

Time and the place of BTME's VIP opening ceremony



Prince Andrew will arrive at the Harrogate Exhibition Centre at 10.15am on the first day of the show, Wednesday January 20. The opening ceremony, which will also be attended by BIGGA president, Viscount Whitelaw, will take place at 10.30am.

Following presentation of the awards, the Prince will tour the Exhibition and is expected to depart Harrogate at 12.30pm.



Looking ahead

Don't miss this one

JOHN WILSON, editor and publisher of 'The Golf Club Secretary', describes his first visit to the BTME last January, and explains why he is convinced that golf club secretaries and green committee chairmen can learn much from being at Harrogate next month.

I arrived in Harrogate on a frosty morning last January, on the third day of the 1992 BTME, just in time to attend the official opening ceremony of the Trade Show, performed in his usual urbane and charming manner by Viscount Whitelaw, President, BIGGA.

I was impressed at once by the array of colourful blazers on view on the stage and by the number of awards which were given to companies that had supported BIGGA in the past year. The final presentation was of BIGGA's first Master Greenkeeper Certificate to Laurence Pithie, then course manager at Minchinhampton. He was also presented with a very smart blazer which he donned immediately, as if he had just won the US Masters!

This exhibition was far larger than I expected, filling three halls of the Harrogate Exhibition Centre. There were over 80 stands to visit, each containing something of interest to those responsible for the management of golf courses and other fine turf areas. Ford, Kubota, Iseki and other manufacturing companies demonstrated their latest machinery and Huxley's were rightly proud of their all-season turf maintenance vehicle, designed to compete strongly with the well-known Cushman range.

There was much else to see, though, apart from the array of red, green, yellow and orange machinery. Ranges of fertilisers, grass seeds, grinding machinery for mower blades, and course equipment, all were there - all so easy to see at close range, with technical experts skilled at imparting their knowledge and making things easy to understand. The Patisson display included a pedestrian-operated golf ball collector,

one of which is apparently used by a grandmother to collect hundreds if not thousands of balls daily on a driving range.

Several exhibits were new to me, but perhaps not to the more knowledgeable visitor. I was impressed by the Nikken Knapsack brush cutter where the 2-stroke 1.9hp motor is carried on the back of the operator, leaving him free to operate the various cutting and lopping attachments available. I also learned how turf can be reinforced using, for example, the Netlon rootzone system or Fibreturf's mixture of sand and artificial fibres. More basic for pathways were plastic pavers from Golpa.

'The BTME is much more than just a trade exhibition'

Two microcomputer programmes were also being demonstrated. The Datachem system is designed to assist those involved in applying chemicals to turfgrass and other areas by helping to identify weeds, pests and diseases and then calculating the amount and type of chemical needed to rectify the problem. The Trims software, marketed through BIGGA, enables the head greenkeeper to maintain a complete record of all work carried out on the course.

The BTME is, however, much more than just a trade exhibition. The very full week begins with a choice of four two-day workshops, and last January these intensive, practical sessions covered green construction methods and materials (led by two amusing experts from the USA), irrigation, basic agronomy and one with the title 'From Greenkeeper to Course Manager'. Next month's four workshops look equally interesting, with perhaps pride of place going to the one being run by Jim Arthur, Barry Cooper and Brian Pierson on 'How To Achieve All Year Round Golf'.

Seminars are held in the Royal Hall attached to the Exhibition Centre for the remaining two-and-a-half days. In 1992 these began and ended with Graham Phillips of The Marketing Group advising

greenkeepers on 'How to Prepare a Case for Golf Club Committees' and further on 'How To Win The Day'. Any committee member listening to those two talks would have gained a valuable insight into the tactics which might be used when his head greenkeeper next presented a case for new equipment. The other sessions ranged over a variety of topics, such as turfgrass nutrition, course construction and maintenance (with three interesting case histories), the image of greenkeepers and one under the title 'Will We Wear Out Our Golf Courses?'.

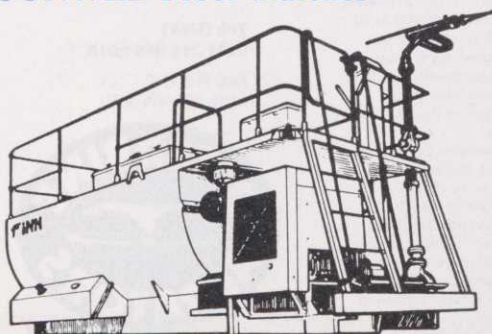
The seminars planned for next month look equally promising, again covering topical subjects likely to be of interest to many delegates attending the Exhibition. I am particularly looking forward to hearing John Millen talk on 'Golf-365 Days A Year', and Jane Ryan, an assistant greenkeeper, on 'Why We Should Hold Our Heads Up High!'. Two social events are arranged during the week to increase the opportunities to meet other delegates - a quiz night on the Wednesday and a full scale banquet the following evening. Last year the subsequent entertainment was provided by Norman Collier, best known for his chicken imitations, and next month it will be the turn of Wayne Dobson, the TV magician. If he can show how to make thatch and fusarium disappear from greens in the same way that he makes a helicopter vanish, he will have more than earned his appearance fee!

The BTME promises to be bigger and better than ever this time, thanks to the enthusiastic and efficient organisation of the BIGGA team. It deserves to be fully supported, not only by the greenkeepers who always attend, but also by golf club secretaries, green committee chairmen and others concerned about the proper management of their own golf courses. From my own experience last January, it is hard to imagine that anyone attending the BTME will come away without feeling that his or her visit has been very worthwhile indeed.

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We've come a long way quickly, says BIGGA's Executive Director NEIL THOMAS

Looking forward to a great week in Harrogate



In January 1989 the first Turf Management Exhibition was held in Harrogate. Time marches on and now we approach the fifth exhibition on an altogether larger and more professional scale.

This year BIGGA is honoured with the presence of HRH The Duke of York to formally open the Exhibition on 20 January. In a short period the BTME has come a long way and there is justifiable pride amongst both BIGGA members and exhibitors alike that the BTME has now received royal recognition. We all look forward to a great week in Harrogate.

During the last four years BIGGA has listened to many people, not least those working within the industry, with a view to constantly improving upon both the exhibition and the educational programmes. The Steering Committee continues to be the key to the upgrading and development of the Exhibition, meeting some three times a year for lively exchanges of views which have resulted in decisions influencing the future direction and growth of BTME. As an Association, we are indebted to those industry representatives who give so freely of their time to ensure the ongoing success of BTME.

Our educational programmes continue to be a key factor in BTME's success attracting delegates in large numbers to both the popular

two-day workshops which precede the opening of the Exhibition as well as the general seminar programme which runs throughout the Exhibition. This year, for the first time, BIGGA will be organising a European Forum aimed particularly at ascertaining the needs of greenkeepers throughout Europe, seeing where help can be given through BIGGA's administrative structure and seeking greater co-operation with European greenkeeping Associations. A number of speakers from Europe have been invited to contribute to the Forum which it is anticipated will meet with an enthusiastic response from BIGGA's many members working in Europe. Indications are that the Forum will also attract much interest from a number of European Greenkeeping Associations as well as Golf Federations.

One of the Exhibition's main marketing 'tools' is the Pre-Registration Card and all participating companies are urged to distribute these cards in large numbers. There is no limitation on the number of cards that can be provided and companies can order them by contacting BIGGA Headquarters. BIGGA is looking at all times to promote the Exhibition jointly with the industry and is always open to suggestions on marketing initiatives.

The 1992 Exhibition certainly proved to be the most successful to date. Not only were

there many more Course Managers and greenkeepers at Harrogate, but they were often accompanied by Chairmen of Green, Secretaries or club owners as the case may be. Also the geographical spread was much wider with, for example, not only a substantial attendance from the South West but also a most encouraging presence from Scotland. BIGGA will continue to direct its efforts to increasing member participation. In this we are undoubtedly helped by the Exhibition's surrounding infrastructure - restaurants, hotels, guest houses and shops all offer much to the visitor together with the bonus of being able to park one's car and leave it unused for the week with all facilities within walking distance. Indeed, those attending BTME need no second invitation to return and many in returning have subsequently brought colleagues with them. Our intention is to firmly establish BTME as the premier exhibition for the fine turf industries. In this regard we are actively encouraging local authority participation and we are also targeting architects and constructors considering it important that they be present in Harrogate as an integral part of the industry.

I believe that BTME is now firmly fixed in the industry's calendar and we in BIGGA will spare no effort to ensure the continued growth and success of the Exhibition.

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Looking ahead

BTME 1993 will be buzzing with so much to see and do. The Educational Seminar Programme starts on Monday January 18 with two-day workshops, and will again continue to explore topics vital to green-keeping professionals.

The keynote address on Wednesday January 20 will be by one of the world's most seasoned explorers, Colonel John Blashford-Snell MBE. His talk will focus on his experience of leadership, motivation, creative management, team-building and problem solving.

Special five-day, three day and two-day accommodation packages have been arranged at preferential rates for delegates. Places are filling up fast, however - check availability by ringing BIGGA HQ on 03473 581.

Best prices for accommodation

The Old Swan Hotel is nominated as Exhibition Hotel for 1993, following its success as a venue for the 1992 event. The hotel is just a couple of minutes walk from the show and is the focal point for the social programme and pre-exhibition workshops. The Old Swan say they have "extra special rates" exclusively for BTME delegates. Call them on 0423 500055.

Cooper Calder Conferences are a one-stop shop for hotel bookings.

Again, they can offer preferential rates and can arrange bookings on your behalf with a variety of hotels in the town.

The company can also arrange any hospitality requirements. Ask for Jahe Leonard on 0423 505663.

European Forum

Thursday January 21, Old Swan Hotel, 12-2pm
BIGGA is organising the first ever European Forum, aimed particularly at ascertaining the needs of greenkeepers throughout Europe.

The objectives will be to see where help can be given through BIGGA's administrative structure, and seeking greater co-operation with European Green-keeping Associations.

Speakers from Sweden, Belgium and Holland have already accepted invitations to contribute to the Forum which it is anticipated will meet with an enthusiastic response from BIGGA's many members working in Europe.

All international members are invited to attend. If you haven't indicated on your booking form of your intention to attend what should be a fascinating event, call Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 03473 581 to secure your place.

A buffet luncheon will be provided, courtesy of BIGGA.

◆ The 1993 BTME runs from Wednesday January 20 until Friday January 22.

◆ BTME is open from 9am on all three days. It closes at 5.30pm on Wednesday and Thursday and at 1.30pm on Friday.

◆ If you're driving into Harrogate, RAC road signs will direct you to where you want to go. There are plenty of car parks or off-road positions within easy walking distance of the show.

◆ Rail-links to Harrogate are good and there are direct Inter-city services from London King's Cross.

◆ The nearest international airport is Leeds/Bradford (13 miles/20 minutes by taxi). Manchester Airport is 1.5 hours drive away.



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See us on Stand B42A at BTME

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Touch of magic at the end of BTME

Social highlight of the week will be a fabulous banquet in the Ballroom at the Old Swan Hotel, followed by cabaret from talented television magician Wayne Dobson.

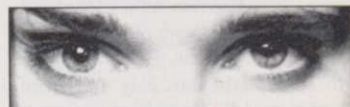
Wayne has emerged in just a few short years as one of the most accomplished and innovative magicians in showbusiness, both here and in the United States.

He's also quite a comic. Comedy characters such as "Clint Cricklewood" appear in his popular TV series "A Kind of Magic" - and so expect the unexpected during what will be an entertaining evening!

◆ Wayne is pictured as Clint Cricklewood, with Linda Lusardi in a scene from his hit TV series. Sorry fellas, Linda won't be at the BTME!



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Looking ahead

◆ Just for fun, a general knowledge quiz night will take place at the Old Swan Hotel at 8.30pm on Wednesday January 20. There is no charge for taking part, but let BIGGA HQ know if you've not indicated on your booking form, but you would in fact like to join in. Call Samantha Flint on 03473 581.

◆ Tony Shepherd, Chaplain to the Harrogate Conference Centre, has offered his services to BTME delegates. Tony is vicar of the town centre church of St Peter's and says he would be delighted to co-operate in any appropriate way. He's also a keen golfer and a member at Ripon. Contact Tony on 0423 500901.

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Exhibitors get ready for

Every year **Rolawn** supply hundreds of greenkeepers with purpose grown turf, enabling new greens and tees to be brought into play and worn surfaces to be brought up to standard. The turf can be supplied both in standard square yard rolls and in the new big rolls for large areas. A specially developed range of laying equipment is loaned free of charge to customers so that they can lay the large rolls themselves at greatly reduced cost.

The company has exhibited at BTME from the beginning and show a range of turf and of turf laying equipment and staff are on hand to advise on the best choice for individual needs.

For more details contact Terry Ryan on 0904 608661 or visit Rolawn on Stand A27.

Taking pride of place on the **Allen Power** stand will be the Allen Mustang All Terrain Mower – a 42" ride on mower with a difference.

This rugged machine, built around a Briggs & Stratton 16hp twin Vanguard will go where other ride-ons fear to tread, according to Allen Power.

Low pressure ATV tyres and

hydrostatic drive with differential lock mean the vehicle will cut grass on banks where until now only pedestrian machines could be used.

The above configuration also means the Mustang is in a class of its own on newly seeded grass or in extreme wet conditions.

Electric lift to the cutter, a deck that can be removed in 20 seconds and an impressive towing capacity together with stunning good looks means the Allen Mustang is in demand with the owners of large lawns and the professional user alike.

Price: £3695 +VAT – see it at BTME on Stand A28.

United Agri's United Super Zip Topper is available in three versions, 12' 6" cut with wheels single or dual rollers which enables it to follow ground contours. It has a very clean cut, an even spread with quick recovery. It can cut from half an inch upwards. Low horse power required. Transport width 7' 10". It has five spindles with anti-scalp discs and 15 blades.

United Parks Zip Mower is available in four versions. 7' 6" cut, with easy screw adjustable side skids, sin-

gle or dual rollers, or with wheels. Extremely strong. Either machine will cut in forward or reverse direction. 3 point linkage front and rear.

See the United Agri machinery at BTME on Stand A21.

On display at the **Allett Mowers** stand will be three machines specifically designed for greenkeepers. The Allett Conqueror is a ride on triple mower for use on tees and surrounds. The machine benefits from hydrostatic transmission and is therefore very manoeuvrable. Unique for a machine in this price range, the Conqueror has individual clutches for all three cutting units giving a choice of cutting widths of 78", 57" or 36". The machine is powered by an 11HP electric start Command engine with a pressure lubricated system for prolonged use on banks.

Also on display will be two pedestrian greens machines. The Tournament incorporates a power driven spiral brush fitted between front roller and cylinder which brushes the turf, lifting any lateral grass, for a much better quality of cut and at the same time it brushes the front roller to keep it clean and so main-

tain a consistent height of cut. The Shaver is a similar machine but with an optional static brush. Both machines give 180 cuts per yard and a finish which is unequalled.

See Allet Mowers on Stand B42A.

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Lindum Turf on Stand B5 will be displaying their range of turf. Lindum turf is well respected and is used by golf courses nationwide.

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Pattison welcome old and new friends to their stand where they will be able to see their new nylon bogey hole cup, putting green markers and flag swivel with the easi-fit flag along with their comprehensive range of golf course and driving range equipment.

See Pattison on Stand B24.

The Express Dual will be shown by **Atterton & Ellis**, which is capable of not only conventional plain cylinder grinding with the cylinder removed, but also in-situ grinding of the cylinder when still mounted in the machine – a particularly useful feature when resharpening during mid-season. A "Professional" kit will be included which allows a larger range of cutting units to be sharpened in-situ.

The Anglemaster heavy duty bottom blade grinding machine will also be shown by the company and will include a power traverse feature.

All machines are well proven and carry the Atterton hallmark of quality and reliability and may be seen in use in many of the leading golf courses throughout the country as well as many other parts of the world.

Further details will be available at the show on Stand A8 or by contacting Atterton & Ellis Ltd on 0440 702312.

Hole-in-White return to Harrogate for the third year to enable greenkeepers and trade to see first-hand a demonstration of Hole-in-White in use.

Hole-in-White is a golf hole turf whitener and has been specially designed to provide the golf course manager/greenkeeper with a fast and most efficient way of painting the inside of the golf hole (top inch) using our patent device and quick drying new formula aerosol paint.

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This year **Donath Seeds** will be introducing their new wildflower mixtures for conservation areas on golf courses and Danilo, the leading

new amenity perennial ryegrass, which will be available in their fairway mixture.

Donath Seeds will be happy to help with any queries visitors may have concerning hydroseeding on golf courses. For more details or an information pack, call 0666 502834, or visit Donath Seeds on Stand B9.

The unique turfgrass teaching facilities at Myerscough (**Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture**) provide a comprehensive range of irrigation systems, golfing surfaces and demonstration areas, with a further two holes currently being constructed on the golf course. This allows students to study different construction profiles and management systems. Integrated with these features is a research programme on irrigation and nutrient requirements of high sand and content rootzone mixes.

Such excellent facilities and research programmes are designed to enhance the quality of courses and improve the career opportunities offered to students – a strategy which has proved highly popular with the successful launch of the new Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports Provision in September 1992.

For more information contact Martyn Jones or Maria Gara at Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture on 0995 40611, or visit Stand A15 at the BTME.

In introducing the driving range version of their tried and tested synthetic surface "Golf Mat", **Pro-Tee Products** have retained all the qualities and innovations which have proved so successful to date.

Management is considerably eased due to the reduction in range operating costs brought about by the maintainability and durability features designed into the rubber frame/surface combination.

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Supreme Mowing proudly present the supreme grinding system, designed to accommodate all sharpening needs.

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Supreme's designs incorporate high safety levels including full shatterproof canopy, recirculating coolant system and, importantly, 24-volt switch gear.

See Supreme Mowing on Stand A32 at Harrogate.

Sports Ground Irrigation Co. will be showing for the first time at BTME, their remote control irrigation system – this enables the greenkeeper to operate each valve manually without opening the valve box.

The system uses a hand-held transmitter and smart decoders developed specially for the CIC range of decoders and, says the company, is probably the easiest golf course controller to programme.

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Looking ahead

range of "Hunter" gear driven sprinklers, including the "Hunter" golf range for which Sports Ground Irrigation are UK distributors.

See these products on Stand A9.

Otterbine Aerators, on Stand A10, can help keep irrigation waters clean. This full-time management tool reduces bottom sludge, algae, aquatic weeds and foul aquatic odours through a process called Aeration. Mechanical aerators pull cold dense bottom waters upwards and throw them into the air where they collect atmospheric oxygen. This circulation and oxygenation helps speed biological clean-up process. Mechanical aerators are effective when the stress on the aquatic ecosystem is greatest during calm, still and cloudy days. Otterbine supplies a self-contained compact system with over 100,000 installations throughout the world.

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See us on Stand A30 at BTME in Harrogate



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T-33D RIDER ROTARY



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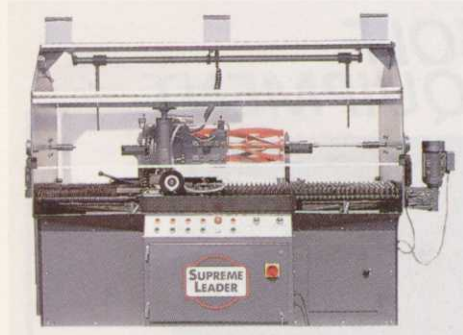
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220 M28-4WD



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Exhibitors to date

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Askham Bryan College
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British Seed Houses
CDC Group of Companies
CMW Equipment
Cheshire College
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(as at 25 November 1992).

A message from BIGGA Chairman Roy Kates

You've got to be there!



Looking ahead



Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities and this is always clearly illustrated in the development of the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

At the beginning of this year, expectation was high for another successful BTME. Our expectations were more than surpassed, with a tremendous response from greenkeepers, the trade and all visitors who attended the Harrogate event in whatever capacity.

To build on that great success was always going to be a challenge. Faced with a crippling economic climate and the worst recession in over 50 years, the prospect of a BTME which matched the record-breaking 1992 event, was something we could only dream about.

But thanks to the determination and sheer hard work of the BIGGA staff, our friends in the trade and the sterling efforts of the BTME Steering Committee, all the signs are that we have indeed produced another winner.

I am thrilled at the prospect of Prince Andrew opening the 1993 event. It is a clear sign to the entire industry that the BTME has achieved recognition at the highest level. Our exhibition has always been the jewel in BIGGA's crown – an expression which takes on even more meaning this coming year.

A keen sense of purpose continues to drive the

Association forward. Our Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund was launched by Viscount Whitelaw at this year's BTME, and you can read elsewhere in this issue of the huge strides this fund has taken in so short a time.

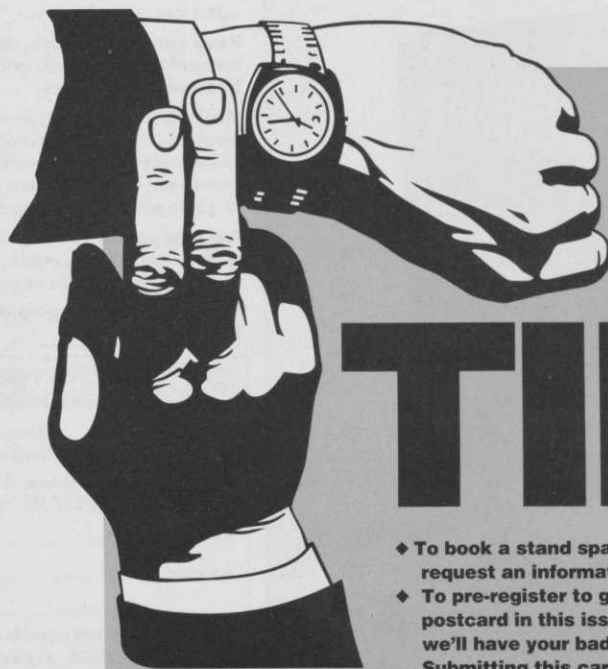
We are all working tirelessly for greenkeeper, golf club and game and the annual BTME is your chance to see those efforts come to fruition. As well as the education and illumination of it all, there's ample opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and generally take advantage of the stimulating atmosphere which gives BTME such a buzz.

If you've already been before, no doubt you too will be looking forward to this "week of the year." If you haven't, I urge you not to miss out and guarantee that you won't regret the journey.

This is an appropriate time to thank those many, many people without whose efforts the 1993 BTME would not hold such promise. To everyone within BIGGA, the staff, magazine staff, Board of Management, Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries, plus the members – thank you for working together to build a brighter future for us all. A special thank you goes to the trade for their support and to the Golden/Silver Key Circle members who have provided vital financial help for tomorrow's greenkeeping profession.

To conclude, I wish you all you would wish yourself this Christmas and I hope we will all enjoy a prosperous New Year – starting, of course, with the fortunes of the BTME.

Having read about BTME on these pages, I do hope you will make tracks to Harrogate, and will bring your colleagues along too. I look forward to seeing you there.



There's still TIME

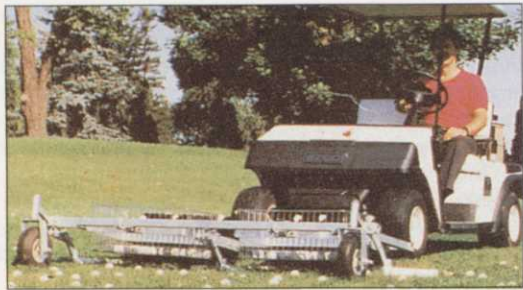
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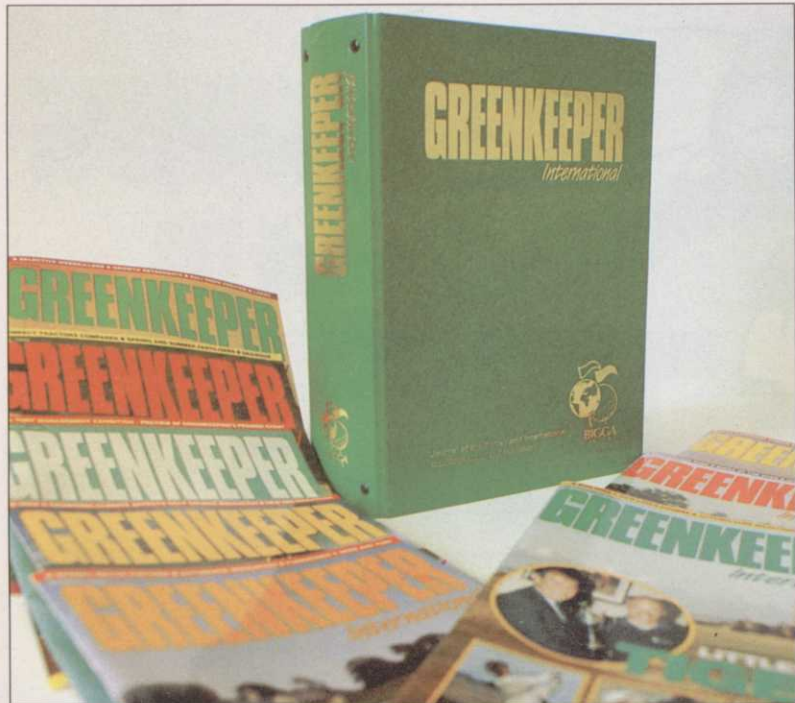
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