

# 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

INTERNATIONAL

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19 BTME99 - What a week!



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