

## WELCOME FROM BIGGA

### BIGGA



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## Overcoming the wet at Wentworth

**The 2014 European Tour season finally reached these shores last month when the BMW PGA Championship took place at Wentworth. Rory McIlroy claimed a notable victory, amazingly his first professional win on European soil, coming out on top of a stellar leaderboard on a fascinating final day. The event was plagued with heavy rain and storms, leading to suspensions of play and delayed starts.**

The greenkeeping team led by Kenny Mackay and Graham Matheson worked wonders and were ably supported by the BIGGA Support Team who, for the first time, match raked on all four days as well as assisting the on site crew in preparing the course and dealing with the inclement weather. I heard many tales of 15 hour days but tellingly they were told with pride and good humour.

We are grateful to all the volunteer greenkeepers who gave up their time to support the tournament, it is a credit to this industry to see so many qualified and experienced greenkeepers willingly volunteering their services in this way. It was a great team effort all round and played a huge part in ensuring that the paying and watching public were able to witness such an enthralling tournament.

**On the subject of teamwork I am delighted that Evertis have committed to sponsor the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy in 2014, details of which are on page 8.**

This event provides a fantastic opportunity for Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers to spend time with senior decision makers from their club as a team in a competitive environment. Five qualifying events lead to a final at the excellent Frilford Heath Golf Club and I look forward to seeing which club will be crowned the 2014 Golf Management Trophy winners.

Whilst it would be far too glib to state that simply taking part in a golf tournament leads to a perfect team ethos within a club, it is clear that golf clubs that do have a team approach to management are better equipped to make effective decisions and produce a consistent, excellent product for their customers.

**In an ideal world all golfers would be a part of the extended course management team, caring for the course, replacing divots and repairing all their pitchmarks.**

Sadly this isn't always the case and pitchmarks in particular cause a major issue for greenkeepers and golfers alike. We at BIGGA will be getting behind the second National Repair Your Pitchmark Day in August of this year, which began as a Twitter campaign in 2013 and gathered surprisingly strong momentum.

Enclosed within this edition is a poster for club noticeboards demonstrating the correct pitchmark repair method that we hope will bring further attention to this campaign and encourage golfers to do their bit for the course.

As always this magazine also contains numerous articles about BIGGA members, by BIGGA members and for BIGGA members.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, Chief Executive