Overcoming Shared Challenges

San Diego in February certainly has its attractions, great climate, blue skies and a more than welcome family holiday that proceeded the GCSAA Conference and Show. From the comments of most visitors, including a number from the UK and Ireland, the GCSAA are definitely on a winner with this location.

While it was a great place in which to holiday, the second week of my trip brought with it a good dose of education and a round of meetings along with John Pemberton, with GCSAA, the Australian Superintendents Association and representatives of our Canadian counterparts.

The purpose of these meetings was to explore ways in which we can work together particularly in the area of education, to deliver better value to our respective memberships, in an efficient and financially prudent manner.

This should mean we can deliver educational opportunities to those who ordinarily would find it difficult to make the time to be away from the workplace or would find that to do so would be financially prohibitive.

While I accept that for some members the trip to the States is seen as something of a jolly, I can assure you our activities during the week are specific and measurable, as indeed they should always be when spending Association money.

The esteem in which BIGGA is held by others allows us a place at the table and we should continue to work with our allied associations around the world to better the lot of all Greenkeepers – it’s indeed interesting to hear that regardless of different agronomics, much of the issues and challenges facing associations and their members are the same. Surely by working together we will overcome these challenges more quickly and thus be able to move on to the next stage of our development.

Back at Carden I have a hectic two weeks before my travels take me to Scotland for their National Conference, and then the following day to Nova Scotia for the Canadian Superintendents Association and representatives of our Canadian counterparts.

As I see it...