



BIGGA is adopting a new pre-registration system and employing the latest technology to ensure that visitors to next year's BTME at Harrogate (January 25-27) are whisked into the show within seconds of arrival.

At the last BTME, BIGGA was caught out by its own success and visitors were queuing to get in despite pre-registering. The new system should mean that even with the anticipated record numbers of visitors, there should be no delay in getting you into the exhibition halls.

For the first time, people who pre-register will get their badges mailed to them prior to the event. These badges contain a barcode. When the pre-registered visitor turns up at the Harrogate International Centre, this barcode will be 'read' by a light pen - a matter of seconds - as you enter the hall.

A light pen will also be given free to most of the exhibitors so they can make a note of who they've been talking to (name, job title, course, address) by simply scanning your badge. Your details will then be logged automatically for the exhibitor, so you won't have to hand out business cards left, right and centre or hang around while someone writes down all your details in a book.

Coventry Data Services, specialists in this field since the '60s, have been commissioned by BIGGA to operate this convenient system.

Of course the key to getting in faster is to pre-register by using the pre-paid card facing page 50 in this magazine. The cards from last month's *Greenkeeper International* have already started to arrive at BIGGA HQ. The first person to pre-register for BTME '95 is Paul Kellett, head greenkeeper at Norton Golf Course in Cleveland.

The forms to register for next year's National Education Conference, which precedes BTME, are also flooding in. First off the mark there was Paul Lockett, course manager at South Beds Golf Club, Bedfordshire. (And he's volunteered to take part in the Karaoke Night on January 25).

If all the high calibre speakers at the conference aren't enough to tempt you, the thought of Paul singing something like My Way should have you rushing to fill in your forms.

Among the greenkeepers performing in The Majestic Hotel during the National Education Conference - by giving lectures - are Duncan McGilvray and Joe Paulin. Duncan, pictured left, has been in greenkeeping since he left school at 15. He worked for ten years on Scottish courses before coming south to taken charge of three English courses - seaside links and inland courses. He has been greenkeeping in England for more than 16 years. The last seven years he has been course manager at Letchworth Golf Club in Hertfordshire.



He tells us his main aim is the reclamation of indigenous grasses and therefore the eradication of thatch and annual meadow grass, but at the same time managing the course in such a way as not to alienate either his membership or visitors to the course while that change is taking place.

His talk on January 24 is about one of his favourite subjects - communication: 'We thought we had it right and then came the AGM!' is his title.

He will be followed by Joe Paulin, courses manager at the new London Club. Born in Indi-

Beaming you up into the show of the year

◆ The Association of Golf Club Secretaries are the latest newcomers to the show. They join a growing list of official bodies taking stands at Europe's premier fine turf trade show. Also exhibiting are the Greenkeepers Training Committee, Sports Turf Research Institute, National Turfgrass Council, British Institute of Golf Course Architects, British Association of Golf Course Constructors and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

◆ Have you won one of the prizes in our £750 BTME competition? Find out next issue as entries were still pouring in as we went to press.

◆ If you are thinking about coming to the National Education Conference, you'd better act sharpish. Rooms at the Majestic Hotel, where the National Education Conference is being held, are filling up fast. Late bookers may only be able to find accommodation in a less convenient hotel. So if you want to be where the action is, return your completed booking form today. Additional booking forms are available from HQ.

◆ Next month, details of Supaturf's new product launch competition at BTME. You could win a place on the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA's conference and exhibition, in San Francisco.

ana, USA, 34 years ago, Joe has a BS degree in agronomy and worked at three American courses before getting a job this side of the Atlantic - as courses manager at Clondeboye GC in Bangor, Northern Ireland. Then he worked at The Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland before joining the London Golf Club - about 'The Evolution of the London Golf Club - Natural Resource Management'.

Other greenkeepers giving talks during the two-day conference include Martin Smith of Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, Andy Campbell of the Carden Park Golf Club, which recently went into receivership, Michael Wattam of the East Sussex National GC, Billy McMillan of Wildwood GC, and Geoff Allinson of Patsull Park GC.

These will be joined by experts from the worlds of agronomy, ecology and irrigation - making BTME week the best education programme outside San Francisco in 1995.

David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, will kick off the conference with 'An overview of European Golf Course Ecology'.

David, at the moment, is responsible for coordinating and developing a Europe-wide environmental programme and policy framework for the golf industry.

He has worked in the golf-ecology field since 1987, first as conservation officer for the Golf Course Wildlife Trust and, since 1990, as man-



aging director of his own consultancy, Environmental Golf Services.

David is an ecologist with over 14 years professional experience in conservation biology and applied ecology at an international level. He obtained an honours degree in botany and zoology from King's College London in 1980. He is also a member of the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union and in the UK he serves on the Council of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Bob Taylor, ecologist at the STRI, will talk later about 'Managing the Ecology of the Golf Course'. Bob worked for British Coal for 11 years before going to Sheffield University and graduating with a degree in botany. With a BSc honours degree he promptly joined the STRI in 1989 as an advisory agronomist. In addition to his general advisory work for a variety of sports clubs in the north of England, he specialises in ecological matters, particularly on golf courses where woodland management or sites of special scientific interest are involved.

Bob is a keen photographer and is actively involved in folk music. If he brings either of these skills into The Majestic, his lecture will be one not to miss. It's on Monday January 23.

Two Americans who are booked to speak, Dr James Beard and James F Moore, will also cover environmental issues. More about their talks and the talks on agronomy and irrigation next issue.

A wide range of subjects will also be covered during BTME with the seminar programme in the Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall.

This programme is designed so that visitors to the exhibition, now in its seventh year, can pick and choose the subjects that most interest them. And there's plenty to choose from.

Cameron Sinclair, chairman of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, will give 'A greenkeeper's guide to working with golf course architects'. George Brown, course manager at Turnberry, will talk about the '94 Open. Dr IG McKillop of the Central Science Laboratory will explain how to control rabbit and vermin. Dr James Beard will talk about international turfgrass trends and Douglas Shearer, a health and safety consultant, will give an update on this important aspect of course management.

Because there is so much going on, many greenkeepers, chairmen of green and club secretaries stay for several days. And show organisers BIGGA have arranged some attractive accommodation packages in Harrogate, which is easy to get to by road, rail, sea and air. For full details of these packages and the education programme, contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 0347 838581.

● BTME survey results: Page 22