

# You Had to be There

## Scott MacCallum takes a back seat at the Harrogate week

Change was very much apparent to visitors to Harrogate this year from the moment they arrived.

This was mainly due to the fact that the Continue to Learn Education Conference, supported by the John Deere Team Championship, was being held in Hall D of the Harrogate Conference Centre and not the Majestic Hotel.

The reason was simple. As there is major renovation work required on the Royal Hall which has been the traditional home to the Seminar Sessions, Keynote Speech presentations, etc. a new home had to be found.

Ken Richardson took the decision to create a lecture theatre in Hall D, on the First Floor of the Exhibition Centre which last year housed the ClubHouse Exhibition.

As this had to be created specifically for BIGGA it was felt that we should make the most of this new temporary facility, so moving the education conference to Hall D as well made perfect sense.

With state-of-the-art Conference technology, including a series of screens placed down the sides of the theatre to assist with the viewing of photographs and graphics, it proved ideal and the interesting and thought provoking papers delivered by the speakers were given the ideal stage.

The Golf – Sport and Business theme to the Conference, under the excellent Chairmanship of Roger Greenwood, caught many an imagination and the quality of both paper and speaker were superb.

The morning started with Andy Campbell MG CGCS, at the time the soon-to-be-elected Chairman of the Association and Golf Courses and Estates Manager at De Vere Carden Park, who spoke on how performance is now judged on the daily figures produced by the resort as much as by the quality of his two golf courses.

Then came Peter McEvoy OBE, the inspirational Captain of a successful series of Walker Cup teams, who revealed how he got the most out of his team and ensured no inferiority complex when they faced up to their American opponent and also gave a glimpse into a new "golf in an hour" concept he is building near London.

Next, Billy McMillan, Course Manager of Tyrells Wood GC, who interrupted his paper to deliver a hilarious story about visiting the blood transfusion service, was as usual riveting self.

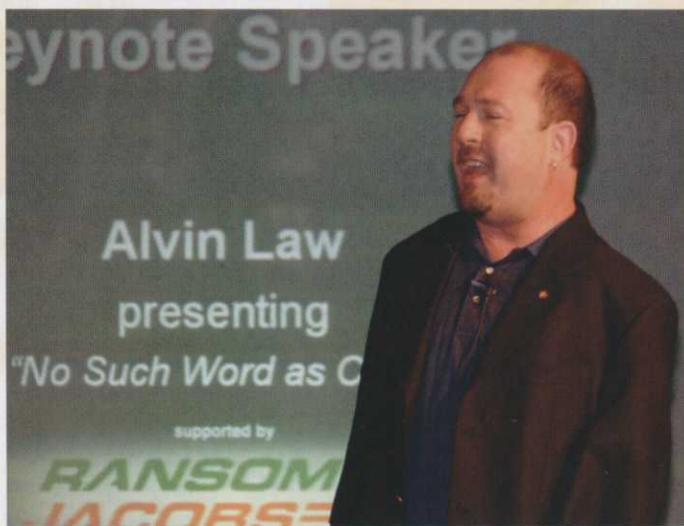
Last on in the morning was Professor Al Turgeon, Professor of Turfgrass Management at Pennsylvania State University, who was excellent, particularly when you consider that due to a cancelled flight he hadn't arrived in the UK until a few hours before he was due to speak.

The afternoon saw Chris Hartwiger, agronomist with the USGA, speaking on Raising the Bar – How High Can it Go?, and encouraging people to concentrate "down the middle" on tees, fairways, greens, bunkers, etc. and not to become drawn into peripheral work which, in a drastic case he'd seen, included dying the wood chippings used to line wooded areas.

Chris was followed by Kenny Mackay, Senior Course Manager, at the Marriott Forest of Arden Golf Club, and then Alex McCombie, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Parkstone GC, before Professor Al Turgeon returned to deliver a second paper entitled How Turf Science can Help to Overcome and Future Management Problems.

While the delegates were enjoying an invigorating range of papers at the Conference another group were engrossed in one of three workshops being held in the neighbouring Moat House Hotel.

Dennis Mortram led one on Water and the Golf Course; David Bancroft-Turner another on Real Influencing Skills with Jerrard Winter, hosting the Health and Safety Workshop.



▲ Alvin Hall was a truly inspirational speaker and was given a standing ovation from the audience at the end



▲ Billy McMillan, Course Manager of Tyrells Wood GC, spoke on the Education Conference and again at the Future's Sub- Committee presentation.



▲ David Bancroft-Turner led one of the three workshops in the Moat House Hotel





### EURO CAP LTD

*"This is our first time at this show and much interest has been shown in our caps and in particular the battery operated golf trolley. A good attendance with a range of attendees."*

Clive Helder

While the Education Conference was well under way preparations for BTME and ClubHouse were getting to the frantic stage by Monday afternoon.

It never ceases to amaze how quickly the Harrogate Halls go from being a series of vast empty shells to a home for over 230 colourful, varied and exciting stands.

With a few hours to go you would bet your house it wouldn't be ready in time but with a few minutes to go everyone is ready for a drink and a nibble at the Pre Show party and you're looking forward to life on the streets wondering why you were so daft as to bet the family home on a bet you always lose.

The Education Conference Dinner proved to be a superb occasion and in Jimmy Bright we had a speaker who was obviously towards the front of the queue when new jokes were being issued.

Tuesday saw the opening of the BTME and ClubHouse with the usual buzz that surrounds it each new year. For a change the official opening occurred at the entrance to Hall M rather than Hall A and George Brown proved to be extremely adept with the sheers.

Day Two of the Education Conference saw papers from Dr Kate Entwistle, of the Turf Disease Centre, who posed the question, Will Future Legislation Ban Pest Control? She was appropriately followed by Jeff Carlson CGCS, Superintendent at The Vineyard Golf Club in the States, who spoke on, Managing a Course without Chemicals.

The Conference concluded with papers from renowned golf course architect, Jeremy Pern and Terry Buchen MG CGCS, of Harvard University, who looked into the future of Turf Science and Golf Course Management.

The next three days in the Halls and the Lecture Theatre passed in a blur with a particular highlight for many being the keynote speech given by Alvin Law, a Canadian, who has not let the fact that he was born without arms prevent him playing the piano and drums with great aplomb.

Alvin had a full lecture theatre enthralled with the inspirational story of his life and left the stage to a standing ovation, with everyone even more aware than ever that there is no such word as can't.

The traditional end to the week is the banquet and this year the guests were treated to a performance containing some of the best known songs ever written as Bootleg Abba took to the stage and soon had the dance floor full.

The feedback from the Show – see the testimonials – has subsequently been very good and fully justifies the months of hard work the BIGGA staff have put in to ensuring a successful week.



▲ Jerrard Winter took his workshop through important health and safety issues



▲ The temporary lecture theatre proved to be an ideal venue



▲ Dennis and Adrian Mortram were in charge of the Water and the Golf Course workshop



### CHARTERHOUSE TURF MACHINERY LTD

*"We are particularly delighted with the response we have had this year at BTME. We have had a good cross section of customers on the stand from greenkeepers, of course, but also contractors, councils and some of the smaller sports grounds. We also managed to take some orders. All in all a good show for us."*

Nick Darking