Trade Show Resolution

Many people will be aware of the formal discussions that have been taking place between representatives of BIGGA, The Institute of Groundsmanship and The Agricultural Engineers Association over the last couple of years with reference to the future of trade shows in the grounds and turf care sector. Below is a statement from the group on the outcome of those discussions.

Statement From The Grounds And Turf Care Industry Forum (GTCIF)

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), and the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) under the independent Chairmanship of David Gwyther of the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) have conducted an extensive review of trade events for the sector. We have considered carefully the location, frequency and composition of the trade events available to manufacturers and retailers of grounds and turf care products.

The HTA has independently analysed the details of both SALTEX and BTME and the demographics of both exhibitors and visitors who have attended these events in the past few years. This has indicated that there are significant differences between the events, that they are not directly comparable. Clearly there exists overlap in both exhibitors and visitors but in all cases this is a small minority. They also concluded that market forces will continue to dictate the demand and make up of these types of events.

The opportunity for the aforementioned stakeholders in the grounds and turf care industry to review their activity and discuss wider issues has been extremely positive and productive. The talks have highlighted the recognition that all parties have much they need to continually strive to ensure that the industry can and does work sensibly together.

The Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum will draft Terms of Reference in the next few months and issue general information about the Forum’s work.

The Chairman of BIGGA, Andrew Mellon, who attended the discussions said: “It is very important that all businesses take an objective look at their activities on an ongoing basis, the formal discussions presented an excellent opportunity for BIGGA to assess all aspects of BTME. Careful study showed that the Exhibition is an important showcase for the sport turf industry and particularly for the golf course maintenance sector as well as providing a valuable platform for BIGGA’s Continue to Learn programme and a hugely important networking opportunity for all those involved in the maintenance and management of golf courses.

“We are delighted that this process has validated the relevance of BTME in today’s market however we are mindful that we need to continually strive to ensure that visitors and exhibitors achieve maximum value from the event. We will continue to listen to all key stakeholders to ensure the event evolves to meet the needs of all.”

Harry Diamond Quaich

The Quaich is held every year at Belleisle GC to preserve the memory of Harry Diamond, former Course Manager at Ayrshire Council Course, and who was instrumental in promoting education in Scotland.

In July, the course was in excellent condition and the presentation to the highest standard.

As is the usual custom, players were walking to their respective tee at 6.30am to await the Diamond for the start of the Stableford competition and, unlike the weather of the previous year, everyone enjoyed a beautiful summer morning and the pleasure of playing in a competition for all ages.

Harry’s family were all in attendance to take on the allotted tasks that go to make it such a well run event.

Harry’s brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the players who camradely won it all.

Jessie, presented the Harry Diamond Quaich to the winners – Patricia Lambie, Steve Arrandale, Murray Cotter and Stephen Kresswell, who came in with an excellent 97 points.

It was announced that Harry’s family had donated £300 to local hospices, and at a time when everyone is tightening their belts because of the credit crunch, it is good to see that the Harry Diamond Memorial Fund can still afford to give donations to worthy causes.

George Phillips

Chairman of Greens

The GTC, in association with the EGU, is hosting three Chairmen of Green Workshops aimed at providing volunteer and paid golf club officials who have responsibility for working with head greenkeepers/course managers with advice information and best practices.

The workshops will be held at: Temple Golf Club, on Thursday, September 8; Garrick Manor Golf Club, on Tuesday, September 13 and Northumberland Golf Club, on Thursday, October 6.

The workshops will be run by the services of Lawrence Pitch MG, and one of its Quality Assured Training Providers to present these workshops. Lawrence will share his vast experience and knowledge of working for both private and commercial golf clubs. Comprehensive course notes will be given to all delegates attending the workshops.

To view the programme in detail visit www.the-gtc.co.uk. The cost of the workshop is £50 to include refreshments, lunch and course materials.

Retirement

Brian Willmott, Area Manager for Tacit in the South East of England, is set to retire in April after 25 years with the company. Brian has been a key player in the development of Tacit’s Quality Assured Training Providers (QATPs) programme and will continue to work closely with the team in order to continue to deliver the best in class training service.

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BIGGA Competition

There are still places available for anyone wishing to compete for the title of BIGGA’s Champion Golfer. The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisors D Titanic, is the culmination of two events at Lancaster Golf Club and will take place on October 3rd and 4th.

As well as the main prize, players can compete for the Best Nine prize over the 36 holes plus winners and individual prizes over 18 and 36 holes. There is also a Stableford competition on the second day for those who perhaps didn’t do themselves justice on the first.