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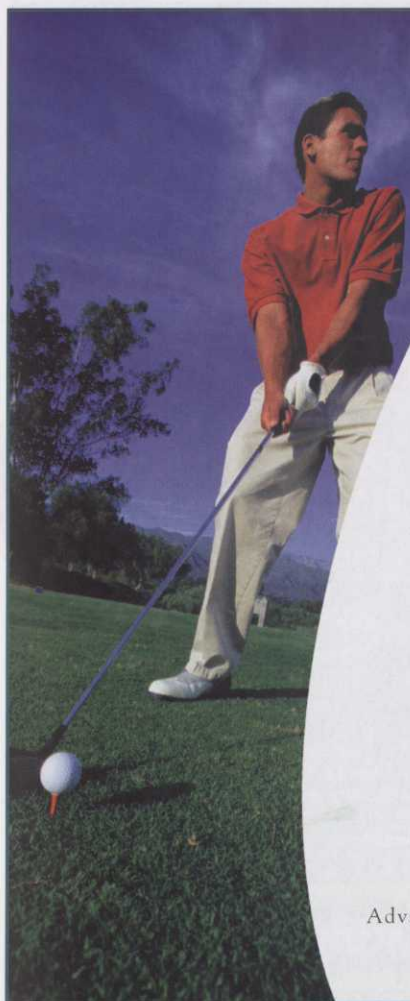
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BIGGA'S Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, would like to welcome 160 new members to the Association and highlight a new membership benefit for all BIGGA members...

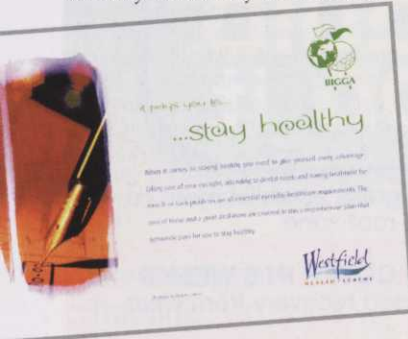
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Special offer for all BIGGA Members, join straight away and receive immediate benefit from the 1st of the following month* (normally six month waiting period).

*Pre-existing conditions are excluded from this offer for all grants other than Optical and Dental.



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Alan Alexander Breen, Central
Victoria Cavinue, West
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Graham Stuart Dawson, North
James Dowie, Central
Derek James Downie, Central
Alexander John Latto, Central
Peter Donald McVicar, West
James Peace, North
Caroline Ann Ross, North
Ryan Ross, North
Stuart Anderson Russell, Central
David Robert Smith, Central

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Daniel Gilbert, Mid Anglia
James Edward Goodall, Mid Anglia
James Head, BB&O
Allan Malcolm Holdon, E of England
Darryl Keen, BB&O
Ashley Knott, Mid Anglia
Lee Paul Mitchell, E Midland
Jason Simms, Midland
Adam Strong, BB&O
Keith Brian Sulman, E Midland
Kristian Robert Summerfield, BB&O
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Check out your April edition of

Greenkeeper

for all of the new members from February 2001!

You've got mail!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the membership department, where we can place you into our exclusive members email address book. We can then keep you up to date with membership news and events as they happen.

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susannah@bigga.co.uk
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February's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to February's winner, James Grainger of Ringway GC.

Get online, it's

TIME TO TALK

www.bigga.org.uk

Since BIGGA relaunched its website in June last year, we have been constantly updating and adding new and improved content for members and visitors alike. As part of our continual programme of improvement we are now proud to announce the launch of our brand new 'Time to Talk' Bulletin Board. This service will enable all Greenkeeping members of BIGGA to discuss any topic of interest relevant to their profession, online.

How do I chat online?

'Time to Talk' is located in the BIGGA website Members' Area, and can be accessed by logging into the Greenkeeper Members Area. Simply enter your surname and date of birth, and once in the Members' Area, click on the Bulletin Board icon. A second window will automatically open, from where you can either

register (if you are new to the Bulletin Board), or Login, if you have previously registered. Once you have completed the registration process, you can login, and go to the Home Page of the Bulletin Board. From here you can organise your home page to meet your own requirements and select and view any of the discussions ongoing. You can create a new topic, or reply to an existing one. How about:

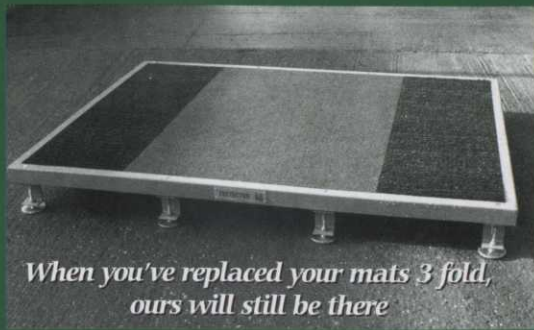
- Getting help and advice from fellow members?
- Renewing friendships with colleagues?
- Sharing ideas and challenges online?

Whatever your question, BIGGA's 'Time to Talk' Bulletin Board is the place to ask it. So visit www.bigga.org.uk and login to the members area for an exciting and communicative experience!

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THE BEST SEED UNDER THE SUN



Past BIGGA Chairman, Dean Cleaver, now administrator for FEGGA, takes a personal look at the GCSAA Show in Dallas

A triumph in Texas

On arriving at Dallas/Fort Worth, it then took a further 10 minutes to drive out of the airport. The size of the airport in actual area was quite amazing, being larger than the island of Manhattan. I suppose that's not surprising, as Texas is larger than France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Luxembourg combined.

Dallas ranks among the top cities in the nation for convention and meeting attendees, with more than 3.8 million people attending more than 3,600 conventions, leaving more than \$4.2 billion behind.

I arrived in Dallas on Wednesday, February 14, ready for a busy four days, the GCSAA show is the biggest Superintendents show in the world and attracts 23,000 attendees over the week.

The week had actually started on the previous weekend with their annual Golf Tournament. The tournament was played over three days, with 700 competitors playing over six different golf courses.

Now if you're looking for education, this show certainly offers choice. The seminars and workshops start on the Sunday and run through to the

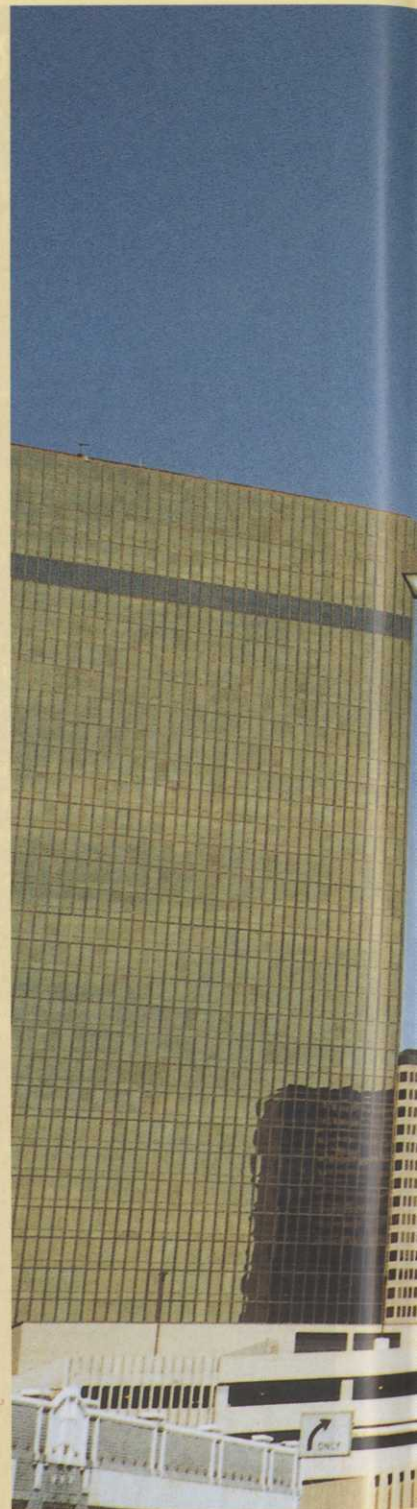
following Sunday. There are a total of 119 seminars and workshops, covering all aspects of golf course management, including agronomy, business communication, golf course management and personal/professional development. There are also discussion groups held during the week and also a complete afternoon session given by the USGA Green Section covering all aspects of their research programmes.

For me the first event was to attend the GCSAA's opening session at the Adams Mark Hotel, this is one of Dallas's premier hotels, and an excellent venue to start their 75th anniversary. The evening was to celebrate lifetime achievements for three Superintendents, also the winner of the Leo Feser award and the National golf tournament. We were also able to view the GCSAA Foundation video, this showed the benefits golf was enjoying through the work of the foundation. The year 2000 saw the foundation raise some \$4.5 million. The evening concluded with the keynote speech given by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr, remembered as the hero of operations

Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I then moved onto the Rain Bird reception held at the exotic Dallas Aquarium. What a great place to hold a reception, winding your way through the Rain forests sipping a cool beer, eating the finest ribs and meeting with old friends, the perfect end to a very long day. Time I headed back to the hotel.

Thursday saw the opening of the exhibition and anyone visiting the show for the first time will be hit by the enormous size, coupled with the luxurious layout of the exhibition, featuring some 700 exhibitors. The Dallas Convention Centre's expansion for the year 2002 will feature the world's largest 203,000 square-foot, singular column-free exhibit hall in the world.





One new feature to the Dallas show was to split the main exhibition from the GCSAA's services, allied Associations and education. This area being called the GCSAA Park proved to be most successful.

The services offered by the GCSAA are considerable, and really are too many to list in this article. However to give you an idea, it takes 90 GCSAA staff to cover all activities at the show.

Being the industries biggest show, it will always be the launch pad for new products. During the limited time I had to view products, I came across the new Toro pedestrian 21" Flex. This machine is fully floating, featuring a cassette type cylinder that drops straight in and out, and cer-

tainly should be a well-received product within the industry.

Rain Bird featured some new products, one being the new remote video display unit (RVDU). Rain Bird claim this as a first within the irrigation industry, featuring a remote visual display capable of real-time field irrigation control. The RVDU further integrates Rain Bird's state of the art, map based central control technology into the superintendent's busy schedule by providing the freedom of wireless visual access and instant system control from the place its matters most-the golf course.

Thursday also sees the GCSAA hold their Golf General Session, this will focus on winners and survivors. Winners of the Old Tom Morris

Award, the Presidents Award for Environmental leadership and the Environmental Stewards Awards will be honoured, and attendees can enjoy a motivational talk from an American hero in the name of Capt. Scott O'Grady.

The Old Tom Morris award is GCSAA's highest honour, and is awarded each year to an individual who, "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf, has helped mould the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

This year's winner is Tim Finchem who is the US PGA Tour Commissioner. Recently under his direction the US PGA Tour has helped ensure that Superintendents

receive media attention. Superintendents are interviewed weekly on PGA Tour radio, and the role of the superintendent was featured on a segment of the PGA Tour television show "Get Golf with the PGA Tour" featured last summer. GCSAA fact sheets are now included in PGA Tour mailing to the media and are distributed to the media at all PGA Tour tournament sites.

The afternoon saw many of the national Associations from around the world attend the International Summit. The meeting saw significant changes this year, after a period of dropping numbers. Canada and FEGGA co-organised the event in conjunction with GCSAA, and at this point I should thank Vince Gilies, Joe

A triumph in Texas



Bedford and Don Brenthur who all did sterling work in organising the summit.

The Summit was to look at how best we can all work together to promote and represent golf course management on a worldwide level. It does not take long to realise that despite all our cultural differences, we all deep down have the same beliefs and indeed problems relating to managing our golf courses.

GCSAA had kindly contracted a professional facilitator on the recommendation of both Canada and FEGGA. Tony Nash from Canada was to carry out this duty, and a great job he did to extracting large chunks of information from us all and we finally concluded with a list of priorities to work with over the next 12 months, all in three and a half hours.

A big central point for all International visitors is the

International Resource Lounge. This is a place where all International delegates old and new can meet during the show, whether to share business or a drink. It is also a good place to pick up Association magazines. Translators are also on hand to assist with any translation that may be required.

Thursday evening saw me braving the weather to attend the European Textron reception, this is a clear indication of the amount of Europeans now attending the GCSAA show and conference. It was again nice to meet up with friends old and new, and to share experiences on a much wider scale. With regard to braving the weather, many of us visiting the show from Europe were hoping to experience some nice weather considering the wet period we have had over the last five months. How disappointed we were, just as we arrived, the rains followed and followed and followed. I don't know how much fell during the week, however I do know that during the period Thursday afternoon and Friday morning five inches of rain fell.

Friday evening saw 1,100 people attend the President's Dinner. This has always provided an experience for anyone attending outside America, although in recent years the proceedings are less formal and in my opinion makes for a more enjoyable evening at the end of a busy show. The President's Dinner is held in honour of the GCSAA's President's past year, and anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Scott Woodward will know what a pleasant man he is and also what a great ambassador he has been for the Association.

The cabaret was split into two parts; the first part held during the meal were the ice sculpturers, who created the GCSAA logo from ice. The second part proved to be something quite special for all rock and roll fans. The band called the World Classic Rockers, was made up of mega rock stars in their own right, stars from groups such as the Eagles, Moody Blues and Toto, this was truly a memorable experience to finish what was a tremendous week - see you in Orlando in 2002.

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Paula Humphries previews Westurf 2001, the third year the Show has been held at the Westpoint Arena in Exeter

Westurf revisited



This year sees the third exhibition to be held in the Westpoint Arena at Exeter. The show is earlier this year as, now that we are under cover, we are experimenting with bringing the date forward to March - hopefully before the grass has started growing again and this should enable more greens staff to attend.

There will be an outside arena for the demonstration of machinery and where machinery can be tried out by yourselves. There will be three educational seminars during the day. A

central arena will provide entertainment. This year sees the welcome return of the Adams Axe Men, a fast display of rustic skills combined with a lot of humour. The Heart of England Falconry team will be demonstrating how you can use these lovely birds in the control of rabbits. There will be a golf competition (indoors) and all the leading suppliers of machinery, irrigation and amenity products, mobile phones etc. will be there to meet you as will representatives from the leading colleges in your area.

Westpoint has a fully licensed bar and a superb cafeteria. All pre-registration forms will be put into a random draw for a fabulous prize.

The Pre Westurf Gala Dinner will be held at the Southgate Hotel in

Exeter on March 13th. The three course meal will be followed by entertainment and the cost is £50 p.p. sharing or £75 single room to include dinner, b & b and entertainment.

For further information on exhibiting, applications for pre-registration forms or to book the gala dinner, please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194

Seminars

Turf Management - The Microbiological Route Explored - Richard Millar and Phil Caunt, of Biotol

Traditional Greenkeeping - Jim Arthur, agronomist

Design and Construction - Jim McKenzie, Celtic Manor Resort



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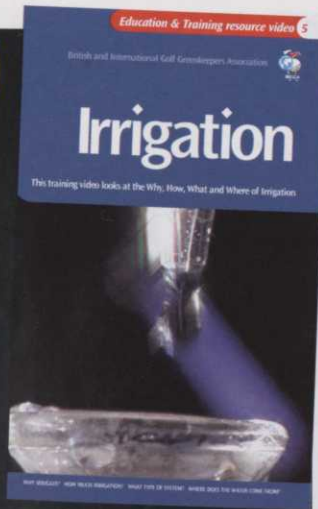
NEW

The latest in learning resources from BIGGA

The fifth in the series of BIGGA Training Videos - Irrigation - was launched at BTME 2001.

Although it may not have been apparent in recent months, water is a precious resource and extraction is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive. At the same time irrigation is a vital tool to the greenkeeper and the 28 minute video looks at using it to its best advantage with the Why, What, How and Where of irrigation. The video features interviews with recognised experts in their field, graphics and film showing why irrigation is needed, when to apply and what equipment to use. "This video is not only of benefit for training greenkeepers in the art of good water management and irrigation, it would also be very useful for communicating to the wider golfing community," said BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson.

The other four videos in BIGGA's



portfolio cover, spraying; golf course preparation; golf green construction and golf course ecology. The production of this video was only possible through the generous support of the Association's Golden and Silver Key Supporters who donate to BIGGA's Education and Development Fund. Irrigation is produced by Goodwood Videos, who also produced the Golf Course Ecology video, and is priced at £15 for BIGGA members and £25 for non-members.

Contact the BIGGA Education Department for further details on 01347 833800 or via education@bigga.co.uk

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York Golf Club faced up to the worst weather conditions for 400 years but still completed the most successful project in the club's long history. Scott MacCallum paid the team a visit.

Reigning in the Rain



The abiding memory for many of the latter part of last year and the beginning of this was the horrendous weather - records set for consecutive days of rain, scenes of people perched on roofs as homes were

flooded and all sorts of chaos for people attempting to travel from A to B.

Golf also took a hammering. Courses were closed for weeks, if not months, on end with some more suited to Cowes week than the Royal and Ancient game.

Among the worst areas hit was York.

The ancient city appeared in the national headlines having battled against the worst flooding to hit for 400 years and only sterling work by the army, who built sand bag barricades along the sides of the river Ouse, prevented a much greater disaster.

While all this was going on the green staff at York Golf Club, located in the village of Strensall a few miles north of the city, were embarking upon the largest in-house course reconstruction programme in the club's history. In succeeding they could certainly be said to have "reigned in the rain".

In what is likely to be a two stage two year programme all 51 bunkers on the course are being redesigned and rebuilt to wipe out what has long been regarded as the course's weakest link.

"We have a great golf course but probably the worst feature of it over the years has been the bunkers," explained Howard Stephenson, who made it his mission to improve matters when he became Chairman of Green last April.

"They used to become silted up



Above: (l-r) Michael Rogers, Chris Martin and Howard Stephenson

Right: The team with their John Deere kit