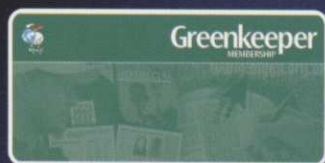




B I G G A M E M B E R S H I P

# HOW CAN YOU benefit?

BIGGA membership isn't just for greenkeepers. We have four main categories to suit everybody. All membership categories are utilised by people seeking to create a greater understanding and awareness of greenkeeping, the skills, knowledge and training involved, and the rewards to be gained from this profession. All categories of membership benefit from a monthly copy of our award winning magazine Greenkeeper International and an annual copy of the BIGGA Golf Directory.



**Greenkeeper Membership**  
(any person employed in the 'keeping of the green at a golfing establishment') offers:

Education opportunities for professional greenkeepers

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Greenkeeper Members

Exclusive access to our Greenkeeper Members Area

Through Membership, BIGGA also aims to create a safer working environment for our members

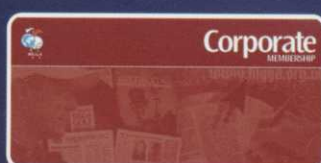


**Associate Membership**  
(any person who is not a working greenkeeper, but wants to be part of a growing Association, i.e. Chairman of Green, Secretary, Company Sales Representative etc.) offers:

Networking with members, clients, suppliers and potential customers

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Associate Members

Online information & opportunities for Associate Members

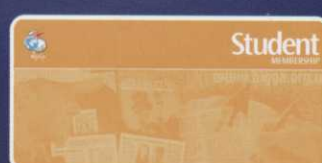


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Online information & opportunities for Corporate Members



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BIGGA MEMBERSHIP IS ABOUT MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND ENSURING THAT GOLF CLUBS RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE PROFESSION



For full information on any of the four categories of membership, please ring Rachael Palmer in the BIGGA Membership Services Department on 01347 833800, email [rachael\\_p@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael_p@bigga.co.uk) or find us on the web at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) or write to us at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

# MEMBERSHIP REQUEST CARD

GI 12.02



If you are employed as a greenkeeper, at college studying greenkeeping, or involved in any way with the fine turf industry, then BIGGA membership could benefit you. To find out more about membership, fill in this card and send it to us today.

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## A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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Board Members  
Ian Semple  
Paul Jenkins  
Ian Holoran  
David Walden  
Iain Macleod

Executive Director  
Neil Thomas  
Email: [neil@bigga.co.uk](mailto:neil@bigga.co.uk)

Administration Manager  
John Pemberton  
Email: [john@bigga.co.uk](mailto:john@bigga.co.uk)

Editorial/Media  
Scott MacCallum  
Email: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

Education & Training Manager  
Ken Richardson  
Email: [ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk)

Membership Services Officer  
Rachael Palmer  
Email: [rachael\\_p@bigga.co.uk](mailto:rachael_p@bigga.co.uk)

## Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

**Post:** BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark,  
Alne, York, YO61 1UF

**Email:** [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

**Internet:** [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

**Tel:** 01347 833800

**Fax:** 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine  
of the British & International  
Golf Greenkeepers Association

### Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801  
Email: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### Advertising

Sales & Marketing Department:  
Jennifer Whichello, [jennifer@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@bigga.co.uk)  
Cheryl Broomhead, [cheryl@bigga.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@bigga.co.uk)  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: [sales@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sales@bigga.co.uk)

### Design

Design and Production Editor: Marie Whyld  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
ISDN: 01347 830020  
Email: [marie@bigga.co.uk](mailto:marie@bigga.co.uk)

### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,  
Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH  
Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

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**'THE TURFTIME TEASER'**  
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## December 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by January 8, 2003



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Scott MacCallum visits Pennard Golf Club, on the Gower peninsula, one of the most beautiful spots in the country but one which also attracts more than its fair share of livestock.

### 19 Hurray for Harrogate

BTME and ClubHouse are just around the corner and Harrogate is preparing itself for the influx of greenkeepers and golf course administrators.

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Thinking about furthering your education? The BIGGA College Listing can help select the best college and course for you.

### 34 Hydraulics

Roland Taylor looks at the history of a system that has made our lives so much easier.

### 36 Guidance and Leadership

The new R&A Golf Course committee has been set up to offer guidance and leadership on matters of golf course management. Michael Barrett explains all to Scott MacCallum.

### 40 New diseases are developing - fact or fiction?

Dr Kate Entwistle delves into the murky world of fungi and reports the startling fact that there are more out there than you might believe.





Welcome

## THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN WORK

So here we are at the final magazine of 2002. It doesn't seem more than a couple of months ago that I was listing all my new year's resolutions in the January magazine.

I was going to take golf lessons, rededicate myself to jogging and get back into the book that I started writing about 10 years ago.

Well my report card on the above doesn't make very good reading. I haven't had any golf lessons, although I did get some new clubs for my birthday which are not working too badly at the moment. I've jogged twice, although if it stops raining tonight I might make that thrice. And the book? It remains an untouched, potential masterpiece.

So there you are. That's my confession. I do feel there are mitigating circumstances though, the main one being that I happen to be living in the UK in the 21st century, a time when work increasingly seems to dominate every other aspect of our lives.

Twenty years ago the crystal ball gazers more or less promised us more leisure time by now - even a four day working week - such was the advance of the computers that were going to take much of our workload from us. But the reverse seems to be happening. Computers allow us to do much more in a much shorter space of time, but the time saved is taken up by yet more work, not the promised leisure time. The demands on us are certainly much greater than they have ever been.

I see it when I visit golf courses and people in the trade. We must always be seen to be doing more, achieving higher standards and becoming more efficient. Status Quo is not good enough, even if it is to be achieved with reduced resources. We must produce higher quality golf courses, we must grab more of the market share...

But perhaps if we did make time for golf lessons, a keep fit regime or even writing a book, we would be in a more relaxed frame of mind to tackle our day-to-day jobs and with less pressure to achieve the achievements would come all the more readily. But will we ever get the chance to test out this concept?

One man who is leaving behind all the pressures and strains of full time employment is Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter, and one of the best known and most popular men in the industry. Kim has decided to take early retirement and I know I speak for everyone in the industry, when I wish him well for the future. Hopefully, as he's not excessively old, the pipe and slippers will remain in cold storage for a while longer and we might still see him out and about occasionally.

It just remains for me to wish all Greenkeeper International readers a relaxing and enjoyable break over the festive period, and remember there's more to life than work!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## EARLY RETIREMENT FOR KIM MACFIE



Kim Macfie, one of the most recognisable figures in the fine turf industry, and one of greenkeeping's biggest supporters, has opted to take early retirement.

Kim, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter, will step

down just before Christmas.

"Nothing stands still. In Hayter, the winds of change, (mostly gentle breezes in my recollection), are now forecast to increase markedly. The "drum beat has to be picked up", the "talk walked" etc. etc. Having been, inexorably, part of the company's philosophy for nearly 20 years, it is inappropriate for me to be part of the next stage. Consequently, I will leave the company before Christmas," said Kim.

"I have had an immensely happy and rewarding time with Hayter, due largely to the personal relationships established over the years.

I will be very sad to leave yet I will be parting with many happy memories. Hayter has an

abundance of good people to take it into the future and I wish them every success," said Kim.

Derek Boulton, Hayter Managing Director, paid tribute to Kim's distinguished career at Hayter.

"We have much to thank Kim for. Indeed Hayter's success over several decades and its market position today can be directly linked to Kim's leadership, loyalty, hard work and dedication.

"He has been the face of Hayter for a considerable time and is renowned, loved and respected throughout the industry," said Derek.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA commented, "I am sorry that I will no longer be working with Kim. He was the driving force behind the Hayter Challenges and International Cups in the 90s, which to this day are still much talked about by BIGGA members.

"Kim was a vibrant member of the BTME Steering Committee and contributed greatly to the exhibition's on-going success. His empathy with BIGGA's members and the profession at large was marked and singled him out as someone with whom the individual greenkeeper was immediately at ease.

"All of us at BIGGA wish him well for the future in whatever direction his retirement may take him," said Neil.

## TRAINING THE TRAINER

Two train the trainer days have been hosted by the GTC recently. A follow-up to a recent successful 'train the trainer' day was hosted by the GTC last month.

In September, 11 local greenkeeping assessors attended the first part of the event, at Aldwark Manor, and were instructed on how they could improve as trainers, with a follow up at the beginning of November.

Greenkeeping assessors - normally Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers - help implement greenkeeper training in the workplace.

They were taught how to identify the trainee's needs, agree their objectives and goals and eventually help them to achieve National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications

(N/SVQs).

"Sometimes people are natural trainers and they do not recognise it. This course will help these course managers/head greenkeepers formulate what they do naturally every day," said Sue Gudgeon, the GTC's National N/SVQ Co-ordinator.

In November these assessors were asked to demonstrate how they had implemented the skills they learned in September.

"The GTC's work to promote formal work-based training started with the assessor training and the latest initiative to 'train the trainer' will again raise the profile of course managers/head greenkeepers which, in turn, will improve the skills of their staff and the condition of the golf course," added Sue.

Those of you with keen eyesight may have experienced a little confusion in Steve Isaac's excellent article in last month's magazine "Hell is a Wet Place".

Unfortunately the colour coding to both graphs has been transposed and contradicted the text. In the two graphs on page 37 the blue should have been red and the red should have been blue.

The captions to the photographs on page 38 have also been transposed.

Apologies to those people who were confused by the error and sincere apologies to Steve Isaac.

Email press releases and new product updates to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)



## RANSOMES JACOBSEN AND T H WHITE LINK UP

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd and T H White Ltd have announced that they have entered into an agreement whereby the Ransomes Jacobsen direct sales business at Redditch will become owned and managed by T H White with effect from the beginning of December.

To ensure continuity and a smooth transfer of responsibilities, all staff at the Redditch branch have been offered the opportunity to become employees of T H White. It is hoped and expected that most, if not all, will do so.

Redditch is the most southern of the three Ransomes Jacobsen direct sales branches. The other two, located at Mansfield in Nottinghamshire and Selby in North Yorkshire, will continue to be owned and managed by Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

"We view this as a very positive step for both parties. T H White is one of our premier dealers with an excellent reputation for sales and customer support. They will be inheriting a superb, highly equipped 14,000 sq ft facility manned by quality staff with significant industry experience," said David Withers, Sales and Marketing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen.

"We have always stated that we would sell direct if we could not find dealers that met our consistently high standards, both financially and in terms of customer support. We have now found an organisation from within our own network and I'm confident that they will continue to build upon the success established by Alan Prickett and the management team at Redditch."



## ROLAWN

In 1995 Rolawn began an independent testing programme with the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Europe's leading turf research body. Rolawn is the only turf company that submits itself to regular independent testing in this way. This is the conclusion from the STRI's most recent survey which was conducted in August 2002.

"In 2002, seven fields of Rolawn turf were examined all of which were presented to a high standard, uniform and attractive in appearance and free of weeds. There were also very few weed-grasses. In terms of weed-grasses some

7,000 spot identifications were made and within these only 4 weed-grasses (all *Poa annua*) were recorded. It would be impossible to produce turf that was 100% free of weeds and weed-grasses. However, the near impossible has been achieved in growing turf that was better than 99.9% free of weeds and weed-grasses."

"I am delighted by these findings. Rolawn have always sold on product quality and it is extremely gratifying when you get as distinguished a research body as the Sports Turf Research Institute coming to this conclusion," stated Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales & Marketing Director.

## WAYNE VINCENT

Paul Worster and all the greenstaff at Minchinhampton Golf Club are delighted to announce the promotion of their Deputy Course Manager, Wayne Vincent, to the post of Head Greenkeeper at Cotswold Hills GC, Cheltenham.

Wayne joined Minchinhampton in 1994 as an assistant greenkeeper, straight from Cannington College Bridgewater where he studied greenkeeping on an N.D. course. He progressed to Deputy Course Manager in 1996, mainly as a result of his enthusiasm and determination to succeed. A measure of this determination has been the 44 mile round trip to work every day, including weekends, for the last nine years.

He has been an extremely popular member of the Management Team and thoroughly deserves this promotion. Wayne himself knows that this is probably the hardest step to take on the career ladder – moving from Deputy to the Head's position at another club.

"This was a real team effort. Paul put together a package showing management and budget techniques; another member of the team, Sam Kennedy, put together an ecology document, again showing all that we do at Minchinhampton," explained Wayne.

"I am so pleased that I have probably been insufferable for the last couple of weeks."

Wayne took over his new position at the end of November, and carried with him very best wishes from the membership and staff at Minchinhampton.

## THE CHAIRMAN'S YOUNGEST FAN

Some 20 years ago National Chairman, Richard Barker, and Gavin Robson both started work together as Assistants at Longcliffe Golf Club and despite moving on to other clubs, both remained local to each other and are still very good friends.

However, despite Gavin being a keen and involved Association member he has some competition when the postman delivers the magazine each month as it is his six year old son, Callum, who wants it first not to read the articles but to see how many times he can spot the Chairman!

This is sometimes followed by a phone call to the Chairman to let him know the answer... but this month the roles will be reversed.

You never know, Callum, it might be your photo inside the back page in 30 years time or so.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)





## ALAMO BOOST FOR MCCONNEL

The buyout of a French company by Alamo Group Europe (AGE) will provide a further major boost for Shropshire manufacturer McConnell.

Alamo has acquired Faucheu, one of France's leading tractor front-end loader and attachment manufacturers, and it will use McConnell, one of its subsidiary companies, to capture 25 per cent of the UK and Irish market for such products within a year, and dominate the sectors within three years.

"It will certainly create more jobs at McConnell - we cannot say how many at this stage - and it will lead to some substantial increases in business," said Geoffrey Davies, Managing Director of Alamo Group Europe.

"Our research has revealed scope to move into the front-end loader market in the UK. In addition, there are strong synergies between Faucheu, McConnell and other AGE companies in Britain. This is a significant and logical acquisition which gives us a tremendous range of both front- and rear-mounted products for tractors."

Alamo will make significant immediate investments to modernise the building and machinery at Faucheu's 15,000 square metre factory at Chartres to ensure McConnell receives the service it will require.



## WINNER OF THE GREAT BIGGA BUNKER COMPETITION



Chris Smart, (left) of Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, the eighth winner of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition, at The Open was presented with his Hayter Harrier Mower by Kim Macfie, (right) Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director, at Celtic Manor recently.

It was very much a case of "Anything you can do, I can do the same", for Chris whose wife, Kay, won one of the mowers in the same competition several years ago.

Chris' estimate of the number of bunkers raked during the Championship of 1043 was the closest to the actual number of 1078 of the media who took part in the competition. Among the entrants this year was Peter Allen, of Radio 5 Live, who entered live on the Drivetime Show on the eve of the Championship.

For the first time Hayter also provided a Hayter Harrier for the BIGGA Open Support Team and, showing more of a flair for the prediction game than the media, Steve Oultram, Course Manager of Wilmslow Golf Club, was just one out and secured the mower for his club and a bottle of whisky for himself.

Many thanks to Kim Macfie and Hayter for their support of this popular competition and to Jim MacKenzie and Celtic Manor for their hospitality.



Graeme MacDonald, Secretary of the East of England Section, receives the Toro Cup from Nigel Lovatt, Toro UK, with some of the EoE Section looking on.

## HUNTER SHARE IN SUCCESS

The 34th Ryder Cup Matches recently played at The De Vere Belfry proved an absolute sensation, arguably the finest sporting event this year. The vital factor in hosting a successful golfing tournament is the quality of the course.

"Our objective was to ensure that we had the capacity to not only prepare the greens preceding the event, but to maintain the highest standards during the Tournament," said Bevan Tattersall, Courses Manager.

"We achieved this by working closely with our

own greens staff, the team from John Deere and the engineers from Hunter Grinders. We operated a 24 hour on-call system that allowed us to react to whatever situation arose and deal with it quickly and efficiently."

Hunter Grinder engineers, David Mitchison and Ian Robson, were in residence for ten days leading up to and during the Ryder Cup Matches to provide the capacity to grind and re-sharpen as many cylinders as was required to keep the grass in perfect condition. In addition to the

Jupiter 2000 already on site at The De Vere Belfry, Hunter Grinders supplied an additional Jupiter 2000 and an Orion Bottom Blade grinder, which has subsequently been purchased by the group.

"It was necessary to use top dressing to ensure that conditions were perfect," explained Bevan.

"This can result in additional sharpening requirements, so it was essential that we had the extra facilities provided by Hunter Grinders and the men to carry out the work."





Pike Fold Golf Club, near Bury, and Meltham Golf Club, near Huddersfield, were the lucky winners of the Campey Turf Care Prize Draw announced at the Campey Open Days in June.

The Head Greenkeepers of the two golf clubs were flown around their respective courses to view them from the air.

Nigel Potter, Head Greenkeeper at Meltham, was very enthusiastic about his prize.

"Aspects of the course lay-out and condition become easily apparent from the air, so I really enjoyed seeing the course in all its glory. It's a shame more Course Managers can't view their golf courses this way."

Geoff Firbank and his daughter Lisa piloted the prize winners.

## SECTION SECRETARIES' MEETING AT BIGGA HOUSE

The Section Secretaries Meeting at BIGGA HOUSE, held every 18 months, proved to be another successful and thought provoking event.

Split over an afternoon and a morning the first portion took in presentations covering the overview of the Association delivered by Neil Thomas; Operating the Legal Helpline, presented



by Debbie Emmerson, of General Legal Protection; and advice on preparing Section Accounts given by John Pemberton. Thereafter, following an introduction by Ken Richardson, the meeting was split into three groups to discuss education and training.

Following dinner, and further discussions, in Aldwark Manor Hotel Day Two started with a review of the previous day before the groups split again, to discuss "Sustaining and Strengthening BIGGA Sections" before feedback and a final question and answer session involving the BIGGA Management Team.





# Education



## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

**BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP**

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via [neil@bigga.co.uk](mailto:neil@bigga.co.uk)

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### Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; John Crawford; Bruce Cruickshank; Douglas G Duguid; Alan Holmes; Kenneth Jones; Iain A MacLeod; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard S Mullen; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; CJ Yeaman; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon

With Christmas fast approaching, Sami and I are working hard to clear our desks before the Festive Break. At the end of a busy year, we can look back at a great deal of success, seeing far more greenkeepers entering formal and informal education and training, at least one new Master Greenkeeper joining the group of 32 and the continuing successful co-operation between BIGGA and the GTC. The end of the year does not mean the end of our work, however, and we have been working hard to bring you the the education and training opportunities that you have asked for.

## Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn, the largest education and training event for greenkeepers, Golf Course Managers, Golf Course Superintendents, Golf Club Managers and fine turf experts will be held from 20 to 23 January 2003, in Harrogate.

Starting with the Workshop Programme, Education Conference and the STRI - Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. The programme has something for everyone. Moreover, with flexible access, delegates have more choices than ever.

Learn how to hire, fire and manage staff at the Conference on Monday 20 January, discover the latest golf course management techniques on the second day or gain an insight into the intricacies of golf course management at the STRI Managing Golf Course in the 21st Century Course on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 January. Together with workshops on Soil Science, Environmental Management, Golf Course Design and the Master Greenkeeper Scheme, the first two days of Continue to Learn, supported by John Deere, have something for everyone.

Tuesday 21 January sees the start of the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions which include, for the first time, a Careers Fair, supported by TORO, where you can access information on careers in greenkeeping and golf course management, golf club management, further and higher education, professional golf, agronomy,

machinery sales and maintenance, and the chemical industry. Add the always popular Careers Clinic and this stand in Hall Q is a must for all delegates to both the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions.

Another first for January 2003 is the introduction of an Education and Training stand in Hall M, where you can book your Seminar session, watch a demonstration of OnCourse Golf Course Management software, check on the availability of training in your Region, collect a copy of the BIGGA Field Guides or discuss your education and training plan.

The BTME/ClubHouse Seminars will be held in the Royal Hall. Following suggestions from previous delegates, we have introduced several changes that should make the experience even better. We intend to improve the seating by increasing leg room, however, this will mean less seats so book early. Each session costs a maximum of £5 with several session completely free of charge. Each session will be 'stand alone' and the Hall will be cleared at the end of each session. Sessions are concentrated around the middle of the day, allowing delegates plenty of time to visit both shows.

If you have not received details of Continue to Learn then contact Sami or myself at BIGGA House. Remember, the deadline for all Continue to Learn bookings is 8 January 2003.

## Regional Training

This Autumn and Winter Regional Training Courses are almost complete but there is still time to book your place onto a course in the Spring. Places are available on the following courses:

February 11 & 12	Chainsaw Maintenance and Croscutting	Stirling
February 12 & 13	The New Supervisor	Newark Golf Club
February 19 & 20	Further Management Skills	Manchester Airport
February 19 & 20	Basic Computer Skills	Old Fold Manor GC
February 26	Abrasive Wheels	De Vere Carden Park
February 26 & 27	Further Management Skills	Luton Airport
March 4 & 5	Further Computer Skills	Berkhamsted GC
March 4 & 5	Project Management	Ross on Wye GC
March 4 & 5	Coaching Skills	Potters Bar GC
March 4 & 5	Management Skills for Course Managers	De Vere Carden Park
March 4 & 5	Presenting a Professional Image	De Vere Carden Park
April 16 & 17	Budgets and Finance	De Vere Carden Park

Each one day course costs £30 + VAT and each two day course costs £60 + VAT. Remember that Golden Key Companies are offering £30 training vouchers to their customers.



# OnCourse

BIGGA has been joined by Cobalt Concepts to sell OnCourse Golf Course Management software in the UK. Selling for just over a year in the UK the OnCourse Management package is now being used at 10 golf courses and at 14 colleges. Designed by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, the package has a range of facilities to help you to manage your golf course including:

- Staff Records
- Time Sheets
- Supplier Database
- Machinery Inventory and Service information
- Stock Inventory
- Golf Course Details
- Golf Course Maintenance
- Diary of Events
- Budgets and Finance
- Report Generation

Each module links to all other modules and updates any changes. For further information, contact me at BIGGA House or visit the BIGGA Education Stand in Hall M or the Cobalt Concepts Stand in Hall D, at the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions, where you can also see demonstrations of OnCourse.

## Liaison Officers

The GTC is still looking for liaison officers. The Role of Liaison Officers is to:

- Liaise with GTC Headquarters on any matters affecting greenkeepers training
- Be the GTC representative within designated areas of the country, to visit Training Provider Centres twice each year and communicate with greenkeeping lecturers and students.
- To attend liaison meetings at Training Provider Centres
- To act as a GTC advisor.
- To co-ordinate moderation meetings for assessors.
- To attend annual update meetings at GTC HQ.

Liaison Officers are still required in the following areas: Cumbria and Lancashire; Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire; Devon and Cornwall; Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk; Dorset; Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire; Leicestershire and Northamptonshire; Shropshire and Herefordshire; Bedfordshire; Cheshire and Isle of Man and Warwickshire and Worcestershire

These are part-time posts and attract payment of £12 per hour and 40p per mile expenses.

Anyone interested in becoming a GTC Liaison Officer should contact the GTC on 01347 838640.

Sami and Ken wish all of their readers a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in Harrogate next month.

## Free Money for Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a pilot scheme to help small businesses to improve their health and safety standards. It aims to help plug the Health and Safety gap by providing businesses with matched funding of up to £1000. The Small Firms Assistance Scheme is open to those thinking of starting a new business and small companies with fewer than 10 employees. Companies must have an annual turnover

not exceeding £4,500,000 or an annual balance sheet not exceeding £3,200,000. Pilot areas are West Yorkshire, Essex and Devon and Cornwall. For further information contact the local Business Link:

West Yorkshire 0113 3837733

Essex 01245 241400

Devon and Cornwall 0845 6009966.



Address letters to: **Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### How can we Progress?

Am I the only reader to see the connection between the Neil Thomas' piece (November issue page 19) and that incredible feature on St Andrews Bay project (pages 14-18)? We note that the owner of this project, Dr Panos, laid down his prime remit that they "have to maintain the golf course with stripes and make them green". This surely says it all! Admittedly Neil Ballingall does not claim that his courses are links. Planting 30,000 trees proves this! The whole project is a travesty of good greenkeeping and traditional standards. The site is no more exposed and subject to much less traffic than scores in the same area. Ryegrass fairways forsooth. There is an old (Scottish) proverb that you cannot play a golf shot off a football pitch. Ryegrasses (dwarf or not) are not golf grasses. They are not natural and never blend with native species to form fine turf. Neil (Thomas) comments, as I have for decades, on the iniquity of Chairmen of Green sacking competent head greenkeepers because they want to impose their ideas (stripes and lush green) over sound good practices. I note an article 16 years ago pointing out that the real enemies of greenkeeping were yobs and yuppies. They start playing at an age too

advanced to receive a clip on the ear when transgressing rules and traditions. Their ambition is to be Captain - and they will use any step on the ladder to achieve it. They will take no advice yet listen to all the latest gimmicks and if opposed, move the earth to move the offender. I know! It is not only head men who are wrongfully sacked (and what paltry compensation is awarded those who win wrongful dismissal claims). I have had my share - a brief note from a secretary (after 30 years of advisory connection with the Club) to say "so and so is now our adviser with immediate effect. Thank you for your past help". Not even management programmes with constitutionally backed authority can save those who speak their minds and expose "new golfers". Whether you are a traditionalist (as I and many others are), or an opportunist prepared to prostitute science to commerce the news is that new golfer is your enemy and exposing him risks the sack. How can we progress in this atmosphere?

**J. H. Arthur**  
Honorary Member  
Budleigh Salterton



Rachael and Gemma from the membership department welcome 68 new members to the Association and would like to take this opportunity to wish every member a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



How well do you know the people who work for the Association?

In this new series we give you a chance to learn a little more about a member of BIGGA's Headquarters staff



**Rachael Palmer**

**Position:**  
Membership Services Officer

**What does your role involve?**  
Processing renewals and new members; dealing with queries and responding to members' requests. Also developing initiatives for expanding the membership base; improving members' benefits and giving presentations to members and non-members

**How long have you worked for the Association?**  
Since March 2002

**Where were you born and brought up?**  
Born in Thornbury, Gloucestershire, but brought up on the Isle of Whyte from 18 months old

**Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?**  
Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Cowes

**What are your hobbies?**  
Watching Leeds United; keep fit, cycling and going to the pub

**What is your favourite food?**  
Mexican

**What is your favourite film?**  
Grease

**What was the last book you read?**  
"Cat" by Freya North, a book based on the Tour de France

**Who is your all time hero?**  
Haven't got one

**What was the best event you've ever attended?**  
My wedding to Stuart

**What is your claim to fame? (None not acceptable)**  
Appear very briefly on the 2001/2002 season Leeds United video


**Time to renew**

If you are one of the many members who renew their membership in December or January every year then you should very shortly be receiving your renewal pack. If you haven't received it by the middle of December please contact Membership Services and we will issue a replacement. You should find a pre-printed renewal form within your pack. Please check the details are correct and if not there are spaces provided for your changes. You will be pleased to note that you do not have to provide a photograph this year. A Time to Renew Newsletter is also included within your pack informing you of any changes to your membership package. If you have any questions regarding anything to do with your membership, then please do not hesitate to contact us on 01347 833800.





**Do You Pay Your Own Subs?**

If the answer to the above is yes then you can apply to the tax office for a refund of 23% of your subscription amount. To make sure you benefit from this all you have to do is either inform your local tax office that you are paying your own subscriptions or fill out a completed form available from BIGGA House and send it in to them. You are entitled to this refund because BIGGA is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a legitimate professional body and membership fees to such bodies are eligible for tax relief.



## RALLY DRIVING COMPETITION WINNER

**Rob Rowson, of Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel, is the delighted winner of the Rally Driving Day. When BIGGA rang to inform Rob he was absolutely speechless. Martin Pitt was the new member referred to BIGGA by Rob and he wins a voucher so he can go on an activity day of his choice. Martin said he was "over the moon" with the win.**

Rob Rowson
Martin Pitt

**DECEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER**

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to December's winner, Robert Boyce, of Links (Newmarket) Golf Club.

**Message of the Month Winner**

Each month the person who has written the best message on the BIGGA Bulletin Board, which is found on the BIGGA website [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk), receives one of these FM desktop scan radios.

Our congratulations go to December's winner Marc Haring from Cumberwell Park Golf Club who's message was posted on the 7th October under the Talk about Turf section.



- BIGGA welcomes...**
- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Scottish Region</b></p> <p>Mark Littlejohn, East<br/>Ryan MacDonald, East<br/>Joe Robertson, East</p> <p><b>Northern Region</b></p> <p>Jeffrey Cullen, N East<br/>Neil, Goodman, Mid Anglia<br/>Iain Leary, N Wales<br/>Richard Lewis, N West<br/>James Lord, N West<br/>David Turner, Sheffield<br/>Leslie Vardall, Sheffield<br/>David Weir, N West<br/>Alexander Wishart, N East<br/>Michael Wiszniewski, N West</p> | <p><b>Midland Region</b></p> <p>Christopher Bailey, E Midland<br/>David Bangham, Midland<br/>Derek Beba, E of England<br/>Asa English, E Midland<br/>Jonathan Hubbard, E of England<br/>Adam King, BB&amp;O<br/>Johnathan Lloyd, Midland<br/>Jon Sharp, Midland<br/>Jon Volans, Midland</p> <p><b>South East Region</b></p> <p>Greg Adams, Essex<br/>Paul Andrews, Surrey<br/>Scott Bibby, Essex<br/>Michael Bower, London<br/>Martin Brightwell, E Anglia<br/>Gregory Evans, London<br/>Richard Forbes, Surrey</p> | <p>Glenn Gardiner, Essex<br/>Daniel Graham, E Anglia<br/>Nicholas Hammond, Surrey<br/>Mark Henderson, London<br/>Richard Kennaird, Sussex<br/>Paul Massey, Kent<br/>Kevin Morris, Kent<br/>John Oram, Sussex<br/>Sillito, Sussex<br/>Malcolm Thomasson, Surrey<br/>Craig Wretham, Kent</p> <p><b>S West/S Wales Region</b></p> <p>Susan Dow, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Roy Dow, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Steven Edge, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Scott Gregor, S Coast<br/>David Patrick, S Coast<br/>Michael Patrick, S Coast</p> | <p>Michael Sage, S West<br/>Kevin Shilston, Devon &amp; Cornwall<br/>Martin Slater, Devon &amp; Cornwall</p> <p><b>Republic of Ireland</b></p> <p>Johnathan Palmer<br/>Martin Travers</p> <p><b>International</b></p> <p>Antoine Challe, Denmark</p> <p><b>Student Members</b></p> <p>Cristina Battisti, West Scotland<br/>Judith Colley, N West<br/>Paul Owen, N West<br/>Graham Wickes, Essex</p> | <p><b>Associate Members</b></p> <p>Keith Berners, Mid Anglia<br/>Christian Moughan, Northern<br/>Matthew Salmon, Mid Anglia<br/>Howard Stephenson, Northern<br/>Brian Tebbutt, N West</p> <p><b>Corporate Members</b></p> <p>Scott Banks, East Scotland<br/>Andy Church, London<br/>Dave Cryan, N East<br/>Barbara Jarman, Surrey<br/>David Jenkins, Surrey<br/>Graham Mace, Midland<br/>David Watson, Surrey</p> |
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