Chairman’s Column

Harrogate Week Sold Out

Season’s greetings to you all.
Christmas is always a special time of year when families get together to rejoice. It is the time to put to one side life’s problems and relax recharging the batteries for the year ahead. Our industry will always require us to work at times over the festive period but I am sure you will all find time to relax at some point.

I mentioned families earlier and I’d like to think that as BIGGA members we are one big family pulling together for the benefit of all. The BIGGA families special time is Harrogate week when young and old gather to discuss greenkeeping issues both formally at our excellent continue to learn programme and socially looking around the largest indoor turf trade show in Europe.

I mentioned last month that the board had taken the decision to close Hall Q and I am delighted to inform you that we have completely sold out the trade space within the four main Halls and the educational workshops are filling up very fast - to avoid disappointment I urge you to contact Sami or Ken in the educational department to reserve your place before it’s too late.

Harrogate 2007 will see the largest programme of seminars ever held giving you the widest amount of educational opportunities. This year we have also introduced a discount scheme if you book before January 10 you can save up to 30% a massive saving for your club.

For more information about the Harrogate Week programme and the discount scheme refer to the brochure or visit: www.harrogateweek.org.uk. Don’t forget there are also many free seminars to attend.

Harrogate Week is your opportunity to show the industry your passion and pride for your profession and association, we can arrange seminars and workshops but it’s up to you to attend and make Harrogate week a week no one can afford to miss.

It’s pleasing to hear that most of our Regions and some Sections are funding special discounted packages for travel or accommodation during Harrogate Week, if you haven’t received details of any packages contact your Section Secretary or Regional Administrator who will be able to inform you of any packages available.

The autumn/winter round of seminars programme around the country, are well under way and it’s pleasing to hear that numbers attending the south east and south west have been excellent.

During October I was invited to the Danish Greenkeeper Conference held in the beautiful resort town of Vejle in Jutland. This was the Danish Association’s first attempt at holding a two-day conference. The conference was very well attended with around 180 delegates, which represents 30% of their membership, an incredible figure listening to a line up of top international speakers.

The conference also gave me the chance to meet many of our international members who work in Denmark. I have mentioned previously that I am very aware that sometimes our international members feel isolated, so I hope my visit reassured many members that we do care.
Finally, I would like to once again wish you all a pleasant and peaceful Christmas and a successful greenkeeping new year.

Champion of BIGGA

This month I have chosen your staff at BIGGA HOUSE and our Regional Administrators, who, under the leadership of our Chief Executive John Pemberton, work tirelessly on our behalf, which sometimes goes unnoticed. This year has been difficult for the sales team as the downturn in the growth in our industry starts to bite and next year looks like it will be a challenging year. My thanks to each and every member of staff in every department - your efforts haven’t gone unnoticed.

Richard Whyman
Chairman

Feature listing from December 2004

December 2004; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Henley GC, Grass Identification; Trees; Environmental Winner; BIGGA Delegation; Interview Advice; College Listings

January 2005; Sir Michael Bonallack; Parkstone GC, Machinery Servicing; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship; Recycled Products; John Deere Team Championship; Tees; Negotiation Advice

February 2005; Harrogate 2005 Review; Meet the Chairman; Environmental; Competition; Tyres; Coombe Hill GC

March 2005; Alwoodley GC, Difficult Areas; Drainage; Irrigation; Greens

April 2005; Augusta Syndrome; Thornhill GC; Difficult Areas Part 2; Turf Tonics; BIGGA Delegation; Fescue Grass

May 2005; Hellidon Lakes; Power Mowers; Pest Control; Cutting Heights Survey; Nozzles

June 2005; Minchinhampton GC; Aeration; Rhyg Taylor Profile; Chemical Usage; Top Dressing; Jim Arthur Tribute

July 2005; Loch Lomond GC; St. Andrews; Mini Excavators; Disease; Finance; Scholarship

August 2005; Ramsey GC; Open Review; Quex Bikes; Top Dressing; BIEGA Golf Day; Anthracnose; National Championship Preview

September 2005; John O’Gaunt GC; Drainage; Special; Security; Student of the Year; Massey Ferguson Profile

October 2005; Laleham GC; Dollar Spot; Utility Vehicles; Bio Oil; Pneumatic Frustrating; Best Practice

November 2005; Chipping Norton GC; National Championship; Course Construction; Fertilisers; Servicing

December 2005; Harrogate Week Preview; BIGGA Delegation; Environmental; Competition; Fescue Debate; Irrigation

January 2006; Bearwood Lakes GC; Course Furniture; Nicklaus Design; Seed; Alternative Fuel; Disease Survey

February 2006; Cold Ashby GC; Netting; Chemical Fertilisers; Turf Construction

March 2006; Sand; Ride-on Mowers; Pesticides; Irrigation; Bio Stimulants

April 2006; RBA Conference Report; Scomey GC Profile; GCUSA Delegation Report; Westwater

May 2006; Stock Brook GC Profile; Spraying; Aeration; Line Marking; Growth Retardants

June 2006; Disturbance Theory; Hand Tools; Surveying; Thatch/Scarification; Drought

July 2006; Hoylake Profile; Difficult Areas; Japanese Course Management; Top Dressing; Askemish Project

August 2006; Open Championship Review; Drainage; Burton GC Profile; Sustainability; Japan; ATVs; Trailers

September 2006; Building an Irrigation Lake; Toro Student of the Year Preview; Artificial Surfaces; Algae

October 2006; Trentham GC Profile; Aeration; Utility Vehicles; Open Aftermath; Grinding Equipment

November 2006; National Championship; BIGGA Photographic Exhibition; Drainage Explained; Greens Brushing