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Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

Open thanks 1

Could I take this opportunity to thank the BIGGA Support Team for their assistance during the 2000 Open.

The bunkers were presented to the highest standard I have seen throughout the competition and it was a vital factor in the presentation of the course and the success of the championship.

I hope that you enjoyed your time at St Andrews and that the bunkers were not too deep for the elderly members of the Support Team!

Once again thanks,

**Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper
 Old Course**

Open thanks 2

Just a quick line to thank you very much for another superb week at The Open Championship. It was once again such a privilege to represent the Association at the best golf event in the world.

To be there alone is so exciting and such an honour. This year I was even more lucky and fortunate to get some "cracking" matches, including Lee Trevino's final round. An experience I will never forget.

**Roger Clark, Course Manager,
 The Bedfordshire Golf Club**

Retirement wish

I would like to bring to the attention of fellow greenkeepers and to the companies that I have dealt with while I have been at the Phoenix Sports and Social Club, that at the end of this month, I have decided to call it a day and retire, due to ill health and personal reasons.

In the 37 years that I have been in the Greenkeeping/Groundsman business, (fourteen at Phoenix) I have made a lot of good friends, especially the reps from the companies. So to Mike Brears and Brian Booth, Rigby Taylor; Andy Crowther, Glenside Organics; Peter Fell, Aitkens; Mike Shepherd, Vitax; Robert Bone, Supaturf; Les Purdsy, who was always ready for a laugh and a joke and my good friend, Glen Sawyer, of South Yorkshire Groundcare Ltd. To these people I say a big thank you to you all.

As I retire from the work that I have always loved and known no other, I wish everyone in the trade, the best of health and to the guys who are hanging in there because you think the place will fold up if you leave, don't kid yourself - please fellas don't leave it too late.

Yours forever in the green stuff,

Keith Riley

The end of a nightmare?

Your dramatic account of the unusual accident at Westhill Golf Course some six years ago finally resulting in a Civil Court hearing last November provides interesting reading.

Notwithstanding, it is difficult to believe that the drama expressed as the "Head Greenkeeper's Nightmare" ever existed! From the day the club lady member decided to take Court Action I have no doubts whatsoever that the Club Committee informed the Head Greenkeeper that both his job and the costs arising from the case would be fully covered. I can not conceive that the Head Greenkeeper could have been left to worry about these serious matters for a period of six years. In short there was no "Nightmare" - and perhaps no dream? Unless, of course, you have paid him handsomely for your story.

More seriously, it is worth recalling that the injured lady left the course with her playing partner immediately after the accident occurred. Some four days later, after hospitalisation, she returned to the course to search for the stone which she convinced herself her ball had struck. How anyone else could

accept that she found the actual stone must be a matter of some doubt.

Perhaps the bringing of the case in the first place was another example of the over hyped TV advertising "NO WIN, NO PAY" complex with which the country is now saddled.

Some three decades back a much more interesting and serious case occurred when a Golf Club Captain lost an eye when struck by a golf ball driven by another committee member/friend.

There were two foursomes playing on adjacent fairways parallel to each other and running in opposite directions with a narrow area of rough separating the two fairways. When one of the foursomes was driving off their tee the other foursome was some 260 yards away walking as a group down the middle of their fairway. When the member concerned drove his ball, with a considerable hook, all of the four members on the tee called "FORE".

Of the group towards whom the ball was struck, three of the members immediately ducked with their hands on their heads and turned their backs.

The Club Captain alone, conversely, looked up and was struck in the eye by the ball.

His friend, who was fully insured, gave his condolences and apologised and invited him to sue.

At the Court Hearing the Insurance Company called the late Dai Rees as an expert witness. Rees was asked by the Company Lawyer if the player striking the ball was, in his opinion, negligent? Rees replied "No", the group were sufficiently far away, and on a busy competition day it could happen frequently. He was then asked if there was any negligence or irresponsibility on anyone's part? Rees replied "Yes. Three of the approaching four players turned their backs and hunched shoulders covered their heads with their hands. Conversely the fourth player - the Club Captain - looked up and was struck in the eye." The complainant lost the case and the Insurance Company was awarded its costs.

**R. W. Garson CBE RN,
 Old Hunstanton, Norfolk**

Can anyone help?

I am working on a book about the reel lawn mower as manufactured in the USA. I am always looking for catalogues, literature, etc. on reel lawn mowers. Any help or assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**James B. Ricci, Reel Lawn Mower History and Preservation Project at North Farms,
 30 North Farms Road, Haydenville MA 01039-9724, USA jricci@reellawnmower.com
<http://www.crocker.com/~jricci/>**

A new experience? Plain sailing for Cedric

What a wet year we have been enduring over 300mm of rain the last three months. "If it carries on raining like this" I said, "I think we might have to invest in a boat". Of course I was only joking. The only boat I'd been on was a ferry across the channel and it's not an experience I wish to repeat.

A couple of weeks ago Nick Bennett, of Groundforce Leisure Ltd, asked me if I fancied going sailing. Sailing, ah yes, a nice sunny day and calm seas, sipping champagne, sounds like a great idea. Nick Bennett and his partner in crime, Dave Franks, are experienced sailors. Their crew for the day consisted of myself; Dean Roberts, Painswick, and Wayne James, Belmont. We all agreed that with the rain we have been having that it might be to our advantage to learn to sail. Although Nick Bennett pointed out that it might be alright for Wayne, but if my course, Broadway, floods, being 1,000ft above sea level, he might be better

off building an ark. We travelled down the day before and I must admit to feeling a little nervous. I'm bound to be seasick, I thought to myself. Anyway I was determined to enjoy my last meal on dry land. What's on the menu I enquired, Ostrich was the reply.

The boat turned out to be a 42ft yacht called the Jaybee and our destination was The Needles. We awoke the next morning to the sound of a force seven wind blowing outside. The Solent was very choppy indeed. On approaching Hurst Castle the wind and waves started to make things very uncomfortable, so the decision was to go about and run with the wind, down the Solent. This turned out to be an exciting, wild ride with speeds up to 11 knots, surfing down the waves. Dave was on the helm and thoroughly enjoying himself. The only person not worried by the conditions was George, the out-pilot. It was suggested that we all had turns at the helm of the yacht. Some

of us were more successful than others. Dean was up first, and he was that good, that Nick said he must be a natural. I went next and I must say in my defence that the wind was gusting quite strong, which affected my performance, so much, that Wayne declined his invitation to steer, saying he was happy to stay where he was.

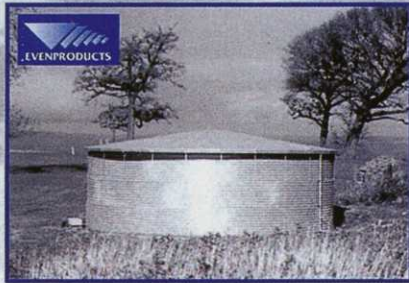
While sailing I caught sight of a yacht in front of us leaning over a great deal. Look at that, I said to Nick, "Is that safe?" only for him to reply, "Just look at the porthole in the galley." It was under water, we too were sailing at an angle. We sailed up the Beaulieu River stopping at Bucklers Hard for a short time before returning to Lymington and dry land.

Can I thank Nick and Dave for an eye opening day out, it was a day I will never forget.

**Cedric Gough,
 Broadway Golf Club**

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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME 2001

& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The BTME 2001 event combines the National Education Conference - 'The Learning Experience' - sponsored by Textron Turf Care with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. The formal conference is supplemented with practical Greenkeeping workshops and a Seminar programme which means there is plenty to interest everyone involved in the golf and fine turf industry from Master Greenkeepers to Greenkeeping Assistants. The event attracts Golf Greenkeepers from all over the world, encouraging learning, debate and an exchange of ideas and experience. The programme is available to both BIGGA members and non-members, although members receive preferential rates. While the technical forums are primarily concerned with Golf Course maintenance and greenkeeping issues, many of the sessions are equally relevant to general turf maintenance and groundsman-ship, and would interest those working in other sportsturf sectors. The programme also has a keynote speaker and seminars which will be of particular interest for Chairmen of Green and Golf Club secretaries.



CONFERENCE

22nd and 23rd January 2001, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Sessions include the following topics and speakers:

Growing

David Lawson, STRI; Dennis Mortram, Reaseheath; Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan Univ

Human Resource Management

Frank Newberry, Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar GC; Brin Bendon, Vector Training

Water Management

Graeme Francis, Hydroscape; Junier Brown, NRA; Kneale Diamond, Hanbury Manor GC

Environmental Management

Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake, Temple GC; Rob Witherspoon, Guelph Turfgrass Institute Canada; Jonathan Smith, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Workshops run concurrently with the Conference sessions and include:

Basic Machinery Maintenance, Computer Skills, Golf Course Design and Grasses/Soil Science



SEMINARS

Wednesday 24 January 2001

Keynote speaker: Richard Noble of Thrust 2 World Landspeed Record fame

The Law and the Golf Club, Health & Safety, Golf and the Environment - the US experience, Erosion Control and Mulching

Thursday 25 January 2001

Golfdom Magazine, Changes in Training Provision, Topdressing - Material Standards, An overview of Australian Golf Courses - problems and solutions

EXHIBITION

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held at Harrogate since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. Over 6,000 visitors and more than 200 Turfcare Industry manufacturers and suppliers were present at last year's show, and there will be even more in 2001 with the addition of a new exhibition hall. The exhibition is open from 9.00am to 5.30pm Wednesday and Thursday and from 9.00am to 1.30pm on Friday.



BANQUET

The week's events are rounded off on the Thursday evening with a banquet in the Harrogate International Centre. Cabaret entertainment this year will be provided by 60's pop sensation 'The Searchers' and singer Susan Maughan.

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With a very successful Open Championship now just a memory, Carolyne Nurse, of The St Andrews Links Trust, reviews the decision to build two new greenkeeping centres at the complex and how they have contributed to the overall course maintenance at 'the home of golf'



Shedding an image



The only constraint on the design of the Eden Centre was that it should be in keeping with the other nearby buildings with a low profile and similar roofline. It is screened with banking and planting from the car park and public areas

Opened in April 1996, the Eden Greenkeeping Centre was the first of two new greenkeeping facilities on St Andrews Links.

Built on the south side of the 660-acre Links complex and costing £500,000, it was designed to be in keeping with the developing complex at Pilmour that includes Pilmour House, the Links Trust's administration headquarters, the Golf Practice Centre and a large neighbouring car park. The location for the greenkeeping centre was chosen as the most suitable because of the road access and other nearby services. Most importantly, it is less than 30 seconds from the first tee of the Eden Course and a minute from the Strathtyrum Course.

"It used to take at least 20 minutes

for greenkeepers to make the journey from the previous greenkeeping sheds," recalls Gordon Moir, Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course.

"We had to cross both the New and the Old Courses and often had to wait for golfers as we did not want to interrupt their game. It also caused a fair amount of tracking on both courses."

Another factor for locating the Eden Greenkeeping Centre at Pilmour was its close proximity to the Golf Practice Centre, which opened in 1993. The only constraint on the design was that it should be in keeping with the other nearby buildings at the Pilmour complex that includes the Golf Practice Centre, ie a low profile with the shape of the roof in similar style to the other buildings. It is screened

with banking and planting from the car park and public areas.

It provides more than 10,000 square feet of storage space for the grass-cutting machinery, tractors and equipment used by the greenkeeping squads responsible for the Eden, Strathtyrum and Balgove Courses as well as the nearby Golf Practice Centre.

This large amount of space is required as the fleet of equipment includes five tractors, five trailers, one digger, two sprayers, two verti-drainers, four pieces of aeration equipment including a GA30 and a GA60, five ride-on mowers (160s), two ride on fairway mowers (300s), two rough cut mowers (AR250s), five Cushman trucksters, 15 pedestrian mowers

Right: At the Eden Centre there are 2500 square feet of covered storage bays for top dressing and other materials such as sand

Below: Some of the greenkeeping team outside the Eden Centre



(GS55 and marquis), six victas and six strimmers as well as attachments such as topdressers, seeders and scarifiers. There is also a tractor mounted chemical spreader and a pedestrian version. Around ten E-Z-GO petrol-

driven golf cars used by the orderlies and rangers and, some that are for hire are also stored here. The five orderlies use the centre as their base.

As well as a large storage area, the Eden Centre also incorporates a small engi-

neering workshop for basic maintenance with facilities that enable engineers to go to the centre to service the machinery. The service and maintenance routines for each type of equipment is dictated by the manufac-

turers' requirements as are the routine safety checks, usually after every 100 hours. When a service is due, the main workshop at The Jubilee Centre is informed and staff travel to the Eden Centre to carry out the work.

Any equipment that breaks down or requires a serious overhaul goes to the Jubilee workshop as it was decided at the design stage that the main workshop facilities should be centralised there. It is bigger and better equipped to tackle more of this type of work. A small chemical safe is situated outside the Eden Centre and used for the short-term storage of chemicals – the main store being located at the Jubilee Centre.

Two Head Greenkeepers are based in the Eden Greenkeeping Centre in an office where they each have a computer to control the irrigation on their courses and the Golf Practice Centre. Their greenkeeping squads of 15 men have lockers for their work clothes and separate lockers for spraying equipment and clothes. There are changing rooms, showers and a large room where breaks and lunches can be taken, equipped with a kettle, fridge and microwave. There are drying facilities where work clothes can be dried overnight and there is also an emergency shower by the chemical safe in case of a spillage.

Outside there are 2500 square feet of covered storage bays for top dressing and other materials such as sand. There is also an enclosed bay for seed and fertiliser. This area also incorpo-





rates a wash bed where the machinery is cleaned with silt traps to prevent grass cuttings and top dressing flowing into the soak-away.

An above-ground tank provides storage for 3000 gallons of diesel while an underground petrol tank holds 2000 gallons of petrol. All machines are refueled in a dedicated central area and spillages flow into an interceptor tank.

"After the Eden Centre opened there was a noticeable improvement to the Old Course as maintenance vehicles no longer needed to travel backwards and forwards across the Links from the old storage sheds to reach the courses on the south side," said Ian Forbes, Links Manager.

During the recent Open the Jubilee Greenkeeping Centre was the focus of operations. All the Links greenkeeping staff from all the courses, around 58 staff, were working on the Old Course for the Championship starting at 4am every morning plus the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. The Eden Greenkeeping Centre was also used, but not to the same extent, with four staff using the four AR250s for maintaining the semi-rough.

The Jubilee Greenkeeping Centre was opened in 1997 to serve the Old, New and Jubilee Courses. Twice the size of the Eden Centre, the Jubilee Greenkeeping Centre was designed with a 'barrel' roof as a means of ensuring that its profile intruded as little as possible into the famous St Andrews skyline. Banking and landscaping

around the centre screen it from the Jubilee Course, which runs alongside.

It includes a large workshop where all the machinery can be stripped down and maintained. It is equipped with a scissor-lift ramp, lifting benches, grinders and welding equipment and also provides central storage facility for items such as hydraulic hoses, control cables, bearings, filters, spiker tines, spare wheels and a host of other spare parts.

A computer-controlled £2.5m irrigation system is currently being installed on the Links. When it is completed the whole 660-acre site will have irrigation including the Golf Practice Centre. There are four Flowtronex pumps and a master computer control that are housed next to the Jubilee Centre. Also nearby are two covered reservoirs providing storage for 750,000 gallons of water and there are four boreholes. If necessary, one million gallons of water could be fed onto the courses in one night. A weather station on the site feeds the latest information into the computer and to ensure the accuracy of the information the grass around the weather station is cut to the same height as that on the fairways. There are currently 4000 sprinkler heads on the system and 28 miles of irrigation pipe work that will rise to 100 miles when all the work is complete.

Both the Eden and Jubilee Greenkeeping Centres were designed by Fraser Smart of Links Design Studio in Leven and built by Forman Construction of Dundee.



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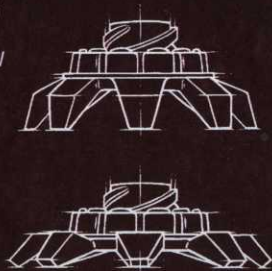
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This month, Ken Richardson, announces the majority of the finalists for the Toro Student of the Year and reminds members to get their entries in for the BIGGA Essay Competition...

EDUCATION UPDATE

TORO Student of the Year Competition

I completed my annual long distance trip around Britain, accompanied variously by Trevor Chard and Pete Mansfield from Lely UK and Jim Paton, Ian Semple, Paul Jenkins and Richard Barker all BIGGA Board of Management Members, selecting the finalists for this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition.

As always, the week was stimulating, motivating and enlightening giving all of us judges hope for the future of the green-keeping industry. Standards continue to improve which must mean that the GTC, BIGGA, training providers and employers are putting the training of greenkeepers as a top priority, leading to better qualified greenkeepers and to better golf courses.

Those selected for the National Final, which will be held at BIGGA House on 29/30 October are:



Name	Golf Club	College
Christopher Williams	Astbury Golf Club	Reaseheath
Mark Farragher	Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links	Elmwood
Lawrence McFlory	Mentmore Golf and Country Club	Oaklands
Michael Sawicki	The Richmond Golf Club	Nescot
Tony Vokes	St Austell Golf Club	Cannington
Vince Harrison	Enderby Golf Club	Brooksbury

Scottish finalists are proving to be extremely difficult to separate! Details soon.

BIGGA Essay Competition

The deadline for entries to this year's Essay Competition draws near. Several entries have arrived already at BIGGA House but you have still got a chance to collect a prize of £500 thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and



Development Fund.

All you have to do is write between 1500 and 2000 words on the subject 'Managing Without Chemicals, is it possible, what are the consequences and how would you cope?'

Send your entry to reach BIGGA House by October 27 and you could be one of three winners to receive £500.

Categories are:

- Golf Course managers/Head Greenkeepers and Deputies
- Assistant GKs and Students over 25
- Assistant GKs and Students under 25

BIGGA HOUSE and Regional Training Courses

Applications for both Regional training courses and BIGGA HOUSE courses are arriving at HQ at a steady rate. The deadline for entries was 11 August. However, we will accept entries up to one week before course start dates. Please note that if sufficient numbers are not booked on courses, they will have to be cancelled.

Contact either Ken Richardson or Sami Collins on 01347 833800 to check current availability.



BIGGA HOUSE course topics

Getting Started in Supervisory Management

- Managing Oneself
- Managing Information for Action

Next Steps in Supervisory Management - Making Budgets Work

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- Manage the Use of Physical Resources

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Human Resource Management - Leading Teams into the 21st Century

- Determine the Work of Teams and Individuals
- Develop Productive Working Relationships

Management in Action

- Provide Information to Support Decision Making
- Facilitate Meetings

Regional course topics

Golf Course Design 1

Golf Course Design 2

Leading Teams into the 21st Century

Making Meetings Work

Essential Management Skills For Greenkeepers

Interviews & Appraisals

Making Budgets Count

Basic Computer Skills

Further Skills in Computing

Ornamental Horticulture

Health & Safety Update

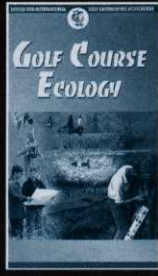
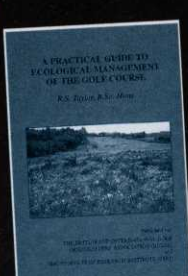
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Soil Science

Negotiation Skills

Full details are available from the BIGGA Education Dept on 01347 833800

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As Autumn approaches and the cold, wet weather arrives, you may be looking to purchase some new workwear to keep you warm and dry. Tracey Maddison explains how you can save £££s off your clothing bills with your BIGGA membership...

Wrap up warm with BIGGA

Did you know that this July was the dullest since 1992 and the wettest since 1993? But now for the good news! All members of BIGGA are eligible to take advantage of a fantastic 20% saving with ARCO, the leading UK supplier of workwear, safety clothing and equipment and industrial and maintenance products.

We have teamed up with ARCO to offer you a massive 20% discount* with a choice from big brands, free delivery and no minimum order charge. How can you not benefit? An easy ordering system is in place so all you have to do is to telephone 01482 611773, quote your BIGGA membership number and place your order.

You can pay by cash, cheque, all major credit or debit cards, or by setting up an ARCO account. Free catalogues are available by telephoning the above number.

The good news doesn't end there! We have also teamed up with Slazenger Golf and Walrus to offer a select range of quality leisure wear, ideal for on or off the Golf Course. Make your choice from a navy fleece, pique polo shirt, baseball cap, wind-shirt or a two piece rainsuit.

Further information can be obtained

by contacting Membership Services on 01347 833800, by visiting our website at www.bigga.org.uk, or checking the reverse of your magazine address mailer, which also includes a price list and order form.

*Discount is not available on selected technical products or other special offers. Please telephone for details.



BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

Robert Hugh Duncan, North
 Paul Robert Fraser, North
 Adam Head, Central
 Steven Bryce Kelly, Ayrshire
 Tim Owen, East
 Keith Purves, East
 Craig Kerr Surgeon, East

David Guy, Surrey
 Martin Holehouse, Surrey
 Thomas Rowland F. Kenny, Sussex
 Simon Mallock, Surrey
 Mark Mears, Sussex
 Ralph Alan Mitch, East Anglia
 Peter Robinson, Surrey
 Stephen John Smith, Kent
 Robert Stringer, Sussex
 Kevin Sweet, Sussex
 Lewis Richard Tilt, Kent
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Northern Region

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 Gavin Caygill, Cleveland
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 Damian Hartley, North West
 Alan Huxley, North West
 Ian Murphy, North West
 Mark Vernon Teasdale, North West
 Christopher John Williams, North West
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 Anthony Mark Connelly, BB&O
 Simon Andrew Frearson, Midland
 Paul Alan Frost, BB&O
 Matthew Hodgson, Midland
 Sidney Courtney Keen, BB&O
 Christopher Lomas, BB&O
 Paul Mills, Midland
 Jason Molesworth, Midland
 Richard Ian Parker, Midland
 Mark Graham Rutherford, Midland
 Matthew Ben Smith, E England
 James Allen Walker, Midland
 Justin James Waterhouse, Midland
 Sean Wilson, BB&O

Republic of Ireland

Ken Cowley

Associate Members

J Vincent Moorhouse, Northern

Student Members

Alan James Sneddon, Central
 Adam Christopher Moss, Midland
 George J Eastwood, Rep of Ireland

South East Region

Gareth Philip Andrews, Surrey
 Simon Backler, London
 Andrew John Gibbins, East Anglia

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

BTME2001 on the Web

BTME is a major event in the Greenkeeping calendar, and, as you would expect, the BIGGA website has a section dedicated to what is the turf industry's largest European indoor trade exhibition and conference. Once again, the trade show is expanding with increased demand for stands at Harrogate. The Harrogate International Centre is itself growing to meet the needs of exhibition organisers like ourselves and is opening a new hall later this month.

The BTME section of the website is intended to be useful for both visitors and exhibitors alike. With over 160 companies and organisations already confirmed for the exhibition, the final number is likely to exceed 200 this year. There will be 5 halls operating with the new hall M being added to halls A, B, C, and Q.

The web site provides a hall by hall plan showing exhibitor stand locations which can help you either find your favourite companies to visit or locate and book stand space. The hall maps can be printed off from the site to produce a hard copy version. It is possible to access the list of companies exhibiting by searching either alphabetically on the company name or by hall and stand number sequence. This enables a quick check of not only who's exhibiting but also which companies are occupying which halls and stands.

Details of the 'Learning Experience' Conference programme and seminar speakers are also included, as well as a Reservation Highway service of accommodation and details on the entertainment and booking arrangements for the final night banquet.

The BTME section of the site will be updated regularly as changes and news items occur. Stand availability can be checked, new exhibiting companies will be added and the latest details on the timings, speakers and bookings for the conference, seminar and workshop programmes included.

If you register your e-mail address details with us we will be able to let you know as things happen. Start today by visiting our site www.bigga.org.uk

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The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Assoc
 The UK professional body representing over 7000 Golf Greenkeepers world

BTME 2001

Learning Experience 2001

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 "The Learning Experience"

Head Greenkeeper
 Greenkeeper
 Course Manager
 Chairman of Green
 & Golf Club Secretary