A masterful month

Despite the busy life I've currently enjoying as Chairman I found myself with more time on my hands than usual to watch Masters on television. We must all admire the way Vijay Singh held himself together on the final round and, in the end, he won comfortably. It was a superb performance from a dedicated, hardworking and talented professional from one of golf outposts - Fiji.

The downside of it all, and it may have contributed to another regular one of my bug bears - dropping pros - dropping those but, because they've enlarged those huge swinging putts on the 16th green, this year I didn't see any. I didn't risk my reputation on the final days, one of my bug bears.

The week after the Masters I was down to Porthcawl, Grinding the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry, May '98; Greens Mowers, Suspended Water Table Greens, Seeds, Lehman, Green Report, Charterhouse profile, Security and BIGGA's Fund Raising Campaign.

June '98; Interview with Nick Park, Earthworm special, AVTs, Royal Porthcawl, Gridding.

July '98; Aeration, Royel Birkdale profile, The importance of research, Architecture.

August '98; Mill Ride, Fescue, Bowers, Txintron, Open Review, Nematodes, Training.

September '98; Nine holes - Tofaladine and Fingle Glen, Turf, Steve Clement profile, Drainage, World Scientific Congress report.

October '98; Saltex Review, BIGGA Retrospective, Stirling GC, Toro Awards Preview, Tree grants.

November '98; Golf Day, Ramside Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems.

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

January '99; Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lushhott Heath GC, Worm Research, Sylo Matchmaker profile, Temporary Greens.

February '99; Westerham GC, R&A questionnaire results; Finland, grass-cutting, BTME99 Review; Bernhard and Co.

March '99; Loch Lomond, Worm update, Grass Roots, Slotoptics, 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.

June '99; Thorpeness GC, Millennium Bug Busting, Irrigation, Scots profile, Company adaptability.

July '99; Camousie, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction.

August '99; Viscount Whitewell tribute, Open review, Merriott Wood, Saltex preview; Turf: Trees; Grass Course, BIGGA Golf Day preview; Redexim profile.

September '99; Slaley Hall, Tyres, Spotlight on Thatch, Elmwood College Awards, National Championship preview.

October '99; The Manor House, Castle Combe, Aeration, Saltex review, Mycorrhizas, Toro Award preview.

November '99; Sir Michael Bollack profile, The Pines GC; Oil, Bunkers, National Championship review.

December '99; Agronomy, Security, Environment Competition Winner, Toro Award Winners.

January 2000; Greens Construction, Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDowat, Agronomy, Toro Award preview.

February 2000; BTME2000 review, Committee to Green interview, Rockery Park GC, Engines, Chairman's profile, Environmental Management.

March 2000; Cleckheaton Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report, Cutting-edge, Alvorado, pro-file, Valderrama report; Westurf preview.

April 2000; Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC: Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding, Gem Professional profile.

We also came across one of my bug bears on the final day, one that makes life a lot easier for the "pampered pros" - dropping zones!

On the final day when David Duval found the creek on the 13th he was able to use a dropping zone way left of where the ball found the water and faced a chip which gave him all of the green to work with. If we amateurs had done the same we would have dropped directly in line with where the ball had entered the creek and been faced with a hellishly difficult chip to a pin on the front right of the green.

The week after the Masters I was down in the South West and South Wales Region for two reasons. The first was to present Jim Arthur with the certificate to mark his Honorary Membership of the Association and the second was to attend Westurf at Westpoint in Exeter.

It was a great pleasure to make the presentation to Jim who has been a controversial character throughout the years but also a man who has always had greenkeepers, and the progress of the profession, at heart.

Jim now joins a very select and notable group of Honorary Members comprising the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry, Brian Gilbert and Fred Hawtree.

It was my first visit to Westurf and it proved to be a superb opportunity to meet up with a lot of friends and mem-