

Feature listing from May 2002

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; Greatham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annuu - 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; Meloiodogyne; 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 Annuu; 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

Chairman's Column



An Open Mind and Honourable Intentions

One thing that can't be said of the BIGGA Chairman's duties are that they are boring! Life certainly is hectic, and true to the saying that the more you put in, the more you get out.



The now traditional visit to Canada for the Canadian Golf Superintendents' Conference and Show back in March brought more opportunities for John and myself to meet with leaders of the CGCS and trade representatives with a view to strengthening support for each other, all in extremely pleasant surroundings and backed up by an excellent educational conference.

You have already, and will continue to hear much in this column, with regard to forming and developing relationships with allied Associations. In trying to develop and further the aims of BIGGA and its members we obviously have to do what is right for our members, in our judgement, not just for now but also in the future. As a Chairman, Chief Executive, or Board Member we are rightly accountable for the actions we take. To this end we enter into dialogue with others with an open mind, and, I promise, honourable intentions. In a perfect world all our ideas and those of the people we are talking to would match the desires of each, and agreement would be easy. Life just ain't like that and sometimes we have to pass on some ideas. Is this then, a waste of each others time? Not in our opinion, and we as a Board are certainly intent on continuing open dialogue to find ways of promoting BIGGA, its members and its clearly laid out mission statement.

Proof, if it were needed, that BIGGA has a voice in the macro sense, is to be had from the invites from the GCSAA for myself to serve on their education committee and for John Pemberton to serve on a committee formed to further collaboration between Greenkeeping Associations across the globe. Of course, as members you need to see an improvement in your benefits in a micro sense for this to be of any interest. While its always difficult and frustrating sometimes to move things forward as quickly as we would all like, having recently attended a two day meeting in Kansas (fully funded by GCSAA), I believe each Association can show its respective membership some "quick wins" with regard to education.

While spending so much time in hotels it gives me a good opportunity to catch up on the talk forums on all the Greenkeeping sites. For anybody that knows me well it comes as no surprise that I am an aggressive advocate of free and open speech, and will defend the right of members to ask questions of its Board and Officers at every opportunity. With particular reference to recent postings regarding the raising of subscription dues and the destination of any extra revenues raised, I can promise you (and I work in a VERY commercial environment), that the decision to raise subs by more than current inflation levels, was based on sound business lines. Put simply, this Association, partly because the original sub level was set very low, is overly reliant on our trade partners, for revenue. In these unpredictable and tough economic times it would be plain mis management for the Board not to recognise this fact and to address it. In addition, if we are to answer the further criticism that the service we offer is inadequate, then extra funds will clearly be needed. Finally the notion that the John Pemberton or the Board sanction inappropriate pay increases, is frankly disappointing. The accounts of the Association are freely available to any member on request, via your Section Secretary who each receive two copies and more if requested, and of course at the AGM where you have the opportunity to question the Board and its officers on the same- nothing to hide, transparent and HEALTHY accounts.

Of course as always should you have any comments, views or concerns, then like all the officers and volunteers, I am more than happy to talk to you. "Until next time" as Kent Walton used to say.

Andy Campbell MG GCSA
Chairman