

Feature listing from December '99

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; Saltext 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; Saltext 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

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

August 2001: Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltext Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

September 2001: Ryder Cup preview; Chafer Grubs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDivot; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

October 2001: Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview/ Saltext review

November 2001: BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC



... and so to Sutton United



Another much travelled month taking in Germany and Scotland and many points in between.

The German trip was to Dortmund as the guest of the German Greenkeepers Association at their annual Conference and Exhibition. As you would expect it was a superbly organised event with top quality speakers and instantaneous translation of the papers. Among those speakers was Bruce Williams, a Past President of the GCSAA who was there with another GCSAA Past President, Gerry Faubel.

We also had the opportunity to visit a local golf club and the Borussia Dortmund and Schalke 04 football grounds. The Schalke Stadium was particularly impressive because, like the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff it has a retractable roof, but in this case the turf is wheeled out on pallets between matches.

One point that was made was that they were still having problems with it because it is being stored too close to the stadium and shading was still a problem. We were actually asked not to go on the pitch because they didn't think the turf was up to it. Another point made was that the Bundesliga insist that the pitch is in place five days before a match. Having said all that it didn't seem to bother Schalke as they beat Arsenal a couple of days after our visit in the first phase of the

Champions' League.

The real reason for my visit was to speak on the occasion of Claus Detlef Ratjen's retirement as President of the German Greenkeepers Association. Claus is a wonderful fellow and a man who nurtured a vision of uniting greenkeepers throughout Europe. He worked unceasingly in this regard and was rewarded when FEGGA was formed in '96. He was a guiding light behind the Federation and went on to become its Chairman. Greenkeepers throughout Europe have a lot to thank him for.

It was a real pleasure to pay tribute to him as I always feel that with Claus he is so friendly that he makes me feel welcome even in my own country.

My next trip was to Scotland for Scotsturf which was very much a flying visit but a very enjoyable one.

Although not a BIGGA Show it is very much a greenkeepers' occasion with a great deal of relevance to our members. In fact I, although a long way from home, did a little bit of business during the day. It was a successful Show from BIGGA's perspective. The new location for the stand meant everyone had to walk past and Cheryl and Pauline were extremely busy making contacts for Greenkeeper International and BTME, while Peter Boyd, as always, was at the helm.

While I've talked about two trips I did make I must mention one I was unable to undertake. Circumstances dictated that I was unable to travel north for the final of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Awards but I was absolutely delighted to learn that the two winners came from the South East. Huw Morgan and Andrew Pledger are two worthy winners and I'm sure they will be superb ambassadors for the Association during the

next year.

Nearer to home, those of you who know me well must be amazed that I've reached December before mentioning my beloved Sutton United, but one look at the Ryman's League table will show you why. We're not too good in the league and we're out of both the FA Cup and the FA Trophy. As a Vice President of the Club I haven't been able to get there as often as I should have been as BIGGA business has taken priority but perhaps with the season we are having that is just as well.

Even nearer to home, I thought I'd got away with it when the Gentleman's Dinner was cancelled earlier in the year but it came round again. We were lucky with the weather, as ever there was a good turnout and it seemed everyone seemed to enjoyed themselves. I must confess that I'd been away on my travels and Mick Haynes and the rest of the team had prepared the course and I was delighted that Mick and the team were given due acknowledgement and appreciation for the great work they had done.

Still on the course it seems that the season just gets longer and longer as, as I write, we are still cutting fairways as least once a week and we've only just got underway on our winter programme.

It just leaves me to wish all BIGGA members and their families a Happy Christmas and a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

Clive Osgood, Chairman