The last few weeks have been on the quiet side. However, I did play at Celtic Manor in a Scotts sponsored day for Golf Club Management in South Wales. I was kindly invited to enter a Chairman’s team, and just for once we were blessed with good weather. We had a very enjoyable day and it was nice to meet many old friends including Henry Fry; who was once we were blessed with good weather. We had a very enjoyable day and it was nice to meet many old friends including Henry Fry; who was a member of my team, along with Richard Barker and Ken Richardson.

On September 5th and 6th I met up with the BIGGA team at Saltex, which proved once again how important it is for BIGGA to have a presence at such events. Our staff meet so many members who visit the stand, and the marketing team can talk and do business on the spot. Our Membership Services Officer also had a good few days signing up lots of new members. Our presence also strengthens the bond with the I.O.G. The opening day of our nine new headquarters is fast approaching. A time for us to enjoy the efforts and take stock on the progress made since 1987. We have taken many big steps in that time, but I doubt if any means so much to the Association as having our own building. I, like other greenkeepers, have at times been critical of the way some things were done, but I like to think that constructive criticism helps. The proof of the pudding however is in the eating, and this pod tastes very sweet to me. I can only thank all of you who have helped in any way to make this day possible. It is a great achievement and one we can all take pride in. I look forward to seeing you at the opening on October 21st, and hope over the next year or so most of you will find time to call and see your new home.

The Wentworth Club
Trees; Tenby GC; January '97
Budgeting; October '96; GC; Grinding; Role of Training
St Andrews; The Oaks GC; Engines
Irrigation Equipment; November '96; September '96
Royal Troon GC; Speed of Weather; Slitters
Old links; STRI; Defining Playing Maintenance Facilities;
Drought Survival; June '97; Workshops; Architecture; Kedleston
Facilities; History of the Mower; Maintenance Fate listing from
February '97; Accident Reporting; Greens Mowers; Valderrama GC; links
October '97; Environment; Recruitment; Albatross GC; Rough Mowers; Soil Analysis
November '97; Environment Competition; Bank Cutting;
Risk Assessment; December '97; Seed Development;
Lorienhall Hall GC; Two Awards; Fertiliser Spreads; Communication
January '98; BIGGA Conference; Buying Power Equipment; Elmwood GC; Mobile Phones; Traffic Management; Spraying; Environment
February '98; BTME Review; Overseeding; Royal Mid Surrey GC; Drainage; Thatch
March '98; Trees; Golf Course Accessories; News from QCSAA; Leamington & County GC; Trevor Smith’s BTME Talk
April '98; Glenegles Hotel; Compact Tractors; Environment; Protective clothing; Rain bird; Interatts
May '98; Greens Mowers; Suspended Water Table Greens; Seeds; Letham Grange Resort; Chairmanship profile; Security and BIGGA’s Fund Raising Campaign
June '98; Interview with Nick Park; Earthworm special; ATVs; Royal Birkdale; Bunker Grasses
July '98; Aerator. Royal Birkdale preview; The importance of research, Architecture
August '98; Hill Ride, F_Master, Blowmowers; Tees and Open Review, Nineholes, open
September '98; Nine holes – Tailormade and F_Gee, Turf, Steve Cenmt profile, Drainage, World Scientific Congress report

The importance of research and the modern day golfer's demands to change traditional golf to the less skillful game, more akin to a game of darts. I suppose everything turns full circle given time, but I wonder how much the change of thinking can be put down to the changes in the pesticide laws and environmental issues. It may be that we have found an ally in the changing laws which could affect the attitude of the golfer. It could spell a return to the tried and tested methods which many old, and not so old, campaigners have preached for 30 years or more with great success.

Education is paving the way for young greenkeepers to be better managers, and more able to deal with the new golfer's demands to change traditional golf to the less skillful game, more akin to a game of darts. 

For too long greenkeepers have been forced by the modern day golfer to take away more things to wear and ease of play, believing everything that's green is good. As difficult as it may be for us to explain to the golfer that they must turn away from lush conditions and back to good old fashioned course management. Only a few weeks ago I read an excellent article in the S.T.R.I. Turfgrass Bulletin by Alistair Beggs. He asked the question, “is golfing ignorance and media glamorisation in danger of destroying the unique diversity and challenge of British golf?” He goes on to say that it is time to call and see your new home.

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