

Feature listing from November 2004

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; Scennie GC Profile; 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

July 2006; Hoylake Profile; Difficult Areas; Japanese Course Management; Top Dressing; Askernish Project

August 2006; Open Championship Review; Drainage; Burton GC Profile; Sustainability; Japan; ATVs; Trailers

September 2006; Building an Irrigation Lake; Toro Student of the Year Preview; Artificial Surfaces; Algae

October 2006; Trevoze GC Profile; Aeration; Utility Vehicles; Open Aftermath; Grinding Equipment

Chairman's Column



Change Is In The Air

As I write my column this month my thoughts are focused on the men and women managing golf courses across Europe, who have had to deal with one of the most extreme weather patterns that we have encountered over recent years. Here in the southwest of England the weather continues to be dry and warm with records being broken each month, October looks as if it's becoming one of the warmest on record. The weather has also, at times, been very localised with many of you during the summer in the southeast crying out for a decent days rain, at the same time only a few miles away a club is blessed with enough to keep the course going another week. It's been hard enough for us to deal with the weather patterns, but then we have to explain to the golfer why the course has suffered. Communication will be the key to our success, it's important to gather the data which will back up your reports both written and verbally, not forgetting to present the facts in a professional manner. Our Harrogate week educational programme has workshops and seminars to help you get your message across.

The National Tournament was held at the beginning of October at Burton on Trent GC, with the course being set up to tournament standards by Gavin Robson and his team who put so much hard work in presenting the course for our enjoyment. Well my enjoyment was watching the lads three putt the last!

Meeting the membership is one of the parts I have enjoyed the most during my year in office, meeting and talking to so many new faces was very pleasing and I thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. During my year in office I would have liked to visit each Section, but I hope you will understand that this isn't possible with all the commitments that I have. I hope to meet many more new faces during Harrogate week 2007.

On this subject I have to inform you that we have made the decision to close hall Q, each company exhibiting in hall Q deserved the same throughput of people as the other four halls, the board was concerned that this may not happen if hall Q was only half full as it is slightly disjointed from the other halls. All the present exhibitors who have already booked their space in hall Q will be found favourable space in the main halls. The show will not be devalued in any way with four main halls full to the limit, creating an even busier feel about the show.

The companies exhibiting at Harrogate week deserve your support both in enquiries of their products and your attendance at Harrogate week and don't forget Harrogate week is more than a show - it's an opportunity for you, the members, to enhance your skills through further education. You can click online to www.harrogateweek.org.uk and view the website's of companies who have already signed up to Harrogate Week 2007.

This year your association has seen a steady increase in membership numbers, I feel this is due to the improved system to renew membership, which has kept retention at an all time high. It's always been hard to break into clubs where the Course manager/Head greenkeeper are not members of

our association and this is where you can help by networking with your fellow professionals highlighting the benefits on offer.

At the present time a working group with representatives from BIGGA, the Secretaries Association and health and safety consultants are busy finalising a new Health and safety management system which will hopefully be launched at Harrogate week, this highlights how far we have come as an association within our industry - we are now part of a working party driving this forward for the benefit of golf.

It is planned to launch, during Harrogate week, the new look website. The new site will have many new items for members to access, the new site will allow our staff to update and change items without having to go to a costly web designer, which occurs at present, if you have any ideas you would like to be considered please contact Scott MacCallum as soon as possible.

Champion of BIGGA

This month my champion of BIGGA is Graeme Taylor, Course Manager of the Eden Course at St Andrews Links Trust. Although Graeme isn't, at present, on the Sections committee, he is a keen supporter of the Association and Section and has given up a lot of his own time in helping the Section set up and develop its own website. This provides a valuable service to the Section in keeping its members informed of what is happening in the Section and Region.

Richard Whyman
Chairman