

Harrogate week

It's Arrived!

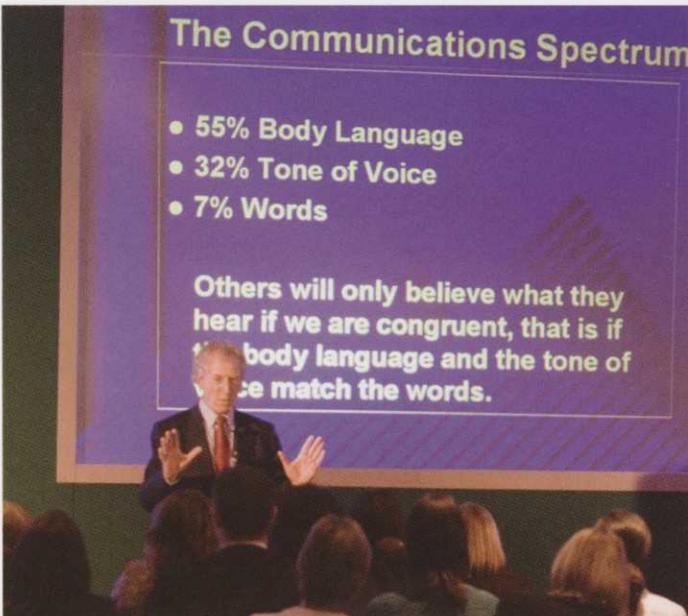
January can be viewed in two ways. A disappointing month - the festive season is over, the Christmas decorations have been taken down and packed away back up into the loft, you're more than likely on a diet after overindulging in December and all you have to look forward to in the immediate future is cold, wet, dreary weather. Or, a brand spanking New Year! - A time for new beginnings, time to make New Year's Resolutions, take up a new hobby, get fit - join the gym, enrol on a part time course, and most importantly, attend the event of the year - Harrogate Week!

GI provides a glimpse of what the most important week in January has to offer.

WOMEN'S FORUM

Tuesday, January 23, 16.30 - 17.30

Aiming to keep the few women there are in the fine turf industries in contact, the Women's Forum enables women and men alike to join in lively debate on relevant topics and allows them to spend time networking.



AMERICANS TO ATTEND HARROGATE WEEK



Bernhard and Company have given individuals in the greenkeeping industry the chance of a lifetime after sending out a press release in the states, announcing that GCSAA Class A members could apply to be flown over to the UK for Harrogate Week 2007.

Members who were interested had to go to the Bernhard and Company website and fill-out an application form. In just two weeks over 370 GCSAA members had filled out the application.

The response was tremendous (more than Bernhard and Co had bargained for!) and with applicants being of such a high standard, it was a very tough decision for the company.

Members who did not make it on 2007 trip have remarked how they will be applying again in 2008, so there is a definite interest from the GCSAA members to see BTME.

The selected delegation is as follows:

Roger Stewart - Golf Course Superintendent at the TPC Jasna Polana, a GCSAA member for 31 years:

"It is important that the strong relationship between BIGGA and GCSAA continues to grow in the future and BIGGA is an important link to other international associations so we all benefit from our collective knowledge and experience. I would be pleased to have the opportunity to pass on the experience."

Bob Farren, CGCS - Manager of Golf Courses and Grounds at Pinehurst, a GCSAA member for 27 years:

"I have a great deal of interest and passion for all aspects of the golf industry. I feel I could represent the GCSAA, The Bernhard Company, and Pinehurst Resort in good fashion. I feel very fortunate to have worked so many years at Pinehurst, the "Birthplace of American golf", and I love to share those experiences."

Bob Becker - Golf Course Superintendent at Scioto Country Club, a GCSAA member for nine years:

"I believe this would be a great experience to interact with not only the delegates, but also the superintendents and students, which we will be in contact with, during our trip. As my trip to Australia taught me there is much to be learned by travelling outside the United States. It gives you a different perspective on how tasks can be accomplished."

C. Todd Pippin - Golf Course Superintendent at The Club at Longview, a GCSAA member for six years:

"In being a delegate to Harrogate it will allow me the opportunity to share those experiences with others and gain insight into those issues that are faced within the European market. In the near future I foresee all turfgrass managers worldwide will be faced with similar problems, I hope to make my introduction to my peers at Harrogate and begin the discussion of solving our common problems in the future."

Michael Morris, CGCS - Golf Course Superintendent at Crystal Downs Country Club, a GCSAA member for 21 years:

"Gaining a new, different perspective on golf course maintenance from my British and European counterparts would be invaluable to me. The membership of Crystal Down Country Club and the club itself is truly connected to the international world of golf. Having first-hand, educational experience with golf course maintenance in the UK and Europe would benefit me in my role as superintendent at Crystal Downs."

David Phipps - Golf Course Superintendent at Stone Creek Golf Club, a GCSAA member for seven years:

"I know that the best way to learn new ideas is to share knowledge that works. Having the opportunity to meet and share information with UK and European superintendents would be a chance of a lifetime for me."

Kerry Satterwhite, CGCS - Director of Golf Course Maintenance City of Bloomington, a GCSAA member for 23 years:

"I have always been an advocate of trying to maintain our golf courses with fewer pesticides and preserving natural resources like water. I believe that in a decade water will become as an expensive commodity as oil is today. I would be very interested in learning firsthand about the management strategies that are implemented by our European peers."

Kenneth D. Williams, CGCS - Golf Course Superintendent at Stanford University Golf Course, a GCSAA member for 21 years:

"I'm what would be considered a low input superintendent, always striving to be as efficient as possible and let nature take its own course. Having the opportunity to meet my peers in BIGGA would no doubt help me in my efforts. It would be a great honour to share experiences with people who have a very different perspective."

Gregg Blew, CGCS - Golf Course Superintendent at Wellshire Golf Club, a GCSAA member for 22 years:

"Being able to see golf courses in England, will give me the opportunity to talk with superintendents there about their challenges with turf, insects, diseases, weeds, weather and of course, the golfers."

Thom Charters - Golf Course Superintendent at Bayview Golf and Country Club, a GCSAA member for 30 years:

"One of the most important factors in my success as a Golf Course Manager has been networking with my peers. Whether it has been at the local, national or international level, the friends I have made, the knowledge they have shared and knowing that I can pick up the phone to seek their input on any subject has made my job easier and more rewarding. I would welcome the opportunity to do so again in Great Britain."

THE R&A AT HARROGATE WEEK

Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre (Springfield House entrance),
Tuesday, January 23 from 9.30am until 10am

R&A



Hoyle hosted the 2006 Open

TURFGRASS CLIMATE MAP

The R&A Golf Course Committee is launching a worldwide climate map, to inform on grass species selection, which will be available on their best practice website, www.bestcourseforgolf. The interactive map shows where warm or cool season grasses are most appropriate and the Transition Zone where, often difficult choices have to be made with regard to the most sustainable turfgrass selection. The map is linked to text on the site that describes the turfgrass species in detail and this new addition to www.bestcourseforgolf.org will be of great value to course developers, architects and turf managers.

THE OPEN ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

The Open Championship at Hoyle last July was considered to be a great success, with the condition and set up of the golf course receiving plaudits from those playing and watching alike. A DVD, produced by The R&A Golf Course Committee, will be shown that highlights the sustainable nature of the course. With footage taken both from The Open itself and again nine weeks after Tiger Woods picked up the Claret Jug for the third time, this DVD considers the recovery achieved after hosting a major golf event.

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Approximately 500 people are killed at work each year and many more are injured and suffer ill health. Many of these accidents occur because of a lack of knowledge or understanding of good practices and safe working procedures.

Golf courses can be hazardous places to work at and play on but if a sensible, common sense safety management system (SMS) is put in place risks can be kept to a minimum.

The AGCS and BIGGA have both been giving Health and Safety advice and guidance to their members for some time. However, the two organisations felt that there was a need for standardisation and they have cooperated to produce a 'best practice' SMS for golf clubs.

The AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System (SMS) will be launched at 5pm on Wednesday, January 24 in the Queen's Suite. Please note that the BIGGA AGM will now take place at 6pm.