



Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. You can also fax them to 01347 838864, or e-mail them to [general@bigga.co.uk](mailto:general@bigga.co.uk)

## Subsidised courses a winner

Late last year I attended the BIGGA Regional Course at Airth Castle Hotel on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment and would like to congratulate the Education and Training Department on an excellent two day course.

Although it was intense, it was most enjoyable and held in very pleasant surroundings. I find it difficult to understand why so few greenkeepers attend these courses,

they are great value for money at only £75 per head - surely not out of reach of most club's budgets.

These courses are subsidised by the BIGGA Education Fund so that most greenkeepers can afford to attend, so let's not lose these excellent education opportunities due to lack of support.

**Robert Hogarth**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Cathcart Castle GC

## High praise from Denmark

Chris Haspell, a young Englishman working as a Head Greenkeeper at Falster Golf Club, in Denmark, took the initiative to arrange a study tour to his motherland with a group of Danish greenkeepers. Apart from visiting BTME in Harrogate we had the chance to visit three golf courses. Our group was thoroughly impressed by the beauty and the standards of these courses and particularly by the methods and the skills that were behind their maintenance.

On behalf of the group I would like to say thank you to Anthony Davies, of Prestbury GC; Derek Green, of Royal Liverpool GC and Chris Whittle, of Birkdale GC, for letting us visit and passing on their enormous knowledge with such generosity.

A special thanks also to Keith Kent, of Old Trafford. Obviously class goes hand in hand on that pitch. Thank you to Richard Campey, Peter Cobalt and all the other lads we met for showing

and sharing your wit and knowledge.

On behalf of the Danish Greenkeepers Association (DGF), I would like to express my admiration of BTME and the Learning Experience at Harrogate arranged by BIGGA. The organisation is truly setting a high standard to be followed and it is our wish for the future that we in Denmark will put more work and effort into FEGGA and thereby learn as well as to contribute to fellow European standards and activities.

Cheers Chris. It was a marvellous tour, you're a great ambassador for your country and you reflect what we met in England - warmth, wit, skill and knowledge. Never mind that you support Leeds United. After all, nobody is perfect.

**Per Rasmussen**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Copenhagen Pay and Play  
Denmark

## Thanks for a priceless trip

I am writing to thank everyone from Toro and BIGGA for the outstanding trip to the GCSAA show in Anaheim. It truly was a trip of a lifetime, broadening my horizons to the industry of greenkeeping. The trip was priceless and although it was my first ever visit to the USA, which was an eye opener in itself, the knowledge gained from the show and senior greenkeepers was second to none. The whole occasion was something I'll never forget as we really were 'mixing with the best.'

There were so many highlights it is difficult to name them all, I was totally overwhelmed by the enormity of the whole event. It was really encouraging to see Toro and BIGGA working closely together as through both organisations I have met so many interesting people and I will definitely be participating in more

BIGGA organised events.

Finally, the lasting memory of America to myself will be all the many friends I have now met from the Toro/BIGGA representatives who gave us five star treatment for the whole trip, to my fellow greenkeepers who share with me the desire to continue learning about the industry; Eddie Adams, Mick Wells, Ian McMillan and Alan Owen deserve special mention.

It is a credit to our profession that so many people can mix and strike a friendship in such a short time.

Thanks once again for the memories and I look forward to seeing you all again, as I'm sure we will.

**Chris Rawlings**  
Rodway Hill GC Gloucester  
Runner-up in the '97 Toro Student of the Year Competition

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