

Feature listing

from January 2003

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; Play 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.

Chairman's Column



An Incredible Year

So the end is near! For some of you the last 12 months may have seemed like a lifetime, for me it seems like only five minutes since I took over the Chairmanship from George Brown.



An incredible year, one which started at an extremely low ebb with the passing of Neil but then offered all that is best about our profession. Travel to new places, visits to some truly great golf courses and, most importantly, the friendship and companionship of some outstanding people.

Wherever you go in the world of golf there are individuals who give freely of their time, who share their knowledge and experiences in humble ways and are prepared to offer their support and guidance when necessary. They know who they are and to you all my thanks for everything you have given me.

It would be remiss of me at this time if I were not to mention a few special people who gave me the support, often when times were hard and my brain not particularly well engaged, when the desire was strong but the knowledge too weak, that helped put me in a position that allowed me to accept the opportunity to become Chairman.

Len Sproston, my first Head Greenkeeper at Chester GC, who gave me the foundation on which to build; Bill Lawson, for his continuing encouragement to this day and his passion for BIGGA; Keith Holmes, Terry Adamson and all the 'old boys' from the EIGGA days and lastly but not least my mum (who will be looking down on all this), who sadly didn't live long enough to see her wastrel son do something with his life!

Enough then (at least for now) of the emotional stuff - what of the challenges facing BIGGA? As forecast some of our trade partners continue to threaten the future of BTME and therefore BIGGA itself, with their proposals for alterations of show scheduling or even worse withdrawal from exhibiting altogether. These actions not only have serious implications for BIGGA but also for many of the loyal smaller companies who continue to support BTME and derive good commercial value from it.

Make no mistake, this threat is real although I personally feel misguided. If you want a strong, vibrant Association then you need to show your support and buying power at this year's event. In the meantime, the Board are committed to working positively, not just with those companies involved, but all of the trade to find solutions to the issues, and to provide better value for the pounds invested.

More worrying for the Board is the continuing, and in some cases, worsening apathy at Section level. This Association has at its periphery a number of disaffected individuals who delight in knocking BIGGA and who are not beyond using some of the less happy members to deliver their message.

I ask you simply this: who represents the Greenkeeper and his/her future best and has done so consistently for the last 18 years? I know the answer isn't those who seek to form 'new' associations.

This apathy must somehow be defeated - and yes it's a tough one, but only the members themselves can really make this happen. Sadly most members have never visited BIGGA HOUSE to see the work that goes on or the manifestation of the Association's progress that is the building itself - personally I feel some of the Section,

Regional and, if necessary, Association funds should be made available to correct this.

Thankfully it's not all doom and gloom. The Association enjoys strong relationships with most allied associations around the world and while it frustrates me that some of our initiatives take longer than they should to impact on our members, I'm sure it won't be too much longer before we are able to make real progress.

I'm comforted in that aspect in that the incoming Chairman, Kerran Daly MG, is an honest man, given of great wisdom and with the welfare of our members very much at heart. I look forward in supporting him in the same quiet but strong way that George Brown has supported me. Good luck Kerran and don't worry about buying an atlas, I have one you can use!

You are all more fortunate than you know in that at BIGGA HOUSE you have a dedicated team who work tremendously hard for your benefit. I thank them all on your behalf for their efforts and sincerely hope that sometime real soon we stop treating them in the same terrible fashion that some (thankfully declining) golf clubs treat their greenkeepers. These people are professionals deserving of your respect, if they are treated as such they can and will perform all the better for it. Likewise you have a talented and committed Board who use their intelligence and informed debate to move your Association forward for your benefit.

So I think that's most people in the 'clique' thanked - damn big, all embracing clique eh! In the civilised world it's known as an Association of like minded individuals. What a shame that the negatives at our periphery who put nothing in but expect everything out and who are thankfully in the minority, choose to use the word clique to define us.

It's traditional to thank ones family and employer at this time and for once I will be conformist.

To my boss, Hamish Ferguson, and all at De Vere many thanks for your incredible patience and support. To my team simply I am very proud of you.

Lastly to Cameron and Claire, you know how I feel about the time away and now it's your turn. For anyone out there with thoughts of serving the Association at Board level, do it. It's extremely rewarding to be able to put something back in to our profession, but make sure you have the support of your family - you will need them more than you ever thought possible.

I suppose I should finish with 'I face the final curtain!' I hope not and in any case I would rather just say thank you for your support, and the privilege of being your Chairman, I did it my way (with guidance)!

Best Wishes for the New Year to you and your families.

Andy Campbell MG CGCS