

Feature listing from April '96

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

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



The key to SUCCESS



At the end of March I had the pleasure of attending the North West seminar at Mere Golf & Country Club in Cheshire. The day was organised by my old friend Bert Cross. Bert and I go back a long way, to our army days, both serving in the Kings Regiment in Korea in the early '50s. So we had much to talk about over dinner the night before and very enjoyable it was too. The seminar had to be good to match the luxurious venue, and so it proved to be. The papers given by all the speakers were excellent, covering new courses from Scotland to Saudi Arabia, although I prefer the Scottish version to the desert where golf just doesn't seem right. They were all very interesting. There were also papers on nutritional values and pest control which gave the day a nice balance. The attendance of about 100 delegates, many of whom were trade people, must have been gratifying to Bert and his committee, but sent a clear message to the greenkeepers who did not turn out. You don't know what your missing! A message which seems to echo many educational events.

Why are we greenkeepers so backward at coming forward. When it comes to education it always seems to be the same 10 to 20% who attend and want to learn. Every greenkeeper has a duty to him or herself to keep up to date with the ever changing trend of our industry. We may have been to college recently or in the distant past, but no one will ever know it all and as professional people we owe it to our clubs to keep in constant touch with what's going on.

BIGGA run management courses both at Aldwark and out in the regions along with a National Conference, workshops and BTME seminar programmes, plus on your doorstep the sections and regions run their own educational events just for our benefit, all of which take a lot of time and effort to organise. Why is it that such a small percentage attend?

Education is the key to success. All we need to do is look around us and see how many excellent young greenkeepers have taken this route to bigger, better and higher profile jobs, but they have had to work at it. It's worth remembering that success only comes before work in one place - the dictionary. The association plays its part, all we have to do is turn up and learn. Having let off steam and put the ball firmly in your court, if there is anything you feel the association can do for the benefit of greenkeepers and their education, please let us know and we will try to help.

On the golf course, May is the month we start to see results of all the work put in through last winter

as the turf starts to thicken up and playing conditions improve. For my part I am looking forward to visiting many courses and seeing old friends. My first trip will be to Penrith for the Cumbria Cup on May 20. The National Tournament this year will be at Letham Grange in Scotland. I know that it's a long way for members in the south of England, but I can assure you it will be worth the trip. Scotts, our sponsors have made a big effort on your behalf, and along with your staff and National Board the whole profile of the tournament will be raised over the next few years. So do try to be a part of it and let's see if you have it in you to be a champion. Scotts really do deserve your support, they certainly have mine, so if you think you can beat me, have a go.

The staff at HQ have just gone through a period of change. Last month we reported the sad loss of Janet, our Membership Services Officer and Amanda from advertising. Janet's post has been filled by Tracey Maddison who I am sure will do a good job. Now Emma, who is also moving away, and Karen are both leaving our employment, but I can assure you all that there is a good and sound morale within HQ and the vacancies will soon be filled.

On a happier note our new building is coming along very well and we can look to completion with a great deal of pride and excitement.

Gordon Ch