

Feature listing from January 2002

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; Caldly GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

June 2002; Finding Fungi; Greetham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annua - Jim Arthur

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

August 2002; BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllhell 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

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

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



One for the Road!



Almost caught up with things and I will be just about be back to normality in time to hand over the reins to my Vice Chairman, Andy Campbell, who I am confident that with his enthusiasm and drive will take the Association forward.

I have had a most enjoyable year but it has not all been plain sailing as we have had to face several unforeseen challenges, sadly one of those being the sudden illness of our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who has had to face the toughest challenge of all and at this time is still unable to return to his duties. We have been inundated with well wishes for Neil and on behalf of all members and friends we wish him and his family better fortune for the coming year. Our Deputy Executive Director, John Pemberton has been holding the fort in Neil's absence, and I must say has risen to the challenge with the sterling help of all the staff at Headquarters, and for that we are most thankful.

Having recently returned from attending the John Deere World Team Championship being played over The Grey Hawk Golf Courses in Scottsdale, Arizona, it makes one appreciate how fortunate those that qualified to play in the finals and officials such as myself were to get away from our winter weather for a week or so. Having said that the first day's practice round was virtually washed out as most of the region had one inch and three quarters of rain in one day (one half of their annual rain fall)! The only difference from home was that the rain came straight down and was warm rather than sideways and cold! My column is too short for the many stories and wonderful happenings that occurred throughout the trip. Whickham Golf Club, our British qualifiers, put up a good show both on and off the golf course, indeed they were a credit to BIGGA especially during the second round, finishing the last 10 holes with an Eagle and nine Birdies, and finished 16th. They may have done better if Cactus Jack spent more time on the fairways instead of exploring the desert where an amazing variety of birds and animals could be easily viewed.

Apart from being generously entertained by John Deere (a report will follow in the magazine next month) additional evening's entertainment was bolstered by the Irish team with their professional singer and guitarist, Kevin Dwyer who entertained until the early hours. One of the highlights of the week must be the Friday dinner and presentations where John Deere donated a cheque to BIGGA for £9200, for the second consecutive year. The funds will go towards education and support programmes for the 2004 conference at Harrogate.

I had no sooner hit the tarmac at Heathrow and then

on to attend the South West and South Wales Region at Cannington College for their two day conference that included some first class speakers. Talking of speakers I recently attended the Scottish Patrons' lunch in Stirling which is always a popular event and a thank you to the trade for their support throughout the year. After lunch former Rangers player, Willie Henderson, entertained us with many wonderful stories of his long and colourful career.

During this past year I have been exceptionally busy and by the time you read this column I will have just about finished my term of office and look forward to more leisure time. I would like to be like my pal Walter Woods and practice my golf. When we were younger we used to play for money but now that we are old the stakes are much more serious, we now play for a Viagra tablet!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support and kind comments that I have received throughout my term of office. I will have many happy memories to reflect on in my twilight years, I would also like thank the Board members, who give up many days of their valuable time to attend meetings and make decisions on the members behalf, their wisdom has been invaluable and it is not by accident that BIGGA is where it is today.

I am also indebted to my Greenkeeping team at Turnberry for helping to make my year stress free and keeping our Golf Courses and Property in good shape during my time away on BIGGA business. Not forgetting of course my employers, most of all my General Manager, Stewart Selbie, for his continued encouragement and support during my role as BIGGA Chairman.

BTME & ClubHouse at Harrogate it is always a great start to the New Year, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible throughout the week in the meantime may all your grasses stay healthy.

**George Brown
Chairman**