**Viscount Whitelaw will open exhibition**

Wednesday morning, January 22nd, brings the official opening by the Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, President of BIGGA, of a wondrous display of products and services, aimed exclusively at our industry and presented by a larger number of exhibitors than ever before. Many exhibitors have hinted that BTME will be their launching pad for introducing new products and services to such an exclusively greenkeeper orientated audience, and with such a large and varied display accessible under cover and on a single floor, visitors can be assured of evaluating the very latest equipment.

**An unmistakable air of excitement is erupting from those associated with the greenkeeping industry's greatest annual event, the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme, to be held in Harrogate during January 20th-24th 1992. As the day draws near a large number of registrations have flooded into the Association's headquarters at Aldwark Manor, ensuring a spirited pool of participants for the biggest and most ambitious workshop, seminar and exhibition programme ever staged by the Association.**

Looking at the schedule of events, one cannot fail to be impressed by both the substance and the quality of speakers chosen and the fascinating subjects they will present to audiences eager for learned information.

The educational seminar programme brings together speakers who will not just educate but also stimulate debate within the halls of Harrogate. Four workshops take place on the Monday and Tuesday.

Among the speakers are:

- **Dr Norman W Hummel**, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science at Cornell University, currently on leave of absence to work for the USGA Green Section on a project relating to USGA Specifications, and on methods for testing construction mixes. Dr Hummel has operated a laboratory at Cornell for testing construction mixes for some years and has worked closely with architects, contractors and superintendents on sand and peat selection.

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**Quality speaker**

Graham Phillips: Keynote speeches will help delegates handle green committees
you can expect to see

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- There's still time to book a stand space – but you'll have to hurry! Call Debbie Savage on 03473 581.

The fine turf industries' premier event

BTME
BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme 1999

John Hacker:
Passing on tips from extensive and practical knowledge of golf course agronomy

construction.

- Stanley Zontek is USGA Green Section Director, Mid-Atlantic Region, essentially a practical man with many years experience of greens constructed by different methods. It is said that what Stanley doesn’t know about greens is not worth knowing, and he can and will provide a very practical overview of the successes and failures of greens.

- Another dual presentation that promises to be hugely entertaining is the workshop on Irrigation, tutored by Robin Hume of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association and aided and abetted by David Halford, Senior Lecturer in Horticultural Mechanisation at the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

- A soil scientist, Mike Harbridge has specialised in sportsturf and golf course soils, rootzones and drainage for the past 16 years. As Senior Soil Scientist at Myerscough College and subsequent independent consultant, he has an extensive knowledge of the practical problems associated with aging drainage and construction systems which are taken beyond their limit by heavy play.

- After gaining his Diploma in Horticulture from Kew, John Hacker specialised in Applied Plant Physiology while studying in the USA. His interest in plant hormones led him to study growth regulators in turfgrass, whilst working at the University of Bath, and eventually to his becoming the Senior Sportsturf lecturer at Myerscough College. Together with Mike Harbridge, John now provides agronomy advice on the construction and maintenance of golf courses under the title banner of Professional Sportsturf Design Limited.

- Dealing with green committee personnel has never been the easiest of tasks for greenkeepers, many of whom express frustration at having perfectly reasonable proposals turned down! Graham Phillips is an experienced presenter with the just the answer to those frustrations, with many major companies such as Shell UK testifying to the efficacy of his presentations.

- Graham's interest in golf has intensified over the past years through involvement in a regional golf newspaper and his keynote speeches will reflect some of his experiences within the golf community. With a reputation for presenting lively, upbeat and enjoyably practical presentations, he will help you to identify those who constantly oppose investment in course and greenkeeping facilities, and will guide the listener with a series of useful tips and strategies that will help in the development of a selling story that will convince even the toughest committee.

As Chairman of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, I look forward to welcoming you all to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme. Both on the exhibition stands and in the lecture rooms I'm sure you will enjoy renewing old friendships and making new ones. Harrogate is a welcoming and friendly town and those who have been before now look forward to returning each year.

I hope to meet many of you during the week, either at the exhibition stands or at our social functions, which past experience indicates will once again be a forum for a forthright exchange of views and opinions on our great profession.

Providing educational opportunities for greenkeepers is now very much to the forefront within the game of golf, and BIGGA has a leading role to play in developing training programmes which will produce well qualified and technically sound Course Managers. As knowledge increases and techniques improve, the golfer will be the ultimate beneficiary of better presented and maintained golf courses.

In developing our training programmes, we do need support from our members' golf clubs and it is my hope that many Green Chairmen, Secretaries and club officials will take this opportunity to attend at Harrogate to see how much real and visible progress our profession is making.

Finally, the week at Harrogate simply would not happen without the support of the many trade companies present at the Exhibition. To them BIGGA expresses its sincere thanks for backing the event which I feel sure will mark another step in BIGGA's development.

Having read about BTME in the pages of Greenkeeper International, I hope that you will follow the trail to Harrogate and I look forward to seeing you there.

GEORGE MALCOLM
GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL December 1991