



A very fine vintage

It is the oldest cliché in the book to say that BTME was the best ever. It's been said every year since the first show was held but perhaps, even in some illustrious company, BTME '98 might come to be regarded as a very fine vintage indeed.

Let's look at the evidence. Well, more people attended the show than ever before; the Learning Experience, in association with Ransomes produced a range of topics and quality of speaker to rival anything which will be heard anywhere this year; the changes to previous year's the marquee to replace Hall D was a resounding success and assisted the flow of the show; the aforementioned Hall D was unrecognisable when it transformed itself into a stunning star lit lounge to host the traditional Thursday night banquet allowing 650 guest to enjoy a fine meal and watch an excellent cabaret.

Among the witnesses to speak in

support of the week and the work of the Association was Michael Bonallack, Secretary of the R&A who, during the Chairman's Lunch, recalled BIGGA's early days.

"There were many sceptics who said the Association wouldn't last... look at it now. There were many people who said the Show was a mistake... look at it now and there people who said the magazine wouldn't last... but look at it now," said Mr Bonallack, who presented the Golden and Silver key plaques in place of Viscount Whitelaw who unfortunately had to miss the week due to ill health.

Another to be impressed by the quality of the Show as Jaime Ortiz-Patino, President of Valderrama Golf Club, who spoke on preparations for last year's Ryder Cup on the Seminar Programme. He expressed a desire to return to Harrogate to give another paper at some future date.

The success of the show is due to



Chairman Pat Murphy does the honours at the opening ceremony

a number of factors which ever year combine to make the third week in January special for so many people. The excellent support from members who travel to Harrogate in droves, the support from the trade

who ensure that visitors are met by friendly and familiar faces when they venture into the halls and an education programme which is second to none.

Roll on BTME '99!

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