



## Feature listing from August 2003

**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

**December 2004;** BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Henley GC; Grass Identification; Trees; Environmental Winner; BIGGA Delegation; Interview Advice; College Listings

**January 2005;** Sir Michael Bonallack; Parkstone GC; Machinery Servicing; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship; Recycled Products; John Deere Team Championship; Tees; Negotiation Advice

**February 2005;** Harrogate 2005 Review; Meet the Chairman; Environmental Competition; Tyres; Coombe Hill GC

**March 2005;** Alwoodley GC; Difficult Areas; Drainage; Irrigation; Greens

**April 2005;** Augusta Syndrome; Thornhill GC; Difficult Areas Part 2; Turf Tonics; BIGGA Delegation; Fescue Grass

**May 2005;** Helliidon Lakes; Power Mowers; Pest Control; Cutting Heights Survey; Nozzles

**June 2005;** Minchinhampton GC; Aeration; Rigby Taylor Profile; Chemical Useage; Top Dressing; Jim Arthur Tribute

**July 2005;** Loch Lomond GC; St. Andrews GC; Mini Excavators; Disease; Finance; Scholarship

## Envyng the Distinction



A recent article in Golf Course News International heavily criticised aspects of our Association. When I personally feel that I am being unfairly criticised I always take solace in the words of Sallust (86BC - 34BC): 'They envy the distinction we have won; let them therefore envy our toils, our honesty and the methods by which we have gained it.'

The more active and influential our Association becomes the more likely it is to attract unwarranted criticism. Whether this is the case in this particular instance, I could not possibly comment. While, for obvious reasons, it would be incorrect of me to discuss the details in our magazine, I would encourage members who have concerns resulting from information in these articles to make representations through their Sections and Regional boards. The membership deserve answers to any concerns they might have and I and the board will be happy to give them through the proper channels.

As Chairman, I cannot hide my disappointment at the criticism of our Association in any magazine. I take comfort in the fact that the Editor has a job to do and that is to spice up his editorial to increase circulation for his advertisers. What concerns me more is that two of our members were also willing to criticise openly the Association. As I have often stated, I do not mind criticism, indeed I believe it is a healthy channel for progress. However, as members, they have a duty, as we all do, to maintain the reputation of the Association by expressing our concerns through the proper channels.

Representatives of the Board have met with the members concerned and received assurances that there was no intention to bring the Association into disrepute. Both expressed regret if this had been the case and cited editorial control as the main driver in setting the tone of the articles. Both are long term members who have given much time and effort in the support of greenkeepers and the Board are satisfied with their explanation of events. I must make clear to all members however, that the Board have a duty to uphold the rules of the Association and any future breach of any of our codes of ethics by any member must be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

In my personal opinion, this episode is symptomatic of a situation we have all failed to address successfully for some time. There has long been a 'feeling' out there, among some of the membership, that the Board and HQ are not addressing some of the major needs of everyday greenkeepers. I know, because for many years I have been a grass roots member with similar feelings. When I was appointed Chairman I systematically went about trying to resolve this issue. I was immediately aided by support from all other Board members and staff.

As a Board, we agreed to review the business plan with a view to removing perceived obstacles. This review is ongoing and I would appreciate input from the Regions on how best we can address the issue. We have made a start by agreeing to Region requests to maintain Regional Administrators to serve their needs. This represents a large investment in staffing costs specifically for Regions and Sections. We have allocated additional funding for Section and Region education. We have removed perceived obstacles such as coloured blazers and I have done all that I can to try to debunk the Master Greenkeeper mythology.

I have tried at all times, through the magazine and the bulletin board, to communicate openly with the members on issues which are of importance to us all. There is much more

we can do but these changes need time to have an effect. In view of this, the Board have invested in a Vice Chairman, Richard Whyman, who represents the very heart of grass roots greenkeeping and who we know will carry on this push to improve our services to core greenkeepers.

For those of you who have read the aforementioned articles I must reassure you that, whatever the impression given, the Board are fully in control of all of our business activities and the staff are carrying out their assigned duties in compliance with our instructions in a most satisfactory and professional manner. Should anyone require independent evidence of the commitment of our staff, I would refer you to this recent citation, given within a glowing report, by the Investor's In People award scheme inspector: You remain a very client (membership) focussed organisation with excellent leadership and management. As your systems and processes for data capture become more refined I have no doubts that with such a committed team you will continue to deliver your mission of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession.'

The performance of the Association has steadily grown with greater levels of greenkeeper education and support than ever before. We are more financially sound than we have ever been and have a full Regional and Sectional structure which is healthy and active. We are now a highly respected professional body involved in all aspects of golf course management in the UK and worldwide. Our advice, support and assistance is requested and welcomed by all other major golfing bodies and I can assure members that the vast majority of the forward thinking and progressive individuals who started the Association are proud of its achievements and the respect that BIGGA commands throughout the industry.

I apologise that this month's column is rather muted in its content. This is a great pity as I normally enjoy trying to be creative and giving you something a little bit different to read. In fact I am finding it rather tedious that I have to be stern and serious when the Editor of the said magazine seems to be quite happy to be very creative in his work. I can only recommend to him the words from the song, 'I Am A Lonesome Hobo', wherein is described the circumstances which can lead to a lonely and inconsequential existence:

'Kind ladies and kind gentlemen,  
Soon I will be gone,  
But let me just warn you all,  
Before I do pass on:  
Stay free from petty jealousies,  
Live by no man's code,  
And hold your judgement for yourself  
Lest you wind up on this road.' (Blind Boy Grunt 1968)

*K. Daly*

Kerran Daly  
Chairman