

## Feature listing from January '99

**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;** Carmoustie, 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

**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; Clandeboy 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



Thorpeness would seem to be an awful long way out on the Suffolk coast but it didn't deter a large number of South East Region members from attending their annual Seminar there. This was another place that I have visited for the first time this year and another one pencilled into the memory box to return to, on a holiday next time. The Seminar was excellent, all the speakers were so interesting, talking about the 'Future of Greenkeeping'. Mind you its often a bit scary when you get a glimpse of what lies ahead and when I see the enormous advances made in recent years I sometimes think I'm glad I'm coming to the end of my career. My thanks to the South East Region - their Chairman, Ray Day, and RA, Derek Farrington, and especially to Ian Willett who seemed to be everywhere making sure all was well, he even appeared next morning to advise me on the road conditions. Thanks to you all I thoroughly enjoyed my time.

FEGGA, the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations held their annual Conference in Munich on the 24th and 25th November. Fifteen out of the 17 member countries were represented and each country had to give a verbal report on their education and training. After listening to all the other delegates give their reports in English I had that guilty feeling again at having never learnt another language. FEGGA is still a young body and therefore still growing but the fact that it is there gives the smaller European associations a focal point through which they can communicate and help each other in the process.

In the November column I posed the question of unusual names for golf clubs. My thanks to Ian Bennion from Vancouver for his prompt return shown on page 10 of this issue.

# What a year!

Unfortunately because I had to go to Germany I was unable to attend the Presentation of the Environment Awards held this year at the winning club the Dyke GC. My congratulations to David Ansell and his team and congratulations also to the runners-up, although you did not win you must be pretty good to get this far. My thanks also to Clive for standing in for me.

I must offer a word to an old friend at this point after having won through to the final of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and then the Environment Competition and just missing out both times. Ronnie Bunting, from Kilmacollm, must have been a bit low so it was great news to see that he is one of the first to achieve the Committed to Green Recognition. Well done Ronnie. You deserve it and knowing your determination I know you will be back. Ronnie was my first assistant many years ago and I was amused one day on approaching the workshop to hear Ronnie talking to a piece of machinery which we were having a problem with. As he wrestled with a seized part his words were "You'll go." "By jingo you'll go." "You little b..... you'll go." by this time his voice was getting louder. However, another two threats not to be repeated here and an exultant "I told you you would go." A determination never to be beaten and a passion for nature, learning and education, qualities of Ronnie's which many young greenkeepers should aspire to.

Well this will be the last column that I will write as your Chairman before handing over to Clive at the AGM at BTME. The two main questions I have been asked are "Have you enjoyed your year?" and "What has been the highlight?" The answers are of course I have, and there have been no highlights as such, just a lot of educational and interesting and rewarding experiences. Attending the World Education Conference and the FEGGA Conference and communicating on greenkeeping matters with so many different nationalities, including delegates even from Russia where there is only one club.

Receiving the Green Apple Award on BIGGA's behalf for the Environment competition. Unfortunately Rod Baker, from Amazone, the originator and sponsor of the competition could not be there to receive the award with me, but it was a proud moment nonetheless.

Talking to the winners and runners-up at the Toro Awards and seeing the pride and confidence they had in their own ability. Watching members who had worked

so hard over a considerable period of time receive their Master Greenkeeper Award. Taking an ear bashing at a Section or Region event from a member not happy about something.

When I look back at all these experiences I think to myself you know 10 years ago greenkeeping never had these opportunities. As I have travelled round the country I have spoken with many guys, who give up some of their free time to run Sections and Regions. They are not doing it for their own good but for the better good of greenkeeping. An old friend of mine used to say that if every member of an association spent only two years on their local committee there would never be a shortage of committee members. One thing I have learnt in my many years involvement with greenkeeping associations has been that I could never change anything from the outside.

I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as Chairman and I thank everyone who welcomed me and looked after me at all the events I attended this year. To all the staff at Headquarters and the Regional Administrators for their assistance and their hard work in running our Association and to my Vice Chairman, Clive, and the Board of Management and Trustees for their diligence and support throughout the year my thanks to you all.

I must also thank my club, Tulliallan, the Captain and Council for their tremendous support during this year and my staff Kenny, Mark, David, Stuart and William who have done an excellent job on the course all year. Thanks lads.

And finally to my family; Gary, who is not a greenkeeper and so we do not talk about it, which is a good thing at times. Craig, who is a greenkeeper, and who is not slow to let me know when he thinks I've said or written something wrong, and that is also a good thing at times and, of course, Edna for her support and encouragement as well as her practical work in many ways over many years. Thank you all.

My final thought is;

We make a living by what we get,  
we make a life by what we give.