

Feature listing from November 2001

November 2001; BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC

December 2001; Toro Award Winners; Southern Gables 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; Caidy 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

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

May 2003; Cardrona Golf & Country Club; Poa Annua; 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



How fortunate we are!



Golf courses are still very busy with golfers taking advantage of the continuing fine weather. Although we are enjoying the autumn sunshine and the growth rate is easing off, it is almost impossible to carry out our essential autumn maintenance programmes, aeration, hollow coring etc without interfering with the endless streams of golfers. So we will just be slitting our greens and coring one half at a time, by doing just two or three greens a day there is minimum disruption to the golfers. Within a few weeks the work that we have carried out will have almost recovered and then we will carry out the same operation to the other half of greens.

We have been using this method successfully for several years, after all there is not any reason why one should have all 18 greens under repair at one time and then have to listen to all the complaints from the golfers. I fully sympathise with the golfers as more often than not putting surfaces in October are probably as good as they get and it is difficult for them to understand why we have to spoil their fun! Golfers in Britain should think themselves lucky to be able to play throughout the whole year, compared with those from Scandinavian Countries who by now will not be able to play their courses at all, as most will be covered in frost and snow and closed for the next six months.

In my last report I stated that I was visiting Finland where my family joined me for a few days holiday and once there we met up with some friends. An incredible country that seems to have endless lakes (in the region of 200,000) and forests that are so vast and are the home of the black bear and so many elks that the Government issue licences to shoot 100,000 elks per year.

I visited my friend, Lasse, who is a journalist and keen golfer, he was proud to show me the Annilan Golf Course where he is a member near the town of Mikkeli, East Finland. It is incredible how golf has grown in this Country, for example in 1960 there were only six golf courses and 670 players, by 1980 this had risen to 13 courses with over 3000 players and at present they have over 100 courses and 100,000 players. Most clubs have an average of 850 members and increasing, there is a demand for many new courses to be constructed although the playing season is only from May - October, probably one of the reasons that they have not produced many Champions although they have a very promising youngster, Mikko Ilonen, who won our British Amateur Championship and now is improving his position on the PGA European Tour.

My wife and I then went on to Sweden where we were guests of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association, who were celebrating their 25th Anniversary. It really was an eye opener as I did not realise how well supported and large their Association is, and still growing. During their four-day conference/seminar held at JonKoping there were well over 20,000 people in attendance and the whole place was alive with delegates from both Greenkeeping and Ground Care Industries.

The week started with their 18 Hole Golf Championship that is so well supported it is split into three handicap

categories and played over three different Golf Courses. Our former BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker, enjoyed himself so much last year and made so many friends that he wanted to return this year and play once more, he held his end up well and finished in the top 15. Unfortunately I didn't, but nevertheless we both enjoyed our golf at The Ryfors Golf Club that had huge greens that were slower than we were used to, but that is understandable as within the next few weeks there could be several feet of frost and snow.

The Swedish Greenkeepers put on a superb display in the form of an ice hockey game, the North versus the South, the North winning 6-2, with many of them being former semi-professionals the standard was extremely high for this, their National Sport. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rolf Lowgren, their Chairman, the board and all the members for their kind hospitality during our stay.

I had only been back to work for one week and then off again to the Nottingham area for our National Golf Championship held over two fabulous golf courses, Coxmoor and the Notts Golf Club, (Hollinwell) both courses being in superb condition with green speeds running in the region of 12 on the stimp and strong winds. Not ideal conditions for a jittery old fart with a broom handled putter. Nevertheless there were some great scores over the two days and our thanks go to the respective Course Managers, Kevin Atherton (Coxmoor), Philip Stain (Hollinwell) and their Greens Staff. We must also thank their Captains and Committees for allowing us to play over their golf courses, that I rank among the top heathland courses in the country.

Since the golf tournament we have had a board meeting at Headquarters where our BIGGA staff are having a busy time preparing for Harrogate among other events, and it was announced that John Pemberton should assume the responsibilities of our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, in his absence. Neil is still undergoing treatment and on behalf of all our members we wish him a speedy recovery.

George Brown
Chairman