

## Feature listing from August '97

**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, Ramside 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, Lyshott 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

**April '99:** Carden Park, Telecommunications, Water Management, Rolawn, Seeds

**May '99:** Security, Bude and North Cornwall GC, Spraying Regulations, Jim Arthur, The Acid Theory, Amenity Technology profile

**June '99:** Thorpeness GC, Millennium Bug Busting, Irrigation, Scotts profile, Company adaptability

**July '99:** Carnoustie GC, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction



# Back to the future



I would like to start by thanking the Scottish Region for inviting me to their Championship at East Kilbride on June 16. The tournament was played in very windy and sometimes wet conditions, but the scoring was excellent with two gross rounds of 72 leading the way, and how nice it was to see Cecil George picking up a prize. The course was in first class condition and the clubhouse staff looked after us with a smile and cheerfulness all too rarely seen these days in service. Once again the hospitality of the Scottish Region boys was superb. They always make you feel you must return to Scotland as soon as possible, and in Peter Boyd they have a gem of an Administrator. Thanks again, I will remember the day for a long time.

My next engagement was our Golf Day at Aldwark on June 21. The day started in warm sunshine and yours truly was in the first match out, and escaped the heavy rain which fell later in the afternoon. It just goes to show that the sun shines on the righteous, but it was a great day enjoyed by all who took part.

My thanks go to J. Rothschild Assurance who supported the event and also took an active part. Aldwark Manor staff once again excelled themselves, the barbecue was superb, and the course prepared by Richard Gamble and his staff has never looked better. The presentation of prizes was carried out by international footballer

Lee Clark from Sunderland FC. Of course this day could never take place without the support of our company friends who entered teams. My thanks to them all, and finally to Sarah who organised the whole day so well.

On June 28 I travelled to Woodstock, near Oxford, with Marion and Scott to make a presentation of Honorary Life Membership of BIGGA to Fred Hawtree. Fred, and his father before him, have been great ambassadors of golf as architects. They were rightly recognised as the very best, a mantle carried on by Fred's son Martin. As an historian of the game it would be hard to find anyone with more knowledge than Fred, who has written many books and articles over the years on this very subject. However, it is their input into green-keeping which we greenkeepers should be most grateful for. Fred senior, was the founder of BGGGA way back in 1912, and his wife Beatrice acted as unpaid secretary and worked from their own office. Fred junior, has always carried on that support. So it was a great honour for me to make this presentation as your Chairman.

On a personal note I count myself lucky to have known Fred for so long, and indeed I feel it was no coincidence that Fred and his wife Mary were having dinner at our home in Churston the night the three associations came together to form the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association. Fred has always been known as uncle Fred for many years in our house and I would like to think that the members of BIGGA can now look upon him with the same affection.

I would like to congratulate Kerran Daly MG on his appointment as Course Manager for Gog Magog Golf Club, Cambridge. It does, unfortunately, mean we lose him off the Board of Management, as he now moves out of the South West and South Wales Region which he represented.

However, all is not lost as they say, Kerran was invited by the Board and

accepted the position as our representative on the GTC Technical Committee. We are grateful to his new club for giving him their support.

I was reading an old Golf Illustrated the other day, from 1936, and one article caught my eye. The leading topic in the world of golf was that modern golf balls were being blamed for the present day low scores. After much talk about the improvements of the golf ball, the writer went on to explain how conditions had changed. To quote from the article "who can deny that the conditions of courses today have improved out of all knowledge to what they were in pre-war days. The lies which are obtained through the fairways of today and the perfect putting surfaces on greens have taken the element of luck out of the game. When you do that and put alongside the improvements of the implements used now it's no wonder the scores have come down. I do, however, feel that the conditions have made the biggest impact". (What's changed?) He goes on to say "that the advent of the steel shaft was the beginning of the prodigious driving. If anyone doubts what the modern set of steel shafted clubs are capable of doing, then pick up a mixed bag of hickory shafted clubs and see if you can convince yourself that they are as effective." By the way, a top class golf ball costs 2/- each and top of the range deluxe woods were 21/- each with irons 17/6. So although much has changed in 63 years, it seems to me the same discussions go on today as then. You must wonder how they would see greens today if, as the writer said, the putting surfaces on the greens then were perfect. I just thought some of the older members would be interested.

Gordon Child