

## Roger wows the audience at Harrogate

Key Note Speaker Roger Black delivered a superb motivational talk which inspired the full house in the Royal Hall.

Roger took us through his career from his days as a young soon to be world beater who relied on talent rather than hard work, through the injuries he endured, to the latter half of his career by which time he had rededicated himself to his sport and learned how to get the most from himself. He talked how, like most top sportsmen and women he had learned to reach for success and to minimise the fear of failure. He also talked about his relationship with Kris Akibusi with whom he said one and one added up to four or five and not two.

"Without Kris I wouldn't have achieved half of what I did, and without me Kris wouldn't have achieved anything," he joked.

At the end of the talk he walked down to the front of the stage, signed autographs, posed for pictures and let people hold and wear the two silver medals he won at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. "You might see a silver medal," he said when holding up the individual medal he won in the 400 metres behind Michael Johnston. "But to me it will always be gold because I ran my perfect race that day," he explained.



## Second Bernhards Scholarship takes off

The Second Bernhards Scholarship - to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando this month - got off to a superb start with a reception in the Majestic Hotel at which nine of the 10 BIGGA delegates were presented with their tickets and had a chance to meet the delegates who had traveled on the inaugural trip to Canada last year.

Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director, promised the nine that they would have a wonderful time but warned that they would have to do homework and prepare if they were to make the absolute most they could from the trip.

Tommy Witt, President of the GCSAA told the delegates that they would be welcome at a number of events being organised for the Orlando Show and ensured that GCSAA officials would be furnished with contact details for the 10.

The delegates are: Phil Gates, David Winterton, Tony Smith, Patrick McAteer, Ronnie Bunting, Jim Paton, Ivor Scones, Jeff Mills, and Tony Dunstan. Ian Willett, who will also be part of the BIGGA delegation was unable to attend the reception.

## Agronomists sign up for new register

The Register of Independent, Professional Turfgrass Agronomists was launched at the Show. The Register which is open to consultants who hold a recognised plant or earth science degree; have at least four years acting as an independent consultant in the turfgrass industry; no association or understanding, however informal, with any commercial organisation that could influence his or her independence; must have and maintain insurance including Professional Indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of the Register Administrator;

have not other business activities which might conflict with their ability to provide advice and all those on the Register must abide by a written code of ethics. The Keeper of the Register is Jeff Perris, of the STRI, and it was launched with 17 agronomists on it, some of whom are pictured below.

Members: Alistair Beggs, Emma Beggs, Andy Cole, Eddie Connaughton, John Hacker, Mike Harbridge, Steve Isaac, Gordon Jaaback, Robert Laycock, Tim Lodge, Ian McClements, Stuart Ormondroyd, Jeff Perris, George Shiels, David Stansfield, Neil Squires and Peter Winter.



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

## A TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

### Wednesday, January 23rd

Quick tour of the halls and then to the Royal Hall to check on final preparations for the Awards Ceremony and the Keynote Speaker Session. At 9.30am we are underway. Having recognised our major achievers, including four new Master Greenkeepers, the Chairman introduces Roger Black. What an inspiring session this turns out to be as we learn of his motivation and dedication in winning an Olympic Silver Medal as well as World Championship Gold with the 400 metres relay team. He had brought his medals with him and many of the audience took the opportunity for photographs with Roger and to adorn themselves with the medals which he was happy to pass around. All in all, he left a quite excellent impression.

The halls are now exceptionally busy and this year the registration system is working well with an even split of

visitors around the various entrances. Up at the Majestic, I prepare for the Chairman's Luncheon. Speeches from our President and Chairman are followed by presentations in recognition of their services to greenkeeping and the industry to Ray Burniston, Roger Robinson and David Smith. Clive presents a plaque to Findlay Picken, Chairman of Green at Walton Heath Golf Club, to recognise the club's support to him during his year of office. Then follows the recognition of our Golden and Silver Key companies for 2002 whose support of the Education and Development Fund is so vital. Back at the halls, the numbers are excellent before I leave to prepare for the AGM.

Well this AGM certainly turned out to be different from any I have attended since 1987. The Board of Management had proposed some changes to the

Constitution and Rules to enable the introduction of a minimum qualification for greenkeeper membership to proceed as of February 1. After an invigorating debate the proposals, in each case after an amendment was proposed and seconded, were referred back for further consideration. So this matter will now be reconsidered and, however one views the proposed introduction of the minimum qualification, I was left to reflect that the outcome of this particular AGM was conclusive proof, not that it were needed, that the democratic processes most certainly prevail within BIGGA.

My final official function that evening was to attend the BIGGA/Bernhards reception for our ten delegates to the forthcoming GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando. There was a mood of eager anticipation with Bernhards' initiative, for a second year running, much applauded.



Above: The Association's Golden and Silver Key Supporters were presented with their momentos at the Chairman's Lunch by Sir Michael Bonallack and Clive Osgood.



### BIGGA Master Greenkeepers receive their awards at Harrogate

BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack presented three of the four attending new Master Greenkeepers with their plaques and blazers.



### MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE

Lee Strutt, of Richmond Golf Club; Philip Helmn, of Overstone Park GC, and David Leach, of Lancaster Golf and Country Club. Steven Cook, of Oakland Hills Country Club, in Michigan, will receive his plaque and blazer in Orlando at the GCSAA Conference and Show.



### The write stuff

Stefan Antolik, of Cooden Beach Golf Club, was also presented with his cheque as winner of the Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager and Deputies



### BIGGA ESSAY COMPETITION

category in the BIGGA Essay Competition; Richard Clarke, Royal Eastbourne GC, was the winner of the Assistants Over 25 category and David Gillon, Tulliallan GC, was the winner of the Assistant Under 25 category - His boss, Elliott Small, (not pictured) collected the prize on David's behalf.



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