



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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Bonallack, OBE

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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



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Company	Tel: Head Office
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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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BTME2000 lived up to its billing

Well, the anticipation we all felt for months before BTME 2000 was certainly matched by the reality. And it's not often you can say that, now can you?

I don't think I bumped into anyone who didn't comment on it being the best Harrogate week ever.

The Learning Experience, in association with Textron, was a spectacular success incorporating a meaty Education Conference and fascinating workshops while the Seminar Sessions caught the imagination.

And the trade also had a bumper week. It's the first time I can recall us being accused of massaging attendance figures the wrong way! You can see their point. Everywhere you looked there were busy stands and to say business was brisk would be like saying the New Year gales were nothing but a brisk breeze.

One of the real highlights was Simon Weston's talk on Wednesday morning - for which many people had made a point of arriving early. Now you might ask what the connection is between a man who suffered horrific injuries during the Falklands War and greenkeepers?

The answer is simple. Life itself. Life is full of ups and downs and as individuals we find ourselves worrying about the slightest little things at home or at work. Simon Weston put all that into perspective. He has encountered problems the vast majority of us can only have nightmares about but through all the pain and anguish has come a great attitude to life. He doesn't worry about the little things that bother the rest of us any more. He has a positive outlook on life which puts us all to shame.

We were also lucky enough to welcome Sir Michael Bonallack, BIGGA's President to the Show. Sir Michael presented our Golden and Silver Key supporters with their plaques and badges before, later in the day, attending the AGM. This is a year where he is combining his role as BIGGA President with the Millennium Captaincy of the R&A, so we owe him a real debt of gratitude for being so accommodating with his valuable time.

Among our other visitors were Mark James, last year's Ryder Cup Captain, who popped in to look round the show and some of the top officials from the PGA European Tour. It really does seem that Harrogate week is becoming a firm date in the diary for more and more people and a place for the whole industry to meet up.

Elsewhere, I liked the tale of the sleepwalking greenkeeper who found himself locked out of his room and had to descend four floors to confront the Majestic Hotel's night porter wearing nothing but a pair of boxer shorts. Not so much a day dream as a nightmare.

You can be sure that we shall be working hard - we've already started - on build up on the success of BTME 2000 for next year and that from January 21-26, 2001, you will have another week to remember.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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