ago after having worked a total of 44 years for the Links Trust, starting there as an apprentice in 1968.

Over the years David moved up through the ranks to become Head Greenkeeper of the Jubilee course, a position he held for 20 years before taking over the Course

Manager position on the Strathtyrum Course until his retirement.

David was one of the first greenkeepers to gain a recognised qualification in greenkeeping when he enrolled on the first City & Guilds course that Elmwood College introduced. Our thoughts are with his wife and family.

Gordon Moir