

The dust may not yet have settled from BTME2001, but here at BIGGA, planning is well under way for next year's event. In a brand new BTME series, Neil Thomas gives a progress report on preparations for BTME2002.

Revised arrangements for 2002 breakdown

Following representations from a number of companies, BIGGA, in conjunction with the BTME Steering Committee, has announced revised breakdown arrangements at BTME 2002 next January. Breakdown by companies will now be permitted from 5.00pm on Thursday 24th January, the final day of the show. BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, commented 'We listened to the views of certain companies who were not happy with the original plan to breakdown on the Friday. We were conscious of the extra costs that would be incurred with breakdown personnel having to stay an extra night in Harrogate. It has therefore been decided to permit breakdown on the Thursday evening. However, companies are requested to give due consideration as to whether they do in fact breakdown on the Thursday evening or wait until the Friday. It may well be that the larger machinery companies, for example, determine that Friday will be a more suitable day given the considerable early evening traffic problems experienced in Harrogate and the possibility of adverse weather conditions'.

Secret's out on BTME Steering Committee...

There was general amusement at BIGGA HOUSE recently over allegations in a rival publication that the names of members of the BTME Steering Committee appeared to be a state secret. Indeed readers of the article in question will realise that the editor concerned was indeed 'barking up the wrong tree'. The BTME Steering Committee has operated very successfully over the past decade and some original members still attend the regular meetings held in Spring and Autumn at BIGGA HOUSE. The Association has benefited considerably in taking on board suggestions emanating from the Committee for the general benefit and enhancement of the BTME. The strength of the BTME today owes much to the industry's support and input through the Steering Committee and long may this continue. Recently membership of the Steering Committee was revised and we are now able to exclusively announce to readers of 'Greenkeeper International' the names and their companies of current Steering Committee members. Please contact them with any suggestions or ideas for the future of the BTME as its success remains very much dependent on the continuing strength of the relationship between BIGGA and the industry as a whole.

CURRENT BTME STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Peter Bell - Textron Turf Care
 John Hall - Aventis
 Steve Hall - Rigby Taylor Ltd
 Jonathan Harmer - Farmura
 Roger Hargreaves - Sisis Equipment Ltd
 Simon Harrison - Advanta
 David Jenkins - Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd
 Kim Macfie - Hayter Ltd
 Peter Mansfield - Toro Company/Lely UK
 Richard Manby - Joe Manby Ltd
 Sam McLean - Bernhard & Co
 Richard Minton - Scotts UK Professional
 Clive Pearson - Gem Professional
 Lorna Tyson - Myerscough College
 Joe Weston - Amazone Ground Care

The clock's ticking...

BTME2002: Greenkeepers Week set to continue

BIGGA's annual Turf Management Exhibition has been held at the Harrogate International Centre since 1989. The fourteenth such exhibition to be held in January 2002 will see a major change with the traditional Wednesday, Thursday, Friday morning show being replaced with a three day show opening from Tuesday through Thursday. This change of opening days for the BTME follows detailed discussions within the Working Party set up by the BTME Steering Committee and subsequent consideration of its recommendations by both the Steering Committee and the BIGGA Board of Management. There were two prime reasons for the change. First and positively, it is considered that with the success and growth of the BTME, the show can now sustain three days of trade activity and visitor traffic. Secondly, Friday morning has not been viewed as a success by the trade and Friday breakdown has remained unpopular with long journeys having to be made late in the day. So the change has been made and the Association, together with the exhibiting companies, will employ their best endeavours to ensure the success of the new format.

This brings us on to the concept of the 'Greenkeepers Week'. Over the years, greenkeepers have come to regard the week of the BTME as the major event in BIGGA's calendar. They come to Harrogate through various packages and by various means. Some come for six days whilst others come in smaller combinations of days right down to the day visitor. BTME kickstarts the year for both trade and greenkeepers. BIGGA is very anxious to protect and strengthen the concept of the 'Greenkeepers Week' and as such will make only minor modifications to the week for BTME 2002 bearing in mind that the new show format will be subject to review after next year's event. The National Education Conference will continue



on the Monday and Tuesday along with the workshops programme although in both instances there will be enhanced options together with the ability to visit the exhibition at the conclusion of the educational programme on the Tuesday. The seminar programme will operate through Wednesday and Thursday while there will be an attractive educational programme on the Friday morning before greenkeepers depart for home. Social highlights will include the Conference Dinner on the Monday evening and the BTME banquet on the Thursday evening. The BIGGA AGM will be held at its normal time on the Wednesday evening. So greenkeepers' plans for the 'week' can continue as before but with more time available on the show floor and this will surely be appreciated with the growth of BTME.

The growth curve was significant at this year's BTME. We need to continue to build upon it and the demand for space at BTME 2002 is indeed encouraging. BTME needs to meet the expectations and aspirations of the greenkeeping profession, golf course



personnel in general and the exhibiting companies. There is a groundswell of support from all concerned to take the BTME forward and build on its success but this will only be achieved by a real 'partnership' of greenkeepers and trade. To this end each needs to understand and appreciate the other's perspectives with regard to the BTME and to be mutually supportive. Many forget that BIGGA does not employ an exhibition company to organise and run the BTME. It is all done in-house and it is therefore our key role to pull the whole operation together whilst creating an ambience which will allow the show to prosper and grow for all concerned.

TUE
22
JAN02

WED
23
JAN02

THU
24
JAN02