

Can you guess the guests at Banquet 2000?

BTME 2000 is guaranteed to be a magnificent occasion, one which will be talked about well into the next millennium, but that in itself gave BIGGA HOUSE staff a real headache.

Who would we get to headline the Banquet and expand on the success of an occasion which has witnessed some wonderful entertainment over the last few years? Who will forget Tom O'Connor, Stan Boardman, Bobby Davro, Lee Hurst and, last year, Showaddywaddy, who had everyone on their feet?

Well, we are confident that next year's headliners will certainly not let the side down and that BTME 2000 will have another feather in its cap.

A Clue?

One of the songs for which the band became famous includes in its title the first name of one of BIGGA's Golden Key Supporters.

To help you even further, we've also printed part of a photo of the guesting band. If you still haven't got it, don't worry. There'll be another clue next month!



North Staffs Irrigation HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!



We were the first to standardise on five sprinklers per green for our irrigation installations and now we have developed an automatic drainage system (patent applied for).

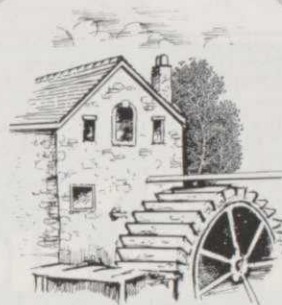
The UK has suffered from greater than usual rainfall during recent golfing seasons and this has resulted in many courses being closed because they were waterlogged.

We have the solution. Our systems are able to remove the casual water which is then redirected to the nearest suitable escape route. The operation is automatically controlled in a similar way to an irrigation system.

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Fax: 01785 811747.

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, examines the new law governing the payment of study time taken by 16-18 year-olds.

TIME out

Young people aged 16 and 17 will be given the right to take time off, during their working hours, to undertake study or training, according to the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, which has been confirmed by the Government as coming into force as from 1 September 1999.

The Act states that 16 and 17-year-old employees are entitled to take paid time off work to study for a qualification which would contribute to the attainment of, for example, a National/Scottish Vocational Qualification, which would be likely to enhance the employees employment prospects (whether with the current employer or otherwise). The amount of time of which an employee is allowed to take depends on the requirements of the study or training.

An employee aged 18 who is undertaking a course of study and began such study before attaining the age of eighteen is also covered by the Act.

The Act also states that an employee who is permitted to take time off, is entitled to be paid at the appropriate hourly rate.

The Learning Experience 2000

The Learning Experience 2000, in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, will take place, in Harrogate, from January 16 to January 21. Planning is almost complete and full details will be published in September.

Details already agreed are a new style National Education Conference, which will take a detailed look at Grasses for Golf Courses, Water Management, Golf Green Construction and Performance Management. The extended Workshop Programme introduces Golf Design II, the next step for those delegates who have attended a Golf Course Design I workshop, Golf Course Presentation which is aimed at Assistant and First Assistant Greenkeepers, presented by Walter Woods and George Brown, Written and Verbal Communication presented by Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, Machinery Maintenance, presented by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products and Computing for Greenkeepers.

The BTME Seminars, taking place in the Royal Hall on 19, 20 and 21 January look at the Past, Present and Future of Golf Greenkeeping with confirmed speakers from the USA, including Dr Joe Vargas, Canada and Europe.

The National Education Conference Dinner, on Monday January 17, at the Majestic Hotel, features after dinner speaker Dusty Young. The BTME Banquet will be held once again in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, on Thursday 20 January.

Further details of The Learning Experience 2000 will appear in this column in August.

Continuing Professional Development

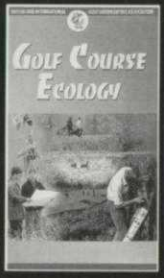
BIGGA's commitment to ongoing education and training is well known. Thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund, BIGGA has shown this commitment by spending £1,000,000 on education and training since 1994.

October 11 sees the start of this year's BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses, which cover Managing People, Managing Operations and Resources, Managing Information and Managing Golf Course Development. A leaflet containing full details of these courses was included in the June Edition of this magazine. Further copies are available from BIGGA House.

This year's programme of Regional Training Courses, covers Essential Supervisory Management Skills, Health and Safety, Soil Science, Golf Course Design, Budgeting and Finance. A leaflet containing detailed information on all of these courses is included in this magazine. For further copies please contact BIGGA HOUSE.

Please note: The booking form for the BIGGA HOUSE training courses contained an error. The date for the Managing Operations and Resources should have read 25-29 October and not 22-29 October.

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Steve Jones of the London Golf Club illustrates how he believes Integrated Pest Management can be effective, viable and successful within a Golf Course Landscape



Pesting times



In recent years the Golfing World has demanded aesthetically pleasing, pest free Golf Courses expecting increased quality of turf. During this period thoughts of how we affect our environment with the use of chemicals and materials has increased dramatically. Therefore Course Managers and Superintendents have adapted maintenance approaches to include options for pest management other than the over use of pesticides. The Golfing World has created a need for Integrated Pest Management.

I believe Integrated Pest Management to be an ecologically based system that uses all available methods to keep pests from reaching damaging levels while minimising the effects on humans, the environment and turf. To implement a programme of this kind successfully, 'Knowledge' must be used extensively within the specif-

ic landscape. Knowledge of the desired and undesirable species, turf diseases, pest lifecycles as well as deciding which level of these pests and diseases are acceptable.

Frequent monitoring of turf for pest activity and therefore early detection can lead to the more efficient use and effectiveness of pesticides.

Monitoring should be logged to build up a historical account of incurred damage and pest populations. This knowledge can be disseminated to software programmes or map overlays to provide specific knowledge of problem locations. Once the Golf Course is being well monitored I feel there are six major but basic approaches for plant and therefore surface protection.

These approaches include: Genetic, Regulatory, Physical, Biological, Cultural and Chemical Attack.

The Genetic Approach has been very extensive within the Turfgrass Industry. Many cultures of different species have been introduced. Some are resistant to specific diseases, pests, temperatures and all of them have exact turf characteristics which have been sought after for many years. One important example of the Genetic Approach I have personally experienced, the art of irrigating surfaces is probably one we struggle with most. It is the one key area where instinct, experience and feeling guides your final decision.

Sure, many problems are caused by over watering although in Great Britain we have for many years stressed turf dramatically by either cultural manipulation, inaccurate distribution, or unavailable resources ie. poor, inefficient or insufficient irrigation.

One very important aim of Course Superintendents should be and generally is, attempting to manage the turf from wet to dry conditions.

This has been deliberate in many scenarios in order to achieve certain playing characteristics, but usually we do not have to stress plants to obtain this. I find this approach particularly difficult to come to terms with because 15 years ago my first experiences of greenkeeping involved instruction on keeping grasses barely alive and advocating stressing of the plant. Of all the approaches I personally feel genetics is the science that offers the greatest potential for turf improvement.

IPM is a viable part of any golf course management program and success with IPM can be achieved without sacrificing golf course playability.

The Regulatory Approach does and will continue to deal with the testing and assessing of seed and vegetation whether chemical content is excessive or non-existent. In the future this will become more and more commonplace. An example within the Golf Industry is the testing of seeds for contamination by other seeds which can save future problems.

Physical approaches have in the past included processes such as sterilisation of top dressing materials for

The Golfing World has created a need for Integrated Pest Management.

disease or insect control. More recently sub surface application of pesticides and biological organisms have become more commonplace. These ideas have eliminated worries many people had of whether the product they were applying was reaching the target area, an example being a heavy thatch layer interfering with a fungicide application.

A Biological approach is really the introduction or enhancement of nat-

ural enemies of turf pests, resulting in the regulation of pest populations. Recent US studies from independent plant pathologists (Jackson, Rhode Island, Nelson, Cornell and Denoeden, Ohio) clearly state that nearly all fungicides have virtually no negative affect on microbial populations. Unfortunately Biological control is often unpredictable because of cost, effectiveness or adverse weather conditions.

Laboratory trials conducted at Michigan State University (Vargas) consistently show biological control to be viable. However, once transferred into the field microbial populations require consistently moist conditions, application during the dark hours of the day as they are sensitive to UV rays and replenishment on a virtually daily basis. Despite these limitations the idea is becoming well supported by the General Public partly because of the natural effect and the relative safety factor. Extensive research may prove to combat the problem of consistent delivery to the target area. The most successful Biological approach within turf has been the introduction and encouragement of Endophytic Fungi into turfgrass. Resistance has been shown against various surface feeding insects and diseases. This is specific to certain species and indeed grass cultivars and is becoming interchangeable amongst different grass types due to agricultural developments being seized upon by plant pathologists specialising in turf.

Currently I feel many Course Managers and Superintendents are being tricked into purchasing ineffective microbial products. My advice is to look closely at the product you are buying. Trial in specific areas for consistent time periods before you take the plunge. All are designed to be used in conjunction with cultural practices. Define whether the cultural practice is improving your sward or the product. Some of these wonder cures have trace nutrients within them, however, most blatantly portray standard N. P. K. constituents. Programmes are suggested to follow including regular applications and assessments of greens. "Spoon feeding" with straight fertilisers like ammonium sulphate and potassium nitrate are far more economical and I believe as effective. Regular monitoring is an obvious prerequisite.

Healthy turf will always be less susceptible to pest invasion or attack and this Cultural Approach in some ways accidentally aids the Integrated Pest Management Plan.

I say that, because all Superintendents and golf courses are aiming for healthy turf. However, are they looking in the same direction? Mowing, Fertilising and Irrigation strategies are crucial in the Cultural Approach to IPM.

One very important aim of Course Superintendents should be and generally is, attempting to manage the turf from wet to dry conditions. Close monitoring of rainfall, evapotranspiration, soil moisture and storage capacity on a day-to-day basis will give the best chance of developing a beneficial cultural programme.

All of the detection programs must be specific for the type of grasses being grown. This leads to supplementary practises focusing on coring, vertical mowing and the debatable use of wetting agents, to relieve problems caused by localised dry spots. Establish the specific target area and adjust procedures in terms of depths and frequency.

These practises may not directly impact pest management but they all influence the health and vigour of the turf, making it more resistant or raising the threshold levels for pest organisms.

As for the Chemical approach, Pesticides are and will continue to be an integral part of any pest management for the foreseeable future.

However, relying totally on chemical control can not really be justified in this day and age and can lead to problem situations ie. pesticide resistance or accelerated degradation of pesticides. Alternating chemicals with different modes of action can slow or prevent resistance and degradation as well as utilisation at different rates. When chemical control is justified, Managers I believe, should select a safe yet effective pesticide and more safe products will be available. Operators should be well trained and be qualified applicators.

In conclusion, I think we have established that IPM is now a vital part of managing a Golf Course.

It brings about positive responsible actions concerning the environment.

I feel that it is a cost effective approach that may not be seen during individual systems but collectively seem to work.

A written scheme I would suggest is vital to success of the plan, it is more professional and easier to implement when a plan has to be followed. IPM is a viable part of any golf course management program and success with IPM can be achieved without sacrificing golf course playability.



In May, over 80 new members joined BIGGA. Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer, welcomes them on behalf of the Association and highlights another valuable membership benefit...

If I said to you "Legal Helpline", would you automatically think it was for the use of employment matters only?

If you said "yes", you'd be wrong!

Did you know that as a full green-keeping member, your membership includes access to a 24-hour, 365-day a year legal helpline?

If you said "no", I'd be disappointed!

Legal advice doesn't come cheap but as a full greenkeeping member of BIGGA our Legal Helpline can provide **you** and **your family** (living at the same address) with legal advice on ANY matter.

For example in 1998, we can report that the legal helpline received over 600 calls ranging from matters relating to consumer issues, general criminal queries, matrimonial issues, income tax to neighbour disputes, motoring offences and property problems.

So as you can see it's not just for employment matters.

Some of you may be lucky enough not to have had to gain legal advice throughout the course of your membership, however, if you know that the service is there, then should an incident arise, you can make good use of this membership benefit.

The numbers to remember are:-
English Law 08705 234500
Scottish Law 0141 332 2887

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

John Bateson *Central*
Simon Crawford *Central*
Callum Gordon *West*
Steven Gray *East*
Paul Hamilton *West*
Anthony Jinks *East*
Ian Laing *East*
Michael Maxton *West*
James McCormack *North*
Andrew McLeod *West*
Derek McMillan *West*
Scott Pettigrew *North*
Robert Rees *West*
Neil Stevenson *West*
Daniel Waddell *Ayrshire*

Northern Region

Craig Batty *Sheffield*
Ian Downham *North West*
Adrian Kinsey *North Wales*
Andrew Leach *North West*
Stuart Leek *Sheffield*
Nicholas Littlewood *N West*
Richard Sumner *North West*
David Thompson *North East*
Daniel Varney *Sheffield*
Graham Pickin *Sheffield*

Midland Section

Ryan Bullock *Midland*
Richard David *BB&O*
Richard Evans *East Midland*
David Farrow *BB&O*
Ross Ferguson *BB&O*
Richard Goliath *Midland*
Adrian Harris *Midland*

Daniel Hastie *BB&O*
Gary Hill *Midland*
Peter Hillier *BB&O*
Howard Jones *BB&O*
William Lane *BB&O*
Jamie Lloyd *Midland*
Jonathan Lloyd *Midland*
Graeme Main *Mid Anglia*
Mark Reeves *BB&O*
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Paul Tipping *BB&O*
Stuart Walton *BB&O*
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Nicholas Guy *East Anglia*
Christopher Guy *East Anglia*
Peter Munden *Surrey*
Paul Northcott *Surrey*
John Pymar *East Anglia*
Paul Senner *London*

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David Barrett *South Coast*
Ray Glascoline *South Coast*
Robert Glover *South West*
Peter Hammond *South Coast*

Paul Higgins *South Wales*
Wayne James *South Wales*
Paul Lawrence *South West*
Peter Rabson *Devon & Cornwall*
Ralph Searle *South West*
Philip Sheehan *Devon & Cornwall*
Mark Thomas *South Wales*
Nigel Thompson *South West*
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Northern Ireland Region

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Associate Members

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International Members

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Kevin Phillips *Germany*
Iris Reuschel *Germany*
Mike Eastwood *USA*
Eamonn McCarthy *USA*
Fred Perlini *Canada*

Check out August's edition for June's new members!

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Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard & Co, came to BIGGA HOUSE on a very hush hush mission...

Having a quiet word...

What is the Silent Auction?

It is a novel and exciting new feature which gives the opportunity to bid confidentially for a varied array of donations kindly provided by members of the trade. From October '99 anyone can then 'bid for a bargain', so don't worry if you're not a Greenkeeper, there's something for everyone.

If I donate an item, how will I benefit?

- Greenkeeper International
- Initial profile on donated item
- Monthly publicity July to January 2000

The Internet

- Profile of the donated item on the Silent Auction site

- Direct link to your own website

Catalogue

- Profile of donated item and colour picture

Press Reception & Buffet at BTME2000

I'm a member of BIGGA, how do I benefit?

Well, there's the opportunity to bid for a bargain, and be the envy of your friends and colleagues with the possibility of acquiring a new piece of kit, a collectors item or a well deserved break, for a fraction of the retail price. Not to mention 'lots' more fun at Harrogate.

Where does the money go?

- The funds raised will go towards:
 - The BIGGA Building Fund
 - The continuing development of Greenkeeper education through training programmes and facilities
 - The active promotion of BIGGA

How do I find out up to the minute information on the Silent Auction?

By 'surfing the net' - and at the touch of a button. The site is updated every time someone makes a bid and the site itself highlights all that you need to know such as details of the last bid, new donations and progress so far.

How do I bid?

Well that's up to you, but you can choose from:

- by post
- by phone
- by fax
- by email
- in person at BTME 2000

Don't bid yet!
Bidding starts from October 5, 1999

Any other questions?

Just call Jenny Panton on 01347 833800 and she'll deal with all of your Silent Auction questions personally.



Stephen Bernhard presents Neil Thomas with the first of two donated grinders for the BIGGA Silent Auction

The first company to become a Premier Club member is Bernhard and Co who have given two Blade Rite 2000 Quatro Grinders.

Managing Director, Stephen Bernhard, said he was delighted that Bernhard's should be the company to give the Silent Auction a flying start.

"After the acquisition of Atterton and Ellis, Bernhard's felt that the newly combined company did not have enough experience of the challenges that face today's greenkeeper," he explained.

"With that in mind, we decided that we required to learn, and to do that we needed to work more closely with BIGGA and its members. We learn from the users of our equipment and we share the experiences we've picked up around the world with the potential users of our equipment in the UK.

"Therefore we feel it is important that we put our money where our mouth is. Donating machines in this way gives us a chance to do more than

just give money - we can monitor the results of the use of this equipment, where it ends up, how it impacts on the people who use it and to learn from that."

BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas, was full of praise for Bernhard's initiative.

"We have always believed that BIGGA's Silent Auction would be a

great success and that faith has been reinforced by the commitment which was made so readily by Stephen and everyone at Bernhard's," said Neil.

"We look forward to many other companies and individuals making donations to what will be a major event in the months leading up to an exciting conclusion during BTME 2000."



Is your club thinking of purchasing a grinder? Why not bid for one, and stand a chance of getting it for half the normal retail price? Make your bid by either;

Phone: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF
or in person at BTME2000

Lot No.	Item description	Item value	Start bid
001	Bernhard grinder A	£6,000	
002	Bernhard grinder B	£6,000	

Don't bid yet!
Bidding starts from October 5, 1999



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Club Car has launched the new **XRT 272** rough terrain vehicle for construction, greenkeeping and general maintenance applications on golf courses. Based on extensive input from golf industry customers, the versatile **XRT 272** model features a strong, durable design combining excellent load-pulling and hill climbing power with superior stopping ability, enhanced stability and increased traction via a differential lock system.

The **XRT 272** model is a multi-purpose utility vehicle - it can easily be transformed from construction to maintenance mode simply by replacing its heavy-duty, all-terrain, four-ply rated tyres with turf tyres for working on grass. The **XRT 272** vehicle is also fun to drive, providing versatile and tangible proof that utility vehicles can be tough and attractive at the same time. Users can customise the **XRT 272** with accessories such as a light bar with halogen worklights; a 680 kg (1500lb) rated, remotely-operated front or rear-mounted winch; a hydraulic dump or electric lift bed; side step bars; a heavy-duty brush guard; a bed liner; a canopy top and windshield and beverage holders.

While competitive products have been engineered for other applications and then adapted for golf course use, the **CLUB CAR XRT 272** vehicle was designed specifically for golf course professionals. "During golf course construction, tough ground conditions are often encountered. We have engineered a smarter, stronger, more versatile machine - one with power, stability, traction and stopping power to conquer trackless terrain and work harder in the field, where it counts," said Jerry Hanss, Regional Manager for Club Car Europe. By combining these advanced features, Club Car has created a utility vehicle that is without doubt the best in its class."