

Viscount Whitelaw's proud message at the launch

If ever proof was needed that the greenkeeping profession is in a very healthy state – along with the industry that serves it – the undeniable evidence was to be found in Harrogate at our fourth and best-ever BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition – and it didn't take much finding!

From the opening ceremony, when a relaxed and smiling Viscount Whitelaw announced the launching of the new Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund, offered congratulations to Laurence Pithie on his Master Greenkeeper achievement and praised all members of the greenkeeping profession for having "arrived and come of age" in no uncertain measure, the feeling throughout was one of upbeat optimism.

Special awards were made, special thanks given, hearty congratulations offered. All this in a show that refused to lie down and wallow in the so-called doom and gloom of current business fashion. In a play on the initials BTME, one informed wag likened the letters to Brilliant Times, Magnificent Enthusiasm!



BTME means different things to different people, though above all else it means the opportunity to learn more of new technology, to take concentrated doses of professionalism in a busy and sustained seminar and workshop programme and to meet the trade in an interaction that is as important for them as it is for us. And it works. Order books were reportedly bulging, salesmen observed with grins from ear to ear and a good many green chairmen appearing enlightened in a way that had hitherto been merely wishful thinking on the part of their head greenkeepers. No doubt about it, BTME was a winner.

In a week in which so much took place it is well nigh impossible to highlight each and every happening. However, for this writer the events that remain indelibly fixed are of a human nature: the lump in the throat as Laurence Pithie took his first fitting of a very special "Masters" jacket, the Middlesbrough Golf Club Chairman, Jack Higgins, rendered near speechless at being presented with a plaque in recognition of the Middlesbrough Club's selfless encouragement of "our" Chairman, George Malcolm, and the solid mass of enthusiastic Scottish faces filling a multitude of theatre seats when their very own Jim Paton spoke of "Villains and Heroes." *Roll on BTME '93!*

DAVID WHITE



The Iseki Golf Tournament is now an established favourite with BIGGA members. Viscount Whitelaw presents Iseki's Colin Gregory, with a special award



Rufford's are longtime supporters of BIGGA's aims and have funded many worthwhile ventures. Viscount Whitelaw presents Rufford's MD, Peter Jefford, with a special award



Kubota UK Ltd have supported BIGGA generously in the provision of Aldwark Manor Management Training Courses. Viscount Whitelaw and Kubota Vice President, Brian Hurtle, share a quiet word or two



The contribution from ICI Professional Products is represented forcefully in both the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year and our own National Golf Championships. Receiving a special award from Viscount Whitelaw is Roger Mossop, Marketing Manager of ICI Professional Products



An award was made to Alan Kite, seen here with Viscount Whitelaw, in recognition of his excellent trustee service following the transfer of BGGGA funds to the new BIGGA Education and Development Fund



Also present was Alan Gamble, a fellow trustee of BGGGA funds, who was presented with a special award by Viscount Whitelaw. The third trustee, former Association Chairman, Ivor Scoones, was awarded a special plaque in absentia

of best-ever BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition:

GREENKEEPING HAS COME OF AGE



A sentimental and altogether delightful award was made to Middlesbrough Golf Club Chairman, Jack Higgins, in gratitude for the Club's unselfish support of George Malcolm throughout his year of office



A gathering of the clans - as four previous Chairmen of the Association meet at Harrogate. From left: Walter Woods, Paddy McCarron, Jack McMillan, Neil Thomas (Executive Director) and George Malcolm



In recognition of Lindum Seeded Turf's support of the National Education Conference, Stephen Fell, Executive Director, receives a special award from Viscount Whitelaw



Pictured receiving their awards from Viscount Whitelaw for support of the Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award are Carlos Ochoa, Director of Golf International, Toro and Graham Dale, Managing Director, Lely (UK) Ltd.