



# A big thank you from the BIGGA Delegates

The trip was well received by the attendees of 10th BIGGA Delegation, as these positive reports show...

From day one the whole experience was amazing. Getting ten guys together from around the country and for all of us to gel the way we did was fantastic and you couldn't ask for a more enthusiastic and professional delegation party. Seeing the facilities and Creeping bent greens was excellent.

It is the first time I have been able to compare the Creeping bentgrass at Rockcliffe Hall with somewhere else and to be around about the same level as such a quality venue was satisfying to say the least.

**Pete Newton, Head Greenkeeper, Rockcliffe Hall G&CC.**

Every aspect of the trip catered for all levels of candidates within the industry from Assistant Greenkeepers, Deputies, Course Managers and Workshop Managers. Every BIGGA member should apply for this trip of a lifetime. Not only do you personally benefit, but your employer and fellow work colleagues can feed off the knowledge you have gained.

**Daniel McGrath MG, Course Manager, North Foreland GC.**

Highlights of the trip for me were the education and the show. Yes, I really did enjoy the American way of greenkeeping and found it amazingly fascinating even though I reckon they're about 40 years behind in real greenkeeping! Lol.

Couldn't believe the chemical reliance! On the flip side, I feel we're about 40 years behind them in the high regard that their public holds all turf professionals. The respect that these guys enjoy is tremendous and they are so professional.

**Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager, Lymm GC.**

"I've been Greenkeeping now for over half my life and in that time I've made some great friendships and had some fantastic experiences but I have to say being part of this year's Bernhard's Delegation tops them all. The camaraderie within the group was superb and the trip itself gave me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge base through top class education and networking."

**Jaime Acton, Head Greenkeeper, Worlebury GC.**

When I was selected to be one of the lucky ten delegates to attend the GIS show, I felt honoured and extremely proud.

It was a trip of a lifetime and has inspired me to expand my educational qualities. Spending a full week with nine other very knowledgeable guys, three of whom are MGs, was a fantastic experience and I have no doubt learned a lot from them and made a great bunch of friends.

**David Gray, First Assistant, Ladybank GC.**

"I was very shocked and very happy to receive the news that I was one of the lucky 10 to be selected for the BIGGA delegation to Las Vegas sponsored by Bernhard and Co. It started to seem real when I met the other nine delegates, who were soon to become friends, at BTME in January.

It was apparent within a short space of time that the selection process for the trip had managed to find ten guys who genuinely fitted together well. The camaraderie within the group was fantastic. We went everywhere together and enjoyed sharing our experiences within the industry with each other."

**Alan Pierce MG, Course Manager, Ham Manor GC.**

My highlights were: meeting the other delegates and reviewing all aspects of Golf Course Management including BIGGA issues; dispelling my beliefs that all US courses were about feeding and spraying chemicals, the three top end courses we visited really were very professionally run, and they do care about the environment; the level of education their Association offer, we sampled two full day seminars, which I look forward to sharing with my Section about some recent helpful research; how willing the superintendents share information..

**Graeme Gallimore, Course Manager, Launceston GC.**

What a great bunch of delegates, our feet never touched the ground. From a learning point of view our education never stopped, it didn't matter where we were or who we were talking to, the whole group was sharing knowledge, ideas and passion! My personal highlight was the workshops at TPC Summerlin and Piate, they were big, spotless and professional.

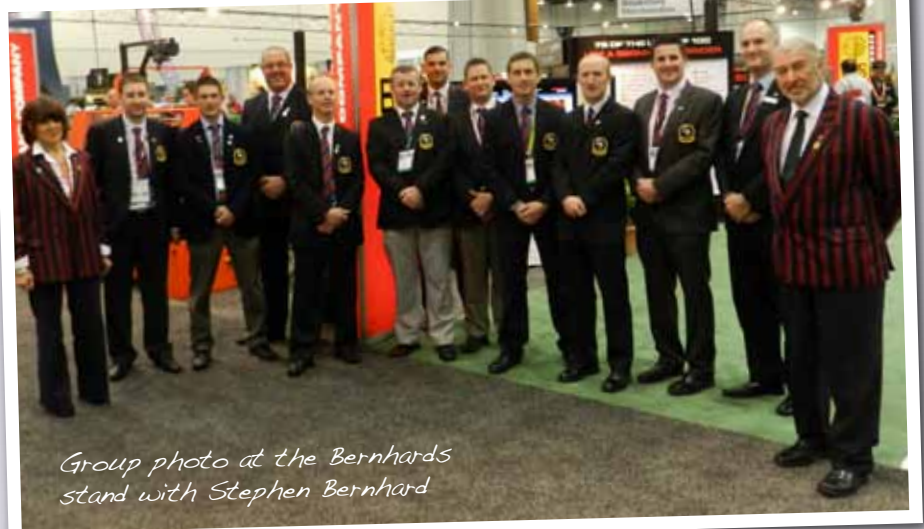
**Stuart Hall, Workshop Manager, John O'Gaunt GC.**

I love how everyone at work has been asking me how my 'holiday' was but if someone said they were going to a conference in Vegas I may have thought the same, but our agenda was full on. We also found out how well educated our American cousins are with seminar after seminar being presented by professors and doctors from numerous universities and last but not least the fantastic phenomenon that is the Las Vegas strip!"

**Neil Ballingall, Course Superintendent, Fairmont-St Andrews.**



*Under the Microscope...Pete Newton and Neil Ballingall take a closer look at the sward*



*Group photo at the Bernhards stand with Stephen Bernhard*