

Water relief is sure to be temporary

There are occasions when a person's unflinching selflessness and general concern for others should be both recognised and rewarded. All too often good deeds remain in the background and the beneficiaries do not have the opportunity to make good their debt of gratitude.

I firmly believe that we have arrived at one of these occasions and I would like to put forward someone who in the last month has ensured that the lives of BIGGA members have been just a little bit easier.

It's me!

About a month ago I decided that such was the current situation regarding the drought I should turn a proportion of the June issue of the magazine over to the subject.

As you will see I have invited four experts to look at the current situation with regard to water shortages and project what potential solutions are available.

Since then it hasn't stopped raining and, for a short time at least, golf courses are looking a bit greener.

See, I'm your guardian angel and you didn't even know. All tokens of your appreciation gratefully accepted.

Seriously though, it may soon get to the stage that Britain is no longer considered a wet country and we will have to accept that water is a valuable, not to say expensive, commodity. Leaving taps, or irrigations systems, running will become a luxury few can afford. Umbrella, welly boot and waterproof salesmen must be extremely worried by the situation but in the league table of concerned professions greenkeeping is also well clear of the relegation zone.

Alleviating the problem will mean a major rethink in working practices on golf courses and irrigation water could well edge its way up the list of major annual

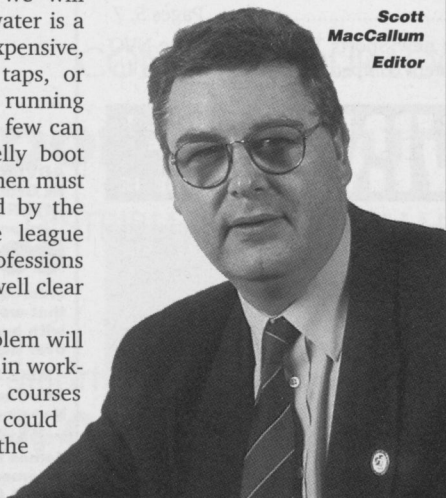
expenditure alongside that new ride-on triple.

I hope that the views of our four experts will give you food for thought and some ideas which could perhaps be put into practice now.

Elsewhere in this issue is a look at Cooden Beach, the venue for this year's National Tournament sponsored by Miracle Professional. This traditional event has a loyal band of entrants but anyone wishing to play for the first time will find an excellent golf course and a town, Bexhill-on-Sea and surrounding area, which offers much for the holidaying greenkeeper and his family.

As this month's Editorial is a general look at what's in the magazine can I make an appeal for something I'd like to see more of in future. I would like any member with a camera to take photographs at BIGGA events whether they be Sectional Regional or National. Try to avoid the posed presentation shot anything relaxed, unusual or funny has got a chance of being published.

You never know I may even offer up a BIGGA umbrella for the best picture of the month! Going by what I've said earlier it might well turn into something of rare value in the years to come and appear as an object on Going for a Song.



Scott MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

Last month was quite a quiet one for me and it gave me a chance to spend some much needed time on the golf course. It really has started to go and we're now cutting the greens every day, the tees three times a week and fairways three to four times a week.

I wasn't totally free from the duties of the Chairman, however, and one of the highlights of the month was a visit to Westurf on the last day of April – the day before the General Election. I remember clearly when it was because I was chased off the motorway on the way down by a bomb scare. I left home at 10am but didn't arrive at our hotel until 4.15pm.

It was certainly well worth the trip, though, as it was a brilliant day and quite a few people left with sunburn.

It was a good chance to meet up with one of my predecessors as Chairman, Ivor Scoones, who was Chairman in 1990 who is the Course Manager at Long Ashton GC, venue for Westurf.

I was asked to judge the best stands along with the Captain of the Club and Jim Fry, the President of the South Coast Section. It was a task we took extremely seriously and it took us around two and a half hours to get round them all. It was a good opportunity to meet all the exhibitors and I enjoyed the company of my fellow judges.

It was also my first chance to meet the two newest members of staff, Jenny Panton, from the Sales and Marketing Department, and Paula Humphries, the new South West and South Wales Regional Administrator.

Paula is taking over from Gordon and Marion Child, who had organised their final Westurf Show. To recognise their magnificent efforts over the last ten years a presentation was made to them on behalf of the Region by Regional Chairman, Richard Whyman. I was also the recipient of a presentation and I would like to thank the Region for their kindness.

Another of my duties was much closer to home... at Shipley College where there was a careers seminar. I did a talk on greenkeeping looking back at the beginnings of the industry and describing how I have seen the job of the greenkeeper develop. I would like to thank the STRI and in particular Roger Evans for the use of the slides.

Towards the end of the month I had a Moderation meeting at Askham Bryan in my role as Internal Verifier and another GTC meeting at Aldwark Manor while I'm looking forward to visiting Scotland for the Hayter Regional Final.

