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Learning & Development

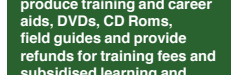
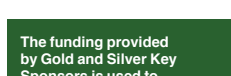
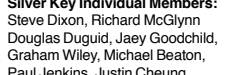
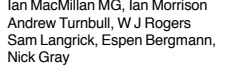
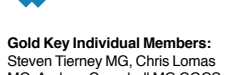
Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education issues

Bon Jovi wrote a song called "I'll sleep when I'm dead" - I certainly slept the sleep of the dead the weekend following the most successful Continue to Learn education programme ever! Now that I'm back at my desk, it almost feels as if it never happened although I now have the figures in front of me to prove that it did.

We saw over 2,400 people through the doors to the Queen's Suite to attend the education programme, breaking all previous records. A big thank you must go to all of you for your continued support of the education.

Thom Nikolai 'The Doctor of Green Speed' from Michigan State University proved to be a big draw, selling out his workshop, 'The A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance', attracting the largest audience at the Turf Managers' Conference and giving us a capacity audience for his seminar 'Managing for Green Speed'. To quote Thom "I have never enjoyed myself more at a conference, I have never been in a friendlier place in my life".

The Ryder Cup seminars were extremely popular with near or capacity audiences. Featuring course managers Jim McKenzie (Celtic Manor, 2010), Curtis Tyrrell, MG, CGCS (Medinah, 2012) and Steve Chappell (Gleneagles, 2014) entertaining the audience with behind the scene stories, photographs and experiences. Curtis



thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the UK - I think we might be seeing him grace the BTME show again in the future!

The introduction of the "Focus On" sessions proved to be a successful addition to the programme with the majority sold out. Hopefully you will see an increase in this type of session in future years.

The seminar pre-booking for BIGGA members worked fairly well, but will have a polish for next year to improve the system. My thanks go to those patient attendees who had to stand in queues and experience my loud voice!

My personal thanks go to all the presenters who provide professional and quality education and make it look so easy. The challenge now begins again to develop the programme for 2014. Send your ideas to: sami@bigga.co.uk.

You can be selected by showing initiative in your current position, by demonstrating an interest in the industry or being actively involved in education at region and national level.

The FTMI will take place at Ransomes Jacobsen's headquarters in Ipswich from 3 - 5 April 2013. It will be an intensive three days of seminars, talks and workshops covering;

- communications
- budgeting
- team management
- CV writing and interview techniques
- volunteering
- Plus break-out sessions on other subjects

Apply now by visiting the Members Area of the BIGGA website and following the link to complete an online application form.

There are only 20 places available for this inaugural event. Get online and complete your application before the closing date of 15 February 2013.

All applications must be endorsed by the manager, supervisor, regional administrator or trade representative.

If you have any queries, please contact Stuart Green on 01347 833800 (option 3) or stuart@bigga.co.uk.

Future Turf Managers Initiative



Jacobsen turf equipment and BIGGA have developed a highly interactive, professional development conference, designed to provide younger greenkeepers with the tools to go further in our industry.

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BIGGA Membership

The membership team reflect on current news and affairs affecting you, the BIGGA member

@BIGGALtd
#BTME2013
#success

BTME 2013

Having just returned to BIGGA House after an excellent #BTME2013 Elaine and I would like to say how much we enjoyed meeting so many members past, present and future.

It really helps us to put names to faces and it's a perfect opportunity to meet so many of you, so thank you for taking the time and making the effort to come and say 'hello'.

The BIGGA Stand was busy the whole three days, the Regional Administrators, John Young (Scotland), Sandra Raper (Northern and Midlands), Clive Osgood (South East) and Jane Jones (South West/South Wales) were all on hand to welcome members from all five regions.

A section/region map displayed showed how all 26 sections play a huge part in communicating information from across the membership through section committees, region committees and to the national board.

Watch out for information on the regional roadshows 'Working together for the future success of BIGGA', they are taking place throughout the five regions during February and March, contact your Regional Administrator for details. Jim Croxton (CEO), Tony Smith (Chairman) and Tracey Maddison (General Manager) will be travelling around the regions to engage with sections and explain the key role they have to play in the future success of BIGGA.

The BIGGA Stand this year displayed some clothing, the navy blue jumpers, the navy blue windshirts and the fantastic navy blue fleeces all displaying the BIGGA logo were on sale, if anybody wishes to purchase any of these items please contact Elaine Jones in the Membership department by email membership@bigga.co.uk or by telephone 01347 833800 select option 1.



Membership

We had a lot of interest in membership on the BIGGA stand from new enquiries and renewals to past members returning, it was encouraging to see. We are now in the process of administering all the enquiries plus all the enquiries we received during our time out of the office at Harrogate, please bear with us whilst we catch up during this busy period. If your membership is urgent please contact Elaine Jones and we will aim to action your request as soon as possible.

Golf Course Changes

BIGGA are working with SkyCaddie to help them update their course information. If your Golf Club is planning or has made some alterations to your golf course recently, please let SkyCaddie know, please take a few minutes to complete their 'Course Update Form' by following this link remap.skycaddiegps.co.uk



Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI)

The Jacobsen Future Turf Managers Initiative (FTMI) will target

the next generation of greenkeepers who demonstrate the ability and drive to become leaders of their profession in the future.

A maximum of 20 students will be selected for FTMI in any one year to attend a three-day residential course in the early part of the year and then be mentored throughout by a high profile course manager.

To apply log into the members area of the BIGGA website, select 'Future Turf Managers Initiative' from the options down the left hand side and select the link to the online application form.

Fill in the questions over the next few pages and provide details of your nominator.

This could be your manager, supervisor, regional administrator or trade representative. The application process should take 15-20 minutes.

Once your application has been submitted, a form will be sent to your nominator to complete and return to BIGGA.

The deadline for your application is 15th February 2013. Your application will be reviewed by a panel from BIGGA and Jacobsen and you will be informed by the 1st March 2013, if you have been successful.




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John Young Sandra Raper




Clive Osgood Jane Jones

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS
(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319

Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319



NEW FACE AT FARMURA

Farmura are pleased to announce the appointment of Graham O'Connor as Field Sales and Technical Specialist for Scotland. His role will be to highlight the benefits of using the well established Farmura range of Liquid Organic fertilisers, Aquatrol water management products, liquid fertilisers and other specialist turf products.

Graham initially trained as a production engineer and this was the field in which he worked until he moved to Glasgow in 2004. Then under the watchful eye of Stuart Taylor at Glasgow Golf Club, Graham retrained as a greenkeeper.

In November 2008 Graham was appointed a Technical Sales Manager at Symbio and it is from this role that he takes his passion for sustainable greenkeeping to Farmura.



INFRACORE GOLF BRIDGES

“Knowing that the bridge requires no attention for decades after installation gives me peace of mind, so I can focus on the more important matters of course management and presentation,” said Matt Beaver, superintendent at Arnold Palmer’s Bay Hill Club & Lodge.

InfraCore Golf Bridges are a revolutionary new product for the golf and landscape business. Based on both a proven technology and more than 10 years of bridge development, construction and sales to the civil engineering sector across Europe, this highly sustainable fibre-resin composite material is stronger than steel whilst being lighter and far easier to install.

The bridges offer considerable advantages over other more traditional materials such as:

- 50 year warranty
- Maintenance free
- Environmentally friendly with a very low carbon footprint
- 10x stronger than steel
- Easy half day installation.

Bridges are available as either single span, multi span or modular system swamp bridges and come in a wide variety of colour schemes and railing options as can be seen at www.infracoregolfbridges.com/bridge-builder

InfraCore Golf bridges is the smart, durable, economical and sustainable solution for golf course design, new construction or renovation.

NEW WASTE2WATER SYSTEM

The Recent civil powers awarded to the Environment Agency provide additional measures to ensure compliance with the new EU Water Framework Directive.

The Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System ensures full compliance with this new legislation. Equipment wash-off, vehicle refuelling, degreasing, chemical mixing and any other

potentially polluting activities can all be safely undertaken on the wash pad. Better still, the Recycling Wash-Off System also reduces wash water usage by up to 90%+!

The Above-Ground Systems allow easy maintenance and the innovative design means you don't need to install our systems in a building or a container.



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- * Consistent nutrient release
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BTME 2013

The Review

Sunday 20 to Thursday 24 January 2013

at the Harrogate International Centre



**The BIGGA Continue to Learn
Education Programme**

Sunday 20 to Wednesday 23 January 2013



**The BIGGA Turf Management
Exhibition**

Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition



Harrogate diary

Steve Castle runs through the week at his first ever BTME...

SUNDAY

My first BTME began early on the Sunday morning. After briefly helping out with registration I joined a group of ten greenkeepers – mostly deputies - in the ‘So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager’ Workshop in the Queen’s Suite on the first morning.

This two-day Workshop was jointly presented by Peter Jones, Principal Consultant at PJA Golf Consultancy and Kevin Munt, Principal Consultant at KMcg – and they immediately instigated an ‘ice breaker’ where the delegates interviewed each other to put everyone at ease.

What struck me immediately was how forthcoming and honest the attendees were. All manner of subjects – from politics in the golf club to health and safety issues – were discussed within the framework of a series of modules designed to prepare you for a Course Management role. It was well-paced and highly informative – and the group of ten meant that all the attendees mingled well and had considerable input.

After the sessions Craig Wilson, greenkeeper from St Andrews Links Trust, said: “It’s been very worthwhile. The presenters were very well-prepared and I can take so much knowledge from it as I progress my career.”

All the other sessions covered a huge range of the skills required at all levels of the industry including ‘Improve Your IT Skills’ hosted by Jacky Lowe from Training Gem, ‘Irrigation System Design and Water Management’ with Adrian Mortram of Robin Hume Associates and Frank Newberry’s ‘Moving Into Management’.

The evening saw turf professionals from across the world mingling with BIGGA HQ staff at Albert’s restaurant.

Remarkably, the restaurant was marking its final night of business. It was a microcosm of BTME – board members mingling with greenkeepers, international turf experts and motivational leaders. I took the opportunity to have a quick chat with Curtis Tyrrell, who revealed he had thrown himself into British culture by sampling curry, then fish and chips for the first time in his life!

MONDAY

The Workshops continued on Monday and overnight snow did not deter greenkeepers from across the UK attending the third Turf Managers’ Conference – held for the first time outside the main Halls at The Crown Hotel, a mere snowball toss from the Harrogate International Centre.

Some delegates showed superb commitment to drive long distances to Harrogate in tricky conditions and were rewarded with an opening presentation from the charismatic Dr Thom Nikolai concentrating on lightweight rolling.

Meanwhile, the HIC was a hive of activity as the final preparations were made to transform the previously empty halls into a suitably impressive showcase for new products and machinery.

It was remarkable to see how physical exertion and meticulous planning combined as contractors worked throughout the afternoon and early evening to build stands, roll in machinery and prepare for the biggest turf exhibition in Europe.



TOP: Kevin Munt and Peter Jones present the ‘So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager’ Workshop

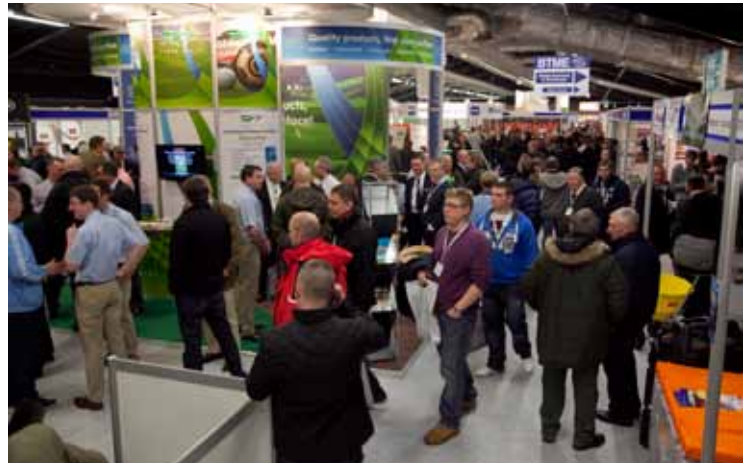
SECOND TOP: Adrian Mortram in full flow at the ‘Irrigation System Design and Water Management’ Workshop

ABOVE: The Soils for Fine Turf workshop

RIGHT: Final preparations on the Wiedenmann stand

RIGHT: A final lick of paint at the British Seed Houses stand





TOP LEFT: BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith opens the exhibition with CEO Jim Croxton and Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey
 LEFT: A packed press briefing on the Everris stand



BELOW: Myerscough College Stand
 RIGHT: The impressive hall and dancing the night away at the BIGGA James Bond Evening

TUESDAY

As the education continued, BIGGA Chairman Tony Smith cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibition itself – joined by Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey and CEO Jim Croxton. He would later describe as one of the “greatest honours” of his life. Visitors immediately poured into the halls, with a real buzz developing through the morning as hundreds of greenkeepers, exhibitors and all manner of turf industry professionals mingled to talk business, examine new and exciting products, or catch up over a quick coffee.

The Media Centre – lighter and more spacious due to its new home in Hall E – swung into action with a packed schedule offering the likes of Syngenta, Headland Amenity, Charterhouse and Rigby Taylor the chance to showcase new products and initiatives. Personally, I was rapidly realising that snatched half-conversations were likely to be the best way to network this week as people busily moved through the halls.

After a successful yet tiring day, a celebratory evening was required and the main hall at the Old Swan Hotel – the BIGGA team’s base for the week – was transformed into an impressive 007-themed arena.

The ‘Golden Girls’ proved predictably popular, as did the professional dancers and the excellent meal. As the evening progressed various curses could be heard emanating from the busy gambling tables – fortunately no real money was frittered away.

For the more competitive, a virtual Aston Martin driving game was also on show with a few controversial corner cutting manoeuvres resulting in the odd ‘road rage’ incident on the track!

Top gambler proved to be Helen Russell – wife of Geoff from Golf Business News – who won a bottle of champagne. She narrowly pipped Carl Chamberlain from Rigby Taylor. Fastest lap on the driving game – also scooping a bottle of champagne – was Phil Chadwick from Bailoy Irrigation Controls.

WEDNESDAY

With the roads clearing and snow warnings vanishing, the middle day of the exhibition saw things really accelerate in the halls. I attended a packed media briefing mid-morning on the Everris stand and was genuinely staggered to see how busy the halls had become, with some visitors having to jostle for space. As Lee Price from Myerscough College commented – the halls were “saturated” as unique visitors arrived joining those who were returning for a second day.

The evening saw success rewarded at the STRI Golf Environment Awards dinner at the terrific Hotel du Vin, while the hardier visitors continued enjoying the restaurants, pubs and bars of Harrogate. It’s no exaggeration to say the local economy enjoys a considerable boost when BTME rolls into town.

THURSDAY

Traditionally the quietest day, visitor numbers held up in comparison with previous years and with



ABOVE: From the BIGGA James Bond Evening:
 TOP: Are you feeling lucky?
 ABOVE: Drama on the virtual track



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013



no activity in the Media Centre it gave me a chance to speak to some of the exhibitors to gauge the mood. I was pleased to see many still busy and deep in conversation with visitors, although I had chance to grab a quick chat with Richard Fry of Rigby Taylor, who pronounced himself "very, very happy" with how the week had gone.

Another feature of BTME 2013 was the proliferation of international visitors – statistics showed 10% of delegates had flown in from overseas reinforcing the association's claim it was truly a global show.

It was a tired but happy BIGGA team that slowly returned home after the event which the rest of the year always leads up to. There was a real feeling of a job well done – but it would be foolish to be complacent. Trade shows must continue to evolve, and the hundreds of comments gathered this week – both positive and negative – will be taken on board as preparations begin for what promises to be an even bigger show next January.



Exhibitors thrilled with BTME

121 exhibitors travelled from far and wide to BTME 2013. The staggering variety of exhibitors is unsurpassed in the turf industry – from colleges to major machinery companies, from sustainability and charitable organisations to golf art stands. I finally took the opportunity to tour the halls as the exhibition due to a close on Thursday and was amazed to see the variety of stands, products and items on offer.

We were very grateful to Baroness – who were located close to the BIGGA stand in Hall B - for sponsoring the promotional bags and lanyards and it was clear that they were enjoying a successful BTME.

Baroness Managing Director Ian Kerry, below, said: "I can honestly say it's been a fantastic show. We've had quality visitors expressing genuine interest, for example we've had enquiries about demoing some of our products in February with a real view to buying in March and April.

"The exhibition really is complemented by the education BIGGA put on, which in my opinion is the pinnacle of the turf industry, it attracts greenkeepers who then attend the exhibition later in the week."

Thanks to all the exhibitors who defied some difficult travelling conditions before the exhibition to make the journey to Harrogate. For more exhibitor viewpoints, please turn to page 26 where Jim Cook speaks to several at the show.





The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 January 2013

Exhibitors in pictures

A snapshot of the exhibitors on show in the packed halls of the Harrogate International Centre

