



Feature listing from July 2003

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; Tynteside 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; Hellidon Lakes; Power Mowers; Pest Control; Cutting Heights Survey; Nozzles

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

Bringing it all Back Home



There are only two types of greenkeepers. Those who have gone through hard times and those who are about to go through hard times. At some point you will question your ability to cope with the pressures of high expectations under impossible conditions. An acceptance of the inevitability of unwarranted criticism and an inner belief in your own personal integrity may just help you survive.

As you read this I will be in pensive mood. I am due to attend The Open at St. Andrews in the county of my childhood, the Kingdom of Fife. Even at this late stage in my career it will be my first visit to an Open Championship and my first official visit to an Open Championship golf course. I have crossed the famous links before, as a young lad on a trip to the seaside with a football under my arm, anxious to reach the Hampden Park of St Andrews beach and play out my dreams patrolling the left wing with all the grace, elegance and footballing skills of Billy Connolly.

This return to my roots has caused me to reflect on the twists of fate, which have led me to where I am now and the lessons I have learned, more often than not, in complete contradiction to my fervent beliefs as a youth. Back then, I railed against everything which I considered to be 'establishment'. As your current Chairman, the epitome of establishment, it now comforts me to know that railing against the establishment is what the young are designed to do, it is what they do best, it is indeed their duty to do it and quite frankly I wish today's youth would do a lot more of it.

I recall as a young BGGGA member being critical of the leadership, who, at that time, seemed to offer nothing more than the occasional game of golf, a game which, in all truth, I had great difficulty in being enthusiastic about. Indeed, if it were not for fate pointing me towards a career in the continually stimulating world of greenkeeping, golf would have played very little, if any, part in my life. Then as now, I remember BGGGA members being criticised for not supporting events. My answer would always be the same. "I am a follower, not a leader. If we are not attending events then there is something wrong with the leadership."

Now, the boot is on the other foot and what I find most surprising is that this rather glib answer makes more sense to me now than it did then. Thankfully, BIGGA normally offers more than just a round of golf these days but I sincerely feel that where members are not turning up to events or are unhappy about what we offer, then we are not delivering at the coalface and it is up to those who have the necessary position and influence to ring the changes.

Don't get me wrong. I think BIGGA can be very proud of its achievements over the past 15 years or so but members, quite rightly, are more interested in what it has

to offer now and not how much better it is than it used to be. Members' needs have changed, their expectations have changed and in truth the industry is changing so rapidly that BIGGA needs to change to remain relevant.

I can understand our need to stay up with the game but I fervently hope, that in our eagerness to do so, we will not lose the heart of the matter. While beautifully presented golf courses are the prime objective of our labours, there is for me a deeper satisfaction to be gained from empowering each other to develop to our full potential and by being true to our own personal integrity through carrying out our duties with due regard for the people and the natural environment we affect.

So, to return to my main theme, while the drama unfolds on the historic links, the top golfers of this world may have to forgive me if it appears at times that my thoughts are elsewhere. I may be turned back towards the beach, dreaming of the pinpoint, floated cross I just delivered onto the head of my team mate to score the winning goal in the Cup Final, while hoping against hope that our industry does not succumb to the same folly as the 'beautiful game', success at any price.

Prancing prima donnas will openly forego their personal dignity by diving in the box or by collapsing in a heap when an opponent raises an arm above waist height somewhere in the same quarter of the pitch they happen to be standing in. The spectacle is devalued, the game is devalued and, sadly, our imposed acceptance of it devalues us all.

Over the past two years, I have been lucky enough to meet and talk with Euan Grant, The Old Course Head Greenkeeper. It will be Euan's first Open as Head Greenkeeper and I wish him and his team every success. If you want an example of how putting one's personal integrity first breeds success, then look no further than Euan. Anyone who has met him will know what I mean.

Like him, I believe that those of us who refuse to 'dive in the box' will have the real success in the end.

K. Daly

**Kerran Daly
Chairman**