

Feature listing from March '98

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

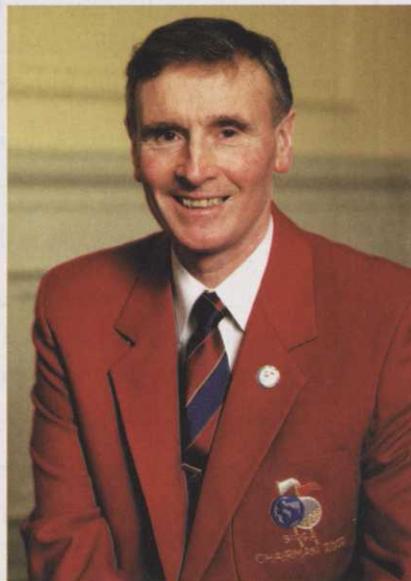
December '99: Agronomy; Security; Environment Competition Winner; Toro Award Winners

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

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



Environmental concerns



I have just returned from a two day Conference at St Andrews, organised by the R&A Golf Course Advisory Panel. The theme was 'On Course for Change' and I found it extremely interesting. Some of the predictions for the future were not exactly comforting, especially for links course with coastal erosion problems.

The cases for and against the use of chemicals on the golf course made for serious discussion and thought. The results of tests just confirmed to me that we are not heavy users of chemicals and that the amount of pollution from chemicals on golf courses is negligible, especially compared with agriculture and industry I wonder sometimes if we are being pinpointed as being easy targets for the anti pesticides lobby. Having been in this profession for many years I know that most greenkeepers have a great love of nature and have been and still are wardens or guardians of wildlife on their courses and actively encourage it. Very few greenkeepers spray for the sake of it... who wants to be bothered with spraying equipment if it is not absolutely necessary.

So, while I am a great lover of nature and the environment and will do I can to protect and nurture it, I also have to stand up and fight for the right to keep on using the limited pesticides

we use in the controlled manner we use them.

The interview on the Environment by Michael Barratt, a shrewd interviewer indeed with David Stubbs, was interesting. Mr Barrett asked some probing questions but we did not learn much additional information to that carried in recent issues of Greenkeeper International magazine.

All in all I enjoyed the whole conference which was attended by representatives from Golf Unions, Secretaries, Greens Chairmen/Convenors, Architects Colleges the R&A and many from European Golf Federations and, of course, Greenkeepers. A good cross section of the golfing world.

For all of you out there who have been doing a bit of hand digging using a spade this winter... well that's what we might call it. On a McAlpine building site it is better known as "A non mechanical soil displacement facilitator". Just remember that when you are in a Green's Meeting and calling a spade a spade.

I know BTME 2000 was well covered in the February issue but as I had written my February copy before BTME I wanted to say a few words about the whole week. It was certainly another success from Monday to Friday. From the Conference with its new concept, which was well received, through the workshops and the seminars the Education side was extremely well catered for and mostly highly commended. That does not mean that we can sit back as there are areas that can be improved and with feedback from members our Education staff are already working on these areas. However, if you were at any of these events and have ideas for improvements let's hear them now.

The show itself, with the new Hall Q, seemed so much bigger and certainly took longer to get round it.

On the social side, well if there's a show week anywhere with a better atmosphere I'd like to see it. When we look at what has been accomplished in the last few years we have to be very proud of the BTME week and when I say "we" I am not talking of just our staff and the Board of Management but of all of us greenkeepers who make it the success that it is.

One last word on BTME week, I know that after the show HQ is bombarded with phone calls and letters from many of you passing on your personal thanks for your enjoyment of the week. I would like, on behalf of members, to thank all of our staff in every department for all their hard work and professionalism not just during the week but in the organisation of it during the year previous.

In my last report I left you with good wishes for good weather in 2000. Don't despair, I am sure the better weather is on its way.

Keep smiling, I leave you with this thought:

**A cloudy day is no match
for a sunny disposition**

**Elliott Small
National Chairman**