ALLISS HEADLINES BTME WELCOME CELEBRATION

Golfing legend Peter Alliss will be guest of honour at BIGGA’s inaugural Welcome Celebration, kindly sponsored by Jacobsen, to be held straight after the first day of BTME in January.

Not only is Peter one of the most recognisable and authoritative voices in all sport, he is a fascinating and amusing speaker with over half a century of anecdotes and opinions – and you can catch a typically humorous keynote speech from Peter on Tuesday 21 January. Entry is free.

Beginning straight after the first day of Europe’s biggest turf management exhibition, the evening will be a true celebration of some of the industry’s finest moments during the past 12 months.

We’ll be acknowledging the superb achievements of some of our members during 2013, honouring greenkeepers who have excelled in educational, professional and golfing capacities and toasting success in the wider turf management industry.

All you have to do to attend what’s sure to be a memorable evening is head to the Royal Hall at the Harrogate International Centre at 5.30pm.

BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croston will introduce proceedings and there will be a series of announcements and awards before Peter takes to the stage, and drinks and nibbles will be served afterwards with the event expected to close at around 7.30pm.

Don’t miss out on what is sure to be not just one of the highlights of BTME, but one of the highlights of 2014 in the industry.
HOW YOU CAN HELP THE MAD MOWER MEN

Hopefuly you’ve spotted adverts in the last two magazines advertising an amazing charity challenge – a team of BIGGA members pushing mowers from Ransomes Jacobsen’s Ipswich HQ to BTME in January – a total of 177 gruelling miles.

It’s all in aid of Scotty’s Little Soldiers – a charity which supports the families of men and women killed in action while serving with the British Armed Forces.

Why have you chosen to support Scotty’s Little Soldiers?
A lot of emphasis is put on the soldiers on the front line, and injured soldiers going through rehabilitation, and some amazing work is done in that area. But not enough attention is given to the families that are left behind if the worst happens.

Scotty’s Little Soldiers was set up by Nikki Scott after her husband Corporal Lee Scott was tragically killed in an explosion in Afghanistan in July 2009, leaving behind her and their two young children, so it’s a hugely worthwhile cause.

How are you preparing for it?
At Wilmslow we do a lot of hand mowing so that helps massively for training. Plus I’ve joined a triathlon club which is going a long way towards helping me getting prepared for this challenge.

How can people donate?
Visit www.bmycharity.com/ HardRoadToHarrogate - that’s our dedicated website. We leave Ipswich on Thursday 16 January and hope to arrive in Harrogate on Tuesday 21 January for the opening of BTME.

After that we will be on the Ransomes Jacobsen stand to chat to people (if we make it) and you will also be able to donate then. See you in January!
ESSEX WIN TRI TOURNAMENT
Uppminster Golf Club was the venue for the annual South East Region Tri-Tournament between Essex, Surrey and Sussex. This event rotates around the sections and has become one of the highlights of the South East regions fixture list, along with the Golf and Dinner day at Walton Heath and the BMW Championship at Wentworth, plus our annual regional conference.
A full quota of 10 players per team took to the fairways at 10am and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day for a round of golf on a testing course set out by Uppminster’s Course Manager, Dougie Fernie. After a well-deserved late afternoon dinner Essex Team Captain Antony Kinian announced the results: Essex 245, Sussex 242 and Surrey 225.
Essex (only the second time they had won in the event’s seven year existence) would like to thank all the players from Surrey and Sussex for helping to make it such a great day, the camaraderie was fantastic and it was good to again be able to meet up with friends made over the years.
Our thanks to Uppminster Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the day and to Dougie and his team, and the club’s catering team. All those playing would also like to thank Andy Turbin and Ernest Doe and Sons for their sponsorship of the day, and we look forward to next year’s event somewhere in Sussex.

CHIPPENHAM WORK NEARING COMPLETION
The Chippenham Golf Club in Wiltshire has gone through many changes since it was founded in 1896 and its latest chapter of redevelopment is nearing completion.
This has involved remodelling several existing holes to allow the integration of four newly constructed ones.
Course architect Matt Maryon has overseen the project from start to finish, and has been assisted by the outstanding shaping skills of Mike Smith from 1st Golf Ltd.
Several new trees have been constructed, while one hole has been completely redesigned to incorporate two existing holes.
Course Manager and BIGGA Vice Chairman Chris Bealey said: “Several years of hard work are finally coming to fruition, and the members, committee, and staff can’t wait to see the course open in its completed state in May 2014.
“We’re really excited about the design of the new holes, and a couple of them promise to be particularly memorable. This, combined with the new clubhouse opening only 10 months ago, means it’s a great time to be a member here at Chippenham Golf Club, and I’m sure we’ll serve as a model going forward for Clubs looking to enhance their facilities.”
The redevelopment is already having a positive effect on Club finances, with a noticeable growth across membership, greens fee revenue, and food and beverages.

BIGGA SPONSORS
Charthouse Turf Machinery were once again delighted to be co-sponsors of the BIGGA National Championship, a good opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues at this prestigious event which attracts players from all around the country.

It’s been a busy year for Charthouse with the launch of new products including their new three-point linkage mounted Turf Cutter, and our eagerly awaited Double Disc seeder with 30mm spacings to be launched shortly.

The Verti-Drain has been a real hit with the signage, and I can happily demonstrate towards the capacity V-belt driven fan scarification and debris/leaves, care of fairways, rough and also for use where access may be more limited, such as for round leaf and litter collection cleaning.

While the set up continues to make waves with the latest high speed models performing well both as a 1.6 metre unit and a 2m wide unit, these have been well received by those who need greater productivity and wanting to cover the ground quickly.

Well designed course signage relevant to the course is an essential item of solution to this problem called BaseGuard. Its patented solution is an essential item of well designed course signage relevant to the course, and the grass around the mounts is minimised.

The S4 doesn’t sit idly in the 1-2 hours, and the need for zoning off is minimised. It’s been a busy year for Charthouse with the launch of new products including their new three-point linkage mounted Turf Cutter, and our eagerly awaited Double Disc seeder with 30mm spacings to be launched shortly.

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There’s a Trilo Vacuum Sweeper/Blower to suit all requirements to clean your open areas of litter, leaves and grass cuttings. So come on, clean up your act, contact us today.

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BIGGA members from across the country came together recently to help out at Rockliffe Hall, hosted the successful PGA English Seniors Open. The team at the County Durham course was given just six weeks to prepare for the tournament and Head Greenkeeper Pete Newton knew he would need a support team to maintain the huge course which measures a staggering 7,897 yards from the back tees.

Together with Course Manager Davy Cuthbertson and Cleveland Section Secretary Ian Pemberton, they appealed for greenkeepers to travel north for the week of the tournament and were delighted to receive offers from across the country. Greenkeepers from Forest Hill, Forest of Arden and The RAC Club joined others from Matfen Hall, Close House plus other local courses—and the team couldn’t have done without them, as Pete explained. He said: “Obviously we were on a tight timescale, but I wasn’t worried about the course quality as it’s always at a high standard at any time of the year.

“The main issue was the amount of daylight we had to prepare the course. We started at around 6.30am for 9.30am tee times, and they were finishing around 4.30pm so we only had a total of five hours’ light a day to work with.

“We were double cutting in the mornings and rolling to get the greens up to 10.5ft so there was a lot of work to do, but all the guys threw themselves into it. They were full of enthusiasm - we had rain on the Friday and I’ve never seen so many greenkeepers volunteer to grab a squeegee!

“The tournament was a huge success with great feedback from the players and the PGA, and this just wouldn’t have been possible without the volunteers assisting our full-time team here.

“They also gained valuable tournament experience, and I truly believe this is another example of the great industry that we’re part of.”

As well as help from various BIGGA members, Rockliffe enjoyed wider industry support. Reps from Tacit and Turfcare helped out as did the club’s local Toro dealer Lloyds who supplied a mechanic, plus Gary Woodward from Bernhard Grinders who regrounded their machines prior to the Seniors Open.

Pete added: “Thanks to everyone who helped out and keep our eye out for more volunteering opportunities when the tournament returns here next August.”
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