



Feature listing from March 2003

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 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; Saltext Preview; Waste Water; Toro Student of the Year

September 2003; Hanbury Manor; Irrigation; Disease; Integrated Pest Management; Communication

October 2003; Construction Machinery; Pay Recommendations; Saltext 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); Saltext 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; Saltext 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

Education, Education, Education - Too Much Education?

New Profile



You will have by now received the news that the British and International Turf Managers Conference scheduled for March 19 and 20 at Staverton Park has had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. This is extremely disappointing and it begs the question about how much education our Association can maintain and where best we should target our education funding.

Are we suffering from too much education? The array of conferences now all competing for the same audience has led to a situation where choices have to be made about what to attend and what not to attend. There are conferences or similar educational events by the IOG, STRI, NTF, EGU, BIGGA, GCSAA, FEGGA and more besides.

There are architects' and constructors' conferences, irrigation conferences, turf suppliers' conferences and one day greenkeeping conferences run by the trade. This year we have ended up the losers but it will be someone else's turn next and this does none of us any good.

Maybe it is time that we got together to use our combined resources to produce an international sports turf industry conference at a major venue. As a combined conference we could run our own programmes but with the ability to sit in on other related areas as suited to each individual. It could reduce the participating Associations' costs, stop the competition for each others time and bring together the lead players from all sectors of our industry so that we might be able to understand each other better and help move each other forward. Course Managers could relax after a full day conference with secretaries, trade members, groundsman, agronomists, architects, Home Union officials and maybe even the odd golf professional, discussing how we can all work together to take the industry forward.

With today's low cost travel we could maybe even hold such an event during the winter in Southern Europe at little or no extra cost. What a mouth watering prospect that would be! The fact that British greenkeepers were willing to sign up to Orlando before Staverton Park makes you wonder.

This might all sound pie in the sky but I believe we need to dream big. Not so long ago we did not have our own national headquarters and BTME, as it is today, was just a pipe-dream. Without the vision and the will of those who have gone before it would have remained so.

I talked last month about the need to embrace change, as change is inevitable. I think we would all do well to remember the message of Charles Darwin: "It is not the strongest or the most intelligent that survive but the ones most responsive to change."

With all this talk of change it seems to me that the real area where we need to enable change most is amongst core greenkeepers. While catering for those who are fortunate enough to be able to attend national conferences or BTME, it is vitally important that we nurture the young talent and energy at the boiler room of our industry. They are the future and they need to be encouraged to become active,

supportive members of the Association and to share in its benefits.

Those members who complain about the Association have paid their pound and have every right to do so. Indeed I would encourage them to do so, in a constructive manner, so that we can try to better satisfy their needs. It is those who do not complain or are apathetic which worry me the most. Either they feel the Association has nothing to offer or they are simply not getting the message in an appropriate way.

We need to recognise that we have members in difficult situations with little encouragement from their employers to take up the training and development we offer. They are the ones who currently need us most and maybe they are where our resources should be targeted. How we do that is not for me to say. I do not have all the answers, ask my staff.

Maybe a round of golf and a talk on irrigation is not what they are looking for. Maybe they are not allowed to go for a round of golf and a talk on irrigation. Maybe we should get together with the Golf Unions, thank them for the seriously good work they are doing with the GTC, and ask them if they can help to the mutual benefit of us all.

Maybe the annual Section or Region seminar, aimed in the main at Course Managers, is no longer the priority. Maybe we should target small groups of local clubs who are not engaged and persuade them that having young, active members of BIGGA as staff on their golf courses is going to be of great benefit to them by improvements in the quality of their course.

As I said earlier, I do not have all the answers but I do know that there are greenkeepers out there who could not care less about the conference at Staverton Park because they do not have the opportunity to attend. It is they who deserve our most serious attention.

I am well known for quoting the lines of my favourite Bob Dylan songs and have often used one of his most famous 'The times they are a' changin''. Mr Dylan has a new song out, it is called 'Things Have Changed' - they have - we must!

K. Daly

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