A few weeks ago I was privileged to attend the FEUGA Conference held near Girona in sunny Spain, and it was interesting to see how so many of their aims align with ours. It was clear they are looking to modernise, of their aims align with ours. It was attended by the FEUGA conference held a few weeks earlier. Rasmussen-Jacobsen gave us an overview of the course’s ecology work before Course Superintendent David Bataller gave us a fascinating insight into agronomic work and the course’s history.

The educational seminars were excellent and it was also a terrific opportunity to catch up with new equipment from Campy, Toro, and Syngenta. Jan Deere also presented a ‘Q&A’ session with a difference where you ‘interviewed’ other delegates, which was good fun! I then headed to Dunfermline for the Scottish Regional Conference. It was superbly well-attended with over 200 delegates. Scottish Regional Administrator John Young had arranged a terrific line-up of speakers - Paul Miller from SRUC Elginwood, Gordon Moir from St Andrews, Allan Taitt from Germinal Seeds GB, Cameron McMillan from Quarriewood, Stuart Green from our L&D Department, and Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity and Steve Chappell from Gleneagles. A superbly varied range of presenters and topics, and I know each and every person there will have learnt so much from the day. I would like to personally thank the Scottish Region for inviting me to attend and the fantastic hospitality and friendship shown to me on the day.

My next port of call in a very busy month was Walton Heath Golf Club for the South East Annual Golf Day. This was yet another very well supported event on a great golf course. I played alongside Jim Croxton and successfully managed to drag him down to my level with a particularly poor round! Sadly my excuse that I’d barely played in months seemed to fall on deaf ears. This is now the tenth successive year the event has been held at Walton Heath, and I think it’s great that a club so prestigious is backing this important event in the greenkeeping calendar. Long may it continue.

Unfortunately one key figure was missing from the day. As many of you will know our South East Regional Administrator and former Chairman Clive Osgood has been unwell and was unable to attend. Clive – it wasn’t the same without you, and everyone at the Association and in the industry wishes you a full and speedy recovery.

Next up was the Board Meeting at BIGGA House. It’s fair to say that following a very positive SME, things are on the up and it was a productive meeting. Now the dust has settled I have one important message you will hear me returning to during my time as Chairman because I feel it’s critically important. All members should remember that BIGGA is a members Association. The structure that was put in place at the very beginning is there to ensure the voice of the grassroots greenkeeper is heard and that there are open lines of communication to the team at BIGGA House and to the National Board. If you have any questions or ideas please don’t hesitate to talk to your Section or Regional committee members. They’ll be able to answer many of your questions and will give your ideas their full consideration.

At Chippenham we will shortly be opening three of our new holes as part of our project to extend the course. We’ve managed to overcome one problem I’ve heard many greenkeepers mention recently. Because of the terribly wet winter, we struggled to get hold of any turf. Now it’s finally been delivered, it’s drying out and dying! Just another example of the challenges Mother Nature poses for us greenkeepers.

Contact details

01347 833800
headlandamenity.com

www.headlandamenity.com

www.toro.com

Lely not only brings you Toro. Talk to us, too, about TYM compact tractors and Otterbine water management systems.