

The Back Nine

A column for writers and members to air and share their views on golf greenkeeping topics

As a busy year comes to an end, Richard Campey explains why BTME will remain 2013's premier event

Well another year has flown by and despite the misgivings and apprehensions most of us are still here and have kept our jobs. I know that in our immediate vicinity some golf clubs have made rash decisions, and made qualified Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers redundant. Two years down the line they may well will be paying the penalty for this.

Here at Campey Turf Care we have been active throughout the year with shows, seminars and demo tours here in the UK, as well as further afield.

We started the year attending the Sports Turf Managers Associations (STMA) at Long Beach, California.

A week later we were at BTME, and the following month back in the USA for the Golf Industry Show (GIS) in Las Vegas.

We are looking forward to attending BTME in January.

Campeys has always placed a high value on showcasing new and established products and will maximise the potential BTME offers.

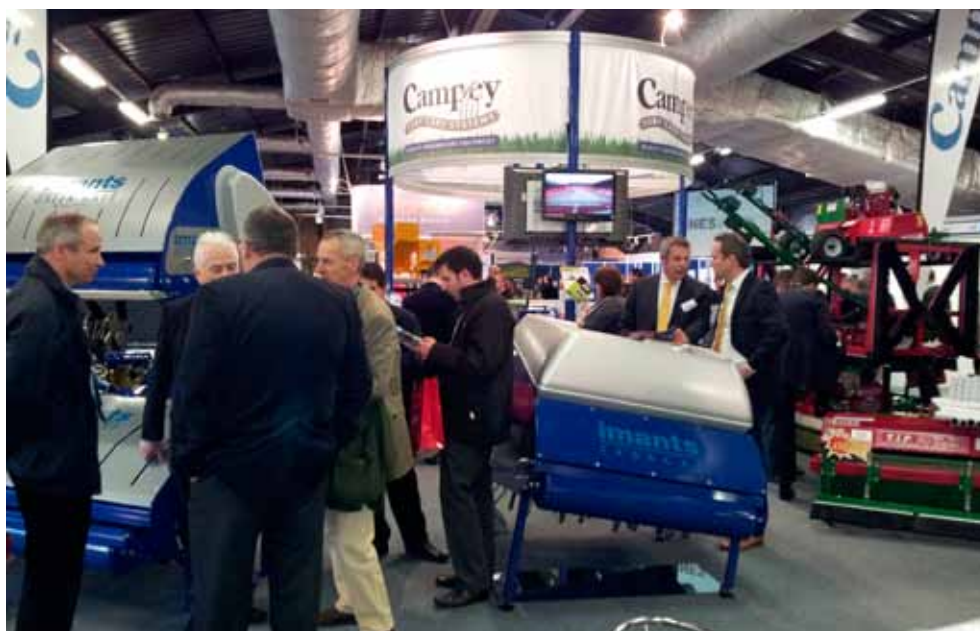
With BIGGA putting 100% effort into promoting and encouraging its members to visit the show, we hope it will be a well-attended, successful platform for everyone concerned.

Our first field day in the UK saw us at Birch Grove Estate; a private enclosed golf club in East Sussex.

We showed and demonstrated our products, carrying out a total renovation on greens and tees in the most atrocious weather conditions I have ever seen in my few years in the industry.

Despite this, our methods worked and greens, tees and fairways are now fit to play on.

This was then followed by our 2012 European Demo Tour to



North Germany, Denmark, Norway, Finland and back on to Jutland, Denmark.

Many hundreds of turf professionals had the opportunity to see our Koro, Imants, Dakota and Vredo machines carrying out actual jobs of work, not just a quick run up and down. This left all absolutely impressed.

It is amazing how far our fellow European counterparts will travel to see machinery working, and how eager they are to see and learn new methods and techniques.

It would be good to see more of this enthusiasm in the UK.

Summer came and went, but we never saw much of it at all as we were busy with demonstrations and seminars in the USA, Japan, and Malaysia.

Then it was home for a disappointing Saltex at which attendance was well down.

Despite being disillusioned with Saltex, a week later this was soon dispelled when we were back in Germany for GaLaBau, where we exhibited with our German distributor, GT Equipment.

Attendance over the three days was over 60,000 visitors.

Successful demos have been carried out this wet autumn, resulting

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about the author



Richard Campey is the Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems. He's spent the past 25 years promoting a strategy of best practice sports ground renovation and maintenance, which has not only enabled him to build a successful company but importantly also help ensure that young people especially have the best possible playing surfaces at their disposal. In addition, Richard's 'natural instinct' for the turf care business has also earned him a reputation as someone who sets industry standards – he was the person who introduced the revolutionary Koro machine to this country in 1997.

in immediate orders from some golf clubs, so it is not all doom and gloom on the golf front.

The present economic climate has certainly made greenkeepers more resourceful.

Instead of going for those large package deals, more are reverting back to how they used to purchase – buying the best individual machines – which smaller companies can offer.

At the end of the day the club will benefit too.

Well here we are now in December.

Regional greenkeeping seminars are nearly over; we have just attended the Slovenia Golf Conference last month.

The IOG Conference and Awards night will soon have come and gone and it will be time for some of us to have a well earned few days off, ready for The Big One – BTME! Campey Turf Care will be exhibiting again this year and hope to see you all there supporting your industry at your show.

Best wishes for the festive season to all.

The views expressed within this column are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International