



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Tony Smith, gives his thoughts for the month

So – You Want to be Promoted?

November is conference month and I had the great pleasure of attending the Midlands and Northern regional conferences in Leicester and Rotherham respectively.

They were exceptionally well attended and the content was informative, interesting and entertaining. It's not just the educational aspect of these events that make them so valuable – I always look forward to meeting members old and new. I also attended the BIGGA Midland Team Challenge at Burton on Trent Golf Club.

Gavin Robson did an excellent job in arranging the sponsors, as did Sandra Raper with the running of the event.

It's really important that members across the Sections and Regions support these type of events – I'm well aware that everyone is extremely busy but without your support they will simply be unable to continue.

They also couldn't continue without sponsors - thank you to Toro for providing superb prizes for the winners and also Bearing Transmission and Pneumatics, Inturf, Complete Weed Control and North Staffs Irrigation.

The other main event for me this month was the South Wales Section dinner which was a great night with a considerable number of members in attendance, and an impressive amount of money raised for charity. Well done to all concerned.

We've also seen the 'So You Want to be Promoted' training and education programme begin across the country – see page nine for further details.

I'm absolutely delighted that we are able to support Jacobsen in this fantastic initiative and to get this very important project off the ground. There are many young members out there who want to

make greenkeeping a career rather than it just be a job and this scheme gives those individuals valuable information on how to climb the career ladder.

It's delivered by Course Managers who have trodden the same path so they can offer genuine insight.

Education is our lifeblood and I urge all interested members to find out more about this and other opportunities.

The picture accompanying my article this month shows me in the late seventies (where has the time gone?!) – at that time there were none of the educational opportunities which are available now so make the most of them. At my own Golf Club at Teesside, it's the autumn leaves which have caused

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all the nightmares this month and I'm sure it's been a similar story for many of you.

There have been twice as many leaves as last year and we've had the additional problem of localised wet spots which we've needed to drain.

We've also had too much rain again throughout autumn. It really feels like we've only had about three days of good weather this year - the promised Indian Summer never materialised did it?

BTME is now firmly at the forefront of everyone's minds and for anyone still unsure about the logistical details, this issue has all the information you could ever



prepared for what I'm sure will be another hugely successful event. BTME offers so many educational opportunities - and places for the seminars and workshops are going fast so book now!

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I'd also like to congratulate all members on the all the hard work you've put in this year. We all know it's been such a testing year with the worst summer that many of us can recall.

But together we're a strong association and I'm very optimistic ahead of the new year.

Roll on 2013. Season's Greetings Tony.

Contact details

Tony Smith
07988 838956
tony.smith48@ntlworld.com