

Initially I assisted Sami Collins and Rachael Duffy as registration provides an excellent opportunity to meet and greet many familiar faces and a significant number of people for the first time.



Once everything was underway I, and then the “real photographer”, Steve, took shots of the Workshops in action which provided us with some unusual potential images for the magazine.

The highlight of the evening was BIGGA’s latest event “Have We Got Views For You!” (below) held in the Majestic Hotel.

Five of the best known and most agronomically knowledgeable personalities in the industry – Walter Woods BEM; Jack McMillan MBE; Andy Campbell MG CGCS; Ken Siems MG CGCS and Stan Zontek, from the USGA, were provided with comfy chairs and an unlimited supply of water and peppered by questions from HWGVFY Chairman for the evening, Roger Greenwood, and the audience.



What an entertaining evening it turned out to be.

Roger kicked off by asking them what their fondest memory was? Andy's was hugging Walter after he'd received the Old Tom Morris Award in America a few years ago; Walter's was his idol, Nick Faldo, winning The Open over The Old Course in 1990 when the course couldn't have been in better condition; Ken's was the first time he'd visited a Maintenance facility at the age of 14, while Jack's was seeing all the faces he'd worked with and was comfortable with over the years. Stan's was a family scrapbook.

Roger followed up by asking about the worst memory, the highlight of the answers being Walter's 1984 Open when the weather turned against him and Ken, who spent a Christmas Eve with his team hand washing 7,000 metres of turf.

The first question from the audience came from Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor, who asked about the viability of using creeping bent turf in the UK and he was quickly followed by Andy Mellon, of Elmwood College, asking for views on the Disturbance Theory.

The evening raced on with anecdotes for all quarters with Frank Ainsworth, of Hilton Templepatrick GC, from the body of the audience. BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack OBE was also in attendance and enjoying every minute of it, particularly Walter's stories from St Andrews when, of course, he was Secretary of the R&A.

Kerran Daly, of Gog Magog GC, asked what lessons the panel had learnt over the years with Andy saying to take more time, not be such a demanding boss and that a career is a game of snakes and ladders, not just ladders. Ken felt that he'd become more humble since the arrival of his first child.

David McIndoe of Killarney, asked where golf would be in the future. Stan said there were more golf courses closing down in the States than opening and that they would renovate old courses and introduce new grasses to them; Andy felt that conditioning would continue to improve; Ken felt there would be more attention paid to environmental management and that "forget oil – water is the biggie!" Walter felt that there were too many courses and Jack said that the "crazy popularity" that golf had enjoyed was over and that it was now Dad's army who were playing the game with an average handicap of 18.6 and no desire to play overly long courses.

After over two hours the evening was over. Thanks went to all participants and it was agreed that it had been a great success.

A great prelude to the opening of the Show at 9am the following day with National Chairman Billy McMillan (below) wielding the official shears and slicing the green ribbon stretched across the door to Hall M, thus declaring the Show open. Billy became the first of what was to be 2800 visitors on the Tuesday.

The first main event of a day, which was to feature Royalty, was the presentation of Awards in the Queens Suite.

Those honoured included the winners of BIGGA's Golf Photography Competition; Hollinwell Golf Club the overall winner of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts and Syngenta and the other regional and special winners; CPD Certificate winners and the 47th and 48th Master Greenkeepers – Darren Anderson MG of Abergele GC, and Steve Okula MG, from Golf de Joyenval, in France.





Hollinwell GC, overall winners of the BIGGA Environment Competition award

The final presentation was to the latest recipients of BIGGA's Lifetime Achievement Award the aforementioned Walter Woods BEM and Jack McMillan MBE. They followed in the footsteps of Sir Michael who was BIGGA's first Lifetime Achievement winner and fittingly it was Sir Michael who made the presentation to two very emotional greenkeeping legends.

If visitors felt there was a little more security around HIC on the Tuesday than usual it wasn't anything we'd done. HRH The Prince of Wales was in town in the afternoon to open the newly refurbished Royal Hall. He didn't visit any of the Halls but he did stop and chat with some of the crowd gathered outside which included Lawrence Gale, Editor of Pitchcare, who was rewarded with a handshake. Who said Lawrence would never amount to anything!

With the Halls going like fairs it was a shock to discover that it was now 5pm and time to venture down to the Ransomes Jacobsen Underground Food Court for the Exhibitors' Reception. It is a wonderful new facility which provides plenty of food options and seating for visitors and exhibitors alike.



The next event on the schedule is one which grows every year. It's the Bernhard Reception which has been a fixture at Harrogate Week for the last eight years. A total of 80 BIGGA members have now travelled across the Atlantic to the GCSAA Show or in the case of the first group the Canadian Show as part of the Bernhard-sponsored BIGGA delegation, while in the last two years 20 GCSAA Superintendents (below) have made the reverse trip to Harrogate.



Darren Anderson receives his Master Greenkeepers certificate



Steve Okula receives his Master Greenkeepers certificate



Jack McMillan MBE & Walter Woods BEM receive BIGGA's first Lifetime Achievement award



With many former members attending the reception the numbers just grow and grow and it is a huge tribute to Stephen Bernhard and his team that so many former Delegation members are now prominent members within BIGGA.

The evening was topped off with an admittedly rushed pizza in the company of fellow BIGGA staff and our Board of Management Guardian, Mark Dabell, who had travelled down from St Andrews for the Board Meeting and the AGM.



Wednesday, traditionally the busiest day, witnessed record numbers with 3959 visitors through the doors. The Park n Ride, in its second year, is gaining in popularity as people realise that in addition to it being free and saving on parking charges, it is a simple way of getting to the Halls.

Once inside though, getting from A to B always took much longer than anticipated with human obstacles and familiar faces keen to talk in every corridor.

The Kubota-sponsored Media Centre was a buzz of activity with the press being informed of new products and company initiatives throughout the day.

Close of play brought the AGM where following an eloquent and well prepared proposed by Life member Cecil George, it was agreed that a



Billy McMillan hands over the reins to Kenny Mackay

fund should be set up with the purpose of ultimately purchasing land for the Association to build its own golf course, clubhouse/HQ and Centre of Excellence. Immediately after the proposal had been voted through Cecil presented Billy McMillan with the first donation to the fund. It was during the AGM that Billy handed over the reins of the Association to Kenny Mackay, Director of Golf Courses for The Belfry, who in turn introduced his Vice Chairman, Peter Todd, Courses Manager for The London Club.

From there to the Past Chairman's Reception back in the Majestic Hotel. Among the guests were Gordon and Marian Child, both looking extremely well. Gordon is about to become Vice Captain at Churston GC. He's playing regularly off 5 and he's broken his age a mere 18 times! Even Tiger can't claim that.

The final day witnessed 1882 visitors through the doors over 500 more than in '07 and a few dozen more than in '06.

Among the highlights of the day was the R&A Conference which attracted delegates from clubs all over the country and beyond. The audience of 100 comprised Golf Club Officials, Chairmen of Green, Association



Life members, Cecil George and Past Chairman, Billy McMillan



Duncan Weir of the R&A

representatives as well as a number of Course Managers. It was good to meet up with Mike Harris, Editor of Golf Monthly, who has just agreed to become a Media Sponsor for the Golf Environment Competition to join fellow sponsors, Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts and Syngenta.

And so to the grande finale and the banquet, which this year was graced by the tallest man ever to visit Harrogate Week. Martin Bayfield is a former England and Lions second row and at six feet and 10 inches is the old man who can make BIGGA's own England and Lions second row, Peter Larter, look a little on the short side.



Martin Bayfield

Martin, now a journalist and broadcaster gave a hilarious insight into the differences between football and rugby and some interesting nuggets from rugby and his previous life as a policeman. With his range of accents he had everyone in stitches and when The Blue's Brothers took to the stage – late replacements for the unwell Diana Ross tribute act – everyone was in the mood to party.



The Blues Brothers

The following morning and no-one could quite believe that another Harrogate Week had come and gone. Breakfast was taken and goodbyes were said and we looked forward to Harrogate Week 2009 January 18-22.

The stage will be the same but the cast and storyline slightly different.

See you there!

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT MANUAL...

BIGGA's Education and Development Manual has been re-launched with the sponsorship support of John Deere.

The on-line manual provides users with the information they need on recruitment, induction, training and career progression using video clips, written information downloadable documents and useful web links.

"The manual took many months to develop and we feel is one of the most valuable tools available to BIGGA members. The support of John Deere has enabled us to ensure that the Manual is promoted as widely to the people who it is design to assist – the greenkeeper. Our sincere thanks go to John Deere for their support." said John Pemberton, BIGGA's Chief Executive.

"John Deere is delighted to be sponsoring the new BIGGA Online Training & Development Manual," says the company's Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division Manager, David Hart.

"We have been supporting BIGGA's educational activities for a number of years through donations raised by the John Deere Team Championship golf tournament, and we felt this was an ideal way of making a specific contribution in a vitally important area of the Association's work."

The Manual is available to BIGGA members on the BIGGA Website – www.bigga.org.uk



SAD NEWS...

The week started on a very sad note when Ian Cowie, one of the contracted staff brought in to prepared the Halls, collapsed and died while fitting carpets.

Ian was only 34 and the condolences of all BIGGA staff and all who attended Harrogate Week to out to Ian's family and friends.

RECENTLY FORMED...

Duncan McGilvray, Managing Director of enviropro H²O, outlined the aims of the recently formed company during a press call at the Show.

Duncan, a well known greenkeeper prior to his move into the irrigation industry, explained that he and Operations Director, Simon Leathley, were well placed to provide a bespoke service to golf clubs.

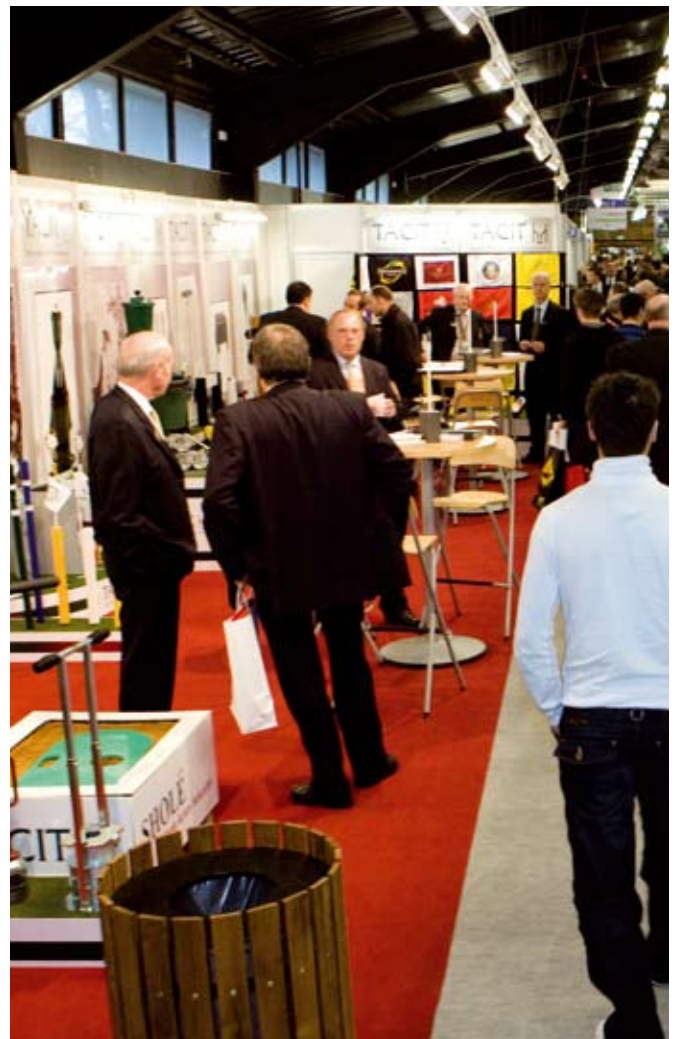
“We offer all aspects of irrigation system design, installation service and repair and with a combined 52 years experience of golf course irrigation we are confident that we can assist golf clubs,” explained Duncan.

AMENITY FORUM...

John Allbutt, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, described the lobbying work which had gone on prior to the important Brussels’ vote into possible pesticide bans during a press briefing at the Show.

“We personally wrote to and emailed every MEP in the country and then fielded all the subsequent calls from the MEPs themselves or their advisors and I firmly believe that had a significant say in how the vote eventually turned out.”

John, who was joined by Ken Seims and Gavin Robson, BIGGA’s representatives on the Amenity Forum, and the Forum Secretary Bob Joyce, said that despite the vote coming down in against the blanket ban on pesticides in public much work had to be carried out to ensure that good practice was in place in all aspects of pesticide usage to lessen the chances of the amenity sector being targeted again.





FIVE YEARS OF UNSUNG HEROES

Kester Clarke, Head Groundsman of Ipswich Cricket Club, Suffolk and Tim McCreadie, Course Manager of Royston Golf Club in Hertfordshire are the latest turf professionals to join the ranks of Terrain Aeration's Unsung Heroes, all of whom were invited to attend this year's awards.

Tim McCreadie, nominated by past STRI judge Tim Lodge of Agrostis, along with Royston Club Secretary Sean Clark was praised for his painstaking, ten-year restoration of the course, which is on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Steve Gingell, agronomist and Southern Area Manager for the STRI, speaking on behalf of his fellow judges Gordon Child (BIGGA) and Derek Walder (IOG) said that Tim has done a splendid job working under strict specifications. "As the course hosts both Anglo Saxon and Bronze Age burial mounds, is owned by The Conservators of Therfield Heath and Green, and home to the rare Chalkhill Blue Butterfly he has



had to keep it as 'natural' as possible, while maintaining it to a high, playing standard," he commented.

Kester Clarke, nominated by Club Chairman Graham Denny has turned what was, in 2002, two fields of corn, into a ground, which is fast becoming the envy of other clubs. "Kester has planned and planted boundary hedges, shrubs and trees, installed fencing and spent numerous hours ensuring the grounds and wickets are in immaculate condition for weekend and midweek representative matches," said Gingell. "The club, in the words of the Chairman, owes him a huge debt."

The Unsung Hero Awards are organised by Terrain Aeration in conjunction with their sponsors Pitchcare and Greenkeeping Magazine. The winners receive holiday vouchers, a framed certificate and lapel badge from Terrain Aeration and a cheque for £200 from the sponsors.



Many thanks to this year's sponsors – Ransomes Jacobsen, who sponsored the Careers Fair, Job Shop and Underground Food Court; Kubota, who sponsored the lanyards and Media Centre; John Deere, our badge sponsors; The GTC, who sponsored Continue to Learn and Toro, our bag sponsors.



New Products

Harrogate
week

NEW SERIES OF TRACTORS

Kubota has launched the GL40 series of tractors.

Spanning a range of 35 – 58 horsepower, and packed with a whole host of new features, these state-of-the-art machines offer superior performance, functionality and versatility.

0800 023 1111
or visit: www.kubota.co.uk



ROTARY MOWER

Ransomes Jacobsen has launched an all-new out-front rotary mower, the Ransomes HR 3300T, specifically designed for the UK and European municipal and contractor market.

The R&D programme behind the launch of this new machine has been unprecedented with Voice of the Customer (VOC) research driving all stages of the design process.



Better mowing efficiency, more evenly dispersed grass clippings, the ability to cut a wide variety of grass, low maintenance, operator storage, reduced noise and vibration and better operator ergonomics were all areas identified by the VOC research.

01473 270000
or visit: www.ransomesjacobsen.com

KEEPS COURSE SHARP

DJ Turfcare claims that the Atom Bunker Edger is unique in the golf industry and trims bunkers up to eight times faster than any other edging device.

Light and manoeuvrable it leaves a sharp clean finish with none of the backache associated with a normally arduous chore on the golf course.

01483 200976
or email: sales@djturfcare.co.uk



NEW SEED CATALOGUE

British Seed Houses' 2008 golf seed catalogue is now available to download from its amenity website at www.bshamenity.com.

Simply click on the banner at the top of the homepage to save the PDF document quickly and easily to your desktop. Catalogues for native flowers, seeded turf cultivars, sports mixtures and landscaping mixtures are also available.

The 2008 BSPB/STRI Turfgrass Seed Listings booklet is also available to download from the website, free of charge.

www.bshamenity.com



TURFCARE SYSTEM

Lloyds & Co. Letchworth Ltd claims the Maredo Turfcare System is one of the most unique products to be launched on to the turf care market.

The machine has been developed to give added value to the budgets of today's fine turf managers.

01462 683031
or email: sales@lloydsandco.com



GOLF SAND SLITTER

Blec has launched the Sand Injector.

Specifically developed to improve drainage on golf greens, fairways and tees, the new model measures one metre.

01778 346222
or visit: www.blec.co.uk



SEMI-ROUGHS MOWER

John Deere's new 8800 TerrainCut semi-roughs mower features five independent 21in rotary decks, giving a total mowing width of 88in. It replaces the existing 3245C machine, and will be available from spring 2008.

i 01949 860491
or visit: www.johndeere.co.uk



REVOLUTIONARY GRINDERS

Building on the highly successful 3000 range of grinders, Bernhard and Company announced its latest product evolution – the Express Dual and Anglemaster 4000DX.

With end-user needs driving all stages of the design process, the Express Dual 4000DX is bigger, taller and has improved safety guarding.

The new Anglemaster 4000DX was designed to match the speed, ease and accuracy of its Express Dual counterpart.

i www.bernhard.co.uk



POWER PRODUCTS

Kawasaki Motors UK has launched the PowerProducts 2008 range.

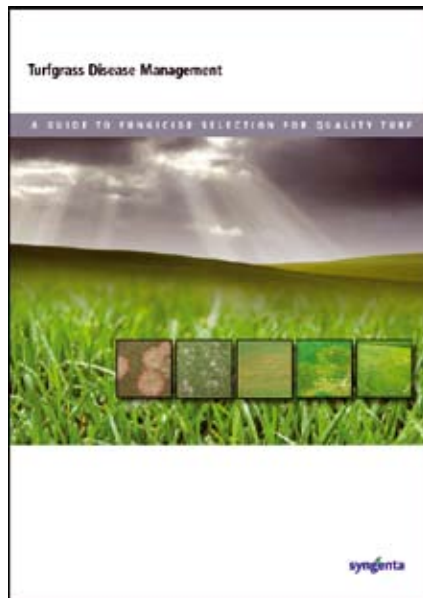
Included in the range are: The Handheld Blower with grip throttle, the latest HG650A Back Pack Blower with handle grip and the 27cc 2-stroke short shaft articulated Hedge Clipper.

i www.kawasaki.co.uk

NEW GUIDE

Syngenta has published a new Guide to Turfgrass Disease Control, containing all the detailed information to enable turf managers to make more effective decisions on disease control and creating higher quality playing surfaces.

Embracing the principles of Integrated Turf Management (ITM), the Guide addresses key areas of risk assessment, identifying potential problems and selecting the most appropriate course of action to minimise turf damage.



To accompany the Guide, Syngenta has also published a wall chart of the key factors and points to consider in creating an effective turf disease management programme. Copies of the Guide and the wall chart are available by emailing customer.services@syngenta.com

They can also be downloaded from the dedicated turf management website.

i www.greencast.co.uk

SOFTWARE EASES SET UP

The Jupiter Series 5 ATI precision grinders have incorporated new software to provide easy set up procedures when using the automatic grinders.



The new version 3 software identifies the various applications available for simple selection, including a dedicated programme for bed knife grinding with variable traverse speed. A new electronic braking facility also adds to the ease and accuracy of set up.

Any Golf Course that has 25 or more cylinder mower units should seriously look at investing in their own Hunter relief grinder, particularly as Hunter Grinders now offer a range of finance packages to spread the cost over a period of time easing the financial burden.

i 01207 270316
or visit: www.huntergrinders.com

PLANT AND SOIL TREATMENT

The appliance of science has resulted in the launch of a revolutionary new product, with the potential to transform the way that growing is done in the UK.

Quick-Sol is environmentally friendly, biodegradable and non-toxic and has been certified in its existing markets for organic use. Evaluations are well advanced for certification to the European equivalent standard. It can also dramatically reduce water requirements, one of our most precious resources, without affecting quality or productivity.

i www.quick-sol.com

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS

INNOVATIVE NEW ROLLER

R&K Kensett has launched the Graden Greens Roller.

This roller has an innovative split head that eliminates the possibility of 'ridging' on softer surfaces – a problem with previous rollers.

i 01883 342632
or visit: www.kensettsports.com



DE-ICING SALT

Rolawn has launched a de-icing salt. Available in a bulk bag containing approx 0.73m³ when packed, it is a high quality low moisture rock salt designed for de-icing paths, roads and car parks to help prevent accidents and injury. Screened to 6mm and containing an anti-caking agent to maintain spreading properties even after prolonged storage, it is suitable for both domestic and commercial applications.

i 0845 6046085
or visit: info@rolawn.co.uk



THE NATURAL WAY TO GARDEN

Mendip Forestry Ltd has introduced two new additions to the Pro-Grow Range of Natural Gardening Products – Pro-Grow Woodchip Mulch and Pro-Grow Premium Pine Bark. Both products are certified by The Forest Stewardship Council, (FSC) and are made from timber from well-managed UK forests.

i 01373 465767
or visit: www.pro-grow.co.uk



VERTICAL ACTION AERATOR

The Sisis Arrow is a vertical-action aerator designed for golf greens, tees and approaches, cricket squares, bowls greens, contractors and local authorities.

This heavy-duty machine, with 10hp engine, utilises hard-wearing components used on the well-proven Aer-Aid Javelin. The Arrow has a working width of 600mm, variable forward speed and reverse.

i 01625 503030
or visit: www.sisis.com



WORKING AGAINST ALGAE

Rigby Taylor has launched a new formulation of Mascot Qualgex, a surface biocide for professional use against algae, moss and lichens on external hard surfaces.



This fully HSE registered product chloride, in addition to the main active ingredient, now contains citric acid which physically scorches moss foliage allowing the active ingredient better access and a penetrant system.

i 0800 424 919
or visit: www.rigbytaylor.com