



# BIGGA THAN EVER!



Pictures, clockwise from top: John Millen cuts the ribbon to open the show... followed by a scramble to get in... Checking out the latest Iseki SF300 are David Moss, proprietor of Adlington Golf Centre, Macclesfield and Tony Cundall of RJ&J Campey... Visitors examine the Wiedemann Terra-Spike, which comes in four widths starting at 1.35m for use with compact tractors increasing to 2.1m for larger tractors... Delegates in the Royal Hall listen intently as George Brown, on the podium, takes them through his preparation of Turnberry for last year's Open Championship.



# 'I can't remember the last time we were so busy at an exhibition'

There is no stopping the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. Despite six inches of snow falling in Harrogate at the end of the first day, everyone was hailing it as the best show yet.

Graham Walker of Gem Professional said: "Harrogate is brilliant and BTME is the best show because everyone who comes is a customer."

Ray Burniston, of show newcomers the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, said he would recommend that they came back in '96. "I like it in Harrogate," he added after speaking with more than 50 club secretaries during the opening day.

"We were exceptionally busy," said David Stephenson, managing director of D&E Turf Maintenance. "We experienced 40 per cent more bookings and 60 per cent more enquiries than previous years."

Vitax's commercial sales manager Trevor Holmes echoed this statement: "It's been exceptional. It's been the best show despite the snow. It's a good format and we will definitely be here next year."

Stephen Fell, executive director of Lindum, said: "I can't remember the last time that we were so busy at an exhibition. Obviously our new product launch attracted a lot of interest but there were a lot of important buyers there which demonstrates that BTME is attracting a wider professional range of visitors."

Greenkeepers were equally impressed. "Harrogate was a complete success," said Mike Lathrope from Eaton GC, Norwich.

Marion Child of the South West and South Wales region, making the trip from Devon, said: "What an exhibition! Better than ever before and that's hard to imagine. There is an incredible almost family atmosphere at Harrogate."



**THE FACTS:** Despite the surprise snowfall, 4,053 visitors attended the seventh BTME. Seven days after the '95 BTME, three-quarters of the exhibitors had made space requests for the '96 event in Harrogate - and many are requesting twice as much space.



The biggest piece of kit at the show was this Mastenbroek trenching machine from contractors WE Hewitt & Son Ltd. Pictured with it is managing director John Hewitt.



Among the greenkeepers from 11 countries were these



two Russians.

Sergey Dolmatov (top) and Vladimir Matskovsky are from the



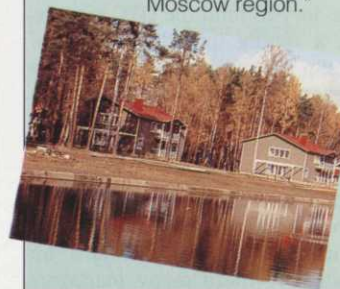
Moscow Country Club, the first 18-hole course in Russia. The first nine holes opened in 1993 while the

second nine opened in September last year after being sown in July. The course is designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr and the project was financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The course is run by an American superintendent, Dean Watkins, who is on site from March through to October/November. The very latest equipment from America is used to maintain the Pennlinks greens, Penncross tees and Kentucky bluegrass/fescue fairways. There is a Toro irrigation system and machinery from Toro, John Deere and Jacobsen.

The course is closed in winter and the greens and tees are covered to protect them from frost and snow. For members who wish to keep their swing in, there is a simulator in the clubhouse. There are about 300 members, mostly foreigners. To encourage local children to take up the sport, coaching is free for them.

"Things are changing," says Sergey. "There is only one golf course at the moment but three more are under construction in the Moscow region."



# Association goes in the black as membership continues to climb

A large attendance of members on a snowy night was present to hear executive director, Neil Thomas, present his annual report.

After commenting on the major events of the year, he advised members that at last year's AGM the Board of Management had determined that a review be undertaken with the aim of agreeing a five year plan to take the Association up to the year 2000. Much progress had been made but such was the growth of the Association and the need for consultation at all levels that the Board at its September meeting decided to extend the review by the setting up of a Review Body which would make recommendations to the Board. It had originally been planned to report back to the AGM but the Board would now report to the 1996 AGM. It was considered important "to get it right" particularly in terms of any amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the Association. To this end the Review Body had already held two meetings.

In outlining the progress of the Education and Development Fund, the executive director pointed out that resources would now be made available for localised management training linked to the new NVQs/SVQs. Management training made affordable and accessible to members within their own Regions would be another great step forward for the Association. He referred to a fundamental issue simply defined as "who pays for greenkeeper education?" The Association was greatly dependent on the Education and Development Fund without which the videos, booklets, courses and educational aids provided by the Association would not be possible. It was generally considered that the levy to fund the GTC remains at a totally unrealistic level of 6.25p per registered golfer. Much depended therefore on how much or how little course managers and head greenkeepers could incorporate for training in their annual budgets and it must remain a great source of wonderment to outsiders that this remains an industry where many managers



John Millen helps Barry Heaney to don his jacket as BIGGA's new chairman

and employees are expected to pay themselves for their further education and training.

BIGGA's membership had increased by 390 to a final figure of 5,552 for 1994. At the conference dinner, the ninth recipient of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, Richard McNabb from Palmetto Golf Club, Aiken, South Carolina had been recognised and it was pleasing that at present 105 members are registered for the award with 65 in Stage 1, 32 in Stage 2 and 8 in Stage 3.

There is concern at the continuing trend of golf clubs to disclose greenkeeper salaries and wages to fellow golf clubs in the area. These cartels appear to be widespread. They are felt to be in existence to establish a norm which is unlikely to be to the benefit of the greenkeeper. Neil Thomas suggested that at the very least the confidentiality which should be enjoyed between employer and employee is broken through the existence of these cartels and a greenkeeper has every right to complain when he knows that this practice has been applied to his own contract of service. When evidence is forthcoming it is a practice which needs to be exposed through the pages of *Greenkeeper International*.

At the conclusion of his report, the executive director analysed the issues concerning the future of the BTME and the threat of a competing show organised by P&O Events in conjunction with the English Golf Union and

planned for 16-18 January 1996. He pointed out the potential financial implications for BIGGA whilst outlining the need for BIGGA to remain a strong, respected and independent body within the game – a position which could be threatened by absorption into a new show organised by those motivated purely for profit and with no intrinsic regard for greenkeepers or greenkeeping. He believed that exhibitors remained loyal to the BTME in Harrogate and a solid base existed for further growth and development of the BTME. Essentially as executive director he needed to go away from the AGM with a clear mandate from the membership in general meeting as to how they wished to proceed. On a show of hands there was unanimous backing for the continuation of the BTME in Harrogate.

BIGGA's administration manager, John Pemberton presented the financial report which showed a transformation from a deficit in 1993 to a small surplus in 1994. He pointed out that the Association continues to rely heavily for its funding on the three main activities of membership, *Greenkeeper International* magazine and BTME. He reminded members who pay their own subscriptions that they are approved by the Inland Revenue for personal tax relief and may be claimed through the annual tax return. Advertising revenue for *Greenkeeper International* had increased

by 17.8% reflecting the quality of the magazine which remains a significant net contributor to the Association's funds. The BTME of 1994 had been the activity which had brought about a dramatic change in the Association's financial position. It was pointed out that the Board of Management had agreed to establish an independent Building Fund to generate funds towards the ultimate purchase of the Association's own premises. Areas of funding were being investigated to link into whatever capital the Association could raise itself.

Following questions from members the meeting went on to elect Messrs Roger Robinson and Bill Lawson as Trustees. This was followed by backing for a constitutional amendment allowing for the implementation of a rolling membership year after the executive director had pointed out that this alteration would assist the workload involved with renewal, especially as membership grows, by phasing renewal processing. It might also encourage recruitment as greenkeepers would receive a year's membership from whenever they chose to join. The meeting then unanimously approved the Board's proposals for life membership for Mr Eric James and Mr Bert Cross.

The outgoing Chairman, John Millen, thanked the Board and staff for their efforts during the past year and then invested the incoming Chairman, Barry Heaney, with his red blazer. The new Chairman thanked the retiring Board members for their services. George Malcolm was replaced on the Board by Pat Murphy. Huw Parry was replaced by Robin Greaves and John Millen was replaced by Chris Mardon. In Scotland John Crawford was stepping down and a replacement would be announced shortly. Barry Heaney announced that his Vice-Chairman would be Dean Cleaver. He concluded by thanking BIGGA's President, Viscount Whitelaw, John Millen, the Board of Management, staff and all members of the Association for their support and his golf club and by no means least his wife, for their encouragement.

## Richard makes it nine for MGC

Richard McNabb, who has been greenkeeping for more than 20 years, is the ninth Master Greenkeeper.

The 43-year-old American, pictured receiving his award from John Millen, is currently working as golf course superintendent at the 103-year-old Palmetto Golf Club in South Carolina. He moved to this 18-hole exclusive private club, which is maintained by six staff, after a couple of years at St Margarets in Dublin. This is where he heard about BIGGA and started working towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

"I thought it would be a great achievement," he said. He flew in from a seminar in New York, stayed two nights in Harrogate and then went on holiday to Jamaica.



## Prize guys

Prize winners in our BTME competition, Nigel Buxton, assistant head greenkeeper at Cavendish GC, and Stuart Hogg, assistant course manager at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, are congratulated by BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas.



## On a lighter note

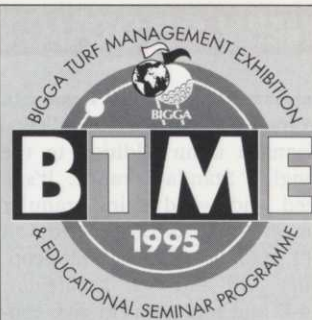
"A consultant is someone who knows 50 ways to make love but doesn't have a girlfriend." – Jim Moore of the USGA

"I believe a green should be like a woman – it should be rounded and well contoured; it should be firm but still receptive, but of course it should be free from all fungal diseases and thatch." – George Brown, course manager at Turnberry.

"My wife figured why there aren't so many women superintendents – they're too damn smart." – Jim Moore of the USGA.



Tom O'Connor, Jim Moore and a sizzling Linda Nolan provided a night to remember



### Chairman's message to all BIGGA members

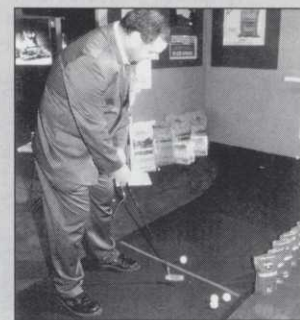
Many thanks to our members who attended this exciting event. Your support is very much appreciated.

May I invite all our members to make an early diary note for next year's presentation – January 22-26 1996 – again in Harrogate. I can assure you of a rewarding learning experience.

– Barry Heaney



Barry Heaney draws the winner of a £100 BIGGA gift voucher on the Vitax stand, assisted by Vitax commercial sales manager Trevor Holmes. The lucky head greenkeeper is Jeff Dickinson of Hucknall GC in Nottinghamshire.



Geraint Williams, head greenkeeper at Llangefni, a public course owned by Duglesey Borough Council, puts out on the Zeneca stand. But it wasn't good enough to beat J Sheehan of West Derby GC or S Booker of Hawkstone Park GC, who win a mini hi-fi system worth £250. Barry Heaney and Zeneca's product manager Steve Hall made the draw.

**Zeneca Professional Products** promoted two new fertilisers. Cleanrun is an addition to the Longlife Standard range. It's a 'feed and weed' mini granular conventional fertiliser with an NPK analysis of 9:7:7. It also contains two selective herbicides, 2,4-D and mecoprop to give control of most fairway turf weeds. Recommended price is £8.64 per bag. The other new fertiliser is Renovator, a triple action product offering turf managers the opportunity to feed, weed and control their moss problems in one operation. Longlife Renovator is a mini granular fertiliser with an NPK analysis of 8:1:1 containing 2,4-D, dicamba and ferrous sulphate. Recommended price is £15.88 per bag.

**Lindum Seeded Turf** announced an agreement with StrathAyr, an Australian based company. The new agreement sees them importing and installing the patented StrathAyr BAyr Root Processing system which involves removing all soil from harvested mature turf so that a vegetative mat free of soil is achieved. Recently returned from Australia, Lindum chief executive Stephen Fell said: "I have been very impressed with how the concept of washed turf has been accepted and successfully put into practice." Fell is convinced that BAyr Root Washed Turf is right for sand green construction. "Too often I see that conventional turf results in poor rooting which means slow establishment as well as the turf soil/sand interface causing drainage impediment and the development of a lateral shear plane. It is vital that all soil is washed off the turf to avoid any sand rootzone contam-



Lord Whitelaw admires the Beaver FM 514 fairway mower. Features include newly designed 26in fully floating cutterheads which are available with 7 or 11 blade cutting reels offering a clip rate of 131 or 206 per metre. Power is provided by a 29hp Lombardini diesel engine.

ination and the BAyr Root Washed Turf System that we have installed is the only system that I have discovered that will achieve this."

**Supaturf** launched five new products: Primer 604 matrix flow soil surfactant, Infiltrix soil penetrant, Supaturf SS/G spring and summer granular fertiliser, Greenit turf colour restorer and Supa Mark aerosol line marking equipment.

**Groundsman Industries** launched a new tractor/utility mounted

aerator, the 8120. This model can be mounted on the normal three-point linkage of any mid-range compact tractor capable of 15hp at the PTO or on any specialist turf vehicle such as a Cushman. Groundsman claims the new unit is both durable and robust and offers quick-change tine holders which will take hollow, solid, slitting and micro-hollow tines. Features include linkage mounting (either standard three-point or using a spring ballast frame for turf vehicles), adjustable rollers and storage wheels.

**Rolawn** is now supplying turf in 'budget roll format'. The new rolls are approximately 15 sq yds each. Their dimensions are 21ins wide by 25 yards long and they weigh about 5cwt. All are provided with netting as standard and have a circular core running through their centre which takes a standard forklift tine. Rolawn also has a new laying machine which is 48ins wide, 35in high and weighs 60 kilos. It costs £395 plus VAT or can be hired for £15 a day.

**Jacobsen** showed the new LF 128, a lightweight five unit ride-on fairway mower. Powered by a 28hp Kubota diesel engine, the LF 128 is fitted with hydraulically driven 22in wide cutting units offering a total cutting width of 100ins. It is available in 4WD

form and comes with large hydraulic pump, large diameter hoses and large displacement cylinder motors. For improved ground clearance, the cylinder motors are mounted on the outside and a new cylinder mounting frame and a new hydraulic hose configuration are used. For those wanting an inexpensive 2WD fairway mower, the LF 123 with CARB approved 23hp engine is available. For bunker maintenance, Jacobsen is importing the Sandstar 2 Bunker Rake which is powered by a Vanguard 16hp 2 cylinder engine. The 1.8m (72in) Sandtrap Rake which can be hydraulically risen and lowered from the operator position comes as standard. Available as an option is the hydraulically lifted and lowered sand cultivator which spans 1.5m and a front mounted aluminium sand plough. For easy access, maintenance and repairs there is a swing-away fibreglass body.

**Tildenet** has added two types of bay dividers to its range: made-to-measure padded bay dividers made from foam-filled PVC which can be printed with logos and advertising, and net bay dividers made from golf practice replacement netting. The Bristol-based company also launched an anti-ball plugging net that's designed to reduce the number of lost balls on waterlogged driving ranges



Lilleybrook GC's Paul Jenkins, centre, had more reason than most to celebrate the launch of Supaturf's Primer 604. The Gloucestershire course manager won a trip to this month's GCSAA show in San Francisco in a competition to promote the new product. Pictured congratulating him are Supaturf chairman David Palmer, Aquatrols' international marketing manager Demie Moore (no, not that Demie Moore), and BIGGA chairman Barry Heaney, who made the draw.

## MORE NEW PRODUCTS NEXT MONTH

and DIY kits for perimeter netting and golf practice nets.

**Headland Amenity** launched a range of liquid slow-release nitrogen fertilisers. Based on triazone, the products are designed to promote uniform turf growth and improve grass quality throughout the season while also reducing summer scorch risks and leaching. One of the major benefits, according to Headland, is that fewer applications – taking less time – are needed to dress the turf, compared with conventional products. Because the nitrogen is released more slowly, only half the number of applications are needed throughout the year to better the performance of traditional urea-based liquid fertilisers. The range includes: N-Sure (28N:OP:OK) containing 72% of its nitrogen in slow release form; Trisert KS (15N:OP:12K:8S) with sulphur and potassium as well as 60% slow-release nitrogen, intended for hardening-up turf and helping to prevent disease by discouraging annual meadow grass and acidifying the soil; Trisert (13N:3P:4K) with phosphorous and potassium plus 72% slow-release nitrogen to provide a balanced feed with an 8-12 week release pattern.

**Claymore Grass Machinery** showed the Sabo Roberine Continent 400-3D, which is designed for cutting tees and bunker surrounds. Features of this 1.8 metre triple are the rear-mounted 14.5hp diesel engine, the hydraulic driven transmission and mowing units, the three-wheel configuration and power steering and standard weight transfer system, plus optional 3-wheel drive and differential lock. Mowing speeds can be varied to suit conditions and there is the choice of either 7- or 10-bladed cutting cylinders. Cutting heights are from 8mm to 55mm and grassboxes are available as extras. Claymore also showed the Continent 800-D, a 1.5m wide out-front rotary with a top operating speed of 20km/h. If extra traction is needed the 800-D has a weight transfer system as standard and the option of four-wheel drive and differential lock. A balanced wheel base at front

and rear gives stability on slopes.

**Euromec** displayed its new range of front deck mowers and collection machines. The mowers, unlike many competitive machines, have been designed from the outset to collect grass cuttings. Large hoppers and the provision of a powered high lift dump are two of the common features. The top of the range compact Turbogross model has a zero steering radius, enabling operators to cut grass in the most inaccessible places. Also available is a wide range of extras: chopper incorporating collection system, front brushes, flail mower, scarifier, side discharge deck and snow blower. Euromec also displayed the new multi-purpose walk behind TurboVac which collects all types of debris from any grass or hard surface area.



The new Ransomes Fairway 250 – a lightweight five unit mower

**Ransomes** launched a lightweight five unit fairway mower. The Fairway 250 comes in two- and four-wheel drive versions, both equipped with water-cooled diesel engines, hydrostatic transmissions and interchangeable cutting units. The highly manoeuvrable two-wheel drive machine has a 23hp engine and 5in (127mm) diameter cutting reels with a choice of nine or 11 blades. For more demanding mowing applications and where extra grip is required, the 33hp model is equipped with selectable two and four-wheel drive and has the option of seven or 11 bladed 6.5in (165mm) diameter cutting reels.

**Green Link Products** launched Liquid Green, a new turf colourant that allows greenkeepers to respond instantly to turf damaged through cultural, climatic or chemical means. Applied as a conventional spray, Liquid Green provides the turf with a natural looking green colour for up to 14 weeks while the grass

recovers. The cost is less than 0.5p per sq metre. In addition to its application as a spray pattern indicator, Blazon can now be used to colour lakes, ponds and water hazards, imparting a natural, healthy appearance to water that is off-colour, dirty or just in need of extra sparkle. Blazon and Liquid Green are distributed in the UK by Farmura Limited.

**Johnsons Seeds** unveiled three new amenity grass varieties: the perennial ryegrasses Merci and Danilo, and the strong creeping red fescue Diego. Merci is described as an exceptionally fine-leaved, compact, dense turf type – combining very good wear tolerance with the characteristics which produce high quality ornamental turf. Merci is included in the Taskmaster mixture for golf tees and lawns. Danilo is a dual purpose turf cultivar for both heavy duty sports wear and for less intensively used turf such as lawns and landscaped areas. It has good shoot density and fine clean easily-cut leaves. It too is included in Taskmaster, as well as Johnsons 1995 J5 Mixture for fairways. Diego is the highest ranked cultivar on the 1995 STRI Merit List – with the top rating for short growth, mowing tolerance, shoot density and freedom from dollar spot.

**Etesia's** range of professional ride-on and pedestrian rotary mowers made its debut. For cutting slopes around tees and bunkers Etesia offer the PSE, a lightweight yet rugged four-wheeled rotary mower. Powered by the latest 3.8hp 2-stroke Suzuki engine this 46cm (18in) machine is compact and easy to transport between sites. For situations where a wider machine is required, there is the self-propelled RKEB with 4-stroke 9hp Kawasaki engine and the RTEB fitted with a 7hp Bombardier Rotax 2-stroke. Both machines have electro-magnetic blade clutches plus a safety feature that stops the cutters rotating within three seconds once the controls are released. The blade is driven through a floating coupling designed to protect the engine crankshaft from excessive impacts.



■ Fiona Whitelaw, an account manager at Fairway Finance, achieves a lifetime ambition by meeting Lord Whitelaw, who she claims is a distant relative.

■ Turnberry course manager George Brown was presented with the keys to a new 45hp L4200 from the Grandel series, the 25,000th tractor sold in the UK since Kubota set up here 15 years ago. Handing over the keys to this unit, which has been specially show-finished in silver and Kubota orange, was Brian Hurlley, vice president-director Kubota (UK). Mr Hurlley said: "The sale of the 25,000th unit is a very important milestone in the history of Kubota in the UK. I am delighted that this state-of-the-art tractor is going to such a prestigious and loyal customer as Turnberry."



■ Ray Burniston and Pat Bates, attending BTME for the first time as exhibitors with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

■ Lost during the show were two black cases belonging to the BAGCC, but found in the Old Swan Hotel was a wallet. If you have any information, please call BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.