

# BIGGA delegation to USA back on



**Bernhard and Company** has reinstated its sponsorship of the **BIGGA Delegates' Programme** to GCSAA's Golf Industry Show (GIS)

**The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 BIGGA members the opportunity to see the industry's biggest golf exhibition and education conference.**

Orlando 2011 will mean over 90 BIGGA members will have benefited from this opportunity, courtesy of Bernhard.

Over the week, in addition to the full conference package, the 10 BIGGA members will visit local golf clubs, network with US Superintendents, attend educational seminars and man the BIGGA Stand during the GIS exhibition.

This year's BIGGA delegates are: Andrew Boyce; Jim Brown; Stephen Chappell; Richard Cutler; Chris Haspell; John Keenaghan; Nicholas Miles; Graham Pickin; Derek Robson and Robert Sandilands

The reinstatement was approved by Bernhard and BIGGA staff and Board Members.

After a two year hiatus, Bernhard was keen to get the BIGGA Delegates programme started again.

One of our key objectives has always been to provide the best educational opportunities in the industry, supporting the BIGGA Delegates trip to the GIS plays a large part," said Bob Buckingham, Bernhard CEO.

"The Delegates also contribute significantly to our annual customer satisfaction feedback process, and we sincerely appreciate their efforts and input. We are very pleased to reinstate the BIGGA Delegates programme in 2011."

Needless to say, the decision was greeted with cheers from past BIGGA Delegates. Andrew De Wet, Course Manager at Birstall Golf Club and 2007 BIGGA Delegate said, "I am really pleased that trip has been reinstated.

The trip to the GIS was one of the greatest learning experiences of my career." "The camaraderie between

the other delegates and the golf course visits provided me with a 'real world' education that you can't put a price on. It was simply amazing."

"We are delighted that Bernhard has reinstated the Delegation and pleased that those who felt they had missed out two years ago now have

**"It is a huge commitment by Bernhard and in these difficult times we commend the company for investing the money"**

John Pemberton

the chance to take up their place," said BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton.

"It is a huge commitment by Bernhard and in these difficult times we commend the company for investing the money in the Delegation."

## Meet the 2011 Delegates...



**Chris Hapsell**

Chris started helping out at his local Cricket Club as a schoolboy and when he left school he went into groundsmanship full time looking after cricket, bowls, hockey, tennis and rugby pitches full time.

In 1989 Chris joined the team at Oakland's Golf and Country Club in Cheshire working with the team to build,

grow-in and open an 18-hole championship course. In 1992 he joined Richard Campey as a technician/salesman

In 1995 Chris, moved to Denmark to take the position as Course Manger at Falster Golf Club before setting up his own business CK Golf and Design - offering shaping, design and maintenance advice to many top clubs in Denmark. Chris then went on to become Greenkeeping Consultant to the Danish Golf Union.

Chris took up the position of Construction Manager at Castle Stuart in June 2006 and where he remains.



**Andrew Boyce**

Andrew has been involved in Golf and Sportsturf for 20 years, since leaving school and taking an apprenticeship at Bath Golf Club.

After leaving college he held positions at Salisbury and South Wilts, Castle Combe and Lansdown Golf Clubs before

returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy.

Andrew became Course Manager in 2002.

Earlier this year Andrew decided to set up his own business - Greensward Sport Consultancy - working with golf clubs, sports associations, clubs and schools giving regular advice and guidance to Turf Managers.



### Jim Brown

Jim has been the Golf Course and Estates Manager at Oulton Hall, Leeds, for five years during which time, he has led the development of the ex Leeds City Council Municipal 27 hole golf course and Grade 2 listed parkland to an excellent standard and to rightfully take its place within the De Vere portfolio of golf resorts.

Jim is also the De Vere Group Golf Course Manager and National Accounts Manager. He has managed various types of golf courses throughout his career and been involved in the construction of two commercial golf courses – he has been a Course Manager for 17 years.



### Graham Pickin

Graham left school at 15 to join the Army, starting out at the junior leaders in Canterbury Kent. He eventually served two tours of Northern Ireland and was awarded the GS medal.

When he left the Army Graham trained as a tunneler/ blacksmith with British Coal and gained a C&G in engineering. When the mines closed Graham started his own business (Barnsdale Mowers) dealing in all horticultural machinery. This gave Graham the skills to seek employment at a golf course.

That was 15 years ago and after gaining an HNC in golf course management at Elmwood College and being their nominee for Toro Student of the Year award; Graham is now the Course Manager at Thornhurst Park, in Doncaster.



### Steve Chappell

Steve has working in the turf grass industry in 1987 where he started as a YTS groundsman. After a year he took the chance to move into greenkeeping, accepting an assistant's position at Bath GC, before moving onto a new build course on the outskirts of Bristol. This led to Steve working for David Lloyd Leisure where he worked his way up to overseeing the three clubs owned by the company.

In 2003 Steve moved to MJ Abbotts before accepting the Course Manager's position at Neath GC. Since moving to Neath Steve has become Section Secretary for BIGGA South Wales and last year became Chairman of the South West & South Wales Region.



### Nick Miles

Nick went to Reaseheath College and gained an HND in golf course management. He left college in 1997 and started greenkeeping at Hellidon Lakes. He then moved to Whittlebury Park in 1998.

In 2003 Nick was appointed Course Manager at Market Harborough GC, an 18-hole course established in 1898. Nick is currently the Chairman of the East Midland BIGGA Section. He is also the Deputy Regional representative on the BIGGA Board of Directors.



### Rob Sandiland

Rob has been in Greenkeeping for over 12 years, spending the last three as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper. In the near future he is keen to make the step up to Head Greenkeeper, so the educational opportunities offered by the

trip to Rob are

For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenkeeping from his BSc. in Rural Resource Management.



### Derek Robson

Course Manager at The Dukes St Andrews, Derek completed his apprenticeship at Lochmaben Golf Club before travelling to the US on the Ohio State intern programme - working in both Michigan and Florida. He then went on to work in New Zealand and Germany before joining Chris Kennedy at Wentworth for four

years, before moving to The Dukes.

In 2009 Derek was awarded Manager of the year at The Old Course Hotel Golf Resort and Spa. He is currently studying the 2-year certificate in turfgrass management online from Penn State University. Derek took over as BIGGA Central Section chairman in October 2010.



### John Keenaghan

John is Head Greenkeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a parkland-style course on the outskirts of Bristol.

Born in Bristol, John has been married for 25 years with two teenage children. His eldest son has followed him into the greenkeeping profession.

After 17 years as a self employed builder, John finally found his true niche in life and wouldn't want any other job than greenkeeping!

Hobbies include golf (handicap of 5) rugby, cooking, travelling and socialising.



### Richard Cutler

Richard has been a Greenkeeper for almost 20 years. Starting his career in his native Scotland, he has worked on traditional links courses at Arbroath GC and Montrose.

Since 2008, Richard has lived and worked at La Moye Golf Club in Jersey. One of the very few downsides to living there is the lack of networking opportunities available. Chris regards networking with industry peers to be vital for both his golf course and his personal on-going development.