

Feature listing from August '99

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: Clebury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westturf 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; Aventis 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; Clondeboye 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

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001: Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

July 2001: Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings



Lytham delights



I write this column just as I am about to leave Royal Lytham and St Annes after a wonderful Open Championship.

Many of the experienced men I've spoken within our excellently located Marquee - with the Practice Ground on one side and the Bollinger and Seafood tents on the other - have been fulsome in their praise of the golf course which really has been a credit to the work of Paul Smith and his team. The preparation was excellent and the players have also been quick with their praise.

Paul, in his first Open Championship in charge, should be really proud of the achievement of himself and his team.

The BIGGA Support Team performed marvelously as well. One of the comments I heard was that they wielded the rakes with all the precision of surgeons and when you watch them you can appreciate exactly what was meant by that.

Some of the galleries must have wondered what it was all about when they watched the guys using the rakes "the wrong way round" but they had been told to flat rake all the bunkers. Despite the fact that there were 197 bunkers which were raked 1,585 times during

the four days complaints from players were minimal. Quite a feat and a tribute to a group of greenkeepers who willingly take holidays and give up their time to be a part of the Open Championship.

They may have had an even greater role to play if the early weather forecasts had been accurate. Heavy rain was predicted and contingency plans for squeegeeing teams were put in place by ourselves the R&A and Paul Smith but this rain didn't materialise and they team busied itself with its usual duties of bunker raking and post play divoting.

It was also appreciated that The Duke of York spoke with some of the guys out on the golf course during his visit on the Saturday. Having visited BTME in the past, as well as opening BIGGA HOUSE, he is a great friend of greenkeepers and he showed that with the interest he took in the work we were doing.

Among the visitors to the BIGGA Marquee was our President, Sir Michael Bonallack, who presented Brian Sullivan with his Master Greenkeeper blazer and plaque. It was a relief finally to unite Brian with his blazer as it has travelled many miles in failed attempts to meet up with him! However the happy ending saw Brian and his wife Marybeth visiting us at Lytham. Talking with Brian, who is the Superintendent at the Bell Air Country Club in Los Angeles, it was

interesting that he suffered from exactly the same problems as we do in this country.

Incidentally Jamie Patino, President of Valderrama Golf Club, also popped in to collect a copy of the new Wildside of Golf booklet we have produced with the support of the Golden and Silver Key holders. This was distributed in the Media Centre and to the BBC and is aimed at golf club members and non-golfers with the aim of encouraging a more positive view of the environmental benefits of the game.

On a personal note it was good to meet up with George O'Grady, Deputy Executive Director of the European Tour, at the Golf Writers Dinner earlier in the week. George was the Tournament Director for the 1981 Ryder Cup played at my course at Walton Heath. We recalled our experiences during that exceptionally wet week and I joked with him that I reckoned he was to blame for all the rain.

After the thrills of Lytham it was back to work where I was able to admire the summer aeration and top dressing work the team had done in my absence. As I've said before it is great to be able to schedule this type of work when I'm furthest away.

Clive Osgood, Chairman