

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