

BIGGA

The British and International
Golf Greenkeepers Association



A week like no other

Scott MacCallum takes you through events at Harrogate Week 2012

When BIGGA's Chairman, Andrew Mellon, expertly snipped the famous green ribbon to announce the opening of BTME 2012, it was to herald the start of three days which would go down as among the most successful in the 23 year history of the Show.

But even before that ribbon was sliced, all the signs had pointed towards a successful week.

The Continue to Learn programme, which had kicked off two days earlier on the Sunday, had seen high quality speakers attracting impressive numbers of delegates eager to take the opportunity to learn.

Additionally, weather, which had been extremely poor in advance of the two previous Shows, was much better and visitors could leave their golf courses safe in the knowledge that freezing or thaw damage was unlikely and that the roads to Harrogate would be passable!

In the Halls themselves there was so much to take in, the only issue being how to negotiate the crowds to get there. Indeed the queues to

enter the Halls at both Hall A and Hall M, were a great sign of what was to come during the week.

The first scheduled event was of particular significance as it marked the debut of BIGGA's latest addition to the week – the Showfloor Theatre, which was situated to the rear of the BIGGA stand in Hall B.

The venue for all of the Award presentations, as well as Personal Development Zone events, the first function was the presentation of the Edwin Budding Award, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The IGCEMA (The International Golf Course Equipment Managers' Association) Award recognises individuals who go above and beyond for the turf equipment management profession.

The 2011 winner was Wes Danielewicz. Wes, from Illinois, USA, has been involved in the industry for over 25 years and much of that time has been spent with the Turf Equipment Technicians Association a volunteer organisation, where Wes continues to serve as Executive Director.

Wes who attended BTME as part of his prize was presented with the

Award by Dave Withers, President of Jacobsen, and former IGCEMA Board Member, Chris Minton, of The Belfry.

This was followed by the presentation of the STRI Golf Environment Awards, where Loch Lomond Golf Club and Anthony Wainwright, of Turton Golf Club, were honoured as Overall Achievement Award and Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year winners, respectively.

An excellent Personal Development session on "How to write a CV and covering letter" followed, before another set of presentations.

This time it was for some of BIGGA's very own programmes - CPD Diplomas and then three of the five latest Master Greenkeepers were honoured.

Dan McGrath, of North Foreland GC; Mike Bush, of St Mellion GC and Steven Tierney Golfpark Nuolen, Switzerland, received their certificates recognising their achievement.

Two others, Justin Ruiz, from Indian Summer Golf and Country Club, in Washington State, USA, and Curtis Tyrrell, from Medinah Country Club, in Illinois, USA, will





be awarded their Certificates at the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas.

Collectively they bring the total number of Certificates awarded to 60. Incidentally, Curtis will fly the Master Greenkeeper flag while preparing for the Ryder Cup later this year.

Elsewhere in the Show, the Museum was proving to be a big hit. Celebrating 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations and 25 Years of BIGGA the Museum, was situated at the rear of Hall A. It featured a Timeline stretching back to when Fred Hawtree launched the GGA in 1912, right through to the present day.

The Museum, which was conceived and organised by BIGGA Past Chairman, Elliott Small, and run during the week by Past BGGG Chairman and BIGGA North East Section Secretary, Jimmy Richardson, also boasted displays of trophies, minute books, photographs and other sundry items which had been donated by members. Jimmy was elected a BIGGA Life Member at the AGM. Our thanks to everyone who assisted in creating a very interesting and successful

2012 feature, which proved popular with BIGGA members old and young alike.

Legendary English goalkeeper, Peter Shilton (right), was kept busy on the Everris Stand on Tuesday, signing footballs for visitors and posing for pictures. He was followed on Wednesday by rugby league star, Barrie McDermott (above) who signed balls of a different shape.

Down in the Media Centre, under Hall A, Headland Amenity, The Grass Group, Ransomes Jacobsen, Campey and the IOG were briefing the press on the new products and initiatives they were launching during the week, while Syngenta used its stand to unveil its latest addition to the product portfolio.

The range of Seminars (left) going on all this time in the Queen's Suite, as part of the main or fringe programmes was extraordinary, and by the end of the week 2359 delegates had experienced a combined total of 3,894 hours of education.

Andrew Mellon; Vice Chairman, Tony Smith and Jim Croxton met with the press in the afternoon, thanking them for attending and giving them the opportunity to ask



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Letter of thanks from
Gerry Considine
on behalf of *Make
Leukaemia History*



I would like to thank all of you for your incredible generosity for donating £2500 at the BIGGA 25th Anniversary dinner on 24th January.

Every penny of the money raised will go to the Leukaemia Research Centre in Glasgow, which incorporates the latest research technologies and attracts international leaders in leukaemia research who translate laboratory findings into new medicines for patients.

You may recall I mentioned a 3 year-old boy at the dinner whose parents I spoke to before travelling to Harrogate. Unfortunately he died on Sunday 29th January.

Progress is being made but just not fast enough for some of us so your generosity that night will allow us to invest further in our quest to make leukaemia history. I thank you once again and note that some of you indicated that your golf club would offer a round of golf for an auction prize at some of our forthcoming events and if that remains the case please contact me at gc@fitzpatrickandco.co.uk

Our website is going live at makeleukaemiahistory.org and 100% of money donated will go directly to funding research.

Gerry Considine



any Show or BIGGA related questions.

But for many the highlight of the day came later with BIGGA's 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening in the Old Swan Hotel.

A total of 340 guests enjoyed a hearty meal and special birthday cake at the evening which was kindly sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The main speakers were BIGGA's President, Sir Michael Bonallack and Ken Schofield CBE, the former Executive Director of the PGA European Tour who both paid tribute to BIGGA and its members for raising the standards of golf course condition over the last 25 years.

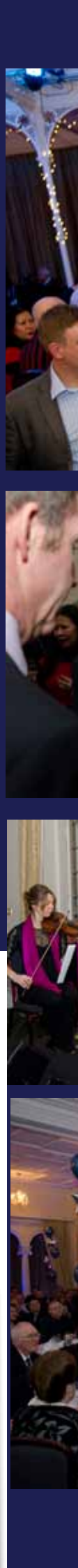
It was wonderful to hear that such work was appreciated by the two men, who were at the top of the R&A and Tour respectively for the bulk of BIGGA's existence.

Dave Withers. of Jacobsen and Andrew Mellon spoke passionately and amusingly on the industry, while the nominated Chairman's

charity, and recipient of the raffle, for the evening, *Make Leukaemia History*, received a boost from the inspiring words of Gerry Considine, himself a leukaemia sufferer.

Over £2500 was raised for the charity through a raffle which boasted some fabulous prizes giving the winners their very own Red Letter Day experiences!

Many, many organisations supported the evening, including the R&A, PGA, GCMA, CMAE, FEGGA, STRI, IOG, the Greenkeeping Associations of the United States, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Ireland, UKGCOA and the Golf Unions





Wednesday is traditionally the busiest day of the three and 2012 was no exception. If many felt it had been hectic on the Tuesday they were to be amazed on Wednesday when 800 more visitors came through the doors than on the previous day.

With the Show closed for the day BIGGA held its AGM in the Queen's Suite where Andrew Mellon reported on the previous year and Jim Croxton outlined plans for the Association's future development.

With positive comments coming from exhibitors, many of them hoarse from talking with visitors at their stands, there was a genuine feel good factor at work within the Halls.

It was also an opportunity to pay tribute to BIGGA Guardian, Mark Dobell, who retired after 13 years of service. Mark is soon to retire as the R&A's Financial Director and the BIGGA members were warm in their thanks of all he had done for BIGGA.



Down in the Media Centre, Rigby Taylor/Top Green; DLF Trifolium; Charterhouse; British Seed Houses; Complete Weed Control; the European Seed Association and MJ Abbott's were briefing the press while Bernhard & Co introduced the 10 BIGGA members who will comprise the latest BIGGA Delegation which will attend The Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. Bernhard & Co has now sponsored 100 BIGGA members in 10 separate Delegations, as well as bringing 20 GCSAA members over from the States to Harrogate.

Mark's successor as Guardian was George Barr, Course Manager at Worthing Golf Club.

The other Board change was the standing down of Archie Dunn, Course Manager at Auchterarder GC, as Scottish Regional Director, after his full five year term to be replaced by Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager of North Berwick Golf Club.

Archie was thanked for his time on the Board and George and Stuart welcomed.

A truly wonderful commitment to the industry.

Thursday dawned and the flow of visitors continue. Over 1500 came through the doors, a figure which exceeded recent final days and expectations, and business continued to be conducted.

On the Showfloor Theatre the winners of the BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition were honoured while any student interested in entering the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award could learn all about it from some successful former entrants.

At 4pm the announcement that BTME 2012 was now closed heralded the usual breakdown and everyone who had enjoyed the privilege of attending could reflect on their experiences and what they had learned during the most ultimate turf management week in Europe.

Another great opportunity for younger members could also be investigated by listening to Mike O'Keeffe, the man in charge of the Ohio State Internship Programme.

See you next year - January 20-24, 2013

