

Feature listing from June '99

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 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 Fearn; 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

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; Rain/Bird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines



What a fickle bunch



As I mentioned last month I was due to pay a visit to the South West and South Wales Region which has been particularly badly affected by the Foot and Mouth Outbreak. Well I made the trip, which took in a Regional Health and Safety course held at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, and I was delighted to have the chance to say a few words and offer a sympathetic ear in support of those who have been particularly badly hit. I was impressed by the manner in which the greenkeepers I met are facing up to this immensely difficult situation and passed on the thoughts and good wishes of their colleagues in other parts of the country.

I was certainly pleased to have been able to make the trip and it also gave me a chance of seeing the work of Richard Whyman and his team at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club. It hadn't been affected by the FMD, in fact it had seen quite a lot of play, and despite a hard winter it was in great condition. You could see that Richard and the team had obviously been busy through the winter.

Moving on to other matters, I was delighted to hear of the excellent response to the R&A funded survey

which had been circulated by Mike Williamson. It is by your taking part in such projects that we on the Board of Management get a feeling for how well the Association is working and I certainly appreciate the constructive criticisms and observations that I have already seen coming out of the survey. You can be assured that these will be considered and discussed at the next Board of Management meeting.

At this time of year, when we are getting well into the season there is a greater emphasis on presentation and the need for our machines to be working to their best capability is important. With that in mind I have been pleased to see on my visits round the country more and more clubs now have a designated mechanic. To my mind this is the key to the job as it frees up the rest of the guys to get on with their main work. We at Walton Heath are lucky enough to have one of the best mechanics and his work is really invaluable.

At the time of writing the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth is just a week away and I expect by now Chris Kennedy and his team will be recovering after another successful week. Last year the weather was appalling and BIGGA's Support team was a great help to Chris in getting the course playable quickly after the torrential rain. This year the South East Region is organising the team, comprising members who have given up valuable time over a Bank Holiday to take part. Their effort is certainly appreciated at one of the highest profile events on the golfing calendar.

Reading last month's magazine the "True Grit" article by Dr Stephen Baker of the STRI caught my eye. It reminded me of a PGA European Tour Conference I attended about 10 years ago in Penina, Portugal, when we spent most of the five days talking about nothing but bunker sand. It is truly a huge subject and I think it can be summed up by the last paragraph in Dr Baker's article.

"...there have been reported cases of sands being accepted as excellent by members at one golf club while the same sand is considered poor on other courses. This may be a result of the fickleness of the golfer, but clearly further work is needed to improve our understanding of the effects of installation methods, sand depth and maintenance."

With my greenkeeper hat on I've often considered collecting together samples of sand and presenting them to the membership so they can make up their own minds on what they want.

Talking about fickleness brings me nicely to the weather. Having endured the wettest winter in our or anybody else's lifetime I've been talking with colleagues in the south east and we reckon it's now too dry and wouldn't mind a little bit of water.

The point was brought home to me as I drove past Epsom Downs, which will host the Derby in a few weeks time, and they had their watering system full on giving the track as much water as they could.

I feel that every day you don't have to use the watering system is a bonus and just a touch of the real stuff would be welcome at the moment.

As I said we are a fickle bunch.

Clive Osgood