

## Feature listing from April 2001

**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 Gailles 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; Caldy 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 Isaccs; 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

**December 2002;** BTME & ClubHouse Preview; R&A Golf Course committee; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pennard GC

**January 2003;** Beedles Lake Profile; Talking Heads - Chemical Application; Rebuilding Golf Greens; Constructive Advice

**February 2003;** BTME/ClubHouse Review; Royal Liverpool Profile; Irrigation; Nematodes

**March 2003;** The Berkshire Profile; Meloidogyne; Overseeding Golf Greens; Talking Heads - Health & Safety



# From the cold of Canada to the warmth of... Scotland!



I've faced some real extremes of weather over the past month. I began the month in Calgary, at the Canadian Superintendents Conference and Show. It was cold, extremely cold, with more snow than we would see in many winters combined which made the magnificent scenery even more dramatic. Calgary was host to a recent winter Olympics and it was great to be able to see the ski jumps and all the other venues for that great event.

We also visited Banff, home to one of the country's, indeed the world's, top golf courses and although it was covered in snow you could tell how it had earned its reputation.

But if the weather was cold, the warmth of the welcome from our Canadian hosts was exceptional. They looked after us royally and it made the visit one of the most enjoyable I've had the privilege of making.

I'd like to thank Bill Fach, who has now completed his year as President of the CGCSA and all his team for their hospitality.

I did mention the snow and the cold temperatures but do you know, I didn't spot one broken down vehicle in all the time we were there. There must be lessons there somewhere. A couple of snow flakes and our country comes to a shuddering halt.

One of the things that has surprised me since becoming Chairman is the sheer number of invitations the Chairman of BIGGA receives. It is a real tribute to the Association that this should be the case but, given that I have an extremely busy job at Turnberry and a limited number of days in which to attend events, I am disappointed that I'm not able to accept more of these invites than I do. Having said that, I hope that by the end of my year in office I shall have met up with many of you at one function or another.

I'd also like to thank the many hundreds of people who wrote to congratulate me on becoming Chairman. The support was simply overwhelming and although I have written personally to some of them the sheer weight of numbers has prevented me from putting pen to paper to thank everyone so please accept my thanks to you through my column.

Having mentioned the cold of Calgary, the weather at Turnberry has been extraordinary. With global warming we were supposed to be getting wetter

weather but we have just experienced the mildest February in the 17 years I've been in Scotland. And no rain! The first three weeks of March have been just the same and the forecast is the same for the next week as well.

I was playing golf in shirt sleeves yesterday, in the middle of March!

The great thing is that it has meant that both courses at Turnberry have been very busy and from a revenue point of view that can only be good. I hope that is the same at your clubs.

Having said that, with 3000 rounds a month in the early spring it means a lot of divots. If this is going to be the pattern from now on we may have to look towards taking fairways out of play with compulsory dropping in the semi rough or mats which are being used at more and more courses now including St Andrews and Carnoustie.

Another benefit of the dry weather has been the opportunity it has given us to complete our top dressing programmes successfully and many other jobs that we can carry out if we are fairly sure the weather is going to remain good. The downside has been that turf we have laid is curling up at the edges like toast and we are having to think about irrigation already.

No matter the conditions you can be sure that there is always something to keep us on our toes.

George Brown  
Chairman