Bon Jovi wrote a song called “I’ll sleep when I’m dead.” I certainly slept the sleep of the “I’ll sleep when I’m dead” - I Bon Jovi wrote a song called

You can thoroughly enjoy his visit to the UK. I think we might be seeing him grace the BTME show again in the future!

The introduction of the “Focus On” sessions proved to be a successful addition to the programme with the majority sold out. Hopefully you will see an increase in this type of session in future years.

The seminar pre-booking for BIGGA members worked fairly well, but will have a polish for next year to improve the system. My thanks go to those patient attendants who had to stand in queues and experience my loud voice!

My personal thanks go to all the presenters who provide professional and quality education and make it look so easy. The challenge now begins again to develop the programme for 2014. Send your ideas to: sami@bigga.co.uk.

FUTURE TURF MANAGERS Initiative

The Jacobson turf equipment and BIGGA have developed a highly interactive, professional development conference, designed to provide younger greenkeepers with the tools to go further in our industry.

You can be selected by showing initiative in your current position, by demonstrating an interest in the industry or being actively involved in education at region and national level.

The FTMI will take place at Bannosmes Jacobson’s headquarters in Ipswich from 3 – 5 April 2013. It will be an intensive three days of seminars, talks and workshops covering:

• Communications
• Budgeting
• Team management
• CV writing and interview techniques
• Volunteering
• Plus break-out sessions on other subjects

Apply now by visiting the Members Area of the BIGGA website and following the link to complete an online application form.

There are only 20 places available for this inaugural event. Get online and complete your application before the closing date of 15 February 2013.

All applications must be endorsed by the manager, supervisor, regional administrator or trade representative.

If you have any queries, please contact Stuart Green on 01347 833800 (option 3) or stuart@bigga.co.uk.

Membership

We had a lot of interest in membership on the BIGGA stand from new enquirers and renewals to past members returning, it was encouraging to see. We are now in the process of administering all the enquiries plus all the enquiries we received during our time out of the office at Harrogate, please bear with us whilst we catch up during this busy period. If your membership is urgent please contact Elaine Jones and we will aim to action your request as soon as possible.

Golf Course Changes

BIGGA are working with SkyCaddie to help them update their course information. If your Golf Club is planning or has made some alterations to your golf course recently, please let SkyCaddie know, please take a few minutes to complete their ‘Course Update Form’ by following this link remap.skycaddiegps.co.uk

The Jacobson Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI)

The Jacobson Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI) will target the next generation of greenkeepers who demonstrate the ability and drive to become leaders of their profession in the future.

A maximum of 20 students will be selected for FTMI in any one year to attend a three-day residential course in the early part of the year and then be mentored throughout by a high profile course mentor.

To apply log into the members area of the BIGGA website, select ‘Future Turf Managers Initiative’ from the options down the left hand side and select the link to the online application form.

Fill in the questions over the next few pages and provide details of your nominator.

This could be your manager, supervisor, regional administrator or trade representative. The application process should take 15-20 minutes.

Once your application has been submitted, a form will be sent to your nominator to complete and return to BIGGA.

The deadline for your application is 15th February 2013. Your application will be reviewed by a panel from BIGGA and Jacobsen and you will be informed by the 1st March 2013, if you have been successful.

@BIGGALtd
#BTME2013
#success

BTME 2013

Having just returned to BIGGA House after an excellent #BTME2013 Elaine and I would like to say how much we enjoyed meeting so many members past, present and future.

It really helps us to put names to faces and it’s a perfect opportunity to meet so many of you, so thank you for taking the time and making the effort to come and say hello.

The BIGGA Stand was busy the whole three days, the Regional Administrators, John Young (Scotland), Sandra Raper (Northern and Midlands), Olive Ogund (South East) and Jane Jones (South West/ South Wales) were all on hand to welcome members from all five regions.

A section/region map displayed showed how all 26 sections play a huge part in communicating information from across the membership through section committees, region committees and to the national level.

Watch out for information on the many showcases ‘Working together for the future success of BIGGA’, they are taking place throughout the five regions during February and March, contact your Regional Administrator for details, Jim Croxton (CEO), Tony Smith (Chairman) and Tracey Maddison (General Manager) will be travelling around the regions to engage with sections and explain the key role they have to play in the future success of BIGGA.

The BIGGA Stand this year displayed some clothing, the navy blue jumpers, the navy blue windshirts and the fantastic navy blue Reeses all displaying the BIGGA logo were on sale, if anybody wishes to purchase any of these items please contact Elaine Jones in the Membership department by emailing membership@bigga.co.uk or by telephone 01347 833800 select option 1.