A memorable week at BTME 2013

It has to be the best BTME ever for education. Taking the Turf Managers’ Conference to a larger venue with better conference facilities was a great success.

I feel this week has proved once and for all that BTME is THE show to visit, the feeling everywhere is positive. Now our focus shifts to next year’s show which promises to be even bigger and better. Before that however, we need to continue to drive for membership.

The association is strong but we need to continue to engage with younger greenkeepers and those that are new to the profession ensuring they know the value that BIGGA membership brings.

I want members who came to BTME to spread the word about BIGGA membership.

The EdgeMax bedknife from TORO is manufactured from hardened tool steel to stay sharper up to three times longer than standard bedknives. Its superior performance ensures a cleaner cut for healthier turf and significantly reduces maintenance time and costs. We believe EdgeMax is the ultimate bedknife for all our DPA (Dual Precision Adjustment) cutting units, enabling you to get the best from your cylinder mower. Speak to your Toro dealer today and insist on genuine Toro parts.

I’d like to all thank all the team at HQ and the Regional Administrators who have done a fantastic job in preparing for this show and working so hard during it. The James Bond Night which they organised was a great success – everyone I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed it.

Cheers
Tony
Bon Jovi wrote a song called "I’ll sleep when I’m dead." I certainly slept the sleep of the dead the weekend following the most successful Conference to Learn education programme ever! Now that I’m back at the Turf Managers’ Conference and giving us a capacity audience for the FTMI will take place at Ban’somes 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.

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 BIGGA Stand will take place at Ban’somes Jacobson’s headquarters in Ipswich from 3 – 5 April 2013.

The FTMI will take place at Ban’somes Jacobson’s headquarters in Ipswich from 3 – 5 April 2013.
Learning & Development

Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education issues

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The Ryder Cup academy was extremely popular with near or capacity audiences. Featuring course managers Jim McKenzie (Celtic Manor, 2010), Curtis Tyrrell, MG, CCGS (Medinah, 2013) and Steve Chambers (Gleneagles, 2014) entertaining the audience behind the scenes stories, photographs and experiences. Curtis thoroughly enjoyed 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-book for BIGGA members worked fairly well, but will have a polish for next year to improve the system. My thanks go to those patient audience who had to stand in queues and experience my loud voice! My personal thanks go to all the presenters who provided 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

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.

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#BTME2013 @BIGGALtd

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), Clive Ogard (South East) and Jane Jones (South West/ South Wales) were all on hand to welcome members from all five regions.

A section/region map display 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 board.

Watch out for information on the next annual 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 (Scotland), 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 windcheater, the navy blue trousers and jackets, the navy blue golf caps, the golden BIGGA fleeces 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 email membership@bigga.co.uk or by telephone 01347 833800 select option 1.

BIGGA House 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

Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI)

The Jacobsen 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 manager.

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.
InDUStrY UpDate
The latest turf industry news from around the globe

"Knowing that the bridge requires no attention for decades after installation gives me peace of mind, so I can focus on the more important matters of course management and presentation," said Matt Beaver, superintendent at Arnold Palmer’s Bay Hill Club & Lodge.

InfraCore Golf Bridges are a revolutionary new product for the golf and landscape business. Based on both a proven technology and more than 10 years of bridge development, construction and sales to the civil engineering sector across Europe, this highly sustainable fibre-resin composite material is stronger than steel whilst being lighter and far easier to install.

The bridges offer considerable advantages over other more traditional materials such as:
• 50 year warranty
• Maintenance free
• Environmentally friendly with a very low carbon footprint
• 10x stronger than steel
• Easy half day installation.

Bridges are available as either single span, multi span or modular system swamp bridges and come in a wide variety of colour schemes and railing options as can be seen at www.infracoregolfbridges.com/bridge-builder

InfraCore Golf bridges is the smart, durable, economical and sustainable solution for golf course design, new construction or renovation.

The Recent civil powers awarded to the Environment Agency provide additional measures to ensure compliance with the new EU Water Framework Directive.

The Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System ensures full compliance with this new legislation. Equipment wash-off, vehicle refuelling, degreasing, chemical mixing and any other potentially polluting activities can all be safely undertaken on the wash pad. Better still, the Recycling Wash-Off System also reduces wash water usage by up to 90%!

The Above-Ground Systems allow easy maintenance and the innovative design means you don’t need to install our systems in a building or a container.

NEW FACE AT FARMURA
Farmura are pleased to announce the appointment of Graham O’Connor as Field Sales and Technical Specialist for Scotland. His role will be to highlight the benefits of using the well established Farmura range of Liquid Organic fertilisers, Aquatrol water management products, liquid fertilisers and other specialist turf products.

Graham initially trained as a production engineer and this was the field in which he worked until he moved to Glasgow in 2004. Then under the watchful eye of Stuart Taylor at Glasgow Golf Club, Graham retrained as a greenkeeper.

In November 2008 Graham was appointed a Technical Sales Manager at Symbio and it is from this role that he takes his passion for sustainable greenkeeping to Farmura.

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Super micro-granulation, the incorporation of zeolite with the addition of Activate XL biostimulant and ERD technology, make Microlite fertilizers the most advanced turf fertilizers available from Rigby Taylor.

- Enhanced granule flowability
- Superior application accuracy
- Improved shoot mass and length
- Rapid granule breakdown
- Consistent nutrient release
- Six different analyses
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www.rigbytaylor.com Freephone 0800 424 919 E-mail: sales@rigbytaylor.com
SuNDay

My first BTME began early on the Sunday morning. After briefly helping out with registration I joined a group of ten greenkeepers – mostly deputies – in the ‘So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager’ Workshop in the Queen’s Suite on the first morning.

This two-day Workshop was jointly presented by Peter Jones, Principal Consultant at PJA Golf Consultancy and Kevin Munt, Principal Consultant at KMgc – and they immediately instigated an ‘ice breaker’ where the delegates interviewed each other to put everyone at ease.

What struck me immediately was how forthcoming and honest the attendees were. All manner of subjects – from politics in the golf club to health and safety issues – were discussed within the framework of a series of modules designed to prepare you for a Course Management role. It was well-paced and highly informative – and the group of ten meant that all the attendees mingled well and had considerable input.

After the sessions Craig Wilson, greenkeeper from St Andrews Links Trust, said: “It’s been very worthwhile. The presenters were very well-prepared and I can take so much knowledge from it as I progress my career.”

All the other sessions covered a huge range of the skills required at all levels of the industry including ‘Improve Your IT Skills’ hosted by Jacky Lowe from Training Gem, ‘Irrigation System Design and Water Management’ with Adrian Mortram of Robin Hume Associates and Frank Newberry’s ‘Moving Into Management’.

The evening saw turf professionals from across the world mingling with BIGGA HQ staff at Albert’s restaurant. Remarkably, the restaurant was marking its final night of business. It was a microcosm of BTME – board members mingling with greenkeepers, international turf experts and motivational leaders. I took the opportunity to have a quick chat with Curtis Tyrrell, who revealed he had thrown himself into British culture by sampling curry, then fish and chips for the first time in his life!

MONDAY

The Workshops continued on Monday and overnight snow did not deter greenkeepers from across the UK attending the third Turf Managers’ Conference – held for the first time outside the main Halls at The Crown Hotel, a mere snowball toss from the Harrogate International Centre.

Some delegates showed superb commitment to drive long distances to Harrogate in tricky conditions and were rewarded with an opening presentation from the charismatic Dr Thom Nikolai concentrating on lightweight rolling.

Meanwhile, the HIC was a hive of activity as the final preparations were made to transform the previously empty halls into a suitably impressive showcase for new products and machinery.

It was remarkable to see how physical exertion and meticulous planning combined as contractors worked throughout the afternoon and early evening to build stands, roll in machinery and prepare for the biggest turf exhibition in Europe.
Steve Castle runs through the week at his first ever BTME...

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Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013

As the education continued, BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibition – joined by Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey and CEO Jim Croxton. He would later describe as one of the “greatest honours” of his life. Visitors immediately poured into the halls, with a real buzz developing through the morning as hundreds of greenkeepers, exhibitors and all manner of turf industry professionals mingled to talk business, examine new and exciting products, or catch up over a quick coffee.

The Media Centre – lighter and more spacious due to its new home in Hall E – swung into action with a virtual Aston Martin driving game also on show with a few controversial corner cutting manoeuvres resulting in the odd ‘road rage’ incident on the track.

Top gambler proved to be Helen Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who won a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Carl Chamberlain from Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who defied some difficult conditions to win the trophy, which was made up of the grounds of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Rigby Taylor.

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After a successful yet tiring day, a celebratory evening was required and the main hall at the Old Swan Hotel – the BIGGA team’s base for the week – was transformed into an impressive 007-themed arena. The Golden Girls proved predictably popular, as did the professional dancers and the excellent meal. As the evening progressed various courses could be heard emanating from the busy gambling tables – fortunately no real money was frittered away.

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Exhibitors thrilled with BTME

121 exhibitors travelled from far and wide to BTME 2013. The staggering variety of exhibitors is unsurpassed in the turf industry – from colleges to major machinery companies, from sustainability and charitable organisations to golf art stands. I finally had the opportunity to tour the halls as the exhibition due to a close on Thursday and was amazed to see the variety of stands, products and items on offer.

“We were very grateful to Harrogate – who were located close to the BIGGA stand in Hall B – for sponsoring the promotional bags and lapwars and it was clear that they were enjoying a successful BTME,” BIGGA Managing Director Ian Kerry, below, said: “I can honestly say it’s been a fantastic show. We’ve had quality visitors expressing genuine interest, for example we’ve had enquries about demoing some of our products in February with a real view to buying in March and April.

“The exhibition really is complemented by the education BIGGA put on, which in my opinion is the pinnacle of the turf industry, it attracts greenkeepers who then attend the exhibition later in the week.”

Thanks to all the exhibitors who defied some difficult travelling conditions before the exhibition to make the journey to Harrogate. For more exhibitor viewpoints, please turn to page 26.
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013

TUESDAY

As the education continued, BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibition itself – joined by Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey and CEO Jim Croxtom. He would later describe as one of the “greatest honours” of his life. Visitors immediately poured into the halls, with a real buzz developing through the morning as hundreds of greenkeepers, exhibitors and all manner of turf industry professionals mingled to talk business, examine new and exciting products, or catch up over a quick coffee.

The Media Centre – lighter and more spacious due to its new home – was transformed into an impressive 907-themed arena. The ‘Golden Girls’ proved predictably popular, as did the professional dancers and the excellent meal. As the evening progressed various courses could be heard emanating from the busy gambling tables – fortunately no real money was frittered away.

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WEDNESDAY

With the roads clearing and snow warnings vanishing, the middle day of the exhibition saw things really accelerate in the halls. A packed media briefing mid-morning on the Everris stand and was genuinely staggered to see how busy the halls had become, with some visitors having to jostle for space. As Lee Price from Myerscough College commented – the halls were “saturated” as unique visitors arrived joining those who were returning for a second day.

The evening saw success rewarded at the STRI Golf Environment Awards dinner at the terrific Hotel du Vin, while the hardy visitors continued enjoying the restaurant, pubs and bars of Harrogate. It’s no exaggeration to say the local economy enjoyed a considerable boost when BTME rolls into town.

THURSDAY

Traditionally the quietest day, visitor numbers held up in comparison with previous years and with no activity in the Media Centre it gave me a chance to speak to some of the exhibitors to gauge the mood. I was pleased to see many still busy and deep in conversation with visitors, although I had chance to grab a quick chat with Richard Fry of Rigby Taylor, who pronounced himself “very, very happy” with how the week had gone.

Another feature of BTME 2013 was the proliferation of international visitors – statistics showed 10% of delegates had flown in from overseas reinforcing the association’s claim it was truly a global show.

It was a tired but happy BIGGA team that slowly returned home after the event which the rest of the year always leads up to. There was a real feeling of a job well done – but it would be foolish to be complacent. Trade shows must continue to evolve, and the hundreds of comments gathered this week – both positive and negative – will be taken on board as preparations begin for what promises to be an even bigger show next January.
Exhibitors in pictures
A snapshot of the exhibitors on show in the packed halls of the Harrogate International Centre

Amongst the many highlights of our Continue to Learn Programme were the Ryder Cup themed sessions on the Tuesday.

This began in the early afternoon as Curtis Tyrrell MG, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club, presented ‘Ryder Cup 2012 – Preparations, Challenges, Outcomes’. The audience was enthralled as the amiable American explained the incredible level of preparation, and attention to detail required to host one of the world’s biggest sporting events.

Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, then took things a step further by revealing his challenges and aims as the legendary venue prepares for the Ryder Cup next year. Later in the afternoon, Curtis and Steve were joined by Jim McKenzie from Celtic Manor, who led his team through atrocious conditions during the 2010 tournament. They were asked a series of questions by the attendees rounding off a truly unique day of industry education.

Greg Skinner from Forest Hill Golf and Country Club spoke for many of the delegates when he said: “It was compelling and exceptionally well presented. Curtis’s experience is almost a different world to what some of the guys here are involved in on a day to day basis, but it really was a fascinating afternoon.”

The one and two day workshops held on the Sunday and Monday were very successful with Thom Nikolaj’s ‘ABC’s of Putting Green Maintenance’ and Paul Miller’s ‘The Turfgrass Plant’ in particular receiving rave reviews.

The new for 2013 bite size ‘Focus On’ sessions on the Tuesday and Wednesday were another success, looking at specific subjects within the areas of Management, Technical, Computer Skills and Ecology. These sessions complemented the ever popular fringe seminars. One such seminar was ‘New XC Technology – a Breakthrough in Application Technology for Golf’. This looked at Syngenta’s specially designed new XC nozzles which are designed to revolutionise the application of foliar applied products to golf courses and other sloping areas. Syngenta’s Technical Manager Simon Watson was joined by Technical Sales Manager Henry Bechelet to explore its possibilities and answer questions.

Lee Relf travelled from Wil- dernesse Golf Club in Kent and said: “It’s been brilliant. I did the Diagnostics and Problem Solving workshop on Monday, which was really good and have been to a lot of the seminars. The education is always first class.” Curtis Tyrrell added: “I’ve had the greatest feedback on my presentation. It’s a great setup you’ve got here. I’ve seen some cool stuff and it’s been a first class show.”

Thanks to everyone who attended the seminars, workshops and the Turf Managers’ Conference and to the speakers who made the week so memorable. Over 180 hours of top-class education took place with the Queen’s Suite buzzing throughout. Rest assured planning has already begun for another superb education programme at BTME 2014.