

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION  
**BTME 2001**  
 & EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

# BEING THERE MEANT EVERYTHING

The thirteenth BTME proved to be the best ever with record attendances, talented speakers, and busy stands. The occasion reinforced Harrogate week as a must for all greenkeepers and fineturf industry figures, and also attracted a large number of overseas delegates.



Above: The registration team was kept busier than ever before

Right: Packed to bursting

## EVERYONE'S A WINNER AT BTME!



Above: Essay category winner David Roy receives his cheque from Sir Michael Bonallack and Elliott Small



Above: Richard Whyman accepts his place on the Bernhard's Canadian Scholarship from Stephen Bernhard



Above: New FEGGA Chairman Joe Bedford presents outgoing Claus Detlef Ratjen with a framed print



# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The insatiable thirst for learning displayed by visitors to Harrogate was well and truly quenched throughout the week with a huge variety of workshops, conference topics and seminar sessions.



Above and right: A packed auditorium applauds Keynote speaker Richard Nobel as he recounts his motivational experiences behind his record-breaking landspeed attempt



Above: The plants and soil science workshop in full swing



Above: Delegates get to grips with the latest technology in the computer workshop



Above: A delegate talks through his finished design in the Golf Course Design 2 workshop



Above: Delegates get put through their paces in the Machinery Maintenance workshop



Above: Hayter's top dealer of the year award announced at their annual dinner in the St George Hotel went to Karl Green and Mark Lowe of K&M Mowers of East Yorks. Presenting the award was Lynne Fearis, wife of GCSAA Past President, Dave.



Above: A packed conference session listens intently to Jonathan Smith during the Environmental Management section of the programme



# THE KEY TO GREENKEEPER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BTME gives BIGGA the opportunity of thanking those companies who have supported the Association over the previous year. The Chairman's Lunch on the Wednesday of the show is an enjoyable occasion and one at which Golden and Silver Key supporters are presented with plaques or badges. BIGGA President, Sir Michael Bonallack graced the occasion and presented the awards.



Above: Sir Michael Bonallack and Elliott Small with the Association's Golden and Silver Key supporters;



Left: Golden Key members with 10 years continuous support to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund receive a silver plate in recognition of their commitment to BIGGA's education and training initiatives.

# BTME BANQUET THRILLS AUDIENCE AGAIN

The Searchers took the audience on a trip down memory lane with a scintillating set incorporating many of their hits including, 'Needles and Pins', 'Sweets for My Sweet', 'Don't Throw Your Love Away', 'Love Potion Number Nine', 'Sugar and Spice', 'Some Day We're Gonna Love Again', and 'When You Walk in the Room'.



Above: Party goes getting into their groove

Right: Johnny 'Rotten' Pemberton sends his 'Pembets' into raptures





Neil Thomas reports on BTME 2001 and looks forward to changes next year



# CHANGING TIMES AT BTME

So it's over for another year and we reflect on a successful week in Harrogate, indeed on a BTME which surpassed expectations. Perhaps we came to Harrogate this year a little apprehensive not in terms of exhibitor numbers or the year on year growth of the show, but rather from the perspective of a gloomy autumn/winter period characterised by incessant rain and transport problems. Golf courses had been closed and trading had been difficult. Would this impinge on the BTME given also the current unreliability of our train services? Snow through Sunday did not auger well followed by rain on Monday and Tuesday. Low and behold, Wednesday dawned bright and clear.

Greenkeepers were about and a buzz was in the air. The trade began to smile and we were underway.

By mid-morning on the first day it was clear that our apprehension had been unwarranted as visitors appeared in droves, clearly bent on casting aside the despondency of previous months and kick-starting a better year for the industry. Queues were forming at the registration points and certainly BIGGA had not anticipated the volume of visitors - a pattern repeated the following day. It was a nice problem but a problem never-

theless and one which will need to be resolved for 2002. Queuing in the sunshine is one thing, if the weather had been inclement it would have been quite another. While pre-registration is always preferable, we appreciate that many do not bother to fill in and return the card - hence the queues which this year were significant given the increase in attendees. Registration will be reviewed for next year. With a provisional visitor figure of 7,172 for the exhibition, some 28% up on 2000, we are delighted, but explaining the dramatic increase is more difficult. My best guess is that so many within the industry and the profession wanted, indeed needed, to get the year off to a good start and there is no better place to do it than at the BTME.

Looking back on the week, it seemed to have the right mix. From a successful conference, in depth workshops and comprehensive seminar programme to outstanding keynote speaker and hugely successful banquet, the infrastructure around the exhibition contributed to a rounded event during which the trade did good business. Some come purely for the exhibition others for the education and many more for both. Combine this with the social and perhaps the

spiritual, for BTME is now an annual pilgrimage for many, and you indeed have a potent mix. Long may it last and we are greatly encouraged by the increase in visitor numbers this year.

Some thoughts on BTME 2002. BIGGA works closely with the BTME Steering Committee made up of representatives of the trade. During 2000, the Steering Committee set up a Working Party to look at future options for BTME in terms of opening days. The recommendation of the Working Party accepted subsequently by the Steering Committee and BIGGA's Board of Management was that for 2002 the exhibition would open on three days - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday with a later start time of 10.30am on the Tuesday. There would be a subsequent review of the opening days after the 2002 event. The increase in opening hours for 2002 has coincided with a sharp increase in visitors this year and this augers well for the future. BIGGA is well aware of the need to increase still further the visitor base and this will be a priority for 2002. BIGGA and the Steering Committee are looking to grow the event and will work closely together to ensure this is achieved. Breakdown next year will be on the

Friday morning thus ensuring three full show days. This is considered essential if the exhibition is to prosper under the revised opening days. There is a partnership between BIGGA and the Steering Committee and we consider that the mix I referred to earlier running throughout the week is essential to the continuing success of the BTME. Friday breakdown is considered by both parties to be an integral part of this mix ensuring that the exhibition finishes on a high note on Thursday evening.

Planning is already underway for BTME 2002. Bookings from new exhibitors are coming in at a fast rate and current exhibitors are requesting more space. We will do all we can to meet the needs and wishes of our exhibitors who make the BTME possible. It is not always practical to satisfy all needs but we will do our best in this regard. I believe that BTME 2001 has set up the year both for the trade and our members. I trust that the prevailing optimism after BTME will translate into a prosperous year all round and that the months ahead will be characterised by some warm and sunny days. Here's hoping.

Neil Thomas



# LARGEST EVER INTAKE OF MASTER GREENKEEPERS



The elite club at the top prestigious Master Greenkeeper programme received its largest ever intake when BIGGA announced the names of six Course Managers and Golf Course Superintendents who had earned the right to don the much sought after blazer.

The new intake takes the total number of Master Greenkeepers around the world to 28. Four of the six were presented with the blazers and plaques by BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack and BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, in Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall with the remaining two being presented with the same during the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America's Show in Dallas next month.

The four are Stuart Cagle, Superintendent at Old Oakland Golf Club, in Indianapolis, where he has been

since 1987; Geoff Coggan, an Englishman abroad, who is Superintendent at the Great Outdoors Recreational Vehicle, Nature and Golf Resort in Titusville, Florida; Walter Montross, who is Superintendent at the Westwood Country Club in Virginia, where he has spent the last 10 years, and David Murdoch, Course Manager at Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire, a Scot "abroad", who has been a greenkeeper for 15 years.

The remaining two are Brian Sullivan, Superintendent at the Bellair Country Club on Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles and John Gasper, Country Club of the Desert, California.

The Master Greenkeeper programme is in three stages - the accumulation of 200 credits based on experience, qualification and continuing educational development; a course visit carried out by existing Master Greenkeepers and a two part written exam. The programme has been running since 1990.



Anti-clockwise from top, pictured with Sir Michael Bonallack and Elliott Small are: Stuart Cagle, Geoff Coggan, Walter Montross and David Murdoch



## TAM O'BIGGA

Those who enjoyed Kerran Daly's epic poem, Tam O'BIGGA, which appeared in the BTME catalogue may have felt it got off to a little bit of a slow start.

Unfortunately due to a production error the first line was missed off.

The first verse should have should have read;

When conference day is wearin' late  
And we're a' oot in Harrogate  
Gie'n chat in Yates's bar  
While supping down another jar  
The boys are limbering up for Jimmy's  
Where they can strut their funky shimmies  
And in the heat-hazed, flights o' fancies  
Fantasise one-night romances  
The night wears on, the girls get sweeter  
Steadfast souls begin to teeter

Their spirits roused by sideways glances  
They vastly over-rate their chances  
Throu' heaving crowds Tam sallies forth  
To charm the lasses from up North  
But long before he meets his quarry  
He knows tomorrow he'd be sorry  
Tam wakes from his deceitful dream  
To inwardly abort his scheme  
And turning left instead of right  
He wanders oot into the night

Apologies to Kerran and I hope you enjoyed BTME 2001.

The entire poem - minus that first line - can be seen in both the BTME catalogue, and also on our website at [www.bigga.org.uk/btme](http://www.bigga.org.uk/btme)



## NEW FOLIAR TREATMENT FROM LINDUM

Lindum Plant Nutrition launched a foliar treatment which aids photosynthesis. ProteSyn is a liquid, organic compound which encourages healthy cell division, respiration and energy conservation in turf.

By providing complete amino acids, proteins and carbohydrates which are usually deficient in turfgrass in intensive use and under stress, ProteSyn improves the sward's photosynthetic efficiency, thus helping the plants to help themselves. As with all Lindum Plant Nutrition products, this new foliar treatment is designed to be incorporated within a total turf programme which Lindum create on an individual basis for each client, following extensive soil analysis.

## TEXTRON DEBUT LIGHTWEIGHT TOP DRESSER

The Turfco SP-1530 TM truck mounted broadcast top dresser made its UK debut on the Textron stand.

Ideal for greens that will not accommodate a towed top dresser, the SP-1530 TM provides unparalleled performance for fast and light applications. It can be easily coupled to a four-wheel Cushman Turf-Truckster using a few simple mounting brackets and connectors.

The hydraulically driven conveyor belt and twin spinners provide a uniform application at any speed, with the spinner angle easily adjustable for maximum penetration. The distribution pattern is variable from 4.57m - 9.14m enabling the majority of greens to be covered in just two passes.

A large hopper ensures fast loading using a front-end loader and one operator can do the entire job; for the busy greenkeeper that's fast and cost-effective greens management.

# SISIS UNVEILS LATEST ADDITIONS

## TWO NEW PRODUCTS COMPLIMENT SISIS RANGE

The new SISIS Rotorake is a thatch remover for regular routine use but also has the capability to work deeper when required, while retaining the finesse of the SISIS Auto-Rotorake and leaving a clean cut groove. The maximum working depth is 45mm.

The Rotorake 600 incorporates the SISIS Rotorake contra-rotation principle, whereby the reel rotates at high speed against the direction of travel. The blades therefore cut upwards holding the machine to the ground to maintain a regular working depth. A range of interchangeable reels is available.

The new SISIS Tigarake, hydraulic scarifier, has been designed for fast, effective, thatch removal on golf greens, tees and approaches.

The twin scarifying units give a working width of just over a metre. The entire machine floats on a front roller, and each individual unit floats independently across the width of the machine. It therefore follows undulations maintaining the depth of cut and eliminating scalping.

There are four interchangeable reels available: thatch removal reel; verticutting reel comprising close-pitched triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season; brush reel to remove light surface debris and lift grasses prior to mowing; combined reel with thatch removal blades interspersed with brushes to remove thatch efficiently, with the added benefit of a brushes finish.

The angle of 'throw' is adjustable for wet or dry working conditions. The large capacity collector tips for emptying or can be removed. The support legs slot away during work.



## TORO AIM FOR A BLAST WITH LATEST SIDEWINDER LAUNCH

The Groundsmaster 3500-D Sidewinder from Toro is a rotary mower with cutting units that can be shifted to either side of the machine to provide an overhang for trimming grass edges such as bunker rims and fringes. The machine is fitted with rollers and produces a fine cut, and is suitable for other mowing work such as fairway semi-roughs.

Toro says that the unit's key benefits are a superb quality of cut, high productivity and the delivery of an excellent after-cut finish that is aesthetically pleasing.

The GM 3500-D is designed to appeal to greenkeepers, grounds managers and landscape contractors. In golf, its use is primarily for surround mowing, trim work in roughs and for striping around the clubhouse and other desirable areas.

The GM 3500-D's innovative cutting system comprises three individual, 27in floating rotaly decks with front and rear rollers which follow ground contours to virtually eliminate scalping. The deck overlap configuration prevents grass streaks in turns and on banks.

Versatility is provided by an adjustable width of cut, which allows the machine to be set up for three different cutting widths - 68in, 70in and 72in - by simply changing a bolted assembly. A 68in set-up gives additional protection against grass streaking on banks or when turning; while 72ins provides more productivity on non-hilly terrain or for straight-line cutting.

The Sidewinder system enables the decks to slide 12in left and right of centre. This provides a 12in overhang on either side of the mower at a 68in

width of cut. At the 72in cutting width, the overhang available is 14in. Height of cut is adjustable in quarter-inch increments from three-quarters of an inch to four inches. The Toro GM 3500-D is fitted with a Kubota 35hp turbo diesel engine and has permanent three-wheel drive for both mowing and transport. Mowing speed is factory set at 6mph, but is adjustable, and the unit can travel at up to 9mph in transport. The all-new Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is a powerful lift rotary mower that is highly manoeuvrable and produces a superb, high-quality cut.

The machine is being introduced to meet the demand from those customers who prefer a large-scale rotary with a three-deck configuration. Toro says that the new GM 4000-D has been specifically designed to cater for five key customer requirements identified

after extensive research. These are power, cutting performance, trimming capability, traction and operator comfort.

Therefore the unit has been given more power than competitors' equivalents with a Kubota turbo diesel, 2-litre engine developing 56hp (42kw) and providing plenty of power for a variety of cutting conditions.

On cutting performance, the focus is on the quality of cut, mowing capacity, ground following and after-cut dispersion of the clippings. Rear discharge decks are fitted for even dispersion of cuttings for a clean after-cut finish. For even cleaner cutting management and added safety, these can be converted by customers to Toro's Guardian Recycler design simply by bolting on baffles and kickers.



## NEW FAIRWAY MOWER FROM JOHN DEERE

Featuring a 32hp liquid cooled diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission and power steering, John Deere's new look 3235B lightweight five gang fairway mower was unveiled at the show.

The machine offers higher capacity hydraulics, larger wheel motors and a maximum engine output of 38.5hp, with electric fans for quieter operation on golf courses and other amenity turf areas. There is a new ball joint and yoke design on the mower's standard cutting units, for improved grass collection. New reel motors and a new bedknife to reel adjustment, coupled with a new triple pump, increase the overall cutting performance.

The 3235B fairway mower is available with a choice of 12.7cm diameter seven blade standard, or 17.7cm diameter eight blade ESP (extra strength and precision), cutting units. Five and 10 blade ESP units are also available. The patented RFS (rotate for service) feature means the cutting units can be rotated and presented for easy servicing.

Overall mowing width is 2.54m, and the two front outer reels fold up to give a transport width of 2.2m. Height of cut ranges from 6.4 to 76.2mm, depending on model.

Further standard features include patented hydraulic down pressure on the reels to follow ground contours more closely, on board backlapping and simple reel speed adjustment. Options include four wheel drive, roll-over protection and John Deere's new FTC (fairway tender conditioner) with rear roller power brush attachments.

These provide a better, cleaner finish by grooming, recutting and dispersing grass clippings more evenly, particularly in wet conditions, without leaving unsightly clumps of grass on the fairway, and by reducing thatch build up.

Basic price of the 3235B is £29,301 with seven blade standard reels and £30,741 with eight blade ESP reels.

## UPDATED SEED CATALOGUE

Barenbrug UK launched its new catalogue at the show. For the new Millennium the publication, 'Amenity Grass Seed and Wildflower Mixtures 2001', is double the size of its predecessors, now being in A4 format and 40 full-colour pages.

It details all the company's products and services with a colourful, pull-out Mixture Selection Guide which makes choosing product quick and easy, while throughout the catalogue, panels spotlight helpful hints and technical information. Highlighted in the brochure are Barbizone and Barfelix, two varieties of a brand new species for Barenbrug, namely tall fescue. Specially bred for UK conditions, trials have shown these to be ideally suited for stressed soccer grounds and other facilities, being wear tolerant, disease resistant and even able to withstand waterlogging.

## KUBOTA LAUNCH THEIR MOST POWERFUL ROTARY MOWER AT HARROGATE



The most powerful-ever Kubota ride-on rotary mower made its UK public debut at BTME. Known as the F3560, the new model extends Kubota's F Series front mower line-up to four machines rated at 18hp, 25hp, 30hp and, now, 35hp.

The F3560 ride-on front mower is powered by a highly fuel-efficient Kubota E-TVCS (triple vortex combustion system) 35hp diesel engine, renowned for its low levels of noise, exhaust and vibration. The F3560 has as standard single pedal hydrostatic transmission, tilt column power steering and shaft drive to its three-bladed 1.83m (72in) cutter deck. Mowing height is quickly adjustable from 25 to 102mm (1 - 4in).

Sharing all the key features of its F Series stablemates, the F3560 is

designed to operate for long hours on large areas of grass across level or hilly terrain. Its tight turning circle, compact dimensions and low centre of gravity make it equally well suited for work on banked ground and amongst trees and similar obstacles. A safety rollbar, weather cab or safety cab are all available.

Other important features include a hydraulically-actuated, oil-immersed PTO clutch which ensures smooth cutter engagement, minimising shocks and maximising clutch and drive line life. For optimum cooling efficiency and operator comfort, air drawn through the radiator is force-fed into the engine chamber before being discharged to the rear of the machine, keeping hot air away from the operator.

## BERNHARD'S NEW GRINDER



Bernhard and Co introduced its most advanced rotary blade grinder, Rota-Master at the show.

An essential tool in the workshop this machine, once set up, can be left to complete the grinding cycle alone - due to the unique automatic infeed with auto cut-off.

Features include a quality balancer and automatic traverse with easily adjusted travel stops. With blades held securely in place both ends can be ground at the same time almost eliminating the necessity for post-sharpen balancing.

Operators benefit from Rota-Master's ergonomic work height and built-in dust collection system - which has the added advantage of an attachment to vac out the working area. The grinding operation occurs away from the operator for added safety.

## TEXTRON UNVEIL HANDY CONTROL SYSTEM

Also unveiled at the show was the Ransomes Super Certes walk-behind mower with Motivair™, the new servo-control system for pedestrian mowers.

Motivair™ is easily identified by its distinctive profiled handgrips incorporating the engagement trigger and safety collar. The handgrip design provides the best user comfort possible, while complying with stringent safety legislation. A gentle squeeze of the trigger allows the vacuum operated servo-control system to engage the drive clutch. This new design provides an exceptionally smooth take-up of power with almost effortless operation and providing the user with a comfortable working platform.

