Bigga's Quarter Century is a reason to celebrate, writes Scott MacCallum

Harrogate Week is always a special occasion for all those who attend, but Harrogate Week 2012 will be particularly so, as it not only celebrates the 25th anniversary of Bigga itself, but also 100 years since the first surviving recorded minutes of Bigga's oldest ancestor - the very first greenkeeping association.

Both events will be recognised during the week with a celebration evening to mark Bigga's Silver Jubilee and an exhibition in the Halls to commemorate the centenary of greenkeeping associations.

The rate of change since 1987, never mind 1912, within the industry has been truly remarkable and Harrogate Week symbolises that. The technology on show during Harrogate 2012 would have had NASA astronauts opened jawed with amazement in 1987, and there is no sign of progress slowing.

Whatever the task which is required on the golf course, there will be a boffin in an R&D department somewhere, looking at ways of making your professional life better or easier.

The fruits of their labours to date will be there for all to see in one of the four Halls at Harrogate International Centre, while the world renowned Continue to Learn programme ensures that those who take part are in a position to keep on top of all those industry developments.

It is a combination which has proved a very productive cocktail for all concerned over the years and, coupled with the unique Harrogate atmosphere for the Apex show, it creates a never to be forgotten occasion for all who attend.
BIGGA’s Quarter Century is a reason to celebrate, writes Scott MacCallum

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Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

BIGGA’s 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, will be a wonderful opportunity to share memories with some of those who have played a part in the success of the Association, as well as celebrating two and a half decades of progress, whilst looking forward to a bright future.

The occasion will comprise a drinks reception and convivial dinner all designed to give ample opportunity to catch up with friends from across the industry.

Achievements since 1987, individually and collectively, will also be recognised and it will give a chance for every one to raise a glass to BIGGA.

A host of dignitaries will be in attendance, including Ken Schofield OBE, who led the PGA European Tour for 30 years. Ken, right, will be making a Toast to the Association.

"BIGGA has come a very long way in 25 years and the Celebratory Dinner will give us a chance to pay tribute to everyone and everything that has made that possible. "I am sure it will be a memorable occasion for all who attend," said BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Withers.

The Celebratory Evening takes place at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, on January 24, 2012.

Tickets are available to BIGGA members and guests, and can be purchased from Rachel or Angela at BIGGA. Tel. 01437 833800.

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We have always seen BIGGA as a valued partner and have enjoyed a close working relationship with the Association over the last 25 years. We are delighted to be able to sponsor the 25th Anniversary Celebration and with everyone at BIGGA every success for the next 25 years,” said Dave Withers, President of Jacobsen.

Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, The Celebratory Evening, BIGGA’s 25th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner all designed to give ample opportunity to catch up with friends from across the industry.

At the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, 7pm-11pm, Tuesday January 24, 2012

Celebrating 25 years of BIGGA

1987-2012

25 years of BIGGA
Where to eat, sleep and socialise in Harrogate...

**Harrogate Week** is unlike any other event. It is your chance to meet and interact with decision makers 24 hours a day. After the show closes there are endless opportunities to network in the Harrogate bars and restaurants with fellow turf professionals.

As you can imagine, Harrogate Week proves a busy time for the pleasant spa town.

With much to see and do, Harrogate offers fine cuisine and a lively nightlife along with a glorious heritage, famous for its Turkish baths.

WHERE TO EAT...

When you’re feeling peckish or want to mix business with pleasure...

- **La Tasca**
  - 01423 508144
- **Le Bistrot Pierre**
  - 01423 505300
- **Joe Rigatoni**
  - 01423 500071
- **Salsa Posada**
  - 01423 561456
- **Harrogate Brasserie**
  - 01423 568446
- **28**
  - 01423 508491
- **Bengal Spice**
  - 01423 508585
- **B.E.D.**
  - 01423 561451
- **Ali Raj**
  - 01423 508144
- **Turkish baths.**

Pleasant spa town.

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**WHERE TO STAY...**

- **Holiday Inn Harrogate, Kings Road**
  - Tel: 0871 423 4876
- **Old Swan Hotel, Swan Road**
  - Tel: 01423 500055
- **Studley Hotel, Swan Road**
  - Tel: 01423 508254
- **Grants Hotel, Swan Road**
  - Tel: 01423 506666
- **Magentic Hotel, Ripon Road**
  - Tel: 0870 1688833
- **Crown Hotel, Crown Place**
  - Tel: 01423 507755
- **Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road**
  - Tel: 01423 506065
- **Cedar Court Hotel, Knaresbrough Rd**
  - Tel: 01423 855858
- **St Georges Hotel, Ripon Road**
  - Tel: 01423 561431
- **Kinderley Hotel, Knaps Road**
  - Tel: 01423 506561
- **White Hart Hotel, Cold Bath Road**
  - Tel: 01423 506581
- **Alexa House, Ripon Road**
  - Tel: 01423 507988
- **Yorkshire Hotel, West Park**
  - Tel: 01423 560071
- **Traveldodge, The Ginnell**
  - Tel: 0871 9464238
- **Shannon Court, Dragon Avenue**
  - Tel: 01423 508985
- **Grafton, Franklin Mount**
  - Tel: 01423 508491
- **Cambysted, Kings Road**
  - Tel: 01423 561618

For more information on accommodation and bookings visit: www.reservation-highway.co.uk access code “bigga”

or Tel: 01423 525577.

**THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY...**

- **The Moko Lounge, Kings Road**
  - Tel: 01423 520567
- **The Viper Rooms, Parliament Street**
  - Tel: 01423 502116
- **The Moko Lounge, Kings Road**
  - Tel: 01423 525862
- **Odeon Cinema, East Parade**
  - Tel: 01423 520567
- **Harrogate Theatre, Oxford Street**
  - Tel: 01423 520116

**How to get to Harrogate**

**Rail**

Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station.

East Coast trains has announced the start of new services to provide a long awaited direct link, from London to Harrogate.

The direct trains are shown on the East Coast timetable: www.eastcoast.co.uk

For all other rail services to Harrogate contact National Rail Enquiries on 0845 48 49 50

or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

**Air**

**Leeds Bradford International Airport**

www.prob.co.uk

Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately £18. You may wish to visit the following websites for flight information.

www.flybe.com
www.jet2.com
www.airsouthwest.com

The “Bus 2 Jet” 767 service links Leeds Bradford International Airport with Harrogate town centre. The service runs every 90 minutes between 0615 and 2245, with an average journey time of around half an hour. For further information on this service please contact Harrogate & District Travel Ltd on +44 1423 560621

or visit www.bus2jet.com

Manchester International Airport

www.manchesterairport-co-p.com

Manchester International Airport is situated halfway between London and Edinburgh, 75 miles from Harrogate. Public Transport links are available 24 hours a day offering services to Harrogate via Leeds or York.

For more information on accommodation and bookings visit: www.reservation-highway.co.uk access code “bigga”

or Tel: 01423 525577.

**Coaches**

- **National Express**
  - www.nationalexpress.com

**National Express** is the UK’s largest national express

**Car**

www.thr.com

**Sea**

**Direct Ferries**

www.directferries.co.uk

Direct Ferries are part of Direct Ferries Ltd, an online travel provider based in the UK offering ferry crossings to the UK from the continent. Registered agents of the ferry operators are listed on the website, they sail to 14 Countries and 54 ferry ports on over 60 routes.

**North Sea Ferries**, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles from Harrogate.

**Park & Ride**

BTME & Clubhouse provides a FREE Park & Ride service from the Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground). From the A1M: exit A59 towards Harrogate, follow the sign to road to the Yorkshire Event Centre (Great Yorkshire Showground) A661 to Harrogate International Centre. If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid any traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space.

The shuttle service will run at times:

- **Tuesday 20 January 08.30 to 17.30**
- **Wednesday 21 January 08.30 to 17.30**
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WHERE TO EAT...
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Alberta Tel: 01423 566446 Bar & dining
Ali Raj Tel: 01423 621627 Indian
B.E.D. Tel: 01423 566600 Modern English
Brugal Spice Tel: 01423 502610 Indian
Betty’s Tel: 01423 502746 Traditional English
Carnabia Tapas & Bar Tel: 01423 505200 Tapas
Cattlemen’s Association Tel: 01423 561456 Tex Mex
Chez La Vie Tel: 01423 566066 Traditional English
Damu Yorkshire Tel: 01423 561824 Tex Mex
Drum and Monkey Tel: 01423 502650 Seafood
Harrogate Brasserie Tel: 01423 509041 English
Harrogate International Centre Tel: 01423 508144 Chinese
Joe Rigatoni Tel: 01423 500071 Italian
La Taza Tel: 01423 566233 Tapas
Le Bistrot Pierre Tel: 01423 533070 French
Thai Elephant Tel: 01423 530099 Thai
Salsa Posada Tel: 01423 561511 Mexican
William and Victoria Tel: 01423 506883 English

THINGS TO DO AND WHERE TO PARTY...
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The Viper Rooms, Parliament Street Tel: 01423 520567
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Bus travel information for all services can be found on www.showsite.com

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Harrogate Town Centre Car Parks
MULTI-STOREY Victoria, Jubilee Park, West Park
SURFACE LEVEL
Odeon, Park View, Montpellier Shoppers, West Park
All town centre car parks are open 24 hours.

Charges apply all days at all times (including Public Holidays)
Free parking for Blue Badge holders and motorcycles

Sea
Direct Ferries www.directferries.co.uk
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