

Feature listing from February 2000

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; Chafar 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; Sootsturf 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



New National Chairman, Richard Barker, enjoys his first engagements and looks forward to an enjoyable year in office

Starter's orders



Wow! What a week – Having just returned from Harrogate I am now reflecting on what was another excellent BTME. With the workshop and conference delegates arriving on Sunday afternoon there was a real buzz in the Majestic Hotel as old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances made over the customary couple of pints.

Monday morning arrived all too quickly and our week was underway. The format has changed somewhat from previous years with the chance to mix and match. Some delegates opted for one day at the conference and one day at a workshop while others opted for a two day workshop on Golf Course Design or a day at the Show which ran for three days instead of two and a half.

Monday evening saw the conference dinner with after dinner speaker Kevin Jones, a chest consultant, giving us an entertaining evening with stories about his past experiences in the health service. Fortunately for me, not being from Wales, I was excused from being picked upon, but Neil took it all in good spirit! As I mentioned earlier the show ran

from Tuesday to Thursday for three days this year. Each year the show continues to attract more exhibitors and this year saw the introduction of the Golf Club Show. It was well received by club officials and this is something we hope to develop in future years.

With attendance figures exceeding expectations, the buzz in Harrogate continued and I was off to the Hayter Dinner. I had been warned that it was a good evening, but that was an understatement, and to be asked to present the Dealer of the year award really put the icing on the cake.

With Wednesday now upon us, the Seminar Programme got underway alongside the show and another great day was had coming to a close with our AGM. Unfortunately this went on a little longer than anticipated with a lot of discussion on the proposed introduction of a minimum qualification. This was referred back for further consideration and will be reviewed by the Board of Management at its March meeting. Please read the magazine for further updates.

At the end of the meeting I was elected Chairman and I thank you all for my acceptance. I am very aware of my responsibilities and will endeavour to do my best for you. If any Section or Region would like me to visit during the next 12 months please don't hesitate to contact me or HQ. May I also take this opportunity to thank Elliott Small and Jim Paton for their hard work on the Board over the past years and introduce to you Ian McLeod, the Scottish representative, and George Brown, who will be my Vice Chairman. I look forward to working with you both.

But a big big thank you must go to Clive Osgood. Clive has put a tremendous amount of hard work into the Association at the expense of his golf club and also his family life. I hope you enjoy your "Semi Retirement" but I will be asking your advice, Clive, over the next year.

So to Thursday, and the last day of the show. Well it was a little bit quieter but overall attendance figures were well up on previous years and Dr James Beard was bringing the seminar programme to an end. There was still more to come – yes the Banquet. This year the Banquet moved back to the Majestic with entertainment provided primarily by Brahms and Liszt. I was a little unsure just what to expect but by the end of the meal I was witnessing a superb act which was totally different from anything I had seen before. The evening continued to the early hours with music from the Nightjars and FunTime Music Disco.

To conclude, I was pleased to see so many old friends and meet plenty of new ones including Tommy Witt and Jay Leach, respective Chairmen of the American and Canadian Associations, it was also nice to see many more overseas visitors with certainly an increase from Denmark. It's great to think we play a major part in overseas education as well.

On the downside there were a couple of notable absentees, Jim Fry and Gordon Child, the latter having had an operation. I have spoken to both and we look forward to seeing them both back in action soon.

Wishing you both a speedy recovery!

Richard Barker