

Feature listing from October '96

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; Abbeylea 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 Porthcawl, Grinding

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

August '98; Mill Ride, Fescue, Blowers, Texton, Open Review, Nematodes, Training

September '98; Nine holers - Tolladine and Fingle Glen, Turf, Steve Clement profile, Drainage, World Scientific Congress report

October '98; Saltex Review, BIGGA Retrospective, Stirling GC, Toro Awards Preview, Tree grants



Flying visits



Having just returned from Atlanta, the venue of the Hayter International Cup, I find myself running into a busy time starting with the opening of BIGGA HOUSE in a few days time.

I started my travelling with a trip to Belfast for the IOG Show and BIGGA Conference, where Tracey, our Membership Services Officer, and myself gave a talk about the benefits of membership and education within BIGGA. This was Tracey's first talk on behalf of the Association but you would have thought she had been doing it all her life. On my return from Belfast I was soon off to Gatwick for a flight to Atlanta.

We were all met at the Airport by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter Ltd. The flight itself had its own excitement. First Neil found himself sitting next to Derek Wilson, our Scottish team member, and his wife Jacinta who had recently married, and were on their honeymoon, but as the flight got under way one wondered if it was Derek or Neil who were on their honeymoon. It was all in good fun and even the air hostess joined in when she accidentally spilt some wine down Neil's slacks.

On our arrival in Atlanta we were met by a bus and taken to our hotel, where we had a good nights sleep.

On Sunday we travelled to the

Golf Club of Georgia for a game of golf, before going onto Cherokee County Club for the welcoming reception.

On the Monday it was down to the business of practice at the Cherokee course, followed by an excellent cookout in the evening.

Tuesday saw the start of the three day match at the Atlantic Athletic Club, the home of the late, great, Bobby Jones. The first day's play consisted of six fourball matches.

On Wednesday we played our six four-somes matches at Peachtree Golf Club, a former Walker Cup venue.

Thursday was the final day, and the 12 singles were played at White Columns Golf Club. The match results I will leave to Scott to report on along with some very interesting pictures. We closed the event with a dinner and presentation at the Cherokee Town Club.

The whole week was a wonderful experience which I was very lucky to be part of, as Captain of the Rest of the World team. The team came together from the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Australia and the Rest of Europe, and soon formed themselves into a team of friends.

The three days of matches were played very competitively, but at the same time with sportsmanship and great camaraderie from both sides.

They set an example which sportsmen and sportswomen would do well to follow. The social evenings were enjoyed in the same friendly manner, and the entire trip was a very enjoyable experience.

On Friday we all did our last minute shopping before leaving Atlanta on the overnight flight.

I would like to thank Hayter Ltd for the sponsorship of this event, especially Tony and Kim who have supported greenkeepers for many years, and are always a joy to be with. I am sure I speak for all the players and guests when I say that this week will live in our memories forever.

By the time you read these notes BIGGA HOUSE will be officially open, and bedded down, running smoothly towards the BTME in January, which I am sure will once again be a great week. It's time to get your bookings in if you have not already done so. If you are lucky enough to come from the South West & South Wales, or the Scottish Region, contact your Regional Administrators Paula and Peter to book your place on a coach before it's too late. I was told only this week, a party of 30 are coming over from Canada to be with us and take part in what must be the best week of the year for greenkeepers. If you are someone who has not been before, all I can say is, you don't know what you're missing. You can learn so much and at the same time make so many friends with people who have the same interests as yourselves. I believe any greenkeeper who does not attend the "greenkeepers week" do themselves and their profession a disservice.

I hope you have all had a successful season in what must have been the wettest for a long time. At least if we can get a dry winter it will help. We will be able to do plenty of aeration and break up the compaction which heavy rain and traffic always cause. I am told it has been so wet in many parts they have not been able to get tractors out on the course, never mind aerators, so it is very important to take every dry opportunity to catch up. I always think aeration at this time of year has a duel effect, it helps to keep courses in play throughout winter and gives a better start to the coming season.

I look forward to seeing many of you this month, in Edinburgh for Scotsturf; at Mentmore Golf Club for the Midland Region's seminar and Cannington for the South West and South Wales seminar.

See you soon.

Gordon Child