



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Chris Sealey, gives his thoughts for the month

Spring has sprung with a vengeance

Having spent the early part of my Chairmanship travelling widely and focusing on Association business it has been good to spend time more recently closer to home where my heart belongs – managing the course here at Chippenham.

I was honoured to attend the fantastic 2014 Future Turf Managers' Initiative made possible by Jacobsen.

I didn't go last year so it was my first opportunity to see at first hand what a superb event it is.

It's the ideal platform for young greenkeepers who are looking to move up through the ranks.

The mentors who gave up their time were superb, and the experienced presenters – several of whom I caught at BTME – gave a series of excellent seminars.

I'd like to thank the delegates, mentors, presenters and the L&D team at BIGGA House for all their efforts contributing to the success of this second event, and I hope there are many more in the future.

Lastly, I'd like to say how grateful I am to Jacobsen's kind sponsorship, their support was once again tremendous.

Another highlight in March was the South Wales spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl.

I was particularly fascinated by the presentation the Deputy Head Groundsman at the Millennium Stadium, Craig Campbell gave about the challenges posed as they install a new DESSO pitch.

I also enjoyed Jason Brooks' account of working in America, Noel MacKenzie's 'Drainage does work' and Matt Gresty and Andy Laing's seminar on using wildflower on your course.

Section events, be they educational, golf days, course walks or social/sporting fixtures, are hugely important to BIGGA and play a key role in keeping our members connected at local level.

Having a strong network of local peers has been massively important in my career, providing advice, support and a helping hand whenever I've needed them.

It has been my pleasure to be able to return some of that help over recent years, but to this day whenever I attend a Section event I come away having gained some



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knowledge that can benefit me and my club.

I would love to visit all the Sections during my time as Chairman but sadly it just isn't physically possible! However I will try and get to as many events as I can, and chatting with BIGGA members young and old at these events is a privilege.

I would encourage all members to support the events that many of our members give up their own time to organise.

Spring has finally sprung with a vengeance, which has meant lots of work for us here at Chippenham and I'm sure an extremely busy month for all of you.

We've been getting stuck into all sorts of tasks from putting sand in bunkers to cutting fairways and firing up the irrigation system.

We've dropped our height of cut from 5mm to 4.5mm ahead of dropping it

further to 4mm very soon to give the greens that extra pace.

We have had a problem with leatherjackets, so the article focusing on dealing with them in last month's magazine was particularly timely.

We've been spraying to combat them and it seems to be doing the trick.

We're holding an Open Event on the weekend of 17/18 May where we'll be officially opening our new holes.

The intention is to allow members to play on the first day then hopefully attract lots of visitors and potentially new members on the second.

So fingers crossed for more good weather.

Chris

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