

# THAT WAS THE W

**BTME 97 could lay claim to be the most successful yet.**

**People came from far and wide to Harrogate '97. Friendships were forged and deals were struck but most of all people enjoyed themselves.**

**The Learning Experience in association with Ransomes brought some of the finest speakers on their subjects to the stage while the Exhibition was hailed as the best yet – by both visitors and exhibitors.**

**It was also the busiest ever. And that's official. A total of 5,486 delegates visited over the two and a half days. That's 27% up on last year. No wonder you could hardly move! It was also pleasing to meet so many visitors from overseas – Harrogate resembled the United Nations with 17 nationalities represented, including some from the golfing outposts of Iceland and the Czech Republic.**

**The week was a great success and a superb launching pad for BIGGA's 10th anniversary celebrations. Even the singing of the BIGGA Boys improved on last year's performance at the Karaoke night!**

**The week ended with the deafening sound of people scratching dates into the diaries – January 21-23, 1998 for BTME 98 with the Learning Experience in association with Ransomes in the shape of the Education Conference kicking off at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate on Monday January 19.**

**See you all there!**



Bridie Redican, Richard Andrews, Bob Buckingham and Graham Dale at the reunion

## REUNION FOR TORO WINNERS

For the first time since the start of the Competition in 1989, Toro Student of the Year Competition winners, runners up, representatives from Toro, in Europe, England, and the USA, Lely and the PGA European Tour and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer met at a reunion dinner in Harrogate.

Mark Procter, who is now Golf Estate Manager at the St Pierre Golf and Country Club, was the winner in 1989. Mark, who was the Course Superintendent at Portal Golf Club, in Cheshire, back in 89, has nothing but praise for the competition and feels that all college students should be encouraged to enter. Mark has also been busy off the golf course. He married in 1993 and he has three children.

David Norton, Course Manager at Forest Pines Golf Club, North Lincolnshire, was the winner in 1990. He was an assistant greenkeeper at Beverley Golf Club in 1990 and has also worked at The Belfry, being involved in the English Open and Ryder Cup in 1993. David married in 1995.

The two runners-up in 1990 could not attend. Guy Woods, who is Course Manager at Bath Golf Club, could not attend as his wife is due to give birth at any time and Michael Wattam, Deputy Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club was unavailable.

Brian Storey was the winner in 1991. Brian nominated by Elmwood College, was a greenkeeper at Silloth Golf Club and is now the Course Manager. Brian's wife is also due to give birth and he was unable to attend. John Waite, runner-up in '92, is now Head Greenkeeper at Scarthingwell Golf Club near Tadcaster. He was the first assistant at Temple Newsam Golf Club in '93. He has completed his education to Phase 4 City and Guilds and is now married with a 3 year old daughter.

Barry Neville, the winner in 1992, is yet another whose wife is due to give birth. Barry is the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Stanmore Golf Club. Anthony Gooch, runner-up in 92, is the Head Greenkeeper at Torrington Golf Club. Tony visited Penina for the PGA Tour Conference, the Scottish Open at Gleneagles and the German Masters in Stuttgart as his runner up prize. The other runner up, Paul Brannan could not be contacted.

Nineteen Ninety Three saw the first and only lady

to win the Competition, Bridie Redican. Bridie has moved several times in four years and is now the Administrator with the Golf Course Superintendents of Ireland Association. She is married and has a four month old son. Jonathan Oldnow, is still single, is still at Coventry Hearsall Golf Club but he is now Deputy Course Manager. Richard Andrews is still at Highgate Golf Club. Richard, who is now married expects his wife to give birth in late February.

Euan Grant was the winner in 1994. Euan moved from Effingham Golf Club to Royal Jersey soon after winning the Competition. After gaining valuable experience as the Deputy Course Manager, Euan moved back to England to take charge of a new course being built at Westerham in Kent. Euan has also married since winning. Margeir Vilhjalmsson returned to his native Iceland, and became a father. He is now Course Manager at Reykjavic Golf Club. Margeir visited La Manga and Wentworth for the World Matchplay as part of his prize.

Byron Thomas was First Assistant at Morlais Golf Club in 1994. Byron, who celebrated his 21st birthday on the day of the Competition final is now at Celtic Manor.

James Braithwaite not only won the competition in 1995, he also had to beat the weather to get to the University of Massachusetts in the severe American weather of January 1996. James has moved from the Hallgarth Hotel and is now the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Long Ashton Golf Club.

Unfortunately, the runners up for 1995 and 1996 could not make the dinner, nor could the 1996 winner, Fintan Brennan who is out in Massachusetts on the start of his eight week trip to the USA.

Bob Buckingham, European Marketing Manager for Toro welcomed everyone to the dinner and said how pleased he was to see that so many student greenkeepers had benefited from the Competition. Although some slight changes had been made to the rules of the Competition and runners up prizes for 1997, he said that he was sure that the next five years would see an increase in entries as more greenkeepers and golf clubs saw the benefits of education and training in general and of the Toro Student of the Year Competition in particular.

# WEEK THAT WAS!



PICTURES BY TIM MOAT AND SCOTT MacCALLUM, with a little help from John Pemberton and Ken Richardson



■ Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron and PGA European Tour Courses plc concluded a lucrative agreement to supply equipment into the six courses owned by European Tour Courses plc during BTME.

Sean Kelly, Managing Director of PGA European Tour Courses plc, flew to Harrogate to sign the agreement with Peter Bell, General Manager of Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron UK.

The three British courses which will benefit from the agreement which will give Jacobsen the status of official supplier are Collingtree Park, Stockley Park and the Tytherington Club, which has recently been bought by PGA European Tour Courses plc. The others are in Sweden, Germany and Portugal.

"We look forward to a long and successful partnership with PGA European Tour Courses and we are confident our equipment will exceed their expectations for quality and performance. The association will be a prestigious partnership for both parties," said Glynn Patrick, Managing Director of European Operations for Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron.

"PGA European Tour Courses are very pleased with the partnership and look forward to an increasingly close and productive relationship with Jacobsen E-Z-GO," said Sean Kelly.

European Tour Courses plc, of which the PGA European Tour owns 20%, is hoping to own as many as 20 courses by the year 2000. Picture shows Peter Bell (left) with Sean Kelly.

■ The occasion of BIGGA's 10th anniversary was the perfect occasion for the first ten National Chairmen to meet for dinner.

As you might imagine there was much to talk about and the dinner stretched on long into the night.

Back row, from left, Dean Cleaver ('96), Barry Heaney ('95), John Millen ('94), John Crawford ('93), Roy Kates ('92). front row, from left, Walter Woods ('87), Jack McMillan ('88), Paddy McCarron ('89), Ivor Scoones ('90) and George Malcolm ('91).



## PAT SUCCEEDS DEAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting held in the Majestic Hotel on the Wednesday of BTME week was the occasion for Dean Cleaver formerly to hand over the Chairmanship of the Association to Pat Murphy.

As BIGGA chalked up 10 years since its formation the AGM was an opportunity for Executive Director Neil Thomas to report on a successful year in the run up to the 10th anniversary and outline what the coming year has in store while the Association's first Chairman Walter Woods spoke on where the Association had come from and his pride at how it has developed.

Walter then took up his place as a Guardian of the Association, replacing the retiring Bill Lawson, alongside the other Guardian, Brian Gilbert of the R&A.

Gordon Child, of the South West and South Wales Region, became Vice Chairman of the Association while Barry Heaney, '96 Past Chairman, and Harry Diamond, of Scotland, retired from the Board of Management to be replaced by Robin Greaves, of the South West and South Wales, and Jim Paton, of Scotland.



■ The response to Pattisson's 100/100 Club was exceptionally good at the Show. The Club was conceived to celebrate Pattisson's 100th anniversary and provide 100 golf clubs with £100 to put towards BTME or a BIGGA training course.

To encourage 100/100 Club members to visit the Pattisson stand the 25th, 50th and 75th member to make an appearance received a gift. The lucky three members were 25th Derek Neave, of Brough GC, Hull; 50th Ian Beech, of Newcastle Under Lyme GC and 75th, Doug Fernie, of Epsom GC. They each received a Ryder Cup presentation box produced by Pattisson's sister company. Doug is pictured receiving his gift from Northern Area Sales Manager Peter Marshall.



■ The first ever AGM of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) was held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate during BTME.

A measure of the progress made since a meeting was held at the same time the previous year to look at the possibilities of forming such a Federation can be made by the fact that over 50 attended the AGM and 12 of the 16 affiliated National Associations were represented.

A wide ranging discussion covered the annual membership fee and the need to assist smaller associations and the agreement on the constitution.

It was also agreed that the interim Board

electd at an earlier meeting remain in position for another year until the Federation has established itself.

Member Associations are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland while later during BTME a representative from Portugal indicated the desire of his National Association to join.

The picture shows the FEGGA Board. L-R Roland Favrat, Elise Jarvenen, Per-Olof Ljung, Vice Chairman, Dean Cleaver, Chairman and Claus-Detlef Ratjen.



## MASTER GREENKEEPERS COLLECT THEIR PRAISE

The ranks of the Master Greenkeepers were added to at BTME with the presentation of three more plaques – bringing the number of greenkeepers worldwide with the distinction to 14.

One of the three, Mark Broughton, of Morecambe GC, had previously been presented with his Master Greenkeeper blazer at The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes last year but the other two Ian McMillan, of Balbirnie Park GC, Markinch, Scotland and Gary Grigg, Royal Poinciana GC and the immediate Past President of the GCSAA, received both their blazers and their plaques at Harrogate.



Entertainment of varying qualities was provided during week by the **BIGGA Boys**, the **BIGGA Girls**, **Laine Kennedy** and **Bobby Davro**.



■ Laurence Pithie, MG, led a strong delegation from American Golf (UK) Ltd, the largest golf operating company in the world.

"BTME was an excellent opportunity for us to meet all our suppliers under one roof as well as meeting colleagues to discuss business in general," explained Laurence, Director of Maintenance for the company in the UK.

■ One of the busiest stands on the Wednesday was **Miracle Professional's** who had **Danni**, the **Miracle Girl**, who stars in **BIGGA's** calendar and **Miracle's** latest adverts, as a special guest.

Danni, who by coincidence appeared on a certain page of a certain newspaper on the same day as she visited BTME, spent her time signing posters of herself for visitors.

She is pictured with **Miracle Boys**, **Steve Hall** and **Johnny Beck**.



The prize draw, open to any member who had introduced two new members to the Association, was won by **David Murdoch**, Head Greenkeeper at **Liphook GC**, in Hampshire. David, whose name was drawn by **Viscount Whitelaw** wins a £600 holiday voucher.



■ Ransomes announced at BTME that it is to launch its own range of compact tractors onto the European markets during 1997. This initiative results from an agreement reached with a major producer of compact tractors.

To be manufactured in Ransomes corporate colours and styling, the tractor range will be marketed and supported fully by the company through its existing commercial distributor and dealer network throughout the British Isles and mainland Europe. Encompassing a power band from 18 to 45hp (13.4 –

# UNVEILED

## New products seen for the first time

33.5kW), the new Ransomes compact tractors will complement the company's current line-up of professional grass-cutting and turf maintenance machinery, adding strength and value to the Ransomes product range.

"This move has been planned for some time and reinforces our position as the world's most complete supplier of grass and turf-care equipment," commented Ransomes' Sales and Marketing director, Andrew Sunaway.

It is planned that the first Ransomes compact tractors will be available in Britain during the Spring in time for the coming season. Full information on the new range, together with model

specifications and prices, will be released as soon as details are finalised.



■ John Deere showed a new walk-behind version, of the Aercore 1000 and 1500 tractor mounted aerators – the Aercore 800 – at BTME '97

"This is its first public showing in Europe, and we have chosen

the BIGGA event to get initial reactions to the product from greenkeepers and other turf professionals," said Graham Williams, John Deere's Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division Manager.

"The Aercore 800 is going into full production in February, and is due to be available here in March or April." Like its stablemates, the self-propelled Aercore 800 is designed for aerating golf greens and fairways, and other fine turf areas. It features an 18hp Kohler petrol engine with four selectable forward gears, a working width of 81cm (32in) and adjustable depth control down to 100mm (4in).

# The Power of The Team

## Quality, Performance, Service...

Jacobsen, E-Z-GO and Iseki bring you The Power of The Team.

The Power of Quality in Engineering excellence; right across the range.

The Power of Performance built into every machine in every turfcare and amenity situation.

The Power of Service through a lifetime of care.

If you want it all, don't compromise. The Power of The Team.



There is an 'operator presence system' with electric raise and lower controls, and top speed for transport is 3.5mph. Overall weight is around 392kg (865lb).

There are three sizes of tine holder available to provide the widest possible choice of hole spacings. The special Flexi-Link tine design produces clean, tidy holes with minimal scuffing at the hole top, using a variety of solid, open-sided or hollow tines.



the new Super B compact tractors it is designed to help greenkeepers and amenity managers solve the problem of debris clearance.

Its 200km/hr air blast is designed to clear loose and lightweight debris from golf courses, sports ground, roadways and parkland or if preferred the operator can blow debris into rows for collection and disposal later.

Three point linkage makes attachment to selected Kubota compact tractors easy and height adjustments can be made according to grass length. The BL770 also features an anti-scalp roller to prevent tUI, scuffing especially on uneven surfaces.

An optional 180 degree diverter chute is also available to enable the operator to change the air delivery from left to right. There is also a hand-held wander hose option.

Price ex VAT: £2550

■ If BIGGA's 10th anniversary is not enough to celebrate, there are four other good reasons why being a member of BIGGA is such good value.



First it was the introduction of the BIGGA Year Planner sponsored by Toro. This welcome addition to every head greenkeepers office provides an 'at-a-glance' view of the complete year and a means of recording a wide range of dates and important reminders.

The Miracle sponsored Desk Planner also provides a versatile office aid which enables greenkeepers to make record those important telephone calls, detail weekly appointments, convert weights and measures, plan the weeks work and of course scribble

down any thoughts that may come into the head.

Complementing the Desk Planner is the Hardi sponsored golf course management Date Planner which provides Head Greenkeepers with their own Diary. The Date Planner includes a useful reference section on BIGGA's ten years of growth, provides a month to view calendar to record day to action plans and activities and details important events in the golfing calendar. Featuring a 'wipe-clean' cover, the Date Planner is both attractive to look at yet serviceable as a day to day work tool.

Last but not least is BIGGA's first calendar, introduced to celebrate the Associations tenth anniversary. Supported by twelve leading names in the golf course supply industry, the BIGGA calendar is both useful and attractive, either in the work place or in the home.

■ The Toro Company announced a two-year warranty on its entire commercial equipment product line effective from the beginning of this year.

The worldwide warranty covers Reelmaster, Greenmaster and

■ A new powerful Kubota BL770 blower attachment was on show at BTME'97. Attached to one of

THE POWER OF THE TEAM

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 equipment and golf cars to PGA  
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# SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME

Groundsmaster mowers, Multi Pro utility vehicles, aerators, top-dressers, sprayers, sweepers and all other commercial products. Toro's product line has applications in the golf, government/municipal, landscape, outdoor, recreation, sports field and other turf management markets.

"This warranty decision shows our customers around the globe that Toro is committed to manufacturing quality, design expertise and meeting service expectations," said Dan Stiller, International Product Manager. "Turf maintenance professionals can depend on Toro to be there to support them - no matter where they are located on the map."

Toro has achieved ISO 9001 certification for its Commercial Business and Riverside facilities, and ISO 9002 certification for the Tomah Commercial and Shakopee parts production facilities.



Levington Horticulture launched two new fine turf fertilizers at BTME,

both of them featuring a high potash to nitrogen ratio. These new products are additions to the comprehensive Levington Greenmaster range of fine turf fertilisers, bringing the number of Greenmaster formulations to ten.

Greenmaster NK (12:0:12 plus 2% iron and 3.3% magnesium) and Greensmaster Double K (7:0:14 plus 4% iron) have been introduced to the range to meet the increasing demand for such fertilisers from greenkeepers caring for sand green systems. Importantly, both products have been formulated with a zero phosphate content in order to eliminate risk of encouraging *Poa annua* establishment.

Levington also introduced new Sportsmaster Fairway at BTME. Sportsmaster Fairway is a spring and summer feed with a balanced



formulation (12:6:9 plus 3% MgO) for a fast sustained green up without excessive growth.

Two new Charterhouse Verti-Drain machines (pictured above) had their European debut at BTME.

These two new models replace the existing Popular Verti-Drain and the best-selling Greens Verti-Drain.

The two new models are both faster over the ground than the previous machines and can be operated without creep gearboxes being fitted to the prime mover. The re-design of these machines has been specifically focused on providing the Greenkeeper and Groundsman with an excellent finish to their turf after the shatter tining process.



Allen's new Lawncycler hover mower is a unique addition to the grass cutting machinery market - and will be available to the professional user in March 1997.

This mulching mower has a patented, Grass Recycling System, an 18" cut and is powered by an easy start 4 stroke 4hp Briggs & Stratton engine, designed for quieter operation and minimum pollution.

Lawncycler's GRS (Grass Recycling System) obviates the need for grass collection and is ideal for keeping grass healthy and fresh looking. This feature is of special use to greenkeepers and groundsman when very dry weather conditions, such as those experienced in this country over the last few years, persist for many months.

Ideal for bunker and tee surrounds, grass can be cut with minimum effort, but maximum manoeuvrability, using Lawncycler (rsp £449.95 inc VAT).

This year's BTME saw the launch of the latest, state-of-the-art (of grass) varieties and mixtures from Barenbrug.

Comprehensive details of the range can be found in the 1997 Amenity Grass Seed Mixtures handbook, now available from Barenbrug. But BTME showcased one mixture and two varieties specifically.

BAR EXTREME has been developed for extreme wear tolerance, for applications such as golf tees, tennis courts, cricket wickets and fairways. This special blend of perennial ryegrass gives a compact, fine-leaved, clean-cutting appearance, which is able to withstand close mowing and has been formulated to give rapid establishment from overseeding.

BARCAMPSSIA is a unique new species of tufted hairgrass, which Barenbrug has developed especially for shaded situations. It therefore addresses the problem that can arise from your back lawns to tree-lined parks. Not to mention the increasingly talked about situation of shade in sporting arenas. BARCAMPSSIA has been extensively tested and trialed at the STRI, Bingley, and at Barenbrug's own research station in Holland with excellent results. Highly wear tolerant, this variety has a light green colour and a broad leaf similar to smooth-stalked meadow grass.

Huxley launched its brand new Greenstar ride-on greensmower at BTME.

Paul Huxley unveiled the Greenstar and explained that Huxley's was the only all-British ride-on currently being produced in this country.

Boasting steering and quickly detachable cutting units, exceptional traction and stability, permanent all wheel drive, power steering and a Perkins 20.3hp diesel engine the Greenstar will sell for £17,500 without groomers and £19,999 with the groomers.

Appropriately the first purchaser was Alresford GC. Huxley's home base club and Head Greenkeeper Mark Webb, who assisted with some of the research and development was at BTME to look over his new machine.

Pattinson's launched its own brand of line marking paint at BTME.

Premier Line has been specially formulated for use on golf courses and sports grounds and is not harmful to the atmosphere, the user or fragile root systems.

It has won an Environmental Award for Innovation in Aerosols as neither the product nor the propellant gases contain lead, chlorinated solvents, or chloro-fluorocarbons.

Premier Line is available in six colours - white, yellow, blue, green, orange and red and also available are the handheld, two wheel and four wheel applicators.

Due to lack of space more of the new products launched at BTME will be published next month.