

Feature listing from January 2000

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; 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; Clandeboy 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; Chaffer 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; Scottsturf 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 Gales GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal



A fantastic year!



I just can't believe that this is my last column. The past year has gone incredibly quickly that it seems like only yesterday that Elliott Small helped me into the Red Blazer at the AGM, during BTME 2001.

One of the reasons it has gone quickly is that I've packed so much into the 12 months and this last month has been no exception.

I visited Dublin for the GCSAI Exhibition where I met Joe Bedford and Terence O'Shea and was treated to some good old Irish hospitality. The Irish qualified for the World Cup while we were there so everyone was in particularly good cheer.

From there I was off to Gleneagles as a guest at the Textron Turfcare Conference. I also chaired one of the sessions. It was my first visit to Gleneagles and it was a real privilege to be there even for such a short time. The scenery is breathtaking although I didn't get a chance to see the golf courses.

The whole event was superbly organised by Jimmy Kidd and his team, and he was right when he said that there were some legends on the platform during the three days.

The session I chaired included Paul R. Latshaw, a retired superintendent, who is now a consultant; Bill Byrnes, a respected advisor and George Shiels, who we all know.

Elliott also chaired a session and like me enjoyed a delightful couple of days.

I really had an education-filled month

as from Gleneagles I headed to Cannington College for the South West and South Wales Seminar. Among the speakers were Jim McKenzie, who stepped in at the last minute, who talked about Celtic Manor's evolution and future plans including the Ryder Cup in 2010; Steven Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Co, and Richard Whyman, who gave his first Power Point presentation, and did so extremely well, on the Bernhard's Scholarship to Vancouver last year. There

was also a question time with the speakers plus, Gordon Child, Neil Thomas and myself.

From there it was to Mill Hill GC - an interesting place to find - and the well attended South East Seminar which was organised by Tony Dunstan, Secretary of the London Section. The theme was Information Technology and looked at Microsoft Programmes, Satellite Mapping, and On-Course Software. The day went very quickly which is always a good sign.

After that it was down to Broadstone GC - I told you it was a busy month - for the presentation of the BIGGA Environment Competition prizes. I went on the course walk after lunch and was extremely impressed by the work of Adrian Archer and his team, particularly on heather renovation and tree clearance.

I'd like to thank the R&A for their continued support of this prestigious event, and the STRI, through Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose, and Dr Keith Duff, of English Nature, for their expert judging.

As I write I'm just about to leave for Longhirst Hall, Morpeth and another seminar.

One event I was unable to attend last month was the FEGGA Conference in France and Vice Chairman, Richard Barker, went in my place. Among the issues discussed were pesticide usage, education and greenkeeping in Finland.

On the magazine front I was pleased

to see so much response to Duncan McGilvray's article from a few months back. It seems to have struck a cord and prompted people to write in. Long may that continue.

As it is my last column I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few thank yous.

During my travels I've met so many people who give up so much valuable time to the Association as Section Secretaries or Committee members. Without them the Association would be a much less valuable body and they are much appreciated. I'd like to thank all the BIGGA HOUSE staff and the Regional Administrators for the hard work that they put in on our behalf and for all the support they have been to me over the last 12 months.

I'd also like to thank the Board of Management for being so supportive over the same period.

Also Walton Heath Golf Club, the Captain, the Board and all the members, have been unerringly supportive of me over the past year, while my Deputy, Mick Haynes, and the team have done such a superb job and received so many compliments on the state of the courses I wonder if my presence is really necessary!

Finally to my family and particularly Sue, who has kept me supplied with white shirts, and catered for my many quick turnarounds. She, like me, is looking forward to getting back to a more normal existence.

I'd like to wish Richard well for next year. The Association keeps moving forward and in the 35 years I've been greenkeeping I've seen amazing strides, particularly in the last 10 years.

This last year has been difficult with flooding and Foot & Mouth but when you consider events in other parts of the world greenkeeping isn't so bad.

Clive Osgood