

BTME 2013 Newsdesk



Members at the BIGGA AGM

So much was going on at BTME we could have filled these pages several times over! The BIGGA AGM was held in the Queen's Suite on Wednesday afternoon, featuring various major awards.

Firstly, all attendees were asked to stand for a moment's silence to commemorate members who have sadly passed away during the last 12 months. Various awards were then presented by Chairman Tony Smith. David Langheim from Wimbledon Park Golf Club and George Pitts from Yelverton Golf Club who were honoured with plaques marking their terrific efforts in achieving Master Greenkeeper status. – bringing the total number of MGs to 62.

Ten members also achieved their first Diploma of Continuing Professional Development: Stuart Cagle MG, CGCS, Mark Evans, Greg Evans MG, Andrew Flemmings, Jaey Goodchild, Colin Jones, John Parr, Matthew Rolls, Peter Smith and Paul Worster.

The Past Chairman's Plaque was awarded to Andrew Mellon, who is now enjoying slightly warmer climes as General Manager for Hydroturf International in Qatar.

John Philp and Chris Kennedy were then unanimously voted life members of the Association.

A Press Briefing was held earlier in the day where the assembled media were updated on the show, the Association's future plans and much else by CEO Jim Croxton, Tony Smith and Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey.

They fielded a range of questions ranging from opinions on the show to recent redundancies concerning experienced greenkeepers.

The consensus was the responses had been direct and honest, and it was a welcome opportunity for senior members of the association to chat openly with the press who had a packed schedule for the week.

BIGGA Photographic Competition winner Craig Boath from Carnoustie was earlier presented with the image he had chosen from the gallery of judge Eric Hepworth – a framed image of the second hole at Carnoustie.

He said: "I'm really pleased to have won the competition, I enjoy photography so it's a real honour. It's quite a large picture I've won so I may have to rearrange some items in my house but it's going to look fantastic!"



ABOVE: Craig Boath, BIGGA Photographic Competition winner
BELOW: The BIGGA Briefing in the Media Centre



Chris Kennedy



John Philp



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George Pitts with his MG plaque



David Langheim achieves Master Greenkeeper status



Andrew Mellon is awarded the Past Chairmen's plaque

Education was again the buzzword in the Media Centre early on Wednesday morning as Bernhard & Company announced a partnership with the GTC. Present at the conference was Pat Finlen, the incoming President of the GCSAA, and fellow board member John J. O'Keefe.

Bernhard were again to the fore as the ten members of the BIGGA Delegation – preparing to head to San Diego – all met up for the first time at a reception in the evening.

Elmwood Golf Course was also officially awarded the GEO Certified ecolabel at BTME.

Many of the exhibitors had new 'signings' to unveil at BTME, such as Tillers Turf who introduced their new stockist for the South Wales region in Dave Pearce. The draw to win an iPad in association with the R&A's CourseTracker launch was also made on the BIGGA stand with the lucky winner announced as David Braid from Fife.

TOP RIGHT: Pat Finlen, incoming President of the GCSAA; **ABOVE RIGHT:** Adam Pounds of Tillers Turf with new face Dave Pearce; **BELOW:** Elmwood Golf Course is awarded the GEO Certified ecolabel and **BOTTOM:** Bernhard & Company announce partnership with the GTC

