

Feature listing from June '96

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 Inbalance 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; 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

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 Portcawl; Grinding



Fitting tributes



As most of you are aware Viscount Whitelaw is standing down as our President after ten successful years. It was, therefore, a great honour for me to make a presentation to him on your behalf, at Penrith Golf Club, the venue of the Cumbria Cup run by the North West Section.

Lord Whitelaw has not just been a President in name, his support and guidance over the years have been immense, and we will certainly miss him. To my mind there is no doubt he has been a major factor of BIGGA's success from which greenkeepers everywhere have reaped the benefits. We can count ourselves very fortunate that Lord Whitelaw took time out from a very busy life to be our President for so long.

Much of his early life was spent at Nairn Golf Club in Scotland where he learned his golf. So it was fitting that we presented him with a picture of the 13th hole at Nairn. A gift which both he and Lady Whitelaw appreciated very much. I know I was speaking for you all when I wished both Lord and Lady Whitelaw the best of health and happiness in the years to come, and thanked them for all they have done on our behalf.

The Cumbria Cup was a big success. John Pemberton and I had the pleasure of playing with the Captain and Secretary of Penrith Golf Club who left us in no doubt about their

love for the club and the high esteem they held John Berry, who is Head Greenkeeper there. The course was extremely well presented. The food was excellent and the scenery out of this world. Anyone who has not played Penrith should put that right at the earliest opportunity. My thanks to the North West Section for inviting me and presenting me with a lovely glass vase for which I am told I have to buy a constant stream of flowers. Last but not least, many thanks to Course Care, the sponsors who made us so welcome and made it a day to remember.

I would like to personally thank all who have

contributed to our Building Fund over the past few months. It's very encouraging to see those committed to greenkeeping and their own future within the industry, come forward to help. A special thank you must go to the Life members of our Association who in response to my appeal have sent in many donations,

some from elderly retired members who have little enough cash to spare, but still feel they want to help. We are very grateful indeed and I intend to write and thank each one of them personally as soon as I can. Perhaps it's time to ask all Course Managers/ Head Greenkeepers, to see what they can collect from themselves and staff at their clubs. After all it's your future, and any amount large or small will indirectly benefit you all. Cheques should be made out to BIGGA Building Fund and sent to HQ or myself at Archways, Churston Road, Churston Ferrers, South Devon TQ5 OHU.

I am looking forward to meeting all the members who are on Greenkeeper Support duty at The Open, later this month. Hopefully the weather will be as good at Birkdale as it was last year at Troon, and we can all enjoy it as much. While on the subject of tournaments, thanks to all of you who turned out at Wentworth for the

Volvo PGA Championships, you did a fine job. The course at Wentworth looked excellent on television, and received high praise from commentators and players alike, which is always nice to hear. (Chris and his staff must be justly proud of their achievement. Presentation is so important on most inland courses and in particular parkland type).

There is much debate about how far we go in the pursuit of presentation, and I have no wish to get involved except to say that the quality of turf should never be sacrificed just for looks. We are the guardians of the turf on golf courses and the golfer play on it and hopefully enjoys it. Just like an artist who paints a picture, he or she is the creator and we enjoy the end product.

It is with sadness I have to report that your Vice Chairman George Brown, has had to stand down due to a change in work commitments. After a lot of heart searching and many long conversations George did not have any choice but to stand down. I know you will all join me in wishing him all the very best. On a personal note, I know George feels he has let me down, but I can assure you that is not the way I see it, and I look forward to seeing him and having a few jars later this year at Turnberry.

As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining and my new Vice Chairman is certainly that. So, it is a pleasure to inform you that Elliott Small has accepted the invitation to become Vice Chairman, and the National Board fully support his election. No one has done more for BIGGA than Elliott, and he fully deserves this honour. His work as the Regional Administrator for Scotland over more than eight years is only one part of his commitment to greenkeeping, and I look forward to working with him again.

Gordon Child