

Feature listing from August '98

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

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

November '99: Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

December '99: Agronomy; Security; Environment Competition Winner; Toro Award Winners

January 2000: Greens Construction; Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDivot; Agronomy; Toro Award review

February 2000: BTME2000 review; Committed to Green interview; Rookery Park GC; Engines; Chairman's profile; Environmental Management

March 2000: Cleobury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

April 2000: Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

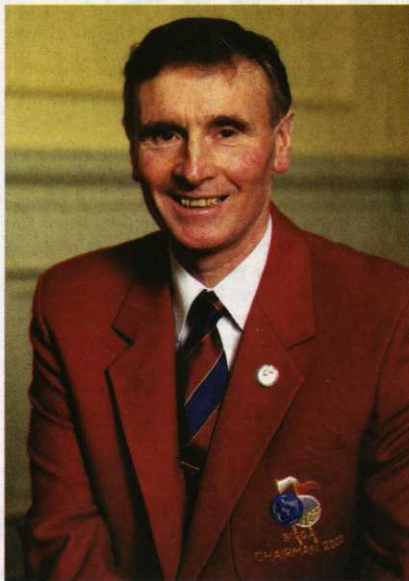
May 2000: Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing; Course Mapping; Compact Tractors

June 2000: National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

July 2000: Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventis profile; Course Conditioning



Training for the future



I received a phone call recently from a very pleased young lady who had some good news for me. It was Tracey, our Membership Services Officer, and the news she had was that we had now passed the 7000 membership level. This is good news and supports the fact that BIGGA is a steadily growing Association, as more and more greenkeepers appreciate the benefits of being a member of BIGGA. With a very professional and forward thinking staff at HQ backed by all the dedicated volunteers from every Section, through Region to the Board of Management all with the same view in mind to make BIGGA an Association to be part of and proud of in this new millennium. No I have not forgotten the Regional Administrators as I want to say well done to all of them and also Tracey and Kirstie for all the hard work that has helped to raise the membership to this next level.

At mention of Kirstie, congratulations on your recent marriage and all our best wishes to you and Salam for a happy and healthy future.

At the end of June I had the pleasure of attending the Scottish Regional Tournament at Newmachar Golf Club near Aberdeen. It was a nice day and although my golf does not improve the company was excel-

lent. I was fortunate to play with Peter Thomson, the Green Convenor at Newmachar, and it was both interesting and enlightening to listen to the obvious enjoyment he got out of working with Dale Robertson the Course Manager and the green staff in their efforts to improve the course especially on the environmental side.

After speaking to Dale it was also obvious that it was a good working relationship from the staff's point of view which is most beneficial to all concerned especially the club itself. The more I speak to people round the country the more I find the Green Convenor/Chairman who is now genuinely interested in the golf course and the staff and perhaps the days of the guys who are only there for a year or two on their way to becoming Captain or possibly to leave their mark on the course are on their way out.

It is amazing what can be accomplished with a harmonious working relationship between Greenkeeper and Green Convenor/Chairman.

My thanks to the Region for their hospitality and not forgetting the third member of our group who I always enjoy playing golf with but don't tell him!

On June 19 BIGGA held their company Golf Day and what a great day it was. Thirty teams from many different companies took part in a Texas scramble. The weather had to be the hottest day of the year, 30 degrees, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. I always believe that we have in this profession a very good relationship with the 'Trade' and it's important that as they support us, we should support them.

From pleasure to business and next day it was our June Board of Management meeting. At this meeting two

far reaching proposals were put to the Board. The first of these proposals was that BIGGA should adopt a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme. This is a scheme which will allow members to carry on with training as and when they are able and also a system that individuals can enter into at any stage in their career. More and more industries are adopting CPD and I believe it is right for BIGGA as well and another step forward in BIGGA's efforts to give members access to education and training at all times. So I was extremely pleased when the Board unanimously agreed to adopt this scheme immediately. (See details page 18).

The second proposal was one to introduce a new category of membership for new unqualified members and also a minimum qualification for Full Greenkeeper membership. Now for those of you like me who do not have any paper qualifications don't panic as all current members would retain their current membership category and this is an important stipulation. This proposal would obviously be a major change in membership terms and the Board decided that this needed to be discussed at both Section and Region levels before coming back to the Board of Management.

Even if you are not on a Section committee but you have views on this proposal contact your Section Secretary as everyone will be listened to.

As I started this report with good news I end it with sad news from our point of view with the imminent departure of Jenny Panton from our Sales and Marketing team. Jenny will be missed, but we all wish her the best of luck in her new job.

Elliott Small