

Trade Show Resolution

Many people will be aware of the formal discussions that have been taking place between representatives of BIGGA, The Institute of Groundsmanship and The Agricultural Engineers Association over the last couple of years with reference to the future of trade shows in the grounds and turf care sector. Below is a statement from the group on the outcome of those discussions.

Statement From The Grounds And Turf Care Industry Forum (GTCIF)

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), and the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) under the independent Chairmanship of David Gwyther of the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) have conducted an extensive review of trade events for the sector. We have considered carefully the location, frequency and composition of the trade events available to manufacturers and retailers of grounds and turf care products.

The HTA has independently analysed the details of both SALTEX and BTME and the demographics of both exhibitors and visitors who have attended these events in the past few years. This indicated that there are significant differences between the events, that they are not directly comparable. Clearly there exists an overlap in both exhibitors and visitors but in all cases this is a small minority. They also concluded that market forces will continue to dictate the demand and make up of these types of events.

The opportunity for the aforementioned stakeholders in the grounds and turf care industry to review their activity and discuss wider issues has been extremely positive and productive. The talks have highlighted a number of areas of mutual concern outside the trade event discussions and it has been heartening to find that in many areas there are potential opportunities to collaborate, share resources and expertise and to generally have a positive impact on the industry.

Consequently, the IOG, BIGGA, HTA and the AEA have agreed that:

1. They will continue to keep the future of Grounds and Turf Care Events under active review



2. They will work in collaboration through a new Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum

3. This Forum will provide a platform for these Trade Associations to work together to pursue areas of interest where a common voice will have a better opportunity to be heard.

4. They will actively look to engage with some other Associations in the Grounds and Turf Care Industry.

5. The Forum agenda will encompass areas such as:

Careers and personal development, Communication, Events, Health & Safety, Market research, Recruitment and Training, Better Regulation, Relationships with the companies in the industry sector, Providing a common voice to government in both the EU and UK.

The independent Chairman, David Gwyther of the HTA said:

"HTA's independent and objective analysis of the industry's two main shows has made it clear that there is, in fact, little real overlap in target markets and each has a distinct sectoral focus. Merging them in somewhere like central England would only increase the costs. There is no market appetite for further, new shows. Working together on this issue has led to the recognition that all parties have much to gain from developing such collaboration

into other areas. I am very pleased with these positive outcomes from our joint meetings this year, which demonstrate that this industry can and does work sensibly together."

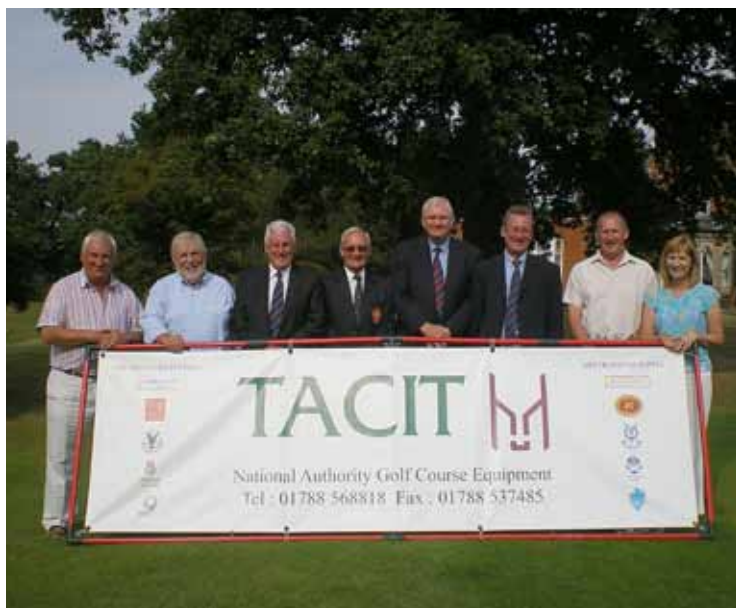
The Grounds and Turf Care Industry Forum will draft Terms of Reference in the next few months and issue general information about the Forum's work.

The Chairman of BIGGA, Andrew Mellon, who attended the discussions said:

"It is very important that all businesses take an objective look at their activities on an ongoing basis, the formal discussions presented an excellent opportunity for BIGGA to assess all aspects of BTME. Careful study showed that the Exhibition is an important showcase for the sports turf industry and particularly for the golf course maintenance sector as well as providing a valuable platform for BIGGA's Continue to Learn programme and a hugely important networking opportunity for all those involved in the maintenance and management of golf courses.

"We are delighted that this process has validated the relevance of BTME in today's market however we are mindful that we need to continually strive to ensure that visitors and exhibitors achieve maximum value from the event. We will continue to listen to all the key stakeholders to ensure the event evolves to meet the needs of all."

TACIT GOLF TROPHY



A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored by Tacit, was held at Brickendon Grange Golf Club last month.

Teams from 11 golf clubs enjoyed a great day on a superbly presented course prepared by Course Manager, Trevor Booth and his staff.

Thanks are extended to all at the Club for making the day enjoyable and successful.

Highlight of the day was a 2 on the 337 yards par-4 3rd hole by Dave Thompson, from Buckingham Golf Club, who drove the green and sank the putt!

The competition is based on four man teams, comprising a BIGGA member, Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green, playing Stableford. Verulam Golf Club, led by Course Manager, Chris Carpenter, won the event on a countback from the host club with a score of 85 points.

Both golf clubs progress to the

National Final to be held at Mere Golf Resort & Spa later this month. The top three won equipment for their clubs.

The photograph shows some of the two team members who are progressing to the final; with Trevor Booth and Chris Carpenter, 2nd and 3rd, from the right respectively.

The South West and South Wales Region's final Section Golf Management Trophy event was held in the South West Section at the Players Club.

Twenty-two teams took part which was a record number for this Section. Despite a deluge of rain towards the end of play, the day was enjoyed by everyone.

Ogbourne Downs Golf Club was the winning team securing a place in the final together with runners up the Players Golf Club both teams on 86 points. In third place with 84pts was Long Ashton Golf Club.

Harry Diamond Quaich

The Quaich is held every year at Belleisle GC to preserve the memory of Harry Diamond, former Course Manager at Ayrshire Council Course, and who was instrumental in promoting education in Scotland.

Held in July, the course was in excellent condition and the presentation to the highest standard.

As is the usual custom, players were walking to their respective tees at 8.30am to await the klaxon for the start of the Stableford competition and, unlike the weather of the previous year, everyone enjoyed a beautiful summer morning and the pleasure of playing in a competition for all ages.

Harry's family were all in attendance to take on the allotted tasks that go to make it such a well run event.

Harry's brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the players who came second and third while Harry's wife, Jessie, presented the Harry Diamond Quaich to the winners – Patricia Lambie, Steve Arrandale, Murray Cowie and Stephen Renshaw, who came in with an excellent 97 points.

It was announced that Harry's family had donated £500 to local hospitals and, at a time when everyone is tightening their belts because of the credit crunch, it is good to see that the Harry Diamond Memorial Fund can still afford to give donations to worthy causes.

Cecil George

CHAIRMAN OF GREENS

The GTC, in association with the EGU, is hosting three Chairman of Green workshops aimed at providing volunteer and paid golf club officials who have responsibility for working with head greenkeepers/course managers with advice information and best practice.

The workshops will be held at: Temple Golf Club, on Thursday, September 8; Gatton Manor Golf Club, on Tuesday, September 13 and Northumberland Golf Club, on Thursday, October 6.

The GTC has engaged the services of Laurence Pithie MG, and one of its Quality Assured Training Providers to present these workshops. Laurence will share his vast experience and knowledge of working for both private and commercial golf clubs. Comprehensive course notes will be given to all delegates attending the workshop.

To view the programme in detail visit www.the-gtc.co.uk. The cost of the workshop is £50pp to include refreshments, lunch and course materials.



Retirement

Brian Willmott, Area Manager for Tacit in the South East of England, is set to retire after 10 years services with the company and 25 years within the Greenkeeping Industry.

While slowing the pace, Brian will continue to keep his hand in by working as a consultant from home.

"We would like to thank Brian for his sterling efforts over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement," said Tim Webb.

BIGGA Competition

There are still places available for anyone wishing to compete for the title of BIGGA's Champion Golfer. The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at the fabulous West Lancashire Golf Club takes place on October 3&4.

As well as the main prize, players can compete for the Best Nett prize over the 36 holes plus daily team and individual prizes over 18 and 36 holes. There is also a Stableford competition on the second day for those who perhaps didn't do themselves justice on the first day.

To enter, or for further information, please contact Pauline Thomson, at BIGGA HQ, Tel: 01347 833800 email: pauline@bigga.co.uk



Turf science brought to life at The Belfry

The Belfry played host to the second Turf Science Live in July - an interactive event that showcases the latest research, development and technological innovations in turf agronomy.

Organised and run by Everris (formerly named Scotts) and Syngenta, the educational day of presentations and practical demonstrations was attended by 96 golf course managers, head greenkeepers, turfgrass consultants and contractors.

Small groups of delegates spent half an hour at each one of seven learning stations discovering more about turfgrass seed development, the art of application, irrigation management systems, the science of stress, optimising greens for performance, the latest electric greens mower technology and converting annual meadowgrass greens to bentgrass greens using the Graden.

The technical teams at Everris and Syngenta worked with Course Manager, Kenny McKay, and industry specialists Complete Weed Control, Rain Bird, Harper Adams University College, STRI, Jacobsen and Kensett Sports to provide a hands-on experience that brought learning onto the golf course.

Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf

Club, was attending his first Turf Science Live. He said the format was a great way for turf managers to learn.

"It was a really enjoyable and informative day. I found the station about turf stress, presented by Dr John Reade and Harry Mbah, particularly interesting. I work at a course with red clay greens, so springs for me are very difficult, but this year we've gone from dry and cold, to dry and hot with little rainfall, so the turf has stayed stressed and I've hit a time of the year when I want it to be actively growing. They explained about stress, its impact on

turf and how to alleviate it, as well as showing us about some practical solutions to help manage performance under difficult environmental conditions."

Neil Ballingall, Superintendent at Fairmont St Andrews, made the journey south to the West Midlands to attend his first Turf Science Live.

"Everything I've learnt today will help me when I return to my golf course," he confirmed.

"I much prefer this interactive format to sitting in a seminar, it was great to get out on to the superb course here at The Belfry."



IGCEMA Support

BIGGA has signed on in full support of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association Certificate Programme.

The programme is part of the IGCEMA's commitment to educating its members around the world. The Certificate Programme consists of six core competencies including: hydraulic troubleshooting, electrical troubleshooting, internal combustion engines, drivelines, soon-to-be released are sprayer troubleshooting and cutting unit technology and set-up.

IGCEMA's CEO, Stephen Tucker, stated: "It gives us great pride to know that golf greenkeepers around the world are signing on in support of our programme. A lot of effort went into making this available to everyone. Having the support of BIGGA shows that greenkeepers are behind what we are doing. The support of BIGGA in this way will give the programme much credibility."

BIGGA's CEO, Jim Croxton, said: "BIGGA is committed to recognising excellence and giving recognition to those that strive for it so we are delighted to support the IGCEMA Certification Programme and appreciate the benefits that come from a close working relationship between our two bodies.

"Top quality greenkeeping is only possible if the machines used to do the job are maintained and repaired to the highest possible standard and the work that the IGCEMA does to raise the bar in this regard is to be applauded." BIGGA has not only signed on in support of the IGCEMA programme but has pledged to become an invigilator and also assist with promotion of the programme in the UK and across Europe by accrediting the programme for its CPD scheme. The IGCEMA's President, Patrick Callaby, Workshop Manager of the Celtic Manor Resort, said: "I am so pleased that BIGGA, under the leadership of their newly-appointed CEO, Jim Croxton, has come out in support of the certificate programme."

Luck of the Draw

The Open at Royal St. George's was the venue for a draw to find out who had won the Rigby Taylor/Pinseker competition.

Forty five clubs throughout the UK who purchased a specific range of Pinseker equipment qualified to be entered into the draw and Jim Croxton, CEO of BIGGA, drew out Corhampton Golf Club, near Southampton, as the lucky winners.

The prize for the club is a round of golf for two and lunch at any course within a 50 mile radius of its location, or an alternative cash prize.

Included in the competition was an award for the most successful Rigby Taylor sales representative and it was Derek Cunliffe who won a similar prize.

Photograph shows Richard Fry, Marketing Director of Rigby Taylor, left, with Jim Croxton, right.



WIEDENMANN MILESTONE

Wiedenmann UK celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The company, synonymous with the Terra Spike brand of deep aerators, has set an industry benchmark, respected for its technical excellence and quality service.

To mark this milestone, Wiedenmann UK has fashioned a bespoke, platinum coloured Terra Spike GXi8 HD, which will be sold off this season. Proceeds from the sale will be split jointly between charities, Cancer Research and the MS Society. The GXi8 HD is precise and efficient and since its launch has become a best seller.

Founder, David Rae, was just 23 when he and his father, Alistair, met the Wiedenmann family at The Turf Industry Show, in Germany in 1989.

The Wiedenmanns were launching a prototype deep aerator while the Raes were looking for a machine for their contracting business. Within two years Wiedenmann UK was formed given

the distribution rights for Britain and Ireland.

"My enduring memory of that important phase was the strong respect and friendship with the Wiedenmann family," said David.

Crucially, in the last 20 years, both families have been acutely aware that success only comes from supplying products backed by fair, honest customer support. Wiedenmann UK has benefited from the German company's focus on product development with a large sum reinvested to design and test future machines. Wiedenmann GmbH has expanded its distribution network around the world and has become market leader through innovation.

Twenty years on, Wiedenmann UK grows stronger promoting an ever expanding range of specials grounds maintenance machinery. David is proud of what the company has achieved, however, he is aware of the challenges that lie ahead.

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Leatherjackets Addressed

The problem of leatherjackets and chafer grubs on turf was highlighted to a group of amenity sector professionals at a recent insecticide training presentation for Amenity Land Solutions in Telford.

Hosted by Bayer National Account Manager, Dave Orchard, the training provided the area sales managers with an understanding of the common pest control problem.

Dave explained, "Populations of chafer grubs have increased dramatically over the last 10 years and they are now a major problem in the UK. Left untreated, they can cause severe destruction of turf, and often secondary damage is caused as birds and other animals search out the grubs to feed on."

The training stressed the importance of using a programmed approach in order to fully gain control of these insects and maximise control.



Cricket Champions

Ashley Cricket Club, in Cheshire, saw the North West and North Wales Sections play their first 20-20 Cricket match.

The North West Captain was Ashley Bennett, of Rigby Taylor, and the North Wales Captain was Andy Peel, from Bull Bay Golf Club. The toss was won by Andy Peel who elected to bat. Runs came slowly with a number of players making steady progress. North Wales at the turn had made 104 runs off their 20 overs.

It was then time for the North West to show off their batting skills. Batsman and bowlers were restricted to four overs each, the batsman then had to retire. However, if the batsmen were all out, the retired ones could come back in. In the 19th over, North West lost their final batsman with the score on 101 runs, which allowed Mark Price, CEO of the Bathgate Group, to come back in and he duly nudged a ball to the boundary for four runs, and a narrow victory to the North West. The Match was sponsored by Bathgate Silica Sand. Thanks to Mark Price and also to Nick Gray, lastly to Ashley Cricket Club for their hospitality.

Chris Sheehan

THE FUTURE OF SPORTSTURF MANAGEMENT

STRI Research 2011 is a new event being launched this year by STRI. The event is free, will be held annually, and has been designed to give sports turf managers an opportunity to see, first hand, the innovative products, machinery and techniques that are being developed that will directly influence the world of sports turf management over the coming years.

The one day event is being held on Wednesday, September 21 in Bingley and will follow the successful format used at research events worldwide, which splits the research focus into separate demo areas, referred to as 'stations'. The event for 2011 is focusing on turf management for golf courses, with seven separate stations, giving an insight into new products and methodologies for disease and nutritional management, new grass varieties, aeration, overseeding and amendments, rootzone properties and the latest technology and machinery.

STRI is currently working with a number of companies on R&D sportsturf projects and has invited a selection of these companies to support the event, based on their focus on current research, and their investment to help improve the future quality and management of sportsturf. The companies attending this year's event are Bayer, Everris (formerly Scotts), R&K Kensett, Ransomes Jacobsen, Syngenta, Becker Underwood and Sherriff Amenity.

The deadline for bookings for the STRI Research 2011 event is 31 August 2011 and STRI is expecting more than 120 attendees for the day. Invitations have been sent out to all golf clubs across the UK and Ireland.

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