

# Don't Miss out on the chance of a lifetime...

The BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard's, will this year see the 100th lucky BIGGA member



make the trip across the pond since the very first trip, to the Canadian Golf Superintendents' Exhibition, in 2001.

The opportunity to take part in this trip of a lifetime is open to all BIGGA members and the first step towards becoming one of the lucky 10 to board the plane to Las Vegas for the 2012 Golf Industry Show is filling out the form which comes with this issue of Greenkeeper International.

And if you have any doubts about what you would get out of such a trip just take a few minutes to read what two former Delegates got out of their particular weeks.



The quite magnificent Ritz-Carlton, visited in 2011, Orlando

**Robert Sandilands – Head Greenkeeper, Grange-over-Sands GC. 2011 Delegate to Orlando.**



"I would, without hesitation, rate the BIGGA Delegation as one of the major milestones of my career. At the time of the trip earlier this year I was a Deputy Head Greenkeeper, actively looking to move up to a Head Greenkeeper's post for the first time; as the only Deputy on the trip, what I gained was a great deal of advice and interaction with some of the best Course Managers from the UK and the States which, I believe, played a big part in me achieving my first Head Greenkeeper's position at Grange-over-Sands Golf Club in May.

To represent Bernhard & Co., BIGGA and greenkeeping in the UK was a great privilege, as was being given access to GCSAA seminars, The Golf Industry Show and some great golf courses and their impressive facilities.

I would encourage anybody looking to gain new experiences, knowledge and networking opportunities with greenkeepers from all backgrounds and nationalities to apply for the trip, especially those who are looking to further their career, as I was. The trip was an invaluable experience for me as a greenkeeper, but I also met some great friends who I have since met up with and regularly call on for tips

**Glenn Kirby - Deputy Course Manager, The London Club. 2007 Delegate – Los Angeles**



"I was lucky enough to be selected to go with the Bernhard's Delegation to the GCSAA Show in Los Angeles. The whole trip was a fascinating experience and extremely well organised.

Our group ranged from young Assistant Greenkeepers to experienced Head Greenkeepers. For me, meeting, spending time and getting to know such a wide group of people from our industry with similar problems and different solutions was a highlight.

Having worked in the USA prior to this visit it was an excellent opportunity for me to meet up with old friends and make some more. I had chance to spend time at the show allowing me to discuss new developments and innovations with all concerned.

The visits to other courses such as LA Country Club gave me a chance to look at greenkeeping from a different angle, an American angle. This made me think and question different styles of greenkeeping and opened up some lively debate among our group.

We were entertained and educated during two days of Seminars selected by the Bernhard team. These were interesting subjects that kept the whole group interested, not an easy task when you consider the wide and diverse range of people within the group.

On my return home I was asked to put together an article about my experiences which was published in the GCSAA magazine, Golf Course Management, this was a rare opportunity to have an article published in such a highly acclaimed magazine.

The trip was a tremendous experience, I bought back new ideas from both the USA and my British colleagues, made new friends and visited some great courses. If you're interested in Greenkeeping, no matter what stage of your career you can only benefit from such an opportunity. I am still very grateful to Bernhards for giving me the chance to go."