

Feature listing from August 2002

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; Tyntside 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; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping.

Chairman's Column

Autumn of Inactivity ?

As the busy summer days pass so the pace, if not the volume, of work lessens. After what, for most of us, will have been a hectic few months spent trying to please our employers, we could perhaps be forgiven for taking things easy.

The reality however is far different. I still, after many years in this job, become frustrated when people assume that the autumn and winter seasons are a time of inactivity for us.



As you all know the preparatory work undertaken now will have a direct impact on the condition of our courses come next spring.

Our problems start when pressure is applied to delay the important aeration and other remedial works. This is a crucial time in the greenkeeping year and any manager who shies away from stating the case for such work to be allowed will find himself under pressure when the spring comes.

This means having to communicate, particularly to exasperated golfers, why turf that may well be in very good order, needs to be disturbed.

For the fortunate, or the organised, this will be built into a course policy document, but it still needs to be communicated to the playing and paying customer.

While it may be uncomfortable, take time out to be visible - at least that way you get a face-to-face opportunity to explain the work being carried out. It will certainly do your credibility no harm to be seen, and you will probably end up making a few allies into the bargain.

Together with these issues of customer satisfaction comes the definition of our role within the game aside from our core duties.

It's my belief that if we are really to be taken seriously, we need to show a greater willingness to help grow the game. Maybe in the past this has not been seen as being part of our remit or responsibility, but I ask you this; if the game and business of golf stalls or goes into recession, who do you think stands to lose the most?

The ways in which we can show leadership and commitment to the game are many and range from simply being there for your membership, to taking an active role in promoting your facility, through to a wider commitment at regional or national level via the many Associations that share an interest in the growth and vitality of our business.

I know some of you may read this and think it's not for you - and I appreciate it may politically be very difficult - but if you don't have a stake in your future who does?

For those of us in commercial golf, this time may

well end one commercial year and be the start of another with all the reflection to the past and projections for the coming year that entails.

In order to complete this process successfully we need to get all of the above right, with equal emphasis placed on staffing issues, finance, needs of customers and of course agronomic issues.

While some of you no doubt think I've lost the plot, if you think a little more deeply this whole analytical process is no different than that used when you are deciding whether or not to apply fertilizer; what happened last time, should I do anything different this time and what will the impact be on the customer/finances/turf?

Put quite simply, we have to make a better job of making others aware of our ability and commitment to make sensible decisions, something greenkeepers have done for generations but perhaps have been slow to publicise, often in times of pressure and financial constraint, to their detriment.

As a greenkeepers' Association we can help arm our members with the tools and support to carry the message to the wider golfing public - your challenge is to go through the pain barrier and deliver it.

Your families, trade partners and, last but not least, your employer will eventually thank you for it. By the way you may even feel happier and less stressed - if not, just think about me trying to put this together on a computer that only speaks Swedish - doesn't make sense to me, but you may have already determined that for yourselves!

Andy Campbell MG CGCS
National Chairman