

Feature listing from March '96

March '96; Industrial Tribunals; Irrigation; Health and Safety; Seed Technology; The Dukes Course, St Andrews; Temple Golf Club; Grass Cutting Technology

April '96; Brush Cutters; Ear Defenders; Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club; Golf in Asia; Turf Production; Environment

May '96; Aeration; Lingdale GC; Pumps; Security and Vandalism; Furniture and Fittings; Risk Assessment

June '96; Compaction; Seacroft GC; Education; Health and Safety; Architecture - East Herts GC; Fighting Annual Meadow Grass

July '96; Loaders, diggers and excavators; Royal Lytham GC; Protective Clothing; Modern Apprenticeships; Irrigation

August '96; Turf Tissue Analysis; Environmental Communication; Assessors; Tee Mats

September '96; Budgeting; Greenkeeping in Finland; Kings Acre GC; Grinding; Role of Training Providers; Blowers

October '96; Drainage; The Wentworth Club

November '96; Irrigation Equipment; St Andrews; The Oaks GC; Engines

December '96; Maintenance Facilities; History of the Mower; Mentmore Golf and Country Club

January '97; Trees; Tenby GC; Communication; Addressing the imbalance in Sports Turf; Hiring Equipment

February '97; Attending to the Details; Computers; Fertilisers; Ridding Park

March '97; Making Machinery Last; Computers; Irrigation; Musselburgh Old Links; STRI; Defining Playing Performance; Compact Tractors

April '97; Turf Quality; The London Club; Computers; Electric Greens Mower; Course Accessories; Ecology; Aerators

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

June '97; Drought Survival; Cooden Beach; Monitoring the Weather; Slitters

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

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

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

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

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

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

January '98; FEGGA Conference; Buying Power Equipment; Elmwood GC; Mobile Phones; 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



A month in waiting



I played my first round of golf in 1998 on the old course at Walton Heath Golf Club on March 6. The occasion, the Annual Gentlemen's Dinner. Walton Heath is a fine test of golf in any conditions, but in the wind and rain it became more like an endurance test and you had to wonder that the golf may well have been cancelled altogether if it had not been for the skill of Clive Osgood and his team. Unfortunately my golf did not do the course justice, but Ray Day, the Chairman of the South East Region and one of my playing partners, won the first category. He showed us all how it should be done. I would like to thank the Region for inviting me to attend this wonderful day.

The Scotland seminar at Lauder College, Dunfermline, was a great success. The six excellent papers and a mini workshop proved to be a good format. You can always be sure of a warm welcome in Scotland and this occasion was no exception. It was nice to spend a little time and the odd drink or two with the Scottish Chairman, Jimmy Neilson, and George Brown, but Scotland would not be the same without

meeting Edna and Elliott Small who have done so much work over many years for greenkeepers. What can you say about Peter Boyd who organised the whole day, except to say it ran like a well oiled machine and his personal input was quality without fuss.

On the greenkeeping scene I always use to look upon April as the month in waiting - it promises much but never quite delivers. The weather patterns are so varied that settled growth can not be expected, and with most clubs and golf organisations insisting that the season has started, greenkeepers are in a no win situation.

An old saying which is worth remembering is

that a course will not be at its best until the trees are in full leaf. That's nature, and with the best intentions in the world you will never get growth until conditions and nature allow. I overheard two golfers talking the other day; one said, "With all this rain it must make the grass grow." The reply was, "It will have to, the competitions start in two weeks time."

I just had to intervene, they seemed to be totally unaware that they had just rushed into the clubhouse to get warm and dry after being out in the cold and wet for only a few minutes, yet they expected the ground to be warm enough for the grass to grow. So I explained that cold and wet was worse than cold and dry for growth, and it was not realistic to expect much growth until the ground temperature had raised to at least 45° F, and that will not happen with just the odd day of sunshine. So, they would have to be patient (some hope).

By the time this page goes to print I will have visited both Penrith in Cumbria and Mere Golf and Country Club for the North West Seminar, which promises to be a

good day of learning with the added bonus of meeting many old friends. This is one of the pluses of travelling about. One of the minuses is that I seem to miss all my local Section days for other engagements, so I can only wish them well and hope to catch up with them soon.

Just to give you an update on our "Buy a Brick Building Fund" which we launched at the BTME in January. The figures so far are £6,550 from the raffle and over £10,000 from donations, which is a good start, but I would like to see more greenkeeper members wearing the lapel badges. So please, if you have not taken part yet try to do so. Your Section and Regional Administrators, along with all National Board members have tickets and badges for sale. You could win a very good prize. The Board and myself are very grateful to all who have supported us and to all Sections and Regions along with individuals who have given so generously. Do remember that by helping BIGGA you are helping yourself.

On a sad note, the Association has lost the services of Janet Adamson as Membership Services Officer. All those who have worked with Janet at Aldwark or out in the Sections and Regions will know she will be sadly missed. Many of you will have heard her speak at seminars around the country, and seen the professional way she did her job. Janet's position has been taken for the time being by Emma Duggleby.

Another to be leaving shortly is Amanda Mayo, Sales and Marketing Assistant, who did such an excellent job at BTME this year.

We all wish both Janet and Amanda well in their new careers.

Gordon Child