

Welcome



Not a Bad Life Really

I've said it before but it bears saying again. There are times when I'd have just loved to have been a greenkeeper.

Just last month the programme for Harrogate Week was circulated and the buzz that is created by that one week in January is almost palpable. It would be great to have something similar in my walk of life – a week in the year when you can just immerse yourself in your job, meet friends and colleagues, attend workshops and seminars and do some business for the up-coming season. Sure there are journalistic equivalents but they are far more expensive and the chances of my meeting people I knew would be remote. The fine turf industry is just the right size and because so much of Harrogate Week's education is subsidised, costs are kept down and affordable and more people can justify attending every year – that, and the time of year, means a few days in North Yorkshire can be built into a timetable without the worry of too many traumas back home.

So you have Harrogate Week to enjoy but there is also so much more. I'm just back from the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota, when around 85 of our members had the opportunity to play two of the finest courses to be found anywhere, in Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock Barassie, and enjoy yet another sociable few days. The great thing for the guys was that if they weren't playing with someone they already knew, they would have some new friends by the end of the round.

And that's just at National level. At Section and Region level there is so much going on as well, with some of the Sections, with the support of Headquarters, putting on their own high quality training courses. Next month, turkey trots will be in full swing up and down the country and wives and partners will be charged with picking up merry BIGGA members, some carrying ready plucked prizes, from clubhouses late into the evening. Yes it's a great life you guys lead.

Of course, I'm not ignoring the pressures you are under. I'm all too well aware of what is going on at golf clubs throughout the country and some of what you hear is truly shocking, but BIGGA's legal support services does a great job in assisting members with employment problems and gives you the best chance of a positive outcome.

However, much of what BIGGA stands for comes into its own in those times of adversity. There are the formal services in place to assist but the informal network of support is often the best form of comfort. A sympathetic ear over a quiet pint can often soothe some of the concerns and I can't think of another profession which offers up such support quite so readily.

As I said at the beginning, greenkeeping's not a bad life and there are times when I wouldn't mind swapping a laptop for a handmower.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

NEW FOR THE UK

Aquatrols and Farmura Environmental have formed, new for the UK distribution, Aquatrols water management products including market leading brands such as Revolution®, Primer®, Dispatch®, Aqueduct® and Fifty/90™.

"These two product ranges ideally complement each other and suit the growing environmental approach to greenkeeping," said Jonathan Harmer, Managing Director of Farmura,

Aquatrols products are well researched and their benefits are proven by greenkeepers in many countries with differing climates. With increasing concerns over the availability and cost of water Aquatrols Water Management products can make a major contribution to turf quality both on the greens, approaches and fairways. With the Aquatrols range of products, water management programmes can be preventative, curative or problem specific with application via sprayer, hand applicators or injected into irrigation systems.

"We are very pleased about the partnership with Farmura Environmental. After more than 25 years of working in the UK, our goal continues to be provision of excellent service and support for our distributor and end user customers. We are confident that this partnership is a positive development in that direction," said Tracy Jarman, President and CEO of Aquatrols

Aquatrols, based in Paulsboro, NJ, USA has been engaged for more than 50 years in the discovery, development and commercialisation of uniquely effective products and technologies that improve the rootzone environment and increase water and input efficiencies for better growing conditions. Aquatrols products are backed by research and technical support, and are available worldwide.

HARROGATE WEEK 2008

The Scottish Region once again offers their members a subsidised package deal for Harrogate Week 2008.



The Package includes: Entry to Continue to Learn Seminars (six in total), three nights Bed & Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on 22nd, 23rd and 24th January, 2008 in the Holiday Inn (formerly Moat House Hotel).

Package cost: £236.00, accommodation package only: £164.00.

To obtain booking forms contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J.Boyd on 0141 616 3440 and 07776 242120 or email at pj.boyd@btinternet.com