

Feature listing from October 2001

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 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

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; Caddy 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 Isacss; 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



All Systems Go



As I write we are right in the thick of it! Golfers, Golfers, everywhere and hardly a blank space on our start sheets! Our Golf Courses have been busier than ever during these past few months, with over 400 Golfers playing most days and the car parks are overflowing, our Sales team has obviously excelled at their job during such difficult times.

It is great to see so many people enjoying themselves, despite a slow start to the season, our courses have been playing well this summer and we are back to playing true traditional Links Golf. The lovely warm summer brings ever-increasing play and it is during these drought conditions that other problems occur such as loss of grass cover and endless divots. Lets say an average golfer would take approx 1.5 divots per hole. Multiply 1.5 by 18 holes = 27 divots per round per golfer, multiply 27 divots by 200 golfers per day = 5400 divots per day, multiply that by 7 days = 37000 divots per week!

One does not have to be Einstein to work out heavily played golf courses on light sandy soils coupled with prolonged dry summers, that we have to have an adequate irrigation system, or soon find out that grass cover would almost be non-existent.

I really enjoyed my recent visit to Saltex, again bathed in sunshine it gave a great atmosphere to the record crowds, it is always great to see so many old friends and acquaintances. Judging by the increasing number of additional manufacturers and companies showing their various displays of equipment just goes to show how strong the Landscaping / Ground Care and Golf Industry is.

I believe Golf is now more popular than ever and we have to change our management programmes to keep up with ever increasing play and legislation. Things are changing all the time especially in my own situation, when I first started greenkeeping I used to push a mower but now I spend most of my time pushing paper!

I have kindly been invited by the Swedish Greenkeepers Association to attend their Seminar Programmes towards the end of September they are celebrating their 25th year with several events and international speakers. The Swedish Greenkeepers have always been strong supporters of BIGGA and our own conferences at Harrogate. Never having been to Sweden before my wife Brenda and I are going to take this as our annual holiday, and whilst I am in that part of the world I will also be visiting some friends and Golf Courses in Finland. I really am looking forward to this break and shall keep you updated on events upon my return.

Recently I spent a couple of weeks celebrating my 65th birthday and 50 years of working, it was a strange feeling going to work with the knowledge that I didn't really have to go, but perhaps I am one of the lucky few who actually enjoys the golf course management and the various challenges that it brings. I will be staying at Turnberry for some time yet, so those that would be after my job are just going to have to wait a while.

George Brown
Chairman