



lot of it through sponsorships, because if they hadn't done it probably wouldn't have been done."

David is full of praise for greenkeeper training for those at the beginning of their career but that there is still work to be done for those chasing education and training further up the career ladder.

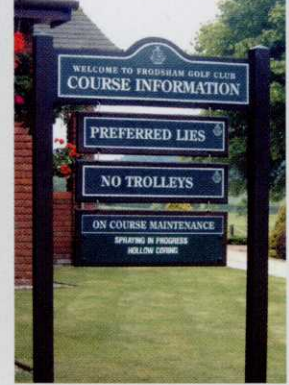
"Training at the lower end, basic skills, level is pretty good and fairly readily available and well organised in greenkeeping, but get further up into the management and degree levels and there is still lots to be done to provide Course Managers with the opportunities of getting quality and relevant qualifications," opined David.

He is full of praise for those Course Managers who have taken the initiative to improve their education and the benefits this has had on the profession.

David has really enjoyed his involvement with the GTC and the EGU and in particular the Road Shows he has been chairing.

"I've been lucky enough to meet people like Gordon McKillop, Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose of the STRI, as well as the likes of George Shiels and Andy Cole. I spent an hour listening to Andy last Monday and another hour listening to George on Tuesday and I wouldn't have done that if I hadn't been chairing the day so my own knowledge is increasing all the time. It has certainly helped me pick up a few things.

Like Mr Kiam David is surely delighted at how things have progressed since he bought the company.



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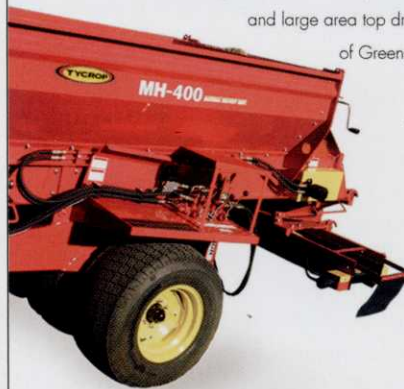
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Harrogate week

Review



Harrogate Delivers!

Like it or not we are all in the business of delivering. A football manager has to deliver either trophies or an avoidance of relegation depending upon his team's aspirations; you have to deliver quality putting surfaces; a postman has to deliver the mail while we at BIGGA Headquarters have to deliver a successful Harrogate Week each year.

Well I think we can safely say that delivery was achieved last month. A total of 7757 visitors attended BTME & ClubHouse over the three days, an increase on the previous year of 12.9%, which, by any standards, is quite a jump. To put it into perspective the increase from 2004 to 2005 was 3.7%.

A more in-depth look at those stats reveal that 46.8% of visitors were attending Harrogate Week for the very first time and meeting up with the 43% who visit most years. In addition to greenkeepers, there was an increase in the number of Golf Club Owners, Secretaries, Chairman of Green and Club Professionals and 68% of visitors had the authority to approve and purchase with 22% in a position to influence approval.

Outside of golf, visitors represented 14 other industries including theme parks, tennis, cricket, bowling, football and racecourses.

The international flavour of the week was enhanced by the attendance of people from 30 different countries outside of Great Britain, while 40% of the home audience came from the Midlands and the South.

As an Association BIGGA can't guarantee the size of the audience exhibitors will face, nor the visitor profile, but we can and do, spend a lot of time making Harrogate as attractive a proposition as possible for potential exhibitors visitors, hoping they make the decision to attend and then delivering on the promises made.

That way everyone can maximise the experience derived from devoting a period of their time to visiting Harrogate in January.



A Week In the Life

Scott MacCallum recalls a fabulous Harrogate Week.

For BIGGA Headquarters staff, having already spent 11 months and three weeks in outline, and several months in detail, planning Harrogate Week starts very early. The advance party, Pauline Thompson, arrived at Harrogate International Centre on Saturday morning to oversee the handover from the previous week's Toy Fair to BIGGA. Pauline spent the day ensuring that no damage to the Halls caused by next year's Christmas presents would be attributed to this season's latest machinery launches.



Sir Michael Bonallack looks on as Kerran Daly does the honours

Later that evening John Pemberton arrived in Harrogate in preparation for an early start the next day when Ken Richardson and Sami Collins would arrive to administer delegates for the Sunday Workshops, which this year were held in the brand new state-of-the-art Queen's Suite, a purposed build conference facility on the first floor of the International Centre. Five separate workshops ensured a real buzz to the start of the week and certainly set Harrogate Week off on the right foot - Basic Health and Safety; Project Management; Financial Management; Golf Course Design and A1 Assessor Training meant a wide range of the skills required to undertake the job of a Course Manager were on tap.

While education was being provided upstairs progress was being made in the Halls as stand builders and exhibitors worked tirelessly to ensure that stands would look as attractive and welcoming as possible come the grand opening on the Tuesday morning.



A packed house enjoyed Keynote Speaker Colonel John Blashford-Snell, right

A dinner for the speakers and BIGGA staff on Sunday evening proved to be a highly entertaining and convivial evening, proving to be an ideal half way point for those involved with two day workshops and launch pad for those conducting the one day Monday Workshops – Customer Care; Drainage; Getting the Best from your Staff; the L12 Coaching Award and the Update A1 Assessor Award.

Monday witnessed a real change of gear as more stand builders and exhibitors arrived and the remaining BIGGA staff and more delegates took part in the workshops. By the end of the week over 1000 seats had been filled by people at Workshops, Seminars or the newly introduced Fringe Seminars offered by exhibiting companies.

Monday evening and Harrogate was alive with the expectant chatter of visitors awaiting Tuesday's opening and members of the trade ready to welcome them.

At 9am sharp on Tuesday Kerran Daly demonstrated that a year as BIGGA National Chairman had not dulled his more practical skills as he wielded the famous BIGGA shears to great effect and declared the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions open. With that the five halls quickly filled up and the familiar sound of communal chatter started.

Tuesday morning is also the occasion when BIGGA recognises its leading lights and Award winners. Thorpeness Golf Club, led by Course Manager Ian Willett, received the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Scotts, Syngenta and WRAP. It was quite a week for Ian, as he also received his Award for five years of CPD attainment and was also unveiled as Terrain Aeration's Unsung Hero of the Year. Although judging by the success he'd attained earlier in the week he seemed pretty well "sung" to me!

We also cheered the 41st and 42nd Master Greenkeepers in Colin Parrish and Kevin Ratcliff. Coincidentally both are from the north west of England with Colin Course Manager at Morecombe Golf Club and Kevin at Wychwood Park, in Cheshire. They received their plaques and blazer from BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack MBE, who made another very welcome visit to Harrogate Week.

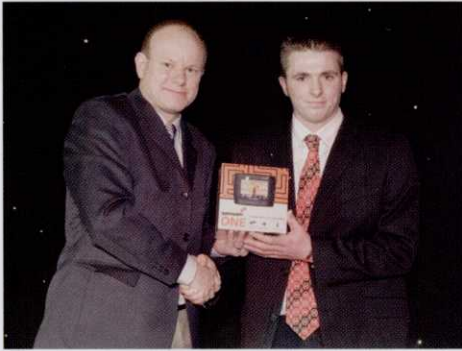
With the Awards duly presented and acceptance speeches made the audience sat down to be enthralled by the Keynote Speaker, Colonel John Blashford-Snell, who spoke on his adventures and his work with Operations Drake and Raleigh.

He later joined invited guests at the Chairman's Lunch in the Majestic Hotel where Kerran Daly presented his Club with a plaque as a thank you for being so co-operative over the past year and where BIGGA Golden and Silver Key

Education and Development Fund supporters were recognised for their generosity, including latest Silver Key member Saul Nassau.

The evening witnessed a quiz organised by Sherriff Amenity and Bailey's of





David Lees, right, receives his prize for winning Stand Up, Sit Down Bingo from sponsor Korec



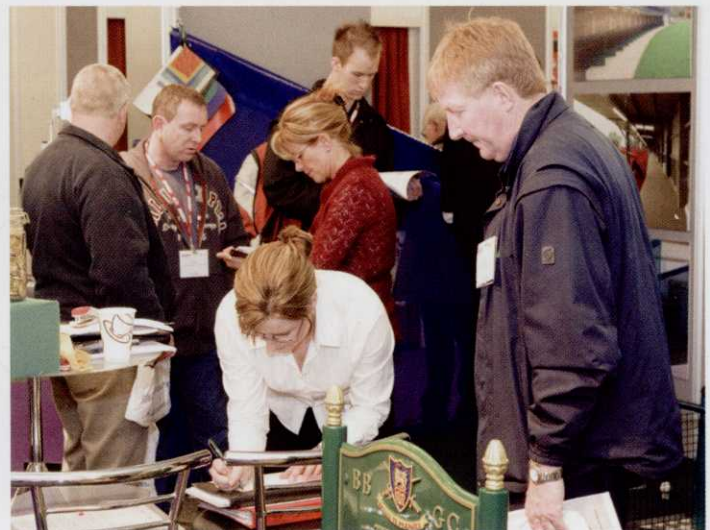
Busy busy busy - it was all go in the halls!



The Careers' Fair, sponsored by Toro, was again a useful component of the week



Left: The Internet Cafe, sponsored by Pitchcare, helped keep everyone in touch with the world



Richard Whyman draws Ian Osbourne, Head Groundsman at Richard Euan Sports Ground, out of the bag with the help of Vitax's Clive Williams





The Museum brought back many a memory of yesteryear

Norfolk and Kubota hosting a Casino night, both of which were in the St George Hotel. Other dinners included the annual Toro Dinner and the 60th anniversary Hayter Dinner, which was held in the Majestic Hotel. Another event on the Tuesday was Tower Chemical's seminar and Ian Batty, Sleaford Golf Club and Ronnie Myles, Scarcroft Golf Club, both won trips to this year's US Open after entering the company's prize draw.

Traditionally Wednesday is the busiest day of the week and 2006 was no exception. Many people were convinced a world record was being attempted for the most people squashed into the confined space of the HIC. It may have been, but people were too busy conducting business to notice and the 3422 visitors to the Show had a great time and kept the exhibitors exceptionally busy.

British Seed Houses hosted a lunch in the St George Hotel which eased the congestion in the halls a little and the guests were treated to an entertaining talk from Test Match Special's, Henry Blofeld, who shared stories for his time in the commentary box and hailed the work of the country's groundsman and greenkeepers.

The afternoon saw the announcement of the welcome return of the John Deere Team Championship, which will ultimately see a team from the UK travel to the States to take part in the International event. Money from every team that enters is donated to BIGGA by John Deere, so everyone is delighted to see it back on the schedule.

BIGGA's Annual General Meeting was held in late afternoon and Kerran Daly duly passed on the crown of BIGGA National Chairman to Richard Whyman, Head Greenkeeper of Burnham and Berrow Golf Club in Somerset.

Richard took hold of the reins in expert fashion and introduced his new Vice Chairman, Billy McMillan, son of Jack, and Course Manager at Tyrrells Wood GC, near Leatherhead. Past Chairman, Andy Campbell MG CGCS, stepped down from the Board along with George Barr, of the South East Region, and was replaced by Raymond Day, Course Manager at East Sussex National GC.

The AGM was followed by the Bernhard's Reception where the 10 BIGGA Scholarship Delegates to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta were presented with their tickets. The event grows each year and the latest delegates brings to 60 the number of people who have benefited



The show allows visitors to chat with the experts

from the generous sponsorship of Stephen Bernhard and his company.

Thursday arrived and the pace didn't seem to lessen. In the past Thursdays had a different pace than Tuesdays and Wednesdays but the morning was particularly busy. Among other events, the day saw the launch of the excellent new STRI Environment DVD, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

Thursday was also Student Day at Harrogate Week, with the first ever Student Forum being held, sponsored by Toro. Ashley Lock, of Brigewater College, Cannington Centre, will be able to enjoy music on the move courtesy of the Student Quiz. Ashley's answer sheet was pulled out of the hat to win himself an Ipod Nano.



The TT Manx, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, produced 3 winners: Ross Plumbley, Andy Halifax and Richard Barbar





The R&A's Big Debate on Sustainable Golf caught everyone's imagination and was a fitting finale for Harrogate Week 2006

The highlight of the week for many was the R&A's Maintaining a Sustainable Golf Course Big Debate which attracted an unprecedented attendance of 270. Chaired by Nick Park, Vice Chairman of the R&A's Golf Course Committee, the Thursday afternoon saw presentations from Steve Isaac, of the R&A; Alistair Beggs, of the STRI; Gordon Irvine MG, and Chris Haspell.

The audience participation element of the Debate was held on Friday morning and remarkably over 170 of the delegates

numbers was read out you sat down and the last man standing, David Lees, won a Tom Tom Sat Nav system. The losers still had the chance of winning millions on the Saturday's Lotto Draw!

The main entertainment came from The Rat Pack's Back, who sang unforgettable standards between the main course and the sweet. Several members of the audience were unwittingly dragged into the act to sing or dance which added to everyone else's enjoyment.

After the meal television comedian and impressionist Terry Alderton had everyone in stitches with a hilarious set, much of which revolved around the GCSAA's Membership Services Director Scott Woodhead, who seemed to take the brunt of Terry's anti American material. However Scott took it in good part and Terry moved on to other subjects and with his all action style kept everyone laughing.

It was a fitting finale to a wonderful week and acted as the launch pad to Harrogate Week 2007. The hard work and preparations start now!



The Rat Pack's Back belted out the old standards



Terry Alderton with his American friend Scott Woodhead

remained. They spoke or heard from a long line of distinguished Course Managers from either side of the argument. A full report on the Debate will appear in a forthcoming issue of Greenkeeper International.

While The Big Debate continued until the Friday, the Thursday evening banquet represented the close of Harrogate Week 2006 for the majority of people.

The meal in the Majestic Hotel was superb and the entertainment top notch. It started with a raffle, prizes donated by companies who attended the banquet and was followed by a reverse lottery hosted by satellite mapping company Korec. Everyone was provided with tickets valid for that Saturday's lottery and told to stand up. If one of your



THE UNSUNG ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP

Ian Willett, Course Manager at Thorpeness Golf Club in Suffolk, and Arthur Williams, Head Groundsman at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd, South Wales, were proclaimed Terrain Aeration's Unsung Heroes for 2005.

At the annual awards held during Harrogate Week, Steve Gingell, Southern Area Manager for the STRI, spoke on behalf of his fellow judges Gordon Child, BIGGA, and Derek Walder, IOG, praising the winners for their selfless work with both junior members of their own green and groundstaff and those from a wider area.

"Both men maintain their sports facilities to the highest possible standard but despite the demands of the job they are never too busy to help and advise those further down the ladder. Arthur, who has been at Ynysangharad for 40 years, has been a mentor to many young groundsman and will always take time out to help people on placement, including those with learning difficulties. Ian, who took Thorpeness to win the BIGGA Environmental Award, is known for always putting his staff first, and his availability to anyone seeking help or advice. Both men freely pass on their knowledge and lend their support for no personal gain or recognition," stated Steve.



Arthur Williams, front left, and Ian Willett, front right, celebrate their achievement

The winners will enjoy a week's holiday in the South of France, with Terrain Aeration donating the hire of a house in Lanquedoc and sponsors, Turf Professional magazine and Pitchcare, donating £200 towards travelling expenses.



BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton, draws out the winner of the 9 Hole Golf Competition. Jon Boorman, North Wilts Golf Club, wins £1,000 of holiday vouchers

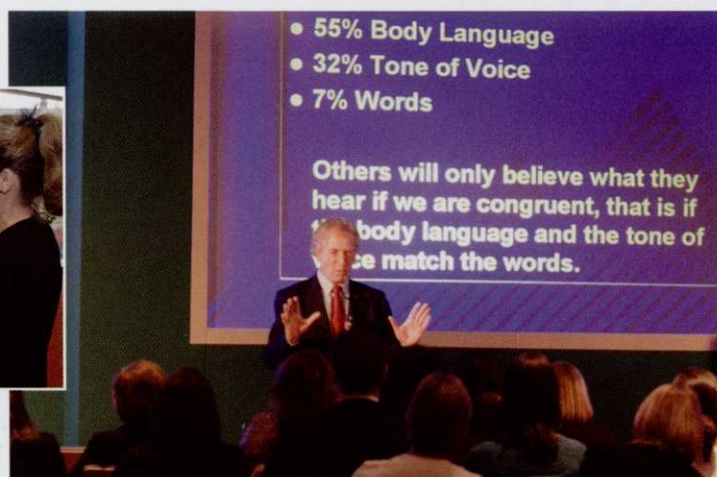


The now well sung Ian Willett with his Thorpeness team as they receive their BIGGA Environmental Prize, sponsored by Scotts, Syngenta and WRAP

FEMALE FORUM FLYING

Harrogate Week 2006 staged the third ever Women's Networking Forum. The annual Fine Turf and Sports Management Exhibition debuted the Forum in 2005, and the networking group has gone from strength to strength within its first year, which included its second meeting occurring at Saltex 2005.

Held in the Harrogate International Centre's new Queen's Suite on the Wednesday of Harrogate Week, the forum was open to both sexes and had a fine attendance of 35. These witnessed presentations from BIGGA's Sales Manager, Rosie Hancher, and Brin Bendon, Vector Training. Topics covered included Developing and Using Networking Skills and the Importance of Good Body Language. The talks were followed by an open discussion regarding the current issues within the fine turf industry.



"I am delighted to be involved in The Women's Forum which is going from strength to strength. The Forum provides an opportunity to learn skills that help you develop personally and professionally in a very friendly and relaxed environment. I was very pleased to meet so many new people this time - the word is spreading," stated Rosie.

MASTER GREENKEEPER SUCCESS FOR THE NORTH WEST

Two more greenkeepers have survived the three arduous stages of the prestigious Master Greenkeeper Scheme to become the 41st and 42nd to achieve the award. Master Greenkeepers can be found in all corners of the world but the two newest both come from the north west of England.

The first is Colin Parish, Course Manager at Morecambe Golf Club. A greenkeeper for 25 years and a Course Manager for nine, he entered the Master Greenkeeper Scheme in 1999, with enough Credits to move on to Stage 2. He had his course inspected in August 2002 and he passed Stage 3 in March 2005.

The second new member of the club is Kevin Ratcliff, Course Manager at Wychwood Park Golf Club, in Cheshire. A greenkeeper for 13 years, Keith has worked on a variety of golf course including one stint in Zagreb.

He joined the Scheme in 2000 and his course was inspected in August last year and he was successful in the two part examination in October of 2005.

"The Master Greenkeeper Scheme continues to go from strength to strength. We currently have almost 200 greenkeepers at various stages of the programme but it is a measure of the quality of work required to meet the standards that in 15 years we still have fewer than 50 Master Greenkeepers throughout the world," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager.



Colin Parish, top and Kevin Ratcliff are awarded their Master Greenkeeper status



The Chairman's Lunch was a chance to recognise BIGGA's Golden and Silver Education & Development fund supporters

40 NOT OUT

Success can be assessed in many different ways but one of the best is longevity. If something stands the test of time it has obviously met with the approval of a large number of people and as a result must be successful.

It is 40 years since the late Reg Allett started production of Allett mowers. It is a testament to his engineering skill and business acumen that the company is still thriving in an industry dominated by multinational rivals.

Reg's son, Roy, is now a Director of Allett Mowers, and marked 40 years in the business during Harrogate Week 2006.

"Allett mowers were first produced by my father 40 years ago and I believe it is important that such an anniversary is recognised," said Roy.



The Sherriff Amenity Quiz tested the best the Fine Turf Industry had to offer on Tuesday Night





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