

Feature listing from October '98

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 Bonalack 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



Looking to the future



Well it was nice to have a bit of a respite in August, not so much going on in the 'BIGGA' world.

One event I did attend, along with John Crawford (Past Chairman) who was representing the Scottish Region, was a Forum held by the Scottish Golf Union under the title 'Scottish Golf Development Initiative'. The aim was to bring together all the bodies involved in golf in Scotland to look at and discuss ways of developing the game of golf in Scotland. There were so many ideas put forward that if even a percentage of them come to fruition it would help the development of the game. Golf in Schools, family memberships in clubs, better facilities for practise, especially for Juniors, more 9-hole courses, short game golf for children, assist clubs to run themselves as businesses, promote clubs in a better light and in conjunction with tourism sell ourselves. These were just some of the ideas that came from a wide spectrum of the golf fraternity in Scotland.

One of the interesting points about this forum was that BIGGA was invited to send a representative as one of the main bodies interested in golf. Until recently a forum like this would have been held with no representation from greenkeepers, even though greenkeepers are probably more affected by the growth of golf and the prosperity of clubs than anyone else. After all it is our livelihood and usually the largest number of employees at any club are the greenstaff.

One little aside at the forum was when, at a break, I was asked what BIGGA stood for. This was from a senior representative of a national golfing body. I knew what their Association was all about why they didn't they know us. This brought home to me how insular some of these bodies are and also how much work we still have to do at BIGGA to be recognised on a par with them.

However, that aside, this was a positive and interesting two days, bringing together of views on how to expand and develop golf into the new century and I congratulate the Scottish Golf Union for this and I look forward to BIGGA being involved in future meetings.

It was annoying reading Tracey's report in the August issue about the abuse of membership cards for courtesy golf. I know it's a very small minority, but there are always some rotten eggs in the basket who are only looking to take advantage for purely selfish reasons. So don't hold back if you know of any abuse of our card, report them it could be you who can't get a game at a club because they have refused courtesy to greenkeepers.

I have just returned from Saltex where we were lucky with the weather. One heavy shower on Wednesday was the only glitch in the show. I was asked to be one of the stand judges on the Tuesday morning and what a hard job that is. I'm glad I had someone else with me to bounce our thoughts off each other. However we survived with no threats and no bribes... well I don't think cups of coffee count as bribes. One thing for sure our staff were kept busy. Tracey had numerous enquiries and questions about membership, with quite a lot of forms going out, and the sales and marketing team must have had sore feet after all their walking, as they made contact with customers, sponsors and advertisers old and new. I spent three hours solid going round with Steve Hardy talking to many companies. Tell you what, give me a job on the course any day! Anyway I would like to say well done to all the staff there for their hard work.

By the time this is published most of us will probably have finished our autumn renovation work or at least be well through it. Scarifying, hollow coring, micro coring, verti draining, top

dressing, overseeding - we will all be doing all or some of these tasks. Hopefully we will have had some reasonable weather to get them done and with decent temperatures we will go into the winter season in good health.

This is how I see it now, no longer can we talk about "The Playing Season", meaning April to September. The demands for play are so great now that to my mind we have two seasons - Summer and Winter - and we have to prepare for both. It has been interesting recently to talk to more and more who have been able to hollow core greens in August. Usually during a quiet two weeks when their members are on holiday, they have raved about their green's recovery rate, and are now going into the winter season in fine condition.

This is something we should all consider and start working towards. I know, your club will never wear it. Well I can assure you that is what these other clubs said, "If you don't ask, you'll never get". Find out if someone near you has done it, and use them as an example and make your request as professional as possible.

All you need to do is convince your green committee, not the whole club. If they won't go for it as a whole, ask to try nine greens or six or three or even one (always start high) next year. Once they have seen the recovery rate as compared with late September or October and the ensuing benefits they will be convinced for the next year.

Finally I would like to extend a warm welcome to Meredith Foster who has joined the Sales and Marketing team in place of Jenny, and also to Brad Anderson, who is taking Janine's place as Receptionist/Trainee Clerical Assistant.

I hope they will both enjoy their time with us.

In the July issue I did not finish with a quote. I'd like to thank those people who asked me why as it made me realise that someone does read this article. This month I have to thank one of my assistants, Mark Gardner, for the following

**Don't bask in
yesterday's glory**

S. A. R. Small