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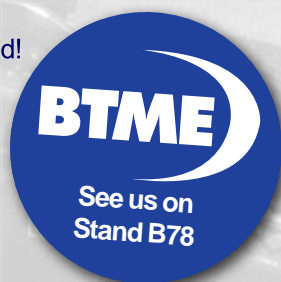
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LM2400 Fairway mower

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## WELCOME FROM BIGGA

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What you have finished with  
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### Happy New Year! I firmly believe there are grounds to look forward to 2014 with a degree of optimism.

Though the golf industry is not as buoyant as before the recession there were strong signs during 2013 that things are looking up; rounds played increased and many clubs are reporting an upturn in membership and green fees.

The World Cup in Brazil will undoubtedly keep some casual golfers away from the course during the summer but happily the majority of the matches will not impact on golfing time. On the flip side the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles will once again mean golf is firmly in the sporting spotlight.

The biennial match against the Americans catches the non-golfing public's imagination like no other golf event and I expect many clubs around the country to capitalise on this and throw open their gates to new customers and old alike. For Scott Fenwick, Steve Chappell and the team at Gleneagles the countdown is very much on and we wish them a trouble free summer as they prepare the PGA Centenary Course for the 24 players and the hundreds of millions who will watch.

**The very many of you attending BTME later this month will have an opportunity to hear how work at Gleneagles is progressing as Steve is appearing as part of the popular Seminar programme.** The Continue to Learn education programme is filling up nicely with many of the Workshops and Focus On sessions now full. It looks like the Turf Managers' Conference will attract a record turnout this year and it is clear that the balance of technical and management subject matter it contains is a winning formula.

With the exhibition halls sold out for so long we know we are in for a successful event. Sadly we have heard rumours that some companies that aren't exhibiting intend to try and 'work the halls' in an unofficial capacity. We are doing all we can to discourage this practice and would urge you to play your part in protecting the future of BTME by not allowing

any non-exhibitor who attempts to discuss business with you to do so. The huge number of companies who have invested in exhibiting in Harrogate this year are providing significant support to our industry and we owe them our own support in return.

I am looking forward to our Welcome Celebration in the Royal Hall immediately after the show closes on Tuesday 21st, the chance to acknowledge some of our members' outstanding achievements in 2013 and then to hear the 'voice of golf' Peter Alliss give us the benefit of his wisdom in a keynote address is not to be missed.

**I am also looking forward to meeting up with the Jacobsen Future Turf Managers as they gather together for the first time since the inaugural event in Ipswich in April.** It will be fascinating to hear how they have used the experience to their benefit in the intervening months. Entries are now open for nominations for this year's FTMI and again we have received an excellent response.

**This month's GI contains some excellent winter advice from Henry Bechelet (page 26);** the R&A's Steve Isaac follows up his article from last year with some interesting conclusions on working towards a healthier environment (page 30) while Laurence Pithie catches up with Neil Baker in his first few months as Course Manager at Little Aston (page 34).

Enjoy the read.



**Jim Croxton, BIGGA CEO**

**JANUARY 2014**

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We need you to join the team at The Open at Royal Liverpool Golf Club next July – here's how to apply

WINTER DORMANCY

## 26 A winter's toil

Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager at Everris, advises how to address winter dormancy on your course as golfers continue to demand high standards as the temperature plunges



**Winter is a crucial time for golf clubs. Weather conditions make turf maintenance more difficult, but course performance and playability is still important to golfers, especially if they are thinking about their membership.**

With that in mind, it is necessary for Course Managers to produce even higher standards during the winter, especially with their greens. This isn't easy without growth and disease activity at this time can create additional problems of scouring and damage. Golfers will want to play during the winter, and this causes further decline. At the time of year when turf growth slows down, the pressures mount and they can cause a significant deterioration in the quality of the turf surface. So what can be done to guard against winter decline?

Well, you are no strangers to meeting the challenge of increasing levels of expectation and overcoming difficult situations. The general aim is to strengthen the turf through autumn, protect it from damage during winter, then revitalise it for light recovery.

This sounds simple, but there are a large number of factors that you need to get right to succeed.

Getting turf through the winter requires good cultural practice combined with the proper use of supporting technologies.

**A sporting chance**

Above all else, give your turf a chance by creating a healthy growing environment. Maximising light penetration and creating airflow is essential, so surrounding trees and understory vegetation management is vital.

Good drainage is also essential to prevent the soil becoming saturated for long periods. Aeration may be necessary to keep the soil oxygenated and help keep roots functioning. Chipmuck organic matter management in the upper soil profile will stand you in good stead, especially during the winter.

26 JANUARY 2014

coursetracker

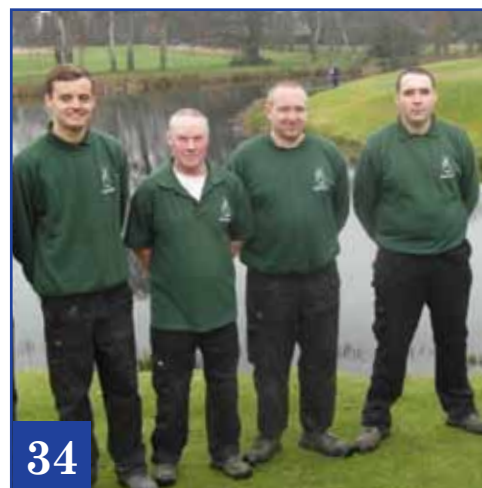
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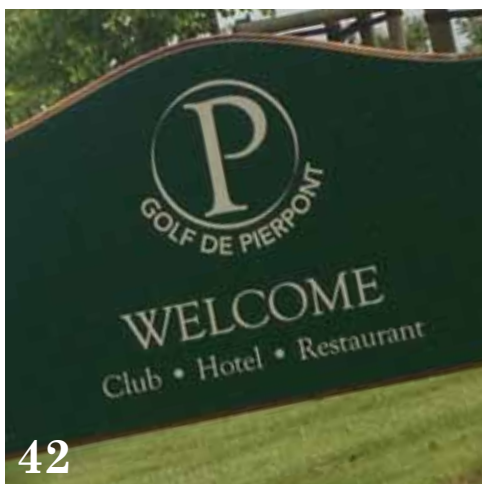
How does my club benefit?

- Streamline business and improve profit
- Identify areas for improvement on mobile devices & on your laptop
- Add your own data to the system to improve your business
- Increase Revenue and Profit & Improve Customer Satisfaction
- Increase your productivity with mobile devices

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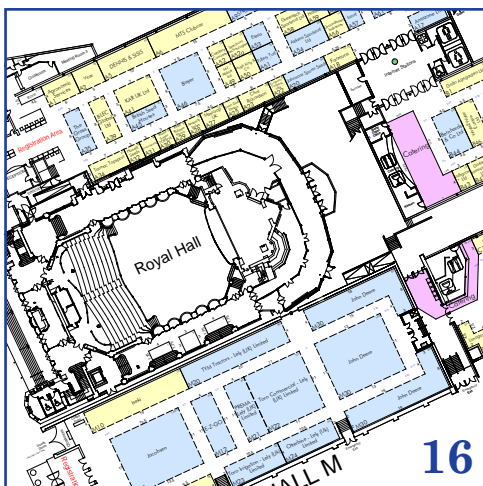




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# British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

TWO WEEKS TO BTME 2014

**GI GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL**

Published by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

**BTME**

**BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION**

**It's Showtime!**

**BTME 2014 IS HERE...**

ALSO INSIDE... HENRY BECHELET · LITTLE ASTON · R&A



# Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

## And it's goodbye from me

All too soon it's time for me to write my final column as Chairman. Previous Chairmen have told me that 12 months in the role flies past. Well, I can tell you that 18 months flies past too.

I've met so many friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic greenkeepers, members of the trade and various companies and exhibitors during my tenure, it's been an absolute pleasure speaking to you all and hearing about your trials and tribulations as well as your successes. I've thoroughly enjoyed it, although it really has opened my eyes to the pressures and demands which come with the position.

I began my Chairmanship at The Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes in July 2012, taking over from Andrew Mellon. It was a whirlwind few days but a super start – watching the work of our Open Support Team truly is one of the highlights of the year. Muirfield 2013 was another tremendous occasion, some quite phenomenal summer weather contributed to a really memorable few days. The same goes for our members who support the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth, and our members who support many other events – just one example being the greenkeepers who assisted the team at Rockliffe Hall for the recent PGA English Seniors Open. The experience that our members gain from assisting the home greenkeeping team during these major events is priceless.

I can honestly say that things look much brighter than when I became Chairman in the BIGGA marquee at The 2012 Open. I remember on that day just yards away the home greenkeeping team were mopping up after an overnight deluge, and that summed up the general state of play at that time. It was a truly appalling summer of weather with

floods hitting many parts of the country, leading to golf courses being closed for longer than I can ever remember. This was certainly the case at Teesside.

The weather even tried its best to affect BTME 2013 with several inches of snow falling in the run-up to the show. But it was a terrific week and really set the scene for a much improved 2013. After an extremely cold spring, the clouds finally lifted for a glorious summer, which was topped off by four days of almost tropical weather for The Open at Muirfield which I've already mentioned. Courses which had been under water flourished under the expert guidance of the

**“It's been an absolute pleasure speaking to you all and hearing about your trials and tribulations as well as your successes. I've thoroughly enjoyed it”**

country's greenkeepers, golfers flocked back to play and for the first time in several years we enjoyed a summer worthy of the name.

I know many BIGGA members spend hours of their own time organising golf days and competitions, so it was great to see them well-attended and actually going ahead successfully after so many were called off due to 2012's weather.

If I was pushed to name my highlight, it would be cutting the



ribbon at BTME 2013, I can genuinely say it was one of the proudest moments of my life. It was a very successful exhibition which reinforced the influence and strength of the Association – and all the signs are pointing to an even bigger and better BTME 2014.

The last few months have been a little strange as I left Teesside Golf Club after so many years in the industry. I miss the day to day running of a golf course – it's in my blood and I know the same is true with many of you. However, I'm looking forward to getting back involved with the Cleveland Section and the Northern Region and the close knit nature of this industry means I will be bothering you all for some time to come I'm sure.

One key point I must make is my optimism for the future of the industry having met so many enthusiastic and talented young greenkeepers. I have been very impressed by the standard of candidates at the last two Toro Student of the Year awards and I know that some of the finalists have already progressed in their careers since their nominations. The Future Turf Managers' Initiative is a more recent development and I'm convinced that over time this will become another very significant event in the greenkeeping calendar.

Another highlight of my chairmanship was my visit to the Golf Industry Show in America last year, allowing me to experience their educational offering first-hand. I firmly believe that although at one time we were playing catch-up with

education in America, we are now on a par with them and this is something to be proud of. In my opinion the revamped CPD scheme and the consistently superb educational offerings at BTME offer the sort of opportunities that were simply not available to me at the start of my career so it's up to you to seize these chances.

Congratulations to our new Chairman Chris Sealey, who will officially be taking over at BTME 2014, and also to our new Vice Chairman Les Howkins MG. Both Chris and Les are hugely knowledgeable, enthusiastic and approachable.

Alongside the existing Board of Management, I've every confidence the Association will continue to go from strength to strength with them on board.

I couldn't have fulfilled the role of Chairman without the backing of all the team at BIGGA House, the Regional Administrators and the Board of Management. I don't think the team at BIGGA House get enough praise for all the work they do, and I've always enjoyed heading to Aldwark. I know that anyone who visits BIGGA House for the first time mentions the friendly welcome they receive.

All that remains is for me to thank each and every member of this Association – it's been a true pleasure to act as Chairman. Without you BIGGA would cease to exist and that should never be forgotten.

*See you in Harrogate.  
Cheers  
Tony*



**RT**  
r i g b y t a y l o r



Problems, Problems,  
Problems?



**STAND C62**

**Answers, Answers,  
Answers!**



## BIGGA SUPPORTS GALLACHER'S LIFESAVING CAMPAIGN

Left to right: Richard Hills (Ryder Cup Director), Lesley Gallacher, Bernhard Gallacher, Jo Jerronne (deputy CEO Arrhythmia) and Sandy Jones (PGA chief executive)

BIGGA have backed Bernhard Gallacher's defibrillator campaign which could help to save the lives of golfers of all abilities and ages.

Drawing on his own personal experience of suffering a sudden cardiac arrest in August, the former Ryder Cup winning captain was joined by friends and colleagues from the world of sport and showbusiness at Wentworth Club to launch the Bernard Gallacher Defibrillator Campaign 2014.

It was only thanks to the availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) following his collapse during a dinner reception in Aberdeen, along with early-response CPR treatment at the venue, that Gallacher was able to regain consciousness and take steps towards a full recovery.

However, that close brush with death inspired Bernard and his wife, Lesley, to

announce plans to lead a campaign for AEDs to be widely available in every single golf club and driving range in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

With the Gallachers' profile and encouragement, allied to a fundraising campaign being run concurrently with the PGA and Arrhythmia Alliance – the Heart Rhythm Charity – an estimated 2600 golfing venues and around four million club golfers could benefit from the campaign.

He said: "I consider myself incredibly fortunate that a defibrillator was on hand in Aberdeen to resuscitate me following my sudden cardiac arrest. But for that AED and the quick-thinking, expertise and life-saving skills of the medical personnel in the room that night, I wouldn't be here today.

"Without early intervention, an individual has just a 5% chance of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest, so Lesley and

I felt it appropriate to try to ensure others are equally fortunate should they collapse in or around a golfing venue in future.

"Currently, just 30% of golf clubs have a defibrillator and our stated aim is to try to raise awareness of the importance of having an AED close by in case of emergency, and to increase that figure considerably by encouraging every club or driving range in the UK and Ireland to have at least one public-access defibrillator by the end of 2014.

"Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time, and possibly on the golf course. We want to do whatever it takes to raise the level of awareness of defibrillators and to get them into more clubs around the country."

Tony Smith, BIGGA Chairman, said:

"We are pleased to throw our weight behind this vital

campaign. I know from speaking to some of our members that they are often the first on the scene in an emergency situation.

"Bernhard Gallacher's campaign will hopefully provide defibrillators at many more of our members' clubs."

Sandy Jones, Chief Executive of the PGA, added:

"The PGA is delighted to join with Bernard in this campaign to install defibrillators in every golf club in Great Britain and Ireland. It has been a long standing ambition of my own and the PGA that this should happen, and as we have seen through the near tragic experience of Bernard, it is vital that such equipment is available at the time of need.

"Defibrillators in golf clubs, without doubt, will save lives and we thank Bernard and Lesley for allowing us to join with them in this campaign."



## LES HOWKINS MG TO BE NEW BIGGA VICE CHAIRMAN

Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club, will be the next Vice Chairman of BIGGA after the Board of Management unanimously voted to invite him to take up the position at their recent meeting.

He will officially take up the post at BIGGA's AGM during BTME in January. Current Vice Chairman Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf Club, will take over the reins as Chairman at the AGM from Tony Smith, who has served the Association with distinction during his 18 months in the role and many years of Board involvement.

Les, who originally hails from Leicester, began his greenkeeping career at the age of 15 with a work experience stint at Kibworth Golf Club.

He really cut his teeth in turf management at Cleethorpes Golf Club, where he achieved the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Award in 2004 – considered to be one of the highest accolades in the industry.

He moved to The Richmond Golf Club in 2008 as Course Manager, where recently the greenkeeping team was honoured with the 'Renovation of the Year' award from the

highly respected Golf Inc magazine after completing a hugely successful £125k overhaul of the course's bunkers.

The club fought off competition from clubs with much larger budgets worldwide to clinch the award.

Les, who plays golf to a handicap of six, said: "I am delighted to accept the invitation to become Vice Chairman and am looking forward to having an extremely positive impact on the Association.

"I've been involved in the greenkeeping industry for about 25 years now so I've got an in-depth knowledge of it, and I'm keen to bring my enthusiasm and professionalism to the role.

"I'm a passionate supporter of the industry and have been a BIGGA member for many years, and I'm fully supportive of the strides forward the Association is making, particularly in education.

"I'm particularly keen to meet members from across the UK in my new role at various events and of course at BTME."

BIGGA's AGM will take place during BTME 2014 on Wednesday 22 January at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite of the Harrogate International Centre.

**RT**  
rigby taylor



What's new?  
What's innovative?



**STAND C62**

**See for yourself!**





## BIGGA LAUNCH GREENKEEPERS BENEVOLENT FUND

We're pleased to announce the launch of the BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund at BTME 2014 - and you can support it by buying a wristband at the exhibition.

The Association has identified the need for such a Fund to assist current members or past members and their dependents who have suffered hardship - financial or otherwise.

The green wristbands cost just £2 and will be available at BTME - just head to the BIGGA Stand B23 where a BIGGA team member will be happy to sell you a wristband in aid of this extremely worthwhile cause.

After the Fund is launched at BTME, we will be fundraising on a permanent basis at all events we organise and there will be further details available over the course of 2014.



## SHORE THING FOR BRETT

Congratulations to Brett Cornelius (far left) who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at North Shore Golf Club in Skegness.

Brett, who previously worked at Seacroft Golf Club in the coastal Lincolnshire town for 16 years, heads up a five strong team at the course.

He said: "It's an excellent opportunity for me. My

dad is the pro at North Shore so when I heard their previous Head Greenkeeper had retired it seemed perfect for me really.

"It's a really interesting site as it's half links half parkland, and I'm used to a straightforward links at Seacroft, so there will be all manner of challenges. The first major project will be revetting bunkers."

IMAGE: Brett Cornelius, Desmond Hardy, Stephen Briggs, Graham Larder, Phillip Newland.



IOG CEO Geoff Webb, BIGGA Vice Chairman Chris Sealey, IOG chair David Teasdale and BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton

## IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS EXPAND INTO GOLF WITH BIGGA AGREEMENT

The IOG and BIGGA have announced they are to work together to extend the IOG Industry Awards by including three new greenkeeping categories at next year's event.

The cooperation between the two industry bodies was announced by IOG chief executive Geoff Webb at the successful IOG Raise the Game Conference at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry.

The conference preceded this year's awards ceremony, the fifth in the annual series.

The new greenkeeping categories are expected to recognise the achievements of greenkeepers the length and breadth of the UK, whether they are employed at large multi-course facilities or smaller venues.

Commenting, Geoff Webb said: "Our annual awards continue to grow from strength to strength both in popularity throughout the grounds care industry and in raising the profile of the sector in the public domain.

"The new golf-focused categories will not only broaden the awards into another major sporting arena but they will also help the IOG to continue to

improve and enhance an awards scheme that is the only event of its kind in the UK."

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton added: "BIGGA is delighted to be joining the IOG's highly successful annual awards scheme. It's been a long-established ambition to be able to work with the IOG on relevant projects - and a prestigious award scheme that recognises excellence in greenkeeping is the perfect example.

"It's an ideal opportunity for members of the greenkeeping fraternity to be rewarded for their dedication, skill, professionalism and adaptability, particularly in challenging economic times."

The IOG awards highlight the high standards of volunteer and professional grounds professionals and facilities, from grass roots to professional stadia level.

Covering categories such as sport, young people and the environment, the awards are judged by an independent panel on criteria that include effective use of resources, budgetary control, presentation and housekeeping standards, as well as environmental considerations.