

The Back Nine

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

Logan Ferguson, Course Manager at Nøtterøy Golfbane in Norway made his regular pilgrimage to Harrogate for BTME. He tells Jim Cook exactly why

The annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is always a highlight on the calendar for me as it starts off the New Year in such a positive way. I first came to BTME in 1999 and since then I think I have only missed one year.

The show has always been an impressive way to showcase the tremendous technological advances in this industry.

Especially the developments with the small bits like strimmer heads and bunker liners.

The machines and units will advance anyway with technology, but the advances with smaller things members at clubs tend to take for granted like bins and ball washers and tee markers is phenomenal.

Presentation on the course is 99% of this job and to see the new tools and equipment to help us do this on display at BTME is always impressive.

I believe one of the biggest things about BTME is the networking. That is the part of it that is second to none.

For me it is not easy because we have a six-month season in Norway and everything is quite spread out geographically, so the networking part here is important.

The basis for where I am now came from BTME. It was from knowing someone that knew someone else and all I said at the time was that I would love to work in Switzerland.

This was in conversation - a few emails later and I was on my way there for the season.

It is vital in this industry to have a good, solid circle of friends. This is because it is a tight-knit community and if a job comes up knowing the right people can be a stepping stone and you don't get that without coming to these shows and building a reputation.

I am always impressed by the education programme here and especially the timing of them at about 45 minutes each, as it is



perfect to keep your attention. It is not an unlimited budget for me at all, so the more information I can bring back from BTME to Norway the better.

You can report back to the greens committee with information and leaflets and it can make defending budgets a lot easier.

I think BIGGA does well to have BTME in Harrogate because the town has such a charm about it. It is not as formal as the American shows and is relaxed and casual.

You can get lost in some of the American ones as the focus is on everything from napkins in the clubhouse to ball-washers and everything in between. It is also great how BTME is not dependent on the bigger companies to make the show a success.

BIGGA does a great job with things like the James Bond night and I think it is a bit of a thank you to the members and I am sure people really appreciate that sort of stuff.

“BTME is the only show which is specifically aimed at us, the greenkeepers. It is worth its weight in gold and should definitely be supported”

about the author



Logan Ferguson is Course Manager at Nøtterøy Golf Club, an 18 hole parkland course which was recently voted as one of the top 100 courses in Europe. It lies on the coast of Vestfold County in Norway. He is an international member of BIGGA.

I see the biggest reason people get on a plane and come to Harrogate from all over the world is because it seems like you are appreciated when you get here.

You are genuinely welcome when you come in and the staff and exhibitors are always so helpful.

BTME is the only show which is specifically aimed at us, the greenkeepers.

It is worth its weight in gold and should definitely be supported. That so many multi-nationals come here shows the reputation and size of the organisation. Anyone is welcome here.

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