

## A fine set of figures

As I write, it is now two months on from Harrogate and memories are still fresh in the mind of a truly wonderful week. My particular highlights include a wonderful education programme running throughout the week; the bizarrely funny Brahms and Liszt at the Banquet, and an inspirational talk by Roger Black, whom, I note, has obviously used BTME as a springboard to a presenter's role on BBC TV's Tomorrow's World. Even the very best can enjoy professional advancement, if only they come to Harrogate!

Mulling over the attendance figures it is great to see a vindication for the decision to extend the show to three days, which was taken following extensive consultation with the industry. Four consistently packed halls, featuring all the familiar industry names and faces - both on the stands and in the aisles, as well as new The Golf Club Show, which enjoyed a very successful debut in the King's Suite. More than ever Harrogate is a not-to-be-missed Showcase for everything to do with golf... except, of course, the playing of the game!

Just to put you in the picture, Tuesday saw 2,445 visitors; Wednesday was a record individual day for BTME with a mammoth 4,040 visitors, while Thursday was visited by some 2,144. That produces a sum total of 8,629, 10.1% up on the 7,833 who attended BTME 2001, and reveals a relatively even split for the three days - an absolute bumper sandwiched between two very solid days.

As everyone who exhibits, or visits, a Show will know it is the final day where you expect to find the lowest number, so that the 2,144 Thursday figure is one of which we at BIGGA are particularly proud.

To put it into perspective, here's what I wrote in a press release at my first BTME back in 1996. I must be in line for a gold watch or something by now.

A total of 2,312 visitors went through the doors on Wednesday (day 1) and 2,159 made the same journey yesterday (day 2). Last night, on your behalf a team of BIGGA mathematicians poured over calculators to come up with a figure of 42.9% - the increase on Thursday of last year. The number crunchers can also tell us that the aggregate for the Wednesday and Thursday is 4,471, yes 4,471, a massive 25.2% up on the 1995 two day total.

It means that this year's final day figure of 2,144 was on a par with the record breaking opening two days of the '96 Show.

It's amazing how your brain sometimes plays tricks on you. I could have sworn back in '96 that you would have needed a shoe horn to get

anyone else in but, six years on, our final day figure is similar to those but it is regarded by some as a quiet day. It just shows how far we've come. Heaven help us six years from now and BTME2008. We probably will need a shoe horn then.

Meanwhile, roll on Harrogate '03.

Scott  
MacCallum  
Editor

## Making his mark at Milford Haven

Milford Haven Golf Club has recently appointed their first course manager.

Kevin Rawlins took up this key role in the autumn. Already the 33 year-old, is making his mark on the rolling 18 hole parkland course, set on the edge of the UK's only coastal national park.

As a result of his appointment, the Pembrokeshire club is also embarking on an ambitious five-year programme.

Kevin's climb up the green-keeping career ladder began as an assistant at Camberley Heath Golf Club, followed by a six year stint at Wentworth as Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

He believes in leading by example, and enjoys being hands on

out on the course. He is full of praise for the hard-working team he inherited - First Assistant, David Smart, and greenkeeper Charlie Young. The club are currently recruiting a trainee to complete the ground staff team, which Kevin foresees as going from strength to strength.

"Kevin has proved to be huge asset to the club in the time he's been with us. The results he's already achieved on the course speak for themselves," said Club Captain Andrew Smith,

According to Kevin, there is loads of potential at the club, with the luxury of plenty of space for expansion, two acres of nursery turf, and a large store of topsoil that can be exploited in a



Above: Kevin Rawlins, recently appointed as Course Manager at the west Wales club

strategic programme of course improvements, including rebuilding the bunkers in revetted style - unusual on a parkland course.

## Top man in Sussex

**Steve Phillips, Course Manager at Cowdary Park GC, won the coveted award of Sussex Greenkeeper of the Year for 2001. This award is presented by The Sussex Professional Golfer's Union for Excellence in consistently preparing a Golf Course to the Highest Standards for all Professional events. Steve commented that his head Greenkeeper Jonathan Smith and his Team played a key part in winning the award.**

Right: Steve Phillips, holding the award, Jonathan Smith to his right and his team from left to right, Bernard Penny, Darren Freeman, Leigh Holloway and Anthony Hill.



## Scottish Education Conference a success

The BIGGA Scottish Region Conference was again held at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline in March. An excellent venue with first class facilities and easy access from the motorway.

The speakers were covering a variety of subjects all relevant to the industry today.

Ged Cunliffe, Technical Sale Manager for Biotol, opened the Conference with a paper on Biological Solutions for any fine turf area. This was a most interesting and informative subject.

Next was Philip Langdon, of Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd, on Irrigation Systems Assessment.

Philip provided an insight into irrigation systems. A topical subject and well presented by Phil. Despite the weather this winter, and the amount of rainfall we have had, his talk was of benefit to everyone who has a watering system or indeed anyone who was considering installing one.

After the break the double act of David Withers, from Textron, and Brian Goudie, of Scottish Grass Machinery, spoke on 'A Salesman's Role'. This was something different from previous years and was presented very well. The talk covered all aspects of the salesman's role, having a

good salesman/customer relationship and the benefits that can be gained from this partnership.

Finally to round of the morning session, was Ruth Mann of the STRI, who presented her paper on Pest and Disease Survey. Ruth explained the reasoning behind the survey and the research being carried out. This topic was of great interest to the members and generated a great deal of discussion.

After lunch, John Caven, Director of Golf at Meldrum House, Aberdeen, spoke about his role in the 'Creation & Marketing of a 5 Star Golf Facility'.

John provided a most valuable insight into marketing and presentation involved in promoting this kind of facility.

A figure well known to everyone involved in greenkeeping, Jimmy Kidd, from Gleneagles Hotel, was next to speak. Jimmy spoke about Gleneagles bid for the Ryder Cup 2009. The requirement for any club to run such an event staggers belief and Jimmy in his usual competent manner provided an enthralling insight into what is required.

The final speaker was Paul Miller, from Elmwood College.

Paul's talk was on 'Integrated

Plant Management'. Paul with his experience in this field gave a very interesting and topical paper on a subject relevant to greenkeeping.

The Scottish Region of BIGGA are once again indebted to the speakers for providing such interesting and informative talks on subjects relating to the fine turf industry.

During the Conference the Chairman had the pleasure of announcing the first ever winner of the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. This award is presented in memory of one of the stalwarts of greenkeeping. Harry had served the Association in many capacities and was particularly involved in the education of greenkeepers and it was only fitting that this award be presented to the Student of the Year. The winner of the award for 2001 was Mark Cummine, of Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

The Scottish Board would like to thank the Patrons for their continued support and the members who attended this year's Conference. The numbers were once again over the 160 mark and it is thanks to you that the Conference is the success it is.

Peter J. Boyd,  
Scottish Regional Administrator

## BIGGA forges closer links with international associations

Right: At the GCSAA Banquet during the Orlando Show a memorable speech by Walter Woods was followed by presentations, including this portrait, to the Old Tom Morris Award winner by outgoing GCSAA President, Tommy Witt

Below: Association chiefs get together in Quebec City. Pictured are Steve Mona, GCSAA; Ken Cousineau, CGSA; Neil Thomas, BIGGA with Marie Thorn, Senior Turf Specialist with Syngenta.

Below right: Pictured at the recent CGSA Conference and Show in Quebec City are Vince Gillis, recently retired Executive Director of the CGSA with CGSA Past President, Doug Meyer.



## Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award winner

Lee Relf, 21, from Colchester, a final year HND Sports Turf and Golf Course Management student at Writtle College, is the 2001 winner of the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme.

To win the award, Lee submitted two 5,000 word dissertations, which he then followed up with 20 minute presentations to a panel of judges.

The GEGAS initiative is supported by FEGGA and sponsored by Textron, and is a 12 month educational and practical training programme for young greenkeepers from around the globe, based at The Gleneagles Hotel.

It is open to students who are looking beyond a basic greenkeeping career and wish to develop their skills

to become golf Course Managers of the future. The scheme can accommodate a maximum of eight students, who are selected from colleges and educational facilities in the UK and now, with FEGGA as a partner, from across Europe. Textron's sponsorship includes an expenses paid visit for the winning student to visit the GCSAA Show in the USA.

The scheme was established in 1994 and has grown year on year providing students with all the necessary greenkeeping skills, together with a unique opportunity for personal development during their year-long work placement.

"Lee is the first winner of the award since FEGGA added their support for the scheme. His dissertations and

subsequent presentations were of the highest order and worthy of the accolade," said Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses and Estate Director at The Gleneagles Hotel.

"During his 12 month placement he, and the other students, have had the opportunity to experience the alternative styles of maintenance required for soil and sand based greens. They have been able to work on the championship courses at Gleneagles and develop their greenkeeping talents. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring together students from all over Europe to train and gain experience and we are extremely grateful for the sponsorship from Textron that makes it happen."

TIME TO TALK

[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS

### Ernie Hart

It is with great regret that I report the death of Ernie Hart.

Ernie was born in 1923 and apart from the War years spent most of his working life connected with our industry.

He was the East Anglia Section President and one of the biggest supporters of BIGGA I have ever had the honour to have known. After his retirement some 14 years ago Ernie would spend some of his time visiting golf clubs around East Anglia encouraging greenkeepers to join the Association. Last year Ernie was put forward for and granted Life Membership of the Association for all the work he had done for the East Anglia Section.

Ernie was a friend to everyone and always there to help, he will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

Ian Willett  
East Anglia Section Secretary

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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Simply send an email to:

[updates@bigga.co.uk](mailto:updates@bigga.co.uk)

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest - it's that easy!

## The Grand Tour Scholarship 2002

The Grand Tour Scholarship invites golf course design and turfgrass management students for the third time to apply for a journey to leading golf courses throughout the United States. The scholarship is once again sponsored by the TORO Company and offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in our industry. The trips are going to take place in August and are organised by the founder of The Grand Tour Scholarship, Bettina Schrickel, golf course architect (EIGCA) and president of Lioness Golf LLC.

The scholarship offers four students the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses on the east coast and west coast of the United States, respectively. The Western Route leads to 22 golf courses in three weeks; the Eastern Route includes 25 courses and takes four weeks. Courses to be visited include Augusta National, The National Golf Links of America, TPC at Sawgrass, The Country Club in Brookline, Cypress Point Golf Club, Pebble Beach Golf Links, Riviera Country Club and Pinehurst. Experience has proven the benefit of two students travelling together to share knowledge and impressions and split the task or driving across the country. Students will have the opportunity to walk each golf course, study the layout and talk to the Superintendent.

Golf course design and turfgrass management students from all over the world are invited to apply for the scholarship. Last year's successful candidates came from England, Germany and the United States. Applicants shall be at least 21 years old and have demonstrated significant efforts and results in their educational career.

The scholarship covers costs for flight tickets, rental cars, fuel and hotel accommodation for the duration of the journeys. Students will be provided with the Scholarship Route Book that includes detailed directions, useful tips and safety advice. Applicants must be in possession of a valid passport and drivers license.

Deadline for application is May 15, 2002. The Grand Tour Scholarship Committee, will select successful candidates according to the contents and quality of application documents.

For application forms and further information, please contact Bettina Schrickel by e-mail: [lionessgolf@aol.com](mailto:lionessgolf@aol.com) or telephone: (+1) 954-647-3436.

## Toro for St Andrews Bay

Toro has supplied a complete range of turf equipment to maintain the two new cliff top championship golf courses at the £50 million St Andrews Bay Golf Resort & Spa.

The spectacular complex, which includes a 209 bedroom luxury hotel, enjoys breathtaking views over the Firth of Tay, and is the only golf club in the world with views of two Open Championship venues - Carnoustie and St Andrews!

Set among 503 acres, 55 of which are designated as SSSI, the gently undulating courses - The Torrance, which opened in September, and The Devlin, opening next summer - have been kept as natural as possible with the replanting of native flowers and gorse. Toro has been awarded an exclusive five-year lease agreement at St Andrews Bay.

"I was asked what I wanted on the



course and said 'Toro,' said Course Superintendent, Neil Ballingall, who was Course Manager at Moray Golf Club before joining St Andrews Bay.

The picture shows, front, Neil Ballingall, third from left, with from the left Scott McNeil, of dealers Henderson Grass Machinery, Lely's George Macdonald and Henderson's Graeme Millar, with the St Andrews Bay greenkeepers.

## Long standing relationship

In 1932 the founder of Sisis, William Hargreaves, visited the Board of Greenkeeping Research (now STRI) at Bingley to show his netball posts and tennis net supports. In conversation with the first Director, Mr R.B. Dawson, he was advised to consider designing machinery to maintain the growing number of sports grounds and golf courses.

Over the years SISIS has maintained its friendship with the STRI and 70 years on William Hargreaves Joint Managing Director of Sisis and grandson of the founder and current Director of the STRI, Dr Gordon McKillop, met up to look at a Sisis Aerator circa. 1936 in the History of Turfcare exhibition held during BTME.



Then and now: Sisis and the STRI



## Training numbers are on the increase

THE number of golf greenkeepers undergoing training has leapt 20% in the past 12 months, according to new figures from the GTC. There are 2,817 greenkeepers in formal training in the current year, an increase of 445 on the previous year.

The news has been welcomed by the GTC and bodes well for the quality of golf courses in years to come. The increase is attributable to more and more employers opting for work based training solutions.

N/SVQ Levels 2 and 3 continue to be the qualifications most in

demand, but Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma numbers have also shown healthy growth.

The online Internet learning option is also proving popular, especially at Level 4. One establishment where online learning is taking off is Boston GC in Lincolnshire, where greenkeeper John Osborne has just completed NVQ Level 2 Sports turf.

"Although this type of learning does not suit everyone, in John's case it has really paid off," said Secretary Stephen Shaw.

"For the club the benefits are obvious as the greenkeeper spends less time away from his club, but we decide on training on a case-by-case basis.

"The most important consideration is what the individual greenkeeper wants. They have to be comfortable with the kind of training they receive."

The GTC's Education Director David Golding concurred.

"While the growth in training numbers is very encouraging, we at the GTC encourage all employers to invest in staff training as it is the only sure way of ensuring better golf courses."

## Textron trip a success

One hundred and thirty greenkeepers representing Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Wales augmented by a small party from the Middle East and South Africa attended the GCSAA Show in Orlando recently, courtesy of Textron Golf & Turf and their dealership network.

Numerous airlines were kept busy as greenkeepers flew in from all parts of the globe and assembled at the Crowne Plaza Resort Hotel on International Drive for the four day visit. Day two saw the party taken by coach to the nearby Orange County Convention Centre, where they were guests on the Jacobsen stand.

The following day the guests were taken to Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge. An early lunch was followed by a series of focus groups with members of Textron's UK and USA product management and engineering teams. The group was split into five teams and moved between the five sessions where they were able



to discuss the future development of equipment across Textron's entire product range.

"We have been delighted with the response to the focus groups from our greenkeeping colleagues. There has been free and frank exchange of views with a whole range of issues debated, from product enhancement to the future of greenkeeping on both sides of the Atlantic. It has provided an excellent opportunity to spend really valuable time with end-users and I think everyone was able to appreciate

the all-round benefits of the visit," said Glynn Patrick, Textron's International Sales Director.

Andrew Hall, Head Greenkeeper at St George's Hill Golf Club, in Surrey, added, "The whole four day trip was terrific, especially the focus group sessions at Bay Hill. We came away feeling that the Americans were listening to the Europeans, which was very encouraging. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all the other guys in the group: the atmosphere was terrific, the company and hospitality equally so."