

My first trip to BTME will not be my last

I felt I must write and congratulate all involved with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar programme. I am ashamed to say that this was my first visit but it certainly will not be my last. Unfortunately Martin Gunn (Course Manager) and I could only stay for two days. Martin because of a construction programme and myself as my own business does need me occasionally.

The event is run on the most professional lines and the lectures I attended were extremely well presented and very interesting. Having sat through lectures presented by American, European and British lecturers it was fascinating to realise that we all seem to agree on what is best for British golf courses. All we have to do now is to educate the golfer.

Over the seven years I have been involved in Golf Course Management, Martin and I have visited many clubs and spoken to green staff all over the British Isles. It has always been worthwhile and I have always been shown great courtesy and patience. Our visit to Harrogate gave us the opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new ones. We learnt as much in the bar and over the dinner table as in the Seminar.

If only club golfers appreciated the asset they have in their greenstaff. I am always impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the people responsible for our golf courses. They deserve all the support they now receive from enlightened golfers.

Malcolm Peake, Chairman of Green, Temple Golf Club

Chest a minute...

It is of the utmost importance that an esteemed organ such as *Greenkeeper International* takes an active role in making its readership aware of Health and Safety matters and the magazine should be applauded for the considerable effort taken to highlight such issues.

Unfortunately one area seems to have been completely missed. Using the photographic evidence in both the magazine and the 10th anniversary calendar, it seems that a combination of exposure to Longlife Fertiliser combined with paint and a strong light renders parts of the body temporarily invisible. This must have been embarrassing for the model, although as the invisibility seems to be very localised ie in the chest area use of a warm vest should suffice until her nipples reappear.

The question that needs answering is what does the aforesaid combination of elements do to the male anatomy? Am I to be doomed to a life of worry in case one limb disappears half way through a presentation to my committee? If two limbs disappear, am I to expect them to reappear one at a time, or are they like buses and travel in pairs? When they return will they be on the correct side and be pointing in the same direction? I am sure that you will agree that this is an area of great concern.

I plead with you to continue the magazine's crusading approach in order to bring sufficient pressure to bear on the manufacturers of either the paint or the fertiliser to research all possible side effects. Secondly, could I suggest that the young lady in the photograph to be contacted and invited, as my guest, to the first of Kent Section's golf days. I am sure that the extra large turnout would enable us to collect a considerable amount of money towards a disability fund for her.

Richard Page, Shortlands GC, Bromley

A job well done

I would like to direct this correspondence to the entire BIGGA staff and the general membership.

Our most recent visit to the BTME was to date the best conference I have ever attended due to two factors. Number one was the manner in which the staff attended to every detail in its planning and the follow through. You are all to be congratulated on a job well done. Second is the fellowship among the membership and the fellowship among the membership and the relationship one feels between the organisation and other greenkeepers.

Each year, since my first BIGGA conference in Ayr, Scotland, I return to the States anxious to spread the word of what wonderful colleagues we have overseas in the golf industry and how welcome they make you feel in their country.

A very special thanks to Barry Heaney, Dean Cleaver and Patrick Murphy, who, as did the BIGGA staff, went out of their way to make my wife's visit an extremely enjoyable one also.

A most sincere thank you, one and all, for your hospitality and friendship.

Bill Montague, MG, Oakwood Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Help me out of a hole

I am a third year Golf Course Management student at Cannington College and for my major assignment this year I am studying bunker placement and design. I would greatly appreciate any information relating to the subject and examples (sketches, description, planner etc) or exceptional and different bunkering and bunkers. This would include those which are considered to have been placed fairly or unfairly, those which have been removed and why and why new bunkers have been introduced to a course.

The help of any greenkeeper who has been involved in such work would be of great benefit to me.

Paul Bawden, 12 Ruth Close, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1HQ



Delegates in the 'Communication with Committees' workshop during the Learning Experience

What a majestic week in Harrogate! Or was it a week in the Majestic? I suppose the answer is both. The Learning Experience goes from strength to strength



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

and, thanks to the continued support of Ransomes, we are able to offer delegates an entertaining and educational week.

It would not be possible to list all that happened during the week but I have tried to highlight some of the more memorable events that took place. More than 150 delegates and 14 speakers from five different countries made sure that the Education Conference was a success.

It was pleasing to see that the majority of delegates were still in their seats, late on Tuesday afternoon to watch Dr Paul Miller use a computer generated slide show to show how Elmwood College had conducted the rootzone testing for their new golf course and to hear Dr Marty Petrovic, from Cornell University, speaking about managing compaction. Thank you to all speakers at the conference who made sure that the week started off so well. More than 70 greenkeepers were taking part in four workshops while the conference took place. From the feedback that we received, I know that everyone enjoyed themselves, even though some people had sore brains at the end of each day. Thank you to all speakers at the Workshops.

A special event took place on Tuesday evening when the Toro Company held a reunion dinner for all past winners and runners-up of the Student of the Year Competition. This was a most enjoyable event and it was pleasing to see so many old faces and catch up on what had happened over the seven years since the Competition started.

Tuesday saw us move the Learning Experience to the International Centre and the Kings Suite for the Seminar Programme. The seminar programme was varied and the talks were delivered most professionally. The compactness of the Kings Suite compared to the Royal Hall ensured that all speakers could guarantee a responsive audience who gave a lot of feedback.

The launch of the new BIGGA video, Golf Course Ecology, took place on Wednesday afternoon with more than 20 members of the Press being given a chance to preview

the video and question BIGGA staff, Bob Taylor, from STRI, and Roger Greenwood, from Goodwood Productions. The feedback so far has been excellent and if you have not yet obtained your copy,

they are available from BIGGA HQ priced at £9.99 to members and £19.99 to non-members. The Press Conference also saw the launch of the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc Amenity Care. This competition, which has been very successfully run by Amazone for two years should be even more successful in the future. Almost 60 people asked for application forms, during Harrogate week. Further details will be sent to golf clubs and appear in this magazine next month.

Another new competition was launched at BTME. The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping joins the Toro Student of the Year Award as a major competition in BIGGA's calendar. This new competition which aims to reward the winning greenkeeper and his/her golf club is designed to recognise that greenkeeping excellence can only be achieved if clubs and greenkeepers work together. Prizes reflect this with the winning Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager attending the GCSAA conference and show in California, in 1998 and visiting the two Toro factories and the winning club receiving a Toro Greensmaster Triplex Ride on Mower. Watch out for more details in this magazine in the very near future.

Finally, I am starting to plan the Learning Experience for January 1998. If you know of any speaker or would like a particular subject covered then please let me know.

■ The next Master Greenkeeper examination will take place on March 20-21. Anyone wishing to sit the examination should contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.



The 'Levelling and Surveying' workshop