

Feature listing from December 2002

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

December 2003; BTME & ClubHouse Preview;
Downfield GC; Compact Tractors;
Architecture; Bio-tech

January 2004; Ipswich GC Profile;
Grass Seed; Environment Competition Awards;
Utility Vehicles (sit in)

February 2004; Harrogate Review 2004;
Tyneside GC; Utility Vehicles (sit on); Irrigation

March 2004; R&A Best Practice;
Trentham Park GC; Drainage; Spraying

April 2004; Know your Rules; Tournament
Preparation; Landmarks in Greenkeeping;
Security

May 2004; Goodwood Club; Seed or Turf?;
Biological Product Survey; Water Features;
Recycling; BIGGA Environment Competition

June 2004; Fairy Rings; Biologicals;
The Grove; Kubota Profile; Turf;
Sand and Rootzone

July 2004; Royal Troon Open Preview,
Mowing, Disease Analysis.

August 2004; Neil Thomas Memorial Golf
Day; Open review; Royal Cinque Ports;
Irrigation; Mowers (2); Saltex Preview; Best
Practice; Top Dressing.

September 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper
of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club;
Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors;
The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping.

October 2004; STRI 75th Anniversary;
Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere
National Team Championship; Best Practice;
Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration.

November 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of
the Year Final; The BIGGA National
Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice;
Drainage; Construction; Fences.

Chairman's Column

Make the Most of Conference Season

With the 'Conference Season' now upon us and our winter programme in full flow, the days seem just as busy as those of spring and summer. Normally for me November is not the best of times as I struggle to come down from the high of frantic, fire fighting activity, which is life at a busy resort facility.

It may also have something to do with the cold, wet miserable weather that we typically experience in the west of England and with it all the necessary drainage work, etc that ensues.

This year however things have been different. The 'winter' sunshine of Arizona and the company of Eddie Donlan, from the GCSAI, and David Hart and Howard Storey, from John Deere; and the delight of watching (twice in one week) Cameron hitting balls on the range with his new (birthday present) golf clubs – a small happening maybe, but good for the soul nonetheless.

The reason for being in Arizona was to accept a cheque from John Deere for £8,825 to be used as funding for education within BIGGA. This is a result of the widespread support for The John Deere World Team Championship, from dealers and golf clubs in the UK.

If proof were needed of the value of bringing together the whole management team from within a golf club, then it was manifested in the team from Worfield GC representing the UK and Ireland.

While talking to them it was obvious that their relationship was a strong one and their business a happy and successful one. They were a credit to us all and a pleasure it was to be in their company.

David and Howard helped prove once again the real strength of this industry- work hard, play hard. We are more than fortunate to enjoy close relationships with our trade partners and the feeling that we are all in this together always comes through.

I know some of you may think this is all well and good for those of us lucky enough to go on these kinds of trips, however talk is often on these occasions of how we can improve the lot of all greenkeepers, and the above event certainly helps enormously in this respect.

My earlier reference to the 'Conference Season' again probably highlights the gap that exists between those fortunate to receive the support of their employer and those that don't. There are few of us, in these tough economic times for golf, who can simply fill out the registration form and demand a cheque from the club.

Indeed for most this has never been possible anyway. As with all expenditure the request has to be reasonable and it has to be justified. How many of us are in a position to be able to prove the return on investment as a means of convincing our employer of



the merit of supporting our continuing professional development?

If this is an area you are unfamiliar with then pick up the phone and speak either to an officer at HQ or me.

We would be delighted to help and you will find that, contrary to popular opinion, BIGGA is not just a clique and all are welcome - you never know, you might even speak to somebody that just happens to hold the Master Greenkeeper Certificate (these people, unless they happen to be wearing a blazer with the MG badge on, are indistinguishable from other members) and I'm sure these guys will also dispel some, if not all, of the widely held opinion that we are elitist and above talking AND listening to other members.

The number of education opportunities and conferences, in particular, continues to grow and with it the decision on which to attend becomes more difficult. Each will offer a different opportunity and the important thing is that you come away from it with something of value that you can use to better your chances of success both for you and your golf club.

At BIGGA we believe we are in the best position to make this happen and to that end we continue to focus on the education and training of ALL our members at multiple locations around the country throughout the year, with Harrogate being the highlight of the year and offering, as usual, not just education but a one stop shop in which to view the latest developments in the industry. You are a vital ingredient in its success and I look forward to seeing you there and/or at one of the other events taking place this winter.

Andy Campbell MG CGS