Feature listing from July 2004

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 Greekeeper 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

November 2005; Chipping Norton GC; National Championship; Course Construction; Fertilisers; Servicing

December 2005; Harrogate Week Preview; BIGGA Delegation; Environmental Competition; Fescue Debate; Irrigation

January 2006; Bearwood Lakes GC; Course Furniture; Nicklaus Design; Seed; Alternative Fuel; Disease Survey

February 2006; Cold Ashby GC; Netting; Chemical Fertilisers; Turf Construction

March 2006; Seed; Ride-on Mowers; Pesticides; Irrigation; Bio Stimulants

April 2006; R&A Conference Report; Sconnie GC Pofile; GCSAA Delegation Report; Wastewater

May 2006; Stock Brook GC Profile; Spraying; Aeration; Line Marking; Growth Retardants

June 2006; Disturbance Theory; Hand Tools; Surveying; Thatch/Scarification; Drought

lt's Tournament Time

During May and June I have attended three major, televised sporting events, two being very successful with the other turning into great disappointment.

The disappointing event was, yes you have guessed it, seeing my beloved Leeds United not turning up at the Millennium Stadium and getting well and truly turned over. All credit to all you Watford boys and girls out there, you may have been out numbered two to one in terms of support but you deserved the victory.

It was my pleasure to visit two of the top Tour events held in the UK within a week of each other and the weather conditions couldn't have been more different. My first visit was to Wentworth for the BMW, meeting up with our Support Team who as always presented themselves in a true professional manner.

The deluge of rain presented Chris Kennedy and his team with some severe challenges that many of us wouldn't like to face for our Captain's Day let alone a major televised event broadcast around the world. As always the Wentworth team, lead by Chris, rose to the challenge presenting the course superbly and providing a great test of golf to some of the world's top golfers.

My second tournament within a week was the Wales Open held at Celtic Manor, with the weather being a complete contrast from the weekend before as the tournament saw dry sunny weather from day one. As we all know, you can't beat a bit of sunshine to show your course off to members and visitors alike but the dry sunny weather can cause major stress to the turf and Course Managers, especially with the high presentation required for a major Tour event, as usual Jim McKenzie and his crew took it in their stride and presented the course in fantastic condition. The event also gave me the opportunity to meet up with my hosts for the day Bernhard's, who have once again agreed to sponsor a BIGGA delegation of ten to the States and it is hoped that the GCSAA will be sending a delegation to the next Harrogate week.

Bernhard's must be congratulated for the concept to broaden our members' educational horizons that will now see 80 members benefiting from their experiences on the other side of the pond. Also it was a pleasure to network with a few more BIGGA members at Celtic Manor, unfortunately I got myself, and Glen from the London Club, lost trying to find the new holes for the Ryder Cup. At least they didn't send out the search party!

Chris and Jim had different weather conditions to cope with before and during their tournaments and both teams surpassed the test and provided the world with excellently presented courses.

The countdown is well underway for the 135th Open Championship that gets underway at Royal Liverpool after an absence of almost 40 years. The Association's good wishes go to Links Manager Craig Gilholm and his team for a trouble free Championship. Our Support Team, with a mixture of new and experienced support team members will be on hand as usual to help in any aspect of course preparation which may be required of them and of course the management of the bunkers throughout the event. I would like to express the Association's thanks to you all.

Champion of BIGGA

This month my champion of BIGGA is Warren Bevan, Course Manager at Lancaster Golf Club. With the support of his Section he has organised local educational events in his area to bring members together on a regular basis, providing an excellent networking opportunity. I know Warren also invites non-members to attend and hopefully they will realise what they are missing, not being members. I know Warren is 100% behind our Association and hopefully this recognises his work.

Richard Whyman Chairman

Chairman's Column

