Feature listing from June '97

June '97: Drought Survival; Cooden Beach: Monitoring the Weather; Sitters
July '97: Royal Tunon GC: Speed of Putting Surfaces; Mowers
August '97: Maintenance Facilities; Heather Management; Border Rakes; Workshops; Architecture; Redston Park GC
September '97: Accident Reporting; Greens Mowers; Valderrama GC: Links Courses
October '97: Environment; Recruitment; Abbeydale GC; Rough Mowers; Soil Analysis
November '97: Seed Development; Longhurst Hall GC; Tor Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication
January '98: FEGGA 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 CSBA; Leminham & County GC; Trevor Smith’s BTME Talk
April '98: Gleneagles Hotel; Compact Greens Mowers; Valderrama GC; Links
May '98: Greens Mowers; Suspended Water Table Greens; Seeds; Letham Grange Resort; Charterhouse profile; Security and BIGGA’s Fund Raising Campaign
June '98: Interview with Nick Park, Earthworm special; ATVs; Royal Porthcawl, Grading
July '98: Aeration; Royal Birkdale preview; The Importance of research, Architecture
August '98: Mill Ride, Fescue, Bloaters, Tractors, Open Review, Nametodes, Training
September '98: Nine holes – Toladine and Pingel Glen; Tart, Steve Clement profile; Drains; World Scientific Congress report
October '98: Saltex Review; BIGGA Retrospective; Stirling GC; Toro Awards; Environmental Review, Gripping Systems
November '98: Royal Opening; Ramside Hall GC; Gang Mowers; Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems
December '98: Toro Awards; Environment Awards; The Appliance of Science, Engineers, Architects, BTME Preview

January '99: Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lythot Health GC; Warm Research, Stylo Matchmaker profile; Temporary Greens
February '99: Westerham GC; RSA questionnaire results, Finland; grass cutting, BTME98 Review; Bibernhard and Co
March '99: Loch Lomond, Warm updates, Grassroots, Softspikes; Maintenance facilities; Environment review, Architecture
April '99: Carden Park; Telecommunications, Water Management; Rolawn, Seeds
May '99: Security; Bude and North Cornwall GC; Spraying Regulations; Jim Arthur; The Acid Theory; Amenity Technology profile

The GTC held its overdue meeting on 15 April. The main topic for discussion was the Lantra Report which had been commissioned by the R&A and the EGU into the workings and running of the GTC. This all started by the withdrawal of funding by the EGU as far as April 1999. At a subsequent meeting with the R&A it was agreed that the EGU would reconsider its position following an independent report being carried out.

The meeting itself was constructive with all parties trying to reach agreement for the good of all greenkeeper training. However, it was decided to rewrite the Constitution and at the same time introduce a Technical Committee, as advised by Lantra. The Technical Committee’s functions are to assist the Education Director of the GTC and to propose to the Management Committee of activities of the GTC in line with its objectives and to identify the priorities for greenkeeper training.

The make up of the Committee will be as follows:

a) Greenkeeper Training Committee Internal Verifier
b) Representative from the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
c) Representative from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland

The BIGGA Board was called to a meeting on 13 May, when it was agreed to recommend alterations to the draft constitution which we considered to be in keeping with our position as the main body and representing the end user of greenkeeper training.

The BIGGA proposals will be put before the GTC Committee at their next meeting, along with any others received. Hopefully then the GTC can get on with the job it was first set up to do, that of raising the standards of greenkeeper training.

It was unanimously agreed that David Golding and his staff have worked hard and moved greenkeeper training to a much higher level than ever before. The Board felt genuinely concerned that what they have had to suffer all this uncertainty when it could and should have been handled better.

On the 20 April I spent the day at Westurf at its new venue at Westpoint, Exeter. With all the wet weather it proved a wise decision to move the exhibition indoors. Had it remained at Long Ashton, Westurf may well have been cancelled. The attendance was good and most people seemed pleased. Marion and I had a nice time meeting many old friends, traders and greenkeepers alike. It was also a good PR exercise that the South West and South Wales members could meet with Neil, Ken, Tracey and Cheryl from headquarters staff. I would like to thank Paula and the Regional Board for inviting us all and I hope it was a successful day for the Region and its trade supporters to My next engagement should have been the Cumbria Cup at Penrith Golf Club, but it was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to heavy rain during the right before. The rain was so bad that many of the roads in the area were subjected to flooding and some even closed. It was no surprise that the course also had to be closed. I had already travelled to Aldwark on the Tuesday and was going to continue my journey first thing Wednesday morning, when we received the news of its cancellation. However, all was not lost. I was able to spend time with our staff in preparation for the Board meeting the following day.

I have just been given the sad news of the death of Stephen Noye. Stephen was head man at Purdis Heath Golf Club, Ipswich. He was well respected by all his peers and his sympathy and thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Chairman
Gordon Child