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HARROGATE WEEK 2012 THE REVIEW

FEATURE

HARROGATE Week 2012

THE REVIEW
A week like no other

Scott MacCallum takes you through events at Harrogate Week 2012

When BIGGA’s Chairman, Andrew Mellon, expertly snipped the famous green ribbon to announce the opening of BTME 2012, it was to herald the start of three days which would go down as among the most successful in the 23 year history of the Show.

But even before that ribbon was sliced, all the signs had pointed towards a successful week.

The Continue to Learn programme, which had kicked off two days earlier on the Sunday, had seen high quality speakers attracting impressive numbers of delegates eager to take the opportunity to learn.

Additionally, weather, which had been extremely poor in advance of the Show, was much better and visitors could leave their golf courses safe in the knowledge that freezing or thaw damage was not going to happen.

A great sign of what was to come during the week.

The first scheduled event was of particular significance as it marked the debut of BIGGA’s latest addition to the week – the Showfloor Theatre, which was situated at the rear of the BIGGA stand in Hall B.

The venue for all of the Award presentations, as well as Personal Development Zone events, the first function was the presentation of the Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The IGCEMA (The International Golf Course Equipment Managers’ Association) Award recognises individuals who go above and beyond for the turf equipment management profession.

The 2011 winner was Wes Dan McGrath, of North Foreland Golf Club and Anthony Wainwright, of Turton Golf Club, were honoured as Overall Achievement Award and Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year winners, respectively.

An excellent Personal Development session on “How to write a CV and covering letter” followed, before another set of presentations.

This time it was for some of BIGGA’s very own programmes – CPD Diplomas and then three of the five latest Master Greenkeepers were honoured.

Dan McGrath, of North Foreland GC; Mike Rhul, of St Mellion GC and Steven Ternney Golfpark Nuolen, Switzerland, received their certificates recognising their achievement.

Two others, Justin Ruiz, from Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, in Washington State, USA, and Curtis Tyrrell, from Medina Country Club, in Illinois, USA, will be awarded their Certificates at the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas.

Collectively they bring the total number of Certificates awarded to 60. Incidentally, Curtis will fly the Master Greenkeeper flag while preparing for the Ryder Cup later this year.

Elsewhere in the Show, the Museum was proving to be a big hit. Celebrating 100 Years of Greenkeeping Awards and 25 Years of BIGGA the Museum, was situated at the rear of Hall A. It featured a Timeline stretching back to when Fred Hawtree launched the GGA in 1912, right through to the present day.

The Museum, which was conceived and organised by BIGGA Past Chairman, Elliott Small, and run during the week by Past BIGGA Chairman and BIGGA North East Section Secretary, Jimmy Richardson, also boasted displays of trophies, minute books, photographs and other sundry items which had been donated by members. Jimmy was also elected a BIGGA Life Member at the AGM. Our thanks to everyone who assisted in creating a very interesting and successful 2012 feature, which proved popular with BIGGA members old and young alike.

Legendary English goalkeeper, Peter Shilton (right), was kept busy on the Everviss Stand on Tuesday, signing footballs for visitors and posing for pictures. He was followed on Wednesday by rugby league star, Bernie McDermott (above) who signed balls of a different shape.

Down in the Media Centre, under Hall A, Headland Amenity, The Grasp Group, Ransomes Jacobsen, Campey and the IOG were briefing the press on the new products and initiatives they were launching during the week, while Syngenta used its stand to unveil its latest addition to the product portfolio.

The range of Seminars (left) going on all day in the Queen’s Suite, as part of the main or fringe programmes was extraordinary, and by the end of the week 2359 delegates had experienced a combined total of 3,894 hours of education.

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The Week began with the continuation of a Development Zone events, the first function was the presentation of the Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The KICEMA (The International Golf Course Equipment Managers’ Association) Award recognises individuals who go above and beyond for the turf equipment management profession.

The 2011 winner was Wes Danielewicz, Wes, from Illinois, USA, has been involved in the industry for over 25 years and much of that time has been spent with the Turf Equipment Technicians Association (TET). Wes continues to serve as Executive Director.

Wes who attended BTME as part of his prize was presented with the Award by Dave Witters, President of Jacobsen, and former KICEMA Board Member, Chris Minton, of The Belfry.

This was followed by the presentation of the STRI Golf Environment Awards, where Lech Le mont Golf Club and Anthony Wainwright, of Turton Golf Club, were honoured as Overall Achievement Award and Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year winners, respectively.

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To the rear of the BIGGA stand in Hall B, The Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, in Illinois, USA, will have donated by members. Jimmy Richard- son, also boasted displays of trophies, minute books, photographs and other sundry items which had been donated by members. Jimmy was was elected a BIGGA Life Member at the AGM.

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Legendary English goalkeeper, Peter Shilton (right), was kept busy on the Everris Stand on Tuesday, signing footballs for visitors and posing for pictures.
Wednesday is traditionally the busiest day of the three and 2012 was no exception. Many felt it had been hectic on the Tuesday they were to be amused on Wednesday when 800 more visitors came through the doors than on the previous day.

With positive comments coming from exhibitors, many of them hoarse from talking with visitors at their stands, there was a genuine feel good factor at work within the Halls.

Dinner in the Media Centre, Rigby Taylor/Top Green; DLF TriHitum; Charterhouse; British Seed Houses; Complete Weed Control; the European Tour who both paid tributes to WHERE, as well as bringing the evening, including the Show or BIGGA related questions.

But for many the highlight of the day came later with BIGGA’s 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening in the Old Swan Hotel.

A total of 340 guests enjoyed a hearty meal and special birthday cake at the evening which was kindly sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The main speakers were BIGGA’s President; Sir Michael Bonallack and Ken Schofield CBIE, the former Executive Director of the PGA European Tour who both paid tribute to BIGGA and its members for raising the standards of golf course condition over the last 25 years.

It was wonderful to hear that such work was appreciated by the two men, who were at the top of the R&A and Tour respectively for the hallmark of BIGGA’s existence.

Dave Wither, Jacobsen and Andrew Melon spoke passionately and amusingly on the industry, while the nominated Chairman’s charity, and recipient of the raffle, was young and was also present to deliver a speech to Harrogate. Unfortunately he had to sit on Sunday 25th January.

Progress is being made, but just not fast enough for some of us so your generosity that might well allow us to invest further in our quest to make leukaemia a history.

I thank you once again and note that some of you indicated that your golf club would offer a round of golf for an auction prize at some of our forthcoming events and if that remains the case please contact me at gc@fitzpatrickandco.co.uk

Our website is going live at makeleukaemiahistory.org and 100% of money donated will go directly to funding research.

Gerry Considine

HARROGATE WEEK 2012 THE REVIEW

Letter of thanks from Gerry Considine on behalf of Make Leukaemia History

I would like to thank all of you for your incredible generosity for donating £2500 at the BIGGA 25th Anniversary dinner on 24th January.

Every penny of the money raised will go to the Leukaemia Research Centre in Glasgow, which incorporates the latest research technologies and attracts international leaders in leukaemia research who translate laboratory findings into new medicines for patients.

Your very kind donation was a 90-year-old boy at the dinner whose parents I spoke to before travelling on Sunday 29th January.

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Your generosity that night will remain the case please contact me...
Continue to Learn in pictures
“The education justifies our time here. The workshops have a good mix of courses for all levels, are well delivered and interactive, which helps delegates get involved. I attended the Turf Managers Conference for the first time, and enjoyed the individual speakers and mix of subjects”

Barry Neville, Course Manager Stanmore GC

“Congratulations to the BIGGA team for putting on an excellent event. It was great to feel a positive mood amongst the industry its members”

Simon Elsworth, Head EAME Turf & Landscape, Syngenta

“Just to say a big thank you for last week, the hospitality at the BIGGA dinner was superb. The conference and education continues to improve every year, so congratulations on a great show. Everyone I spoke to at the show was extremely positive and buoyant.”

David Cole
Golf Course Superintendent / Estate Manager
Loch Lomond

“I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the team for another great show and education programme. I thoroughly enjoyed the event and the Tuesday night dinner was a joy and honour to attend. Congratulations to everyone there at HQ and all your efforts are greatly appreciated.”

Dan McGrath MG
Course Manager,
North Foreland Golf Club

“A great success – a positive atmosphere throughout the event. Wednesday was fantastic and our seminar well attended”

Karen Roberts
Marketing Communications Manager EAME, Syngenta Crop Protection

“Congratulations to the BIGGA team for putting on an excellent event. It was great to feel a positive mood amongst the industry its members”

Simon Elsworth, Head EAME Turf & Landscape, Syngenta

“I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Harrogate, and found it a really worthwhile experience. I live and work in a very remote area, and it is all too easy to become detached and isolated from the rest of the industry. Spending two days at the show allowed me the opportunity to not only catch up on advancements in machinery and agronomic technology, but also to meet a lot of professional people who had either never had the opportunity to speak with before, or who I had met previously but had not seen for a long time. I came back to Machrie with renewed enthusiasm and increased product knowledge, and I have no doubt that my employers and the members of the Islay Golf Club will benefit from this experience.”

Simon Freeman
Course Manager
The Machrie, Islay
First time visitor