

Feature listing from March 2002

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 Isaacss; 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 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



Overcoming Shared Challenges



San Diego in February certainly has its attractions, great climate, blue skies and a more than welcome family holiday that proceeded the GCSAA Conference and Show. From the comments of most visitors, including a number from the UK and Ireland, the GCSAA are definitely on a winner with this location.

While it was a great place in which to holiday, the second week of my trip brought with it a good dose of education and a round of meetings along with John Pemberton, with GCSAA, the Australian Superintendents Association and representatives of our Canadian counterparts.

The purpose of these meetings was to explore ways in which we can work together particularly in the area of education, to deliver better value to our respective memberships, in an efficient and financially prudent manner.

This should mean we can deliver educational opportunities to those who ordinarily would find it difficult to make the time to be away from the workplace or would find that to do so would be financially prohibitive.

While I accept that for some members the trip to the States is seen as something of a jolly, I can assure you our activities during the week are specific and measurable, as indeed they should always be when spending Association money.

The esteem in which BIGGA is held by others allows us a place at the table and we should continue to work with our allied associations around the world to better the lot of all Greenkeepers – it's indeed interesting to hear that regardless of different agronomics, much of the issues and challenges facing associations and their members are the same. Surely by working together we will overcome these challenges more quickly and thus be able to move on to the next stage of our development.

Back at Carden I have a hectic two weeks before my travels take me to Scotland for their National Conference, and then the following day to Nova Scotia for the Canadian Superintendents Conference and Show.

During that spell there is also a meeting to attend at the De Vere Belfry convened by the English Golf Union, with an impressive list of attendees from the world of golf, to discuss a vision for golf up to the year 2020 – in other words, our future and the means of attracting customers to ensure that future.

It's quite a challenge staying focussed on a fairly busy maintenance and capital programme at Carden, and at the same time recovering from jet lag! We have some bunker reconstruction underway as well as some

drainage work on the Cheshire and Nicklaus courses, together with a project to construct a new covered parking and maintenance area for our 80 strong cart fleet.

In the formal Gardens we are nearly finished with a refurbishment of steps and lawn edgings. Preparations are complete for the North Wales Section Seminar and by the time you read this 70+ people will have enjoyed another educational opportunity.

It's also nice to see some of the 10,000 newly planted spring flowering bulbs appear – a tough job for our gardeners but they seem to have got them all the right way up! Just when we see signs of the usual early false Spring, the Countryfile forecast warns of more snow on the way – but then it is only the last week in February.

One amusing story from one of our North Wales Section committee members. Last week his Chairman asked why he had left it so long before he had mowed the golf course. This on a course that had been mown virtually wall-to-wall in the middle of February – how we have moved on!

The above raises an interesting point - do you remember the days when Augusta National, The Masters and April brought thoughts of the sack? Now we face these pressures most of the year thanks to the superb coverage of Tournament Golf, by Sky TV and others.

The very fact that we have, in the main, coped with this raising of the bar, is cause to be proud. Take a moment to give yourselves a pat on the back, you deserve it – but don't linger in a self congratulatory state too long, for be sure, somebody, somewhere is continually raising the very same bar.

Footnote: Having just completed this column I have learned of Neil Thomas's death. I shall pay tribute to Neil in my next column but in the meantime I pass on my condolences to Neil's family and friends.

Andy Campbell
Chairman