BTME TO BE EVEN BIGGER FOR 2014

Following the success of last year’s show BIGGA are gearing up for a huge BTME 2014, as it returns to a four hall exhibition with the world’s major machinery manufacturers preparing to head to Harrogate.

The Harrogate International Centre is sure to be bustling next January with the likes of John Derry, Toro and隆隆隆隆nofi，加入Kubota, RECO and New Holland at BTME 2014.

Many of last year’s happy exhibitors are also returning with many increasing their stand space. After a number of bookings over 85% of stands are already reserved with eager returning with many increasing their stand space. After a surge of early bookings over 85% of stands are already reserved with eager returning with many increasing their stand space. After a surge of early bookings over 85% of stands are already reserved with eager

SOUTH EAST GOLF DAY

Play unfortunately had to be abandoned following an incessant rain on the Old Course at Walton Heath – but the terrible weather did not dampen spirits at the South East Golf Day.

Despite the grey and hard work by Alan Brochan and his team to prepare the Old Course, heavy overnight rain followed by more rain during the day forced members and guests of the course. They took refuge from the elements and enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson of Sher riff Amenity at the 11th hole.

Competitors were able to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Clubhouse before over a hundred sat down to an early meal in the Holderness Dining Room. Chairman Tim Smith introduced B I G G A CEO Jim Croxton who was followed by Captain Michael Vaines who welcomed everyone to the Club for, as always, making us so welcome on the day before proposing the toast to Walton Heath Golf Club and their guests. This was followed by Captain Michael Vaines who welcomed everyone to the Club.

This month’s featured blog is from Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Kent, which will host the 2013 Amateur Championship and is one of four venues selected for Final Open Qualifying from 2014 to 2017. The blog was started by Assistant Links Superintendent James Bridge shortly after joining the Club last October. It’s crammed with information and high quality pictures documenting the greenskeeping team’s work including rough management, tee platforms excavation, bunker recutting and all manner of winter taking place on the course.

The Club has already seen several clear benefits from writing the blog. James says: “Take the over seeding for example, we spent a good sum of money hiring an expensive lawnmower to do a specific task. Many golfers were asking what we were doing and why we were doing it. They were able to see the blog and get the information they required. Weeks later we were able to post a picture of the results and we are confident that a good part of the membership now understand why we do what we do.”

BLOGGING WITH ROYAL APPROVAL

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Links Superintendent Chris Barnard added: “I think the blog was a great idea from the start, it’s a very useful tool for keeping members informed about current projects on the course. It helps to answer many questions beforehand as there is plenty more time out on the course to get through this year’s very busy winter programme.

“Our members are interested in the work we do and are proud of the course. We wanted to document and share with everyone exactly what we’ve been doing throughout the winter ahead of what will be a very busy season. James posted a link on the B I G G A bulletin board to see if anyone else was blogging. There were loads of positive replies and it seems a few courses have started blogs as a result. The Cranfield B and Carnoustie blogs are particularly interesting as well as a few others. Some other blogs have inspired us to perhaps try adding extra like video footage. Perhaps our blog inspires others courses to start!”

We’re hosting the British Amateur Championship this year and the green staff are doing a lot of work ahead of it. 2013 will be a very exciting time for everyone at Royal Cinque Ports.”

Contact Steve Castle at steve.castle@bigga.co.uk if you think your blog deserves to be featured in GL.