Feature listing from May '97

May '97; Data Tagging; Nauntion Downs GC; Alternative Spikes; Suspended Water Table Greens; Shallow Aeration; Working in Germany

June '97; Drought Survival; GooDen Beach; Monitoring the Weather; Stinters

July '97; Royal Tunon GC; Speed of Putting Surfaces; Mowers

August '97; Maintenance Facilities; Heather Management; Bunker Rakes; Wire Meshes; Architecture; Kedleston Park GC

September '97; Accident Reporting; Greens Movers; Valderrama GC; Links Courses

October '97; Environment; Recruitment; Abbeydale GC; Rough Movers; Soil Analysis

November '97; Environment; Competition; Bank Cutting; Risk Assessment; Pumps

December '97; Seed Development; Longridge Hall GC; Toro Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication

January '98; FEGGA Conference; Buying Power Equipment; Emwood GC; Monroe; Profit; Traffic Management; Spraying; Environment

February '98; BTME Review; Overseeding; Royal Mid Surrey GC; Drainage; Thatch

March '98; Trees; Golf Course Accessories; News from GCSAA; Leamington & County GC; Trevor Smith's BTME Talk

April '98; Glenesgales Hotel; Compact Irators; Environment; Protective clothing; Rainbird; Internet

May '98; Greens Movers; Suspended Water Table Greens; Seeds; Letham Tractors; Environment; Protective Gear

June '98; Interview with Nick Park, Environment Awards; The Appliance of Technology to the Environment; The importance of research; Architects, BTME

July '98; Aeration, Royal Birkdale pre-view; The importance of research, Architecture

August '98; Mill Ride, Rescue, Bowers, Textron; Open Review, Nematodes, Training

September '98; Nine holers - Technology and Plants; Green, Turf, Golf; Golf Course profile; Drainage, World Scientific Congress report

October '98; Seiko Review, BCGA Retrospective, Birling GC, Toro Awards Preview, Tree grants

November '98; Royal Opening, Ramside Hall GC, Gang Movers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems

December '98; Toro Awards, Environment Awards, The Appliance of Science, Engineers, Architects, BTME Preview

January '99; Pesticide Usage; Lifa in Coated Fertiliser; Egmont Heath GC; Warm Research, Stylo Matchmaker profile; Temporary Greens

February '99; Westerham GC; R&A questionnaire results; Finland; grass cutting; BTME99 Review; Bednord and Co

March '99; Loch Lomond; wom update, Grassroots, Softspikes, Maintenance facilities; Environment review, Architecture

April '99; Carden Park, Telecommunications, Water Management, Rolawn, Seeds

March was a more relaxed month for me as far as travelling was concerned. However, I did attend a seminar at Rotherham Golf Club run by the Sheffield Section and Walton Heath for the South East Region's Gentlemen's Dinner. Both events were very successful and it was nice to see so many attending. Whenever I go to Walton Heath there is always such a warm friendly feel about the place. You are made so welcome by everyone from the Captain and members through to all the staff. Then of course there's Clive Ogood. Clive is one of the best and his courses are always in good shape and this day was no exception. Walton Heath is living proof that the old traditional golf courses can live with the best and you come away hoping that nothing will ever change at this historic golf club. The Sheffield Section seminar also held at the fine venue of Rotherham Golf Club, had a good array of speakers and was very well organised. It was nice to see Barry Heney keeping his hand in and helping out. It was a pleasure to be in their company.

I was honoured to present a paper on the IOG Conference in Wakefield entitled "Fifty Years of Turf Management, Have We Made Progress?"

When I was first asked to make this presentation I thought it would be easy, but just try to put 50 years into 45 minutes and you will soon have the same trouble I did. It's what to leave out rather than what you say, but I think in the end it became alright on the night, as they say. I had to leave at lunchtime for Aldwark and the Board of Management meeting, so I had little time for reflections.

What a warm sunny end to March this year, it lived up to its reputation of coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb. By the time you read this page you will no doubt be cursing your luck, for I suspect there will have been the usual batch of cold east winds to knock you back. We did at least have a chance this year to get the grass moving a little before the rush of the new season was upon us and that is something we have not had the benefit of for the last few years. I don't think there is another job anywhere which you must take every opportunity that the weather offers, because if you don't you are sure to be made to suffer later in the year.

On the 25 March, Elliot, Neil and I went over to Portmarnock Golf Club for a meeting with Iain Ritchie, Joe Bedford and Tracy Coburn, who are President, Past President and Administrator of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland (GCSAI). The meeting was to try and work out how our two associations could work closer together for the benefit of all greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland.

I am pleased to report that the meeting was very successful and I would like to thank both Elliot and Neil for their contribution and support. Equally, Iain, Joe and Tracy, who came to the table in a positive forward thinking way, made the task of reaching agreement easy. Both Associations agree to issue a joint statement to be published in our respective magazines, so that no one can be in any doubt that we intend to have a good working relationship in the future.

I am looking forward to the rest of April and the long awaited GTC meeting on the 15th, when I hope to find out most of the answers to the many questions you have all been asking. On the 27th I will be going to Westurf in its venue at Westpoint, Exeter, and I look forward to meeting many old friends and having an excellent day.