

Feature listing from December '96

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; 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



McMillan who?



Starting this month's notes I realise just how much time I have spent in the company of one or other of the McMillan family. But then as you go round the seminar circuit it's hard not to see at least one.

First I had just come back from the FEGGA Conference with Ian two days before the Midland seminar, and the very first speaker of the day was Billy. His paper was one of the best of a very good day of learning, well organised by Peter Larter and chaired by David Walden. The only disappointment was that more members did not support this excellent event. However, thanks must go to the trade for their support and stand displays, and I enjoyed talking to most of them at break times.

Then it was on to Cannington for the South West & South Wales seminar, and once again Ian McMillan was a speaker and how nice to see Jack and Rita there in support. The highlight of the seminar was Frank Newberry, and that is not taking anything away from the other speakers, but Frank is so good, and entertaining with it, that he will always be the star of the show.

The day was well run by Paula and Ivor, and once again I thank the members of the Region for their support. I believe 130 attended. The sponsors were Supaturf and Roffey Bros to whom we are all indebted for

their efforts. I was only sorry I had to leave a little early to catch a train to York for the GTC meeting.

My next trip is by invitation of the PGA European Tour to Dubai for the 1998 Greenkeeper Conference, which will be held in the Jebel Ali Hotel from 9th to 12th December. There are three days of lectures and practical demonstrations including a visit to the Emirates and Creek golf courses, hosts to the Dubai Desert Classic, so I am looking forward to that.

This year has passed by so quickly we are already looking the BTME 99 in the face. I have been to so many greenkeeper events over many years and particularly in my year as your Chairman, but I can honestly say that I look forward to the greenkeepers week in Harrogate more than any other on our calendar. The BTME has got better and better over the years.

The week begins with the National Conference and workshops, followed by the Exhibition and seminars, with the BIGGA AGM early evening on Wednesday, and the BIGGA Banquet on Thursday evening. The week takes in an educational experience you will not find anywhere else, an Exhibition which is the premier indoor show in Europe, and on top of that, it's in Harrogate where you will find a warm welcome wherever you go. Harrogate is also blessed with some of the finest restaurants to suit all tastes. This historic town with its elegant architecture offers you a week to remember. You can walk in the Valley Gardens by day if you want to take in the fresh air or visit the superb shops just a few minutes away. By night there is a variety of night clubs for your entertainment. Wherever you choose to go

you will meet greenkeepers and tradesmen to chat and socialise with, in fact even if you arrive on your own it won't be long before you will make lots of friends, and I can guarantee once you have been to Harrogate for the BTME, you will return time and again.

With Christmas and New Year gone we all tend to feel a bit flat and there is no better pick me up than the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition from the 20th to 22nd January. Make the time and come along. I'll see you there.

With 1998 at an end I would just like to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me wherever I have been. I have tried to attend as many events as I could, but it's impossible to be at them all, so on a few occasions I have had to rely on Board members to help me out. Their support throughout the year has been great. I would also like to thank the staff who have given me and you excellent help and service all year, and I am sure they will continue to do so.

Last but not least to my wife, Marion, who has given me support and encouragement throughout a year in which she has had her own difficulties to cope with. I wish you all a happy New Year for 1999.

Gordon Child