

There are some things which really get to you

Have any of you seen Room 101 on BBC 2 on Friday nights? It's where celebrities get the opportunity to send their dislikes or petty hates into the room for all eternity. Recently I know Eric Cantona and caravans began their periods of exile.

It got me thinking about what I would send into Room 101 and I found it was quite therapeutic.

I've come up with just a few of the things which I think I'd be better off without and a couple which I know have hit the mark with some of you.

Lorries which pull out to overtake other lorries when you know it'll take them ten minutes to complete the manoeuvre; People who push in front in queues when you're only 90% sure you were there first so can't say anything about it and paying for something and finding it doesn't work or is not what you ordered.

Professionally, and I don't mean this as a slight to people who are only doing their job and many of them do it in a very pleasant way, it's people who phone up and ask, "Did you receive the press release we sent you?" What they really mean is, "I know you must have got it because I posted it to you a couple of days ago. Are you going to use it?"

The answer is one to which I can never say a definitive "yes" or "no" because I never know how much room I'll have for such things yet we both have to go through the ritual of asking and answering the questions.

They always seem to call at a time when I'm particularly busy.

I know Stefan Antolik, of Cooden Beach, would send Goretex water-

proofs into Room 101. He thinks they are the biggest scourge he has faced as a greenkeeper as they allow people to stay dry in conditions that do no end of damage to the golf course. After a few days of torrential rain at the National Tournament I can see why. Another occupant I know of would be caddie carts, both manual and electric, which tear up the course. I had a call from a member who suffers badly from caddie car damage but felt he was powerless to do anything about it.

Write in and let me know of anything which you would send into Room 101. It may be you are not alone in your thoughts and if there are a great many of you with the same candidate we can campaign to improve matters.

Can I say thank you to the BBC, Hatrick Productions and Nick Hancock for the use of their idea.

■ This month is The Ryder Cup and can I, on behalf of us all, wish Seve's team well. Success at the top level certainly increases interest at the grass roots and that can only be good for golf and for all of us who earn our living from it.



Scott
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Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

In recent months people could be forgiven for thinking I've been auditioning for Dustin Hoffman's role in the sequel to "The Rainman". You will recall that two of the Hayter Regional Finals I attended had to be reduced to nine holes because of torrential rain. They did well even to get any holes played at all.

Now I go to Cooden Beach for the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional and after two reasonable days the final round is a complete washout – an inch of rain fell in half an hour. The event had to be cut back to 36 holes. That was bad enough but that was the day I'd decided to play the course! I must be jinxed.

Despite that the tournament was greatly enjoyed by those who attended and Stefan Antolik, his team, the Secretary and all the other clubhouse staff must be congratulated and thanked for making it such a success. For me it was a chance to meet up with so many old friends while I always enjoy meeting up with Derek Farrington the South East Regional Administrator.

While it is not quite so hectic with BIGGA business at the moment – the Executive Director is on holiday so my phone isn't quite so busy – I've a lot on at my golf club. As I write I'm preparing for the Bradford Team Championship and the Yorkshire Boys with barely a day without some event on at the club. Fortunately the course has been good all year and my team have been doing a great job while I've been away.

And next month I'll be on my travels again as I first head to Saltex, where I've been asked to judge the stands, then on to Ireland for a meeting. I break the journey on the way back to attend the Cumbria Cup, where I understand Viscount Whitelaw will be making an appearance, and then I head to the Berkshire College of Agriculture where I shall be turning the first sod on the new Golf Greenkeeping Academy.

Talking of turning sods, I'm looking for someone to donate an edging iron and turf lifter for when I perform the same task for our new Headquarters. Can anyone help?

