

Clive Osgood performed one of his final acts as BIGGA National Chairman when at 10.30am precisely he pronounced BTME 2002 open with an expertly wielded pair of sheers



Whatever the weather...

Well known former BBC Weather man, Bill Giles, (below) was one of the visitors to the show on the opening day. Bill, with his colleague Simon Strong, have formed a new company, The Weather Index which will provide bespoke weather forecasts for golf clubs accurate enough to enable Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to plan ahead with confidence. "We have looked at the market and expect to be able to offer a daily emailed or faxed forecast for around £500 per annum," said Bill.



Nostalgic exhibition prompts poet to take up his pen!

Heritage!

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper
 Don't put our heritage in a skip.
 The machine's a dog and very old
 It's obsolete so you've been told,
 It stops when hot and won't start cold
 And you're now due for your watch of gold -
 Don't put our heritage in a skip.

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper
 Don't put our heritage in a skip.
 You've followed it for years and years
 Through all the highs and all those tears,
 So now retire it to pastures new
 For all your friends to admire and view -
 Don't put our heritage in a skip.

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper
 Don't put our heritage in a skip.
 It's given all it's life to you
 So please now take the longer view,
 People are here that think it's great
 To fix it up and show your mates -
 Don't put our heritage in a skip.

I beg you Please Mr Greenkeeper,
 "Don't put our heritage in a skip"

Peter Hampton, UK Territory Manager,
 Bernhard and Company Ltd

Brand new for this year's show was a dedicated exhibition of items which captured the history of turfcare in years gone by.

Well received by the thousands of visitors who were interested in the display, one contributor to the exhibition, Peter Hampton, put some of his thoughts together in a poem about the exhibition.

A TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

Neil Thomas reports on a fantastic week in Harrogate, picking out some of the selected highlights from a very hectic schedule indeed

Tuesday, January 22nd

Early morning visit to the halls prior to the 10.30am 'cutting of the ribbon ceremony'. Preparation has gone well for both the BTME and the new Golf Club Show. We are pleased with a steady build-up on this new

opening day. Various meetings to attend. Board of Management meets to elect new Chairman and Vice Chairman. In the evening, the Past Chairmen gather for their annual dinner while the Chairman is pleased to welcome our President, Sir Michael Bonallack. I attend

the Hayter Dinner for the ninth successive year in the St George Hotel. Kim Macfie is again the welcoming host and it's good to meet up with Hayter's recently retired Managing Director, Tony Bourke. We take our leave sensing that tomorrow's going to be a busy day.

Irrigation companies gain Merit Certificates

The BTLIA announced that five contracting members have attained the prestigious BTLIA Certificate of Merit.

"The award of a Certificate of Merit should be the goal of all contracting members of the BTLIA. It represents the pinnacle of customer service and professionalism. As Chairman, I am particularly pleased that five members have attained the Award this year. It is indicative of the greater awareness that the

BTLIA has gained in recent years and demonstrates the commitment of the Association and the Award winners to the raising the standards of irrigation provision in the UK," said Graeme Francis, BTLIA Chairman.

The companies that have been awarded the Certificate of Merit for 2001 are: Irrigation Control Limited; Irriturf; M J Abbott Limited; Par 4 (Irrigation) Limited and SJS Irrigation



Happy Birthday

Mike Lincoln Smith, of Hayter, must have suspected something was up when Kim Macfie, cut short his normal eloquent address at the annual Hayter Dinner to give the floor to some of his colleagues. With his 60th birthday looming Mike was about to become the star of the show. His understanding colleagues presented him with a state-of-the-art walking stick, some sprays and ointments to make his advancing years comfortable... and a little bit more exciting and a blown up portrait of himself while still in his prime.



Deere's Team Championship goes global

John Deere announced that its established Team Championship golf tournament is to become a worldwide event for the first time in 2002.

Now in its 16th year, the Team Championship has previously been open only to teams from the USA and Canada. This year, invitations have been extended to Great Britain, Ireland, Germany and Australia to send teams to the world final taking place at the Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, in November. John Deere dealers in each participating country organise their own qualifying tournament with each team of four entered including a greenkeeper, two club officials, and the club's professional. The winning teams from these regional qualifiers go through to the National Championship. "Extending the Team Championship to include Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the other countries taking part, is a major

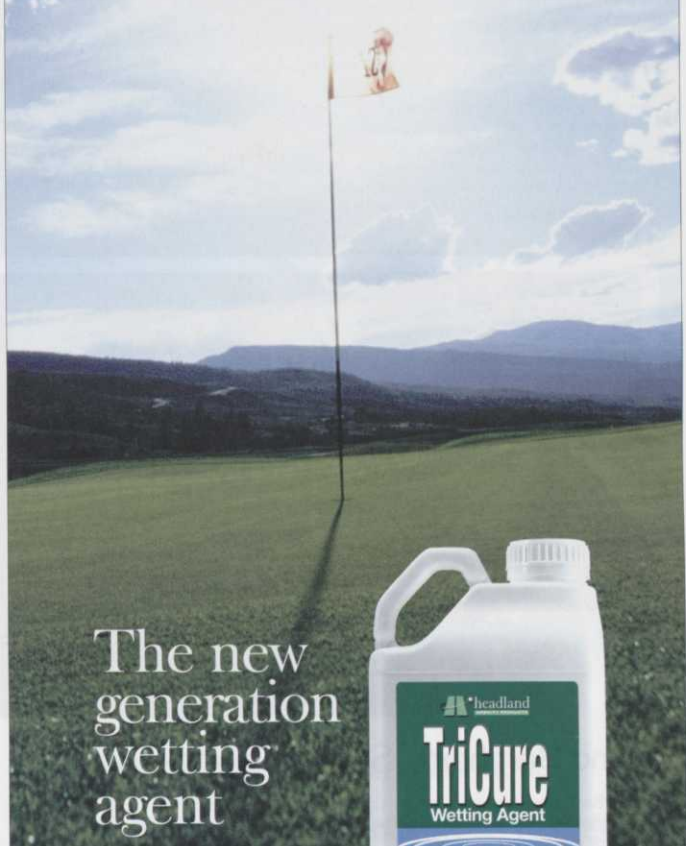
undertaking and underlines John Deere's programme of continued support for our dealers," says Graham Williams, Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division Manager.

"Teams in the Great Britain and Ireland regional qualifiers will compete for a place in the national final on the Brabazon course at The De Vere Belfry in August, just ahead of the Ryder Cup.

"Two teams, one from Great Britain and one from Ireland, will qualify to travel to the USA in November to take part in the world final." John Deere will also be making a donation of £25 for every British and Irish team entered, to support the educational activities of BIGGA and GCSA.

Above: Clive Osgood; John Deere UK Managing Director, Clay Sherrill; Worldwide Golf & Turf market Development Manager, Chuck Greif; Neil Thomas; Graham Williams and Richard Barker.

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