

Feature listing from November '99

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; 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; 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; 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; Saltex 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' Saltex review



Whirlwind tours



This has been another busy month with quite a bit of travelling involved.

It started with a visit to Penrith Golf Club in the Northern Region for the Course Care Cumbria Cup which had been postponed from earlier in the year. I'd never been to that part of the world before and it really was delightful. It was an extremely friendly and hospitable golf club and we were all entertained royally. It was also good to meet so many members from that area. They are a hardy bunch because the rain didn't stop anybody from enjoying their golf.

It was then off to another part of the world which was new to me. Sweden, where I'd been invited by Rolf Lowgren, President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association to the Elmia Park and Golf 2001 Conference and Exhibition, in Jonkoping in the centre of the country.

I must thank Tommy and Helen Lindelof, long time friends of the Association, who collected us from the airport and showed us many of the sites of Stockholm. It was extremely kind of them and I certainly appreciated the time they gave over to looking after us.

The Show was excellent, quite large with parts of it inside and others out. I attended some seminars, which fortunately were in English, and was extremely impressed by the enthusi-

asm and dedication shown by many of the young greenkeepers in attendance and who were also presented with diplomas, during a presentation ceremony.

Golf is really taking off in Sweden and job prospects must be excellent as I understand there are proposals for 50 new courses to be built in the Stockholm area alone.

I had hoped to meet a couple of American friends at the show but due to the current situation and the travel concerns they had been advised not to make the trip.

The BIGGA National Golf Championship at

Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale golf clubs was a wonderful event. We were extremely fortunate with the weather and we had two great golf courses to play.

Chris Whittle and Mike Mercer had done a wonderful job on them although I'm sure Chris' comment that the first day gales were only a "stiff breeze" had a few of the players who had struggled to cope, cursing a bit!

Having said that there was some excellent golf played not least by two of the older hands, Walter Woods and George Brown, who were engaged in their own private tournament during the two days and then found they had finished high up the main leaderboard. St Andrews just edged out Turnberry in that other event.

Local man Chris Ball, who works at Hillside and is a former Royal Birkdale junior, won the main prize with a two round nett total of 143. Extremely fine golf under any circumstances. Board of Management member, Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor, won the scratch prize having shot an outstanding 74 over Birkdale in Chris' stiff breeze - there were gusts of up to 50mph so I wouldn't want to find myself in a Whittle hurricane! - and followed it up with a 77. I was also delighted that the South East won the team prize. But then I would be, wouldn't I!

There were over 90 players in the Championship and I think everyone who played will be looking forward to going back to Southport next year when it is to be played over Hillside and Hesketh. I'd like to thank all the sponsors who helped make the event such a success and such an enjoyable experience.

On the professional tournament front I'd like to pass on my thoughts to Dave Samuels and his team at The Belfry, whose preparations for the Ryder Cup were cut short at the last minute. They have now to start building the course, not to mention themselves, up for another 12 months. And to Chris Kennedy who produced another superb test of golf for the World Matchplay. Congratulations to Ian Woosnam on that one. Some of the golf during the week and particularly in the final was quite unbelievable and it shows you don't need to have the very top ranked players to produce a great tournament.

One event I wasn't able to attend during the month due to other commitments was the Surrey Section Autumn meeting at Croham Hurst but I was told that Roger Tydeman had the course in immaculate condition.

I also had the pleasure of welcoming Stig Persson, a regular member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open, and officials of Ljunghusens GC to Walton Heath. They were over to look at heather management on Surrey golf courses.

On the home front, we're well into our autumn programme and I've managed to miss yet more verti-draining work - it's pure coincidence I can assure you - and we're in the period of what I call soft growth. Hopefully by the time you read this you will be well into your winter programmes and I wish you all the best with the projects you are undertaking.

Clive Osgood, Chairman