

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

## Beware of these pesky bugs



Credit: Photo by Brian Morgan 0141 221 0238

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**43** Putting on the Stylo



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I can vividly recall an occasion when I thought about the new millennium - although I don't think we called it that then - and worked out that I would be 38 years old when it arrived. To be quite frank I couldn't envisage being that ancient.

Now we are so close to 2K, as the more trendy have chosen to describe the next thousand years, that we are less than 12 months away.

However, rather than getting ready to celebrate a once in a lifetime experience, much of the talk is of the potential doom and despondency which might be caused by a new threat to mankind.

In Biblical times it was plagues of locusts which caused populations to quake but we've got something different - Millennium Bugs. Although no-one has actually seen one of these creatures I suspect they're a little like Gremlins and, like Gremlins, they are threatening to wreak havoc right across the globe. Then, so rumour has it, they are going to leave just as fast as they arrived, certainly before Rentokil has had time to come up with a deterrent.

We have been told to avoid flying as the clock ticks past midnight on the 31st of December; advised to stock up with food; avoid being in lifts at the crucial moment... the list is endless, because quite frankly no-one really knows what to expect.

After all there isn't anyone still around from the time we last entered a new Millennium to ask.

With the smooth running of so many golf clubs now reliant on computers it is important to discover whether you are Millennium Compliant otherwise you might show up in early January, having shaken off a Millennium Dome-sized hangover, just in time to develop another headache when you discover that all your records and feeding programmes for the year ahead have been lost.

Before all that though we have the final BTME of this Millennium and Harrogate is gearing itself up for the influx of greenkeepers and other familiar faces who provide the mix that makes the week such a memorable one for all who attend.

The signs are all good, pre-registrations are up on last year, the workshops and seminar sessions which make up the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, are full or filling up fast and the quality of speaker attracted to Harrogate is setting new standards of excellence.

One in particular to look out for is well known athletic coach, Frank Dick OBE, who is delivering a free-to-attend speech on Wednesday at 11am. Frank is at the top of the tree when it comes to motivational speaking and we are delighted that he has found time in his busy schedule to attend BTME.

I am certainly going to be there and I'm also looking forward to meeting up with many of you during the course of the week. It'll help take my mind off these horrible bugs.

Happy New Year to you all.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum

