Thorpeness' extensive environmental programme earned the club the overall winner award.

SCOTLAND

In Scotland it was Brighouse Bay Golf Club that took the regional prize for the second year running. The golf club and associated caravan site have an environmental policy that is second to none.

From the installation of solar panels through to the information leaflets on the golf course to the management of grasslands for their butterfly and bird interest, this club truly considers the ecological impact of every operation. The club also support numerous other environmental accolades including the David Bellamy Conservation award (GOLD - 10 years running!), the Green Tourism Award and are currently in the process of applying to the Scottish Golf Environmental Excellence Award.

Brighouse Bay Golf Club is a great example of a small club which has good credentials and commitment. Through entering the BIGGA environment competition for the last three years its work has been recognised and it has won two prestigious awards and £1000 prize money.

If your club deserves recognition for carrying out similar work, then don't be put off entering by the final myth about the competition which is that the entry form is a hassle to get hold of and is too long and laborious to fill in.

Well, there may have been an element of truth up to and including the 2005 competition but the good news is that for the 2006 competition there will be a new streamlined and simplified entry form. What's more, the new form will be included with the January 2006 issue of Greenkeeper International Magazine.

So with the negative myths about the competition dispelled, the easier entry guaranteed and the prizes as good as ever for 2006 get your entry form in and claim the credit you deserve!

CATEGORIES, WINNERS AND PRIZES

Overall winner - Thorpeness Golf Club - £2,000 & A Scott's Weather Master Station

Regional winners
Scotland - Brighouse Bay Golf Club - £500
Northern - Caldy Golf Club - £500
Midlands - Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club - £500
South East - Rookwood Golf Club - £500
South Wales - Bath Golf Club - £500

Best Newcomer - South Essex Golf Club - £500
Most Impressive Initiative - Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club - £500
Best use of Recycled Products - The Berkshire Golf Club - £500
Gareth Jones unveils the 10 members of the BIGGA Delegation, who are travelling to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in the USA courtesy of Bernhard & Co.

Organising any Exhibition is a complex and arduous task, but when it is on the massive scale of the GCSAA Industry Show, it is just that bit tougher. So spare a thought for the Association as they were forced to move the location of the Show not once, but twice, within the final months leading to the event. Originally scheduled for New Orleans, the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina saw the City's Conference Centre used as a base for those left homeless by the storms.

The GCSAA had no option but to search for a new base for their annual Show and Houston was chosen. Fear rose again as Hurricane Rita locked its radar on the City. Surely lightning wouldn't strike twice? Houston survived the natural disaster, but the GCSAA's luck was still not in - Houston's Convention Centre could not deliver the facilities originally promised.

Starting to think that the entire GCSAA staff had walked under a ladder or driven over a litter of black cats, the Association commenced their third search. Atlanta came to the rescue, offering the required facilities on the same dates for the Show as originally planned for New Orleans - the GCSAA Conference on February 6-11, with the Show 9-11.

Once again 10 BIGGA members will be flown to the United States to experience this incredible event, thanks to sponsors Bernhard & Co. The BIGGA Delegation will not just visit the GCSAA Show and Conference, it will also been taken to some of the most prestigious golf clubs in the State and gain a first hand view of how turf professionals do it the other side of the pond.

THE DELEGATION

Greg Skinner only started his greenkeeping career in 2003, when he joined Lingdale GC. Previously Greg had taken the guise of a National Account Manager for construction company Ingersoll Rand. After wishing to find a new career that he found both enjoyable and rewarding the new man has not looked back since becoming part of the greens team at Lingdale.

"The fact that I made a huge life changing decision to enter the exciting world of greenkeeping demonstrates my enthusiasm and desire to learn. I feel the Delegation will increase my knowledge of the profession," commented the First Assistant.

Matthew Plested has been a BIGGA member for eight years and is currently Deputy Course Manager at Old Fold Manor GC. An ex employee of both Lee on the Solent GC and Hendon GC, Matthew has achieved his NVQ Level 3 at Sparsholt College led to him all the way to the 2004 Toro Student of the Year final. A young and ambitious individual, Alastair is always looking for ways to improve his knowledge and skills.

Fred Deamen is Course Manager at Alton GC, where he has been for over 20 years. A member of BIGGA for 16 years plus, Fred dreams of achieving Master Greenkeeper status in the future. As a senior greenkeeper on the 2006 Delegation, he will have a lot to offer younger members.

Course Manager at Felixstowe Ferry, John Houston has headed seven clubs in total. When John took on his first headship in 1981 at Dorking GC he was the youngest Head Greenkeeper in the Country at the time. Felixstowe were rewarded the Best Newcomer Award in the 2004 BIGGA Golf Environmental Competition.

Speaking about his BIGGA membership John commented: "It gives me great confidence in knowing that there is a great team of people which support greenkeepers. Their help and guidance can support learning and education to help our careers."

Ian Kinley boasts St Andrews and Royal Birkdale on his CV and is presently the top man at Glen Golf Club. Ian believes that a higher profile within the golfing sector would provide the opportunity to present the greenkeeping profession in such a way that the golfing community would be more educated as to why and when certain operations are necessary on the course.

"The trip to Atlanta will provide the opportunity to represent British greenkeeping in such a high profile delegation and ultimately I hope to employ the knowledge gained to raise the standard of British golf courses," said Ian.

Marc Haring is Course Manager at Cumberwell Park GC, a position he has held since 1993. A regular at Harrogate Week, Marc is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable character who plans continued professional development by taking on more responsibility with his company.

Justin Austin has been the headman at Windwhistle GC for the past five years. He thinks more knowledge should be passed to school leavers about greenkeeping. More detailed job descriptions should be placed at school job fairs to highlight that it is a forward thinking career. Justin is looking forward to comparing the American courses with the likes of Troon and St Andrews.

A former caddie on the Ladies European Tour, where he caddied for current Solheim Cup Captain Catrin Nilsmark, Graham Blum is now Course Manager at Trefloyne GC. After 25 years in the fine turf industry the Aussie is now tackling his NVQ Level 3.
"I think I will benefit by attending the Conference and speaking to other greenkeepers in America about how we can make our Association a more harmonious and stronger one," explained Graham.

The 10th member of the BIGGA Delegation is Keith Ratcliffe, Course Manager at Wychwood Park. He has recently passed his Master Greenkeeper Certificate and is an NVQ Assessor. Before taking on a role in golf, Keith spent 21 years in the British Army.

"With my background in the Army and 12 years in greenkeeping I'm equipped to get the most out of the Delegation. I will fly the flag for greenkeeping in the UK," said Keith.

Undoubtedly, despite three moves, the GCSSA Show will be another great success and all 10 members of the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard & Co, will greatly benefit from their experiences in Atlanta.
At his peak, Comedian Lee Hurst entertains the banquet in 1998

In 1998 BIGGA's Golden and Silver Key members donated £44,000 to equip the training room in the newly built BIGGA HOUSE

In 1999 BIGGA's Golden and Silver Key members donated £44,000 to equip the training room in the newly built BIGGA HOUSE

In 1999 witnesses Mr Motivator, Frank Dick OBE, deliver his Keynote speech

Guests get into the 60's groove in Millennium year

GI REMEMBERS THE GOOD TIMES HELD AT HARROGATE IN BYGONE YEARS

In 1999 Showaddywaddy strut their stuff at Harrogate

Linda Nolan performs in 1998, much to the delight of BIGGA's first Executive Director, the late Neil Thomas

The Bootleg Beatles headline at a 60's influenced Exhibition in 2000

Current BIGGA Vice Chairman, Richard Whyman, is presented with his plane tickets as part of the Canadian Scholarship by Stephen Bernhard in 2001

John Pemberton, now BIGGA's Chief Executive, joins The Searchers on stage in 2001
Do What's Good for You!

We can all recall being told what to do and exactly what was good for us as youngsters. Whether it was to eat our greens; wash behind our ears or not sit so close to the telly because it would ruin our eyes, they came in a steady stream and you and I all know what we thought of them.

With that in mind, and with the risk of sounding like your mother, I hesitate to suggest to you that you should get yourself to Harrogate Week because it is exactly what is good for you.

As an opportunity to develop professionally and keep on top of industry developments there is no better place to be in the third week in January. You will have an unrivalled opportunity to quiz world renowned experts in their field if you are suffering a particular problem on your course, or attend workshops in areas you feel you'd like to brush up on your knowledge and skills. Add to that the chance to investigate first hand and thoroughly a new piece of machinery or turf or soil application which might be just right for your course.

Then again there is the Après Show when you can share experiences, tips and solutions with colleagues and friends in a town which offers you as much as Harrogate does. Can you see the pros out weighing the cons massively yet?

Speak with anyone who has taken the plunge in previous years and headed for Harrogate and you will find someone with no regrets and who has been enriched by the experience.

You know it makes sense and it’s more fun than eating your greens!

BTME & ClubHouse Opening Times:
Tuesday 24 January 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesday 25 January 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Thursday 26 January 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

www.harrogatweek.org.uk
Out and About in Harrogate

The most important event in the fine and sports turf industry and club management world is not just about the three day BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions. There’s so much more to the entire week, including seminars, workshops, presentations, receptions and dinners, to name just a few.

Included in this is Harrogate itself, a Yorkshire town that has become interwoven into the whole BIGGA event. So Gareth Jones went exploring to see what Harrogate has to offer both visitors and exhibitors alike.

WHERE TO EAT

Damn Yankee
This fun and lively restaurant has made its name serving freshly prepared American food, from burgers and ribs to steak dishes and fajitas. The walls are adorned with memorabilia and images from The States, with an authentic US atmosphere.

Cattleman’s Association
The only Texan restaurant in Harrogate is famous for its hearty steak and chicken dishes that will satisfy the biggest appetites. The flavours are authentic ‘Old West’ and Mexican, and all the dishes are prepared fresh to order from the highest quality ingredients.

Chez la Vie
Chez La Vie offers a range of classical Mediterranean dishes from their basic menus and blackboard specials. The restaurant offers a wide range of wines from throughout the world. A classic French restaurant with the informality of a Parisian bistro.

Loch Fyne
The menu offers a wide array of delicious entrees, comprising a selection of the freshest seafood and shellfish, the majority of which is sourced direct from the shores of Loch Fyne, Scotland. The restaurant has a contemporary design that creates a light, bright ambience.

Lords
Modern English cuisine with game and seafood specialities. The menu reflects a commitment to producing creative and attractive food using fresh seasonal ingredients resulting in a special blend of English and Continental cuisine.

Salsa Posada
Salsa Posada’s reputation is for Mexican food prepared on the premises using authentic Mexican recipes, served by friendly staff in a vibrant atmosphere. A wide range of cocktails, shooters and Mexican beer are available.

Wing Wah
Wing Wah breaks from the traditional expectations of a Chinese restaurant with its contemporary decor set on two floors, giving a light and airy feel. The menu is authentic and extensive including a wide choice for vegetarians.

The Jinnah Spice Club
Offering a menu designed from several different Asian cultures, the venue provides a dramatic setting for diners looking for a broad menu of dishes. After dinner, guests can relax in the luxurious coffee lounges.

WHERE TO SOCIALISE

Muckle’s
Muckle’s is a large one room operation, comprising a bar area, restaurant and a beer garden. The pub holds a weekly quiz and good quality food is served daily, including sandwiches.

Coach & Horses
Known as one of the last ‘Proper English Pubs’ in Harrogate, the Coach & Horses is a genuine Free House and serves a wide variety of championship ales, guest beers and superb wines.

Blues Bar
The Blues Café Bar has a most unusual stage backdrop - a full size shop window with a panoramic view of Harrogate’s Montpellier Gardens. The bar has hosted such luminaries as Van Morrison, Jools Holland and John Martyn.

Christies
Christies is a very welcoming pub. It is an excellent place to watch your favourite team play with all major matches shown on the big screen. Snacks such as burgers and toasties and specials are available every lunchtime.

Old Bell Tavern
This comprises an atmospheric period bar linked to the adjacent non smoking Farrah Room and also an upstairs Brasserie Dining Room. The bar offers a varying range of eight real ales, two Belgian draught ales and draught Erdinger Weissbier.

Albert’s
Only opened in 2005, Albert’s offers a comfortable and relaxed space to enjoy a few drinks or a meal. From a latte to one of the unique beers, to a cocktail or a bottle of wine from an extensive list, it has it all.

Montey’s Rock Café
Montey’s has an earthy, dark feel, with a music policy of pre recorded rock. The bar boasts a large cocktail and shooter list. Opened in 1996, Montey’s has become a cornerstone of Harrogate nightlife.

Montpellier
This bar has undergone an extensive refurbishment and now offers a range of hand pulled ales and home cooked food. With its open fire and traditional surroundings, food is served seven days a week.
WHERE TO PARTY

Revolution
It is a multi environment concept designed to deliver all aspects of eating, drinking and entertaining with style and glamour. You will find cool, comfortable and contemporary surroundings, with distinct and modern furnishings.

Time
Each of the venue's four rooms has been indulgently designed with the clubber in mind. Music ranges from Soul, funk, and disco and House to chart, party and pop anthems to R'n'B and Hip Hop.

Carringtons
Carringtons is the ideal venue for any taste for a night out. Entertainment includes DJs, Comedians, themed events, VIP function area and live tribute bands. The club boasts four bars and two dance floors, so get your dancing shoes ready.

Cardinal Sins
This is one of the busiest club's in Harrogate. Cardinal Sins DJ's include Tony Walker, Danny Whitehead, Jay Floyd and Tim Lyall, who play a mix of R'n'B and Hip Hop.

Po Na Na
'Po Na Na' means Magical Market Bar and is brought to life with the use of candlelit alcoves, subtle North African original textiles and lanterns. The dance floors are not specifically drawn out allowing customers to sit and chat or dance where they like.

WHERE TO GO - WHEN NOT AT BTME & CLUBHOUSE

Betty's Café Tea Room
Once inside the world famous shop you'll be spoilt for choice with over 300 breads, cakes and chocolates, as well as 50 different teas and coffees. The Café overlooks the Stray and colourful Montpellier gardens.

Traditional Turkish Baths
Treat yourself to a relaxing few hours at the original Victorian Turkish Baths. It includes a Steam Room; three inter-connecting Hot Rooms of varying heat; Tepidarium (warm), the Calidarium (hot), and the Laconium (very hot); Plunge pool; and Frigidarium (Relaxation Room).

Mercer Art Gallery
The Gallery is home to Harrogate district's fine art collection, which consists of some 2000 works of art, mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries. The collection includes works by William Powell Frith, Atkinson Grimshaw and Sir Edward Burne-Jones.

Valley Gardens
The famous Gardens are specially cultivated and are a delight to the eyes and nose, with floral displays leading to pine woods. The Valley Gardens also contain a boating lake, sun pavilion, mini golf, tennis courts and a playground.

Harrogate Theatre
Showing during Harrogate Week 2006 is Bouncers. Lifting the lid on the Friday night experience, this is a send up of the disco scene. Under the watchful eye of the Bouncers, a gaggle of gorgeous girls, a smooth talking DJ, a group of likely lads collide with outrageous results.
Spoilt for Choice

The BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions are the heartbeat of Harrogate Week and they combine to form a One Stop Shop for all fine turf professionals' and club management needs. There will be over 250 Exhibitors at Harrogate Week, all showcasing their latest products and services.

BTME is Europe’s largest indoor specialist turf Show. It serves the sports turf professional and provides solutions to meet their challenge to produce and maintain top quality turf. ClubHouse contains everything to fulfil the desires and wants of the club official, no matter what sport they apply their trade.

You can check out www.harrogateweek.org.uk for more information on exactly who will be at the Show. The dedicated website details everything you’ll ever need to know about Harrogate Week, including who will be at BTME & ClubHouse, where their Stand will be located and what they will be exhibiting, plus much, much more.

Here's a taster of just some of the 250 companies who will be at Harrogate Week.

AFT TRENCHERS
Stand: B11
AFT Trenchers has been manufacturing trenchers for nearly 40 years, and our products are well known to turf professionals the world over. On display is the AFT 45 chain trencher suited to compact tractors plus the AFT WizzWheel 55 wheel trencher for installing slits from 50 to 125mm wide, to a depth of up to 550mm. We also have the revolutionary AFT Sandbander, which installs 25mm wide and 250mm deep slits with consolidated sand, even if wet and to complement this, we have recently launched our Multi-Use Trailer which offers users a very versatile machine.

BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Stand: Q123
No visit to Harrogate Week would be complete without a visit to the host's own Stand Q123. Well it would be rude not to wouldn't it? It is the perfect opportunity to put a face to the voice on the phone, renew or take out membership or simply collect some of the literature or membership forms you have misplaced at home.

Whatever the reason that brings you to the stand you are sure of a warm welcome from everyone. It will also give you the chance to ask that question. You know, the one you've always intended to ask but have not been too keen to from the audience of a seminar or conference. If no-one can help straightaway they will guarantee to get it for you - or, better still, arrange for the relevant person to provide you with the answer personally - as soon as possible.

Or you can simply use the stand as a meeting point for you and your colleagues. With two shows - BTME and ClubHouse - it is easy to become distracted, wander off in the wrong direction and become detached.

Whatever the reason make sure you make a point of visiting BIGGA on Stand Q123.

BARENBRUG
Stand: A20
Barenbrug is unveiling a new traditional mixture for golf tees, fairways and roughs called BAR 20. Introduced to provide customers with a 100 per cent fescue mix, which is increasingly specified for links and heathland courses, it contains Bardur for improved drought tolerance and sward density.

Also new is an improved formulation of BAR All Bent, for fine turf applications. It now contains 50 per cent BarKing, an outstanding new cultivar which offers superb winter colour and wear tolerance. The company is also showing a new formulation of BAR Extreme, which has been strengthened for wear tolerance with the addition of Bareuro.

BIOIBERICA
Stand: Q13
Bioiberica is a Spanish company which produces biomolecules for the pharmaceutical, agricultural, veterinary and animal nutrition industries.

In the Golf Course market, Bioiberica has 10 years of experience in US and seven years in UK, where it has pioneered the development of Amino Acid based biostimulant fertilisers for the stress management of turf grass plants. The products Amino-Sorb F and R have become a reference in the UK market to help greenkeepers better manage their problems such as drought, hear, cold, waterlogging, anaerobic conditions, shadow, traffic, etc. Bioiberica welcomes you to know more about how these products will help you better manage your turf stresses.
Extending Your Learning

With the completion of the Queen's Suite within Harrogate International Centre BIGGA has vastly expanded its Continue to Learn Programme for 2006, which means that it really does offer something for everyone. Greenkeeper International takes a peek at the upcoming Education highlights at Harrogate Week 2006.

Sunday 22 & Monday 23 January 2006
Two-Day Workshops

The Greenkeepers' Guide to Project Management - Powerful Lessons in Planning and Performance
Presented by Frank Newberry, Director of Enjoyable Seminars Ltd. This fully interactive workshop uses the delegates' personal experiences of planning and organising complex tasks.

Taking the Fear out of Financial Management
Presented by Brin Bendon, Director of Vector Training Ltd, and Andy Campbell MG, CGCS. Golf Courses and Estates Manager, De Vere Carden Park. Focuses on the manager's role in effective budgetary control on the golf course.

Monday 23 January 2006
Customer Care - Avoiding the Machete
Presented by Michael John, Managing Director of Kielder Newport West Ltd. This will examine the various aspects of Customer Care in a totally practical and amusing way.

From Rain To Drain - Managing Water
Presented by Dennis and Adrian Mortram. They will explore various methods of managing water in the rootzone from application of water by natural precipitation and irrigation, water relationships in the rootzone and the removal of excess water by drainage.

Tuesday 24 January 2006
Opening Session and Keynote Speaker
The session will include the Chairman's Address, the presentation of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition prizes and Master Greenkeeper Certificates. The presentation of awards will be followed by the Keynote Speaker, Colonel John Blashford-Snell. Entrance to the Opening Session and Keynote Speaker is Free of Charge to all visitors.

The Fairway to Better Communication - How to Influence Others Without Getting into a Fight!
Presented by Brin Bendon, Director of Vector Training. This seminar will give attendees guidance on how to project a confident and positive self-image, giving them the knowledge to be able to influence those around them, while helping to build and maintain productive working relationships.

Environmental Management
Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen
Led by three leading experts in the field of environmental management of golf courses - Jonathan Smith, Committed to Green Foundation, Lee Penrose, STRI, and Carolyn Hedley, SGEG. This will enable you to find out just how much of an environmental steward you are. You will be assisted in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of your current approach to environmental issues.

Wednesday 25 January 2006
Working Together in Golf Club Management
Presented jointly by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, BIGGA and the English Golf Union, this programme of seminars is aimed at golf club officials, golf club secretaries, golf club managers and golf course managers. Presentation titles include How to set up your Course for a Championship; The EGU Community; What is in the Legal Pipeline for Secretaries?; and Security and Risk Management for Greenkeepers and Golf Clubs, plus much more.

Taking the Lid off the Box - Media Skills and Strategy Training
Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen
Presented by Roger Greenwood, Television Producer/Director, Goodwood Productions Ltd. This will help delegates to understand and appreciate the power of the media and the importance of handling it well. Offering practical skills on how to deal confidently and successfully with the various styles of media.

Thursday 26 January 2006
Managing Weeds to Tournament Standards - Managing Poa Annua
Presented by Peter Jones MSc, MBPR, Managing Director, Peter Jones Associates Ltd. Here the view held by some purists that poa annua is a weed and has no place on a golf green will be challenged. This will explain many of the important maintenance principles that can be used to get the best from greens that are dominated by poa annua.

Thursday 26 & Friday 27 January 2006
Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course
Presented jointly by The R&A and BIGGA, this session will focus on promoting sustainable golf courses, concentrating on grass species selection. A Thursday afternoon of presentations will be followed by an open debate on Friday morning.

Speakers include Steve Isaac, The R&A; Chris Haspell, Hørsholm Golf A/S, Denmark; Alistair Beggs, STRI; and Gordon Irvine MG, Golf Course Consultant.

Fringe Seminars
These will run from Tuesday to Thursday and will be presented by exhibiting companies on a number of interesting and varied topics. These half hour sessions are totally free for all attending the Harrogate Week.
On the Look Out

There’s plenty going on within the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions - the heart of Harrogate Week. Here are some of the things to look out for while you’re exploring the vast array of Stands at the Exhibitions.

Museum
Take a walk back in time through the History of Turfcare. See the tools and equipment that were used in yesteryear.

Internet Café
The successful BIGGA Internet Café, sponsored by Pitchcare.com, will help you to keep in touch with the outside world while you are away from home.

Relaxation Zone
Judy Holroyde ITEC, AOSM, will be at BTME & ClubHouse offering Acupressure, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage. A short therapy session will not only relax you but will also revitalise you.

BIGGA Manx TT Motorbike Racing Competition
Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen
Take part in a competition to be the fastest around the track. Sit on a Manx TT motorbike simulator and wait for the adrenaline to start pumping. Fly through the streets and get your knee down for those tight Manx bends.

BIGGA 9 Hole Competition
Win £1,000 in holiday vouchers by picking up a scorecard at an entrance to the Exhibition. Visit the stands shown on your card, have it stamped, pop it in an entry box and your in the draw for a dream prize - simple.

International Lounge
The International Lounge is available for all International visitors and exhibitors. This will provide a relaxed atmosphere in which to do business or chat with fellow travellers.

Exhibitors’ Business Lounge
The Exhibitors’ Lounge is available to all exhibitors. A comfortable place to discuss business or relax and chat with fellow exhibitors.

The BIGGA Stand
Hall Q, Stand Q123
The BIGGA staff will be on hand to give advice and information on all Association matters. Why not visit the BIGGA Stand for a chat and the chance to put a face to the name of the person you only ever talk to on the phone?