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Industry support vital as floods test resolve

Watching the recent scenes of flooding around the country has been horrendous; it has had enormous impacts on many industries and yet again golf is adversely affected.

Whilst course closures at this time of year should not have too adverse an impact on the golf club business, the recovery work could be expensive and with golf still suffering the effects of the economic crisis, a faster start to the season would have been far more desirable. It has been heartening to hear that yet again greenkeepers have been helping their comrades with offers of equipment, support and manpower.

Sadly this further setback is likely to push more golf clubs towards redundancies or even closures. Now more than ever, it is vital that our members have a strong relationship with their employers, are in tune with the needs of the business and are seen as providers of innovative solutions rather than presenting additional problems.

The Association is here to help any member affected, don't hesitate to contact your Regional Administrator for advice and assistance, the network of support in the industry and within the membership is excellent.

Following a vibrant BTME it was interesting to travel to America for the Golf Industry Show. There was definitely cause for further optimism with increased exhibition space sold and visitor numbers up. Our meetings during the week with fellow Associations and industry partners were all extremely encouraging.

It was a pleasure to spend time with the ten members who made up the annual BIGGA Delegation to the show courtesy of Bernhard and Company. They were a credit to themselves, their employers and the

Association. I'd like to take this opportunity to formally thank Stephen Bernhard and his company for his continued long-term support of this fantastic member development opportunity.

They picked up a host of contacts, expertise and knowledge from their trip. In fact, see page 20 to read how Tom Brearley secured a once in a lifetime opportunity to volunteer at the 2016 Ryder Cup!

The Delegation were not the only BIGGA members attending, there were scores of British greenkeepers in town as well as our many American and International members all taking advantage of the excellent educational conference put on by our friends at the GCSAA.

It was interesting to note that the GCSAA are focusing on the difficult transition from Assistant Superintendent to the top job. Aiding ambitious Assistant Greenkeepers and Deputy Head Greenkeepers has long been a priority for BIGGA - but making the leap into the hot seat is still a daunting one for many. This month we carry a fascinating study of how Andy Pullen at North Wilts Golf Club has successfully managed the various challenges involved having recently taken this very step.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton, Chief Executive