

in Exeter on 27 April. For any information, please contact Paula Humphries on 01363 82777.

Hopefully you should have received BIGGA Education and Training sheet, which outlines the various courses that we can offer. This includes information on course content and prices. If you would like to attend one of these courses, please telephone me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

### South Coast

Our January lecture at Canford Magna went off very well. There were just over 50 members in attendance. It was very gratifying to see so many there. It was also nice to meet up with Eric James again. Well done to all those who attended.

The day started off with a talk by Stuart Ashworth, from Amenity Technology Products Ltd. Stuart gave us an insight into the uses of all the latest technology into the biological and organic approach to reducing the bacteria in the soil. In so doing, reducing the use of fungicides. This does seem to be the way forward. Judging by the questions and answers there still seems to be a long way to go. None the more for that, it was a very interesting subject and gave us plenty of food for thought.

This was followed by a talk from Ian McMillan who I am sure needs no introduction. His talk was "Taking Golf Courses Into The Year 2000 And Beyond". Ian showed us some brilliant slides of his golf course at Hankley Common. This included all the conservation work that has been done to his heathland course. A lot of the heather has been rejuvenated, and a number of trees have been removed. This has brought back a lot of the wild life and improved the golf course no end. Once again the question and answer session was very lively. Two very good talks. Those of you who didn't make it were the losers.

On completion of the talks we sat down to lunch. This was provided by Amenity Technology and Sheerwater Leisure. We would like to thank them both for their kind hospitality.

The afternoon was a bit of a wash-out. We were supposed to have gone out for a game of golf. However the weather was atrocious. I'm not sure whether there were any brave ones among us. There was no other word for it, it was just "chucking it down". Once again thank you to our sponsors and our speaker for a wonderful day.

Unfortunately I could not make it to BTME this year. By the reports that I have had it was better than ever. However Kerran Daly has made a report on the Region's trip.

The South West region trip to BTME was once again a roaring success. Ninety six people signed up for the trip, the highest number ever, and two coaches were required. The

coaches were sponsored by Amenity Technology and we thank them very much for their hospitality and support. One of the most exciting things was the number of new faces present and it was particularly pleasing to have eight members from the Channel Islands along for the ride. I hope they did not find us mainlanders too strange!

Delays on the M1 due to road works and accidents, combined with geographical difficulties for one of the drivers led to the abandonment of the scheduled visit to the new HQ building at Aldwark. This was a shame but most were relieved to get to the hotel in time for a shower and some refreshment before hitting the town for the food and entertainment which Harrogate has in abundance.

The BTME show was very busy with attendance up on last year. The highlight of the seminars was the opening address by Frank Dick OBE which was truly inspirational. The AGM passed off relatively quietly with Gordon Child elected for another year as Chairman and Kerran Daly replacing Robin Greaves as the South West's representative on the national board. The banquet on the final evening was enjoyed by all who attended. The dance floor was very crowded with all sorts of unlikely rockers strutting their stuff to some rock and roll classics.

All too soon the exhibition was over and it was time to take the long trip home. The South Coast Section wish to thank all involved in the organisation of the show and a special thank you to Paula Humphries for all her hard work arranging the trip and the excellent hotel accommodation. Highlight of the week was surely the Imperial Hotel breakfasts. They alone will ensure that I will be visiting Harrogate again next year. I urge all who have not yet been to put it down in your diary for next year. It is planned to be a special millenium BTME. You will not be disappointed.

Kerran Daly

### South Coast

One more reminder for Westurf. I mentioned in last month's magazine that a coach will be laid on for all of you who wish to attend. At the time of writing this report we have not had a lot of calls. The coach is sponsored. All you have to do is phone Jef our Secretary, myself or any other member of the committee to book your seat. Westurf has a new venue, and it looks very exciting. It is an enclosed venue, so no matter what the weather, the show will go on. There will also be seminars during the day on Water Management. It should be a very busy day and plenty to see.

Date for your Diary: 4 May 1999 Spring Tournament Canford Magna Golf Club.

Ken Lodge

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**South East**  
Derek Farrington  
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**Surrey**

Surrey Section committee's last meeting was on 11 January 99 and there are some changes which all members should be aware of.

Firstly, we must thank our good friend Ted Stiles for the magnificent job he has done over the past years as Section Secretary.

Unfortunately for us he has decided to step down and really get to grips with his retirement. Ted, we wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing you at the Gentleman's Dinner in March.

Other changes to the committee include Dave Delderfield's appointment as the new Chairman and Ian Sellars has taken over Ted's role as Secretary.

If you have any queries regarding any event or if you are not receiving information through the post contact Ian on his mobile phone 0976 709145.

Spring Meeting 28 April: Malden Golf Club: Sponsors Turfcare Supplies Ltd.

Charity Shield. Surrey Section won this last year beating Sussex, Kent and Essex teams. Mike Kirkham is arranging this and needs a Surrey venue.

If you can help, please phone Mike on 01483 428650; July 2 Effingham Golf Club: B.B.Q.: Sponsors Rigby Taylor; August: Sunningdale: McMillan Tankard; September: Royal Mid Surrey: Sponsors Mommersteeg; September 30: Richmond Sudbrook Park: Sponsors Gem; October 3,4,5 National Championship; Carden Park.

And lastly we congratulate Kevin Boxall who started at Guildford Golf Club on 4 January as the new Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

Brian Willmott.

**Essex**

Well it looks like it's stopped raining. It's about time.

We had a very interesting talk from Billy McMillan on his views and experiences on Golf Course Management sponsored by Gem. Thanks to John Sinclair for organising this event and to Writtle College for the use of the room. The 35 members present had a good evening. The next evening lecture at Writtle College is on 23 March: Jon Albutt talking on Health and Safety. One not to miss.

We have six new members: Gordon Scott, North Weald G.C., Peter Cannon, Colchester G.C., Mark Singleton, Abridge G.C., Jamie Steele, Chelmsford G.C., Kevin James, Chelmsford G.C., and James Winslaw, Chelmsford G.C.

We have a confirmed date of 19 October 1999 for Wanstead Golf Club.

I'd like to wish Mick Fance all the best in his new job with the Greenkeeping Supply Company. Better go and see how the fairway cutting is going. See you soon.

Dave Wells.

**Kent**

In December we held the annual Christmas Turkey Shoot at Darenth Valley G.C. I'd firstly like to thank Darenth Valley for the courtesy of the course and for the Turkey they donated as first prize in the raffle. Secondly I'd like to thank Nigel Stapely and his staff for the excellent condition of the course which we greatly appreciated. The results were as follows: 1. A. Howarth, 2. C. Marsh, 3. B. Farnham, 4. J. Fullager, 5. D. Wood, 6. S. Jones, 7. K. Diamond, 8. P. Biscoe and the trade winner was N. Pullen.

The AGM was held at Wilderness G.C. on 10 December for which there was a good turn out and a few new faces which is nice to see. There will be four golf venues to be announced in the

near future and there were two new members elected to committee, they were G. Debenham and myself K. Diamond. The Kent Section of "Around the Green" is to be written now by either K. Diamond, B. Farnham or S. Jones all of whom can be found at the London Golf Club.

Everybody should by now have received a fixture mailing list, if not, then contact me asap. With the form there was a section for any comments or recommendations you would like to make.

It was nice to see a few of you at Harrogate and I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. Hopefully it might stop raining soon and we might be able to get out on the course again. If you know of anybody on the move or have any news or comments, then contact us on 01474 879200.

Kneale Diamond.



**North East**

At present we are enjoying quite a mild spell and getting plenty of work done. Things here have been fairly busy for the first few months of 1999. In early January we enjoyed a day out courtesy of John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf, who held a seminar at Stakis Park to launch his new range of Scotts Products. The event was very well attended by all sectors of the Amenity Market. We would like to thank John for inviting all BIGGA members and for letting us put up a BIGGA stand at his event. The following week NIGGA invited us to a computer seminar at Greenmount College. This was also very well attended. Shandon Park GC won £1000 worth of software

that day, well done to them. Thanks to Terry Crawford and Ian Harrison for organising the event. In January we also held our first ever cross-section meeting. This went extremely well and there were plenty of ideas for events.

Eamonn Farrell

**South East**

February 1 saw our second workshop day at Cyril Johnston Ltd. A fantastic turn out of 120 people attended again as last year the weather on the day was dry and sunny, so thanks to those who attended.

The speakers were Dave Sturgess Hayter, who gave an interesting presentation on why cheapest is not always best. Clive Pinnock, Toro, spoke about quality of cut and Brian Daley, also from Toro, introduced the new Reelmaster 3100d and the new "sidewinder" and Alan Strakon spoke about the changes at Royal Co Down since he commenced his position there. David and Dolway Johnston were keen to launch their agency for Toro machines and their back up. Many thanks to Graham Wylie, S/E Chairman, and David Johnston for organising the event and to all the speakers and Cyril Johnston Co Ltd. for an excellent day and lunch.

Other news is our first golfing event of 99 which will also be the qualifier for the BIGGA challenge. This will be held at Royal C Down G.C. on the last week in March 1999 and letters will go out to members with the exact date of that day.

Jonathan McCabe.



See you all next month!

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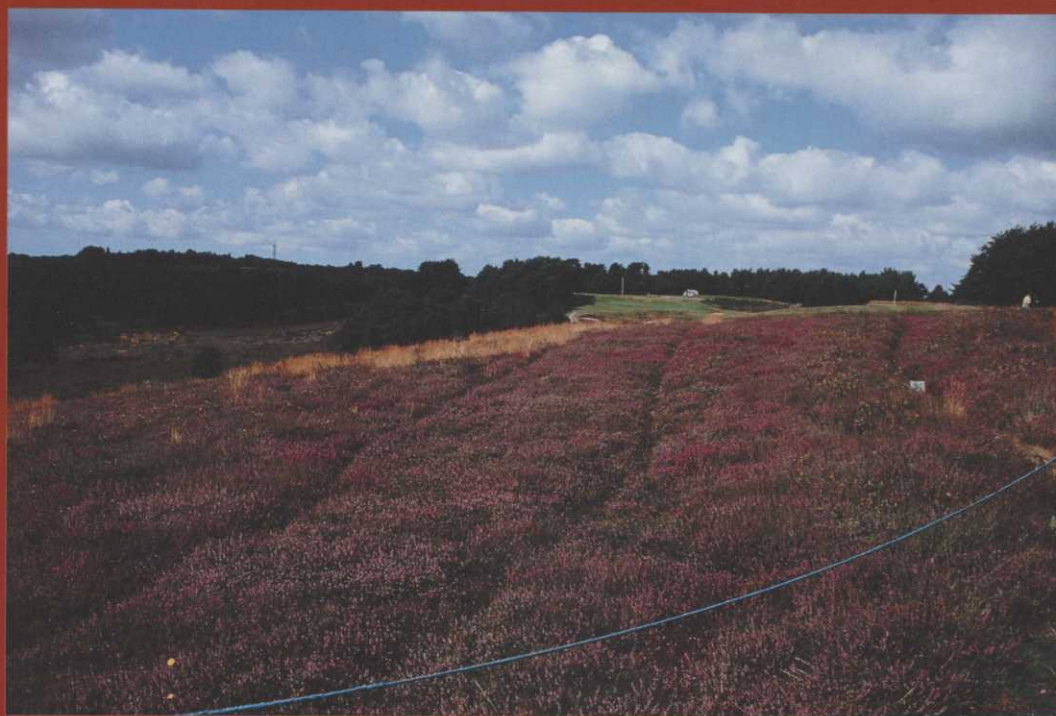


# eco warriors



**Bob Taylor of the STRI, was armed with his camera when he undertook judging at last year's BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône-Poulenc, and he produced some stunning results. Bob is looking forward to this year's competition which sees The Grass Roots Trading Company join Amazone as co-sponsor.**





Above (top): A fine example of a heather-dominated carry at Broadstone Golf club. The Course Manager is keen to ensure the conservation of the heath and is undertaking steps to control bracken, manage the gorse and improve the gradation of the grassland rough. The course supports nightjar, nightingale, adder, slow-worm and sand lizard

Left: Cardross Golf Club - mutually beneficial, mycorrhizal fungi growing in the semi-rough

Above (immediate): Dougal Ray, Lindrick Golf club, receives a cheque for £5,000 and award from Brian Richardson of Rhône-Poulenc and Rod Baker of Amazone UK Ltd.

Right: The walls of an old castle at Pennard Golf Club support several extremely rare plant species, including *Draba aizoides* (yellow whitlow grass) as well as more common species such as the cinnabar moth and the *Asplenium* fern (wall-rue) top right of picture

Facing page: A comma butterfly rests within the grassland at Oulton Park Golf Club





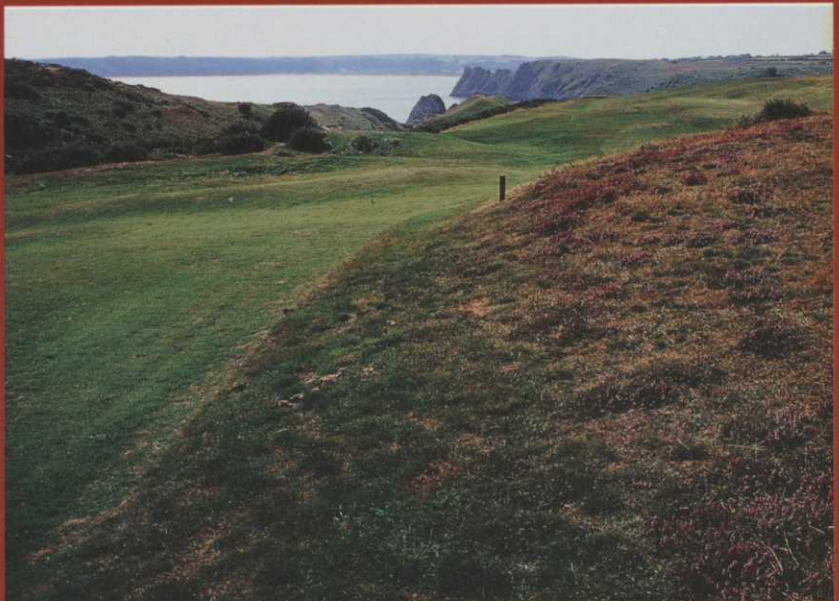


Above: Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club supports a vast and very fine series of fixed dune mounds, the management of which is largely geared to bracken control

Left: Epiphytic lichen grown on oak at Cardross Golf Club

Right: Frinton Golf Club has been designated a Grade 1 site for Water Vole, these being particularly common during my inspection. Interestingly, a marsh harrier flew directly overhead, possibly hunting for these small but quite rare rodents

Below: Pennard Golf Club has been described as one of the most impressive and beautiful golf courses. It is a fine example of a cliff-top links being dominated by coastal-type grasslands and heather





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**TEES TURF**



The 70th GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show was held at the impressive Orange County Convention Centre in Orlando, Florida between Monday 8 and Sunday, 14 February. BIGGA's Sales & Marketing Manager, James McEvoy reports from...

# Over there

Considered the largest fine turf exhibition of its type and hosted by the largest representative green-keeping supervisor Association in the world, over 25,000 visitors were expected at the exhibition.

The BIGGA party, totalling twenty one, travelled together from Gatwick on Sunday 7 February. Included in our group was the winner of the Toro Excellence Award John Coleman and the winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award Sally Doherty. The Association would like to take this opportunity to thank Toro for their continued support of both of these awards.

Above right: Gearing up for a busy show at the BIGGA stand

Below: Time to relax!

The Association travels to the show and takes a complementary stand which is reciprocated by BIGGA at Harrogate. During the course of the show we met a great many of our international members, we recruited a number of new members and generally used the opportunity to promote BIGGA. A special thanks must go to Bill Montague MG from Ohio who helped man the BIGGA stand. We were amazed at the number of Brits who took time out to come and say hello.

The show and the GCSAA generally are the closest comparison that we have to gauge ourselves.



Admittedly their show is 4 times the size of BTME and the GCSAA is similarly 4 times the size of BIGGA. It was therefore interesting to observe, at first hand, how the GCSAA organise their show as well as investigating some of their other current projects.

The GCSAA Foundation Silent Auction was the third produced by their Association. The beneficiary of this year's event was the GCSAA's Historical Preservation Effort. The goal was to raise \$100,000 for this cause. The concept is simple - companies are asked to contribute their products as a donation, the members are then offered the chance to bid for the said products. All proceeds from the auction go directly into the fund. The most expensive piece of kit on offer was provided by a company from the UK, Bernhard & Company Ltd, who donated an Express Dual 2000 spin grinder - estimated value \$19,000. Altogether, over 110 companies provided donations varying in value from £19,000 to £1,000. Although still unconfirmed, it is believed that the final figure for bids made will be in excess of \$150,000.

The GCSAA made its web site available at the show for any visitors to browse. A number of terminals were positioned for peo-





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ple to operate in a relaxed and friendly environment. The site is huge and offers a wide range of services and points of interest. I was advised that over 1,000,000 hits had been made on their web site in January alone! BIGGA is still at an early phase in the development of its web site and I found it of great interest to see how our American counterparts have seized upon this medium as a form of communication and education.

Having spent much of January in a state of blind panic preparing for our own exhibition, BTME, it was a pleasure to be able to walk around the show meeting many of the company members who had been exhibiting at Harrogate. It seemed a greater number of British companies were exhibiting in their own right or sharing stands with their US producers and distributors. There were also a great many companies who were attending the show in a visitor capacity.

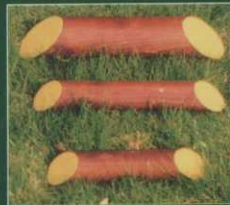
One of those companies attending were Barrenbrug, a BIGGA Golden Key Company who also have offices in the USA. Michel Mulder, who for many years worked for Barrenbrug in the UK and now works for the company in the US has great experience of both BTME and the GCSAA show and explained to me his views on both.

"Overall the GCSAA show is, an impressive and well organised national event. One has to bear in mind that comparisons between the BTME and GCSAA event are difficult because BIGGA caters for 2,500 golf courses compared to 15,000 golf courses in the US. One also has to be aware that this show is always organised in one of a number of popular locations therefore one is encouraged to take your family for a short holiday as well".

The show attracts a wide variety of British interest including many of the suppliers and distributors who trade in the UK. Richard Fry, who distributes Blazon in the UK for Millican, was at Orlando and he explained why it was so important to have travelled thousands of miles to meet with his US counterparts?

"They used to say that what took place in America would happen in the UK some 10 years later. Well, the result is still the same but the time frame has changed, it's now almost instantaneous.

A visit to the GCSAA is a must for any supplier who is serious about selling products to the UK golf course industry. With over 16,000 golf courses in the USA, the pressure on suppliers to come up with new ideas, concepts and themes is enormous. Even if, as this





Over  
there



Above: Just one of the many GCSAA exhibition halls

Below: BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child gets an extra guest at his table in the Hard Rock Café

year, the number of truly new products was lacking, there are tremendous opportunities to see a different approach to the way products are promoted, displayed and even advertised.

Over the last ten years a number of products, first seen at a GCSAA show, have been introduced into the UK and many such as Blazon have become market leaders".

As with BTME, the education conference starts on the Monday and continues through the show. For the greenkeepers in our party the conference was the prime reason for being in Orlando and it was

interesting to hear their views on the seminars available. The seminars were well received by the majority of British Greenkeepers and Golf Course Managers that I spoke to. The major criticism being the difficulty that they encountered when attempting to book to attend.

One disappointment with the education conference was the lack of UK speakers; Ian Macleod was our only representative. Ian gave an excellent and interesting presentation and was a credit to himself, his golf club and BIGGA. I hope that the GCSAA will consider inviting more of our members to speak at future conferences.

The GCSAA is blessed with having a wide choice of venues that, even during the winter months, provide a temperate climate. The average temperature during the week at Orlando was a warm 80 degrees. An excellent programme of trips and social events

were available, utilising Disney Land and other well known holiday attractions to entice families to attend. There were also the usual evening functions, the highlight being the banquet on the Saturday evening. I may be biased but I still believe that our own banquet evening, sponsored by Stylo, has the edge.

So with the two major shows in the world of fine turf over for another year we can all go back to prepare for our respective millennium spectacles. Harrogate will once again host BTME and Education Conference between xx and xx January, with a new hall (Q) and a few surprises in stall. The GCSAA show in 2000 will be held in New Orleans between the 14 and 20 February. BIGGA will again be attending and we hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be memorable event. Watch this space for details.

