

## Feature listing from January '96

**January '96:** Greens Mowers; National Survey of Golf Greens; Stress Management

**February '96:** Newbury Race Course GC; Health and Safety; Machinery Maintenance; Sprayers; Trees

**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; Rudding Park

**March '97:** Making Machinery Last; Computers; Irrigation; Musselburgh Old Links; STRL; 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



# Building on solid foundations



Just over twelve months ago when Pat asked me to be his Vice Chairman, I took a deep breath and asked for a day or two to think it over. I had just got used to thinking about the time I would have spare having decided to stand down as Regional Administrator a few weeks before.

May I say now my answer was never in doubt. How could it be? There is no greater honour for a member of BIGGA than to be your Chairman. I only hope I can do the job half as well as all our Chairmen in the past. I am lucky to be asked at a point in my life when I can give as much time as is needed, but I am also very mindful of how it will affect those who follow. Every greenkeeper's job must come first so I intend to look very carefully at how some of the workload may be shared by National Board members, particularly in their regions. We must never put members jobs in jeopardy by expecting too much from them or their club.

I am very fortunate to have men like Walter Woods, Pat Murphy, my Vice Chairman George Brown, along with the Board members who I am sure will give me all the help and advice I need. However I also have Neil Thomas and his staff to rely on through the year.

1998 will see the building of our new HQ at Aldwark. Many of you will have seen the plans or model

on view at events over the last few months and now look forward to seeing the real thing later this year. It's all very exciting and a far cry from the portacabin sized building start just eleven years ago. I, like many of you can only marvel at the progress made on our behalf which would have been impossible without the support of the R & A and trade companies but also impossible without the dedication of our staff along with National, Region and Section Board members. It just shows what can be achieved when we all pull together.

My first function as Chairman was the BTME banquet and what an extravaganza it turned out to be, it just has to be the best yet. The entertainment was superb with Lee Hurst and Linda Nolan giving us a night to remember. The food and service was excellent only to be surpassed with the company I was in. The night ended on a real high note with our very own Executive Director trying to keep up the tradition of Welsh vocalists by singing 'my ding-a-ling' with Linda sat on his knee. Well done Neil! The only sad part for me was that my wife Marion was unable to attend owing to ill-health.

The greenkeepers week in Harrogate each January just seems to get better and better. The National Education Conference which starts the week off running along side the fully booked workshops give the whole week real impetus. The exhibition was once again a big success, what more can I say which hasn't already been said about the BTME. It was fantastic! I only heard high praise for the seminar programme which runs in conjunction with the exhibition.

No praise is high enough for our staff and helpers who put the whole week together for us so efficiently. Anyone who has not been to the BTME week should really make an effort to come along next year

because you don't know what you are missing.

I had a pleasant task at the National Conference of launching the 'Buy a Brick' campaign through a grand raffle. The tickets and badges were sold by the National Board members who will continue selling them until the draw, which takes place at our Anniversary Tournament at Aldwark in June. All monies raised will go into the Building Fund for our new Headquarters and Education Unit which will be a real asset to us all now and in the future. If you haven't already taken part please try your best to do so at your earliest opportunity. I would like to thank those who have already bought their tickets and badges and I would also like to add a big thanks to the South West & South Wales Region, the North of Scotland, East Midland and Sussex Sections for their donations to the Fund. Their generosity is very much appreciated and when the dust settles we will bring you up to date will all amounts raised.

Before closing I would just like to pay tribute to Dean Cleaver and Barry Heaney who stood down from the Board at the AGM. They have both given us real service and dedication for many years and at the same time been true ambassadors for BIGGA. They are a credit to the Association and themselves. Taking Dean and Barry's place on the Board, I wish to extend a warm welcome to my Vice Chairman, Mr George Brown and to Mr Ian Holoran representing the Northern Region. Meanwhile the National Board and myself, along with the staff will do our best to serve you well this coming year, and wish all a successful season ahead and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Gordon Child