

Feature listing from July '96

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; Longhurst 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

April '98; Gleneagles Hotel, Compact Tractors, Environment, Protective clothing, Rain bird, Internet

May '98; Greens Mowers, Suspended Water Table Greens, Seeds, Letham Grange Resort, Charterhouse profile, Security and BIGGA's Fund Raising Campaign

June '98; Interview with Nick Park, Earthworm special, ATVs, Royal Porthcawl, Grinding

July '98; Aeration, Royal Birkdale preview, The importance of research, Architecture,



Watching the weather



I would like to start by thanking the South West Section for inviting me to play in their match against the Golf Club Secretaries at Ilfracombe. The course was in very good condition. The food and company were great, but the one thing you don't want at Ilfracombe is rain and wind, and we had them both in abundance. It was one of those times when the hot shower after was like paradise.

We did manage to win which helped us forget the weather and enjoy the day. Thanks must go to Avoncrop for their sponsorship of this event. My next engagement was the Anniversary Golf Day at Aldwark Manor, and what a day it turned out to be, just for once the weather was good. The organisation was superb thanks to the staff and in particular to Pauline Thompson, the event organiser. I would like to thank Aldwark Manor for hosting the event. They gave us the golf course free, and put on a barbecue in the evening which would be hard to better anywhere. The staff were all very helpful and it was a pleasure to meet and talk with Aldwark Manor's new Corporate Events Manager, Bob Moncur.

The event's sponsor, BT Mobile did us proud, as did the companies who entered the golf. Our special guest was Ian Mercer from Coronation Street who had time for everyone and anything. A genuine man who came to take part and enjoy himself, and his parting shot the following day was "Thanks, I hope you invite me next year." Ian, you can take that as read.

One of my duties of the day was to make the draw for the "Buy a Brick" raffle and the first ticket I pulled out was for a set of Hippo golf clubs and bag which was won by Barry Heaney. By the way I am still waiting for the drink, Barry. Thanks to everyone who was involved, it was a wonderful day.

I have spent some time in the last few weeks helping with the judging for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, and I have visited many different types of courses, but one thing stands out more than anything else, the lack of understanding by management at clubs. How essential it is to have proper shower and washing facilities within the compound area and not use the clubhouse, which apart from being in many cases away from the working area, mean they are going against health and safety regulations by washing off pesticides, oils and fuel in a public place.

Another task which is often missing is a proper record of spraying,

use and stock. This, of course, is down to the greenkeeper. All records should be kept by law. Having had my little dig, I saw some very well kept courses. The award demands both sides of course management is in place and some got it right. Obviously I cannot go into that here, but I do wish them all good luck and thank them for their time and hospitality.

News from Aldwark and our new HQ Building is that despite the wet weather everything looks good and on schedule for the opening in October. So, we can all look forward to that.

Our staff are already preparing for BTME in January 1999. It only seems a few weeks ago when we were in Harrogate for the last greenkeepers' week, and here we are talking of the next, but that's a measure of the work and time put in to organising a week like BTME, National Conference and Workshops. I'll tell you about my nostalgic trip to Royal Birkdale for the Open, next month.

Gordon Child