

Feature listing from November 2003

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; Hellidon 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;
Mini Excavators; Disease; Finance; Scholarship

August 2005; Ramsey GC; Open Review;
Quad Bikes; Top Dressing; BIGGA Golf Day;
Anthracnose; National Championship Preview

September 2005; John O'Gaunt GC;
Drainage Special; Security; Student of the Year;
Massey Ferguson Profile

October 2005; Laleham GC; Dollar Spot;
Utility Vehicles; Bio Oil; Pneumatic Fracturing;
Best Practice

Chairman's Column



Tales from the Greenwood



I am at the final day of the National Championship at Sherwood Forest Golf Club. The course is splendid, the weather is great and I have met many members I have never met before and in no time at all we are like Robin's band of brothers. I am sitting on a bench on a fine autumn day in deepest Middle England, watching the merry men (there weren't any women) driving off from the 1st tee while I am thinking about how we might help the rich in spirit to support the poor.

I turn to a BIGGA member who I do not know and say: "How lucky are we, sitting here on a beautiful day, in a beautiful place, listening to the banter and just enjoying the crack? I feel lucky just to be here sharing it."

And he says: "Lucky, what do you mean lucky? As greenkeepers, we have a difficult job, we have all worked really hard to get where we are. It is effort and reward, it is what we are due, it's not lucky!"

And I say: "Well yes, but what I meant was I am lucky to have had the opportunities. I am lucky my parents gave me a good start, I am lucky generous people have helped me along the way, some don't get that kind of luck."

And he says: "You make your own luck in this world!"

I think about that for a minute or two. About the children of Beslan, about the London bombings, about the victims of the Tsunami and I just can't believe they deserved their luck. And I say: "You see, the thing is, I don't believe that you do make your own luck on your own. I believe other people make it for you. Every step forward I have made has been due to someone else's influence. Someone has always helped me or inspired me."

"And I think about people like, Bob Young at Sparsholt College and all the guys from the South Coast Section and the South West and South Wales Region Harrogate crew and Gordon Child saying to me once, 'Kerran, why don't you join the Regional Board, I think you have a lot to offer."

"Me - a lot to offer! That inspired me! And then Frank Newberry gets hold of me and just shoves me up onto another level and before you know it, I am here in Sherwood Forest, thinking about how lucky I am and what might be the best way to try to repay them by giving the same opportunity to others."

Someone else sits down and say: "What do you think we should do about all this apathy Kerran?"

"Which particular apathy?"

"Well, members not helping with Committee and not turning up to Section golf days and education events."

"Well", I say, "I don't really know."

"But you're the Chairman Kerran, you should know!"

And I say: "Well, it's not really my job to know. It is my job to ask questions, to highlight issues and to find and motivate the people who do know. Somebody does know, because there are Sections that are very active and get good attendances. To be honest I don't know how they do it but all we have to do is give them the key to open up the opportunities to influence others."

"Ah, you will never change them Kerran, it's how people are today, they are just not interested."

And one of those old Dylan songs just bursts into my head.

'While one who sings with his tongue on fire
Gargles in the rat race choir
Bent out of shape from society's pliers
Cares not to come up any higher
But rather get you down in the hole
That he's in'

And I am thinking, well, if people can exert enough pressure to bring down the Berlin Wall, surely if you believe in something enough you can achieve anything you want. And I say, "Well, I am not really trying to change anybody, people change by themselves, change is inevitable. All I'm hoping to do is make more opportunities for positive change as opposed to negative change."

Just then, our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, taps me on the shoulder and says: "Kerran, can you just check an email I am sending to one of the members?"

So I go and read the email and it is to a member who wants to give his time to support fellow greenkeepers. John is offering him the opportunity to join with others to see if they can find the most positive and effective way of bringing this about. That is all you can do really, keep creating positive opportunities for all. Some will take them up and some won't, some will bear fruit and some won't, but the more we create, the more chance there is that those currently looking for something better will find it.

Now it is November, it's bonfire time. Time to burn all your accumulated rubbish, both physical and metaphorical. Time for a good clear out, time to lighten the load, time to get rid of all that excess baggage and free your mind. I think about Robin Hood and his merry men sat around their campfire, purging their sins by quaffing good English ale while sharpening their arrows and plotting the next opportunity to lighten the burden of those less able to support themselves.

We all occasionally stray from the path and get lost in the forest. Sometimes we cannot see the wood for the trees, but if we keep lighting the fires, more and more may see the light and come in from the cold.

From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow.

K. Daly

Chairman