

Talking Heads

We asked five people who will be attending BTME and Clubhouse the following questions:

Q1: What is it for you about Harrogate that makes it so special?

Q2: What do you do during the course of your visit to BTME & Clubhouse?

Q3: What is your abiding/favourite memory of a previous Harrogate you have been to?

Q4: What is the biggest change you have seen occur during the years you have been visiting Harrogate?

Q5: Are there any improvements you would like to see at BTME & Clubhouse?

Here are their answers:

Gordon Child – Past BIGGA Chairman

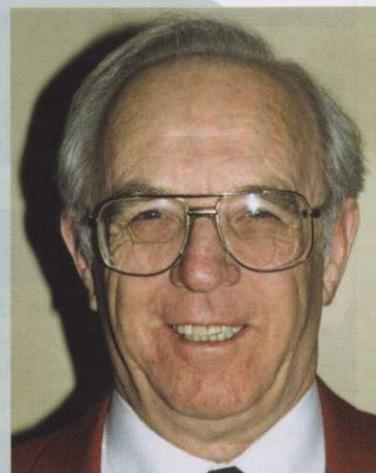
Q1: It's a great place to learn, not just by attending the education seminars but by meeting other greenkeepers and discussing issues with them. BTME is a great place to meet old friends and I always thoroughly enjoy it.

Q2: My wife and I walk around all the stands and meet with many old friends. We find you need more than one day to do it all, as we are always bumping into people and chatting. I also enjoy the many social events and attend the Past Chairman's dinner.

Q3: The Exhibition is special every year, but I have to say that being Chairman at it makes it even better. I am fortunate to have had that honour and that has to be my favourite time.

Q4: BTME combining with Clubhouse is the biggest and most important change I have seen. This now brings all golf club officials into the Exhibition and it allows them to meet more greenkeepers and actually see and understand better what we do, that can only be a positive thing for us all.

Q5: My wife, Marion Child, was the first lady member of BIGGA, and maybe there could be an event put on just for female members and visitors. This would attract more partners of greenkeepers to attend and give them more to do during the visit.



Iain Barr - Head Greenkeeper, Largs GC

Q1: Harrogate is a great place to reunite and meet fellow comrades and has a wonderful social scene. Having the trade and education side all under one roof makes the whole experience an excellent one. Harrogate really does have a very unique and special atmosphere.

Q2: I take advantage of the subsidised Scottish package and come down on the coach. During my visit I take the opportunity to have a good look around the entire show and try to get to as many stands as possible. I look to see what will be of benefit to both my club and me. I also attended some of the education workshops, which I really enjoy and find every helpful.



Q3: I have had so many great experiences from my visits that it is impossible for me to single out just one favourite memory. To me every Harrogate I have been to is special.

Q4: I think the fact that the entire exhibition has just got bigger and bigger every year. There are more people attending, more companies with stands and more education seminars, which means there is more on offer and more variety for us all. The whole thing just grows and grows.

Q5: I can't think of any major changes that I would like to see. The show is just top quality as it is. From a personal point of view I will not be able to attend the conference now it has been moved away from Harrogate, so that's maybe one thing.

David Jenkins – David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment Ltd.

Q1: The focus of the exhibition. It is for golf, greenkeeping and greenkeepers. We in the trade know that we are going to see and deal with the people who really matter.

Q2: On the stand we work to see as many people as we can. We look to cement old friendships and existing customer relationships while also meeting new people. We look to help them in any way possible, for example arranging for them to trial certain products.

Q3: For me it has always been meeting up with old friends and also meeting new people. The special thing about our industry is that you have so many long lasting friendships and I have always enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces.

Q4: Growth. I remember when the exhibition was only held in what is now Hall A, now it covers the entire centre. The extent of BTME now is unrecognisable to what it used to be. It grows year on year.

Q5: Do you know I can't think of anything at all. It is always tough getting the stand in and out of the Exhibition, as everyone is doing that at the same time, but I really don't think anything needs changing to BTME itself.



Norbert Lischka MG – Master Greenkeeper, Hamburg Falkenstein GC

Q1: It is the biggest show for greenkeeping in Europe and gives me an overview of what is new and what will happen in the near future. As well I can meet many greenkeepers.

Q2: It is great to meet other greenkeepers and have a good chat with them. I have friends in England and combine the show with a visit on their golf courses.

Q3: When I meet somebody, whom I haven't seen for a long time, and never thought I'd meet in Harrogate.

Q4: That BTME goes only until Thursday, and not anymore until Friday.

Q5: Temperatures in the halls could be lower.



Mike Coleman – BTME & Clubhouse Floor Manager & Stand Builder

Q1: It is a total event. It's not just focused on one thing such as the trade or education, it is the whole package, and that makes it great.

Q2: I work as the site manager for BIGGA during the Exhibition. So it is up to me to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Q3: I have no one favourite memory. Harrogate is a great meeting place, and I enjoy the opportunity to meet with fellow professionals and discuss various issues.

Q4: I've been involved since the start of Harrogate and I can remember when we finally got carpeted areas and shell scheme, that made a big difference.

Q5: No changes needed, just continue the progression that the event is making without letting complacently creep in.

