

Feature listing from April 2000

- 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; Scots turf preview' Saltex review
- November 2001;** BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC
- December 2001;** Toro Award Winners; Southern Galles GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal
- January 2002;** Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A first for Andy Campbell; New products
- February 2002;** Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlerock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrax profile; Barn Owl special report
- March 2002;** Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDivot



Richard Barker returns from the freezing cold of Canada where he saw the success of a Silent Auction. He is also ready for the new golf season over here

Masters time again



Having not long unpacked my short sleeve shirts from my trip to the States it was now time to pack my roll necks and winter woollies and head off to Quebec in Canada following an invitation to the Canadian Show.

Last year I received the invitation with just one downside – could I make a presentation to the Canadian delegates on some Greenkeeping topic, well after some thought on various topics and also learning that the Canadian Show ties in each year with a Provincial Show which would obviously be well supported by those in that Province, I decided on a general topic – Greenkeeping in the UK, bearing in mind that golf in this area of Canada would be non-existent at this time of year.

How right I was, as temperatures plummeted and the wind chill made it –25 to –30 degrees with a covering of snow all over. Golf was far from anyone's mind. Incidentally, I spoke to several Superintendents who were greenkeeping for eight months and ski instructors for the other four months – quite a nice balance really!

Having made my presentation, I was pleasantly surprised at the feedback I received with regard to the Canadians suffering from the same frustrations that we do back home certainly from members and committees. Like the Americans, however, they seem to have

the budgets and staffing levels – 14-22 people for 18 holes to put things right, when they can play.

Although the show was not on the same scale as BTME there was still plenty of interest and business being done – none more so at the Silent Auction where anything from a travel bag to a piece of machinery was being bid for. One item that caught my attention was an autographed Ice Hockey Shirt which fetched 1250 Canadian Dollars – about £500.

The Canadians certainly excelled with their social programme. I was made to feel most welcome at all their functions which included a night at the 'Sugar Shack' where we sampled maple syrup and also the closing Banquet which featured a 16 piece Brass Band to finish the week off nicely.

For those of you that have met the Canadians at Harrogate you will know they are good company and if you get the chance to visit them next year in Calgary I would thoroughly recommend it. I would just like to thank Jay Leach, their retiring President, and Vince Gillis, their Executive Director, who has retired after 12 years service. I was pleased to meet up with his successor, Ken Cousineau, who stood up well to the stresses of his first major event.

On both my recent visits the Americans and Canadians were talking about the success of the John Deere Team Classic and what a great event it was, certainly if you got to the final in Arizona. For those of you who don't know Great Britain has been included this year (launched at BTME) and I urge as many clubs as possible to enter a team not just for the fun that you might have but also because John Deere will donate £25 to the Education and Development Fund for each team entered. Speak to your local dealer for more details and see if you can make it to Arizona.

Talking of Education and Development you should have all received the Regional Training flyer

for Spring 2002 with a selection of one and two day courses in your February magazine. I hope many of you have taken up these courses but do remember if you require any other kind of course Ken and Sami will be only too pleased to help and tailor one to your own specific needs. Remember it is your Association and the staff are here to help.

Now by the time you are reading this article one major event will have taken place and another will be about to start. First and foremost is the new Board of Management's March meeting, and if you have any queries pass them through your Section and Regional committees and the Board Member will bring them to the National Board. For those that don't know I will introduce the Board for this year:- George Brown – Vice Chairman; Clive Osgood – Immediate Past Chairman; David Walden – Midlands; Ian Holoran – Northern; Ian Semple – South East; Paul Jenkins – South West & South Wales, and Iain MacLeod – Scotland

These guys are your representatives and will report back, keeping you fully informed of the Association's progress.

Secondly, I was referring to a small Golf Competition held in August! Yes it's that time of year again when all the azalea's and rhododendrons are in flower while we are struggling to see the first signs of spring, with members dropping subtle hints as they pass us by. But if it's any consolation spare a thought for those Canadians that are trying to rid that last bit of snow!

On a final note if any Section, Region or individual would like me to attend a function, please don't hesitate to get in touch, I will only be pleased to attend.

Richard Barker