

Give me a B! Give me a T! Give me a M! Give me an E!

Four letters which, joined together, herald the week of the year for greenkeepers everywhere

n a world full of acronyms – think of NATO, EMU, PAYE and ERNIE – greenkeeping has two which are intrinsically linked.

If it wasn't for BIGGA there would be no BTME and there can be no other grouping of four otherwise disjointed letters which can make a greenkeeper's pulse quicken in quite the way BTME does.

You cannot think about BTME without an image of Harrogate creeping into your head... and everything else which goes to make up the BTME experience.

Harrogate week, which for many begins with the National Education Conference – part of the Learning Experience, in association with Ransomes, is the event of the year for many in the fine turf management family whether they be greenkeepers, or a member of any one of the related areas which bring people to the Conference and Show.

Among the changes this year is the inclusion of the new Hall G to replace Hall E, which keeps all four halls on one level and ensures a superior flow to the show.

Hall G is a state-of-the-art marquee which BTME takes over from the Toy Fair, the exhibition held at Harrogate the previous week.

■ Due to an amendment to his travel arrangements Mr Jaime Ortiz Patino will not be able to attend on Wednesday 21 January, however, he will be speaking on Thursday 22 January at 1pm. This seminar is a must for anyone wanting to hear how Valderrama was prepared for the 1997 Ryder Cup.