

A Ryder Cup flavour



Amongst the many highlights of our Continue to Learn Programme were the Ryder Cup themed sessions on the Tuesday.

This began in the early afternoon as Curtis Tyrrell MG, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club, presented 'Ryder Cup 2012 – Preparations, Challenges, Outcomes!'. The audience was enthralled as the amiable American explained the incredible level of preparation, and attention to detail required to host one of the world's biggest sporting events.

Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, then took things a step further by revealing his challenges and aims as the legendary venue prepares for the Ryder Cup next year. Later in the afternoon, Curtis and Steve were joined by Jim McKenzie from Celtic Manor, who led his team through atrocious conditions during the 2010 tournament. They were asked a series of questions by the attendees rounding off a truly unique day of industry education.

Greg Skinner from Forest Hill Golf and Country Club spoke for many of the delegates when he said: "It was compelling and exceptionally well presented. Curtis's experience is almost a different world to what some of the guys here are involved in on a day to day basis, but it really was a fascinating afternoon."

The one and two day workshops held on the Sunday and Monday were very successful with Thom Nikolai's 'ABC's of Putting Green Maintenance' and Paul Miller's 'The Turfgrass Plant' and 'Soils for Fine

Turf in particular receiving rave reviews.

The new for 2013 bite size 'Focus On' sessions on the Tuesday and Wednesday were another success looking at specific subjects within the areas of Management, Technical, Computer Skills and Ecology.

These sessions complemented the ever popular fringe seminars. One such seminar was 'New XC Technology – a Breakthrough in Application Technology for Golf'. This looked at Syngenta's specially designed new XC nozzles which are designed to revolutionise the application of foliar applied products to golf courses and other sloping areas. Syngenta's Technical Manager Simon Watson was joined by Technical Sales Manager Henry Bechelet to explore its possibilities and answer questions.

Lee Relf travelled from Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent and said: "It's been brilliant. I did the Diagnostics and Problem Solving workshop on Monday, which was really good and have been to a lot of the seminars. The education is always first class."

Curtis Tyrrell added: "I've had the greatest feedback on my presentation. It's a great setup you've got here, I've seen some cool stuff and it's been a first class show."

Thanks to everyone who attended the seminars, workshops and the Turf Managers' Conference and to the speakers who made the week so memorable. Over 180 hours of top-class education took place with the Queen's Suite buzzing throughout. Rest assured planning has already begun for another superb education programme at BTME 2014.



TOP LEFT: Past, Present and Future of the Ryder Cup

TOP RIGHT: A packed room for Steve Chappell's 'A Journey to the Ryder Cup' seminar

ABOVE: Curtis Tyrrell

RIGHT: Henry Bechelet (left) joins Simon Watson for the Syngenta seminar

BELOW: A busy Queen's Suite

