

## Feature listing from February '98

**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

**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

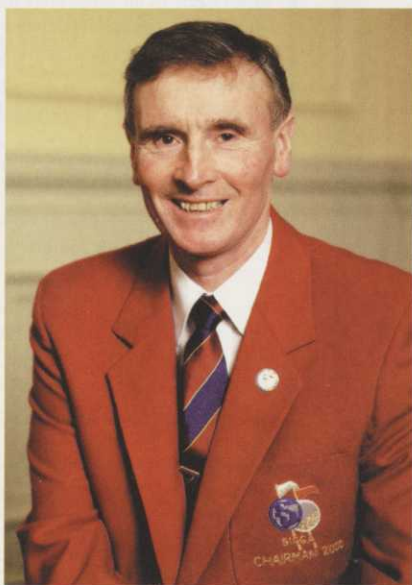
**November '99:** Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

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

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



# Future prospects



It is with a little trepidation that I write this, my first column, as Chairman of BIGGA. Although I have been involved with Greenkeeper Associations in one way or another for many years, to be invited to be Vice Chairman and ultimately Chairman of BIGGA came as a bit of a shock.

However, after much thought and discussion with my wife and my Green Convener I was delighted to accept and it was a very special moment for me on donning the Chairman's Blazer for the year 2000. I am very much aware of the great honour and responsibility bestowed on me and I will do my utmost to carry out my duties as your Chairman as efficiently and professionally as my predecessors.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Gordon Child for inviting me to be his Vice Chairman and also to congratulate him on his most successful term as Chairman, especially in dealing with some difficult developments in that time. I also wish to thank Tulliallan Golf Club Council, who have given me 100% support to enable me to take on what I know is going to be a very busy year as well as my own staff who will have to cope with additional responsibilities this year. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year and hope that we can all make

the year 2000 a great start for BIGGA in the 21st Century.

It's only natural that, as we enter a new era, we reminisce on the past and also look forward to the future. I don't think it does any harm to look back at how things were and how we have progressed and I would like to briefly do that now.

The history of Greenkeeper's Associations over the last century can be a bit vague. I have a photograph of a gathering of greenkeepers in Edinburgh in 1904/5 and we know there was a meeting held in Broxburn, West Lothian in 1908 to form a Scottish Greenkeepers Association. In 1912 GGA, the Golf Greenkeepers Association was formed in England.

Unfortunately a lot of the early records in Scotland were destroyed in a fire so information is thin on the ground. However, through the 20's and 30's both the Associations were alive. In 1935 GGA changed their name to BGGG and the SGA amalgamated with them, so there was only BGGG. This carried on through the war years but in 1946 they split up and the SGA was reformed in Scotland and eventually they changed their title to SGGG.

In 1972 SGGG became SIGGA with international members from the continent. In the early 80's a breakaway group from BGGG formed the EIGGA, English and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, so now we had three Associations in Britain. In 1984 talks started between the three Associations and after two years hard talking and many meetings, it was decided to amalgamate and BIGGA came into being on January

1, 1987. We started off with 1,200 members and that has now grown to nearly 7,000.

From 1908 the fortunes of the associations fluctuated, membership numbers were never very high and they were run by hard working greenkeepers in their own time with help from members of the associated trades. Fred Hawtree in England and J.L. and Ian Forbes in Scotland spring to mind immediately. Education was unknown, trade lectures were the main source of theoretical knowledge. In the 50's and 60's some college courses started, mostly based on horticulture, and trying to convince colleges and authorities that greenkeeping was a skill, fell on deaf ears. SIGGA eventually got all five colleges in Scotland together to teach pure greenkeeping courses in 1980.

So, as we look back, it is apparent that, notwithstanding the tireless efforts by many greenkeepers over the years, that the real progress has been made since the formation of BIGGA in 1987. And now we must look forward and keep this progress going. We have laid the foundations and must keep on building. None of us will see 2100 but our descendants will and some of them will be greenkeepers.

Let's leave them an association so strong that they will look back over their 100 years and thank us for all the hard work and hopefully, foresight.

I wish you all good weather for 2000.

**Elliott Small**  
National Chairman