

Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, **BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

The best ever BTME attracts praise from MG

I wish to personally thank all the BIGGA staff for the tremendous organisation of the education conference & BTME show. I have attended several in the past decade & I thought this to be the best to date. It has become a piquant, landmark event which all greenkeepers should aspire to attend.

I found the education conference contained both theatre (Human Resource Management) & a most insightful update on environmental concerns throughout day 2. The holistic approach to sound environmental management is a theme which will become common place in forthcoming years. The fact that only a handful of greenkeepers knew what a SWOT analysis is, proves there was knowledge to be gained from Martin Gunns presentation.

The SWOT analysis will soon become a very important management tool, enabling greenkeepers to clarify information for their respective clubs in all areas of concern.

The entire BTME has become a springboard for new products with the

representatives now housed in excellent indoor facilities, conducive to discussion between trade & customers. The new hall proved to be an attractive addition to previous exhibition space.

The keynote speaker certainly left no one sleeping in the aisles. I'm sure everyone's heart missed a beat or two after the crackle of the 'sonic boom' on video. His connection of integrated teamwork required for success is the integral recipe necessary at all golf courses around the world.

The theme for members to get involved with CPD proves that as an industry, we are carving our future in line with the very best in other areas of employment. This will be very important in ensuring the future security for all greenkeepers, whatever their educational achievements attained to date.

The greatest aspect for me at the National Education Conference/BTME is the communication of recent experiences, ideas, strengths & weaknesses between greenkeepers themselves. Over the 4½ days I attended, I must have

talked to well over 100 greenkeepers & several dozen trade members. I discussed issues with greenkeepers from several parts of Europe, including Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany & Poland, alongside American, Canadian & Australian superintendents. The knowledge gained from these encounters would take several months to assimilate from books etc & it is all completely free to those who can communicate to improve themselves & impart their experience to others. In the end this makes those that attend richer for the experience & will help to make them better greenkeepers / managers at all levels.

I hope this may inspire other greenkeepers to attend in the coming years & discover for themselves what a great experience this week can be & thereby supporting BIGGA to become a stronger, worldclass association in which we are all proud to be members.

David Winterton, CMS, MG.

Plea for help from Belgrade

I would like to acquaint you with my profession and some of the problems in our country in this respect. I am an assistant at the Faculty of Forestry, Department of Landscape Architecture.

My subject is Management and Maintenance of Lawns and, in our country, it is still in the phase of development. Unfortunately, I am the first person who defended a Master of Sciences degree in this field and nobody has ever defended a doctoral dissertation dealing with Lawns.

My obligation to the Faculty and also my desire is to prepare the thesis in such a way that it has multiple benefits.

Moreover, I would like to tell you, that in my country we haven't even got a Golf Course. Concern for this sport is presence. I think, in the close future, my country will need to make the first Golf Course in Yugoslavia. Because of that and my concern for Management and Maintenance of Lawns as well as Golf Course, I would like to be trained in this way.

Since my country who's been in war and long-standing isolation, I haven't financial possibility for cost of some course. In some occurrence I am ready to learn and work in order to pay, cover cost of course. University of Belgrade and me like assistant have minor financial facilities.

Thank you very much in anticipation. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Enad Stavretovic, M.Sc.
 Faculty of Forestry, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Belgrade, Kneza, Viseslava 1, 11030 Belgrade, Yugoslavia

John wishes team best wishes for 2001

After 11 years at Golfclub Neuhof near Frankfurt I have moved to Golf Park Gut Wissmannshof in Staufenberg, Niedersachsen.

I would like to wish all the lads a good season for 2001.

John MacKay, Gut Wissmannshof 2A
 34355 Staufenberg, Germany

BTME thanks

I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation for the hospitality I received while at the BTME 2001. This was my first trip to the UK and I was quite pleased with warm reception that was extended. Everyone was very warm and friendly during our visit. A special thanks to Ken and Sami for their help and support. Hopefully a return visit will be possible and a chance to make additional friends.

Stuart Cagle CGC, MG



Stuart receives his award from Sir Michael Bonallack and Elliott Small

BIGGA gets familiar with industry professionals

A one day course designed to familiarise members of the trade with BIGGA and the wider golfing industry was held at BIGGA HOUSE at the end of February.

Attended by several people relatively new to the industry as well as a number of more established industry figures the day was an excellent opportunity for an exchange of information.

The morning consisted of a look at BIGGA's membership and education initiatives as well as a tour round the many other bodies and Associations within the game of golf itself.

Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing

Director of Hayter, then gave a talk on the Trade's, and his own, view of greenkeeping and greenkeepers.

The afternoon session offered an opportunity for greenkeepers to give the audience an appreciation of their work.

Philip Taylor, Course Manager, at Alwoodley Golf Club in Leeds talked on his work on a members' golf club while Andy Campbell MG, Golf Courses and Estates Manager, Carden Park Hotel and Golf Resort, spoke on life on a proprietary-owned development.

The day closed with an Open Forum at which many issues pertinent to the industry were discussed.

