WHAT A WEEK!
Above: Visitors flood into Hall Q - new this year at BTME

The feeling among those who attended was that BTME 2000 was the busiest they had ever experienced.

Top: Reliving that 'Abbey Road' experience.

Middle: Some guests really entered into the 60s groove

Above: Can you name the famous Course Manager who is the centre of all the attention?
Above: “Paul” and “John” had everyone a twistin’ and a shoutin’
Right: “Ringo” enjoys his evening
Below: The Cavern Club or BTME Banquet? Who could tell the difference?

Left and Below: Simon Weston held the attention of the large audience with his moving account of the incident which changed his life and how he has emerged from it a better person.
The two latest members of one of golf’s most exclusive clubs were unveiled at Harrogate this year.

The honour of being one of BIGGA’s Master Greenkeepers was until this year held by only 20 greenkeepers but this year Steve Schmitz and Steve Jones swell that number to 22.

The Award of Master Greenkeeper, run by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), shows that the recipient has reached the highest standards of excellence within the profession and is based on experience, ability and education.

To achieve Master Greenkeeper Status a greenkeeper must first have achieved a minimum of 200 credits based on experience, qualification, additional vocational training and attendance at seminars. He then must have his golf course assessed by someone of Master Greenkeeper status and finally undertake a case study and examination.

Steve Schmitz is Course Manager at the Golf Club Schloss (Castle) Mylberndorf, Korschenbroich in Germany. He started his career in greenkeeping in 1970 as an assistant greenkeeper at St Ives Golf Club before moving to Crodac Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper in 1979. He then spent seven years at Ellsborough Golf Club before moving to his current club in 1988. He is the second Master Greenkeeper currently working in Germany.

Coincidentally Steve Jones, a graduate of Rutgers University in the USA, started his greenkeeping career in Germany before moving to the Oxfordshire in 1992 and then to the London Club in 1994. Currently a consultant, Steve is a regular at London golf clubs both in Britain and in continental Europe.

Steve becomes the 17th Master Greenkeeper in Europe, joining five from the USA in the elite band.

Announcing The Lawn Company
Turf Professionals who have dreamed of owning their own business had a look into the future with the launch of The Lawn Company at BTME. The new enterprise, conceived as a van based franchise aims to bring a professional approach to domestic lawn maintenance.

The brain child of Mike Seaton, who has 20 years’ experience caring for amenity turf first tiff as a Groundsman and latterly as founder and Managing Director of Weed Free, The Lawn Company will control weeds and moss, aerate, scarify and top dress, in an integrated programme which will leave the home owner nothing to do but cut the grass.

“Since I started Weed Free, the domestic market has changed beyond all recognition,” said Mike.

“The demand for stylish, labour saving areas which are both aesthetically pleasing and able to double as an outside room has been created by a flash of TV programmes on growing your own food or gardening magazines. Amid the mountain of paving, decking and gravel, the lack of advice and good last lawn care services is noticeable by its absence. The Lawn Company is perfectly equipped and positioned to fill this need,”

As every turf manager knows, grass care is a science, not something that is practised on a weekly basis when the lawn receives its trim. Although the concept of hiring professional grass experts for domestic use is relatively new to the UK, the idea has already taken root across the Atlantic.

“We are way behind North America, where one out of five households hire lawn and landscape services, spending 14 billion dollars yearly.”

Mike believes that The Lawn Company offers commercial opportunities, especially for people always competing within the amenity turf industry.

A comprehensive training course, on going support package including an interactive link connecting all Franchisees directly to Head Office, and The Lawn Company Operations Manual - a translation of 20 years turf care experience into accessible advice and straightforward know-how are some of the benefits on offer to new owners.

Mike points out that the company is not only interested in making lawns their business.

Saturday January 15
An early start this year meeting with Bill and Monica Montague at Aldwark Manor. They’ve just flown in from the USA and it’s a real pleasure to show them around BIGGA HOUSE. Bill is one of BIGGA’s greatest supporters and flies the flag for us in his homeland where he is a regular on the BIGGA stand at the OCSSA Show.

Sunday January 16
I reflect that I am driving to Harrogate for BTME number 12. Where have the years gone? It takes me all of 15 minutes and its proximity to home is one sure reason for the BTME remaining in Harrogate.

There are many more compelling ones.

This year the weatherman is making all the right noises and I reach the Majestic’s bar for the BTME remaining in Harrogate. The regulars are already in residence and Ken, Sami and Sarah have registration well gone? It takes me all of 15 minutes and we anticipate logistical problems. Jenny is doing well however and there are no major issues to concentrate the mind. Why do the great majority of companies decide to arrive at around the same time when there is a two day spread? I don’t expect that will change this year.

In the afternoon there is a short Board of Management meeting with Gordon covering his two year stint and Elliott Small being elected as Chairman with Clive Oegood from Walton Heath as his Vice Chairman. The exhibitors’ reception is being held by Hall Q and everything seems in place. For me the day ends at the seventh Hayler Dinner in the George Hotel. This seems part of the BTME tradition now with Barbara Barton as the gracious hostess and Kim Macfie, always, humorously in charge of the evening. Back in the Majestic the Past Chairmen are in evidence by their red blazers and much food for thought emerges from their annual dinner.

Wednesday January 19
One of Gordon’s last duties is to cut the ribbon at 9am at the entrance to Hall A. Meanwhile the new entrance at Hall Q opened and we can’t be in two places at once. How many will realise there is a new entrance? Our fears prove groundless. The new entrance is greeted with a great response helped by the proximity of the Moat House Hotel. The halls are very busy and every entrance is evenly distributed through halls A, B, C and Q.

Make a note for next year to tighten distribution as a considerable number of people are gaining unauthorised access through both a walkway entrance and from the underground car park. The new Press Centre and Exhibitors’ Lounge are widely welcomed.

A large audience gathers for the Keynote Speaker session. I have the privilege, a real privilege, of spending some time with the world’s most renowned greenkeepers.
New degree from BIGCA

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects used the show to announce the formation of a degree course in golf course architecture to be established at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, in conjunction with the University and its specialist college, Edinburgh College of Art, as well as Merrist Wood and Elmwood Colleges.

The course, which will take the form of a nine month diploma in golf course architecture, which will lead to a full time residential three month Masters' Programme and will parallel, as a first stage, the present part time and distance learning diploma operated by the Institute at Merrist Wood College.

The two year diploma course will be expanded to take in a two-centre field study programme, which will be conducted not only in Surrey, where the Institute is based, but also in Fife, so that diploma students can experience, at first hand and in practical terms the historic links with a standing ovation. Simon surely talking with Simon Weston. A fellow Welshman, we talk of rugby and many out of life.

Blizzard hits Harrogate

Allen Blizzard couldn't believe his luck when he visited the BIGGA Career's Clinic, run by Brin Beadon and Frank Newberry, during BTME 2000.

Having gone in for advice on the presentation of his CV Allen left with a conditional place at Ohio State University.

In the ultimate case of being in the right place at the right time Allen, whose ambition had always been to attend that particular university, found himself chatting to Master Greenkeeper Bill Montague who had popped in to see how a CV differed from the American Resume. Bill, who is from Ohio, revealed that he lectured at the University and tracked down Michael O'Neil who was also attending the show and seeing it is to see all European applications for Ohio State.

Michael checked out Allen's CV and told him that if he passed his Cannington College course a place was his!

As he is progressing well at Cannington and passing all his exams to date he is as good as there. Now that's service! The Careers' Clinic was a great success with Brin and Frank handling 120 cases over the course of the two days.

BTME - BEING THERE MEANS EVERYTHING

talking with Simon Weston. A fellow Welshman, we talk of rugby and many other things Welsh. He is an impressive man in so many ways. His talk receives rapt attention from a large audience and not a few years along the way. It ends with a standing ovation. Simon surely sets a supreme example of how to cope with adversity and to get the very best out of life.

Quickly to the Majestic to set up the presentations at the Chairman's Luncheon to our Golden and Silver Key company supporters. A special pleasure to welcome our new President, Sir Michael Bonellack, who seems to thoroughly enjoy his visit.

Back to the halls for a busy afternoon and then to the AGM. Wonder wonders, Cecil does not ask a question - quite worrying really! The Chairman thanks Gordon for all his work for the Association in the past two years and for a job well done. He welcomes Clive as Vice Chairman and says farewell to Pat Murphy, George Barr and Robin Greaves who are standing down. Ian Semple and Paul Jenkins are welcomed to the Board. There is no peace for the wicked and I am quick off to Rolawn's 25th Anniversary Dinner in the company of Terry Ryan and fellow guests. This proves a pleasant, relaxing evening in the middle of the week.

Thursday January 20

The numbers are excellent pouring into the hall and another busy day is in prospect. The seminars are in full flow and a buoyant atmosphere prevails.

The Chairman and I attend a Press Conference and I am soon on my way to the FEGGA AGM where it is all change. Claus Detlef Ratjen from Germany is now Chairman with Joe Bedford of the GCSAI as Vice Chairman. Board members are Jean-Michel Herisse from France, Pirjo Hotti from Finland, who maintains the ladies' input, and Hans-Peter Thaler from Italy, Dean Cleaver takes over as FEGGA administrator.

The announcement of dinner is ignored not once but many times with claims that the announcements were not heard above the din. Dinning eventually commences some 20 minutes late. However, we start catching up and at 10.10pm I am able to introduce the Chairman to say a few words and then the moment has come and the Bootleg Beatles take to the stage.

Simultaneously our intrepid members take to the dance floor.

Friday January 21

It's Friday morning and you know the feeling well. The pace in the halls is sedate yet this is a good day to visit for those who want easy access to the stands and to get their business done. They won't get trampled in the rush but at least they will be able to talk with those whom they are seeking. The seminars end on a strong note with Dr Joe Vargas. The Chairman makes a grand draw with proceeds going to the Imperial Cancer Fund. Farewells on all sides for another year. I thank my exhausted staff who have done a fantastic job.

The years roll on but BTME remains very special. It is unsurpassed as a gathering for greenkeepers from all over the world. It is now a truly international show anticipated eagerly by companies and members alike. There is a unique atmosphere and already we look forward to 2001. I would urge members to be strong in their determination to be there for they will most certainly be better for the experience and feel very much a part of the great community of greenkeepers.
Toro’s new Workman 2100 utility vehicle offers a big payload capacity and the Toro-exclusive ‘twister’ Active In-Frame Suspension. This consists of a unique rubber joint that attaches the front operator platform to the rear section containing the engine and cargo bed. The ‘twister’ suspension allows 15 degrees of flex in both directions, so the vehicle can travel over uneven terrain and still keep all four wheels on the ground. These features and more make the vehicle ideal for use in a host of different working environments such as golf courses.

The vehicle has a roomy operator platform with excellent leg room. There’s also more storage space in the Workman operator platform, including a centre tray for storing items such as hand-held radios, clipboards and tools. A 12-volt outlet allows for the recharging of radios and other equipment. The front axle of the Workman uses independent front suspension which allows for the tight turning radius of just 2.9m with 70-degree steering. The Fuji rear axle is powered by an automatic, constantly variable transmission. A pedal start accelerator and pedal stop brake make the vehicle as easy to drive as a golf car.

The Toro Groundsmaster Contour 66 is a new version of the Groundsmaster rotary. But this time it is fitted with the company’s ground-breaking Sidewinder system that enables all three cutting decks to shift from side to side up to 61cm. It follows on from the Reelmaster Sidewinder fitted with cylinder cutting units, which is receiving outstanding universal acclaim after its introduction to UK golf courses last season. All three rotary decks can shift from side to side up to 61cm by the use of a joystick control. Shifting the cutting units to the sides means they can mow bunker overhangs, fringes, approaches and edgings that might otherwise need tackling with a push-mower or strimmer. Such a greater mowing range substantially increases productivity on all fronts. Additionally, jobs that traditionally needed follow-up mowing can be completed by the Groundsmaster Contour 66 because the operator can shift the mowing deck positions without leaving the seat. The ability to shift the decks sideways also varies the tracking of the mower’s wheels so reduces tyre tracks and turf damage.

Developed by Greenkeepers for Greenkeepers, the new Intake Range of Foliar Feeds offers the perfect complement to existing granular and liquid feed programmes. It will be distributed in the UK by Amenity Technology. The range has been developed in the United States by Gary Grigg, Master Greenkeeper and former President of the GCSAA, and is backed up with over 20 years of research. The range has been described as “organic facilitators” or chelates used in each of the In take products mimic the plants natural chelating actions and increase nutrient penetration into the plant’s cells. The foliar action of the range has shown to be of dramatic benefit on low cut turf where a poor rooting system can be an inherent problem. Intake bypasses root uptake and delivers readily available nutrients direct to the leaf blade, rapidly correcting nutrient deficiencies.

The latest development from the Koro Design and Manufacturing Centre in Holland is being shown for the first time on the Richard Campey Ltd stand. The now established Recycling Dresser has given birth to a Mini’ version for specific work on Golf Greens and Tees. The GT model, RD130KR has been produced to provide the same remarkable benefits to surface management in the Golf sector, as in the general sports and amenity areas, already transformed over the past few years. As with its father’ version, the “son” alleviates the need for top dressings by recycling the original soil. The equipment is 3 PT. linkage mounted for attachment to 30-35hp Compact tractors. In addition to Richard Campey Ltd in the UK, the machine will be available on an international basis from Hummer Sports Turf (USA), Manouvre Mow Pty (Australia) and Barthela Motorgerate (Germany).
AR250 will provide a quality cut on driving whatever your cutting regime. When the inner position is used it also introduces the existing ‘Envirodeck’. The synchro-shuttle transmission giving 16 forward and 16 reverse gears is added to with the addition of a ‘Hi LO’ transmission which reduces each gear by 20% and is operated through an electro-hydraulic control system allowing the operator to change the direction of operation and use many attachments in front mounted mode. The TT range is also available in 60 and 64hp.

A new form of biological treatment for use in the professional turf and landscape market and developed and manufactured by Biotal was on display. The products are available through the recently-formed Pentagon Group. Biotal’s ‘Restore the Balance’ programme is a three part natural solution that utilises standard cultural methods to enable environmentally aware greenkeepers to selectively enhance the microbial profile of their soil. Combining three products, the programme reintroduces, feeds and boosts beneficial microbial concentrations in fine turf. The three products known as Microbalance, Biofeed and Microbooster, are also available for application separately. Microbalance is a blend of microbes researched, developed and produced in the UK. Selected for its ability to re-balance the soil micro-flora, Microbalance replaces protective microbes destroyed by internal or toxic chemical treatments. Biofeed is a natural seaweed extract used as a soil and foliar feed and specifically selected for natural surfactant content. Microbooster is an organic plant extract, which creates a suitable environment for the development of beneficial microbes within the soil profile.

Vitax’s new Vitax Vitaliser was launched at the Show after trials by the STRI. This 100% organic, naturally slow release fertiliser, is designed for use all year round but, according to Clive Williams, Commercial & Amenity Sales Manager for the company, the product comes into its own before Spring sowing. “Vitax Vitaliser has naturally occurring trace elements combined with a balance of both quick and slow acting nitrogen which means that the product avoids rapid leaching of nutrients during heavy Spring rains and nurtures the young shoots of an emerging sward rather than encouraging flushes of growth.” he said. Vitax Vitaliser is a rich source of humus elements combined with a balance of both quick and slow acting nitrogen which means that the product avoids rapid leaching of nutrients during heavy Spring rains and nurtures the young shoots of an emerging sward rather than encouraging flushes of growth. It is a three part natural solution that utilises standard cultural methods to enable environmentally aware greenkeepers to selectively enhance the microbial profile of their soil.

Making its first appearance at BTME was the Kubota AM3000 ride-on triple cylinder mower with its hopper grass collection system which can be emptied without the driver having to leave the seat. Powered by a low emissions 33hp Kubota diesel engine, the AM3000 features on-demand four-wheel drive which engages automatically when loss of traction is detected. All three cutting units are positioned ahead of the wheels and are offered with either five or seven bladed 200mm diameter cylinders. Instead of the standard grooved front rollers, the cutting units can be specified with side rollers which allow the heads to still follow ground contours, yet without flattening the grass before it is cut. Other new Kubota products making their debut at the show were the GIS G6iCut - the world’s first triple-bladed through-cut mower with integral rear grass collector - and the H1hp B1410 compact tractor with mid-mounted rotary cutter deck.
Sisis launched the Robbi ride-on brush at show. The Robbi is used on the golf course to lift grasses prior to mowing; in parks and public areas, the new Robbi is used on the golf course to improve the presentation of the greens while is extremely fine textured and displays slow re-growth.

Barenbrug introduced three new varieties at the Show. Barpearl is a new slender creeping red fescue from the same breeding programme as Barcrown which has been shown in tests to have excellent shoot density, short grown characteristics and good resistance to Red Thread. It has also been shown to have good fusarum resistance in both summer and winter. Bar Fescue contains 25% Barcrown, 23% Barpearl, both slender creeping red fescues; 30% Bargreen and 20% Baroxi, both Chevings fescues. Bar Fescue has been shown to have good shoot density, drought tolerance and disease resistance while is extremely fine textured and displays slow re-growth.

Bernhard & Co launched its new Anglemaster 3000 at this year’s BTME exhibition. Being at the forefront of ‘Preventative medicine’ for golf green management across the globe, demands that Bernhard & Co., continue to provide a range of equipment which maintains their premier position in this sector.

Advanta Seeds. Akers, UK commercial Manager for sports and amenity market,” said John.

BTME saw the Mommersteeg and Sharpes brands of amenity mixtures re-launched under the Advanta brand name. These will be available in two distinct ranges - Advanta MM’s and Designer from Advanta. "The merger of the two companies has allowed us to streamline operations, increasing efficiency, while retaining the product and service quality that the two original companies were well known for," explains John. "Our customers will now benefit from a much greater pool of production and research resources and experienced personnel. Advanta’s aim is to continue developing new cultivars appropriate to our customers’ needs, now and in the future."