Having just unpacked my bags after BTME it was time to pack them again and off to the States for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show in Orlando.

Early on Sunday morning (February 3rd) I met with Neil and Tracey, as well as Andy White from Oatlands College - Andy was on the trip as lecturer of BTME it was time to pack them again and off to the States for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show in Orlando.

Many have said they will visit BTME. In fact, someone tried to book 15 people into the Majestic Hotel there and then!

For those of you who have not been to the States, everything is vast and their show is no different. The majority of products that you view are pretty similar to what you will see at BTME but you can also pick up plenty of new ideas. I personally enjoyed meeting and talking to Superintendents and listening to their stories. On talking to one he told me he had 54 staff of which five worked on clubhouse surrounds. He also had staff dedicated to machinery maintenance and irrigation. Although he had 36 holes 14 staff worked on the short course and 30 on the main course. This was helped along with a budget of well in excess of $3 million. Another Superintendent, who had a similar amount of staff, told me he had raked bunkers twice a day. Now that I think it is a bit over the top. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear that these guys despite the staff and large budgets (not in all cases) were kept extremely busy and clear that these guys despite the depressed message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear that these guys despite the depressed message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear that these guys despite the depressed message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear that these guys despite the depressed message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear.

While in Orlando I visited a few theme parks. Firstly, we visited the Islands of Adventure the new Universal Park. This is a must if you like roller coasters and having your insides turned upside down, and secondly, Universal Studios which was equally good. If anyone tells you these parks are for kids they’re right... but for BIG Kids. If you ever have a chance – GO!

But the highlight of our week had to be at the banquet on the Friday evening to see our former Chairman, Walter Woods, being presented with the old Tom Morris award by Tommy Witt, the GCSAA’s President.

This is the most prestigious award that an Association can make, and in Walter’s case was presented for a lifetime of dedicated service and enthusiasm to the industry. It was made all the more special for Walter with his family being present and also his fellow Scotsman who made the trip wearing their national uniforms – Quite a sight!

Congratulations Walter you should be very proud – we certainly are. So with the week nearly over we could reflect on what was a successful week for BIGGA and all that attended and start to prepare ourselves for the long trip home, while Andrew Pledger and Huw Morgan continued their adventures in the States.

Upon reaching our own shores there were no surprises, it was still cold and damp. My golf course is certainly very wet as I am sure yours are, but looking ahead Spring is not a million miles away so we all have a few more weeks to complete those winter programmes and look forward to some better weather and a good season.