

Please think about your teams and phone Mike Gould on 01342 712508 with your selection.

Also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, I would like to congratulate Austin Houghton, Head Greenkeeper at Seaford Head GC who has been awarded Sussex County Greenkeeper of the Year by the Sussex Professional Golfers' Union. One last note. If anyone has anything to report and would like to see it in "Around the Green" please phone me on 01903 218675 or 0378 189785.

Gary Ogilvie



**South West
and South Wales**
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South Wales

High winds and heavy showers made most of us return to the 19th hole at Pyle & Kenfig GC on 8 December, although a few continued and battled their way around the course and thanks to P Robinson & his staff for the good condition of the course.

Chairman D Ward opened the AGM and gave his report for the year. P Lacey gave his secretary's report and ran through the finance report. Election of officers: Chairman, Adrian Panks; Vice Chairman, J. B.

Jones; Secretary, P. Lacey; Education Chairman, M. Davies; Committee Officers - Angus Macleod, A. Hatcher, J. B. Jones, R. Patterson, R. Hatcher and D. Ward. Our President C. Murphy gave good words during the meeting, thanks Colin. Finally, David Ward ended his term for Chairmanship and closed the meeting.

Our Christmas dinner followed, which was outstanding. The presentation of the Vitax Shield went to M. Jones. Well done! Thanks to Vitax Ltd who were the main sponsors of the day and to Celtic Mowers who sponsored nearest the pin and longest drive competition. Thanks to all the other agents' reps who attended, too many to mention, sorry. Lastly, thanks again to the Pyle & Kenfig for their hospitality and courtesy of the course and to the Captain of P & K who attended the evening.

Nothing much more to mention, although on the 9th of this month, Peter Johnson gave us a lecture at Pencoed College.

Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

With 1999 being one of the wettest years of the old millennium it was not surprising that members were greeted with heavy rain on arrival at our P.J. Flegg Christmas meeting held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 8. I wondered if we would be able to play any golf during the

morning but the splendid effort put in by Richard Wisdom and his team meant that the greensome format competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy went ahead as scheduled.

Our non golfing members were, as usual, treated to the guided course walk by Richard. Both golfing and non golfing were delighted to seek shelter in the P. J. Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th green. Inside, Patrick and his staff treated members to snacks and drinks which set the Christmas atmosphere for the day.

After an excellent Christmas lunch, the day continued with the morning's golf prizes for the P. J. Flegg trophy being presented by Patrick Flegg to: 1st, B. Lever, Dainton, & J. Stevens, West Cornwall, 36 pts. 2nd, M. Samuel, President, and T. Bennett, Trevose, 33 pts back 9. 3rd, J. Mills, Taunton, & K. Yeoman, Dartmouth, 33 pts.

A special prize was donated by Laurence Davis, Deputy Head at Okehampton for the best triers and was presented by Patrick to M. Tucker and T. Blackburn. Our afternoon entertainment this year was by the one and only Tank Sherman who kept us all laughing well into the evening. Our raffles concluded a really excellent day. The first raffle was for two Christmas hampers, kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha, with our final raffle of day, consisting of more than 40 prizes donated by members and trade.

The Section would like to thank Okehampton GC and their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Richard Wisdom and his staff who, as always, had the course in superb condition.

A big thank you to Patrick Flegg and PJ Flegg Ltd for sponsoring the day and providing the wonderful snacks and drinks on the course. Also, thanks to our President, Martin Samuel, who supplied the wine at lunch and thanks to all of you who donated prizes for the day.

Dates for your diary: Avoncrop Meeting, Thursday February 24, venue Trevose G.C. Rhone Poulenc & Supaturf Meeting, Tuesday March 28, venue Yelverton GC. Westurf Trade Show at Westpoint, Exeter on Tuesday April 12.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our Annual Turkey Trot AGM and Christmas Dinner was held at Hockley GC. The course was in superb condition thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Trevor Blythe and his happy band of men. Well done Trevor.

The results were as follows: The overall match winner was Phil Nason, who is over here for his three months holiday. Sorry Phil, I had to get that in. Category 1 winner, Matt Blake. Category 2 winner, Alan Rideout. Category 3 winner, Peter Baynham. Nearest the Pin, Simon



Bell- TYE: The Longest Drive, S Hooker.

On completion of the golf we all sat down to Christmas dinner. There was plenty of it, so there was no excuse for anyone going hungry. At this point we must thank the catering staff for all their hard work, also thanks to Jim Fry, our President, who once again provided the wine. Thank you Jim.

Before the meal, the captain of Hockley Golf Club said a few words and made us very welcome. To the Captain, Committee and Members, thank you for a lovely day and allowing us the courtesy of your superb course and the use of your Clubhouse. The Clubhouse is a little larger than the last time I was there. The sponsors for the day were Sheer Water Leisure represented by Mark Wilton and New Forest Farm Machinery, John Deere, represented by Nick Clarke. Thank you Mark and Nick for your continued support.

To round off the day we had the AGM. The Chairman, Tony Gadd, and Secretary, Jef Drake, stated that they would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM. This is going to leave two large holes. Anyone who would like to take on these posts, please let the committee know. The only new member to join the committee was Chris Sturgess. Welcome aboard Chris. Yours truly has stood down after nearly 14 years. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the years. I will still be around but I feel we need new blood and new ideas. Some of you youngsters should be filling the gaps and pushing us forward. Thank you everyone for the lovely crystal glasses that were presented by Tony. I was taken aback and lost for words.

Moving on to a more serious note. Our Chairman was very concerned at the dwindling numbers at our lectures. What really concerned me was that when he asked the floor for suggestions as to what we should do to attract more support, there was a deadly silence. Please pick up the phone and let us know what you want from the section. There are nearly 300 members in our Section. We could not get support for a small 30 seater coach to go to Hankley Common.

Our next winter lecture is at Crane Valley GC on Wednesday 8 March 8 at 10am. A representative from Scotts will be talking about their products and applications. This will be followed by lunch and 9 holes of golf.

Ken Lodge

South West

Kingsdown Golf Club was the venue for the Christmas Tournament held on December 8. The event was sponsored by Roffeys. Head Greenkeeper, Mark Ford, and his staff did a superb job in getting the course into great shape, especially when you consider that December had seen twice the normal rainfall. The greens really did putt well, although eventually the steady rainfall slowed them up quite considerably.

By the time the last of the golfers came in off the course, the rain had become cold and torrential. One drenched and shivering golfer even suggested holding next year's Christmas Tournament in Trinidad & Tobago, but I don't think BIGGA funds could stretch that far!

Despite the weather, some really good scores were achieved. The winner of the event was:- I. T. Humphrey & Tony Crouch, 37 points. 2 - G. Cook & A. Knight, 36 points and better back 9. 3 - Dan Dobie & N. Wilson, 36 points.

A superb Christmas dinner was laid on by Les and the catering staff at Kingsdown, with all the wine kindly provided by Phil Greenway and Roffeys. A huge raffle then followed with all the prizes donated generously from all the local companies.

The comedian then came on to entertain us. Now, greenkeepers are not always renowned for their sense of humour, but this must have been one of this comedian's hardest ever venues. He really did have to work hard for his money, especially with Dave Begin, sitting on the front table, questioning every one of his jokes.

Anyway, we must once again thank everyone connected with Kingsdown for the smooth running of the day and Roffeys for their kind sponsorship.

Let's hope for better weather at

this year's events, the first of which is the Winter Tournament being held at Painswick Golf Club on the February 23.

Following last month's article in which I asked for suggestions at getting more BIGGA South West members to turn up for events, I have received several ideas on how this can be achieved. I will pass these ideas on to the other committee members.

If you're thinking about doing a training course, it's not too late to join the one day first aid course at The Southern Ambulance Training College on February 15. I still have places for a PA2 Tractor mounted Sprayer course on March 2 and PA6 Knapsack spraying course on March 8. Telephone me on 01249 783382 for more information.

Paul Cunningham



South East

I'll start these notes by wishing all our members a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. It's a bit belated I know but better late than never. We apologise for a lack of notes at the tail end of last year as we were hit by a "M" bug in our system, but we are now 2000 compliant and ready to go. I hope you are all enjoying this glorious weather, all your winter's work done and dusted, and not a mark on your courses from the hundreds of golfers that insist on playing through El Nino, gale force winds and inches of snow.

Anyhow down to business:- The South-East Section AGM was held at Clandeboye Golf Club on Tuesday, December 7. The election of officers to last for the next 1000 years, sorry to take us into the next 1000 years, are as follows:- Graham Wylie - Chairman/Treasurer, Jonathan McCabe- Vice Chairman, Ken Henderson- Secretary, Alan Strachan-Assistant Secretary, Terry Crawford- Matching Handicap

Secretary, Iain Harrison-Magazine Liaison Officer.

The main topic at the AGM was the amalgamation of the South-East and North-East Sections. A vote was taken that it would be beneficial for both Sections if we did join together, in which case an EGM would be held to select officers from both sections to form one committee. This would be a new committee with a larger membership and we feel this would certainly strengthen BIGGA in Northern Ireland and would entice more people to join. So we have voted Yes for this merger and we are now waiting for feedback from the North-East section on how they feel on this matter.

A very well attended seminar on budgeting took place on December 2-3, '99 in the Burndale Hotel. Brin Bendon presented this subject very well indeed and all who attended thought it was of great benefit to them. Some people travelled quite a distance to attend, such as Des Murtagh, from Waterford; David Lenham and Karl Dooley both from Dublin.

An entertaining night was had at Queens University playing fields on Monday 13th December when the Institute Of Groundsman ship invited us to join them at their Christmas Quiz. We fronted two teams, The McDivots and The Cuning Linguists. Needless to say the IOG team won hands down but between our two teams, The McDivots, my team finished streets ahead, stewards enquiry. Many thanks to the IOG for their hospitality and friendly atmosphere and I'm sure this will be a definite fixture this year again.

Finally thanks to last year's committee for all their hard work and giving up their own time to arrange all the various days that we all enjoyed throughout the year. Sterling works chaps and keep it up!

Iain Harrison.

See you all next month!



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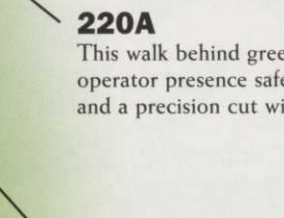
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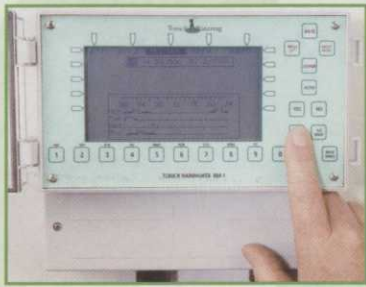


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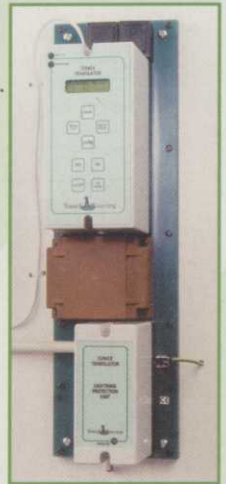


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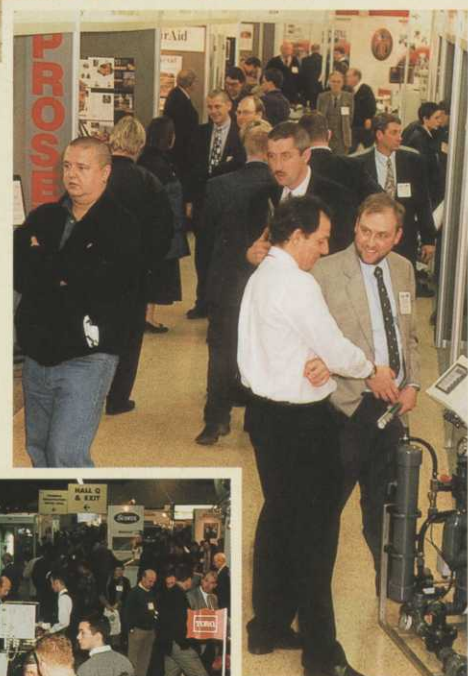
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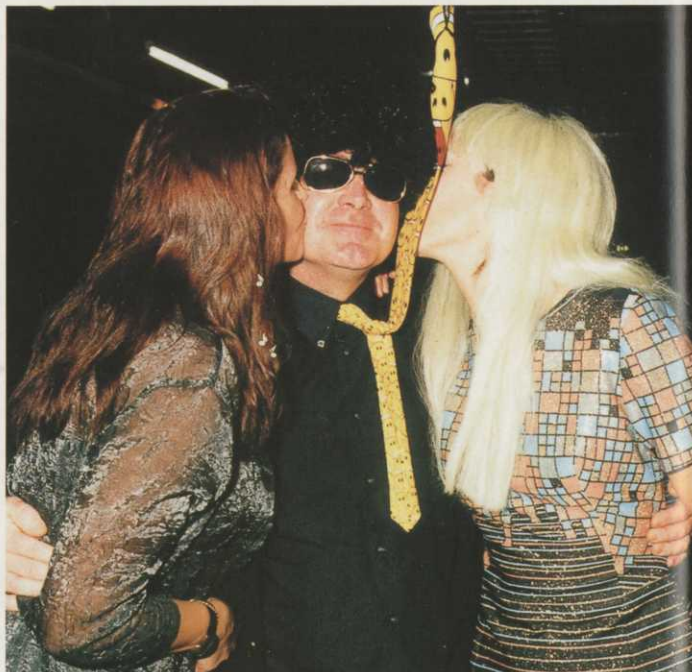
WHAT A WEEK!



Above: Visitors flood into Hall Q - new this year at BTME



The feeling among those who attended was that BTME 2000 was the busiest they had ever experienced.



Top: Reliving that 'Abbey Road' experience.

Middle: Some guests really entered into the 60s groove

Above: Can you name the famous Course Manager who is the centre of all the attention?

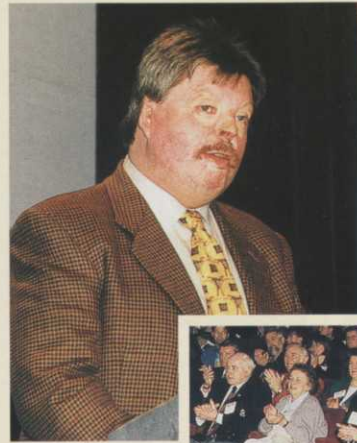
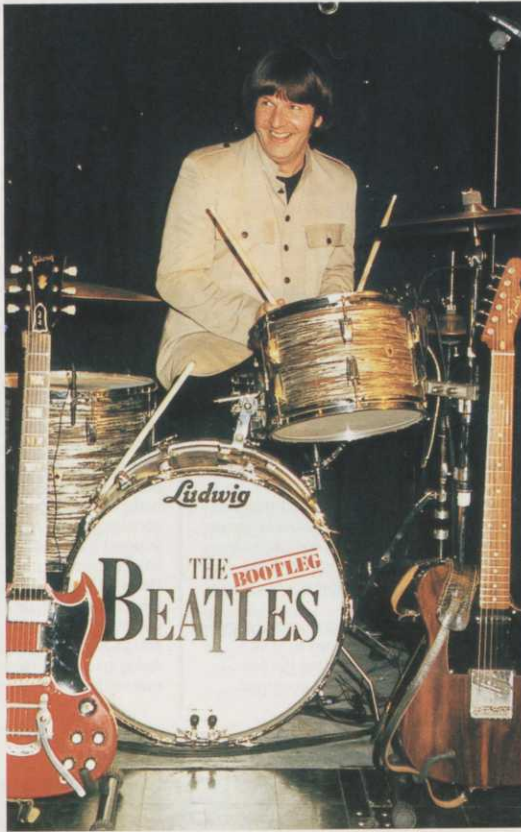
Answer: Billy McMillan



Above: "Paul" and "John" had everyone a twistin' and a shoutin'

Right: "Ringo" enjoys his evening

Below: The Cavern Club or BTME Banquet? Who could tell the difference?



Left and Below: Simon Weston held the attention of the large audience with his moving account of the incident which changed his life and how he has emerged from it a better person



Above: BIGGA's Golden and Silver Key supporters were thanked at the Chairmen's Lunch which was attended by Sir Michael Bonallack and Simon Weston



Above: Textron's Nigel Church passes on some valuable advice during the Machinery Workshop in the Majestic Hotel



Above: The Design and Construction Workshop saw some wonderful plasticine models produced

A masterful performance



The two latest members of one of golf's most exclusive clubs were unveiled at Harrogate this year.

The honour of being one of BIGGA's Master Greenkeepers was until this year held by only 20 greenkeepers but this year Seve Schmitz and Steve Jones swell that number to 22.

The Award of Master Greenkeeper, run by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), shows that the recipient has reached the highest standards of excellence within the profession and is based on experience, ability and education.

To achieve Master Greenkeeper Status a greenkeeper must first have achieved a minimum of 200 credits based on experience, qualification, additional vocational training and attendance at seminars. He then must have his golf course assessed by someone of Master Greenkeeper status and finally undertake a case study and examination.

Seve Schmitz is Course Manager at the Golf Club Schloss (Castle) Myllefeldofk, Korschenbroich in Germany. He started his career in greenkeeping in 1970 as an assistant greenkeeper at St Ives Golf Club before moving to Cradoc Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper in 1979. He then spent seven years at Ellesborough Golf Club before moving to his current club in 1988. He is the second Master Greenkeeper currently working in Germany.

Coincidentally Steve Jones, a graduate of Rutgers University in the USA, started his greenkeeping career in Germany before moving to the Oxfordshire in 1992 and then to the London Club in 1994. Currently a consultant, Steve is working with golf clubs both in Britain and in continental Europe.

Steve becomes the 17th Master Greenkeeper in Europe, joining five from the US in the elite band.



One welcome visitor to the show on Thursday was last year's Ryder Cup Captain, Mark James, who visited the Rigby Taylor stand with his Golf Design and Management Partner, Andrew Mair, and Brian Robinson of Grass Science. Mark, who lives just a short distance from Harrogate took time to walk round the rest of the show.



Swiss award

Steven Tierney, a British greenkeeper based in Switzerland, has won a prestigious Environmental Steward Award with the GCSAA - the first time a European based greenkeeper has won such an award.

Ironically Steven, who is Course Manager at Golf Park Nuolen, Wangen, one of Switzerland's 70 golf courses, only entered the competition after he discovered that the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition was only open to British golf clubs. "My golf course is only four years old but as Switzerland is not in the EC our own regulations are extremely tight. For example every six weeks our water is tested by the Government and they have the power to close us down if we are not up to scratch," he explained. Steven travels to New Orleans later this month to receive his award.

Sharpes + Mommersteeg = Advanta

Amenity grass seed breeder Advanta Seeds UK, took the chance to announce that they had completed a year of corporate restructuring, combining the operations of the two well-known seed suppliers, Mommersteeg and Sharpes International, under the one new company name. Sharpes was previously owned by Booker Seeds, while Mommersteeg International was a part of the Dutch based Royal Van de Have group. The latter merged with Zeneca in January 1998 to form Advanta Seeds.

For the past two years, Mommersteeg and Sharpes have been operating autonomously under the Advanta banner, but since 1 Jan 2000, the two separate companies ceased to exist. Advanta is the fifth largest seed business in the world - breeding and marketing the full range of amenity and agricultural crops, through 35 operating companies in 20 countries.

Announcing The Lawn Company

Turf Professionals who have dreamed of owning their own business had a look into the future with the launch of The Lawn Company at BTME. The new enterprise, conceived as a van based franchise aims to bring a professional approach to domestic lawn maintenance.

The brain child of Mike Seaton, who has 20 year's experience caring for amenity turf first as a Groundsman and latterly as founder and Managing Director of Weed Free, The Lawn Company will control weeds and moss, aerate, seed, feed, scarify and top dress, in an integrated programme which will leave the home owner nothing to do but cut the grass. "Since I started Weed Free, the domestic market has changed beyond all recognition," said Mike.

"The demand for stylish, labour saving areas which are both aesthetically pleasing and able to double as an outside room has been created by a flush of TV programmes and a growing number of gardening magazines. Amid the mountain of paving, decking and gravel, the lack of advice and specialist lawn care services is noticeable by its absence. The Lawn Company is perfectly equipped and positioned to fulfil this need," said Mike "As every turf manager knows, grass care is a science, not something that is practised on a weekly basis when the lawn receives its trim. Although the concept of hiring professional grass experts for domestic use is relatively new to the UK, the idea has already taken root across the Atlantic."

"We are way behind America, where one out of five households hire lawn and landscape services, spending 14 billion dollars per annum."

Mike believes that The Lawn Company offers commercial opportunities, especially for people already operating within the amenity turf industry. A comprehensive training course, on going support package including an interactive link connecting all Franchisees directly to Head Office, and The Lawn Company Operations Manual - a translation of 20 years turf care experience into accessible advice and straightforward know-how are ready to arm all those interested in making lawns their business.

BTME DIARY OF THE WEEK – NEIL THOMAS

Saturday January 15

An early start this year meeting with Bill and Monica Montague at Aldwark Manor. They've just flown in from the USA and it's a real pleasure to show them around BIGGA HOUSE. Bill is one of BIGGA's greatest supporters and flies the flag for us in his homeland where he is a regular on the BIGGA stand at the GCSAA Show.

Sunday January 16

I reflect that I am driving to Harrogate for BTME number 12. Where have the years gone? It takes me all of 15 minutes and its proximity to home is one sure reason for the BTME remaining in Harrogate. There are many more compelling ones. This year the weatherman is making all the right noises and I reach the Majestic well set for the week ahead. Many of the regulars are already in residence and Ken, Sami and Sarah have registration well under control. Dinner is taken in a pleasant, informal atmosphere and many depart for the pleasures of Harrogate's nightlife. Meanwhile in the Majestic's bar old friends are meeting once again and catching up on news during the past year.

Monday January 17

The Conference and workshops are off to a smooth start. The Conference is chaired once again by Dr Mike Canaway and we are all keen to assess the success of the new formula this year whereby it is divided into four main intensive sessions. Early feedback is positive and each session maintains a full complement of delegates - a good sign indeed. The Conference Dinner is full of mirth with quick fire Irish comedian Dusty Young a big hit to the extent that greenkeepers are queuing to buy his tapes when he finally sits down.

The Monday night comedy spot seems well established. We are delighted to welcome Andrew Sunaway, Peter Bell and David Withers from Textron to the Dinner and the company's support of the Learning Experience programme, now in its fifth year, is instrumental to the success of the BTME week. Their backing of greenkeeper education stretches back over many, many years and we have much to thank the company for as a Golden Key supporter in terms of the educational and training provisions available to BIGGA members as we enter the new century.

A moderately late night as the week stretches ahead and stamina is all important.

Tuesday January 18

Delegates are up early and reasonably fit for another day of Conference and workshops. Meanwhile the pace is quickening down at the exhibition halls. This year we are in Hall Q for the first time and with the expansion of the show we anticipate logistical problems. Jenny is doing well however and there are no major issues to concentrate the mind. Why do the great majority of companies decide to arrive at around the same time when there is a two day spread? I don't expect that will change!

In the afternoon there is a short Board of Management meeting with Gordon completing his two year stint and Elliott Small being elected as Chairman with Clive Osgood from Walton Heath as his Vice Chairman. The exhibitors' reception is being held down by Hall Q and everything seems in place. For me the day ends at the seventh Hayter Dinner in the George Hotel. This seems part of the BTME tradition now with Barbara Garton

as the gracious hostess and Kim Macfie, as always, humorously in charge of the evening. Back in the Majestic the Past Chairmen are in evidence by their red blazers and much food for thought emerges from their annual dinner.

Wednesday January 19

One of Gordon's last duties is to cut the ribbon at 9am at the entrance to Hall A. Meanwhile the new entrance at Hall Q opens and we can't be in two places at once. How many will realise there is a new entrance? Our fears prove groundless as there is a good early response helped by the proximity of the Moat House Hotel. The halls are very busy and numbers seem evenly distributed through halls A, B, C and Q. Make a note for next year to tighten control as a considerable number of people are gaining unauthorised access through both a walkway entrance and from the underground car park. The new Press Centre and Exhibitors' Lounge are widely welcomed.

A large audience gathers for the Keynote Speaker session. I have the privilege, a real privilege, of spending some time



New degree from BIGGA

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects used the show to announce the formation of a degree course in golf course architecture to be established at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, in conjunction with the University and its specialist college, Edinburgh College of Art, as well as Merrist Wood and Elmwood Colleges. The course, which will take the form of a nine month diploma in golf course architecture, which will lead to a full time residential three month Masters' Programme and will parallel, in its first stage, the present part time and distance learning diploma operated by the Institute at Merrist Wood College. The two year diploma course will be expanded to take in a two-centre field study programme, which will be conducted not only in Surrey, where the Institute is based, but also in Fife, so that diploma students can experience, at first hand and in practical terms the historic links courses of that part of Great Britain. In February 2000, there will be a total of 31 students at Merrist Wood, from 14 different countries.

Blizzard hits Harrogate

Allen Blizzard couldn't believe his luck when he visited the BIGGA Career's Clinic, run by Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, during BTME 2000. Having gone in for advice on the presentation of his CV Allen left with a conditional place at Ohio State University. In the ultimate case of being in the right place at the right time Allen, whose ambition had always been to attend that particular university, found himself chatting to Master Greenkeeper Bill Montague who had popped in to see how a CV differed from the American Resume. Bill, who is from Ohio, revealed that he lectured at the University and tracked down Michael O'Neil, who was also attending the show and whose job it is to clear all European applications for Ohio State. Michael checked out Allen's CV and told him that if he passed his Cannington College course a place was his! As he is progressing well at Cannington and passing all his exams to date he is as good as there. Now that's service! The Careers' Clinic was a great success with Brin and Frank handling 120 cases over the course of the two days.

Everyone's a winner



The prize winners in the BIGGA Charity Raffle to raise money for the Imperial Cancer Research Campaign were

A Holiday Break at Carden Park G&CC - Neil McIntyre
Epani Software - David Marnoch
Education Pack 2001 - Philip Bennett
Majestic Holiday weekend - Iain Macleod
St George Hotel Break - Roger Eade
Vauxhall Car Hire - Dougal Duguid
Crown Hotel Weekend - Andy Smith
2000 Open Tickets - Richard Barker
Two Banquet Tickets for BTME 2001 - Andy Campbell
Tzoid Driver - S. Yates
Snooker Cue - Ernie Walker
Champagne - Terry Hamel and Steve Hasell.

The winner of the £600 Holiday voucher for introducing new members to the Association was Mark Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Drayton Park Golf Club.



BTME - BEING THERE MEANS EVERYTHING

talking with Simon Weston. A fellow Welshman, we talk of rugby and many other things Welsh. He is an impressive man in so many ways. His talk receives rapt attention from a large audience and not a few tears along the way. It ends with a standing ovation. Simon surely sets a supreme example of how to cope with adversity and to get the very best out of life. Quickly to the Majestic to set up the presentations at the Chairman's Luncheon to our Golden and Silver Key company supporters. A special pleasure to welcome our new President, Sir Michael Bonallack, who seems to thoroughly enjoy his visit. Back to the halls for a busy afternoon and then to the AGM. Wonder of wonders, Cecil does not ask a question - quite worrying really! The Chairman thanks Gordon for all his work for the Association in the past two years and for a job well done. He welcomes Clive as Vice Chairman and says farewell to Pat Murphy, George Barr and Robin Greaves who are standing down. Ian Semple and Paul Jenkins are welcomed to the Board. There is no peace for the wicked and I am

quickly off to Rolawn's 25th Anniversary Dinner in the company of Terry Ryan and fellow guests. This proves a pleasant, relaxing evening in the middle of the week.

Thursday January 20

The numbers are excellent pouring into the halls and another busy day is in prospect. The seminars are in full flow and a buoyant atmosphere prevails. The Chairman and I attend a Press Conference and I am soon on my way to the FEGGA AGM where it is all change. Claus Detlef Ratjen from Germany is now Chairman with Joe Bedford of the GCSA as Vice Chairman. Board members are Jean-Michel Hérisse from France, Pirjo Hotti from Finland, who maintains the ladies' input, and Hans-Peter Thaler from Italy. Dean Cleaver takes over as FEGGA administrator. The afternoon sees me linking up with Sami as our major social event, the BTME banquet, draws nearer. This year it's the Bootleg Beatles to entertain and the set up of the banqueting hall is tremendous with a 'balloon' expert having been engaged and with pictures

of the original Beatles adorning the walls. The sense of the 60s prevails and a great night is in prospect. At 6.30pm I make a brief visit to the Chairman's reception for VIP guests and then to the banquet. Guests are arriving in hordes and some of their 'gear' is drawing attention. Upstairs the bar area is a hive of activity and noise. The announcement of dinner is ignored not once but many times with claims that the announcements were not heard above the din. Dining eventually commences some 20 minutes late. However, we start catching up and at 10.10pm I am able to introduce the Chairman to say a few words and then the moment has come and the Bootleg Beatles take to the stage. Simultaneously our intrepid members take to the dance floor. I am told that the Bootleg Beatles voted it their best corporate show in 20 years. As they finally take their leave, the Funtime Music disc takes over with hits from the 60s and 70s all the way through to 1am before the dancers depart for further revelry at the Majestic bar. Indeed a night to remember.

Friday January 21

It's Friday morning and you know the feeling well. The pace in the halls is sedate yet this is a good day to visit for those who want easy access to the stands and to get their business done. They won't get trampled in the rush but at least they will be able to talk with those whom they are seeking. The seminars end on a strong note with Dr Joe Vargas. The Chairman makes a grand draw with proceeds going to the Imperial Cancer Fund. Farewells on all sides for another year. I thank my exhausted staff who have done a fantastic job. The years roll on but BTME remains very special. It is unsurpassed as a gathering for greenkeepers from all over the world. It is now a truly international show anticipated eagerly by companies and members alike. There is a unique atmosphere and already we look forward to 2001. I would urge members to be strong in their determination to be there for they will most certainly be better for the experience and feel very much a part of the great community of greenkeepers.

Toro's new Workman 2100 utility vehicle offers a big payload capacity and the Toro-exclusive 'twister' Active In-Frame Suspension

This consists of a unique rubber joint that attaches the front operator platform to the rear section containing the engine and cargo bed. The 'twister' suspension allows 15 degrees of flex in both directions, so the vehicle can travel over uneven terrain and still keep all four wheels on the ground.

These features and more make the vehicle ideal for use in a host of different working environments such as golf courses.

The vehicle has a roomy operator platform with excellent leg room. There's also more storage space in the Workman operator platform, including a centre tray for storing items such as hand-held radios, clipboards and tools. A 12-volt outlet allows for the recharging of radios and other equipment.

The front axle of the Workman uses independent front suspension which allows for the tight turning radius of just 2.9m with 70-degree steering. The Fuji rear axle is powered by an automatic, constantly variable transmission.

A pedal-start accelerator and pedal-stop brake make the vehicle as easy to drive as a golf car.

The Toro Groundsmaster Contour 66 is a new version of the Groundsmaster rotary. But this time it is fitted with the company's ground-breaking Sidewinder system that enables all three cutting decks to shift from side to side up to 61cm.

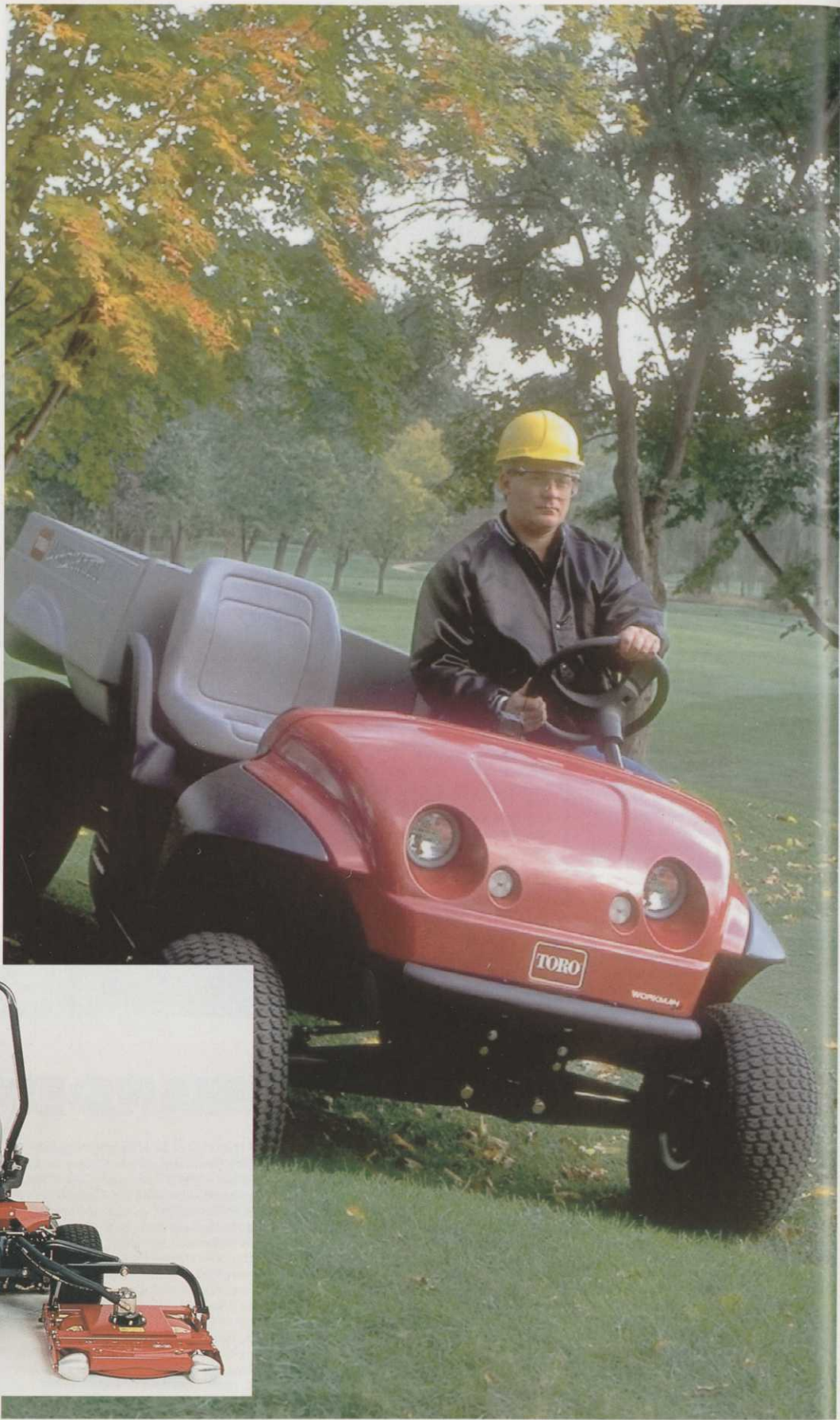
It follows on from the Reelmaster Sidewinder fitted with cylinder cutting units, which is receiving outstanding universal acclaim after its introduction to UK golf courses last season.

All three rotary decks can shift from side to side up to 61cm by the use of a joystick control. Shifting the cutting units to the sides means they can mow bunker overhangs, fringes, approaches and edgings that might otherwise need tackling with a push-mower or strimmer.

Such a greater mowing range substantially increases productivity on all fronts.

Additionally, jobs that traditionally needed follow-up mowing can be completed by the Groundsmaster Contour 66 because the operator can shift the mowing deck positions without leaving the seat.

The ability to shift the decks sideways also varies the tracking of the mower's wheels so reduces tyre tracks and turf damage.



Developed by Greenkeepers for Greenkeepers, the new Intake Range of Foliar Feeds offers the perfect complement to existing granular and liquid feed programmes. It will be distributed in the UK by **Amenity Technology**.

The range has been developed in the United States by Gary Grigg, Master Greenkeeper and former President of the GCSAA, and is backed up with over 20 years of research.

The "organic facilitators" or chelates used in each of the Intake products mimic the plants natural chelating actions and increase nutrient penetration into the plant's cells.

The foliar action of the range has shown to be of dramatic benefit on low cut turf where a poor rooting systems can be an inherent problem. Intake bypasses root uptake and delivers readily available nutrients direct to the leaf blade, rapidly correcting nutrient deficiencies.

The latest development from the Koro Design and Manufacturing Centre in Holland is being shown for the first time on the **Richard Campey Ltd** stand. The now established Recycling Dresser has given birth to a 'Mini' version for specific work on Golf Greens and Tees. The GT model, RD130KR has been produced to provide the same remarkable benefits to surface management in the Golf sector, as in the general sports and amenity areas, already transformed over the past few years. As with its father' version, the 'son' alleviates the need for top dressings by recycling the original soil. The equipment is 3 PT. linkage mounted for attachment to 30 35hp Compact tractors. In addition to Richard Campey Ltd in the UK, the machine will be available on an international basis from Hummer Sports Turf (USA), Manoeuvre Mow Pty (Australia) and Barthela Motorgerate (Germany).