



# 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'

**T**here 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."

