

A Ryder Cup flavour



Amongst the many highlights of our Continue to Learn Programme were the Ryder Cup themed sessions on the Tuesday.

This began in the early afternoon as Curtis Tyrrell MG, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Medinah Country Club, presented 'Ryder Cup 2012 – Preparations, Challenges, Outcomes!'. The audience was enthralled as the amiable American explained the incredible level of preparation, and attention to detail required to host one of the world's biggest sporting events.

Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, then took things a step further by revealing his challenges and aims as the legendary venue prepares for the Ryder Cup next year. Later in the afternoon, Curtis and Steve were joined by Jim McKenzie from Celtic Manor, who led his team through atrocious conditions during the 2010 tournament. They were asked a series of questions by the attendees rounding off a truly unique day of industry education.

Greg Skinner from Forest Hill Golf and Country Club spoke for many of the delegates when he said: "It was compelling and exceptionally well presented. Curtis's experience is almost a different world to what some of the guys here are involved in on a day to day basis, but it really was a fascinating afternoon."

The one and two day workshops held on the Sunday and Monday were very successful with Thom Nikolai's 'ABC's of Putting Green Maintenance' and Paul Miller's 'The Turfgrass Plant' and 'Soils for Fine

Turf in particular receiving rave reviews.

The new for 2013 bite size 'Focus On' sessions on the Tuesday and Wednesday were another success looking at specific subjects within the areas of Management, Technical, Computer Skills and Ecology.

These sessions complemented the ever popular fringe seminars. One such seminar was 'New XC Technology – a Breakthrough in Application Technology for Golf'. This looked at Syngenta's specially designed new XC nozzles which are designed to revolutionise the application of foliar applied products to golf courses and other sloping areas. Syngenta's Technical Manager Simon Watson was joined by Technical Sales Manager Henry Bechelet to explore its possibilities and answer questions.

Lee Relf travelled from Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent and said: "It's been brilliant. I did the Diagnostics and Problem Solving workshop on Monday, which was really good and have been to a lot of the seminars. The education is always first class."

Curtis Tyrrell added: "I've had the greatest feedback on my presentation. It's a great setup you've got here, I've seen some cool stuff and it's been a first class show."

Thanks to everyone who attended the seminars, workshops and the Turf Managers' Conference and to the speakers who made the week so memorable. Over 180 hours of top-class education took place with the Queen's Suite buzzing throughout. Rest assured planning has already begun for another superb education programme at BTME 2014.



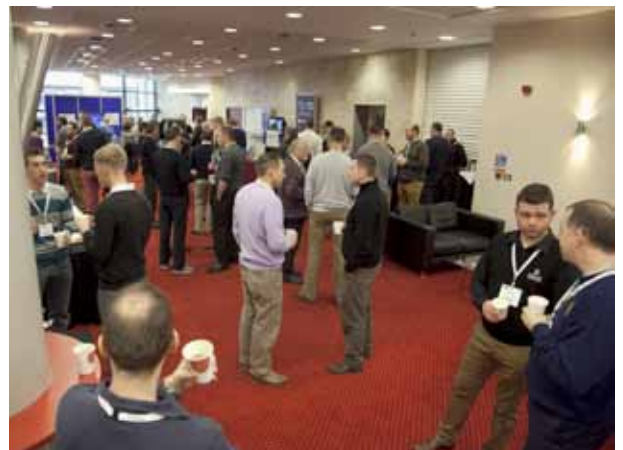
TOP LEFT: Past, Present and Future of the Ryder Cup

TOP RIGHT: A packed room for Steve Chappell's 'A Journey to the Ryder Cup' seminar

ABOVE: Curtis Tyrrell

RIGHT: Henry Bechelet (left) joins Simon Watson for the Syngenta seminar

BELOW: A busy Queen's Suite





Third BIGGA Turf Managers' Conference a huge success

An increasingly important focus of BTME is the varied Continue to Learn programme – and it's no exaggeration to say 2013 boasted one of the finest ever line-ups; beginning with the third Turf Managers' Conference.

We attracted some of the leading experts and most informative and knowledgeable presenters from the turf industry and beyond to make this Conference unmissable for sports turf managers keen to advance their education.

The Conference made its first appearance outside the halls of the Harrogate International Centre,

taking place at the nearby Crown Hotel.

We attracted some terrific presenters with the colourful Dr Thom Nikolai kicking things off with a passionate and highly interesting presentation on 'The Top 10 Reasons to Lightweight Roll'. A worldwide authority on turf matters, Thom is Turfgrass Academic Specialist at Michigan State University and is author of the book 'The Superintendents Guide to Controlling Putting Green Speed'.

Adam McColl, Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill Golf Club said: "Thom was very informative and engaging. I never fail to be impressed at

BIGGA's efforts in securing the best speakers from around the world and this presentation was no exception."

As for Thom himself, he simply said: "I have never enjoyed myself more at a conference, I have never been in a friendlier place in my life".

He was followed by Lorna Sheldon's 'Professional Presentations'. A qualified public speaker, Lorna has coached thousands of people across the world in the art of presenting with confidence and credibility included celebrities and cabinet ministers.

She covered everything from body language to technical tips on what

TOP LEFT: Dr Thom Nikolai

ABOVE TOP: Adam McColl, Head Greenkeeper at Crews Hill Golf Club

ABOVE LEFT: Kate Entwistle

“Thom was very engaging. I never fail to be impressed at BIGGA’s efforts in securing the best speakers and this presentation was no exception”

**Adam McColl,
Head Greenkeeper
at Crews Hill GC**



“Motivational speakers such as Lorna will always be well-received at a conference but she was particularly professional”

Lee Sayers, Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club



to say and how to say it to become a more professional presenter.

Lee Sayers, Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club, said: “Motivational speakers such as Lorna will always be well-received at a conference but she was particularly professional. It’s really increased my knowledge of that area and has made me re-think some of my practices.”

After an excellent lunch David Bancroft-Turner looked at Managing Politics in Golf Clubs. David is an expert on workplace politics and has worked with the world’s leading organisations, and gave an engaging 90-minute seminar - including introducing the audience to the four

different political animals which certainly caught the imagination.

Ian Semple, Course Manager at Old Fold Manor Golf Club, said: “David used animals to look at different personality traits and also looked at improving your day-to-day focus. I found it very interesting and beneficial to me and I know my colleagues I attended with did too.”

Thom Nikolai then returned with ‘60 Minutes on Surfactants’ – looking at the impact surfactants can have on different putting green root zones and different irrigation schemes.

Rounding off an unrivalled day of advanced education, Kate Entwistle, Turf Pathologist at The Turf

Disease Centre, gave the attendees a ‘New Disease Update’. She’s worked on turfgrass disease since 1990 and this presentation looked at the occurrence and distribution of new turf diseases and results of the Turf Disease Centre’s research.

Crucially, each presentation was concluded with an interactive question and answer session giving delegates the chance to ask reasoned and topical questions of the experts. The whole day was summed up well by David Everett from Lyme Regis Golf Club who commented: “ This Conference gives all turf managers the opportunity to improve their knowledge which will undoubtedly help you hugely in your job.”



ABOVE LEFT: David Bancroft-Turner addresses the delegates

ABOVE RIGHT: Lorna Sheldon during her ‘Professional Presentations’ seminar

BTME 2013 Newsdesk



Members at the BIGGA AGM

So much was going on at BTME we could have filled these pages several times over! The BIGGA AGM was held in the Queen's Suite on Wednesday afternoon, featuring various major awards.

Firstly, all attendees were asked to stand for a moment's silence to commemorate members who have sadly passed away during the last 12 months. Various awards were then presented by Chairman Tony Smith. David Langheim from Wimbledon Park Golf Club and George Pitts from Yelverton Golf Club who were honoured with plaques marking their terrific efforts in achieving Master Greenkeeper status. – bringing the total number of MGs to 62.

Ten members also achieved their first Diploma of Continuing Professional Development: Stuart Cagle MG, CGCS, Mark Evans, Greg Evans MG, Andrew Flemmings, Jaey Goodchild, Colin Jones, John Parr, Matthew Rolls, Peter Smith and Paul Worster.

The Past Chairman's Plaque was awarded to Andrew Mellon, who is now enjoying slightly warmer climes as General Manager for Hydroturf International in Qatar.

John Philp and Chris Kennedy were then unanimously voted life members of the Association.

A Press Briefing was held earlier in the day where the assembled media were updated on the show, the Association's future plans and much else by CEO Jim Croxton, Tony Smith and Vice-Chairman Chris Sealey.

They fielded a range of questions ranging from opinions on the show to recent redundancies concerning experienced greenkeepers.

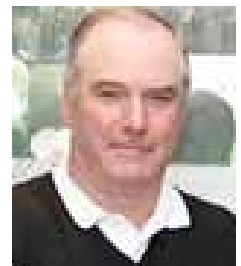
The consensus was the responses had been direct and honest, and it was a welcome opportunity for senior members of the association to chat openly with the press who had a packed schedule for the week.

BIGGA Photographic Competition winner Craig Boath from Carnoustie was earlier presented with the image he had chosen from the gallery of judge Eric Hepworth – a framed image of the second hole at Carnoustie.

He said: "I'm really pleased to have won the competition, I enjoy photography so it's a real honour. It's quite a large picture I've won so I may have to rearrange some items in my house but it's going to look fantastic!"



ABOVE: Craig Boath, BIGGA Photographic Competition winner
BELOW: The BIGGA Briefing in the Media Centre



Chris Kennedy



John Philp



BTME 2013 Newsdesk



George Pitts with his MG plaque



David Langheim achieves Master Greenkeeper status



Andrew Mellon is awarded the Past Chairmen's plaque

Education was again the buzzword in the Media Centre early on Wednesday morning as Bernhard & Company announced a partnership with the GTC. Present at the conference was Pat Finlen, the incoming President of the GCSAA, and fellow board member John J. O'Keefe.

Bernhard were again to the fore as the ten members of the BIGGA Delegation – preparing to head to San Diego – all met up for the first time at a reception in the evening.

Elmwood Golf Course was also officially awarded the GEO Certified ecolabel at BTME.

Many of the exhibitors had new 'signings' to unveil at BTME, such as Tillers Turf who introduced their new stockist for the South Wales region in Dave Pearce. The draw to win an iPad in association with the R&A's CourseTracker launch was also made on the BIGGA stand with the lucky winner announced as David Braid from Fife.

TOP RIGHT: Pat Finlen, incoming President of the GCSAA; **ABOVE RIGHT:** Adam Pounds of Tillers Turf with new face Dave Pearce; **BELOW:** Elmwood Golf Course is awarded the GEO Certified ecolabel and **BOTTOM:** Bernhard & Company announce partnership with the GTC



Exhibitors' viewpoint

Jim Cook toured the halls during the week speaking to as many exhibitors as possible as the visitors poured in. Here are their views on BTME 2013

The exhibitors once again reminded us why we enjoy organising this event as much as we do and their knowledge and universal professionalism helped make the show the success it was. It was also fascinating to hear their different perspectives.

Duncan and Christine Clarkson, from County Sport Surfaces, had made the journey over from Stockport. It was their second time as BTME exhibitors and it would be fair to say they had a good one! Speaking towards the end of the show Duncan said: "It has gone very well, we wanted to get orders from the show and we got them. We are a small company and don't have representatives out on the road so this show is vital for us so that people can put a face to the name. This show has turned us from a northern company to a national company. In fact it is international now as we had two orders from Germany. The biggest no-brainer of all is booking for next year. We are just wondering whether or not to get a bigger stand."

Many exhibitors had been concerned about weather conditions leading up to the event affecting visitor numbers and Sue Mumby, from Blec Global Ltd, said: "Obviously the weather this year was a factor and we were worried people might not want to travel. In some ways the weather may have helped people decide to come."

Sue said the company did not always make a lot of direct sales from the show itself and the main objective was to generate business for the future. She continued: "It is a commitment for everyone to

return every year and you have to feel that we are getting some return on that. I believe we get this return partly because of the timing of the show at the beginning of the year, so you can catch people who may need to buy things at the start of the season. Also I think having the seminars helps to guarantee high visitor numbers which are specific to the industry."

Syngenta again attracted a lot of attention with their stand, this year in Hall B. The company had launched a new nozzle and a demonstration of this was drawing people in. Caroline Carroll, from Syngenta, said: "We wanted to make our stand big and bold and ensure when people walk past they are interested. Our partner Everris reported back to us that we already had some orders of the new nozzles, so it must be working. We were a little bit worried that the weather would put people off but we have been really, really busy. This is my first year of doing BTME but my colleagues have been saying it has been one of our best years."

For some of the companies or organisations exhibiting at BTME for the first time it can be a case of putting the feelers out and seeing what interest they may be able to generate. Art 4 Golfers was one such example. Speaking on the Wednesday afternoon, Peter Forshaw, from the company, said: "Mine's a novelty business really and very different to the tractors and machinery around the show."

And how had it gone?

"The jury's out at the moment and I'm testing the water. It's the first time I've exhibited at BTME and I've taken several enquiries and



ABOVE: Duncan and Christine Clarkson, from County Sport Surface; INSET: Sue Mumby, from Blec Global Ltd; BELOW: Caroline Carroll, from Syngenta





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will follow those up. Everybody has been very complimentary, but it's not an impulse purchase."

Another company at BTME for the first time was Compo Expert UK. Mike Butler from the company said: "Last year our turf consultant gave a presentation here, he'd never been here before, and he reported back that this was the best show in Europe he'd seen, so we decided we should have a stand for this year. We've had a lot of interest in our products."

Certis was another first-time exhibitor and enjoyed a very successful week in Harrogate. Alan Hogan said their main objective was to speak to customers who plan to use their new product, Mogeton, and continued: "We believe that BTME is the Mecca for if you have a new product, this is the place to come to."

The exhibition halls at BTME are not only filled with turf industry companies, and it gives a chance for colleges and other organisations to meet members and potential students.

Philip Mayes, from Merrist Wood College said: "This is the second year we have been here and the set-up has been really easy. When I first started with the college ten years ago we did a couple of BTMEs, but we haven't been up for a while because of budget constraints. We pushed to come this year and it has definitely been worthwhile. We need to promote our courses and this show definitely helps us to do this."

It was interesting to hear some exhibitors state they were using BTME to try and break into the golf industry after having specialised in other areas. Dave Burgess, from

UK Bundled Fuel Tanks, said: "We are aiming to get our name into the golf sector and generate interest in our smaller products. We have had some return customers from last year which was nice, as they obviously like our products. This is our second year and I'm very pleased we came back again this year."

It was a similar goal for British Sugar Topsoil's, Andy Spetch, who said: "It's all about getting brand and product recognition and specifically to try to make contact with people in the golf industry because that's a market that we, in the last 18 months, have worked towards entering. So the aim is to meet as many people from the golf world as I can. Traditionally landscaping has always been our prime market. We joined BIGGA nine months ago and over the years I had always had it in my mind to come to BTME, but we wanted to wait until our product was right."

"I do quite a lot of exhibitions and I must say when we were setting up, the people on the gate at the entrance were first class. They were so helpful and made everything easy with no hassle. Sometimes things can get quite fraught at exhibitions when everybody is trying to build up, but here everything was very easy and everyone was very accommodating and helpful."

A great deal of thanks must go to all the exhibitors at BTME 2013 for supporting BIGGA. Whether it was a company new to the exhibition who came along to see what the fuss is about and potentially build new customers, or an organisation that wanted to offer a face to existing members, without them BTME could not have taken place, and been such a success.



ABOVE: Dave Burgess, from UK Bundled Fuel Tanks



RIGHT: Alan Hogan from Certis, second right

BOTTOM LEFT: Philip Mayes, from Merrist Wood College

BOTTOM RIGHT: Compo Expert UK's Mike Butler



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BTME 2013 New Products

New turf fungicide Interface from Bayer

BTME 2013 hosted the launch of Bayer's innovative new turf fungicide Interface. Building on the trusted excellence of Chipco Green, a staple fungicide in any greenkeeper's repertoire, Bayer have improved upon this market leading product and formulated a truly superior product, proving that they are leaders in innovation.

Introducing StressGard Formulation Technology

Bayer is proud to introduce the UK's first turf fungicide with the company's innovative StressGard Formulation Technology. This new optimised formulation has taken over 15 years of Research and Development and has been specifically developed to support Turf Managers in their quest to achieve the ultimate playing experience.

Tailor-made for sports turf, the formulation has been fine tuned to upgrade the performance of the product, providing superior disease control leading to visibly healthier turf.

Interface delivers unsurpassed disease control

Not only does Interface deliver unsurpassed disease control against 6 key turf diseases but the StressGard Formulation Technology helps the turf to thrive under disease stress conditions. Interface™ alleviates disease stress improving quality leading to visibly healthier turf.

But what do the Turf Managers think?

In addition to STRI trials, Bayer has conducted nearly 40 field trials with Golf Course Managers, Greenkeepers and Spraying Operators to ensure that their new fungicide will meet their needs in the real working environment. It is through close collaboration with Turf Managers that Bayer can develop products which address unmet customer and market needs.

In a year when Fusarium patch has been a serious problem, Steve Privett, golf course manager at Alresford Golf Club and one of the early product triallists, decided to treat three greens out of the eighteen on his golf course with Interface; the rest were treated with his regular fungicide. "In order to give it a fair trial, I applied the product to the greens which are most susceptible to fusarium in early spring," says Steve.

"I applied a second treatment about six weeks later and over the June bank holiday the disease on the three trial greens vanished; whereas fusarium appeared as two inch scars on the greens that hadn't been sprayed with Interface.



The trial turf recovered very well, potentially quicker than normal, which I think is evidence of the StressGard Formulation Technology doing its job."

Dorin Pop, Bayer's Technical Manager stated: "With preventative, curative and eradicant properties, Interface can be used at any stage of disease and at any time of the year offering Turf Managers complete flexibility."

He continued: "Bayer's mission is to help Greenkeepers to achieve better playability. This means controlling turf disease, managing turf stress and maintaining turf quality."

Finally, Product Manager, Claire Matthewman commented: "Interface offers a new standard in turf protection and is an exciting addition to our turf fungicide portfolio. We anticipate that it will quickly become the mainstay fungicide in the turf professional's armoury against turf disease." She continued: "Bayer is proud to use BTME 2013 as their launch platform. An exciting new product needs an exciting stage, and BTME was the obvious choice. Interface is available in a 5L pack, and can be purchased through all major distributors.