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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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## February 1999

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by March 11, 1999

## Regulars

### News

Pages 7, 8, 9

### 10 Education

Ken Richardson was laid low during BTME but has compiled an excellent column from his sick bed

### 10 Money Matters

A look at Independent Financial Advisors

### 12 Letters

### 15 The Learning Experience

Customer Satisfaction. Giving the members what they want at key times of the year is an ideal way to keeping them happy

### 34-40 Around the Green

### 66 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

### 66 As I see it...

Gordon Child begins his second year in office by listing the benefits that are available through BIGGA membership

## Reader Reply Card

Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the company's Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us, and we'll arrange for further information to be sent direct to you.

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
Amenity Technology	431	67, 68
Bioseed Probiotics	613	35
British Seed Houses	87	40
Cargills	566	18
Charterhouse	130	36-37
Club Car	583	32
Eagle Promotions	549	21
Even Products	609	49
Fairway 99 (Munich)	612	23
Firbank Recycling	611	39
Grass Roots Trading Co	479	6, 30, 52
Green-Relief™	563	45
Hi-Chem UK	510	5
Hydroscape Group Ltd	475	2
Lely UK Ltd	61	28-29
Levington	102	11
Marlwood	501	26
Mommersteeg	171	35
Ocmis	360	17
Oliver Seeds	571	33
Rhône-Poulenc	59	41
Rufford Soil Technology	5	25
Textron	9	14
Weed Free	504	39

## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800



### Golden Key Circle Company Members

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### Silver Key Circle Company Members

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Have you recovered from BTME99 yet? Well, the fun never stops, and at BIGGA HOUSE, we are already planning for the millennium!

Call Jenny now, on 01347 833834 to book your place at BTME2000!



66 As I see it...



15 The Learning Experience



55 Win £50 with our new Buyers' Guide quiz

# The best ever

Until the Olympic Games in Atlanta in '96 it was customary for the International Olympic Committee President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to declare each Games the "best ever" at the closing ceremony.

The fact that he didn't do so for the Atlanta Games was a bit of a kick in the teeth for the organisers. However, they would have been empty words had he maintained the tradition, what with the well documented traffic chaos and well meaning volunteers not up the task of ferrying athletes to their required destination on time... not to mention the horrible bombing.

As an aside, the first morning of the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta last year saw our bus driver get well and truly lost on the way to the golf club and add almost an hour to the journey. So, some things never change.

Anyway back to Mr Samaranch. I know he had other things on his plate around the time of BTME but had he found time to visit Harrogate he could have dusted down his famous phrase and announced that BTME'99 was the "best ever".

By most people's standards BTME'99 really did move on to another level. The Learning Experience, in association with Textron, provided genuine stimulation for those who attended and in Frank Dick, gave us a Key Note Speaker, who could motivate an army of ants onto even greater heights.

The Show itself attracted its highest every attendance - 6,093 people over the two and a half days - shattering the previous best. Of course, they were helped by the best weather in the show's history but they still had to make the effort to visit. From what I gather there was also some serious business done by some of the exhibitors which hints at the quality as well as the quantity of those who filled the halls.

The Thursday night banquet in Hall D had a changed format with Showaddywaddy, providing the entertainment and it provided the ideal opportunity for guests to showcase their nifty footwork and hip shaking talents. There may have been some spare room on the dance floor but I didn't see any.

It is extremely gratifying for all those involved in the organisation to see the months of preparation come to such a successful conclusion.

It does offer up a headache though. Next year Harrogate was always going to be a special occasion - the new Hall Q also seems to have caught the imagination - but now it will have to be extra special just to match this year.

Meetings to discuss BTME 2000 are just about to start at BIGGA HOUSE and you can be sure that everyone will be working hard to ensure that every element of Harrogate 2000 will be that little bit special.

Now that will give us a challenge when it comes to making sure BTME 2001 is "Best Ever".

But we'll cross that particular bridge when we come to it.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum



# Greenkeeper

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## Features

- 19 What a week!**  
BTME'99 was an occasion not to be missed. But if you couldn't make it to Harrogate, read all about it here
- 27 Cutting remarks**  
Roland Taylor, reveals the definitions behind some of the words and phrases which surround modern day grass cutting machinery
- 31 Ahead of the Game**  
Euan Grant has risen through the ranks quickly and now has a superb, though daunting job, working for football man Ron Noades. He speaks with Scott MacCallum
- 42 Breaking the ice**  
Finland's Elise Jarvenen outlines some of the difficulties facing greenkeepers in one of the most northerly outposts
- 47 And the results are...**  
Dr Stephen Baker breaks down the findings from last year's R&A questionnaire into the problems facing British greenkeepers
- 50 Life at the sharp end**  
Scott MacCallum meets Stephen Bernhard, MD of the newest Golden Key supporter - Bernhard and Co Ltd
- 64 Arabian Knight**  
Gordon Child reports from Dubai where he attended the PGA European Tour Greenkeepers' Conference



19 BTME99 - What a week!



64 Arabian Knight