

Feature listing from March 2000

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; 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

February 2002; Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlerock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrax profile; Barn Owl special report



Richard Barker enjoys a roller coaster experience at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando

Stateside experiences



Having just unpacked my bags after BTME it was time to pack them again and off to the States for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show in Orlando.

Early on Sunday morning (February 3rd) I met with Neil and Tracey, as well as Andy White from Oatlands College - Andy was on the trip as lecturer of Andrew Pledger, winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award; Huw Morgan, winner of the Toro Greenkeeper of the Year Award, and Graham Taylor, top student at Elmwood College. I also met the 10 lucky delegates on the Bernhards Scholarship, but more on that later.

Some 11 hours later we had arrived and how nice it was to see and feel some warm sunshine and also meet up with many other Brits who had made the journey under their own steam.

Each year BIGGA have a reciprocal arrangement with the GCSAA on stand space and I was quite surprised at the number of American Superintendents who we have as members. Throughout the show there were plenty of membership renewals as well as signing up new members, plus a great deal of interest in the magazine for American Companies wishing to advertise. What was extremely pleasing was the interest in our Master Greenkeeper Scheme. The Americans rate this very highly in pursuing their education and next year

many have said they will visit BTME. In fact, someone tried to book 15 people into the Majestic Hotel there and then!

For those of you who have not been to the States, everything is vast and their show is no different. The majority of products that you view are pretty similar to what you will see at BTME but you can also pick up plenty of new ideas.

I personally enjoyed meeting and talking to Superintendents and listening to their stories. On talking to one he told me he had 54 staff of which five worked on clubhouse surrounds. He also had staff dedicated to machinery maintenance and irrigation. Although he had 36 holes 14 staff worked on the short course and 30 on the main course. This was helped along with a budget well in excess of \$3 million. Another Superintendent, who had a similar amount of staff, told me he hand raked bunkers twice a day. Now that I think is a bit over the top. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear that these guys despite the staff and large budgets (not in all cases) are under tremendous pressure.

Now earlier I mentioned the Bernhards delegation. This is the second trip that Stephen has sponsored and it is fair to say this is no holiday as the guys were kept extremely busy attending seminars, organised trips to golf courses, the show and also social functions. On speaking to them each and every one had a marvellous time, learning plenty and making new acquaintances. But their work is not over as they will be making presentations back home. Please try and support these if there is one in your area, I can assure you of a good evening!

On behalf of all the delegates I would like to thank Bernhards for their continued support and encourage you all to apply next year. It is open to everyone - young, old, experienced or inexperienced as the lottery says - It could be you!

Throughout our stay we did have two

free days to do as we pleased and a few of us took the opportunity to visit two of the theme parks. Firstly, we visited Islands of Adventure the new Universal park. This is a must if you like roller coasters and having your insides turned upside down, and secondly, Universal Studios which was equally good. If anyone tells you these parks are for kids they're right... but for BIG Kids. If you ever have a chance - GO!

But the highlight of our week had to be at the banquet on the Friday evening to see our former Chairman, Walter Woods, being presented with the old Tom Morris award by Tommy Witt, the GCSAA's President.

This is the most prestigious award that an Association can make, and in Walter's case was presented for a lifetime of dedicated service and enthusiasm to the industry. It was made all the more special for Walter with his family being present and also his fellow Scotsman that made the trip wearing their national uniforms - Quite a sight!

Congratulations Walter you should be very proud - we certainly are. So with the week nearly over we could reflect on what was a successful week for BIGGA and all that attended and start to prepare ourselves for the long trip home, while Andrew Pledger and Huw Morgan continued their adventures in the States.

Upon reaching our own shores there were no surprises, it was still cold and damp. My golf course is certainly very wet as I am sure yours are, but looking ahead Spring is not a million miles away so we all have a few more weeks to complete those winter programmes and look forward to some better weather and a good season.

Richard Barker