

Neil Thomas reports on how you could join the BIGGA delegation to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, USA - February 2002

# The chance of a Lifetime



In February this year, a 10 man BIGGA delegation participated in the CGSA Conference and Show in Vancouver courtesy of sponsorship through Bernhard and Company Limited. Following the success of this new venture, Bernhard have confirmed renewed sponsorship for 2002 which will enable BIGGA to send another ten man delegation, this time to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida.

The group will consist of two BIGGA members selected from each Region (10 in all) and the costs of travel, accommodation and entrance to the Conference programme will be met by Bernhard and Company Ltd. Applications are invited from BIGGA members who would be interested in representing the Association at this major industry event.

## How do I apply to be considered?

You must submit a personal profile consisting of no more than one side of A4 which should include brief details of education and training and career summary, as well as membership history within BIGGA. You will need to explain why you warrant selection for and how you would benefit from the Orlando visit.

Also, you will need to demonstrate an ability to represent BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession in a public relations role at an international event.

This application must be submitted to, and received by, your Section Secretary no later than July 31.

Each Section Committee will consider all the entries received and will then put forward a chosen candidate for Regional selection. This will involve the finalists in an interview with a panel consisting of the Regional

Chairman, Regional Board of Management representative, sponsor's representative and a representative from BIGGA headquarters. Each Region will select two of the finalists for the visit and the remaining finalists will receive a voucher worth £100, redeemable against a visit to BTME 2002 in Harrogate. The Regional panels will meet during October and the names will be announced in the December issue of 'Greenkeeper International'. The delegation will be visiting as guests of Bernhard and Company but will be representing BIGGA throughout the seminars, conference sessions and visit to the Trade Show. You must possess a BIGGA blazer and tie and dress appropriately throughout the visit.

Delegates who attended the CGSA Conference and Show in Vancouver are not eligible to enter.

Below: The ten BIGGA delegates pictured with Sam McLean of Bernhards (centre) at the 2001 CGSA Conference Dinner in Vancouver



Richard Whyman, (pictured on the immediate right) Head Greenkeeper at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club and a member of last year's Canada delegation speaks highly of the experience.

"I saw last year's trip to Vancouver as an important part of my continuing educational development and I learned a great deal from speaking with other Superintendents and greenkeepers and from visiting other golf courses. Thanks to Bernards it was a wonderful opportunity and I would thoroughly recommend BIGGA members to put themselves forward for possible selection on next year's trip to Orlando".