



This superb and unusual aerial picture of the exhibition shows just how busy the three-day marathon has become. With a head for heights, the BIGGA Sales Team, ably led by Sherpa Whichello, captured the action from the gantry 40 feet above Hall M!



Banquet which leaves us all Brahms and Liszt!

Brahms and Liszt provided the unique, not to say, off the wall, cabaret on the Thursday night. An occasion when can have 50 Scots highland dancing during a dinner; Welshmen, including your Executive Director, jumping over candles; a Rest of the World Riverdance troupe; a brass band comprising many well known greenkeepers and the first recorded instance of stage diving at a BTME Banquet will be remembered for many years to come.

Vitax winner

The annual Vitax prize draw was conducted by Richard Barker ably assisted Clive Williams. The lucky winner was Nigel Weller, of North Downs GC, Surrey, who won a BTME voucher which he was presented with in the week following the Show.



The worm has turned for Sportsworld Amenity

Sportsworld Amenity used the show to launch Wormaway, a totally organic worm repellent. Developed over several seasons in an effort to fine a naturally occurring substance that will help reduce worm casts it reduces casting on the surface but does not affect the benefits of naturally occurring aeration. It is available in liquid form and can be applied through an conventional sprayer. Wormaway boasts a long lasting formula, non irritant formula; a blend of 40 active organic compounds and includes wetting agent. The Sportsworld team is pictured on their stand.

A TOTAL GOLF EXPERIENCE

Thursday, January 24th

Down to the halls. Slow start to the day in the first hour. Too many late nights I surmise. Make mental note to consider readjusting the opening times on the Thursday next year. Steady build up follows and my guess is that Thursday's attendance will match Tuesday's with Wednesday being the busiest day. Press briefing is followed by a well-attended FEGGA AGM. Busy afternoon - unless I take a secret short-cut, it can take a long time indeed for me to progress from Hall A to Q and return! Response to the Golf Club Show seems favourable. Back at the Majestic I check on final preparations for the Exhibition Banquet, quick change and then onto the VIP Reception.

The Banquet was certainly going to be different this year. Our new Chairman and myself speak for a couple of minutes and I am delighted to announce an all time record attendance of 8,629 visitors. Then we are underway. The entertainment commences immediately and continues through the meal. Did we ever have a better night than the one we enjoyed with Brahms and Liszt? These two guys were excellent musicians with a wide repertoire and masters of ensuring audience participation. They built up to a grand climax in a performance which was hugely enjoyed by all. Then followed the popular local group, The Nightjars, and Fun Time Music disco. Great to see everyone enjoying themselves after a busy week. This was indeed a night to remember.

Friday, January 25th

There's a hint of snow in the air and goodbyes are said for another year. No Friday morning session this time. Breakdown has gone well at the halls. Brief meeting with a group of bleary eyed but happy staff who can reflect on a job well done. Away at 11am with a host of thoughts circulating in my mind for next year. How quickly that will come around!

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

