

Feature listing from April '97

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 Porthcawl, Grinding

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

August '98: Mill Ride, Fescue, Blowers, Textron, 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

November '98: Royal Opening, Ramsdale Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems

December '98: Toro Awards, Environment Awards, The Appliance of Science, Engines, Architects, BTME Preview

January '99: Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lyschott Heath GC, Worm Research, Stylo Matchmaker profile, Temporary Greens

February '99: Westerham GC; R&A questionnaire results; Finland; grass cutting; BTME99 Review; Bernhard and Co

March '99: Loch Lomond, Worm update, GrassRoots, Softspikes, Maintenance facilities, Environment review, Architecture



An eventful month



Marion and I have just arrived home from spending a week in Canada at the invitation of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, where I was asked to present a paper at the Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Toronto - on "Basic Principles of Greenkeeping in the UK."

On arrival in Toronto the sun was shining which made a change from the weather back home, but I soon realised that the sun gave a false impression as the temperature was recorded at 9 degrees below, but the weather apart we were given a warm welcome wherever we went.

This just illustrates the camaraderie that exists among greenkeepers worldwide. We met so many nice people and they gave us the feeling we had known them for years. My time during the day was taken up mostly by the conference and show, but we were taken to see the Niagara Falls by Pelino Scenna and then had lunch at the Burlington Golf and Country Club where Pelino is Superintendent. My wife Marion, however, was able to take in the companion's programme with the other ladies, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

We came together in the evenings for the excellent social programme, the first of which was the President's Reception held at the top of the CN Tower, which is the tallest building in the world... and has a glass floor!

The conference was very well attended with an interesting array of speakers and as the week

progressed it became more and more obvious that greenkeeping in Canada was much closer to methods used in the UK than most other overseas countries. This is largely due to the fact that they are dealing with cool climate grasses, the same as here.

I feel that a closer working relationship with the Canadians could benefit both our associations and our greenkeepers and I would like to see such a relationship develop. The Canadians brought a party of 23 to the BTME in 1999 and maybe we could take a party to their conference and exhibition in year 2000. The cost of such a package will be looked into, so those who would be interested, watch this space.

You will have heard much about the GTC over the last few months, some of it is fact and some just gossip. Until all the facts are available, we cannot speculate the outcome. I do, however, feel it could and should have been handled differently. We, like other parties on the GTC Committee have been kept in the dark. Why, I do not know, but we will keep you up to date as soon as possible.

On the greenkeeping front I can never remember such a wet summer

followed by such a wet winter, and talking to greenkeepers everywhere, it has certainly been a struggle to get the essential work done before the start of the season and has certainly given no chance of picking up on extra work which is normal at this time of year.

The only thing which makes it feel a little better is that everyone is in the same boat. This of course is little comfort when your members start to grumble about early season conditions.

This brings me to my pet subject that somehow we must find a way of helping the golfers to understand more about the turf they play on. If only to make them aware that golf is the only sport played on turf all year round. They may then have a better feel for the greenkeeper's concerns and problems in trying to provide good playing conditions without a closed season when the grasses are normally dormant and therefore more susceptible to wear and damage.

Gordon Child