



Above: Kim Macfie from Hayter's with BIGGA chairman John Crawford and the VIP guest;

Left, Lely (UK) Ltd's Graham Dale with Lord Griffiths on the Lely/Toro stand

Right: with ICI Professional Products' Roger Mossop

PICTURES BY TIM MOAT

The sixth BTME was opened by the Rt Hon the Lord Griffiths MC, captain of the R&A and president of the MCC, who called it "a fine investment for golf" and said the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was "proud to be associated with BIGGA's progress." He also recalled his early days in golf, 60 years ago in Wales, when the greenkeeper's main skill was "the ability to keep sheep off greens". BIGGA's president, Viscount Whitelaw, was unable to attend this year because he was speaking in the House of Lords against the Police Bill. For him and all the other members who were unable to attend, we present our Harrogate photo album and spotlight some of the new products that caught our eyes.



# BIGGA



Len Breakwell of ET Breakwell Ltd receives his plaque to recognise his contribution to the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund's Golden Key circle



Gordon Irvine, ICI Premier Greenkeeper, receives his plaque



# THAN EVER!





## Leading the way in Europe

■ BIGGA's role as a key player on the international stage was highlighted at the second European Forum held at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, during the BTME. More than 50 delegates attended the meeting and listened to speakers from Sweden, Holland and Norway. We may not share the same language but, it seems, we do share the same sort of problems. What also came out of the meeting was that BIGGA is the largest and best organised of the European associations and with 261 international members in 31 countries it has a very important role to play in future developments.

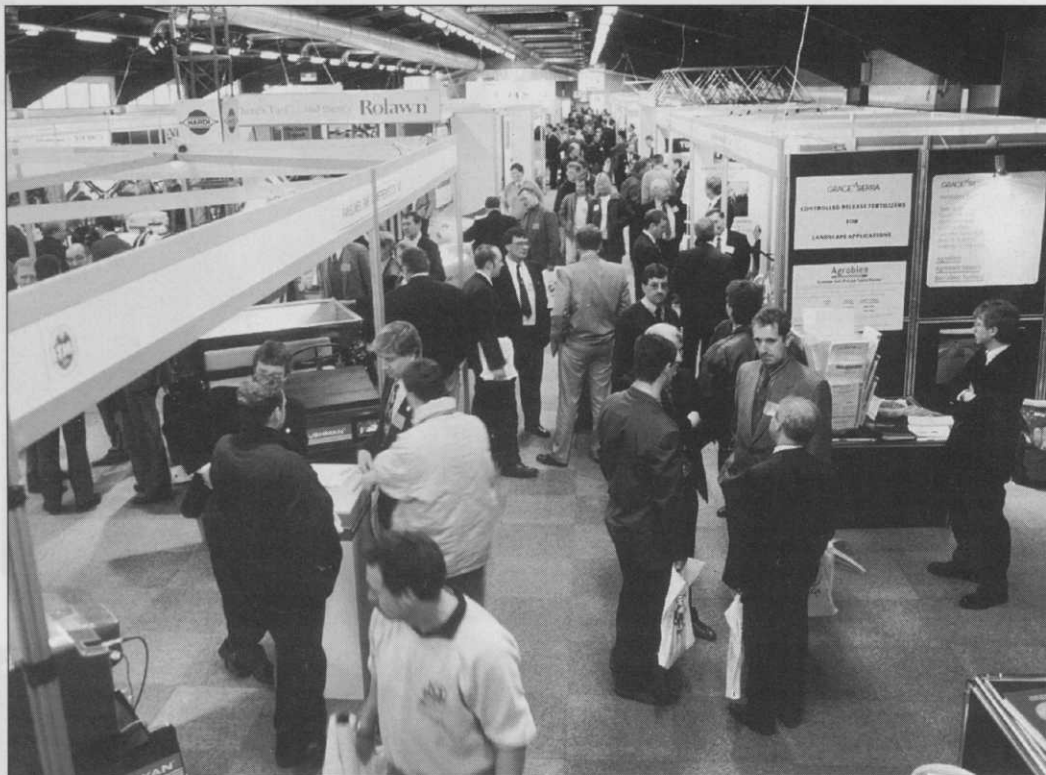
■ The Agricultural Engineers Association says many people in the turfcare industry would like to see just one exhibition. If the success at Harrogate is anything to go by, the BTME should be that exhibition. As BIGGA's executive director said at the AGM: "We are committed contractually to Harrogate until after the 1996 exhibition and we intend to go on presenting our case that if there is to be one major show then Harrogate may well prove to be the ideal venue."

■ Harrogate looked more like Harrods on sale day when the exhibition opened. Long queues formed at the pre-registration desk, prompting organisers to rethink the system for next year.

■ One driver was so eager to get in that he crashed his car outside the entrance on the first day.

■ On the other hand, one well known marketing manager walked in half an hour after the show had closed. *It's only a two and a half day exhibition, you know!*

Industry applauds BTME: 'I don't think I have seen the halls so full...' 'Another success...' 'Superb...'



# Attendance up at the only show that counts

If you're a greenkeeper, course manager or are, in some way, connected with golf, there was only one place to be last month – Harrogate and the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

We're not the only ones thinking that. More than 6,000 people visited the show – 1,200 up on last year. And exhibitors were besides themselves with joy at the contacts they had made and the business they had done.

● Ransomes' sales manager, Chris MacGowan, said: "It's the best show, it's the only one that counts nationally."

● Kim Macfie, Hayters sales and marketing director, who had the

largest stand there, told BIGGA: "It was another success... you must take considerable pride in the knowledge that it was so successful."

● Jonathan Franks, amenity grass seed manager, British Seed Houses, said: "I don't think I have ever seen the hall so full on the first and second days and we were very impressed that so many delegates came from so far afield."

● One of the busiest men there was BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Everywhere we went, he was there ahead of us shaking someone's hand or making a speech. Afterwards, when he'd

caught his breath, he said: "Everything went smoothly."

● David Smith of Atterton & Ellis Ltd simply put it this way: "It was superb."

● Richard Fry of Marketing Link Associates summed it up by saying: "You now have the best exhibition, the best magazine and the best training videos."

And it wasn't just the exhibitors who were pleased. Ian McMillan, course manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, Farnham, said: "The atmosphere was very good amongst the trade and members. The fact that the show has grown in stature through difficult times is a credit to the organisation."



Two of the winners of our £600 BTME competition are pictured with BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Colin Mackay (left), assistant greenkeeper at Cruden Bay GC near Aberdeen, won return rail travel, three nights' accommodation and entry to all the education seminar sessions. Nigel Buxton (right) assistant head greenkeeper at Cavendish Golf Club, Buxton, Derbyshire, won a single night's accommodation and entry to all the seminar sessions. Second prize winner Harvey Tribe, first assistant at Henley Golf Club, couldn't make it.



## Rave reviews for career video

■ A new video aimed at encouraging youngsters into greenkeeping was launched to rave reviews at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. Master Greenkeeper Anthony Davies, head greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield, said: "It was absolutely first class. Very professional." Fellow Master David Whitaker, course manager at Wisley Golf Club in Surrey, said: "It's great. It's exactly what the industry needs."

The 15-minute video, entitled *Keeper of the Green*, is narrated by Peter Alliss, was filmed at Reaseheath College in Cheshire and features action footage of Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam.

It starts with Old Tom Morris explaining how things have changed since his day. Students and working greenkeepers explain what it's like today and how professional it has become. Terry Buchen, a top US golf course superintendent and Master Greenkeeper, said: "I thought the Old Tom Morris part was great and I thought it was a neat way to promote youngsters to get into greenkeeping. We need something like this in the US." Duncan McGilvray, course manager at Letchworth Golf Course, said: "I thought it was excellent and I'm quite hard to please. The students came over well."

The video, which cost £27,500 to produce, is available on free loan for careers nights and college/school talks, can be obtained by writing to the Greenkeepers Education Unit, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 0347 838640/0347 838581.



Five year plan could mean Harrogate option for future of the National Education Conference

# Change of AGM venue brings record turnout

It wasn't just the BTME at Harrogate attracting record crowds, there was a record turnout for BIGGA's AGM as well.

Nearly 230 members attended the meeting at the Old Swan Hotel – a huge increase from the 42 at the '93 meeting at the Royal York Hotel. The reason for this greater participation was because, as most members wanted, the AGM was held during the BTME instead of in the spring.

BIGGA's Board of Management is also considering moving the National Education Conference to Harrogate and holding it prior to the exhibition. "The cessation of sponsorship after the 1992 conference coupled with a downturn in the number of delegates attending has led to a substantial deficit situation," BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, told the gathering.

However, one of the objects of the Association, as set out within the Constitution, is to arrange an international Annual Conference. "This is an important event therefore and should continue," Mr Thomas added.

So, after this year's conference at the University of Warwick, April 8-10, alternative options will be assessed. If the conference is moved to Harrogate, it is likely to replace the popular workshop programme. But, in any case, the intention is to develop these as part of the local training initiative.

These are matters being looked at by the Board of Management as

part of a five-year plan which will take the Association up to the year 2000. "The Association is now seven years old and, particularly during the last year, it has become apparent that we need to examine our structure and our future policies and programmes," explained Mr Thomas. "Our rapid growth has contributed to the necessity for review."

He encouraged all BIGGA members to contribute to this review by contacting their section secretaries. "BIGGA remains very much a members' organisation and it is you who must ultimately determine the future direction of the Association," he told delegates.

**'The 1993 BTME did much to enhance our standing both within the game and the industry'**

The aim is to bring the five-year plan to the 1995 AGM for ratification.

One of the key areas for debate is the funding of BIGGA's education and training programme. At the moment the programme, which has brought us the 'Setting the Standard in Spray Application' and career videos and will shortly bring us a booklet on weeds, pests

and diseases, is funded largely by companies within the industry. But new sources need to be found if the fund is to grow, especially since the now separate Greenkeepers Training Committee has made it clear that it will no longer provide direct funding for BIGGA's educational programmes.

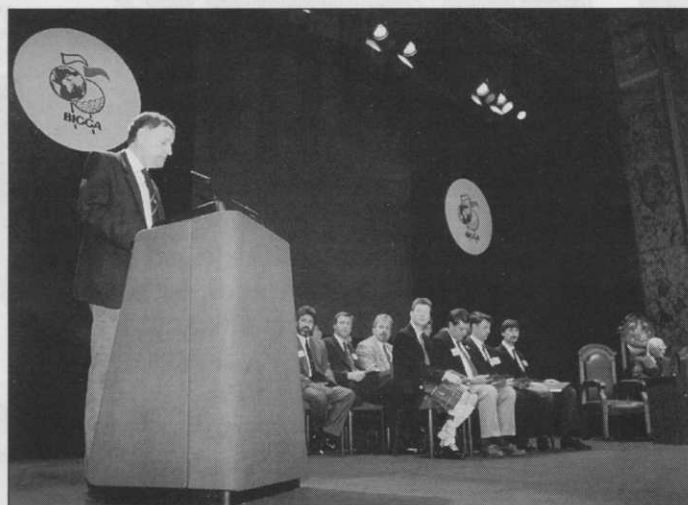
The review will also look at the role of trustees. This was decided at the Board of Management's December meeting. Prior to this meeting the South West and South Wales Region had put forward a motion, to be discussed at the AGM, to replace one of the existing trustees with lawyer Douglas Dagleish, the new president of the Scottish Golf Union.

A week before the AGM, one of the existing trustees, Peter Wilson, wrote to BIGGA chairman John Crawford advising the board of his decision to stand down. "Irrespective of this, the Board felt the appropriate course was to review the situation rather than make an appointment which would be for a four-year period," said Mr Thomas afterwards.

The South West and South Wales Region felt the appropriate action would be to adopt the proposed candidate to replace Mr Wilson. In the end this motion was defeated 2:1 pending the outcome of the review.

As well as looking forward, the AGM also looked back at the successes of 1993. Highlights of the year were:

- the BTME opened by Prince Andrew "which did much to enhance our standing both within the game and the industry," according to the executive director;
- Westurf, the first show organised by a BIGGA region;
- the start of the Hayter Challenge Tournament;
- the Open at Sandwich;
- the National Tournament at Dunbar; and
- the success of greenkeepers at the Kubota Challenge at the Belfry. "Our team presented themselves professionally both on and off the course which is important for the image of the Association when other golfing bodies are participating," said Mr Thomas in his annual report.



Neil Thomas, speaking at the opening of the BTME. Later, at the AGM, he told members of the Harrogate option for the National Education Conference



## NEW PRODUCTS LAUNCHED AT THE 1994 SHOW

■ Rhone-Poulenc launched a systemic fungicide called Vitesse (French for 'speed'). It is being promoted as the only systemic which starts working immediately on contact with the turf. Product manager Sion Price said: "It is the only turf fungicide with the powerful double action of two active ingredients – carbendazim, a systemic fungicide which is rapidly taken into the plant to give protection from within, and iprodione, a proven contact action fungicide which forms a protective layer against disease attack." Vitesse is recommended for application during the growing season and is designed to combat a range of turf diseases including fusarium patch, red thatch, Timothy leaf spot and anthracnose. Tel: 0277 301115

■ Barenbrug's head of breeding, Gerard van 't Klooster, the man behind top varieties such as Barcrown, Baruba and Bargreen, introduced his latest creations – slender fescues Barlander, Barlotte and Barskol, and Chewings fescue Baroxi. Tel: 0359 70766

■ SISIS Equipment showed two new products – the SISIS Autospred for greens and tees and the SupaTurfman, a wider version of the AutoTurfman. The Autospred is powered by a 5hp engine, has a hopper capacity of 0.26m<sup>3</sup> (9ft<sup>3</sup>) and a spreading width of 83cm (33ins). The hopper is plastic coated to resist corrosion and the main wheels are 'slicks' to reduce ground marking. The SupaTurfman is a heavy-duty aerator with a working width of 355mm (14ins). A new feature is the incorporation of quick release fasteners permitting the tines to be changed without spanners. The SupaTurfman is powered by a 5hp petrol engine. Tel: 0625 503030

■ Kubota's latest compact tractor, the 30.5hp ST-30, took pride of place on its stand. Designed and developed specifically for grass cutting, it weighs 875kg, is 2720mm long and has a 1600mm wheel base. Power comes from a



Simon Hannam, a technical adviser with the Inturf Group shows off the company's latest installation machine. The lightweight machine has a synchronised feed which places the turf precisely onto the rootzone irrespective of the forward speed of the machine. The TIM system is operated by Inturf's team of greenkeeping staff as an in-house service. Tel: 0759 304101

four-cylinder diesel engine. The lift capacity of the £12,200 plus VAT ST-30 is 800kg.

■ Turfmech Machinery has added a rear-mounted blower to use with compact tractors. The TM300 is designed for clearing leaves, litter and other debris. Price is £1,870. Tel: 0889 271503

■ Hayter introduced two new hydraulic trailed gangmowers – the five-gang TM529 and the seven-gang TM729. Both are fitted with large specification tyres which allow towing speeds of up to 50mph, although there is a legal limit of 20mph on the larger TM729. These units also have suspended axles which isolate and protect the heavy-duty chassis and all moving parts from ground generated loading. Other features include a separate hydraulic pump for the lift system, an automatic valve which stops the cylinders when a cutterhead is raised. Hayter also introduced a triple ride-on mower, the Beaver T224, and a hydraulic five gangmower, the TM520. Tel: 0279 723444

■ John Deere was showing off three new machines – a lightweight fairway mower, a diesel-engined version of the 2243 greensmower and a two-seater utility vehicle. John Deere claims its new 32hp 3235 fairway mower offers "twice as much power to the reels as competitive makes, and the highest rate of clip on the market". Height of cut can be adjusted from 3/8 to 1 3/8in or 3in. The new 2243 greensmower is aimed at greenkeepers who have large areas of greens that need to be mown daily. This machine is equipped with three 22in, 5in diameter, nine-blade offset cylin-

ders which cut the tracking wear on greens caused by regular mowing by 50 percent, according to the distributors. This is done by changing the direction of travel on alternate days. Height of cut can be varied from 3/32 to 3/4in. For all load-carrying operations there are the John Deere Gator 10hp 4x2 and 18hp 6x4 utility vehicles. Ground pressure is said to be 7psi at full load. Their respective payloads/towing capacities are 408kg/340kg and 544kg/544kg. Both models feature Kawasaki petrol engines.

■ Hardi launched the Brush Master, which has been on extensive trials on golf courses in southern England during the past 18 months. It is designed for switching (dew removal) before play commences, brushing in after normal applications of top dressing, and filling in holes after coring and top dressing. Price is £1995 plus VAT. Hardi also exhibited its new range of trailed turfcare sprayers called Uniflex. The Uniflex trailed chassis is designed to suit tank sizes of 200 and 300 litres whilst still providing low ground pressures due to wide wheels. Prices from £2200 plus VAT. Tel: 0455 233811

■ Two new Victa products were shown on the EP Barrus stand. The PRO500 is an 18in steel deck push-along mower featuring Victa two-stroke engine and a disc and two swing blades to protect the crankshaft. Price: £287 plus VAT. The VP44P brushcutter has a 40cc engine, Sure-Tap professional head which controls the length of cutting line released when the centre knob is tapped and two-stage anti-vibration handles. Price: £379. Tel: 0869 253355

■ Sports Ground Irrigation exhibited the new valve-in-head golf models from Hunter Industries and the full range of PGM lawn sprinklers with colour coded nozzles. Also on show was a new version of the CIC 1 controller. Tel: 0858 463153

■ Jacobsen launched a new Autofertil grass cuttings recycling system. This system enables grass cuttings to be reused as fertiliser and nutrient for courses, completing the biomass cycle and doing away with unsightly mounds of grass cuttings. Two sizes of machine are available. Jacobsen also introduced a new systems vehicle available in two models with either a 23hp Kubota diesel engine or 34hp Ford petrol engine, both giving a 2800 lb total rated capacity. Tel: 0536 417777

■ Sharpes International launched its 1994 booklet featuring two new varieties – Elegana, a perennial ryegrass, and Miracle, a smooth stalked meadow grass. Tel: 0529 304511

■ Symbio showed its new product, Green Circle, which "reduces fertiliser applications and reduces or eliminates the need for fungicides". Symbio uses 'Biofixation', a process whereby the bacteria and microscopic fungi found in healthy soils are fixed onto a specially developed natural mineral support. The microbes in Green Circle are claimed to break down fibrous thatchy material thereby improving drainage through the sward. Consequently the nutrients released by decomposition are fed down into the rootzone, stimulating deeper root growth. Tel: 081 669 0011.

■ Land and leisure consultants ADAS were offering golf clubs six-monthly course 'health' check-ups. They will examine the course to pinpoint trouble spots and log the results in a report. The project is designed as an early-warning system for club managers. Tel: 0623 846742.

■ Below: Philip Langdon and Peter Madden on the Watermat stand

