

Feature listing from May '96

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 exca-
vators; 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 imbal-
ance 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



Watching the weather



On April 21 I attended the AFA Conference and Luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, London. I arrived in Paddington at 9.35 am and took a taxi to the Savoy. Once in the cab I made my first mistake by telling the driver I had to be there by 10 am, leaving him just 12 minutes. Now, I have been on the big dipper at Blackpool and the "Back to the Future" ride in Hollywood, but nothing prepared me for this. We squeezed through gaps you wouldn't believe, missing bodies, buses, lamp posts and cars by a coat of paint, all at a speed I dare not check. So when we reached Marble Arch and traffic was at a stand still, I sighed with relief, but not for long. The smallest gap appeared and we were through, going in and out of lanes like a scud missile, finally screaming to a halt outside the hotel on time.

As I went inside I must have looked a little white because I was immediately given a drink which went down without touching the sides, and my recovery was under-way. The conference speakers were very good and the luncheon excellent. I was, however, a bit confused by Elliot Morley MP's after dinner speech, but then that's nothing new as MPs and I often seem to be on a different wavelength. At the end of the day I hailed a taxi back to Paddington but this time made sure

to tell the driver I had plenty of time.

April 29 was the 10th anniversary of Westurf and it was an honour to be asked to open the show and cut the cake. Later Marion, John Cox - the Captain of Long Ashton Golf Club, and I did the stand judging which was very interesting, and allowed us to meet many supporters and friends. The covered stand winner was Pencoed College who had made a big effort and deserved to win.

The open stand winner was ProSeed Equipment again an excellent presentation. This year's show was Paula's first as the organiser and she should be proud of her success. She has changed the layout and made additions which I am sure will give it more impetus going into the next decade. The only losers were the greenkeepers in the region who chose to stay at home. On the subject of attendance it was nice to see Clive Osgood from Walton Heath and Gordon Irvine from Mill Ride there, along with many from the Midland Region. Westurf will go on from here. Most annual events need new ideas and Westurf has got them. The weather defied the forecasters and stayed fine until about 2 pm, which allowed most people the time to get round. There are many people to thank for the success of Westurf over the years but I must single out the traders who have given their support, some for every one of the ten shows. Well done to all concerned you did us proud.

I was sitting in the lounge at home looking out on a typical spring day of cold winds and rain thinking about reports and warnings from the past few Chairmen telling me how busy I would be. I am not quite sure whether they were trying to frighten me, or exaggerating a little, but up to now I haven't been rushed off my feet. It may be that I do not have a golf course to run and find it more leisurely, but I am taking life nice and easy. However, I find it hard not

to think of all you lucky greenkeepers out there worrying about the weather and the course, but in my experience all types of weather has some value, even cold and wet which must be worst of all, does tend to keep the volume of play down and allow a little time for recovery. Take the wet spring we have just had, it will have helped links courses particularly the fairways just so long as we have done enough aeration when it was dry. That's the story of greenkeeping, doing what we can when we can. Never put a job off when the weather is right for tomorrow it may change.

I am pleased to see that our new HQ building is coming along well, and the contractors are confident of finishing on time. Don't forget the draw for the "Buy a Brick" Fund started at the BTME will be made on June 2 so if you haven't got your tickets yet give your Section Secretary or Regional Administrator a call and get them now. The fund is doing well but could be better with a little effort. Your Board members have put a lot of work into it and deserve your support, so come on one last push!

It's competition time again with Toro's Greenkeeping Excellence Award and Student of the Year competitions, along with the Amazone Rhône-Poulenc sponsored Environment Competition. There will be a lot of greenkeepers and golf clubs trying to impress over the next few months. The judges again will have a tough job on their hands with more nominations and entries than ever. I am sure they will make the right judgments. I can only wish everyone the very best of luck and thank our sponsors for their continued support in running these events.

They give the motivated greenkeepers and golf clubs a great incentive.

Gordon Child