The thirteenth BTME proved to be the best ever with record attendances, talented speakers, and busy stands. The occasion reinforced Harrogate week as a must for all greenkeepers and fineturf industry figures, and also attracted a large number of overseas delegates.

EVERYONE'S A WINNER AT BTME!

Above: Essay category winner David Roy receives his cheque from Sir Michael Bonallack and Elliott Small

Above: Richard Whyman accepts his place on the Bernhard’s Canadian Scholarship from Stephen Bernhard

Above: New FEGGA Chairman Joe Bedford presents outgoing Claus Detlef Ratjen with a framed print
CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The insatiable thirst for learning displayed by visitors to Harrogate was well and truly quenched throughout the week with a huge variety of workshops, conference topics and seminar sessions.

Above: Hayter's top dealer of the year award announced at their annual dinner in the St George Hotel went to Karl Green and Mark Lowe of K&M Mowers of East Yorks. Presenting the award was Lynne Fearis, wife of GCSAA Past President, Dave.

Above and right: A packed auditorium applauds Keynote speaker Richard Nobel as he recounts his motivational experiences behind his record-breaking landspeed attempt.

Above: The plants and soil science workshop in full swing.

Above: Delegates get to grips with the latest technology in the computer workshop.

Above: A delegate talks through his finished design in the Golf Course Design 2 workshop.

Above: Delegates get put through their paces in the Machinery Maintenance workshop.

Above: A packed conference session listens intently to Jonathan Smith during the Environmental Management section of the programme.
THE KEY TO GREENKEEPER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BTME gives BIGGA the opportunity of thanking those companies who have supported the Association over the previous year. The Chairman's Lunch on the Wednesday of the show is an enjoyable occasion and one at which Golden and Silver Key supporters are presented with plaques or badges. BIGGA President, Sir Michael Bonallack graced the occasion and presented the awards.

BTME BANQUET THRILLS AUDIENCE AGAIN

The Searchers took the audience on a trip down memory lane with a scintillating set incorporating many of their hits including, Needles and Pins, Sweets for My Sweet, Don't Throw Your Love Away, Love Potion Number Nine, Sugar and Spice, Some Day We're Gonna Love Again, and When You Walk in the Room.

Above: Party goers getting into their groove
Right: Johnny 'Rotten' Pemberton sends his 'Pembets' into raptures
So it's over for another year and we reflect on a successful week in Harrogate, indeed on a BTME which surpassed expectations. Perhaps we came to Harrogate this year a little apprehensive not in terms of exhibitor numbers or the year on year growth of the show, but rather from the perspective of a gloomy autumn/winter period characterised by incessant rain and transport problems. Golf courses had been closed and trading had been difficult. Would this impinge on the BTME given also the current unreliability of our train services? Snow through Sunday did not augur well followed by rain on Monday and Tuesday. Low and behold, Wednesday dawned bright and clear.

Greenkeepers were about and a buzz was in the air. The trade began to smile and we were underway. By mid-morning on the first day it was clear that our apprehension had been unwarranted as visitors appeared in droves, clearly bent on making the most of the event. Queues were forming at the registration points and certainly BIGGA had not anticipated the volume of visitors - a pattern repeated the following day. It was a nice problem but a problem nevertheless and one which will need to be resolved for 2002. Queuing in the sunshine is one thing, if the weather had been inclement it would have been quite another. While pre-registration is always preferable, we appreciate that many do not bother to fill in and return the card - hence the queues which this year were significant given the increase in attendees. Registration will be reviewed for next year. With a provisional visitor figure of 7,172 for the exhibition, some 28% up on 2000, we are delighted, but explaining the dramatic increase is more difficult. My best guess is that so many within the industry and the profession wanted, indeed needed, to get the year off to a good start and there is no better place to do it than at the BTME.

Looking back on the week, it seemed to have the right mix. From a successful conference, in depth workshopping and comprehensive seminar programme to outstanding keynote speaker and hugely successful banquet, the infrastructure around the exhibition contributed to a rounded event during which the trade did good business. Some come purely for the exhibition others for the education and many more for both. Combine this with the social and perhaps the spiritual, for BTME is now an annual pilgrimage for many, and you indeed have a potent mix. Long may it last and we are greatly encouraged by the increase in visitor numbers this year.

Some thoughts on BTME 2002. BIGGA works closely with the BTME Steering Committee made up of representatives of the trade. During 2000, the Steering Committee set up a Working Party to look at future options for BTME in terms of opening days. The recommendation of the Working Party accepted subsequent ly by the Steering Committee and BIGGA’s Board of Management was that for 2002 the exhibition would open on three days - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with a later start time of 10.30am on the Tuesday. There would be a subsequent review of the opening days after the 2002 event. The increase in opening hours for 2002 has coincided with a sharp increase in visitors this year and this augers well for the future. BIGGA is well aware of the need to increase still further the visitor base and this will be a priority for 2002. BIGGA and the Steering Committee are looking to grow the event and will work closely together to ensure this is achieved. Breakdown next year will be on the Friday morning thus ensuring three full show days. This is considered essential if the exhibition is to prosper under the revised opening days.

There is a partnership between BIGGA and the Steering Committee and we consider that the mix I referred to earlier running throughout the week is essential to the continuing success of the BTME. Friday breakdown is considered by both parties to be an integral part of this mix ensuring that the exhibition finishes on a high note on Thursday evening.

Planning is already underway for BTME 2002. Bookings from new exhibitors are coming in at a fast rate and current exhibitors are requesting more space. We will do all we can to meet the needs and wishes of our exhibitors who make the BTME possible. It is not always practical to satisfy all needs but we will do our best in this regard. I believe that BTME 2001 has set up the year both for the trade and our members. I trust that the prevailing optimism after BTME will translate into a prosperous year ahead and that the months ahead will be characterised by some warm and sunny days. Here’s hoping.

Neil Thomas
LARGEST EVER INTAKE OF MASTER GREENKEEPERS

The elite club at the top prestigious Master Greenkeeper programme received its largest ever intake when BIGGA announced the names of six Course Managers and Golf Course Superintendents who had earned the right to don the much sought after blazer.

The new intake takes the total number of Master Greenkeepers around the world to 28. Four of the six were presented with the blazers and plaques by BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack and BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, in Harrogate International Centre’s Royal Hall with the remaining two being presented with the same during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America’s Show in Dallas next month.

The four are Stuart Cagle, Superintendent at Old Oakland Golf Club, in Indianapolis, where he has been since 1987; Geoff Coggan, an Englishman abroad, who is Superintendent at the Great Outdoors Recreational Vehicle, Nature and Golf Resort in Titusville, Florida; Walter Montross, who is Superintendent at the Westwood Country Club in Virginia, where he has spent the last 10 years, and David Murdoch, Course Manager at Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire, a Scot “abroad”, who has been a greenkeeper for 15 years.

The remaining two are Brian Sullivan, Superintendent at the Belair Country Club on Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles and John Gasper, Country Club of the Desert, California.

The Master Greenkeeper programme is in three stages - the accumulation of 200 credits based on experience, qualification and continuing educational development; a course visit carried out by existing Master Greenkeepers and a two part written exam. The programme has been running since 1990.

Anti-clockwise from top, pictured with Sir Michael Bonallack and Elliott Small are; Stuart Cagel, Geoff Coggan, Walter Montross and David Murdoch

TAM O’BIGGA

Those who enjoyed Kerran Daly’s epic poem, Tam O’BIGGA, which appeared in the BTME catalogue may have felt it got off to a little bit of a slow start.

Unfortunately due to a production error the first line was missed off. The first verse should have should have read;

When conference day is wearin’ late
And we’re a’ oot in Harrogate
Gie’ n chat in Yates’s bar
While supping down another jar
The boys are limbering up for Jimmy’s
Where they can strut their funky shimmies
And in the heat-hazed, flights o’ fancies
Fantasise one-night romances
The night wears on, the girls get sweeter
Steadfast souls begin to teeter
Their spirits roused by sideways glances
They vastly over-rate their chances
Throw’ n’ heaving crowds Tam sails forth
To charm the lasses from up North
But long before he meets his quarry
He knows tomorrow he’d be sorry
Tam wakes from his deceitful dream
To inwardly abort his scheme
And turning left instead of right
He wanders oot into the night

Apologies to Kerran and I hope you enjoyed BTME 2001.

The entire poem - minus that first line - can be seen in both the BTME catalogue, and also on our website at www.bigga.org.uk/btme
NEW FOLIAR TREATMENT
FROM LINDUM
Lindum Plant Nutrition launched a foliar treatment which aids photosynthesis. ProteSyn is a liquid, organic compound which encourages healthy cell division, respiration and energy conservation in turf.

By providing complete amino acids, proteins and carbohydrates which are usually deficient in turfgrass in intensive use and under stress, ProteSyn improves the sward's photosynthetic efficiency, thus helping the plants to help themselves. As with all Lindum Plant Nutrition products, this new foliar treatment is designed to be incorporated within a total turf programme which Lindum create on an individual basis for each client, following extensive soil analysis.

TEXTRON DEBUT LIGHTWEIGHT TOP DRESSER

The Turfco SP-1530 TM track mounted broadcast top dresser made its UK debut on the Textron stand.

Ideal for greens that will not accommodate a towed top dresser, the SP-1530 TM provides unparalleled power for fast and light applications. It can be easily coupled to a four-wheel Cushman Turf-Truckster using a few simple mounting brackets and connectors.

The hydraulically driven conveyor belt and twin spinners provide a uniform application at any speed, with the spinner angle easily adjustable for maximum penetration. The distribution pattern is variable from 4.57m - 9.14m enabling the majority of greens to be covered in just two passes.

A large hopper ensures fast loading using a front-end loader and one operator can do the entire job, for the busy greenkeeper that's fast and cost-effective greens management.

SISIS UNVEILS LATEST ADDITIONS

TWO NEW PRODUCTS COMPLIMENT SISIS RANGE

The new SISIS Rotorake is a thatch remover for regular routine use but also has the capability to work deeper when required, while retaining the finesse of the SISIS Auto-Rotorake and leaving a clean cut groove. The maximum working depth is 45mm.

The Rotorake 600 incorporates the SISIS Rotorake contra-rotation principle, whereby the reel rotates at high speed against the direction of travel. The blades therefore cut upwards holding the machine to the ground to maintain a regular working depth. A range of interchangeable reels is available.

The new SISIS TigaraKe, hydraulic scarifier, has been designed for fast, effective, thatch removal on golf greens, tees and approaches.

The twin scarifying units give a working width of just over a metre. The entire machine floats on a front roller, and each individual unit floats independently across the width of the machine. It therefore follows undulations maintaining the depth of cut and eliminating scalping.

There are four interchangeable reels available thatch removal reel; vertical cutting reel comprising close-pitched triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season; brush reel to remove light surface debris and lift grasses prior to mowing; combined reel with thatch removal blades interspersed with brushes to remove thatch efficiently, with the added benefit of a brushes finish.

The angle of 'throw' is adjustable for wet or dry working conditions. The large capacity collector tips for emptying or can be removed. The support legs slot away during work.

TORO AIM FOR A BLAST WITH LATEST SIDEWINDER LAUNCH

The Groundsmaster 3500-D is a powerful lift rotary mower that is highly manoeuvrable and produces a superb, high-quality cut. The machine is being introduced to meet the demand from those customers who prefer a large-scale rotary mower that is highly manoeuvrable and produces a superb, high-quality cut.

The GM 3500-D’s innovative cutting system comprises three individual, 27in floating decks with front and rear rollers which follow ground contours to virtually eliminate scalping. The deck overlap configuration prevents grass streaks in turns and on banks.

Versatility is provided by an adjustable width of cut, which allows the machine to be set up for three different cutting widths - 68in, 70in and 72in - by simply changing a bolted assembly. A 68in set-up gives additional protection against grass streaking on banks or when turning; while 72ins provides more productivity on non-hilly terrain or for straight-line cutting.

The Sidewinder system enables the decks to slide 12in left and right of centre. This provides a 12in overhang on either side of the mower at a 68in width of cut. At the 72in cutting width, the overhang available is 14in. Height of cut is adjustable in quarter-inch increments from three-quarters of an inch to four inches. The Toro GM 3500-D is fitted with a Kubota 35hp turbo diesel engine and has permanent three-wheel drive for both mowing and transport. Mowing speed is factory set at 6mph, but is adjustable, and the unit can travel at up to 9mph in transport.

The all-new Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is a powerful lift rotary mower that is highly manoeuvrable and produces a superb, high-quality cut.

The machine is being introduced to meet the demand from those customers who prefer a large-scale rotary mower with a three-deck configuration. Toro says that the new GM 4000-D has been specifically designed to cater for five key customer requirements identified after extensive research. These are power, cutting performance, trimming capability, traction and operator comfort.

Therefore the unit has been given more power than competitors’ equivalents with a Kubota turbo diesel, 2-litre engine developing 56hp (42kw) and providing plenty of power for a variety of cutting conditions.

On cutting performance, the focus is on the quality of cut, mowing capacity, ground following and after-cut dispensing of the clippings. Rear discharge decks are fitted for even dispersion of cuttings for a clean after-cut finish. For even cleaner cutting management and added safety, these can be converted by customers to Toro’s Guardian Recycler design simply by bolting on baffles and kickers.
NEW FAIRWAY MOWER FROM JOHN DEERE

Featuring a 32hp liquid cooled diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission and power steering, John Deere's new look 3293B lightweight five gang fairway mower was unveiled at the show. The machine offers higher capacity hydraulics, larger wheel motors and a maximum engine output of 38.5hp, with electric fans for quieter operation.

The 3293B is a new look for John Deere, with dual air filters, electrically operated deck adjusters and hydraulic down pressure. The mower is equipped with a new ball joint and yoke design, allowing the operator to adjust the mower's standard cutting units for improved grass collection. New reel motors and a new bedknife to reel adjustment, coupled with a new triple pump, increase the overall cutting performance.

Further standard features include a hydraulically-actuated, oil-immersed PTO clutch which ensures clutch and drive line life. For optimum cutting efficiency and operator comfort, air drawn through the radiator is forced into the engine, reducing exhaust and vibration. The F3560 has as standard a single pedal hydrostatic transmission, tilt column and a hydraulically-actuated oil-immersed PTO clutch.

The most powerful ever Kubota ride-on rotary mower made its UK public debut at BTME. Known as the F3560, the new model extends Kubota's F Series front mower line-up to four machines rated at 16hp, 25hp, 30hp and, now, 35hp.

Other important features include a hydraulically-actuated, oil-immersed PTO clutch which ensures smooth cutter engagement, minimising shocks and maximising clutch and engine life. For optimum cooling efficiency and operator comfort, air drawn through the radiator is force-fed into the engine chamber before being discharged to the rear of the machine, keeping hot air away from the operator.

NEW FAIRWAY MOWER AT HARROGATE

The most powerful-ever Kubota ride-on rotary mower made its UK public debut at BTME. Known as the F3560, the new model extends Kubota's F Series front mower line-up to four machines rated at 16hp, 25hp, 30hp and, now, 35hp.

One of the most powerful ever Kubota ride-on rotary mowers, the F3560 is designed to operate for long hours on large areas of grass across level or hilly terrain. Its tight turning circle, compact dimensions and low centre of gravity make it equally well suited for work on banked ground and amongst trees and similar obstacles. A safety rollbar, weather cab or safety cab are all available.

Benihand and Co introduced its most advanced rotary blade grinder, Rota-Master at the show. An essential tool in the workshop this machine, once set up, can be left to complete the grinding cycle alone due to the unique automatic infeed and auto cut-off.

Features include a quality balance and automatic traverse with easily adjusted travel stops. With blades held securely in place both ends can be ground at the same time. The ground surface is left smooth and perfectly parallel. Operators benefit from a low noise environment.

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ENERGY SPECIAL

BARENBRUG LAUNCH ESSENTIAL SEEDS

Barenbrug UK launched its new catalogue at the show. The catalogue has the added advantage of an attachment to vac out the working area. The grinding operation occurs away from the operator for added safety.

Bernhard's NEW GRINDER

Barenbrug UK launched its new catalogue at the show. For the new Millennium the publication, Amenity Grass Seed and Wildflower Mixtures 2001, is double the size of its predecessors, now being in A4 format and 40 full-colour pages.

It details all the company's products and services with a colourful, pull-out Mixture Selection Guide which makes choosing product quick and easy, while throughout the catalogue, panels spotlight helpful hints and technical information. Highlighted in the brochure are Barbizon and Barfelix, two varieties of a brand new species for Barenbrug, namely tall fescue. Specially bred for UK conditions, trials have shown these to be ideally suited for stressed soccer grounds and other facilities, being wear tolerant, disease resistant and even able to withstand waterlogging.

RANSOMES SUPER CERTES: NEW MOWER AT HARROGATE

Also unveiled at the show was the Ransomes Super Certes walk-behind mower with MotivairTM, the new servo-control system for pedestrian mowers.

MotivairTM is easily identified by its distinctive profiled handgrips incorporating the engagement trigger and safety collar. The system provides the best user comfort possible, while complying with stringent safety legislation. A gentle squeeze of the trigger allows the vacuum operated servo-control system to engage the drive clutch. This new design provides an exceptionally smooth take-up of power with almost effortless operation and providing the user with a comfortable working platform.