

Bookings up and hotel prices stay the same for BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition 1993

Bookings are UP on this time last year, for the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, with a number of companies exhibiting for the first time.

Although it's early days, the stage is set for another hugely successful event. The 1992 exhibition was hailed by many to be the best so far.

The majority of exhibitors who took space in this year's exhibition, have booked their positions again for January. Exhibitions Officer Debbie Savage believes exhibitors are moving more quickly this year, in order to secure the best stand spaces.

And there's further good news for delegates. The Old Swan Hotel, situated just around the

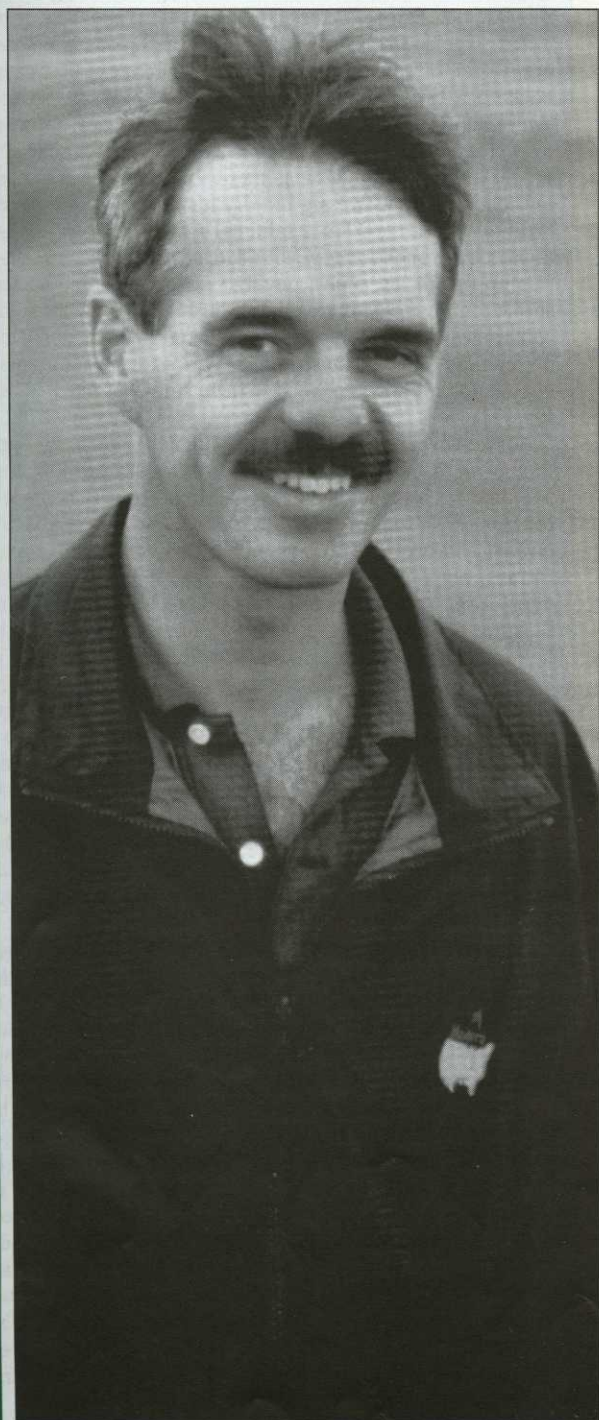


corner from the exhibition and focal point for a number of activities, have agreed to peg their prices for the 1993 BTME. Rates remain at £59 (single) per person and £72 (double) per room, including full English breakfast. Reservations can be made now by ringing direct on 0423 500055. Quote your atten-

dance to the BTME to reserve these rates.

As last year, the BTME Newline will be distributed in October. It will give visitors and delegates news and industry information on what they can expect to see at the show. Companies who have already booked their stand positions will soon be invited to contribute news of intended product launches, or any other relevant information. Information for the Newline can be sent straight away, however, to Debbie Savage at BIGGA HQ.

■ For more details about the show, or for a copy of the comprehensive BTME 1993 Information Pack, call Debbie on 03473 581 or fax 03473 8864.



THE OPEN

All eyes will soon be upon Muirfield for golf's premier tournament. Ready for the action is Chris Whittle, the course manager who went for his job with "guns blazing" for the chance to handle an Open venue. DAVID WHITE reports on the man and his mission

When the victor of the 121st Open Championship marches down the eighteenth fairway of Muirfield on July 19th, savouring the sweet smell of success and basking in the tumultuous cheers and adulation, there will be another who will share equally in that victory. His name? Christopher Alan Whittle, golf course manager to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield, East Lothian, Scotland – the undisputed number one golf course in Great Britain.

Despite the clatter of grandstands being built and giant marquees being lifted high to the sky, the place that is Muirfield still retained its undoubted air of aristocratic elegance when I called to see Chris Whittle, so much so that the raising of voices or the revving of engines seemed tantamount to hooligan behaviour – one must always be on one's best mark in such august surroundings. Granted, the place was being turned into a circus arena for The Championship, with hundreds of contractors beavering away, but above the bustle Chris Whittle, pictured left, remained serenely calm, despite this being his Open preparation debut.

Chris and I had met before – at Royal Birkdale in '91 – and I had walked the links of Muirfield many times, falling for those subtle bunkers that lurk to trap the least weakness – fade or draw – and always impressed by the sheer discipline of the course: Muirfield wants good golf to be played, but it never allows liberties. I knew how good the course was as a golfing examination – now I could see that it was most exquisitely well kept. ➡