

Feature listing from October 2003

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 Usage;
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

Chairman's Column



Communication is the key

Can collaboration with The R&A and communication with the RA's (Regional Administrators) help us all to move forward?



Having just returned from Saltex, it only served to remind me of how quickly time flies and that the conference season will be with us again soon. Harrogate Week promises to be bigger than ever, running from Sunday through to Friday, hence the title Harrogate Week (well nearly). There will be an extended programme of workshops aimed at all levels of membership, so there should be something for everyone.

The workshops, with more concentrated learning on specific subjects relevant to the individual, have proved more popular each year. Personally, I would like to see these workshops move out into the Regions so perhaps you could consider this when planning your Section and Region education. Those from your locality who cannot attend Harrogate Week would, I am sure, be most grateful. It might make a change from the annual Regional Seminar, or maybe you could do both?

In addition to the workshops there will also be a conference, in conjunction with The R&A, on 'sustainable' golf. We hope it will be the first of many successful collaborations between the two bodies. Please turn up or, after the cancellation in March, I will begin to take it personally. I think this conference will stimulate great debate. Maybe we will get a definitive answer as to whether fungicides will really disappear? Maybe we will discover whether the restoration to fescue/bent-based greens can be achieved without affecting our golf club members and our jobs? Maybe we will find the answer to the burning question of how do we get the message across to golf and golfers that sustainability is imperative?

I believe that most greenkeepers already believe that lush green Poa is not the most sustainable way forward but at the moment it is what many golfers want and our job is to provide what golfers want. How do we change what they want? I await this debate with interest!

At Saltex I bumped into a number of members (no, not on the bouncy castles) who wished to discuss BIGGA business. Some expressed their gratitude for various BIGGA initiatives which had helped them in recent times. Others were less content and explained to me just what we were not doing to the standard they expect. Just like at the golf club, there are always some who will praise the course even when you think it is not too great and some who will point out the deficiencies just when you think it is stunning. This serves to prove that we all have different expectations and a different point of view depending upon our circumstances.

At work, criticisms are often helpful in pushing me and the team up onto another level. It is the same with BIGGA, so please let me and the Board know if you are particularly unhappy with any aspect of the Association. Of course, in some instances the expectations are so high as to be unobtainable. In these situations, one has to diplomatically spell out the wants versus the resources issue. Sorry mate, but

you can't have Augusta for £700 a year.

One of the main concerns of the BIGGA members I met was contact, or the lack of it, between members and HQ and the Board. You can, of course, talk to any of us at any time to sort out problems on the telephone but I realise it is not just conversation and service you want. You, quite rightly, desire a genuine feeling of a united Association with all parts of the team pulling together towards the common goal of improved status and professionalism within our industry.

The best sign of that, I always feel, is how the team support those who need support the most. To this end, we are negotiating for a trial mediation service for those who are having difficulty with their employers, to see if we can smooth out problems before we get to the legal helpline stage. As you may have read last month, John Pemberton is also stepping up meetings with Section Secretaries in an effort to further develop unity and bring us all closer together.

In the context of bringing us closer together I think it should be remembered that the Regional Administrators are the representatives of HQ at Regional and local level. They are just as much part of the HQ team as anyone else and they were put in place to form that important link between the rest of the HQ staff and the members. The staff at Aldwark are, in the main, busy dealing with national business and cannot get out into the Regions as often as they or you would like.

This is precisely why Jane, Clive, Peter and Peter are employed to take on the role of servicing members at local level on behalf of the team, indeed, they are HQ at local level. So, while I am sure that the BIGGA HOUSE staff would like to get out more often meeting members, it should be recognised that the Regional Administrators are the staff you will more regularly encounter.

They play the roving midfield role and provide regular feedback to the Chief Executive and the Board at team meetings. They are HQ staff and they are right there on your doorstep, so please use them and direct any concerns or ideas you have about the Association to them.

By the way, as I am writing this, England have just won the Ashes, Northern Ireland just beat England and Scotland just won against Norway in the World Cup and Wales, well Wales can still brag about the rugby so there should be some happy greenkeepers about. Just goes to show what can be achieved when we all play as a team.

TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More

Kerran Daly
Chairman