One of the highlights of my visit to the GCSAAs International Golf Congress and Show in Anaheim was the refreshing comments on course construction and maintenance, along with the fact that in some ways greenkeeper education in the USA is behind that in Britain.

US PGA Tour veteran Peter Jacobson in his keynote speech made it clear why in his opinion the American Ryder Cup team keep getting stuffed - his words not mine - by the Europeans. It's because in America they build courses that make putting almost impossible, and he called Augusta a joke, something the club golfer would do well to remember. Then he referred to over watering, which happens all too often, as a waste of money and goodness. He certainly made a change to hear a top Tour player saying what we have been saying for years.

On education, the BIGGA stand had a steady stream of Superintendents wanting to take up our Master Greenkeeper Certificate saying it is a step up from the top level of certification available in the United States. In Canada a media release on national validation process is down the same line as our NVQ and SNVQ. Also Australia are looking at the same sort of system for their greenkeepers. So when you look back over the week it was a big plus for BIGGA, our education and traditional British greenkeeping. How this week would have pleased my old friend Jim Arthur, had he been there, just to know all his practical advice over half a century has stood the test of time, and now coming soon as it lands they should be flat, and not full of undulations which make putting almost impossible, and he called Augusta a joke, something the club golfer would do well to remember. Then he referred to over watering, which happens all too often, as a waste of money and goodness. He certainly made a change to hear a top Tour player saying what we have been saying for years.

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