

# Make the most of the big show

**W**ell it's that time again. The same old suitcases are packed, the same old instructions to phone home are given and the same old promises to be good are made. Destination Harrogate.

I must admit when I went to my first BTME in '96 I was amazed by it all. Yes, I'd been to all the preparatory meetings in the months leading up. I knew how many exhibitors we had. I knew that it filled four huge halls. I knew that we had speakers of the highest calibre, many of them flown in from around the world. I knew what was expected of me. I knew what everyone else would be doing. I knew all of this but nothing prepared me for just how good BTME was.

To be honest, amid the admiration for what my colleagues had achieved since BTME was first launched was a hint of jealousy. I was jealous that my profession, journalism, has nothing to compete with BTME and what BIGGA provides for those who work in the industry.

I would just love the chance to stand at a bar and chew the fat with Ian Wooldridge or John Inverdale. Or listen to a lecture by Des Lynam on how he prepares to front the World Cup. Or chat with the manufacturers of the laptop on which I'm writing this piece about what I'd like in their next model. Or take part in a workshop which might cure me of the nasty habit of being totally unable to use one word when - and I know I am prone to this - one is the optimum required number which would, under normal circumstances, be needed to complete the designated task.

Unfortunately there isn't anything on the scale or quality of BTME for journalists and I'd

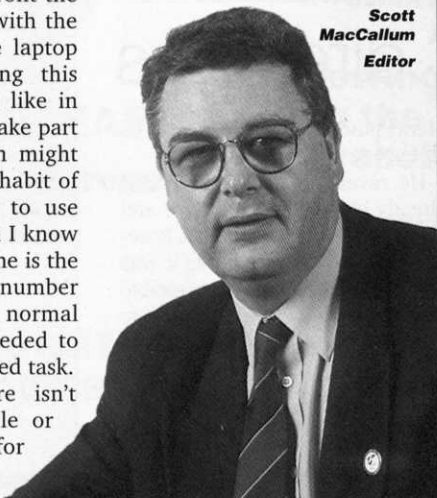
wager that there aren't many industries which are catered for so well. Indeed, what other industry could cope with such a large percentage of those involved in it gathering at the same place at the one time.

Make the most of it and I hope that I'll meet a great many of you there.

■ This issue of the magazine marks the end of a long association with the man responsible for much of the success it has achieved. Tim Moat has been in charge of design and production from the very first issue back in January 1991. Since then he has put up with the foibles and peccadillos of several Editors but always ensured that, whatever the raw material he was handed on deadline day, a consistently fine magazine was delivered to the readers.

Next month, the magazine welcomes the arrival of BIGGA's new in-house designer, David Emery, but it certainly won't be forgotten that *Greenkeeper International* wouldn't be where it is now without Tim Moat.

On behalf of everyone at BIGGA I would like to wish Tim, and his company Headline Communications, every success in the future.



Scott  
MacCallum  
Editor

## As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY  
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

I began this month in Spain, at the FEGGA Conference, and guess what? It rained! And when it rains in Spain it doesn't half pour. Where do I have to go in the world to break the jinx?

However, it was a superb conference at which 12 different Associations were represented, each giving a paper on Education within his or her country and another on the environment. One of the outcomes

was that every country would attempt to standardise their education to a minimum level which equates to Level 2 NVQ.

I would like to thank Toro, for their generous sponsorship of the Conference and for the use of their conference facility, and also the FEGGA Board for inviting me to attend.

I had no sooner returned from Spain and I was off to Aldwark Manor for a GTC meeting. I had originally agreed to attend the South West and South Wales Seminar on the same day but due to some pressing business I had to cry off so apologies to everyone who was at Cannington College. However, I did hear reports about how excellent a Seminar it was.

Later that week I attended the Annual Dinner at my own golf club Shipley and was absolutely delighted to be presented with an engraved tankard by the Club Captain, Richard Cadman, to commemorate my year as Chairman.

The following Monday I was in Ireland for the Northern Irish Seminar where I gave a talk on the work of the Association. Ken Richardson also gave an excellent presentation on Educational matters.

Next, I went to the Northern Section AGM where it was good to see a strong working committee and a healthy balance sheet. The occasion also marked Alan Gamble's retirement from the committee after a long and fruitful innings. Thanks for all your work, Alan, and keep supporting us.

The Editor and I both attended a Levington Conference at Woburn and would like to thank Levington for their excellent hospitality. The dinner in the Sculpture's Gallery was a wonderful occasion.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Neil Thomas travelled to Shipley one evening to give me the privilege of signing the papers for the land on which the new Headquarters is going to be built. The builders will start on January 12 and I'll be rolling up my sleeves to cut the first turf.

■ The Chairman gives an extended look back to his year in office on Pages 16-17.

