

## Feature listing from January '97

**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

**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 review, 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



# A positive benefit



I am just recovering from Christmas and the New Year, and preparing for the BTME, National Conference, and the AGM at Harrogate. It is not easy trying to take in a year which has gone by so quickly yet so much has happened. I personally cannot remember a year when I travelled so much, but it is hard to think of any one trip which stands out from the rest.

I believe the main reason for that is wherever I have been it's been in the company of greenkeepers, and everyone seems to have a story to tell which I, like you all, can relate to and understand. I know of no other profession where you find top men such as Walter Woods, Jack McMillan and many others talking eagerly to the young ones who are just starting out in greenkeeping, passing on their experience and advice. Not being sure why this is except that greenkeepers in general have a camaraderie second to none. That is why wherever I have been I have come away with a warm feeling of enjoyment and that is what our Association is all about, talking to people and communicating.

While on the subject of communi-

cation, I was recently sat in an airport lounge talking to a well-known member, and he tells me he is constantly being asked the same question, "What do I get from being a member of BIGGA apart from my card and magazine?"

So I had to start going through all the benefits available to members, and I was very surprised to learn that he was unaware of all the contents of our membership package. How many

members don't know what their entitlements are? You need to look at personal accident insurance very closely to realise the extent of cover. For instance, £35 per week is paid for the first 12 weeks to correspond with national health benefits, but for the remainder of the 104 weeks maximum, £45 per week will be paid by your membership cover, right up to £7,500 for permanent disability such as a loss of a limb.

We know that there are people who do not claim by the numbers registered. Don't forget that this cover is applicable for accidents at home or at work. The Legal Helpline is another area which members don't seem to fully understand. You can ask for advice on any matter and this covers the whole family and not just you. Another benefit new this year is discounts on household and car insurance. You can get 10% reduction on any quote by using BIGGA's insurance. I could go on and fill a book on why your membership is a snip, but you should make sure you read all about it in your package instead of just taking your cards out and binning the rest.

Head Greenkeepers and Course

Managers should encourage all their staff to become members, and at the same time be able to tell them exactly what the benefits are. The membership is growing but not as fast as it should be, the increase for last year was only 143. I just cannot understand any greenkeepers who is interested in his or her career, not wanting to become a member of BIGGA. Of course, no one ever gets full benefit out of anything unless they take part, it's almost like owning a car and never driving it. The Section Secretaries put a lot of hard work in arranging events for us, and it must be disheartening when on occasions only a few turn up.

So come on greenkeepers everywhere, take part and help yourself, and at the same time help BIGGA to raise your status even more.

I will climb down from my soapbox now and do my packing for Harrogate, and at the same time wish you all a trouble free season in 1999. I look forward to the opportunity of seeing many of you through the coming year.

Gordon Child