

Feature listing from April '99

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

December 2000; Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001; Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001; BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001; York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile



Shaken not stirred



Last month I reported from Dallas and the GCSAA Conference and Show where the presence of the Association was much appreciated by all and many new contacts were made. I'd like to thank everyone, particularly the GCSAA staff and officials who did so much to make the visit enjoyable.

From Dallas I moved north to Vancouver and the Canadian equivalent where I delivered a paper on Winter Greens and the preparation of them.

To summarise, I said that if all the money that was spent preparing temporary or alternative greens was spent on the main greens you wouldn't need the alternatives. If the weather was so bad that the greens were unplayable the course shouldn't be open. I think the paper was well received, particularly when I moved on to talk about the history of Walton Heath and James Baird.

I thoroughly enjoyed the CGSA Show, everyone was extremely friendly and the Show so well organised with a real buzz about it. It was also good to see Ray Day, part of the successful Bernard & Co-sponsored BIGGA delegation, carrying the Union Flag before the Banquet. They were terrific ambas-

sadors for the Association during their time in Canada.

On the last day we were caught up in the earthquake which had its centre in Seattle, less than 100 miles away.

I was in our hotel room at the time and being typically British I went and looked out of the window, only to see the office workers in the building opposite all rapidly moving away from the windows and down the stairs.

Last month I talked about my new career as a columnist. Well I've now become a TV celebrity as well ... not once but twice. We got outside the hotel after the earthquake only for me to be grabbed by a local news crew and interviewed about what had happened. Buildings were moving about a foot up and down and it really was quite frightening. It had measured 6.8 at its epicentre in Seattle.

Arriving back home I had my second television appearance. Neil and I were interviewed for Sky Sports about BIGGA and greenkeeping matters generally. A great deal was left on the cutting room floor but I was pleased to have had the chance to make the point that nowadays the constant striving for pace on the greens is, in my opinion, not good for the greens or the greenkeeper. They inserted old black and white footage of a golfer from a previous generation putting on a green to highlight the point. It is good to see the Association gaining in credibility and recognition and appearing on television can only be positive for us.

Ironically the first picture they showed was of the wheels of my car being washed down with disinfectant

because of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Walton Heath has been affected by Foot and Mouth as we are on common land. We had an enforced closure for a week and, as I write, have restrictions on access to the course.

The annual South East Region's Gentleman's Dinner was also a victim, the first time in living memory - 30 years - it has been postponed. I was hoping to have had the chance to thank the club for its support of the Dinner and the Association generally and also thank my staff for all the work they have done over the years to prepare the course for the arrival of so many greenkeepers and their guests. Hopefully it can be rearranged for later in the year.

Other cancellations included the GCSAI Conference I was due to attend in Ireland, and Westurf, and my thoughts go out to those, including Paula in the South West and South Wales, who had put so much work into these events only to see them fall victim to this horrendous disease.

Coming on the back of the flooding which caused course closures, the Foot and Mouth outbreak is another body blow to so many people, and we can only hope that it is halted soon and they can work towards getting back to some sort of normality.

On a positive note I was delighted to arrive home after my travels to discover that the team had already vertidraind the greens saving me a lot of grief as we all know it's never a popular operation in the eyes of the golfer.

Sometimes being away for a period has its advantages!

Clive Osgood
Chairman