



# THE CHOSEN ONES

10 members of the BIGGA Delegation will be travelling to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando, thanks to Bernhard & Co. Melissa Toombs reveals the chosen ones.

**Orlando is a major city in central Florida. With an estimated population of 220,186 it is the sixth largest city in Florida.**

The city is best known for the many tourist attractions in the area, in particular the nearby Walt Disney World Resort, which is located in Lake Buena Vista about 20 miles south of Orlando. Other notable area attractions include SeaWorld and Universal Orlando Resort. The region sees an estimated 52 million tourists a year. Orlando has the second largest number of hotel rooms in the country (after Las Vegas, Nevada), and is one of the busiest American cities for conferences and conventions with the Orange County Convention Center, the country's second largest in square footage. It is also known for its wide array of golf courses – 168 to be exact! - With numerous courses available for any level of golfer.

Once again 10 BIGGA members will be flown to the United States for the experience of a lifetime, thanks to the sponsorship of Bernhard & Co. While in Orlando, they will visit local golf courses, attend seminars, meet with superintendents to discuss how greenkeepers do things the other side of the pond, attend functions and of course be able to enjoy the GIS (Golf Industry Show) Conference and Exhibition.

## ABOUT THE GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for the owners/operators of golf facilities, and the professional members of the golf course and club management industries. Like our very own Harrogate Week, the event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, owners/operators, general managers, chief operating officers, architects and builders.

GIS is presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), along with other supporting organisations.

The 2008 event will take place from January 31 to February 2 and is to be held at The Orange County Convention Center. More than 25,000 golf industry professionals are expected to attend this year's show, which will feature around 1,200 exhibitors.

## THE DELEGATION



Name: Graeme Gallimore  
Club: Launceston, Cornwall  
Position: Course Manager

Educated to NVQ Level 3 and with a Certificate in Management Studies, Graeme has recently taken on the role of Section Education Representative for Devon and Cornwall. Currently Course Manager at Launceston Golf Club, Graeme spends some of his spare time teaching NVQ knowledge at Duchy College and is an active BIGGA Regional Committee member.

While away Graeme is looking forward to "viewing alternative types of machinery and the management available, in order to see how UK greenkeepers could adapt and utilise any of their initiatives." Graeme is excited about meeting likeminded professionals and establishing new working opportunities during his stay in The States.



Name: Nicholas Nottingham  
Club: Luffenham Heath, Lincolnshire  
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Nicholas began his career at Rutland County Golf Club, before moving onto North Luffenham Golf Club and then finally to Luffenham Heath Golf Club, where he has been working as Assistant Greenkeeper for just over three years. Educated to NVQ Level 2, Nicholas has just started work on his NVQ Level 3.

"This trip will further my knowledge of greenkeeping. By learning new things/skills then hopefully the golf club will benefit too," said Nicholas, who would like to work towards a management position.



Name: Ian Smith  
Club: Dundonald Links, Ayrshire  
Position: Greenkeeper

From 1995 until 2002, Ian was a PGA Professional Golfer based at Sutton Hall Golf Club in Cheshire. Ian only began his career in greenkeeping in 2003, when he worked for a short period of time for South Ayrshire Council as a Seasonal Greenkeeper, before gaining a position at Dundonald

Links at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Ian has a HND in Golf Management Studies and is qualified in Sports Turf to NVQ Level 3.

"To meet my peers from both sides of the Atlantic at such a well respected show will be an invaluable experience. With education seminars and machinery demonstrations it would be great knowledge to gain for my career and also to take back to my club," said Ian.



Name: George Pendrich  
Club: Gleneagles, Perthshire  
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

George has a HNC in Golf Course Management and is currently working towards a HND.

An active member of the Association, George was a member of the Open Support Team at Carnoustie this year and is a former Toro Student of the Year winner. George's career in greenkeeping begun in 2004, when he took on the role of Seasonal Greenkeeper at Gleneagles. He then became a full time greenkeeper at the club and was promoted to Assistant Greenkeeper last year.

"This trip will give me a much better understanding of the business end of greenkeeping, America is a very competitive environment and I would hope to get an insight into making best use of available resources, therefore making me a better manager as well as a greenkeeper," said George.



Name: Kerr Rowan  
Club: The Carrick, Loch Lomond  
Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Kerr has worked at Gleneagles, Turnberry, Dundonald and currently The Carrick in Scotland. He has also worked at Westchester CC and Augusta National in America as well as spending some time working on golf course in Australia. Kerr has SVQ Level 3 in Golf Greenkeeping and a HND in Golf Course Management.

"I feel the trip will be an excellent chance to broaden my horizons, the chance to meet and talk with the experts in our industry will surely increase my knowledge and make me a better greenkeeper. The chance to represent BIGGA and be part of the team for the week would be a great thrill and would give me a greater insight into our trade," said Kerr.



Name: Russell Lewis  
Club: Hale, Cheshire  
Position: Head Greenkeeper

Russell, who is currently studying for his BSChons, has achieved NVQ Level 3 and has a foundation degree in Sportsturf Science. A career in greenkeeping begun for Russell in 1996, when he started greenkeeping as a trainee at Northop Golf Club. He worked his way up to First Assistant at Northop and then decided to work in the USA for six months. Russell was promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Hale Golf Club about a year ago.

Russell is looking forward to being able to communicate with other greenkeepers from around the globe and to building up a network within the industry. He's also looking forward to "seeing the latest equipment available on the market, taking in seminars from the leading guys in the industry and seeing first hand what the UK greenkeepers are striving towards."



Name: Simon Marsh  
Club: Harleyford, Marlow  
Position: Head Greenkeeper

Simon is educated to City & Guilds Level 3. He started his greenkeeping

career in 1980 as a trainee at Hartley Wintney Golf Club, and worked at five other clubs as Head Greenkeeper/Groundsman before taking up the post of Head Greenkeeper at Harleyford Golf Club.

"I have a great deal of knowledge to share and a passion for the greenkeeping profession. I am lucky to be doing what I have always wanted to do. The best way to learn is to look at and talk to people and their golf courses to see if you can improve your own," said Simon.



Name: Michael Bush  
Club: St Mellion International, Cornwall  
Position: Course Manager

Michael started his career in golf course construction and after two years went into greenkeeping at Lanhydrock Golf Club. He then moved to St Mellion International and worked his way up from Assistant to Course Manager. Michael has acquired SVQ Level 2 and NVQ Level 3.

"The benefits of this trip for me will be to see how Championship courses are managed in The States. This will include different feeding programmes and maintenance policies. Also to learn about new technology which has not been adopted in the UK," said Michael.



Name: Daniel Lightfoot  
Club: Bearwood Lakes, Berkshire  
Position: Course Manager

Daniel has a MSc in Sports Surface Technology and is Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club.

Daniel began his career as an Assistant at the Hertfordshire Golf Club where he was promoted to First Assistant then Deputy Superintendent. He then moved to Gatton Manor Golf Club as Deputy and was promoted to Course Manager. After this Daniel accepted the position of Head of NVQs at Merrist Wood College. In 2005 he accepted his current position.

"The trip will enable me to expand on my knowledge and broaden my ideas. I will experience new techniques and ideas which I can try, to improve the quality of my golf club. I am also looking forward to representing BIGGA and Bernhards at an international greenkeeper event.



Name: Kerry Jones  
Club: Garnant Park, Swansea  
Position: Course Manager

Kerry is qualified to NVQ Level 3 and has completed numerous other qualifications. Kerry's greenkeeping career began in 1993, when he took the post of Assistant Greenkeeper at Palleg Golf Club. He worked at three other golf clubs before taking up his current position at Garnant Park Golf Club in 2001.

"I have never visited America and am looking forward to the chance of seeing how we compare with our counterparts in the US. I have a modern approach to the greenkeeping profession, with regards to balancing the commercial needs and golfer expectations, while always respecting the traditions of greenkeeping that have been practices for many years before me," said Kerry.

#### EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Along with the show, GCSAA, NGCOA and CMAA will be presenting their annual Education Conferences. GCSAA's conference will take place from January 28 to February 2.

