Another one for the memory banks

As a week, it would be hard to beat Harrogate 2001. Virtually every aspect of it has been deemed a success — and not just by those people involved in the organisation but by delegates and exhibitors, many of whom have contacted BIGGA HOUSE to say how successful, not to mention enjoyable, it had been for them.

Sure, there were problems. I wouldn’t have liked to have been stuck in one of the long, cold queues of people trying to get into the halls but that in itself is a measure of how successful the show had been. We’ve had queues in the past but not to the extent that they were significant hardship for the participants as they were this year. Having identified it as an issue it is something we will have addressed well in advance of next year.

There were many highlights for me during the week of the National Education Conference and the Show. There was the member, all the way from Germany, who, on the Sunday night, put on his jacket for the first time since the last year’s Harrogate and found £200 in the top pocket. He’d forgotten all about it. It must be nice to have that sort of disposable income.

Another high point was the surprise appearance of BIGGA’s Administration Manager, Johnny “Rotten” Pemberton, on stage with The Searchers, a truly unforgettable experience for all who witnessed it. I’d always thought John might possess the talent and the potential to be a great singer. ... I’m afraid I was wrong.

It was also pleasing to see so many international visitors to the Show. Harrogate has always attracted a number of overseas members and friends but this year there seemed to be many more than usual, reinforcing the view that BTME week is an opportunity for the entire industry to come together and compare notes on problems and solutions.

Once again Textron must be given a vote of thanks for their support of the Learning Experience programme.

That 7,172 people chose to make a date with BTME during the two and a half days of the Show is quite astonishing. That represents a huge increase on previous attendance figures and marks the Show as an issue it is something we will have addressed well in advance of next year.

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Training priorities recommended by GTC Technical Committee

The GTC Technical Committee has set out its recommendations for Greenkeeper training priorities in a three year Business Plan. The work of the new Technical Committee within the GTC structure chaired by Dr Mike Canaway will enable the Management Committee to consolidate and develop the leading Industry Body for Greenkeeping by achieving set objectives and ensuring funding is approved to meet these objectives in the development and implementation of Greenkeeper Education, Training and Qualifications," explained David Golding, the GTC's Education Director.

The Technical Committee consists of the following members:-

Chairman - Dr Mike Canaway
Consultants - John Davis, Tony Mears,
Course Manager; Kerrin Dahly, Course Manager; Iain Ritchie, Course Manager;
David Golding, Education Director GTC; in attendance and Sue Gudgeon — N/SVQ Co-ordinator, in attendance

Bob McLaren, the Chairman of the Management Committee, has fully supported and endorsed the Technical Committee and has recommended the endorsement of the Business Plan to the Management Committee. The representative bodies are currently considering the Business Plan including the financial implications to implement the Business Plan.

IOG meeting to welcome one and all

The Bristol Branch of the IOG is to hold a special meeting at St Mary’s School, Cable, Wiltshire at which Steven Bernhard, of Bernhard & Co, will be giving an illustrated talk, "Why lap?". Anyone who uses a cylinder mower should find this an extremely interesting talk.

The Branch will give a warm welcome to any member of BIGGA who would like to attend the meeting. This is the first meeting the IOG have held in this area, and they would appreciate if those intending to come along would first phone Ted Cavell on 01278 728689, so that they may arrange a room of a size to fit the number attending. (Evening calls to Ted would be appreciated).

Grand Tour Scholarship 2001

The Grand Tour Scholarship invites golf course design and turfgrass management students from all over the world to apply to travel on a tour of golf courses throughout the United States in August 2001. The scholarship offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in our industry. TORO sponsors the scholarship, which has been organized by Bettina Schrickel, golf course architect (EIGCA) and president of Lioness Golf LLC.

The scholarship offers four students the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses in the United States, including some of the world’s most famous golf courses such as Augusta National, Harbour Town Golf Links, The Coors’ Club in Brookline, Cypress Point, Pebble Beach and Castle Pines to name just a few.

Both study tours will take place in August. The Western Route will lead to 30 golf courses in three weeks; the Eastern Route includes 23 courses and takes four weeks. Experience has proven the benefit of two students travelling together per route in order to exchange knowledge and impressions. Students will have the opportunity to walk each course, study the layout and talk to the golf course superintendent.

The deadline for completed applications is April 15, 2001. The Grand Tour Scholarship Committee will select successful candidates according to the contents and quality of application documents. For application forms or further information, please contact Bettina Schrickel by phone on (+1) 954-462 0157 or via email: fschrickel@aol.com

Edgbaston GC

A verdict of death by misadventure has been returned on Alan Cutler, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and a much valued staff member of Edgbaston Golf Club, who was crushed by a mower after it toppled onto him as he cut round a bunker’s edge.

The Birmingham inquest was told that Alan, who had been at the club for 34 years, had been cutting round a bunker on the 15th hole in March last year when the incident occurred.

When Alan didn’t return, the front of the maintenance facility, Course Manager, Mike Hughes, went to look for him and found him trapped underneath the machine. It took three and a half minutes to come to its unanimous verdict. Earlier it had been told that it was the club’s normal practice to move to within at least a foot of a bunker’s edge and then hand mow the remainder but that on the occasion in question it was apparent that Alan had been mowing to within one to three inches of the edge.

The coroner, Health Inspector, Pauline Beever, advised that she was not proposing to prosecute as the club had demonstrated that it was a responsible employer and had implemented all recommendations since the accident.

The club had a Health and Safety Policy in place but had tightened its procedures following the death of the HSE but having a good relationship with the HSE but having such an accident on our golf course it has made us even more aware of the need for good practice," he explained.

A civil compensation claim is currently being pursued by 56 year old Alan’s family through the Club’s Employer Liability policy.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Our committee came up with a brilliant way to keep the course dry

Really, what was that?

To cover it with a huge dome

www.tonyhusband.co.uk

The third year of the BigbyTaylor sponsored Matchplay Knockout tournament for the South Wales Section members saw 32 individuals equating to 16 pairs from 19 golf clubs.

This year’s final, as usual at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, was between last year’s winners Team Morriston consisting of Daryl Bray and Leigh Davies against Team Pennard consisting of Peter Lacey and Robert Hanford. On this occasion though the Champions were unseated and Pennard clinched the trophy on the 15th green.

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Volunteers required!

Volunteers required for the following events:

Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth
Club, May 25-28, 2001

The Association will again be providing a support team for this prestigious event, this year, for the first time, it will operate one of the four competition days. Each team member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you will be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on any or all days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chances of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

The Open Championship, Royal Lytham & St Annes, July 18-21, 2001

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparations; bunkering, taking matches and any play in the event. The course requires you must be available from Wednesday evening, July 18, through to the close of play on Sunday, July 22. While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided, you will be required to travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size.

Full BIGGA members only may apply in writing, for either or both of these events to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldworth Acre, York, Y061 1UE.

The Wentworth support team will be co-ordinated by the BIGGA South East Region and Derek Farrington, the Regional Administrator, is available to provide further information. Derek can be contacted on 01347 855580 or via email: derek.farrington@bigga.co.uk.

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The closing date for applications is Friday March 2, 2001 and in the event of there being more applications than places available a draw of names will take place.

A Trans-Atlantic promotion for Deere's Alex

John Deere's UK Managing Director, Alex McKeon, has been promoted to the position of Vice President, Worldwide Marketing in the company's agricultural division, based in the USA at Lenesa, near Kansas City.

He is replaced by John Deere Limited by Clay Sherrill, who is currently Sales Branch Manager of the Minneapolis branch in the USA.

"I have had 28 very happy years working for John Deere Limited, the last eight as Managing Director," said Alex McKeon.

"A major part of my new responsibility will be to ensure that we have the right products to meet our ever changing customer needs, and to provide increased customer and market development support on a global scale."

Clay Sherrill is a graduate of Wofford College and gained a MBA from Georgia State University before joining Deere & Company in 1977.

He held a variety of marketing roles in different North American sales branches before becoming Minneapolis sales branch manager in 1998.

"I am looking forward to learning about the business in the UK and Ireland, and to settling my family here in the next few months," said Clay Sherrill, who is married with two children.

"Europe is more advanced in some ways than the USA, particularly with regard to more intensive use of machinery and the highly competitive nature of the marketplace - it promises to be an exciting challenge."

Correction for disease-free turf article

In the article on Disease-free turf which appeared on pages 23 and 24 of last month's magazine we inadvertently mixed up the photographs so that the Take-all Patch pictures appeared above the description for Fusarium Patch and the Fusarium Patch pictures appeared above the Take-all Patch description. We apologise for any confusion caused by this error and hopefully make up for the error by printing a corrected version for both diseases this month.

Anyone seeking further clarification information should require BIGGA's Turf Major Pest Diseases Field Guide which gives detailed information on turf diseases. A copy can be obtained for BIGGA HOUSE.

Fusarium Patch

Symptoms
Orange brown patches, 2.5 to 5cm across, increasing in size under suitable conditions. Can coalesce to affect large areas. Disease often very active following periods of snow cover, when sporangia are spread on hoar frost and germinate, infecting roots which become brown ring surrounding a pale straw-coloured/slightly pink centre.

Occurrence
Any time of the year when conditions are suitable, but especially spring and autumn and after snow.

Grass species involved
Annual Meadow-grass (Poa annua) is the main species attacked but the fungus also attacks Bent Grass (Aegrostis spp) and occasionally other grasses. Host preference is diminished when disease attacks under snow cover.

Other influencing factors
Shade, humidity, alkaline surface, inefficient drainage, excess nitrogen.

Control measures
Identification of influencing factors and application of appropriate remedial measures.

Take-all Patch

Symptoms
Rings or part rings of orange/brown grass from 0.1 to 1 metre in diameter. The base of drying grass is usually about 0.1 metre across and is predominantly the result of a fungal infection. The grass is damaged by heat and discoloured, thereby allowing the affected plants to be easily pruned from the turf. At certain times, a black, reproductive structure, known as a perithecia, may be seen low down on the stem. This is usually found immediately below the leaf junctions. The perithecia contains many banana shaped ascus, each containing 8 long ascospores which serve to spread infection. Infected patches become discoloured, non-grass species and contain only non-susceptible grasses.

Occurrence
Most common in late summer and autumn.

Other influencing factors
Waterlogging and surface acidity increase the likelihood of this disease

Grass species involved
Bent grasses (Aegrostis).

Control measures
Avoid application of lime during the summer. Liming is best done in the autumn. Apply a suitable interval, should be followed by a dressing of fertiliser to re-acidify the surface. Attention to drainage of wet areas is recommended.

Trials and tribulations

Alan Dommett of Devon Garden Machinery has a lot to answer for, he is the one responsible for Stuart Dymond's occasional absences from his beloved golf course at St. Erodoc on Sunday mornings. His generosity led to greater things as he pursued his other passion that of F15 Mustangs.

It was through Alan's sponsorship that Stuart was able to compete on his much prized Triumph Tiger Cub and which saw him win the 1998 Launceston Motor Cycle Championships followed by a runners up in 1999. It was this generous sponsorship by Devon Garden Machinery that further encouraged Stuart to have his own Triumph Tiger Cub restored. This was completed in 2000 and enabled Stuart in continuing to forge the legacies of the fabulous North Cornish coastal scenery that are St. Erodoc and aims for his third crack in the Launceston Championship.

So partly on Alan Dommett's Tiger finishing on his own little gem he has now gained a second Championship for 2000. From little scorns as they say and a tiny 10th place finisher in 1998, Devon Garden Machinery Stuart next venture will be much further afield at the national Pre '65 Trials held in Scotland in 2001.

IOG Conference

The IOG 2001 Conference is on the theme "Caring for the Environment with the Environment" and features a number of speakers on different topics, including Rootzone Stimulants, Water Management and Recycling.

Among the excellent group of speakers are Dr Alan Gange of Royal Holloway College who will talk on "Microbial management of turf: myth or reality?"; Prof Cliff Johnston - Environmental Consultant on "Seaweed - an environmentally friendly turfgrass stimulant?"; Martin Wadd, of Symbio on "Rootzone nutrition - the biological route explored" and Kim Von Esset, Course Manager of Lobby Golf Course in Norway, on "But does it really work? - practical experiences of the biological route from a grounds management professional". Among those speaking on Water Management are Carol Holt of the Environment Agency; Alex Vickers of Cranfield University and Victor Jamieson of Rain Bird Europe.

"Europe is more advanced in some ways than the USA, particularly with regard to more intensive use of machinery and the highly competitive nature of the marketplace - it promises to be an exciting challenge.

The Conference runs from Friday March 30 through to Monday April 2 at The Thistle Hotel, Haydock.

Further information can be obtained from the IOG Tel: 01908 312511.
New Golf Course Consultancy formed

John Nicholson has joined with architect, Ken Moodie and golfer Ken Brown to form a new Golf Course Consultancy.

The services offered by the new company range from feasibility studies, layout proposals, advice on construction programmes, production of contract documents, woodland design and establishment, grant applications as well as advice on all aspects of existing courses.

"The growth of John Nicholson Associates has meant that golf course architecture was increasingly becoming an issue that had to be dealt with and the natural progression was to expand into the area.

"It soon became apparent that the philosophies held by Ken Moodie, Ken Brown and myself were so similar that the obvious solution was to work together," said John.

Career move to Renault for Ian

Renault has appointed Ian Thomson as its new Groundcare Product Manager, with responsibility for tractor sales to the non-agricultural sector.

He joins Renault from Scottish Grass Machinery where he set-up, and was manager of, its SGM Industrial division, for which he took on the non-agricultural franchise for Renault in Scotland which proved a tremendous success among both the groundcare and local authority sectors.

"There is massive potential in the non-agricultural sector and it is the product that has drawn me to Renault," says Ian.

"Renault is the only wholly European tractor manufacturer left. It has the product range to suit the market and various sectors within it."

Tim’s appointment at Grass Science

Grass Science, has appointed Tim Colclough as an Agronomist.

Tim has a background in geography, geology and crop protection (specialising in soil science).

He began his career with the STRI before leaving in 1994 to retrain in the education sector. After a period of teaching for South Tyneside LEA in 1998 he moved on to become a lecturer in Turf Science at Myerscough College.

Tim has a vast knowledge on golf course maintenance and other sports turf areas and is an important addition to the team.

He is in the process of establishing an office in the North East which will allow him to service this area quickly and efficiently.

BTLIA announce award winners

The British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association Personality of the Year, announced at BTME, is Glyn Prime, Director, Prime Irrigation Ltd.

Glyn, who joined the family business in 1964, then involved in agricultural and horticultural markets, later became head of system design, adapting his skills to the sports turf market when his company broadened the scope of operations, in 1986.

"I was very surprised - shocked perhaps - to receive the award which made to me as an individual, also reflects great credit on my company. We have been members of the BTLIA for 14 years and I know first hand, just how much work the organising committee accomplished for the good of all those involved in designing, installing and using fine turf irrigation," said Glyn.

A tree-mendous move for David

David Cassie recently joined the tree and woodland management firm of Eamonn Wall & Co., based at their Dollar office, where he has taken over from Steve Collins, recently departed on a five year stint to Honduras.

The firm specialises in the planting and management of trees in the golfing landscape and David, a native of Newcastle with a degree from Aberdeen University, will be working on golf courses throughout Scotland and England.

Carl gets new role at Sisis

Carl Tooley has been appointed Sales Office Coordinator at Sisis Equipment Ltd, the Cheshire based turf maintenance machinery manufacturers.

Carl has 22 years experience with SISIS, having worked as an assembler, in Spares Despatch and then for 14 years as Stores Supervisor.

Carl was Cheshire Youth Darts Champion and his other hobbies include computers, growing fruit trees, biking and supporting Manchester City FC.