

## Feature listing from December 2001

**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; Caldyc 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 Annuua - Jim Arthur

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

**August 2002;** BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Bunker Sand; 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

**April 2003;** Oakmere Park GC; Spraying; Golf Course Security; Bernhards Delegation; Ransomes Jacobsen Profile

**May 2003;** Cardrona Golf & Country Club; Poa Annuua; Rough Mowers; Mole Control; Rootzone; Green Construction

**June 2003;** Irrigation; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships; Fertiliser; Fairway Mowers

**July 2003;** Irrigation Water; Greens Mowers; Bent Grasses; Course Management; Rakes

**August 2003;** Aeration; Open Review; Saltex Preview; Waste Water; Toro Student of the Year

**September 2003;** Hanbury Manor; Irrigation; Disease; Integrated Pest Management; Communication

**October 2003;** Construction Machinery; Pay Recommendations; Saltex Review; Pesticide Legislation; Finance

**November 2003;** Temple GC; Trees; Environment Competition Results; Sandy McDivot; Drainage



# Burning the Candle!



I managed a two-day visit to Saltex, the show was bathed in sunshine and to me it seemed most successful with good attendances. It was difficult not to enjoy as the surroundings, atmosphere and weather was most pleasant.

Once again it was a good chance to meet up and chew the grass with so many long standing members and acquaintances and also a good opportunity to meet new ones. Our BIGGA staff from HQ had a busy time and I understand they dealt with many membership enquiries and applications.

On a personal note (probably my age) I cannot believe the speed and change regarding the manufacture and variety of equipment that is on the market today. It was not many years ago there were only a handful of companies supplying their machinery to the turf industry, today there are literally hundreds to choose from, and that makes it a really tough and competitive market. It is little wonder that some of the long-standing and well-known companies are now changing their marketing strategies.

You may think I am old fashioned but I still tend to buy from the reputable companies that we have been dealing with for years, and with personnel that we have known and come to trust. Having said that there are many new and different types of machinery on the market today and one must never put blinkers on but always strive to purchase the best machine for the job, at the right price, bearing in mind that the back-up service is most important.

This past month has still been very busy at Turnberry and inundated with golfers, with the addition of some of my friends and several overseas colleagues that have been itching to visit and play our course. Playing golf and socialising with these guys is OK but they are young, have healthy livers and are on holiday... Unlike myself!

I had the opportunity of playing the recently opened Dundonald Golf Course (just up the road) that is now under the ownership of Loch Lomond. I must admit it was most challenging and enjoyable, another success for the course architect, Kyle Phillips. Although they are still doing some earth moving and minor alterations throughout the winter it will be without doubt a valuable asset to the Loch Lomond membership and I am sure will be home to many future tournaments.

Recently I attended the Ayrshire AGM that was held at the Irvine Bogside Golf Club and once again the attendance was most disappointing. Nevertheless we thank Derek Wilson and the Club for their hospitality. Then it was another visit to Scotsturf, where it was nice to

see friends and colleagues. Unfortunately this attendance was also disappointing, as I thought the numbers were down and the show seemed very quiet and lacking its normal atmosphere.

My next trip will be to Arizona to join the John Deere World Championship being played in the Scottsdale area. I have been fortunate to have visited this area before and for those lucky qualifiers who have not played the Desert Courses before they will be in for a real treat, as they will be playing golf in shirt sleeves and sunshine on firm fairways and fast greens (unlike our normal December playing conditions). I will give a further report upon my return.

Upon my arrival back at Heathrow I will then need to make my way to Cannington College where the South West and South Wales are holding their two-day Regional Seminar. Then back to Turnberry for one day to say hello to my wife before flying out again to visit one of our properties abroad. Somehow I think I have lost the plot because I was under the impression that one is supposed to slow down in their twilight years and not burn the candle at both ends!

I have been invited to attend the Scottish Patrons Lunch in Stirling. Their support is much appreciated by the Association in Scotland and it is with their assistance we are able to run various Golf outings and other important functions such as seminars and of course the March Conference.

It has been a funny old year and it is a funny old world. During the winter we seem to pray for the summer and sunshine, yet when it is here it seems to fly by so quickly, and here we are once again facing winter once more and already in the middle of our winter work programmes.

My last official duty for this year will be the December Board meeting at HQ and then following that it will be Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity at this time of wishing you all compliments of the Season.

George Brown  
Chairman