

Feature listing from December 2000

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

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

December 2001; Toro Award Winners; Southern Gailes 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

April 2002; Heyrose GC profile; Bernhard's Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSHH assessments; Rootzones and topdressing; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition

May 2002; BIGGA Report; Nematodes; Caldly GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

June 2002; Finding Fungi; Greatham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annua - Jim Arthur

July 2002; Open preview; Turf; Steve Isaac; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

August 2002; BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

September 2002; National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

October 2002; Saltex Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides

November 2002; Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrew's Bay; Autumn Problems



Where Has all the Sun Gone?

Following last month's article you must think I've lost my mind and that I've put the kiss of death on the weather, for after six weeks sunshine we've had four weeks of rain. Instead of going into winter fairly dry it is now wet and courses around me have already been closed as I know they are in other areas of the country.

Unfortunately, on my travels, the majority of greenkeepers I speak to are experiencing difficulties explaining to committees the problems and a general lack of understanding of greenkeeping on those committees is not helping. With what could be a long winter it could be a difficult time, but keep your heads up! (certainly above the water).

Well, following on from last month in mid October, I was invited by the Institute of Horticulture to attend a Round Table meeting in London on the "Banishing Molecules of the Amenity Sector". Around 30 delegates from all aspects of the amenity sector attended and various papers were presented. These ranged from registration problems for niche markets for pesticides to problems facing contractors and large enterprises with a need to control pests and diseases.

I was also pleased to see one of our own Board members, David Walden, presented a paper on controlling casting worms in turf and his views of future practices. Well done David. But, despite all these discussions, I believe we are all aware that it is becoming increasingly difficult to reach for the bottle and have to start adopting more cultural practices whether the club members like it or not as products are becoming less available.

Moving on from London, it was down to the South West Section for their AGM and golf day at Tracey Park. Fortunately for all who attended it was a dry and super day, but like many other Sections I have visited, the numbers were a little low for the AGM. Believe me this was not through lack of enthusiasm from committee members in organising events.

From there it was to Denmark where I had been invited to present a paper about the Association at their conference in Viborg. Although the vast majority speak and understand English I had to speak through an interpreter which was quite an experience and one that I believe worked well!

We have many members in Denmark and I look forward to meeting them at BTME/ClubHouse in January where they will receive a warm welcome - something they will appreciate as it was beginning to get cold even in October. I also believe they will welcome a cheap pint of beer because in Denmark it was costing between £4-£5 for a pint.

Back on these shores once again, I was soon on my way North up to Edinburgh and the Scotsturf Exhibition. This was the first time that I had visited this show and was extremely surprised at the size and the amount of

visitors on the BIGGA stand. I was accompanied by Pauline and Gemma, as well as Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator. The stand was extremely busy over the two days and it was nice to meet up with many of you who I don't see too often. It was also a great opportunity to visit all the Scottish Region Patrons' stands with Peter Boyd and thank them all for their support.

After a hectic two days it was back home again for a change of clothes and off again to our own headquarters for the Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators meeting. This could be best described as a briefing session of headquarters activities. Over the two days there were presentations from the Management Team and General Legal Protection. We also split into groups to allow discussions on the way forward but above all it gave everybody the chance to look around HQ and ask questions. After the two days I believe everyone left knowing more about the Association and its activities and with renewed enthusiasm. Again I urge all of you to take advantage of what is on offer. All the guys who attended these two days are very committed and will do their best to organise any courses for you - please give them a call.

As for the future I am going as a guest to the John Deere Team Championships in Scottsdale, Arizona, supporting Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club, I just hope it will be a little warmer and drier over there then it is in the UK. I will give you an up to date report in my article. Also in the next issue I hope to report on Gordon Child's good progress. Unfortunately Gordon is back in hospital awaiting an operation.

To conclude I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in January.

Richard Barker
National Chairman