



Feature listing from May 2004

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 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

Is there any water in the spring

As we move into May many parts of the Country have had water restrictions enforced on them by water companies very concerned with ground water levels. We all know if the present conditions persist the hosepipe ban will turn into a ban on golf clubs using mains water to irrigate their courses. This is all we need if the cool dry period continues preventing recovery from the winter months' wear and tear our golf courses have been subjected to.



If that's not bad enough in the West Country, the press have reported that a group of eco terrorists are threatening to carry out attacks on golf courses in a popular West Country City. The unnamed group is demanding all clubs cut the amount of water they use by a quarter and return 10% of their course back to nature with policies to control wildlife reversed.

Again the golf industry still isn't getting the message across to the general public that golf actually is environmentally friendly within Europe, we know that there will always be a small section of our community with radical and extreme views which we hope the police and courts will deal with hard no nonsense sentences.

We, as an Association, continue to communicate with the press and television companies highlighting the benefits of our educational programmes and environmental competition to the golfing and general public. The Board realise that we have a lot of work to do in partnership with other golfing bodies to make the big breakthrough with the media. We have tried to get our environmental winners on television and radio with limited success in the past, Scott, our Communications Manager and the Communications/Magazine Sub Committee will continue to drive the positives of sound course management and the benefits to environment to the media.

Returning to the likelihood of water restrictions your Association will have a key role to play, when I mean your Association I mean you the members who can help each other with the stresses involved with water restrictions or any greenkeeping problem.

The more experienced Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper (usually the older member who has seen it before) will already be putting his/her contingency maintenance plans in place if the unthinkable does happen and conveying them to their members This is where being an active member of BIGGA can really help by networking with fellow professionals at events both local and national or through the members bulletin boards to gain the advice needed. Hopefully by the time you read this the warm and steady rain has arrived and the course has never looked better but if anyone has a problem don't let it build up inside you share it with a fellow professional.

Over the last year Kerran kept you informed with regard to the review of the Association's business plan

which the board has now approved. I like to take this opportunity to thank the associations Past Chairmen Andy and Kerran and our trustee Mark Dobell steering the review through to a successful conclusion. The business plan will be a working document with planned reviews during the year, the plan covers Membership, Harrogate Week, Communications and Publications, Education and Training, Sponsorship and National Structure. If you would like to know more about the plan please contact Head Office or your Regional Administrator and Section Secretary who have been issued with a copy.

During my 30 years greenkeeping I have worked at four clubs all within the South West and South Wales region I feel rightly or wrongly that I have a good understanding of the memberships needs within the region, its not until I sat on the national board that I realised that each region has slightly different needs. As I also chair the membership sub committee I would like to know more about the needs of our International members. I'd like to hear from any international member on how your association can enhance your benefits so we can continue to move forward together. Any of your ideas that the board feel are practical will be included within the business plan with target dates to achieve within set budgets

Champions of BIGGA

Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager at Rungsted GC, in Denmark, has been clocking up the air miles recently attending Regional Seminars and explaining just how he has reduced the thatch levels on his course using natural, sustainable means. As well as working in the UK Ian has spent time as Course Manager in Switzerland and it is wonderful that even being so far away ex pat greenkeepers like Ian can make such a positive contribution to the Association.

Thank you Ian for the work that you do and I hope you continue to thrive in Denmark

Richard Whyman
Chairman