But not out of the way

The stars will be out for the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Education Seminar Programme in Harrogate.

It's the event for everyone with an interest in fine turf. As well as greenkeepers, there's something for golf club officials, local authority specifiers, contractors... the entire galaxy of turf care professionals.

The week begins with an education programme which will be unequalled in Europe during 1995. Prestigious speakers from across the world will be making their way to Harrogate. Dr James Beard, Professor Emeritus of Turf Grass Science, Texas A&M University and Cameron Sinclair, Chairman, British Institute of Golf Course Architects, are just two of the high calibre speakers with a mission to inspire, educate and motivate.

The full programme, “The Learning Experience”, is included as an insert in this magazine. With the added benefit of an internationally recognised exhibition, the BTME week in Harrogate is truly an event you should shift heaven and earth to attend.

As our information panel shows, the Yorkshire town of Harrogate is easily accessible. When you get there, you'll find all the events are within walking distance. An elegant spa town with superb hotels and restaurants waits to welcome you. Historic York is half an hour's drive away and the breathtaking beauty of the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales is on your doorstep.

It's your chance to turn a learning experience into an adventure.

BTME and the Educational Seminar Programme is organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF. For more details, or for an extra copy of “The Learning Experience”, call Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer, on 0547 838581.
OCTOBER 1994

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WE SAY

There can be no doubt that in the past year one of the most dominant themes in discussions amongst greenkeepers and members of the trade has been the future of industry shows. The future of the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been at the forefront of those discussions. To recap a little, discussions started in earnest in May of 1993 when BIGGA was invited to attend a meeting convened by the Agricultural Engineers Association who through their Outdoor Power and Equipment Council represent the interests of the major manufacturing companies in our industry.

At that meeting both IOG and BALI were represented in addition to BIGGA. The meeting had been convened to convey with a view to BIGGA being at the major manufacturing companies the OPEC future of industry shows. The BIGGA continued discussions with P&O Events during which it became clear that the lead in establishing the new show was being taken by the Association and the industry incorporating shows currently organised by BIGGA, JOG and BALI. In the following months a number of meetings were held where the emphasis shifted away from IOG and BALI with a view to BIGGA being at the forefront of the new show.

Developments accelerated in March this year when the AEA invited P&O Events Ltd to take the lead in establishing the new show. BIGGA continued discussions with P&O Events during which it became clear that the new show would be held at Olympia in London and whilst September 1995 had been the originally planned date, P&O Events moved this to January 1996 when it became clear that September was not a suitable date for greenkeepers to attend.

BIGGA indicated to P&O Events its intention to survey its members on this extremely important issue to ascertain their views. This survey was conducted independently during August and September by the Golf Research Group and will be reported on in detail in the November issue of Greenkeeper International. In the meantime P&O Events issued a press release to coincide with the SALTEX Exhibition at Windsor in September announcing the new show for January 1996 at Olympia.

There has, quite naturally therefore, been much concern within the Association and the industry in January 1996, your BIGGA has been mindful of two major considerations: the views and wishes of our members and those of our exhibitors at Harrogate who provide the income not only to stage the BTME but to continue with its support for the event and that this support reaches much further afield within the industry as a whole. The BTME is a growing, successful show but it is not a show which can stand still. The Steering Committee has recently had the opportunity to tour the new Hall Q at the Harrogate International Centre and this offers real opportunity for the further development of the BTME. With the addition of Halls D and Q there is the facility to double the available exhibition space.

BIGGA is aware of the perception within the industry that Harrogate is not an international centre in the show sense. This is not a view prevalent in other industries who use Harrogate as the location for their shows. It is clear, therefore, that the Association, together with the Harrogate International Centre, must seek within the industry to change current perceptions and thereby enhance the status of the BTME as an international event. In the marketing of the BTME there will need to be a much greater emphasis on the excellent infrastructure at Harrogate and the improving communications particularly in respect of the Leeds/Bradford airport. Many of the companies who support us at the BTME are concerned at the need to further penetrate the growing European market which becomes ever more accessible with improved transport links.

We believe that through a partnership of Association and industry and with the committed backing of the Harrogate International Centre, the opportunity is there for the BTME, at the centre of the country, to continue to develop as an international show as it is not only by our excellent educational seminar programme but also by BIGGA's National Education Conference. Careful consideration needs to be given to the sectors of the industry in which the BTME will seek to expand and as has happened since the first show in 1989 there will be ongoing consultations with the industry. One of the strengths of the BTME is its Steering Committee and the Association remains appreciative of the commitment and support it receives from Steering Committee members. It is an opportune time to acknowledge the support of those companies represented ie Ransomes, Zeneca, Farmura, Supaturf, Lely (UK) Toro, Hardi, Hayter, Kubota, Sisis, Jacobsens, Rolawn, Rigby Taylor, John Deere, Massey Ferguson and Gem Professional.

It has been a difficult period and there are many varied views within the industry on the need for shows, the number of those shows and their location. BIGGA will continue to consult and to listen and remain open-minded as to the future. It will also seek to ensure that the BTME remains the pre-eminent show for our industry with all roads, including those from Europe, leading to Harrogate each January. The 1995 show is eagerly anticipated. We at BIGGA are greatly appreciative of the industry's continued support and we look forward to January and a show which all the indicators suggest will be bigger and better than ever.

The show goes on

Having considered all relevant factors, the Board has decided to continue with the BTME at Harrogate for the foreseeable future.

BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

BIGGA has been mindful of two major considerations: the views and wishes of our members and those of our exhibitors at Harrogate who provide the income not only to stage the BTME but to continue with its support for the event and that this support reaches much further afield within the industry as a whole. The BTME is a growing, successful show but it is not a show which can stand still. The Steering Committee has recently had the opportunity to tour the new Hall Q at the Harrogate International Centre and this offers real opportunity for the further development of the BTME. With the addition of Halls D and Q there is the facility to double the available exhibition space.

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Carnoustie to stage Open after 24 years

After a 24-year gap, the Open Championship will return to Carnoustie in 1999. Work already done by John Philp’s team includes the reconstruction of four greens and the redesign or introduction of 14 bunkers. He is also trying to encourage the growth of native fine grasses to restore the Championship course to true links character. It has also been announced that the 1995 and ’96 Scottish Opens will be played on the 7,400-yard course.

The question being asked now is where will the Open go in 2001? St Andrews will host it in 1995 and 2000. It’s going to Royal Lytham & St Annes in ’96, Royal Troon in ’97 and Royal Birkdale in 1998. When will it next return to Muirfield, Royal St George’s or Turnberry?

Trial sites are needed for worm studies

The STRI is looking for trial sites for earthworm control studies, in particular golf courses in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester that experience heavy, fairly uniform earthworm casting.

If you are able to help, contact Dr SW Baker or EC Kirby at the STRI, St Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU or on 0274 565131.

Tony’s mission of mercy

Most greenkeepers use their holidays to take a well-earned rest. Not Tony Dyke, the head greenkeeper at Wyke Green Golf Club, Isleworth, Middlesex. He is going to spend his two-weeks holiday, October 13-23, driving to Romania with a truck-load of goods for handicapped children. This will be his sixth trip there since 1991. Last time he was threatened with an iron bar at the border and nearly dragged out of his cab. “Only my leg wrapped round the steering wheel saved me.”

The problem was that some drivers had been stuck at the border for several days and got incensed when Tony’s convoy, which is now familiar to the border guards and custom officials, was let through straight away. Tony is not expecting there to be any trouble this time (at least that’s what he has told his wife). He says he was inspired to help these unfortunate children by an Anneka Rice TV programme. “I do it for the children. If you saw the state of the kids, you’d want to help too,” he said.

Tony has been lent a 17-ton lorry by Alan Greenwood and John Hobbs of All Seasons Dressing. It will be one of five vehicles heading to Romania for the Ellesmere Port and Neston Romanian Appeal, which has adopted several orphanages in the country. The trucks will be packed with about 50-60 tonnes of goods, including toys, food and clothes.
It takes time to build a solid reputation for performance and reliability.

But when turf diseases strike, time is the last thing you’ve got.

ROVRAL GREEN’s active ingredient iprodione, gives immediate, effective and long lasting control of a wide range of turf diseases including Fusarium patch, Red thread and Dollar spot.

With its rapid contact action and special rainfast formulation, ROVRAL GREEN is unaffected by changing weather conditions, making it equally reliable all year round, but especially powerful during the cooler months when there is little or no grass growth.

So it’s little wonder that after 11 years at the top, the reliability, performance and reputation of ROVRAL GREEN still makes it the number one choice of UK turf professionals.

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Lancashire
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Midlothian
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Amenity Land Services Ltd.
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Tel: 0977 681155

Yorkshire
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Tel: 0977 681155

For a top performance, use the top performer. ROVRAL GREEN.
Maintenance facility is a real luxury

Martin Smith, head greenkeeper at Nottinghamshire's Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, has a maintenance facility that most greenkeepers can only dream about.

Cotising £32,000, its facilities include an implement and equipment store, top dressing preparation room, chemical store, office, mess room and staff washroom. It is 30.6m long, 16.2m wide and has an eve height of 2.74m. It also looks good with its olive green roof cladding, brown stone wall cladding and high roller shutter doors.

"Most golf clubs or centres do not have adequate greenkeeper facilities and few have mess and washroom areas for their staff. It is for this reason that the Ramsdale Park's building is the envy of the county," says Mr Smith.

"For example, it is unusual to have an indoor top dressing store. Without the facility, we would have to buy top soil and sand when required because storage under an outside cover proves wasteful with the bottom of the pile being too damp, thus causing clogging in modern machinery. So not only do we save money by buying materials in bulk at the right time, we also minimise on wastage and keep machinery maintenance costs to a minimum."

The Leofric Buildings' 'Enterprise system building' was erected in 20 days.

Training video launched

A new training video – a joint venture between BIGGA and Toro – is now available. Titled 'Raising the Standard in Mowing Management', the new video was premiered at the recent Saltex show. Topics covered include the proper preparation of machinery prior to use, the correct practice and technique for all mowing situations, such as cutting of banks, rough, semi-rough, fairways, surrounds, teeing grounds and putting surfaces.

The film features animated and slow motion sequences showing in detail the relationship between the cutting action of the mower blades and the removal of grass.

A typical mowing operation from start to finish is illustrated, demonstrating essential health and safety factors as well as the correct course courtesy to be followed. At the end of mowing operations the film details the recommended practices for preparing machines for storage.

BIGGA chairman John Millen, who has been closely involved in Toro in making this education and training video for the benefit of all golf course greenkeepers. Graham Dale, managing director of Lely UK, distributors for the film's sponsors, the Toro Company, said: "Toro is a big supporter of the education and training of golf greenkeepers and already jointly sponsors the BIGGA-organised 1994 Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper Awards. We are pleased to extend this support through our sponsorship of the new turf management training video."

Free copies of the 40-minute video – filmed at the St Andrews Links Old Course, and Moor Park Golf Club – are being distributed to 2,000 UK golf clubs, including all those with BIGGA members. Copies are also being sent to greenkeeping training colleges.

Other copies are available from Sami Collins, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York Y06 2NE.

Further details are available from the video's producer, Richard Fry, at Marketing Link Associates. Tel: 0268 413798.

• BIGGA's latest video, a comprehensive guide to course preparation, is being shot at Prestbury and Royal Liverpool courses at the moment. Due to be launched at the '95 BTME at Harrogate, it is being funded by BIGGA's Education and Development Fund.

FLYING DIVOTS

• BIGGA's chairman, John Millen, has left the Weald of Kent, the course he helped design and build, to take up the new post of director of greenkeeping with Golf Partners International Ltd. He will be based at the company's headquarters at: The Tytherington, Macclesfield, and be responsible for the company's greenkeeping interests. Golf Partners is looking to buy courses.

• Koen golfer Masakazu Miyake, 47, has taken up his post as president of Kubota (UK) Ltd. He replaces Don Tabata who has returned to Kubota Corporation's headquarter in Osaka, Japan, as manager of the engine export department.

• Andrew Corstorphine, head greenkeeper of the Old and New Courses at St Andrews for more than 20 years has died, aged 94.

• Paul Harley has wanted to be a head greenkeeper since he left school. Now the 28-year-old 14-handicap golfer has got the top job at Crewe GC.

• Greenkeepers are about to be sold in many pro shops! 'The Greenkeeper' is the name of a new retractable pitch mark repair produced by Activity & Leisure Products of Wareham, Dorset.

• New courses opened recently include 18-hole Cockridge Hall near Leeds and nine-hole Blackwater Valley Golf Centre near Eversley, Hampshire. Ten new holes costing £265,000 have been opened at Newton Green, one of Suffolk's oldest courses. Courses in trouble include nine-hole Fingle Glen GC near Exeter which is now in the hands of the receivers. A course out of trouble, in theory, is Slaley Hall. The Northumberland golf and country club complex, which went into receivership with debts of £27 million, has been sold for around £5 million to a Swedish bank, according to Golf Weekly.

Rhône-Poulenc has produced a new book on weeds. The comprehensive guide, which contains photographs and concise descriptions of the major weeds in turf, along with product advice for their control, costs £2 plus 50p post and packing. Alternatively, The Weed Book is free when you purchase a container of Spearhead, the new selective weedkiller for use on turf. Telephone: 0277 301115.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL October 1994 7
Secure your place at the Association’s National Education Conference

Harrowgate 1995
The National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programme is now only four months away so make a note in your diary of the dates and get your place booked!

Included in this issue of Greenkeeper International are full details of the Education Conference and BTME seminar programme. A booking form is also enclosed and as always, please book early.

BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses
There is still time to book a place on this year’s BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses. Week 1 is full but a few places remain on weeks 2, 3 and 4. If you wish to apply, phone me on 0347 838581.

N/SVQs
As I have highlighted in previous articles, BIGGA and the Greenkeepers Training Committee are determined that golf greenkeepers will be given nationally recognised qualifications for all formal training. The introduction of N/SVQs has meant a shift in emphasis from the traditional classroom based theory curriculum to a more work based learning and assessment system.

Colleges still have a major part to play in greenkeeper training as theory (or underpinning knowledge in NVQ speak) is still seen as an important part of courses, as is the teaching of the principles of greenkeeping practise.

However, for N/SVQs to be successful, employers and course managers/head greenkeepers need to become involved in the training and assessment of greenkeeping staff. The GTC expects employers to undertake to train greenkeepers and to allow course managers/ head greenkeepers to become trained assessors. Regional seminars are being arranged to describe the structure, content and philosophy of the N/SVQ system and the part that employers and course managers/head greenkeepers can play in making the scheme a success.

Any course manager/head greenkeeper wishing to register for an N/SVQ seminar should contact the GTC on 0347 838640.

TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year
After an arduous week of travel and interviews, the three members of the interview panel – Dean Cleaver, from the BIGGA board education sub-committee, Pete Mansfield from Lely and myself – chose six of the seven finalists for the National Finals of the TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year.

The seventh finalist was selected by our colleagues in Northern Ireland.

The final at Aldwark Manor will have taken place by the time you read this. An article appears on pages 10/11 giving potted histories of the seven finalists but we felt that all 33 entrants were winners to have reached the regional finals.

The standard of candidate was extremely high, which not only made our job very difficult but, more importantly, gave us a very encouraging look at the future of the greenkeeping profession. Congratulations to you all.

ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year
All 24 entrants for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper Award should now have received notification of the results of the first round course inspections.

The judges found it very difficult to select the winners in all five regions as the standard of course preparation was impressively high. Second round course inspections have been completed and the final takes place at Aldwark Manor on December 2 and 3.
£750-worth of prizes to be won in our BTME competition

It's a greenkeeper's dream holiday - and with this issue of Greenkeeper International, it could be YOURS!

An expenses-paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, part of £750-worth of prizes, is being given away to three lucky readers. We will pay your rail fare. We will put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and we will give you a free pass to the outstanding education seminar programme.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning is answer six questions. Two were published in both the August and September magazines, which also contained the answers in amongst the BTME stories. Those four questions, plus two new ones for October, are printed below.

When you have the answers to all six questions, complete the form and return it to us by October 30, 1994. Good luck!

Usual rules apply.

★ FIRST PRIZE - Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights' accommodation in a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions

★ SECOND PRIZE - Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK, two nights' accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all seminar sessions

★ THIRD PRIZE - One night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all seminar sessions.

FINDING YOUR WAY TO HARROGATE

BY RAIL: 25 trains per day run from London King's Cross to Harrogate. By Air: Leeds/Bradford Airport is 12 miles away and has direct flights from major European cities.

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME 1995

4 EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

BY ROAD: From London – A1, exit Wetherby, nine miles from Harrogate. M1 and M62 to Leeds, which is 15 miles away. By SEA: North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 60 miles away.

The best in Europe

Harrogate is set to host Europe's most interesting and comprehensive education programme for greenkeepers and golf course managers from January 23-27, 1995. The week begins with BIGGA's two-day National Education Conference, where the emphasis will be on ecology, agronomy and irrigation. The speakers will include David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, who will give "An overview of European golf course ecology". Also speaking will be the world renowned Dr James Beard, president of the International Sports Turf Institute and a professor in turfgrass science at Texas A&M University. His topic is "Benefits of turf grasses to environmental issues".


The venue for the National Education Conference, January 23 and 24, is The Majestic Hotel, which is adjacent to the Harrogate International Centre and is one of Harrogate's premier hotels.

The week continues with the seminar programme which is run in conjunction with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, Europe's premier fine turf trade show. A wide range of subjects will be covered by the talks in the Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall.

The seminar programme is designed so that visitors to the exhibition, now in its seventh year, can pick and choose the subjects that most interest them. And there's plenty to choose from.

Cameron Sinclair, chairman of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, will give "A greenkeeper's guide to working with golf course architects". George Brown, course manager at Turnberry, will talk about the '94 Open. Colin Hegarty of the Golf Research Group will discuss 'Budgeting for golf course management'. Dr IG McKillop of the Central Science Laboratory will explain how to control rabbit and vermin. Dr James Beard will make his second appearance, talking about international turfgrass trends and Douglas Shearer, a health and safety consultant, will give an update on this important aspect of course management.

"Considering the calibre of the experts delivering the lectures and seminars it's probably safe to say that the education on offer will not be surpassed anywhere in Europe during 1995," says BIGGA's education officer, Ken Richardson.

To help delegates unwind, there is also an interesting and varied social programme, including a dinner with a jazz band, a karaoke night at The Majestic and a banquet dinner with a cabaret starring comedians Tom O'Connor and female singer Lyn Paul (ex-New Seekers). Full details of the National Education Conference and seminar programme are in 'The Learning Experience', inserted with this issue.

• Only eight stands remain available for BTME '95 and so, with four months to go, the show looks certain to be a complete sell-out.

Recent companies to join are Interdrain Ltd, who have booked 20 square metres, Hi Speed Lubricants, HHI Electronics and Links Leasure. At present, 124 exhibitors have booked for the show - a new record.

Now answer these questions, clip the coupon and send it in

August questions

• Which company doubled its stand space at BTME '94?

• Which association will take a stand at BTME '95 for the first time?

September questions

• What is the name of the course manager at Turnberry who will be speaking at the seminar programme in 1995?

• Which institute will be taking a stand at BTME '95 for the first time?

October questions

• What is the name of the company who has booked 20 square metres at the BTME '95?

• How many stands remain available?

Name: ___________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Send your completed entry form to BTME Competition, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF to be received by October 30. The first three correct entries opened after that date will win the prizes.

GRIEKENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL October 1994
INVEST IN QUALIFICATIONS NOW...
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Expert staff, superb practical training facilities and an attractive environment make Reaseheath the best choice for YOUR training needs. Choose from a range of part time courses to suit your schedule:

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- GREENKEEPING – C&G Phase IV – Block Release
- TURF CULTURE – IOG National Intermediate Diploma and National Diploma – both on Day Release

Full time courses are also available, including an HND in Golf Course Management, and Sports Turf Options on BTEC First and National Diplomas, and Short Courses for Industry include FEPA Chemical Safety, Chainsaws, Safe Lifting and Manual Handling, and First Aid.

Reaseheath College facilities include a nine-hole golf course, bowling green and outdoor sports pitches, and excellent residential and social facilities complete the package – so find out more by contacting Dennis Mortram or Geoff Brereton.

HALL

Euan Grant
representing South-East England
Age: 23. College: Plumpton
Euan is a sports nut. He plays rugby union to a high standard, competes in marathons and plays golf off a 14 handicap. After graduating from the University of Leeds with a degree in sport and leisure management, he failed to find a job as a fitness instructor, which was their loss and greenkeeping’s gain.

Euan had gained some greenkeeping experience during his university holidays, working under Dave Purvis at RAF North Luffenham GC. He also had a temporary job at Tyrells Wood GC. Now he is assistant greenkeeper at Effingham Golf Club, Surrey, which encourages education. Euan has completed his City and Guilds phase II in greenkeeping and sports turf management and hopes to do phase III and/or the IoG Intermediate Diploma next year.

“My immediate aspirations are to become a deputy head greenkeeper or first assistant at one of the Surrey heathland championship courses. My long-term aspirations are to undertake a masters’ degree in turf science either in England or America and become an agronomist to the European Tour or the PGA.”

Simon Heppenstall
representing Northern England
Age: 28. College: Warwickshire College
Simon has already proved himself a winner – at BIGGA’s Midlands section spring and summer tournaments. He plays off 18. He also plays football on Sundays. Married with two children, Vincent was recently appointed deputy course manager at Great Barr Golf Club. Previously he was an assistant at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club where he worked for nearly 10 years.

He has also recently completed his NVQ level 2 and aims to take the level 3 supervisory course next year.

Vincent Lee
representing the Midlands
Age: 28. College: Warwickshire College
Vincent has already proved himself a winner – at BIGGA’s Midlands section spring and summer tournaments. He plays off 18. He also plays football on Sundays. Married with two children, Vincent was recently appointed deputy course manager at Great Barr Golf Club. Previously he was an assistant at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club where he worked for nearly 10 years.

He has also recently completed his NVQ level 2 and aims to take the level 3 supervisory course next year.

Ken Moore
representing Northern Ireland
Age: 31. College: Greenmount College, Antrim
Ken has been greenkeeping for 12 years. He has been at his present...