As I write, it is now two months on from Harrogate and memories are still fresh in the mind of a truly wonderful week. My particular highlights include a wonderful education programme running throughout the week; the bizarrely funny Brahms and Liszt at as a springboard to a presenter's role on BBC TV's Tomorrow's World. Even the very best can enjoy professional advancement, if only they come to Harrogate!

Rolling over the attendance figures it is great to see a vindication for the decision to extend the show to three days, which was taken following extensive consultation with the industry. Four consistently packed halls, featuring all the familiar industry names and faces - both on the stands and in the aisles, as well as new The Golf Club Show, which enjoyed a very successful debut in the King's Suite. More than ever Harrogate is a not-to-be-missed Showcase for everything to do with golf... except, of course, the playing of the game.

Just to put you in the picture, Tuesday saw 2,445 visitors; Wednesday was a record individual day for BTME with a mammoth 4,040 on Wednesday (day 1) and 2,159 made the Thursday is 4,471, yes 4,471, a massive 25.2% increase on the 1995 two day total. 2,144 was on a par with the record breaking 2,145 visitors; Wednesday was a record individual day for BTME with a mammoth 4,040 on Wednesday (day 1) and 2,159 made the Thursday is 4,471, yes 4,471, a massive 25.2% increase on the 1995 two day total. It's amazing how your brain sometimes plays tricks on you. I could have sworn back in '96 stealing was considering installing one. The talk covered all aspects of David Withers, from Textron, Grass Machinery, spoke on A project and well presented by Phil. Of course, it is thanks to you that the push to keep soil that can be exploited in a variety of subjects all relevant to turf area. This was a most interesting and informative talk. Next was Philip Langdon, of Waddegreen Consulting Engineers Ltd, on Irrigation Systems Assessment. Philip provided an insight into irrigation systems. A topical subject and well presented by Phil. Despite the weather this winter, and the amount of rainfall we have had, his talk was of benefit to everyone who has a watering system or indeed anyone who was considering installing one. After the break the double act of David Withers, from Textron, and Brian Goudie, of Scottish Grass Machinery, spoke on 'A Salesman's Role'. This was something different from previous years and was presented very well. The talk covered all aspects of the salesman's role, having a good salesmen/customer relationship and the benefits that can be gained from this partnership. Finally to round of the morning session, was Ruth Mann of the STRI, who presented her paper on Pest and Disease Survey. Ruth explained the reasoning behind the survey and the research being carried out. This topic was of great interest to the members and generated a great deal of discussion. After lunch, John Caven, Director of Hospitality at Gleneagles Meldrum House, Aberdeen, spoke about his role in the 'Creation & Marketing of a 5 Star Golf Facility'. John provided a very interesting and topical insight into what is required. The Scottish Region of BIGGA are once again indebted to the speakers for providing such interesting and informative talks on subjects relating to the fine turf industry.

During the Conference the Chairman had the pleasure of announcing the first ever winner of the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. This award is presented in memory of one of the stalwarts of greenkeeping. Harry had served the Association in many capacities and was particularly involved in the education of greenkeepers and it was only fitting that this award be presented to the Student of the Year. The winner of the award for 2001 was Mark Cammene, of Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The Scottish Board would like to thank the Patrons for their continued support and the members who attended this year's Conference. The members were once again over the 160 mark and it is thanks to you that the Conference is the success it is.