

Feature listing from November '97

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, 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, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

August '99: Viscount Whitelaw tribute; Open review; Merrist Wood; Saltex preview; Turf; Trees; Grass Cutting; BIGGA Golf Day review; Redexim profile

September '99: Slaley Hall; Tyres; Spotlight on Thatch; Elmwood College Awards; National Championship preview

October '99: The Manor House, Castle Combe; Aeration; Saltex review; Mycorrhizas; Toro Award preview



A hectic month



On the 15th September the rescheduled Cumbria Cup was played at Penrith. This time the weather was kind and we all had a good day. Penrith is one of those places you look forward to returning to time after time. I would like to thank the North West Section for inviting me and presenting me with a very unusual glass plaque. It was much appreciated. We are indebted to Penrith Golf Club for allowing us the use of their fine facilities, and to Course Care who sponsored this event.

In September I was invited by the Swedish Golf Federation to join three Canadians and their own team of agronomists on a tour of Sweden, taking in seven golf courses, three of which we played. We also stayed over at Jonkoping for the trade show and seminars, which were excellent. Our tour started in Malmo and ended in Stockholm, stopping to visit or play golf courses on the way. One course we visited was the links course of Falsterbo, situated in a nature reserve at the tip of Sweden's south west peninsula where the waters of the Sound and the Baltic Sea meet. A bird watchers paradise which attracts thousands of migrating birds. The course was founded in 1909, consisting of 9 holes later extended to 18 in 1930. Walking around the links I was told that my old friend Jim Arthur had been their advisor for many years and they still have fond memories of his visits. One very interesting fact is that while the course was built against the sea and ran along-

side the coast line, so much sand has been washed ashore they are now looking to construct a third nine holes where the sea used to be. A startling contradiction to the coastal erosion we keep hearing about.

I would go on writing about Sweden for many pages but Scott has to fit it in with everything else, so I'll just say it was a trip I will never forget. I would like to thank Maria Strandberg, who organised the whole trip and escorted us around, and the Swedish Golf Federation for their generosity. A special mention to Serge Gauthier, the only other greenkeeper in the party. He is Superintendent at Islemere in Quebec. We had so many interesting chats at the bar after days on the golf course.

At the beginning of October I travelled to Carden Park in Cheshire for the BIGGA National Championship. This was the first of our new look championships. The old National Tournament which had become less attractive over the years, and with the numbers falling we just had to have a new look. My thanks go to everyone who helped put this championship together. It was a great success. The venue, Carden Park, proved an inspired choice. Having said that, when we arrived on Sunday both courses were unplayable. There had been so much rain even the roads were flooded and in some areas of the courses, there was as much as 3ft of water, and you could only see the handrails on one bridge over a stream. We were left wondering if we were going to have a washout, but by mid morning Andy Campbell and his staff had worked wonders, and the Cheshire Course was open for play, and some got in a practice round.

At 7:30am on Monday the first round got underway on the Cheshire Course. As I walked up to the 1st tee I was met by our sponsors, Scotts and Charterhouse, who were supported by Softspikes, dishing out caps and making everyone feel welcome. Even the sun came out to greet the first to tee off, and stayed that way all day. In the afternoon Andy took three of us on a

tour of the Nicklaus Course where his staff were hard at work trying to get the water levels down. It seemed it would need a minor miracle to be playable for the second round on the Tuesday, but Andy was confident they could win the day and so it proved. The Gala Dinner on Monday night was a fine occasion with John Simonett, the guest speaker in brilliant form. So on to Tuesday and the second round. After a delay of 20 minutes play got underway in the sunshine. Andy Campbell and his staff had made it, and we owe them a big thank you. I am not going to report on the championship score, that's Scott's domain, except the incredible 64 by Tony James.

Now that the Championship dust has settled, it's time to take stock and look forward to next year. If you missed out this year get in soon for year 2000. I cannot end without thanking our sponsors, Richard Minton, of Scotts, and David Jenkins, of Charterhouse, for their help and support in putting this event on the map. Long may it continue! Also to Softspikes who also helped in the sponsorship.

Last month I talked about the GTC. This month I just want to draw your attention to our training colleges. Many colleges have gone through a period of change, none more than my local college at Cannington. They lost two of their lecturers last year, both advancing their careers by taking more senior posts with other Colleges. Cannington has been lucky to replace them satisfactorily, and with Nick Rigden who is semi retired, helping in a hands-on capacity.

What this does show, is, that without the help and guidance from greenkeepers some colleges will not be able to provide the sound knowledge and training we all look for. So, it's up to us to take interest in what our local colleges do and teach our students. Again Cannington is lucky to be able to call on Jim Arthur along with greenkeepers in the area, but I just wonder if others are as fortunate.

Gordon Child