



## SOUTH EAST GOLF DAY

Play unfortunately had to be abandoned due to incessant rain on the Old Course at Walton Heath – but the terrible weather did not dampen spirits at the South East Golf Day.

Despite the great efforts and hard work by Alan Strachan and his team to prepare the Old Course, heavy overnight rain followed by more rain during the day forced members and guests off the course. They took refuge from the elements and enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson of Sherriff Amenity at the 11th hole.

Competitors were able to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Clubhouse before over a hundred sat down to an early meal in the Holderness Dining Room. Chairman Tom Smith introduced BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton who thanked the Club for, as always, making us so welcome on the day before proposing the toast to Walton Heath Golf Club and their guests. This was followed by Captain Michael Vaines who welcomed everyone to the club.

This year's guest speaker John Paramor, Chief Referee of the European Tour then entertained us with some fascinating and humorous stories experienced during his duties around the world.

The South East Region of BIGGA is most grateful to the following companies for their very generous sponsorship and help with this event: Avoncrop Amenity Products, Blade Amenity, BSM Golf, CMW, Ernest Doe Power, Everris, Golf Mats UK, Grass Roots/Dryject UK, JSM, P Tuckwell Ltd, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff Amenity and Speedcut Contractors Ltd.

Clive Osgood

# BTME TO BE EVEN BIGGA FOR 2014

Following the success of last year's show BIGGA are gearing up for a huge BTME 2014, as it returns to a four hall exhibition with the world's major machinery manufacturers preparing to head to Harrogate.

The Harrogate International Centre is sure to be bustling next January with the likes of John Deere, Toro and Ransomes Jacobsen joining Kubota, RECO and New Holland at BTME 2014.

Many of last year's happy exhibitors are also returning with many increasing their stand space. After a surge of early bookings over 85% of stands are already reserved with eager companies determined to showcase their latest products. BIGGA are pleased to welcome a whole host of returning exhibitors including Baroness Mowers, Campey Turf Care Systems, Syngenta, Everris plus dozens more.

Jim Croxton, CEO of BIGGA, said: "We're delighted that the exhibition will once again feature four halls. This will allow us to both increase the number of exhibitors and attract even more visitors from all corners of the turf management industry.

"I'm particularly encouraged by the number of exhibitors who have already rebooked after last year's show. Many have also increased their stand space which is a reflection of how they see BTME as the place to meet potential customers and do business."

Discussing the success of BTME 2013,

Croxton continued: "This will be BTME's 25th year and it's becoming increasingly popular. The feedback we've received from exhibitors, buyers and guests has been extremely positive and we anticipate that returning to four halls next year will extend its appeal even further. It's a very exciting time for everybody involved."

Europe's leading turf care exhibition – which next year begins on Tuesday 21 January at the Harrogate International Centre – showcases market leaders from all sectors of the turf industry, including artificial grass, course furniture, drainage, fertilisers and top of the range machinery, to name just a few of the highlights.

BTME 2014 will also boast a terrific educational programme, with the extremely popular Turf Managers' Conference again returning to the week when the industry converges on Harrogate. There will also be more workshops and seminars through the superb 'Continue to Learn' programme with a terrific range of knowledgeable and passionate presenters – keep an eye out for the confirmed speakers over the coming months.

BIGGA is urging anyone looking to reserve a stand to call now to avoid disappointment. There is still limited space remaining and places are being taken quickly. For your opportunity to exhibit at next year's BTME, contact Jill Rodham or Matt Wignall on 01347 833812 or 01347 833 832.