

## Feature listing from September 2004

**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

**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 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

# Chairman's Column



## Time to reflect

Once again September is upon us with daylight hours drawing in faster than we would like. This is a time when we start reflecting on the growing season that is rapidly drawing to a close. We will all assess our own and others performance and how the golf course performed throughout the season. There will always be plus's and minus's, the latter should always be viewed in a positive light, how can the problem be overcome or how to deal with it. The answer is likely to be further education and this is where your association can help you develop for the future.



This autumn our association will, once again, be holding a series of workshops and seminars taking place throughout the country and your educational team of Ken Richardson, Sami Collins and the educational sub committee have put together the most comprehensive educational programme to date for Harrogate week 2007, I am sure there will be something there for you all.

During this month the Toro Student of the Year competition reaches its conclusion with the final taking place at Aldwark Manor. The finalist journey started back in the spring when they were nominated to represent their college etc at the Regional Finals. Ken Richardson and his panel travelled the length and breadth of the country to interview the candidates. With each year that passes, the quality of candidates and their professional approach just gets better, making selection for the finals extremely difficult. As in all competitions many of the candidates were disappointed that they hadn't reached the finals but hopefully they will reflect on not being selected for the finals in a positive light, as each and every one of the candidates were already winners for being selected for the Regional Finals.

The national finals of the John Deere Championships take place this month at East Sussex National. The finalists, who have won through dealer organised local events, will be competing for the chance to play in the World Final at the Reynolds Plantation Golf and Country Club in Greensboro, Georgia. The format of this event brings together the golf clubs management team that can only help to improve communications within the club. I wish all the finalists in the Toro Student greenkeeper of the year and the John Deere championships the best of luck; don't forget that preparation will be the key.

The BIGGA National Championship takes place next month at Burton-on-Trent, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen. The event will be played over 36 holes with the lowest gross score becoming the BIGGA National Champion, the player with the best nett score will receive the BIGGA Challenge cup. If you haven't already entered and wish to take part you need to contact BIGGA House as soon as possible as places are now limited.

### Champion of BIGGA

This month my column is dedicated to my deputy at Burnham and Berrow GC, Mick Dodd, as he reaches retirement later this month after 44 years dedicated service to the club. I know that there are still quite a few members out there who will reach the 40 plus years of service at a club but I think it will become the exception to the rule in years to come.

Mick started at Burnham in 1962 after working with his father beforehand. Like many of us he came into our profession by accident and fell in love with working on Burnham's natural links. Mick had two stints totalling about 10 years as Head Greenkeeper but his love of the course outweighed the administrative and political element of the Head Greenkeepers job, he was happy to hand the reigns over so he could concentrate on tending to his beloved links. In 44 years he has seen many major changes to Burnham's layout, from new holes being built on the championship course, to the development of the nine-hole course back in 1976 - not to mention the development in machinery over this period from push hand mowers to state of the art fairway mowers to name but a few. Head Greenkeepers, Secretaries, Stewards and Professionals have come and gone and some returned but Mick was the one the club could turn to, to steer the ship. It has been a pleasure working with Mick over the last three years; both the members and the staff will miss his professionalism and character.

Mick all the boys wish you a long, happy retirement.

Richard Whyman  
Chairman