

Feature listing from January 2005

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; Helliwell 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

November 2006; National Championship; BIGGA Photographic Exhibition; Drainage Explained; Greens Brushing

December 2006; BIGGA Environment Competition Results; Harrogate Week Preview; Work Wear; Paths; Tyres

Chairman's Column



Time to vote with your feet



Happy New Year to one and all!

As I write this, my final column, the weather in early December is still very mild and wet. This is the first year for some time that many of our inland courses in the southwest have had to close before Christmas due to water logging; it's marvellous how Mother Nature tries to put her house in order.

Yet again many Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers are feeling the strain of their members' demands to play golf in any condition, and usually these members will be the first to point the finger in early spring if the course isn't like Augusta!

By the time you read this the festive season will be well and truly over, I hope that all of you have had a stress free period with the course fully open and your members purring about their clubs the other half gave them for Christmas.

So January is here, still with those miserable days when we start and finish work in the dark, those spring days seem so far away. Harrogate for me is a refreshing break from those January blues when you can meet new and old colleagues who are in the same boat as you. Sometimes just talking about your problems will lift the stress from your shoulders; quite often someone has been through the same problem as you and can advise on the best way through it.

So what's Harrogate Week got to offer you?

The Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate Week offers educational opportunities to absolutely everybody within the turf care industry. From the Course Manager to the trainee greenkeeper there will be something for you and many of the seminars are free!

We also have plenty of educational opportunities for Groundsman, Golf Club officials and club owners, Secretaries/Managers and Professionals, so if you are connected to turf you should be there.

Over the course of the five days there will be five two-day workshops; 11 one-day workshops and six half-day workshops for Greenkeepers and Groundsmen. In conjunction with BIGGA, the English Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, there will be two half day workshops and six seminars and for the first time the Professional Golfers Association will be holding its three day UK Coach Certificate course during the week. The R&A is also holding a one-day workshop on Sustainable Golf, which is already sold out.

Harrogate Week exhibition is now completely full and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our exhibitors for once again showing their support to our industry and continuing to make Harrogate week the largest indoor trade show for our industry outside the United States. The talking has now stopped and it's time for one and all to support your own trade show, so lads and lasses it's time to vote with your feet and make this the event no one can afford to miss.

Recently I was invited to the South Wales Christmas event held at Pyle & Kenfig GC. After working that morning I rushed

home at lunchtime and had a quick clean up before heading off to arrive for their Christmas dinner. As I expected Peter Lacey, the Section Secretary, ran the day in superb fashion. Peter is a true supporter of our Association and always asks questions about the Association he cares passionately about, through the Section and Regional boards. Peter is without doubt a Champion of BIGGA, the evening gave me a chance to meet many members for the first time, I did get slightly depressed when two gentlemen informed me that their course maintenance budget was just 13k a year! Local involvement at Section level can help if only to give support and encouragement.

Well my year as Chairman is nearly over now, I would like to thank everyone I have met throughout the year for the hospitality shown to me. It's been an honour to represent you, the members, at events and meetings throughout the year. I believe as an Association we have continued to look to the future which is a credit to the democratic system we have in place, we as an Association must continue to look forward as we owe it to the membership not to stand still and be left behind.

At the AGM I will pass the stewardship of our Association over to Billy McMillan whom I know will be a great ambassador for our Association.

Champion of BIGGA

My final champion of BIGGA is all the National Board members who give up their own time to benefit each and every member. Many of the board will travel six hours to attend meetings at Aldwark which is then followed by sub committee meetings from 1pm to 5pm followed by the full board meeting the following day at 8.30am, running to about 1pm before making that long journey home. I would like to thank each and every board member for their professional approach throughout the year and the due democratic process.

Richard Whyman
Chairman