

No.1 IN THE UK FOR HIGH QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS

DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - AGRICULTURAL



9 REASONS TO CHOOSE A WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDING

1 VALUE

WE SELL MORE STEEL BUILDINGS THAN ANY OTHER COMPANY IN THE UK AND WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE OR QUALITY.

2 EXPERIENCE

OUR NETWORK CAN PROVIDE YOU A FULL COMPREHENSIVE HASSLE FREE PACKAGE COVERING YOUR PROJECT FROM START TO FINISH.

3 FLEXIBILITY

OUR UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION METHOD ENABLES US TO BUILD TO VIRTUALLY ANY SHAPE OR SIZE, WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CUSTOM FEATURES: ROLLER DOORS, WINDOWS, SKYLIGHTS, PARTITIONS ETC.

4 CONVENIENCE

OUR FULLY GALVANISED STRUCTURES ARE MAINTENANCE FREE.

5 QUALITY

BUILDINGS ARE ENGINEERED TO BS6399 (PART2). OUR UK STEEL SUPPLIERS, A. STEADMAN & SON, HAVE ISO 9001-2000 ACCREDITATION. OUR CLADDING SUPPLIERS OFFER A 25-YEAR WARRANTY.

6 SPEED

BUILDINGS CAN BE SUPPLIED WITHIN 4 WEEKS.

7 CLADDING OPTIONS

CHOOSE FROM SINGLE SKIN PLASTISOL, FIRE-RATED COMPOSITES OR TIMBER-EFFECT WEATHERBOARD.

8 DESIGN

AS YOUR LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR WE CAN DESIGN YOUR STRUCTURE IN FRONT OF YOU AND PROVIDE YOU WITH AN INSTANT QUOTE. OUR UNLIMITED FEATURES WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A PRACTICAL COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION CATERING FOR YOUR NEEDS.

9 CONFIDENCE

VISIT OUR SHOW SITE OR ASK TO SEE REFERENCES FROM DELIGHTED CUSTOMERS CONFIRMING THE QUALITY OF OUR BUILDINGS.



WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDINGS
15, HIGH CROSS ROAD,
ROGERSTONE,
NEWPORT,
NP10 9AE

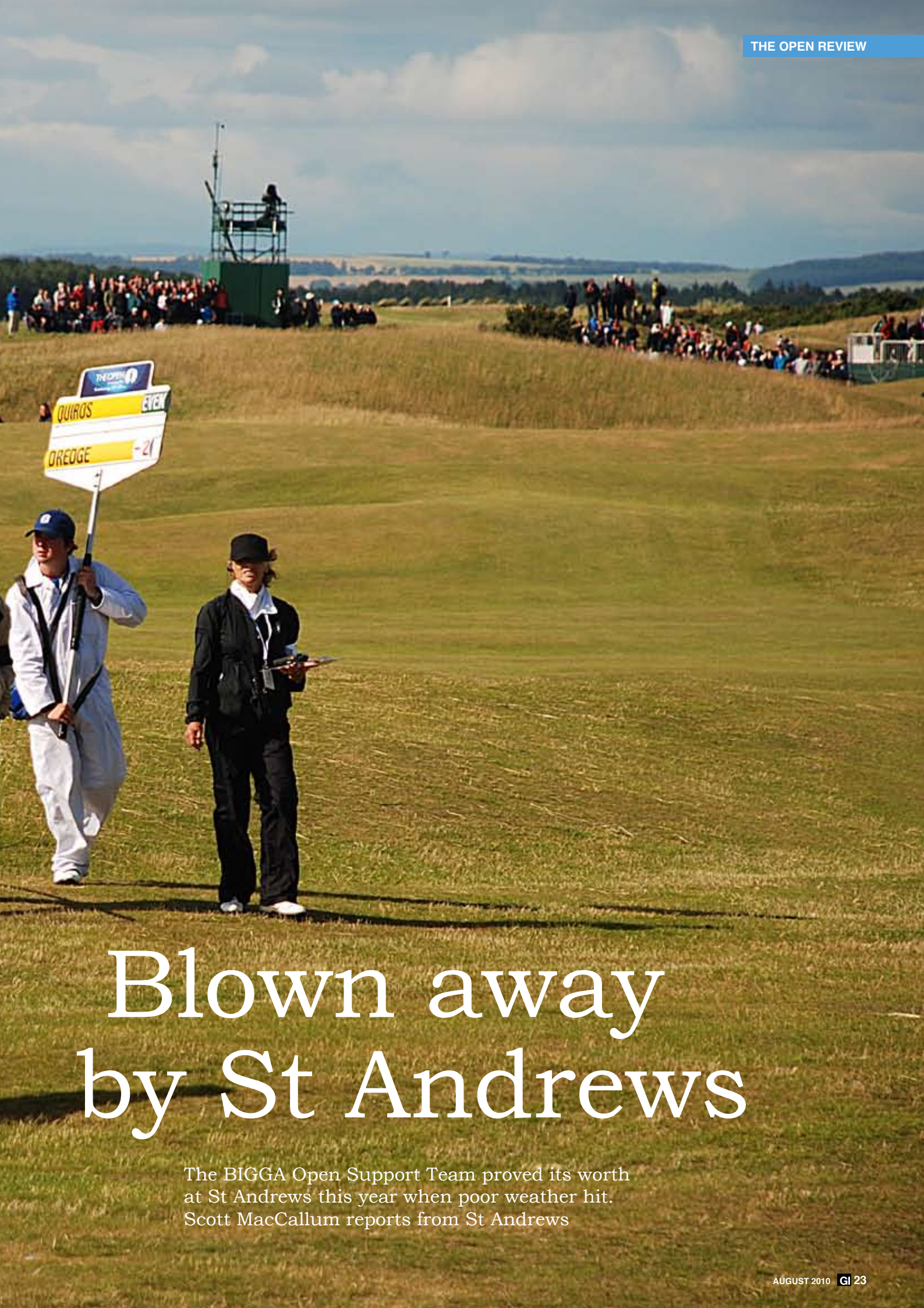
EMAIL: SALES@WESTCOUNTRYBUILDINGS.COM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL NOW ON:

07970 827 085
07785 322 960
01633896263

WEBSITE: WWW.WESTCOUNTRYBUILDINGS.COM





Blown away by St Andrews

The BIGGA Open Support Team proved its worth at St Andrews this year when poor weather hit. Scott MacCallum reports from St Andrews



The 150th anniversary Open at St Andrews saw the BIGGA Open Support Team returning to the venue where the very first team started work back in 1984. Much has changed in those 26 years but one thing has remained constant – just how important the team is to the smooth running of an event where you never know what will happen next.



Brian Hunter, left, with Scottish Chairman, John Geddes

This year, for example, a suspension of play on the second afternoon because of high winds meant matches couldn't be completed until Saturday morning.

The knock on effect meant that those 30 players left out on the course had to play the same course as the players who had already completed their rounds. That, in turn, meant that Gordon McKie and his team couldn't complete their third round prep until much



Three Nigerian BIGGA members visited the Marquee

later than intended which put pressure on everyone involved.

The BIGGA team was there to help and a phone call from the R&A's Grant Moir at 9.15pm on Friday evening asking for 20 Support Team members to divot fairways ahead of the fairway mowers at 4.30am the next morning was met by a sea of hands volunteering to take on the task. Such desire to get in and help, whatever the hour, is what the BIGGA Open Support Team is all about.

Drawn from a list of BIGGA members who applied for the team at the turn of the year greenkeepers came from all points of the UK and Ireland as well as the USA, Sweden, Germany and Slovenia.

A St Andrews Open benefits from the collective greenkeeping might of the St Andrews Links Trust Greenkeeping resources,

managed by Gordon Moir, so, outside of emergencies, the BIGGA team members were able to concentrate on supporting their matches.

And what a fine job they did. The Association should be proud of them all. The hard work and effort was matched only by the fun and laughter that was had by all.

One of the many highlights was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Cecil George (see page 34). National Chairman, Paul Worster, was Master of Ceremonies and introduced Past Chairman, Elliott Small, who outlined Cecil's career. The actual presentation was made by BIGGA's first Chairman, Walter Woods, the former Links Superintendent at St Andrews.

Thanks must go to all team members but, in particular, the Pod Leaders, Billy Merritt, Richard Saunders, Douglas McIntosh,



“The hard work and effort was matched only by the fun and laughter that was had by all”
Scott MacCallum

John Keenaghan and Jeremy Hughes and all those who drove mini buses. Their work was supplemented by the Cabin staff, of Peter Boyd and Clive Osgood; and 1st Tee team of Richard Whyman and Paul Jenkins. The responsibility for administration and the Marquee was carried out by Rachael Duffy, who was ably assisted by the Board of Directors Chris Sealey and Gary Cunningham.

The thoughts of everyone on the team went out to one of their number, Anthony Gillis, of Cork Golf Club, who had to cut short his time in St Andrews, almost before it had begun, and return home because of a family illness.

Next year the team will reform and be there to help at Royal St George's Golf Club. Look out for the application form in the December and January issues of Greenkeeper International.



ABOVE LEFT: Cecil Receives his award from Walter Woods
ABOVE CENTRE: Tools of the trade
ABOVE: Back packs kindly donated by Ransomes Jacobsen
LEFT: John Pemberton with Mark Pyrah of Sherriff, who kindly sponsored the TVs
NEAR LEFT: Walter and Jack, doyens of the industry

Join the Association for Sports Turf Professionals

Are you employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility?

Do you want to be taken seriously as a sports turf professional?

Do you want access to a wide range of bespoke education courses?

Do you want to be part of a large network of like-minded people where shared knowledge is a key ingredient?

Do you want to be part of a progressive association that actively works to enhance the professional reputation of sports turf professionals?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions then Membership of BIGGA is for you.

Why Join BIGGA?

- Industry specific, education and training
- Greenkeeper International – BIGGA's official magazine
- Careers advice and guidance
- Regional and national events
- Sports turf industry networking
- Commitment to CPD
- Maintain standard and quality within the profession
- Dedicated members' website

Look to your future by joining BIGGA today...

Tel: 01347 833800 select option 1,

email: membership@bigga.co.uk

visit www.bigga.org.uk



Promoting best practice in sports turf management



BIGGA Titbits (by BIGGA Open Support Team Members)

- An early start does have its benefits. In the second match out Loren Roberts' caddie spotted a lady watching the golf from the window of a room on the third floor of the Old Course Hotel covered only by her bra.

Bob Maibusch MG, of Hinsdale Golf Club, Illinois, USA.

- Jean Van de Velde is still serving his apprenticeship as an on-course reporter. In trying to get a better view of Tiger Wood's putt on the 15th he wandered onto the line of the group teeing off on the 16th. He was met with shouts of "Jean! Jean!" from the crowd, and the golfers, including Tiger, but as he was wearing headphones it took him a while to realise that he was an obstruction. He turned red and moved out of the way cheers from the crowd and the other players.

Matt Wormald, of Luffenham Heath Golf Club.

- In an eventful day for Tiger he formed part of an illustrious queue for a portaloos on the 7th. Justin Rose went first, Tiger was next in line with Camilo Villegas bringing up the rear.

Matt Wormald, of Luffenham Heath Golf Club.

- DA Points pulled a bag of beef jerky from his bag during the delay. Once he'd finished he then pulled a roll of dental floss from his bag and announced to the gallery, "The big problem once you've eaten beef jerky is that you gotta floss!"

John Mair, of Dumfriesshire Golf Centre.

- Just as Steve Stricker sent his putt on the way to the hole on the 8th green a hare raced across the green missing the rolling ball by inches.

Billy McMillan, of Tyrell's Wood Golf Club.

- Ignacio Garrido's caddie had a bad day on Saturday. Caught short he disappeared into the bushes to do what he needed to do and as he raced to catch up he tripped, fell over and all the clubs fell out of the bag.

Jeremy Hughes, of Vale of Llangollen GC.

- **BIGGA Support Team member John Mitchell, of Pernporth GC,** had an unusual working day on Saturday. With 10 matches still to be completed early in the morning John was part of a small BIGGA team which arrived at the golf course at 5.30am to finish the matches. John was allocated the match closest to home and joined his group on the 18th tee. With no bunkers on the 18th Henrik Stenson asked him why he was there and John told him that it was to make sure the team of referee, scorer, scoreboard carrier and BIGGA Support Team member was intact. John completed the walk up the 18th returned his rake and, not having been allocated a match on Saturday, had completed his day's work by 6.40am.



The Open - Complete Bunker Stats (1995 to 2010)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	St. A's	Lythm	Troon	B'dale	C'stie	St. A's	Lythm	M'field	St.G's
Bnkrs	112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148	106
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359	388
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372	405
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175	149
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169	181
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078	1123

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Troon	St. A's	Hlake	C'stie	B'dale	T'berry	St A's
Bnkrs	93	112	96	113	123	85	112
Rd 1	393	252	352	442	472	272	149
Rd 2	371	203	353	482	379	332	200
Rd 3	148	100	183	189	219	172	77
Rd 4	185	121	204	198	198	185	85
Total	1097	676	1092	1311	1268	961	511

• *Two players completed the four rounds without going into any bunkers at all - Rickie Fowler and Edoardo Molinari.*



Showing the green way

Golf courses, far from being the habitat destroying, carbon churning beasts they are sometimes perceived, are often the exact opposite. New eco-friendly technologies that not only boost a club's environmental credentials, but also help reduce running costs, are widespread.

Sustainability is becoming a key factor and alternative energy sources may now be viable to clubs that could potentially act as a business selling energy to the national grid, as well as providing electricity or heating for their own use.

From deer to grass snakes, a whole host of wildlife species seek golf courses as a haven to inhabit and as a place to rear their young. Jim Cook visited four golf clubs to find out more...



Thorpeness Golf Club, on the east coast of Suffolk, sits within a 300 acre site. Sprawling areas of rough, deep rough between holes, heathland, wetland, copse trees, regenerating gorse and heather create a number of habitats for a multitude of wildlife species and rare plant types.

A man-made mere with several islands tends to attract birds you would expect to see, and some you certainly would not. Course Manager, Ian Willett, explained.

“What course can you go to at five o’clock in the morning, drive out onto the course in early spring, just as the sun is rising and hear the boom of the bittern? We get that from the north warren which is at the back of the fifth. You’ve got the northern diver out there and we’ve even had a white egret pair nest and rear two young. They got blown off course during the spring ended up here and lived it up. We were running around with cameras thinking it was white herons, but when we got a decent shot in and got the book out we realised they were white egrets nesting on the mere.”

“The team and I know that everything we do on the course has an environmental impact - large or small” Ian Willett

Ian is backed up at the club by a team that has the same attitude toward the environment as he does.

“The team and I know that everything we do on the course has an environmental impact - large or small. We are lucky because a member, called Dr Ray Harding, has been keeping records over 25 years and his journals about the golf course have been published. He has carried out studies and he keeps us on track, so we discuss everything we do with him.”

Dr Ray Harding spoke of changing attitudes towards golf clubs.

“The Wildlife Trust and other organisations always tended to look at golf courses as a problem, but now they see it the other way round; that they are a reservoir or a last resort for wildlife, who can then re-colonise. That’s working quite well so at least we have achieved that.”



Ian spoke of how a disastrous situation was turned into a positive at the club.

“Last year we’ve had arsonists in and set fire to various parts of the golf course. So we went in this year and cleared the site. Literally we scrubbed it down to the seed bed took all the timber out and piled it to one side which will give us an adder hibernacula, and we are trying to encourage a few grass heaps around the course. The snake population isn’t that great. Adders we are fine on and we have hundreds. Grass snakes, we’ve got them but they are not that active, so we decided to leave the odd grass heap to try and encourage the females to lay their eggs there.”

Although all wildlife was welcome on the course, some had become a bit too cosy.

“Last year we had about six to eight stoats going on the course, lowering the rabbit population, but

this year I think I have seen just one stoat. The rabbit population has gone absolutely through the roof – there are thousands of them. We use a pellet chicken manure mix though, because the rabbits don’t like the smell of it.”

Ian said that one year of carelessness could effectively undo 30 years of hard work.

“You need staff coming in after you who think the same way as you and carry on the work.”

It was not only on the course where environmentalism was considered.

“We use air jets for the showers, where it takes a certain amount of air into the head so you are cutting down the amount of water you use, but still getting a good shower.

We use low energy bulbs and have a recycling area, which is also used by locals. We also use a water recycling system at the sheds.”



