

## Feature listing from September '97

**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, 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



# A month to remember



I returned home from the Open Championship at Carnoustie in mid July to take stock of one of the most eventful Opens for a long time. It started with far too much unfair criticism of the way the course was set up. Rough too long, fairways too narrow bore the brunt of adverse topics from players and media alike.

Yes it was tough, but they are supposed to be the best golfers in the world, not 18 handicappers. Maybe they have got to used to playing on courses with wall-to-wall mowing. The unfairness of it all in my view was that it took away some of the praise which was rightly due to John Philp and his staff. The course condition was superb, greens were fast and true, the fairways were so good that I have seen worse greens than they were, and tees and bunkers were the best I've seen anywhere. I personally would like to thank John and his team for the wonderful advert they are for the greenkeeping profession.

The BIGGA Support Team was another success story. They were all on time, did an excellent job, and conducted themselves professionally at all times: Thank you all, you were a credit to the association and yourselves and I was proud to be with you. I would also like to thank the staff for the organisation. I don't know who it was down to, but the marquee was in an excellent position and we had lots of visitors. Everything went smoothly and we all had a great week.

I was back home trying to put pen to paper when I received a call from Jim Paton, Chairman of our Education Committee, asking me if I could fill in for him on some of the Toro Student of the Year interviews with Ken Richardson. It's always a pleasure to talk and listen to young students just starting their careers in greenkeeping, and finding out how much and what they are learning at different colleges. The standards do seem to vary from college to college and I feel there is a lot of work to be done to improve this both by ourselves and the GTC.

Having said that, I think the general standard is improving.

I have just completed my visits for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping as part of the National Award. All the finalists will be visited again by Walter Woods, then on to the interviews at BIGGA HOUSE later in the year. This Toro Award is an excellent competition and we have much to thank Toro for, because I believe it is helping to raise the standards and awareness of our profession. I have seen a big rise in quality of entries this year and it's a credit to everyone who took part.

Like all competitions there can only be one winner which does seem a shame when so much effort has been put in by all the nominees. I would personally like to thank all the golf clubs and greenkeepers for making me so welcome on my visits and I wish them all the very best of luck. Win or not, you all deserve a pat on the back.

We hear all sorts of stories about golfers in relation to greenkeeping, but I was faxed a copy of a newspaper article a few days ago about a lady golfer who is suing a greenkeeper for £200,000. The lady in question lost the sight in one eye after the ball hit a stone hidden in the rough and rebounded into her face. Her case is based on the theory that it is the greenkeepers responsibility to make the course as safe as possible. She first attempted to sue the golf club but abandoned the case after it was point-

ed out that as a member of a private club, she would effectively be suing herself. While we must all sympathise with her in this unfortunate accident, because that is exactly what it was, I can't even start to imagine the consequences for greenkeepers everywhere if the court found in her favour. Surely no greenkeeper can be expected to pick up every stone or object on the golf course before allowing play to start.

Many golf course are built on stony ground and plants such as heather, broom and gorse grow naturally in stony areas. Can you imagine if we were to stone pick golf courses we would need an army of staff, and even then there would be very little golf played. For the greenkeeper concerned, Dougal Duguid, it must be a very worrying time. It is however pleasing to see that his club are supporting him, and the case is being handled by the club's solicitors.

On behalf of greenkeepers everywhere, I wish Dougal every success and a speedy end to this case. Dougal is well known by his Scottish peers and is a fine supporter of BIGGA. Many will have met him at BTME where he is always in attendance and a very popular member.

On the home front, when I arrived home from my Toro travels our family had increased by three. Marion had taken in three fourlegged grass cutters in the shape of Shetland ponies. She said that as I was never home to cut the grass she had to do something. As grasscutters they are unique, as they cut and fertilise as they go. If anyone wants some good old fashioned muck, you know where to come.

Gordon Child