

Feature listing from August '96

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; Longhurst 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, Textron, Open Review, Nematodes, Training



It's good to talk



I returned home at the end of July after two weeks away. It started with a very pleasant visit to Formby Golf Club for The World Junior Championships, where I made a presentation on behalf of BIGGA for the Best Nordic Winner. At the Presentation Lunch I sat next to the Guest Speaker, Cliff Morgan, which has left our rugby-loving Executive Director green with envy.

Royal Birkdale and The Open was my next stop, but before I talk about our team's part I must, on behalf of greenkeepers everywhere, thank Chris Whittle and his staff for the marvellous boost they gave our profession. Whatever I say here will seem inadequate but Royal Birkdale's links were in superb condition. No fancy frills, just a very good links course, well maintained and presented to the highest standard. Well done Chris!

The BIGGA Support Team was another success story. It was a great team effort in unpleasant weather conditions. Elliott and Bert had the cabin well organised, while Cecil and Jimmy kept the 1st tee running smoothly. I have already said this was a team effort and at The Open it is particularly pleasing to see members and staff working together for the benefit of the Association.

While it is impossible to name everyone, I would like to say a big

thank you to all who took part. We are proud of all the team.

In the marquee we had many visitors, but none was more welcome than Viscount and Lady Whitelaw, accompanied by their grand-daughter. How nice it was to see them taking the time and interest they so obviously have in BIGGA and its members, to visit us.

I left Royal Birkdale with many fond memories and headed north to St Andrews for the World Scientific Congress of Golf. I sat in on a range of papers from construction to environmental issues, including management, pesticides, thatch development and marketing. There were some high profile speakers too, including Dr J. Beard and M. Mocioni on Grasses and S. I. Sifers and Beard on Grasses for Putting Greens, W. Uihlein on Tradition and Technology, and a very interesting paper on Passion for Green by Dr J. R. Hansen. The STRI had talks from Amanda Cook and S. W. Baker. I did take time out from greenkeeping matters to enjoy a talk for the Ageing Golfer (no comments please).

In the evening there was a range of things to do, one was a visit to a nearby development at Kingsbarns, a new links course in which Walter Woods has an input. Walter had told me much about Kingsbarns the week before, so I was looking forward with interest to the visit. I was not disappointed, it is an exiting project. One very interesting and unusual find made during the landscaping, was the discovery of an old kondit - a channel or passage for conveying water - which had been buried for more than one hundred years, several metres underground. This has been uncovered with care and turned into a feature using two original bridges in remarkable condition, which span the kondit as

walkways. They remind you very much of the famous bridge over the Swilcan Burn on the 18th hole at St Andrews. Kingsbarns is a links I look forward to playing on completion.

I would like to thank Walter who one evening picked me up and took me on a tour of the city and his club before returning to his home for a bite of supper and to meet his good lady. The week ended with a game of golf on the Old Course and dinner before the long drive home. It had been a very enjoyable time meeting a lot of very nice people from all over the world.

It should have been back in Scotland the following week for the National Tournament which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of support. It does, however, give us the opportunity to update and hopefully improve the event next year. One thing is certain, it will take place, that you can rest assured. Marion and I were going to take a holiday in Scotland including the tournament, so we lost out on that, but not to be out done, Marion booked a second holiday for us in Chester, and it made a very nice break.

At the time of writing the hot weather has arrived at last to test out the watering systems, and slow down the growth, but do beware of using too much water at this late stage in the season. It can be very dangerous and leave us with soggy greens to go into winter, exactly the opposite condition we would like. The more experienced greenkeepers will have gone through this sort of weather pattern before, but for some it will be new. So, if you are unsure, pick up the phone and talk to someone local, and remember the advert - It's good to talk.

Gordon Child