With over 2,300 eager visitors pre-registered already momentum is building towards BTME in just over five months time.

The occasion of the 24th consecutive annual Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate will be one to remember particularly as it coincides with the joint milestones of 100 years of Greenkeeping Associations and 25 years of BIGGA. Whilst it is appropriate that we take time out to reflect on all that has been achieved in greenkeeping and turf management in that time there is no doubt that BTME 2012 will maintain its position as a forward looking event focused on improving knowledge and skills and demonstrating the latest cutting edge technology and turf maintenance techniques.

Allied with the unique environment provided by the town of Harrogate which means the Exhibition Centre, accommodation, restaurants, and bars are all in walking distance of each other, BTME really is the place to be for all Golf and Sports Turf professionals.

Plans are well in hand for a celebratory dinner which will take place in Harrogate on the evening of Tuesday 24th January. The dinner will be a celebration of all that has been achieved over the 25 years of BIGGA’s existence and will represent the focal point of the Association’s Anniversary celebrations.

Details of venue, format and how to purchase tickets will be available shortly.

It has never been easier to get to Harrogate from London. East Coast trains has announced the start of new services to provide a long awaited direct link, from London to Harrogate. Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce has led the campaign to bring the new direct train services, which will be welcomed by the thousands of delegates and visitors coming to Harrogate. The new Sunday evening northbound service will enable delegates coming to Harrogate for Conferences and Exhibitions to travel up on Sunday evening ready for an early start on the Monday Morning.

The direct trains are shown on the East Coast timetable: www.eastcoast.co.uk
Southbound: 07.28 Monday-Friday; 08.13 Saturday; 17.05 Sunday
Northbound: 17.35 Monday-Friday; 17.35 Saturday; 18.05 Sunday

How to get to Harrogate

BTME & ClubHouse provides a FREE ‘Park and Ride’ service from the Great Yorkshire Showground to Harrogate International Centre on all three days of the exhibition. If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid the traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space. From the A1(M) take the A69 towards Knaresborough. Follow the ring road to Harrogate. The ‘Park and Ride’ will be fully signposted. The journey in from the Great Yorkshire Showground (YEC) to the HIC normally takes around 10 minutes but does depend on traffic conditions.

The shuttle service will run at the following times:
* Tuesday 24 January 08.30 to 17.30
* Wednesday 25 January 08.30 to 17.30

The place to be

Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 January 2012
at the Harrogate International Centre
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Park & Ride

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The shuttle service will run at the following times:
* Wednesday 25 January 08.30 to 17.30
* Tuesday 24 January 08.30 to 17.30
* Wednesday 25 January 08.30 to 17.30

Personal Development Zone

The popular Personal Development Zone will return to the BIGGA Stand for the duration of BTME. Experts in recruitment and career development will be on hand along with management trainers and experienced BIGGA members to offer advice on a whole range of Personal and Career Development issues.

Awards and Competition Winners

As always BTME will offer the opportunity to recognise outstanding achievement by BIGGA members. The latest Master Greenkeepers will be presented with their certificates and CPD Diplomas will be awarded to those members who have demonstrated consistent commitment to continuing education. Additionally during the week the winners of the following will be revealed:
- Edwin Budding Award
- BIGGA Photographic competition
- STRI Environment Awards

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The place to be

BTME returns to the Harrogate International Centre next January, and things are hotting up already. This special 4-page feature gives you at taste of what is to come.
A 24% increase in people taking part in the Continue to Learn programme in 2011 demonstrated how important education is in today’s environment. Increasingly BIGGA members are taking the opportunity during Harrogate Week to add further strings to their bow or ensure their current skills are applicable in the modern age.

Over these two pages we look at some of the highlights of the 2012 programme which following extensive feedback from delegates includes some hardy perennials alongside some important new additions to the seminar and workshop programme.
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**Workshops**

After the successful introduction of the How to be an Outstanding Manager workshops, the 2012 programme will once again feature Sharon Carter, Director of Shona Garner Coaching Services Ltd, offering Part 3; Performance Management; How to Get It Right

Following feedback a couple of workshops that were originally offered as one day workshops, have been extended to two days: So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager by Peter Jones and Robin Munt; Golf Course Consultants

Irrigation System Management and Design by Adrian Morray, Irrigation Consultant, Robin Home Associates and Dennis Morray

New workshops will include: Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers by Jackie Lowe, Training Solutions Ltd

A Practical Guide to Setting Up a Social Media Presence by

**Fringe Seminars**

Once again many of our loyal exhibitors will be providing Fringe Seminars free of charge in their specific areas of expertise. These seminars are accredited for the BIGGA CPD scheme.

**Seminars**

Seminars will include the following presentations:

- Managing Winter Kill in West of Scotland?
- From Grazing to Scottish Open Status in Five Years
- Let’s Rebuild 20 Greens in 10 Days – Mission Impossible?
- Being a Professional and Living It
- The Control of Earthworms on Golf Courses
- Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf Course Turf
- How to get it Right

**Workshops**

- The Effects of Climate Change and Climate Phenomena on Greenkeeping Pratice by Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity
- Employee Engagement by Helen Bennett, Managing Director, Human Reality
- The Power of Social Media for Your Golf Club by Lesley Wood, Principal Consultant, Targeting Innovation Ltd
- Practically Sustainable Golf Turf Management by Frank Ross Ph.D, Professor, Cornell University

**Fringe Seminars**

- Let’s re-build 20 greens in 10 days – mission impossible?
- Being Professional and Living It
- The Control of Earthworms on Golf Courses
- Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf Course Turf

For the latest comprehensive listings and details of all seminars and workshops, look out for the Continue to Learn 2012 brochure, with next month’s GI