

Sample the Sun,

the Sand  
and the Surf...

in Anaheim and  
San Diego, California, whilst attending the

# GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW 1993

TRAVEL WITH BIGGA to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's prestigious annual Conference and Show next January – and while you're there, enjoy the holiday of a lifetime!

If you're ready to catch the magic, Anaheim, California, is ready for you! BIGGA has this year joined forces with Thomas Cook to transport you to 'the Magic Kingdom', with the option of a four day trip to San Diego after the GCSAA Conference – sun, sand and surf!

We have this year chosen two outstanding luxury hotels:

◆ **The Anaheim Hilton and Towers**, a superior first class hotel, is situated 50 feet from the Anaheim Convention Center and two blocks from Disneyland. Guest rooms have climate control, colour cable TV and radio. There is an outdoor heated pool and four jacuzzis, full health club with sauna, massage, tanning beds, steam room, exercise equipment and aerobics, games room, and beauty salon. There's also a vast range of entertainment and dining facilities – sample Italian, Japanese and of course Californian cuisine.

◆ **The Hyatt Islandia**, another superior first class hotel in San Diego, located on Mission Bay. Guest rooms are air-conditioned with private bath, remote-control colour cable TV, radio and phone. The Islandia Bar and Grill offers fine Mediterranean cuisine with bay views at lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. There is a heated outdoor pool, whirlpool, tennis courts, sail boat rentals, windsurfing, water-skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving and parasailing and whale watching (in season!).

Details of the GCSAA programme will be available from headquarters at a later date.

#### ◆ Package 1

25th January to 5th February 1993

London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin

Atlantic – 25th January

Transfer to Anaheim Hilton

6 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-

31st January

Transfer to San Diego – 31st January

4 nights Hyatt Islandia – 31st January-

4th February

Transfer to Los Angeles Airport

Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic –

4th February (to arrive in UK on 5th)

Cost: Twin Room £842 per person

Cost: Single Room £1,266 per person

#### ◆ Package 2

25th January to 1st February 1993

London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin

Atlantic – 25th January

Transfer to Anaheim Hilton

7 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-

1st February

Transfer to Airport

Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic –

1st February (to arrive in UK on 2nd)

Cost: Twin Room £689 per person

Cost: Single Room £1,004 per person.

Insurance: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95;

Anaheim only £34.80.

## BOOKING FORM

GCSAA Conference and Show, Anaheim

Please return to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF

Full name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Name(s) of additional passengers: .....

PACKAGE 1: ANAHEIM/SAN DIEGO .....

Twin Room: £842.00. Number of persons: .....

Single Room: £1266.00. Number of persons: .....

PACKAGE 2: ANAHEIM .....

Twin Room: £689.00. Number of persons: .....

Single Room: £1004.00. Number of persons: .....

Insurance: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95 • Anaheim only £34.80

GI.12.92

I shall/shall not\* require Insurance (\*delete as applicable)

#### CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

If cancelled more than 42 days before departure date: cancellation charge will be the deposit; 42-29 days before departure: 20% of total holiday cost; 28-15 days before departure: 30% of total holiday cost; 14-4 days before departure: 55% of total holiday cost; 3-1 days before departure: 70% of total holiday cost. No refund for non-appearance. Under certain circumstances, cancellation charges are covered by the comprehensive travel insurance policy. As cover is provided by the insurance company from the date of purchase of the policy, insurance premiums are not refundable and are excluded from the total holiday price for the purpose of calculating cancellation charges.

I enclose a deposit of £100.00 per person plus insurance payment (if required).

Total enclosed: .....

# LETTERS

Write to the editor,  
Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL

■ Quite the most rewarding part of the BIGGA S.W. Region seminar at Cannington College on 3 November was the professional contribution to the proceedings by three young men, giving maiden speeches and speaking with assurance and expertise on such varying subjects. Neil Macintyre spoke on reducing the effects of winter wear on courses, Jason Hampton on educating the members in understanding the greenkeepers' problems, and Guy Woods on how he reclaimed his downland course from the vicious spiral of 'high phosphate fertilisers and an inefficient three head irrigation system', and is now well on the way to restoring it to its old quality.

All good interesting material, well thought out and spoken with conviction. We need more of this – shaming those 'professional' speakers who insult their audiences by reading out text from slides, stuff which all but the novices have learned long ago, or is frankly wrong!

At Cirencester, by far the best talks (Jon Allbutt excepted) were by senior greenkeepers. Good on you – we need more of this and less of the other!

Congratulations, Gordon Child, on a very good seminar and congratulations also to his three young men, from whom not even a memorable contribution on golf architecture by Donald Steel could steal the show.

JIM ARTHUR, B.Sc.(AGRIC).  
Budleigh Salterton, E.Devon

■ I have read your magazine for some time now – in an unofficial capacity – and enjoy the many interesting articles. Rarely, it seems, it is read by those employed to look after the interests of Birmingham's municipal golf courses, judging by the widespread and long-standing frustration of those who 'pay to play' these courses. Such frustration was raised as recently as the Birmingham Alliance Public Golf Course Club's Captains Day in September and voiced again at their recent quarterly general meeting. Their reaction to an apparent non-existent greenkeeping policy should be understood

by your goodself.

Teas, greens, bunkers, fairways – without exception all suffer from the malaise of poor husbandry in varying degrees. Members at my own club, Boldmore, have endured long standing 'placing' of the ball, due to soggy fairways below water tables, our two lakes often awash with dead fish and effluent. We are told that necessary plant to clear blocked and neglected ditches cannot get on the course, due to these dreadful ground conditions. Yarrow, clover, daisies and moss all invade the course and have done so for years as the greens and tees decline – it is terrible to witness.

If any members of your Association work on these public courses I suggest they are a disgrace to the high ideals of such a professional body. Incompetence reigns alongside apathy – even simple 'swishing' of greens in now disregarded, allowing fusarium to become established, and there is clover, moss and yarrow on greens and bunker edges. The entire course is a disgrace, with real rough a mere pace from the putting surfaces – I am not joking!

The public courses in Birmingham are testimony to poor management and a lack of correct work procedures: seeding of fairways or tees – forget it! Repairs to areas worn by tractors and trailers – forget it! Consistent greens – a laugh! Grass on tees – find a place in the mud and allow for two inches of yellowing grass!

Please, through the pages of your magazine, help us to bring these courses into the spotlight.

JOHN TURNER

President, Boldmere Golf Club,  
Sutton Coldfield.

• My understanding is that Birmingham City Council use outside contractors for sport and leisure management, which under CCT has the worst national failure rate of any service. With councils keen on privatisation in the vanguard, private firms won 41% of such contracts. However, according to statistics published in March, 37% went bust or were sacked, and a further 7% have had problems. There have been no in-house failures reported. – editor.