



Welcome

A VERY SIGNIFICANT MONTH

In years to come July 2002 will be recognised in the BIGGA annals as one of the most significant months in the development of the Association.

That was the month when the ClubHouse Exhibition was purchased by the Association and joined with BTME to create a "Super" week at Harrogate each year.

Now it may pale into insignificance alongside the other transfer which occurred that month - that of Rio Ferdinand from Leeds United to Manchester United - but within our particular industry it may just create a similar impact.

Hyperbole? I don't think so, and if you consider the facts I think you may agree.

Next January 21-23, Harrogate will be the place to visit for everyone concerned with golf on the non-playing side. Now, to the layman, that may sound a little daft, but if you take the golf professionals and the club and ball manufacturers out of the equation there is still a vast amount of "golf" to consider.

Through BTME the golf course side has always been well catered for, with machinery, agronomic aids and products, advisory services, indeed everything required to ensure that the golf course can be maintained to the highest possible specification.

Now ClubHouse, which will be housed in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, will provide exactly the same opportunities for those seeking the latest information and product advice on what goes on inside the clubhouse.

For those people with overall responsibility for both sides of a golf club's management Harrogate will provide a unique "one-stop" shop for all their professional needs, while Club Owners, Managers and Secretaries will be able to accompany their Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers to Harrogate and extract just as much from the week as their colleagues.

The much vaunted "Continue to Learn" programme which runs during the week will be augmented to ensure that educational opportunities are also available to clubhouse, as well as golf course staff.

As I said it is a hugely significant development within our industry and I hope that, as BIGGA members, you can take pride in what your Association has achieved on behalf of the golf industry in general.

While I am in the business of issuing good news I'd like to thank Bernhards for the continuation of the very successful Bernhards Scholarship programme for a third year. Over the last two years it has seen 20 BIGGA members attend first the Canadian Conference and Show and last year the GCSAA Show to develop their knowledge and experience as greenkeepers. Next year the 10 successful candidates will again travel to the GCSAA Show and will return full of new found knowledge and ideas. Thanks to Stephen Bernhard and his team for making this possible.

Finally I'd like to congratulate Colin Irvine and his fine team for the truly stupendous condition in which they presented Muirfield for the 131st Open Championship. It was absolutely fabulous and did so much to represent the greenkeeping profession to the highest possible standard.

Scott MacCallum, Editor



We reported on the Volvo PGA Championship Support Team last month but we are now in possession of photographs of the team with the Champion Anders Hansen, together with a picture of Anders with Chris Kennedy.

IT'S A PENALTY!

It was the final practice day before the PGA Volvo Golf Championships at Wentworth and what was going on? Football on the fairway?

Well, seeing is believing and history was made that day when Shoot for a Million, the exciting new penalty shoot-out competition, set up a full-sized goal post in the picturesque setting next to the 18th hole of Wentworth's East course.



The greenkeepers, who had already entered a team in this competition, were the first to test their skills.

Golfers were intrigued by the spectacle and were soon lured down to take a few shots and to enjoy the tremendous feeling of putting the ball in the back of the net. Among others who joined in were Aaron Baddeley, the young Australian Pro, Jamie Spence and his caddie, Janet Squire.

In goal was Nick Beasant, whose father, Dave, was the first goalkeeper ever to save a penalty to win his team the FA Cup.

Shoot for a Million is open to anyone over the age of 16 who fancies their chances to test their penalty skills in teams of six with the ultimate prize of £500,000 to be won in a televised pre-Christmas final at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. With 10% of all entry fees going to the Variety Club of Great Britain it makes it not only a fantastic fun competition to be involved in but a worthwhile one too.

To enter the competition and for more details on when and where you play, event news and updates, visit the Shoot for a Million website at www.shootforamillion.net or telephone for an entry form: 0870 442 1451

TEXTRON PROMOTION

David Withers has been promoted to the position of Director, Sales and Customer Support, with immediate effect.

He will take responsibility for Textron turf sales and distribution throughout the world, excluding North America, focusing on the market leading Ransomes and Jacobsen brands.

In addition to responsibility for turfcare sales, David will also be appointing a new Customer Support Manager to ensure that customers receive the best possible assistance and attention. It will be a cross-functional role with a commercial rather than technical emphasis, and very strongly committed to customer satisfaction.

A new UK Sales Manager will also be appointed.



EIGA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects was held this year in Vilamoura, Portugal.

Peter Harradine was elected President, succeeding Simon Gidman, and Alain Prat was elected Vice President.

During the AGM the recipient of the Toro Student Golf Course Architect of the Year Award was announced as Rolf-Stephan Hansen. The Barenbrug Award was awarded to Steve Pope.

The three-day event included a Continuing Professional Development Seminar. The topics covered included ecology, architecture and the commercial aspects of golf and EIGA welcomed speakers from two of their sponsors, Toro and Textron, as well as their own members and Antonio Henriques da Silva, Managing Director of Lusotur Golfes SA.

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