



Chris, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf Club, presented Tony with a commemorative plaque to mark his outstanding work as Chairman.

Tony's nomination of Life Membership came from the Cleveland Section and was approved by the Northern Region and the National Board of Management.

In his first speech as Chairman, Chris said: "I'm honoured to take on this role and I will endeavour to continue to promote the Association's goal of raising the profile and professionalism of greenkeeping."

"It has been a privilege to work with Tony who has carried out his role with skill, dedication and good humour. I would also like to

express my personal thanks to Chippenham Golf Club for their support during my many years of involvement at Section, Region and National level.

"In my view, one of the Association's most important functions is the opportunity it gives all of our members to share and develop experience and knowledge at all levels.

"Although times remain difficult for the golfing industry, BIGGA goes from strength to strength. Evidence of this can be seen at this very successful BTME."

Chris then officially welcomed Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club, as the Association's Vice Chairman.



BTME 2014 Visitor Figures



Continue to Learn – 2,764 (new record)
Tuesday – 3,205 // Wednesday – 3,940 // Thursday – 1,606



@BIGGALtd

TWITTER REACTION

In common with BTME itself, Twitter was buzzing during BTME 2014. Here's a selection of your comments...

Dave Collins @greenkeeperdave

@ SkySportsGolf guys can you give a shout out to the thousands of golf greenkeepers at Harrogate this week for #BTME2014(they did!)

Grant Peters @LinlithgowGDept

Back to work today after an excellent BTME 2014... Learnt lots and loads of turf chat!! Great job @BIGGALtd

Nathan O'Sullivan @nathosully

Long drive to Cornwall begins, very interesting and productive week at #btme @BIGGALtd

greenkeeping @Lancastergc

Good day @BIGGALtd#btme2014new contacts and old friends. Some new products look interesting too.

Graham Pickin @graham_pickin

@BIGGALtdbest BTME ever, very helpful exhibitors and superb education

Jack Davies @jackdavies_turf

had an absolutely awesome 2 days at #BTME2014 !! been such a thrilling experience! thanks a lot @BIGGALtd!see you next year!!



TURFKEEPER DRAW

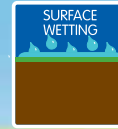
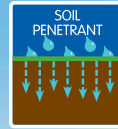
Many of the exhibitors at BTME offered prize draws and giveaways to visitors – and just one of these was Turfkeeper. BIGGA Chief Executive Jim Croxton conducted the prize draw on their stand.

First prize of an iPad Mini went to Ian Smith, Assistant Greenkeeper at Hurlston Hall Golf & Country Club. The second prize, which was a six month subscription to Turfkeeper, went to Adam Moss, Deputy Course Manager at Blackwell Golf Club. For more on Turfkeeper please visit www.turfkeeper.com



rigby taylor

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MY BTME 2014



Many turf professionals travelled vast distances to attend BTME. One delegate who made a long trip was Ben Blampied-Smyth, Course Manager at Royal Jersey GC. Here's his diary of a frenetic but hugely worthwhile week...

I'm sure most greenkeepers look forward to the annual BTME show as a chance to view new products, meet up with suppliers, possibly attend some seminars and of course catch up with friends whilst enjoying a beer in the evening. This is exactly what I did during my flying visit.

Catching the last flight out of Jersey and only arriving very late on the Sunday night I'll admit to being pleased that the Turf Managers' Conference I had signed up for allowed me a little lie in (in greenkeeper terms!). It was an all-day conference with five very different speakers covering subjects from water resources, to communicating change in the workplace. For me the speaker of the day was Karl Morris, a leading sports psychologist who gave an insight into the power of your mind to notice and appreciate the little things you have which make you, your team and even your golf course stand out from others.

After a hard days' work, some nourishment was in order in the form of a fantastic steak at the Bar

& Grill in the centre of Harrogate with some friends. It's almost impossible to go anywhere without bumping into someone you know. It's a very sociable place.

The exhibition opened the next day so I spent the morning going through my list of products to look at and suppliers to meet up with. It was a fantastic opportunity to view all the major suppliers together to compare for a potential fleet deal that we are looking to do this year. It was also interesting to see the launch of Everris's new greens trueness meter.

I then had a lunch meeting with a product supplier which was a welcome chance for a sit down. You definitely work up an appetite walking round the show! Henry Bechelet presented a 30 minute seminar later that afternoon on Soil Moisture Management which was my final point of call for the day. I've seen him speak a few times before and as always he was really informative and entertaining.

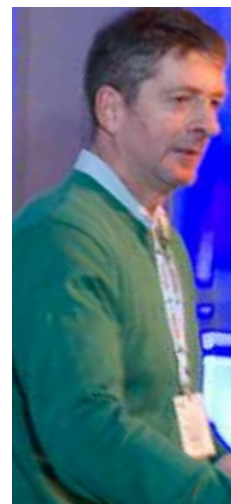
My evening was spent at the Cardamom Black restaurant where I had been lucky enough



to be invited for a meal and where I bumped into my old tutor from Myerscough College. As I said, you're never far from someone you know in Harrogate! I also said that I was going to have an early night - that wasn't the case! It was however a really good night and great to have been introduced to some new greenkeepers and grounds managers and get an insight into their working day.

That was my whirlwind visit to Harrogate this year. Hopefully next year my winter works will allow for a little more time at the show as there is so much to see and some very good seminars on offer. Sadly my late night caught up with me at 5am heading home, but I'm already looking forward to BTME 2015!

ABOVE: Henry Bechelet
BELOW: Karl Morris



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TURF MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

Jim Cook reports on a thriving series of seminars, once again held at Harrogate's Crown Hotel



A packed out hall at the Crown Hotel was the venue for BTME 2014's Turf Managers' Conference – another hugely successful event which is clearly gathering pace each January.

From a modest start four years ago, over 120 delegates attended this time around.

It's become well-known for discussing topical issues, offering vital knowledge and creating lively, interesting debate amongst delegates. This year's event certainly did not disappoint.

Livening up a room full of people at 9am on a Monday morning is a rare skill and opening speaker, Karl Morris from the Mind Factor, gave an impressive demonstration of how this should be done. His presentation on motivational techniques created a truly buzzing atmosphere and was the ideal tonic to begin the day.

"Anybody who says success is all about technical knowledge is wrong. Anybody who says it is all in the mind is also wrong. Blending these two together is the key to success," he began.

As a particularly striking demonstration of the power of the mind he spoke about belief and how the human brain tends to create invisible barriers and stumbling blocks for itself. For example, before the 1950s the four-minute mile was considered impossible. Incredible as it sounds now, there was the belief that the human body would explode if pushed to break this time. After Roger Bannister achieved the feat in 1954 other athletes around the world then started to break the four-minute mark - the mental barrier had been shattered.

Karl went on to speak about attention and the red dot Louis Oosthuizen painted on his golf glove during The Open in 2010 to act as a trigger to focus solely on the shot in hand. He also spoke about the power of language, the importance of positive thinking, role projection and other topics, all of which relate to the role of the manager and kept everyone thoroughly engaged.

Arnold Phipps-Jones, Course Manager at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, said: "The opening session was brilliant and a great start to the day. It got you thinking and was fresh, as you get into a certain mind pattern of doing things. It was very interesting and stimulated the brain."

In the next session Junier Browne, from the Environment Agency, spoke informatively about water resource availability and where the greatest pressures were throughout the country. He said water availability would change in the future and the agency needed to look at how it licensed going forward.

Junier also went through the application process for abstraction licences. The Q&A session raised a number of topics for discussion including the issue of containing flood water for later use.

Tammy Ball, from Coaching by the Balls, gave a resonating talk on change and used her personal analogy of when she moved from the US to the UK as an example of how change can be extremely difficult, but can be overcome in stages.

She said any change could potentially be overcome if the person making the change communicates the vision effectively. She said: "Having communication and open dialogue is the most critical thing we do in any business."

She also made the interesting point that simply training someone to do something is not guaranteeing behaviour change. She used as an example that showing someone how to use a new piece of equipment is just the start of the change and that does not signal the end of the training process.

Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity and author of a very popular weekly weather blog, gave a fascinating insight into why extreme weather has now become the norm and explained the 'peak and trough' weather system.

Continuing with a scientific presentation, Mark demonstrated how the Growing Degree-Day (GDD) model is a calculation to quantify growth from minimum and maxi-



mum temperatures. He went on to explain what can be learned from these figures and how they could help with disease management.

He also posited our attitudes towards aeration should be reviewed as weather patterns have changed. Mark said: "The calendar is irrelevant now. January can be a great opportunity for aeration and we should be flexible and adaptable."

Professor Karl Danneberger, from Ohio State University, was next, drawing on the history of the GDD model to demonstrate how it has been used in other industries and explained how maths in the model can be used to predict such things as danger periods for turf disease.

Barry Neville, Course Manager at Stanmore Golf Club, said: "It was an interesting day and has posed a number of questions which I can look into further."

Yannick Asaf, greenkeeper from Golfpark Neuolen AG in Switzerland said: "It was fantastic, well worth the journey from Switzerland, and I recommend it to any turf manager."

CONTINUE TO LEARN

“It’s been a fantastic show, one of the best ever. The education has been great. I’ve just come out of the ‘Wimbledon Fortnight: Before, During and After’ session and people were so enthused. All around you see smiling faces and there is a feel good factor coming back to the industry in general.”

Billy McMillan



The Continue to Learn programme at BTME 2014 broke all records with an all-time high 2,764 delegates enjoying 180 hours of workshops, seminars and conferences.

The programme proved so popular that BIGGA took the unprecedented step of repeating a seminar. Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, presented his ‘Ryder Cup 2014 – The Journey Continues’ seminar twice in quick succession to meet demand!

The Turf Managers’ Conference was another success story – for a review on this event turn to page 26.

Thank you to everyone who attended and all the presenters who contributed to our finest BTME education offering yet!

Here’s a brief selection of delegate views on Continue to Learn:

“The Continue to Learn programme has been superb. Year on year it just gets better. The diversity of content has been

fantastic at this year’s show. You see so many young people involved with it as well now so you can almost see the future of greenkeeping.

“I went to one of the sessions about becoming a course manager and found it very useful. At the stage I’m at I know the agronomy side and it’s the managing people and budgets which I’m learning.”

James Parker
Deputy Head Greenkeeper,
Close House Golf Club

“It’s a fabulous programme and everyone should try and make the effort to attend as many seminars as possible. The great thing about it is the sheer range of education available. I’ve come here with an apprentice and we’ve both learnt so much, he’ll certainly be back again next year and I will too.”

Paul Bishop
Course Manager, Manor House
Golf Club

“The education has been brilliant. The ‘Stepping up to Head Greenkeeper – The Realities’ presented by a current Head



Greenkeeper was a real eye-opener and brought to life the areas I need to work on to further my career.

“Every year I take away even more from Continue to Learn, the whole set up is fantastic.”

James Bledge
Assistant Links
Superintendent, Royal Cinque
Ports Golf Club





ABOVE: Steve Chappell's Ryder Cup seminar (part 2!)

BELOW: Dr Colin Mumford, Bayer's Technical Manager

BAYER'S BUZZWORD SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT AT BTME

'Neonicotinoid' became something of a buzzword last year as a potential ban on products containing that chemistry loomed – and one of BIGGA's Continue to Learn seminars covered this very topical issue.

Pressure groups and activists latched onto research that suggested these chemicals were killing bees and were to blame for the decline in bee population. Consequently, products containing either Clothianidin, Imidacloprid or Thiamethoxam have been suspended for plant protection purposes for two years, at which point they'll face a review. Media hype and Chinese whispers across the industry has led to uncertainty about which products greenkeepers can now use. To clarify the situation, Bayer utilised the BTME seminar programme to help clear up any doubt.

"The first thing to point out is that the suspension

only applies to the use of imidacloprid on flowering crops, which obviously, managed amenity and sports turf isn't," explained Bayer's Technical Manager, Dr Colin Mumford. "The second thing is that Imidacloprid is still approved for professional amenity and sports turf use. This approval has been sustained as managed amenity and sports turf is non-flowering. Therefore our message is simple. Any product containing Imidacloprid is still fine for professional use on sports turf."

Colin went on to explain that while pesticides have been known to affect bees who come in to contact with them on flowering crops, they form a small part of a much broader spectrum that accounts for a possible decline in bee population. He added that interestingly, pesticides come relatively far down the list of primary causes.

"When asked what the main



risk was to bee health out of these eight primary causes, a survey of beekeepers and laboratories by the European Commission suggests that exposure to pesticides was actually one of the least likely causes; even deliberate poisoning was considered more of a hazard than unintentional contact with pesticides."

Bees play an important role around the vicinity of a golf course, but on the playing surfaces such as tees and fairways, products such as Bayer's Merit® Turf are vital. Colin concluded: "Merit® Turf is an essential weapon in the fight against Leatherjackets and Chafer grubs and maintains its approval for use on sports turf."

Jim Cook reviews BIGGA's inaugural Welcome Celebration, sponsored by Jacobsen



The first ever BIGGA Welcome Celebration, kindly sponsored by Jacobsen, took place in the magnificent Royal Hall at the Harrogate International Centre. It proved to be a memorable evening featuring well-deserved accolades for various greenkeeping achievements plus a warm and spontaneous speech from Peter Alliss.

The event began with Alan Prickett, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, highlighting the 'Hard Road to Harrogate' greenkeepers who were rapturously applauded for their achievement in successfully reaching Harrogate earlier in the day after a 200 mile charity trek.

The recently established BIGGA Greenkeepers Benevolent Fund was then given a major early boost as Alan presented BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton with a cheque for £2,500.

This, in tandem with steady sales of the green wristbands supporting the fund, ensured another BIGGA initiative got off to a strong start.

Next, Jonathan Barr, Head Greenkeeper at Lutterworth Golf Club, was honoured for becoming BIGGA's 63rd Master Greenkeeper by Tony Smith (attending his final official engagement as Chairman) and BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack.

CPD Diplomas was awarded to six recipients – Jamie Blake, Head Greenkeeper at Broadway Golf Club, Tony Gooch, Head Greenkeeper at Torrington Golf Club, Derek Grendowicz, Course Manager at Raevo Golf Developments, Gordon Moir, Course Manager at St Andrews Links Trust, Barry Neville, Course Manager at Stanmore Golf Club and Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club.

Nine CPD Milestone Achievers then filed up onto stage to receive their framed certificates.

They were Mike Boyle, Greenkeeper at Loch Lomond Golf Club, Craig Cameron, Deputy Course Manager at Aldeburgh Golf Club, Jack Davies, Greenkeeper at Five Lakes Hotel Golf and Country Club, Geoff Fenn, Course