

## Feature listing from December '98

**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 review

**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

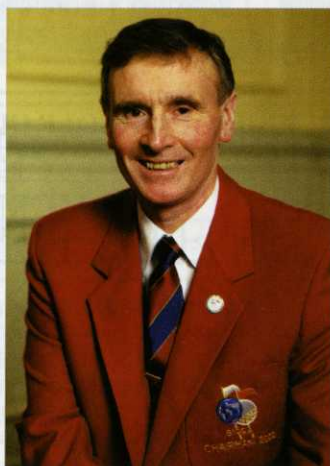
**July 2000;** Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventus profile; Course Conditioning

**August 2000;** Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship

**September 2000;** Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks

**October 2000;** Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

**November 2000;** Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management



I remember as a young lad the floods of 1947. At that age it was exciting to watch dead sheep and cows and even 60 foot trees being swept downstream through the centre of my hometown.

Watching the television pictures of the flooding in the past two weeks one can only feel sympathy for all the victims of these torrents of water. Golf courses are not important in the scheme of things when conditions are as bad as they have been, the care of lives and homes are obviously the priorities. However as things return to normal, which hopefully they will soon, I am sure there are some of you out there who will return to your courses which have also been flooded. I have never experienced it so I don't know what it is like and all I can do, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of all your fellow members, is offer you moral support and sympathy. Humour can be a great way of making a bad situation seem better and I bet there are a few good stories to be heard of greenkeeping staff rowing to switch the greens and golfers wondering why you haven't pumped the several million gallons of water off the course. I'm sure Scott would love to hear some of your humorous and frustrating stories after you have all returned to normal.

As I sit typing this, and I look upward for divine inspiration as to what to say next, my eye catches the BIGGA calendar open as it should be at November and a picture of Titirangi Golf Club in New Zealand. I have played there so it brought back memories, but what is most striking is how dry it is with burnt fairways and the comparison with what we are suffering now. Never mind roll on next summer.

I was asked by David McInroy MD of Scottish Grass Machinery to present

# Time and tide...

a paper, the title to be chosen by David, at a Conference held by SGM on October 17. His choice of subject was 'BIGGA assisting in adding value to the product you provide.' This was aimed at greenkeepers and club officials. At first glance I thought this is not easy but it soon clicked into place. To add value to any product you have to improve that product and this is accomplished by improving the people providing the product and this is what BIGGA is about giving greenkeepers the opportunities to extend their knowledge through further education and providing us with the meeting places for discussion. My thanks to David and his staff for an excellent conference with many fine speakers.

A week later and I was in Northern Ireland to chair the NI section conference. It was a full house, there to hear a first class array of speakers from the European Tour and Wentworth experiences, from David Garland and Chris Kennedy, through to an excellent finish by Peter Jones.

My congratulations to Graham Wylie, NI Chairman and his team who along with Sami from HQ brought together such a quality platform and organised the whole event. As usual the hospitality was, well what can I say, Irish, second to none and thanks again to Graham and a special thanks to Frank Ainsworth and the Templepatrick Hilton for a great night.

At the end of October there was one of the highlights of the BIGGA year, certainly so for the finalists in the Toro Award for excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award. The results and report are elsewhere, suffice for me to say that the judges headed by Andy Brown, of Toro, and Graham Dale and Peter Mansfield, of Lely, all commented on the excellent standard achieved by all the contestants. These events have a certain aura about them, there is tension as we all await the results but the genuine congratulations afforded to the winners showed how well all those involved had gelled together in the short time in each others company. The other most satisfying point was that every finalist that I spoke to said how much they felt they had benefited from the whole event even if they had not won.

Our thanks, once again, to Toro for their sponsorship of a wonderful event not just on the day of the awards but

through the whole competition. So many greenkeepers and students have gained so much from the Toro Awards over the years both in a learning capacity and in the confidence it has imbued them with. Sadly Bob Buckingham, of Toro, could not be with us at the Awards as his son had taken seriously ill. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to your son Bob, (I was able to speak with Bob at Scotsturf and am pleased to say that the young Mr Buckingham is well on his way to a full recovery.)

So on to 8th and 9th November for the Scotsturf show which this year had added another hall to accommodate more stands and certainly seemed to bring more life to a show which had become a bit static in recent years. Like all shows a great meeting place to see friends old and new and it was nice to see some old retired faces, like Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson. Jimmy is recovering from an operation and I am pleased to say he's looking pretty good. Unfortunately I missed Barry Heaney but I know you were there Barry. I was also pleased to have the chance to have lunch with Past Chairman George Malcolm. The BIGGA stand was very busy and Pauline, from HQ and Peter Boyd along with some help from some of the Scottish Region men are to be congratulated on their efforts.

I have had a few interested inquiries during the year about the name of my club - Tulliallan - some thought it was unusual but I'm sure there are many more unusual than that and I came across a couple of crackers recently. The first was Garden of Gods Club and the other my favourite Kissing Camels Golf Course.

How about it? Let's hear you top that. I should say they are both American courses, of course!

I would just like to finish by wishing each and every one of you and all your families a very happy Christmas and best wishes for a dry New Year.

This quote may be aimed at those suffering from the effects of flooding but can equally apply to anyone.

**The best bridge between despair and hope is a good night's sleep**

*G. H. R. Small*