

BTME: it's now just a few weeks away

by NEIL THOMAS
Executive Director, BIGGA

In January 1989, BIGGA ventured into the unknown with its first Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate. Five years on the Harrogate International Centre will host the sixth BTME from 19th-21st January.

During the last five years BIGGA has listened to many people, not least those working within the industry, with a view to constantly improving upon both the exhibition and the educational programmes. The Steering Committee meet some three times a year for lively exchanges of views which have resulted in decisions influencing the future direction and growth of BTME.

Our educational programmes continue to be a key factor in BTME's success attracting delegates in large numbers to both the two-day workshops which precede the opening of the Exhibition as well as the general seminar programme which runs throughout the Exhibition.

This year, for the second time, BIGGA will be organising a European Forum aimed particularly at



ascertaining the needs of greenkeepers throughout Europe, seeing where help can be given through BIGGA's administrative structure and seeking greater co-operation with European Greenkeeping Associations.

I believe that the BTME finally "came of age" in 1993 and we at BIGGA feel sure that we now have a firm base on which to build. The visit of the Duke of York undoubtedly enhanced the status of an exhibition which clearly meets the industry's needs in being of a specialist nature with a targeted audience. It is encouraging that both architects and constructors are viewing BTME in a positive light and I have long held the opinion that

the exhibition represents the ideal medium for them to project both their companies and their professions. They are an integral part of our industry and we welcome them to Harrogate.

BIGGA much appreciates the support it has received from the industry since 1989. During a difficult economic period this has been unwavering. We hope that

in return the BTME will continue to be perceived as the premier exhibition for the fine turf industries. There will certainly be no lack of effort from within BIGGA to ensure that this happens and we will continue in partnership with our exhibitors to present at the BTME all that is innovative, topical, new and indeed best in our industry.

Are you a BIGGA winner?

The draw has been made to pick the three lucky winners in our popular BTME competition.

We had a huge response from readers across the UK and Europe, all vying for a share in our prize competition with £600-worth of prizes.

And the big winner, whose name was drawn first, is Colin Mackay, from Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

Colin wins his way to the BTME in Harrogate, with return rail travel, three nights' accommodation at a top hotel and entry into all the education seminar sessions. *It's a prize worth £300, Colin, and it's on its way to you!*

Second prize winner is Harvey Tribe from Henley on Thames. He wins return rail travel, two nights' accommodation and entry to all seminar sessions. Prize value is a cool £200.

Third prize winner is Nigel Buxton, from Stockport, who will collect a single night's accommodation in Harrogate and entry to all the seminar sessions. Nigel, your prize is worth £100.

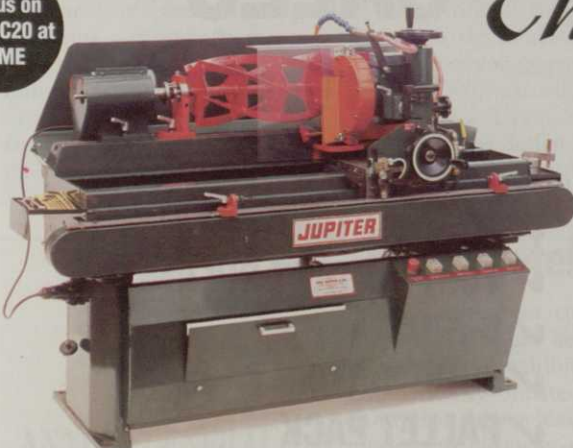
Congratulations to our winners - enjoy the show!



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