BIGGA delegation to USA back on track

Bernhard and Company has reinstated its sponsorship of the BIGGA Delegates’ Programme to GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show (GIS)

The programme which
took place in Vancouver 2001,
gives 10 BIGGA members
the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest
golf exhibition and education conference.

Orlando 2011 will mean over 90
BIGGA members will have benefited
from this opportunity, courtesy of Bernhard.

Over the week, in addition to the full conference package, the
BIGGA members will visit local
golf clubs, network with US Superintendents,
attend educational seminars and
man the BIGGA Stand during the GIS exhibitions.

This year’s BIGGA delegates are:

Andrew Boyce; Jim Brown; Stephen Chappell; Richard Cutler; Chris Haspell; John Kenaughan; Nicholas Miles; Graham Pickin; Derek Robson and Rob Sandiland.

The reinstatement was approved
by Bernhard and BIGGA staff and
Board Members.

Meet the 2011 Delegates...

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After a two-year hiatus, Bernhard
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programme started again. One of our key objectives has always been to provide the best educational opportunities in the industry, supporting the BIGGA Delegates trip to the GIS plays a large part,” said Bob Buckingham, Bernhard CEO. “The Delegates also contribute significantly to our customer satisfaction feedback process, and we sincerely appreciate their efforts and input. We are very pleased to continue the BIGGA Delegates programme in 2011.”

Needless to say, the decision was greeted with cheers from past BIGGA Delegates. Andrew De Wet, Course Manager at Birstall Golf Club and 2007 BIGGA Delegate said, “I am really pleased that trip has been reinstated. The trip to the GIS was one of the greatest learning experiences of my career.”

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John Pemberton

For the other delegates and the golf course visits provided me with a ‘real world’ education that you can’t just put a price on. It was simply amazing.”

“We are delighted that Bernhard has reinstated the Delegation and pleased that those who felt they had missed out two years ago now have the chance to take up their place,” said BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton. “It is a huge commitment by Bernhard and in these difficult times we commend the company for investing the money in the Delegation.”

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Andrew Haspell

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For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenkeeping from his IRC. in Rural Resource Management.

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**Steve Chappell**

Steve is working in the turfgrass industry in 1987 where he started as a YTHs groundman. After a year he took the chance to move into greenkeeping, accepting an assistant’s position at Bath GC, before moving onto a new build course on the outskirts of Bristol. This led to Steve working for David Lloyd Leisure where he worked his way up to overseeing the three clubs owned by the company. In 2003 Steve moved to MJ Abbotts before accepting the Course Manager’s position at Neath GC. Since moving to Neath Steve has become Section Secretary for the BIGGA South Wales and last year was elected Chairman of the South West & South Wales Region.

“For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenkeeping from his IRC. in Rural Resource Management.

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**Rob Sandiland**

Rob has been in Greenkeeping for over 12 years, spending the last three as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper. In the near future he is keen to make the step up to Head Greenkeeper, so the educational opportunities offered by the trip to Rob are

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**Jim Brown**

Jim has been the Golf Course and Estates Manager at Oldfield Hall, Leeds, for five years during which time, he has led the development of the 18 Leeds City Council Municipal 27 hole golf course and Grade 2 listed parkland to an excellent standard and to rightfully take its place within the De Vere portfolio of golf resorts. Jim is also the De Vere Group Golf Course Manager and National Accounts Manager. He has managed various types of golf courses throughout his career and been involved in the construction of two commercial golf courses – he has been a Course Manager for 17 years.

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**Graham Pickin**

Graham left school at 15 to join the Army, starting out at the junior leaders in Cambridgeshire Kemt. He constantly served two tours of Northern Ireland and was awarded the G9 medal.

When he left the Army Graham trained as a tuner/ blacksmith with British Coal and gained a C & G in engineering. When the mines closed Graham started working for (Turner/Blacksmiths) dealing in all horticultural machinery. This gave Graham the skills to seek employment at a golf course.

That was 15 years ago and after gaining an HNC in golf course management at Elmswood College and being their nominee for Toro Student of the Year award, Graham is now the Course Manager at Thirskshire Park, in Dacorum.

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**Nick Miles**

Nick went to Roehampton College and gained an HND in golf course management. He left college in 1997 and started greening at Hellens Lakes. He then moved to Whittlebury Park in 1998.

In 2003 Nick was appointed Course Manager at Market Harborough Golf Club, an 18-hole course established in 1898. Nick is currently the Chairman of the East Midlands BIGGA Section, a representative on the BIGGA Board of Directors.

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**Derek Robson**

Course Manager at The Dukes St Andrews, Derek completed his apprenticeship at Lochalsh Golf Club before travelling to the US on the Ohio State Internship programme - working in both Michigan and Florida. He then went on to work in New Zealand and Germany before joining Chris Kennedy at Wentworth for four years, before moving to The Dukes.

In 2009 Derek was awarded Member of the year at The Old Course Hotel Golf Resort and Spa. He is currently studying the 2-year certificate in turfgrass management online from Penn State University. Derek took over an BIGGA Central Section chairman in October 2010.

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**Chris Hapeshell**

Chris started helping out at his local Cricket Club as an outfielder and when he left school he went into groundsman full time looking after cricket, bowls, hockey, tennis and rugby pitches full time.

In 1989 Chris joined the team at Oakland’s Golf and Country Club in Oswestry working with the team to build, grow-in and open an 18 hole championship course. In 1992 he joined Richard Company as a technician/salesman and worked at many top clubs in Denmark. Chris then went on to become Greenskeeper Consultant to the Danish Golf Union.

Chris took up the position of Construction Manager at Castle Stuart in June 2006 and where he remains.

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**Andrew Boyce**

Andrew has been involved in Golf and Sportsturf for 20 years, since leaving school and taking an apprenticeship at Bath Golf Club.

After leaving college he held positions at Salisbury and South Wilts, Castle Combe and Lansdown Golf Clubs before returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy. Andrew became Course Manager in 2002. Earlier this year Andrew decided to set up his own business - Greenwood Sport Consultancy - working with golf clubs, sports associations, clubs and schools giving regular advice and guidance to Turf Managers.

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**John Keenaghan**

John is Head Greenkeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a parkland-style course on the outskirts of Bristol.

Born in Wales, John has been married for 25 years with two teenage children. His eldest son has followed him into the greenkeeping profession.

After 17 years as a self-employed builder, John finally found his true vocation in life and wouldn’t want any other job than greenkeeping!

Hobbies include golf (handicap of 5) rugby, cooking, travelling and socialising.

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**Richard Cutler**

Richard has been a Greenkeeper for almost 20 years. Starting his career in his hometown, he has worked on traditional links courses at Abersoch GC and Montrose.

Since 2008, Richard has lived and worked at La Moye Golf Club in Jersey. One of the very few downsides to living there is the lack of networking opportunities available. Chris regards networking with industry peers to be vital for both his golf course and his personal on-going development.