

Countdown well underway to BTME '98

It seems like only yesterday that everyone was leaving Harrogate having enjoyed a successful BTME '98 so it will come as a shock to many that BTME '99 is only three months way.

Preparations for the final BTME and Learning Experience, in association with Textron of the millennium, are well advanced - to be truthful they began as soon as the previous show had finished - and visitors to Harrogate on the week of January 18-22 will find all their old friends among the exhibitors as well as many

new ones.

Companies exhibiting for the first time include Petroleum Products and Services, Gannon Oils, True Surface Rollers, Angus Horticulture, Bowley Hinton Associates, Garden Master, Eamonn Wall & Co, Fargo, Trelleborg, Algisure Products, Cooper Clarke, Vitagrow, Heron Electric, Club Car, Countax and Soft Spikes UK. All are welcome and join the many other established exhibitors bringing the total to 166.

With the same four halls - three

permanent and the enormous marquee which made its debut at BTME '98 - space is at a premium but several companies have increased the size of their stands, among them Kawasaki and Wiedenman, which has doubled the size of its stand.

Since last year Textron has purchased Ransomes, the sponsor of the Learning Experience which encompasses the National Education Conference and workshops held in the Majestic Hotel during the Monday and Tuesday and the seminar programme held in conjunction the show itself.

Textron, now know as Textron Turf and Specialty Products, possesses an enviable stable of fine turf machinery including Jacobsen, Ransomes, Iseki and Cushman has an exciting new stand to visit.

As ever the education programme put together by BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, is without compare on this side of the Atlantic and includes some of the finest brains in their respective fields.

They include David Oatis, of the USGA; Pelino Senna, of the CGSA; Dr Stephen Baker of the STRI and Dr Richard Hurley, of Lofts Seeds Inc.

For more information on BTME '99 and the Learning Experience in association with Textron Tel; BIGGA Headquarters on 01347 833800.

Second FEGGA conference venue named

The second FEGGA conference will be held at the Hotel Mijas, Fuengirola, Spain from 12 - 15 November. This follows the successful inaugural conference at the same location last year.

Toro will again be sponsoring the conference and will be joined this year by Supaturf/Aquatrols with the conference adopting the theme of 'Water Management'. One session will be devoted to 'Theory and Reality' and the other to 'Strategies for Effective Management'. The conference will also incorporate a FEGGA summit with the coming together of member Associations.

Each member Association has been asked to nominate two delegates to attend the conference and the conference papers will be published in English, French and German.

Further details from Neil Thomas at BIGGA or Tommy Lindelof at PO Box 42, S-139 21 VARMDO, Sweden tel. 468 570 196 10 fax. 468 570 198 10 - E-mail - sga.sweden@swipnet.se



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