

Feature listing from June '98

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

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

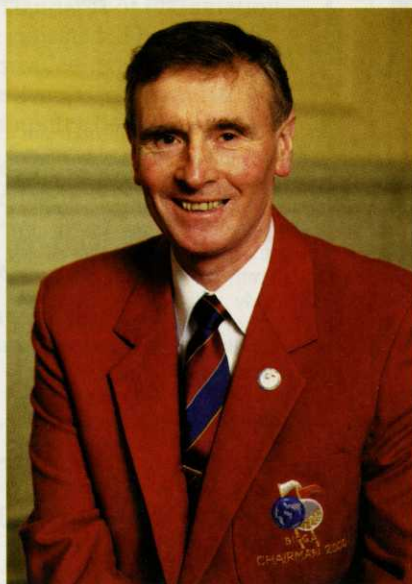
March 2000: Cleobury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

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



from course openings to World Conferences



On Friday 14 April I attended the opening by the Duke of York of the new Greenkeeping Academy at the Berkshire College of Agriculture. This is a new 6-hole course built within the college grounds specifically for the training of greenkeepers. The College are to be commended for their initiatives in looking to the future, as they have incorporated into their design diverse areas of conservation and also have plans for research into using waste water from their own plant for irrigation purposes. Each of the six greens are of a different construction and Head Greenkeeper Bob Woodward has the interesting task of maintaining the complex. I wish Bob the best of luck and perhaps he could find the time to update us through the pages GI on the progress of the greens. I enjoyed talking to many people from all sections of golf including Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake from Temple who were very much involved with the project. Also the Ely brothers, ex students of the Berkshire, who constructed the course.

I well remember Cecil George and Harry Diamond advocating back in SIGGA days that we should have our own golf course for training greenkeepers. I would like to think that may be a possibility in the future, my personal opinion, but in the meantime it is interesting to see how many colleges now have their own courses.

After a relaxing Saturday at home that week, it was up early on the Sunday morn-

ing to get the train for York and to the World Conference on Greenkeeper Training and Education at BIGGA House. I must admit to being a wee bit apprehensive about this Conference, but my fears were groundless as it turned out to be a most successful three days. (Report elsewhere).

It was fascinating to listen to people from so many different countries explaining their training systems, or in some cases, the lack of any training. How often were similar points raised by different delegates and the outcome of the group sessions on 'Problems and Possible Solutions' made everyone aware that the problems were global. Funding, Standards, Communication and

Language were common problems in each group.

It was a most enlightening few days and seeing the delegates exchanging cards and e-mail addresses, there was an air of expectancy that, in the first instance, better and more regular communication between all the associations and a willingness to share experiences and lessons learned from these experiences, could only help to further strengthen Greenkeeper Associations around the world.

Congratulations to Emma Duggleby, who many of you will remember working in the BIGGA office. Emma left BIGGA to concentrate on her golf and it certainly paid off as she has been selected for the Curtis Cup team to play the USA at Ganton in June. Well done Emma and the best of luck for the match.

I went to Western Gailes in Ayrshire to play in the Artier Spring meeting, my first game of golf this year it was to be. Well, what can I say. It was one of the worst days of the year, it poured down, there was a strong wind and it was freezing cold. Those 24 brave souls that played all the way had to be commended as us elder statesmen at the end only managed 8 holes before admitting defeat. My thanks to the Artier section for the day. I thoroughly enjoyed the clubhouse patter.

That was on April 26 and you know what, we have had two weeks of mainly glorious weather since then and I still

haven't had a game yet.

Many of you may have read in a national paper a few weeks ago about Chris Yeaman's son. Chris is Head Greenkeeper at West Linton Golf Club and a hard working member of the East Section committee. His son, Christopher, had been waiting for a liver transplant and I am pleased to say that he has now had the transplant, which has been successful, and after some related complications, he is now stable. I'm sure I speak for all when I say we are all wishing Christopher a full and speedy recovery.

Golf is a great game, a game to be enjoyed by many. Most golf in this country is probably played at private members clubs. The day-to-day running of most of these clubs is usually carried out by, in no particular order, Manager/Secretary, Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Professional and a Club Steward. The relationship between these people will usually be pretty good with the best interests of the club and the members at heart. I know at Tulliallan that we all get on very well with each other and it makes for a better working environment. Why then, if we from all these different associations get on so well at our clubs, is there so little co-operation and communication between our respective Associations. Even though there have been a lot of courses built in the last twenty years, it would appear that golf is in a bit of a stagnation period and we need to encourage many new people, especially younger ones, to play the game. This to my mind is even more reason why all the different associations should be talking to each other on a regular basis with a mind to the future of the game.

There is another group important to the game and these are in the Golf Unions. I believe there are fairly close connections in Wales and Ireland but not a lot in England and Scotland. The game of golf is the important thing here, not individual associations and whilst each association quite rightly will work hard on behalf of its members, they should all have closer working relationships for the good of the game of golf.

With that I leave you with the thought that

'The only limits are, as always, those of vision.'