

Feature listing from June 2004

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

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; Scennie GC Profile; GCSAA Delegation Report; Wastewater

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

Chairman's Column



Under Pressure

This year's late spring, has caused Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers, up and down the country and within Europe many a sleepless night. The pressure today of completing essential maintenance programmes, such as, hollow coring earlier and earlier in the year, has added to the problem. There was a time when spring renovation, meant spring but today many Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers, have to complete tasks such as hollow coring before the start of April, to fit within the ever increasing fixture list. This is ok when spring comes early!



Now on top of that, the first drought order since 1995 has been granted which means a ban on non-essential use of water. Under the six-month order, Sutton and East Surrey Water companies can ban mains water irrigation, to golf clubs, parks and sports grounds. A few sports clubs and turf growers had objected to a non-essential water ban, but their appeals were turned down.

Clubs with their own water supply, will also be effected, as the media circus moves into full swing highlighting recreational water use, side by side with the poor record water companies have in reducing leakage, not forgetting the large profits they record.

The general public will see golf courses being watered and not consider if the water is from the mains or from the clubs own water source.

Again I hear of excellent Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers, turning their backs on course management due to the stress caused by the weather, members and animals but it was still a big surprise to me, when told of a recent strew pole of 20 students studying NVQ level two. Not one of those students felt that they were potential Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers. We have to ask the question, why? Is it that they see the effects of stress on their managers or the fact that promotion usually leads to moving out of their local area, an area they may have lived in all their lives. I know that this can be the case in the south west of England but our brothers and sisters north of the border seem to cope very well.

I am sure that every Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, has at some point suffered periods of stress at work but I believe that the continued education and networking, our association can deliver, is the key to helping members over their problems.

At Burnham and Berrow, we have a major rabbit problem and we have tried most things to reduce the damage those little furry darlings cause. This year I presented a paper on Burnham & Berrow at the

Canadian Conference, in Vancouver, mentioning those furry darlings and received a great joke via email from Canada, referring to afterlife, the golf course and rabbits. It certainly brightened up my day proving networking does work.

Champion of BIGGA

This month I have chosen a man whom I have known for many years, Bill Mitchell, of Perranporth Golf Club Cornwall. Billy has put more into greenkeeping and the education of trainees, than anyone I personally know and without being paid a penny. In fact, he has been out of pocket more times than I can remember, as he has purchased educational books to loan trainees to help them gain important knowledge without receiving them back after the trainee has achieved his/her goals. I am sure, if each and every trainee returned the books borrowed from Billy he would donate them to his favoured college or our library at BIGGA HOUSE. On my return to the Devon and Cornwall Section, back in the mid 80s, I met Billy for the first time and have gained a great friendship since, which has stood the test of time. He has always supported BIGGA 100%, giving his time to both his Section and Region. With Billy being so passionate about our Association there has been times when his views differed to others but Billy would always use the Association's democratic procedure to voice his objections and after due process would abide with the democratic decision.

Richard Whyman
Chairman