be similar and would allow a wide diversity of plants and animals to flourish. Finally it was proposed that the EAU should continue to be involved with the golf course design in order to ensure that the most ecologically sympathetic proposals would be achieved. Now armed with an independent report suggesting that the proposed golf course could only do good, Mr Doyle Davidson appointed a planning consultant, someone who was fully acquainted with local planning authorities and regulations to guide the company's application through the various planning committees.

Next came a video. Amongst the Wentworth members was a PR director of a large advertising agency who, together with a number of his colleagues, produced a video making the case for the proposed new course. On the video Chris Denham, B.B.C. S.W. presenter, interviewed Renton Laidlaw, the golf correspondent of the London Evening Standard, who pointed out the need for additional golfing facilities; John Jacobs who confirmed that his design would enhance the area; Dr. Parker who also confirmed that the affect on the flora and fauna would be beneficial, and Richard Doyle Davidson who calmed the fears of the estate residents and members. The video presentation was made to some 30 interested groups and it contributed greatly to the ultimate success, a professional tool for a professional approach.

The majority of the objectors, having seen the evidence and received the company's presentation of the facts, withdrew. The planning committee of Runnymede Borough Council agreed to the plan with one caveat, that an ecological management committee be formed to produce a ten year management plan for the site. This committee compris-ing representatives from the Borough Council, Wentworth residents association, the EAU of Liverpool University, the Surrey Wildlife Trust, the golf course architects and the Wentworth Club Ltd, with Richard Doyle Davidson appointed chairman. Having drawn up a routing plan for the golf in conjunction with the architects and Dr. Arthur Linley of the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Mr. Doyle Davidson presented this to the management committee who endorsed the scheme. The Runnymede planning authorities also approved both management plan and planning application.

The route of the course was then marked out with tape and scrub cleared to a width of 50 yards. The trees that were to remain in these 'playing areas' were marked and the tree clearance programme started in the autumn of 1987. The site is now ready for the golf course constructors, Golf Landscapes, to move in and start shaping and building.

Details of the design and construction will form the basis of the next article in this series.

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MORE BOOKS for GREENKEEPERS and GREENS

THIS occasional series, which started in July 1986, has attempted to suggest a reading list for those interested in golf course maintenance. The great difficulty is the need to have some understanding of a whole range of subjects. Concentrating on a narrow spectrum makes it impossible to cross boundaries and appreciate the difficulties of the other people involved, be they agronomists, architects or golfers. Many failures over the past eighty years can be attributed to the lack of wider views.

A secondary objective has been to share with other book-lovers the joys of discovering interesting old books. Over the past five years, golf books have shot up in value and scarcity. People in the book trade recognise that golf is a specialised market and channel golf books to specialist dealers, where prices soon escalate. Today, it is rare to find interesting old golfing books in the hands of general dealers. This has taken much of the fun away from those of us who enjoy searching the shelves for rarities at bargain prices. It can still happen, of course, and I had such a find last week in a shop, I noticed some shelves of secondhand copies at less than half the new price of £75. Think of any area of Britain or any habitat and you will find a detailed and easily understood description of why it is what it is. Knowledge concerning the influence of local soils and local climates on the vegetation is invaluable when the aim is to grow specific perennial grasses.

Speaking of soils and their ecological influence, another volume in the "New Naturalist" series which caught my eye was Britain's Structure and Scenery by L Dudley Stamp (1946). This concerns the topography and soils of different areas and relates them to the geographical history.

For two books with the same title: Turf Culture by Ian Greenfield (1962) and by Frank Hope (1978). Greenfield is described as "being specifically as agricultural adviser to a leading firm of chemical manufacturers". His views on turf nutrition would not meet with universal approval, but this is a comprehensive work containing much of interest. Frank Hope's book is aimed at the practicing groundsman and contains much of interest. Frank Hope's book is aimed at the practicing groundsman and contains much of interest. Frank Hope's book is aimed at the practicing groundsman and contains much of interest.

Now, for something completely different - Lawn making together with proper keeping of putting greens by Leonard Barron (1906), a book published in New York which records the early difficulties experienced by Americans who tried to copy our fine grassed areas. A quote makes interesting reading: "As well recognise first as last the fact that the world famed lawns of Europe are impossible to the gardens this side of the Atlantic. Over there the grasses grow once they are established and reseed themselves with a facility that is surprising to the New World gardener. Here, with the problems of excessive and brilliant sunshine in summer, often coupled with spells of exhausting drought, and followed by extreme cold of our often rigorous winters, the grasses suffer strains which necessitate an entirely different method of lawn making. Hence the fine art of lawn grass mixtures has developed almost into a science and excites an amount of interest that is not paralleled elsewhere." Indeed it was even worse than that when the attempt was made to make lawns and greens in even more unsympathetic climatic areas. Somehow, over the years we allowed ourselves to be persuaded that the Americans did it better than we did. The truth is that greenkeeping over there was much more difficult because of the climate and soils, but they had some success in solving their problems. Read the Green Section Record and you will see that many snags remain. As for us, we all fell for the line that by copying American methods we could produce something better. Studying books will certainly not teach anyone all there is to know about golf course maintenance, but it might make us all think before we jump out of the frying pan into the next fire.

COMMITTEES

by Eddie Park

A very general reference book on golf is The Shell International Encyclopaedia of Golf by Donald Steel and Peter Ryde (1975), with excellent descriptions of courses and architects as well as of golfers. Now for something completely different - Lawn making together with proper keeping of putting greens by Leonard Barron (1906), a book published in New York which records the early difficulties experienced by Americans who tried to copy our fine grassed areas. A quote makes interesting reading: "As well recognise first as last the fact that the world famed lawns of Europe are impossible to the gardens this side of the Atlantic. Over there the grasses grow once they are established and reseed themselves with a facility that is surprising to the New World gardener. Here, with the problems of excessive and brilliant sunshine in summer, often coupled with spells of exhausting drought, and followed by extreme cold of our often rigorous winters, the grasses suffer strains which necessitate an entirely different method of lawn making. Hence the fine art of lawn grass mixtures has developed almost into a science and excites an amount of interest that is not paralleled elsewhere." Indeed it was even worse than that when the attempt was made to make lawns and greens in even more unsympathetic climatic areas. Somehow, over the years we allowed ourselves to be persuaded that the Americans did it better than we did. The truth is that greenkeeping over there was much more difficult because of the climate and soils, but they had some success in solving their problems. Read the Green Section Record and you will see that many snags remain. As for us, we all fell for the line that by copying American methods we could produce something better. Studying books will certainly not teach anyone all there is to know about golf course maintenance, but it might make us all think before we jump out of the frying pan into the next fire.

confusion in what we are being asked to provide for the golfer. During the past year I have managed to extend my collection without spending too much money. The largest item, both in price and size, is The British Islands and their vegetation by A G Tansley (1939). Sir Arthur Tansley was very much the "father" of ecology in this country in the days before the subject became a political football. This magnificent tome, published nearly fifty years ago, is remarkable for the fact that it is still in print and is still a standard work of reference. So a secondhand copy at less than half the new price of £75 is good value. Think of any area of Britain or any habitat and you will find a detailed and easily understood description of why it is what it is. Knowledge concerning the influence of local soils and local climates on the vegetation is invaluable when the aim is to grow specific perennial grasses.

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22
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THE South West and South Wales Region

Worster, Course Manager at Lilley Brook

The first paper was given by Nick Rigden, N.D.H. Cert. Ed. on Greenkeeper training, and the day off with an insight into the training given at Cannington for the City and Guilds. He also pointed out courses which they are prepared to run at the college for the future of greenkeeper education. How good it was to hear someone spelling out the importance of specialised greenkeeper training from a college. Well done Nick!

Bob Corna of the N.C.C. gave the second paper on 'Nature Conservation of Golf Courses', and personally have not heard a better talk on conservation connected to golf courses. It was very informative and his slides were excellent. I am sure they were enjoyed by everyone.

We ran up to lunch with question time and during the break with the Chairman, Ivor Scoones, with the two morning speakers taking on a lively 30 minutes of questions. After an hour off for a superb lunch provided by the college chef, Ken Morris, everyone came back for the afternoon session happy and replete.

The South West Section held its AGM on the 26th January, Broome Manor Golf Complex played host to the South West Section for a most interesting lecture and slide show from Jack McMillan, head greenkeeper at Sunningdale. Jack's wide experience and knowledge certainly showed through as he passed on many useful tips and ideas to the audience.

After a short break, Brown and Sons Seeds took over with a general knowledge quiz for teams of three greenkeepers, the team captained by Laurence Pittie winning with 23 points out of 30 points. Many thanks to Dave Padfield of Browns for researching the questions and providing the prizes.

The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the only shame was that only 17 members bothered to turn up. Members should note that the Spring Tournament featuring the Iseki Qualifying round will be held on May 3rd at Lansdown.

The meeting opened at 2.20 pm with a paper on 'Tourism Mariage Encoachment' and all those who know and have had the pleasure of hearing him speak before, will know how good he is. John Ireland always seems to have the ability to read the mood of the people, and with his expert knowledge put over a first class talk.

The last paper of the day was given by Tony Gray, P.G.A. European Tour Director, on 'Tournament Golf Courses'. Tony, who came in to bat last - not the best spot to be in - proved the ideal man for the job. Not only was his talk very enlightening, but also stirred up the minds for question time which was to follow. His many humorous remarks plus his undoubted knowledge of golf and courses made him a pleasure to listen to.

The question time conducted by the Chairman, Ivor Scoones, was enjoyed by everyone and paid for the Seminar enjoyed it. I am sure the sixty people who attended the meeting thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Concern was expressed at the apparent omission of the ARMS Tournament from the fixture list this year, the Administrator informed the meeting that Peter Hampton was undecided whether or not to run it again this season due to the excess workload and the torrent of complaints he has usually received about pairings, timings, etc. Les Johnson proposed that we might help him officially this year using our knowledge and experience to solve any of these problems. After some discussion, this was agreed. The resolution that the John Ireland Fouromes be dropped and the trophies be used for alternative means was passed, the trophies to be used at the Committee's discretion.

The Administrator pledged to carry on organising lectures and talks, etc., but only if they were better supported than of late.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm with thanks to the Chair and Lansdown Golf Club. P.A. Worster.

South Coast section

Would members please note that the Sections Golf Tournaments for 1988 are as follows:

Spring Tournament 19th May Bristol and Clifton Golf Club.
West Sussex Golf Club.

Qualifying (with Iseki qualifying) 3rd May
Southampton Municipal Golf Course. Organiser, Mr. Joe Burdett whose address is: 948 Castle Lane West, Bournemouth, BH7 6SP. Tel: 0202-483017
Details of Spring Tournament are:
Venue: West Sussex Golf Club
Date: Thursday 19th May

Competition: 36 hole Medal

Members wishing to play only 18 holes will be entered into a 18 hole Medal. Members aged over 50 can also compete for the Nita Stimson Trophy.

Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to:

Supatuf Products Ltd., Osmey Road, Peterborough, PE1 5YJ Tel: (0733) 68384.
to BIGGA South Coast Section. Teeing off from 9.30 am.
Members who intend to play should send their written entries giving name, address and current handicap together with entry fee to Joe Burdett at the above address. Please also state whether you wish to enter the 36 or 18 hole Medal Competition and the Nita Stimson Trophy Entries to arrive not later than Wednesday, May 1988.
J. R. Dennis

SOUTH EAST REGION

London Section
A letter from your Chairman:
I would like to welcome all members to the new London Section, although the Section has been in existence for some years now. The first A.G.M. of the BIGGA Association London Section was held on 19th January, 1988. The area has been increased and a new Committee has been elected into office, so everything is new.
May I take the opportunity of thanking those members that attended the A.G.M. and for their vote of confidence in me, by electing me as their Chairman. I will endeavour to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability and would thank also my Committee for their acceptance of their positions. I look forward to the coming year with a great deal of optimism and pride in the knowledge that I will have a very workable team with which to operate.

Bill Thompson

Firstly I would like to pay tribute to our past Chairman, David Low. David was forced to resign because of personal circumstances. His experience, commitment to the Association and pleasant manner will be missed not only by the Committee with whom he worked so closely, but I feel sure, by all the members that had the privilege of knowing him.
May I wish David and his wife all the very best for the future.
The A.G.M. was held at Pinner Hill Golf Club and I thank them and their staff for their kind hospitality.
A lot of business was carried out and I would like to give you the names of your elected Committee:-

Vice Chairman - Mr. John Edwards Administrator - Mr. Michael Peters Committee
Mr. Norman Exley Mr. Christopher Greenwood Mr. Brian Anderson Mr. Jeffrey Donovan Mr. Jeremy Hill

Mr. Nick Baldwin
The following were elected Regional Board Representatives, myself and Brian Anderson. The Region comprises of 5 Sections, London, Surrey, Kent, Sussex and East Anglia.
The accounts for the period April 1987 to January 1988 were read and accepted.
Any member requiring a copy should contact me.
The Chairman mentioned the extension of the Section in his opening comments. The position is that the area that is inside the M25 covering the North of the Thames together with Herts and Middlesex is now the boundary of the London Section. This increases the size of the Section and makes the potential of the Section that much greater.
Any member wishing to apply for uniforms should contact me as soon as possible with their sizes and choice of colours, etc.
The following is the diary of events:-
21st April
Spring Meeting at Moor Park Golf Club at 3.00 pm. This will be an 18 hole event also qualifier for the Regional final of the Iseki National Tournament. The cost will be £6.00 per head which will include a sandwich buffet on completion of the golf.
Members wishing to take part in the event please contact me NOW on Northwood (09274) 28167.
1st June
Evening Golf Meeting at Bush Hill Golf Club. I am awaiting confirmation of this event and will notify members in the next newsletter.
10th June
GRAND SUMMER BALL at Aldenham Golf and Country Club, 7.00 for 7.30 pm until midnight. Dancing to the 'Patriche' Band. Cost £16.00 per ticket, which are now available and members wishing to attend should contact me now in order to secure a ticket.
23rd August
Golf Evening 18 Holes at Pinner Hill Golf Club, confirmation awaited.
26th to 30th September
BIGGA National 3 day Tournament followed by 2 day International Conference at the Belleskie Golf Course, Ayr, Scotland. Members wishing to attend please contact me NOW.
Summer League
For the benefit of new members, this is a tournament which I have run for the past few years and the format is as follows:-
Each team comprises 2 greenkeepers and plays each of 3 other teams in a league competition on a home and away basis. 2 points for a win, 1 for a half.
The winners of the league go forward to a knockout competition. There are normally 4 leagues in the event.
Any teams wishing to participate, please contact me NOW.

SUSSEX SECTION

Dates for the Section diary include:-
26th April Littlehampton Golf Club 36 holes 9.00 am tee-off.
May
Sussex v Surrey (date to be confirmed)
June
Copthorne Golf Club. (date to be confirmed)
14th July
Brighton and Hove Golf Club. 2.00 pm
16th August
Bognor Regis Golf Club 2.00 pm 29th September
Royal Eastbourne Golf Club, 36 holes 9.00 am tee-off. 1st December Lewis Golf Club, Turkey Trot. 10.00 - 11.00 am tee-off. 18 holes.
R. P. Jones

MIDLAND AND NORTH WALES REGION

Spring Golf Tournament
Our Spring Golf Tournament takes place on Thursday, 12th May at the Cosby Golf Club, Chapel Lane, Cosby, Leics. This is a change of date from earlier information. Entry forms have been sent out and should be returned by the closing date of 1st May. If you have not received one, please contact me.
Singles and Pairs Knockout.
We shall again be running our Singles and Pairs Knockout competitions throughout the Summer. Entry forms have been sent out with the Spring Tournament letter and should be returned by the closing date of 1st May.

The East Midlands Section Committee
would like to welcome all new members to our Section and hope that they will participate in as many events as they possibly can through the season. Would members who require any items of the BIGGA uniform please contact me for an order form.

R. W. Williams

**Mid Anglia Section**

At the AGM held at St. Neots Golf Club on 16th February, the following were elected to represent the Section for the fourth coming year:

President - Graham Pitcher
Secretary - R. J. Goodwin
Treasurer - Les Waterrell
Match Secretary - Ken Bunting
Representatives to Regional Board - Paul Fitzgerald and John Wellas

The February Lecture at St. Neots was well attended by more than 50 members who were given a talk and film on the development of the “John Deere Organisation” ably assisted by Woodlands Agriculture Ltd. of Briggstoke, Northampton who kindly donated half the cost of the lunch.

Dairy Dates
27th June
Jaxi Golf Tournament at Tewkesbury Park Golf Club (Qualifiers over 18 holes of Spring Tournament on 19th April)
8th July
Annual match v Midland Section at Moor Hall Golf Club.
2nd August
Summer Tournament, 36 holes at Knebworth Golf Club (Qualifier for Jacobsen's International Tournament) 19th October
Autumn Tournament, 27 holes at Ashridge Golf Club.

Locate for further details of these fixtures and Winter meetings in future newsletters.

R. J. Goodwin

**Midland Section**

Our AGM took place at Edgbaston Golf Club on 27th January with only 17 members attending. Our elected officers are as follows:-

President - R. Pugh
Chairperson - A. Kite (021-351-4423)
Secretary - I. Toon (021-308-6684)
Treasurer - E. Thomas (021-308-2954)
Committee members and their duties:
Lecturers - Peter Woodward (021-378-2511)

Competition Secretary - Peter Richmond (021-354-5616)
Inter Section Matches - Tom Kelsall (021-827-2619)
Handicaps - Mick Hughes (021-422-2615)
Regional Representatives are A. Kite and I. Toon.

On February 17th Peter Woodward arranged a visit to the Toro factory at St. Neots. 18 of us left Walsall Golf Club on a coach laid on by Alexander's (better known as King's Heath Mowers) and were treated to a most enjoyable day visiting not only the Toro UK factory at St. Neots but also the Bury St. Edmunds factory where expert machinery is made. Our grateful thanks go to Mr. Dale and his associates of Toro and also to Peter Richardson who displayed another of his many talents and drove the coach.

Competitions for the Year:
Summer - 11th July at St. Neots
Autumn - 22nd September at Worcestershire Golf Club
Christmas Tournament when it was in fact N. Woolfrey who won.

I. R. Toon

**NORTHERN ENGLAND REGION**

**North West Section**

Our Seminar at Mere Golf and Country Club on March 17th was a huge success as usual with a large turnout of members who were treated to an enthralling array of speakers.

The North West Section members would like to thank all concerned for the hard work they have done in putting on the seminar, particularly John Lowery, Education Chairman, whose work was invaluable.

The Section Committee sent out a letter to every Head Greenkeeper in the region informing them of this year’s activities in the North West. If you did not receive a copy, please contact me as soon as possible and I will send you one.

Here is an offer that no golfer/greenkeeper should pass up. How would you like to walk alongside your favourite golfer? Well, you can - simply advertise for any interesting or informative articles to be published in our magazine. So if you have anything which may help other greenkeepers or be of some interest, please put pen to paper. Finally, there has been another change in Secretary’s position. I am resigning from the job having obtained the post of Assistant Course Manager at the new Goodwood Park Golf and Country Club. The new Secretary will be announced at a later date.

I would like to thank the Section’s Committee for all their help over the recent months and wish them all the very best for the future.

Mark Lewis

**Northern Section**

There appears to be a strong attack of Spring Fever in our Region right now, a veritable all-change extending beyond our region into the rest of the country and Europe. But first the home news:-

Northern Section Committee Member Robert Lupton has moved to Dusseldorf. Dave Whitaker is leaving Rawden for Golf Club Domaine Imperial, Gland, Switzerland; a new development on the edge of Lake Geneva. Also leaving for La Swiss is Jim Richards, formerly an Assistant at Knaresborough. Jim is setting out to join the International team of Ian Tomlinson based at Lausanne.

Another Northern Section Committee member Alan Loftus is moving to Saffron Walden to crack the whip there. Quite naturally, we wish the aforementioned gentleman every good fortune in his new endeavours.

With little doubt the next bulletin will carry news of the resultant knock-on effect.

For those of you looking for a decent night out, please note that our Annual Dinner Dance will take place at Otley Golf Club on 29th April at 7.45 pm. As always, we would be delighted to see you and in the meantime would be equally delighted to take your booking at £10.00 per head.

A pleasant front centred over Moor Allerton on 18th February when Mr. Alan Murray of the Leeds Weather Centre entertained us to a very informative insight of Met Office activities. Did you know that the British Meteorological Office sells world-wide weather information to 80% of the world’s airlines and also to other countries, including Japan? Soup manufacturers gear their production to cold spells and Marks and Sparks actually tape the farmer’s forecast and use the information on which to base their next week’s purchasing! We even learnt that Moor Allerton Golf Club had taken subscribers to the Weather Service at Leeds allowing them to obtain weather data by direct ex-directory line - pretty keen, eh?

Section Dates
11th May
Dinner-Dance at Otley Golf Club
14th June
Spring Tournament, Hornsea

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David Hannam

Cleveland Section

It was with regret that I received Mr. W. Bart's resignation as President of the Cleveland Section, but due to poor health he has had to stand down. Bill has been with the Cleveland Section since it began and he was one of the founder members, long ago in a back room in Yarm. He is well liked by both greenkeepers and groundsmen in the area and I am sure that everybody wishes him a speedy recovery and hope to see him up and about again soon.

Our Spring Tournament will be the qualifier for the Regional round of the Icelink National Tournament. 12 qualifiers are needed - 4 from the categories: 0 - 9 inc 10 - 18 inc 19 - 28 inc

The Regional Final will be played at Monkston on Tuesday, 24th May. Also our Spring Tournament is the qualifier for the Jacobsen competition (best net and best gross).

A lot of thanks to Mr. Jeremy Howarth for his lecture on the range of seeds available from Inter Seeds accompanied with an excellent slide show.

Unfortunately there were only 9 people there, a rather poor affair and very embarrassing for those stalwarts who turned up to give their support as usual. A lot of time is spent in putting these lectures and demonstrations on for your benefit and a greater commitment and interest of the part of members is necessary.

Finally, only paid-up members shall receive information and newsletters in the future.

T. A. Naishbitt

Sheffield Section

For our February lecture date two Advisors from the STRI accepted our invitation to come and speak to us on two different subjects. Mr. Stuart Ormandroyd dealt with the problems of wet greens and greens construction whilst his colleague Mr. Steven Isaac spoke in great detail about turf diseases, their cause, prevention and cure. The turnout was excellent with some 40 members enjoying an interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Our thanks to Messrs. Ormandroyd and Isaac and to the STRI.

With the approval of the Association's AGM, an informal discussion on matters relating to the BIGGA formed the basis of our March meeting. Mr. David Golding, our Regional Administrator, kindly agreed to come and join us as he was able to contribute a good deal of news and comment to the debate. It was clear from the general feeling of the meeting that problems still exist and answers need to be found soon of the momentum of the Association's progress is to be maintained. However, we were impressed with David's enthusiasm and I feel sure that providing the Board's decisions reflect the feelings of the rank and file member most of the problems can be resolved.

G. Brammah

SCOTTISH REGION

Central Section

The two Section lectures in February proved to be very successful, with both of them being well attended. We are indebted to the Council and members of both Tullichellan and Ladybank Golf Clubs for granting us the use of their clubhouses to hold these events and also our sincere thanks go to the speakers, Jimmy Kidd (Gleneagles), John Souter (Souter of Stirling), Keigh Vertigan (SIsis), Nander Robertson (Glenside Organics) and John Hutt (Rigby Taylor) for their excellent presentation of their particular subjects.

The Section Spring Outing, will be held on Saturday, 21st April, and all entries for this event must be in by 14th April.

The Autumn Outing has been arranged for Thursday, 29th September at Alloa Golf Club, Alloa. Notice of the Inter-Club Tournament and the proposed bowls matches will be sent out with the Spring Outing entry forms, so if you wish to participate in any of these events, please return your forms promptly.

On his retirement, in February, from Souter of Stirling, the members made a presentation to Jock Armstrong for all the hard work and assistance he had given to the Section since its formation in 1980, when he was elected onto the Committee of which he has been a member ever since.

The best wishes for a long and healthy retirement go to Jock from all his friends in the Central Section.

The following is a letter sent to the Committee of the Section by Jock:

Dear Fellow Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your very generous and lovely gift of a crystal decanter.

It has been a great honour for me to have been a member of the Central Section over the past years and indeed have met and enjoyed your friendship as well. It was a most unexpected gift and I have been at such a loss for words.

I can only thank you most sincerely once again for your kind thoughts and good wishes, and hope that our friendship continues to be as enjoyable in the coming years.

Yours sincerely

Jock Armstrong.

Would any member who wishes items of information included in future Section Reports please forward them to me as soon as possible. It is your own Association, so please make an effort by contributing to make it successful.

John Crawford.

West Section

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Secretary - Robert Brewer
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Education - C. N. George
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Yours sincerely

Jock Armstrong.

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The original FARMURA. For use from initial pre-seeding through to maintenance. FARMURA TURF improves germination, encourages quicker establishment of grass seed, root development, tillering and a dense sward without undesirable flushes of growth. FARMURA TURF encourages fine grasses and can be used in ecologically sensitive areas. As a soil conditioner FARMURA TURF will increase soil bacteria count enabling locked up nutrients to become available to the plant. Other benefits include improved drought and disease resistance.

Uses: Reseeding, golf courses, sports pitches, racecourses, bowling greens, cricket pitches, land reclamation and ecologically sensitive areas.

FARMURA GREEN is specially formulated FARMURA TURF with the addition of iron and wetting agent. Designed particularly for areas needing a high standard of presentation and a deep green colour without excessive growth. Applications of FARMURA GREEN will encourage the development of finer grasses, improve drought and disease resistance and increase soil bacteria count.

Uses: Golf greens, bowling greens, tennis courts, lawns, golf fairways and racecourses.

FARMURA N is a tailor made product manufactured to your specific requirements. FARMURA-N can be formulated with other major nutrients to produce a specially balanced semi-organic fertiliser to suit your planned nutritional programme. Available to your requirement by discussion and quotation FARMURA-N offers major savings in time and equipment by only making one application.

Uses: Land reclamation, low input management programmes.

FERROSOL is a major development in liquid iron application. FERROSOL, a unique iron-nitrogen bonded complex provides a quick green-up of the turf without over stimulation of growth and without wheelmarks or blackening. FERROSOL, in liquid form can be mixed easily in water and is immediately available for spray or drench application. Ideal for use at any time when turf is in need of green-up boost throughout the year.

Uses: Turf, fine turf, golf greens, bowling greens, tennis courts, lawns, shrubs, etc.

FARMGRAN is an easily spreadable natural seaweed soil conditioner and improver. Applications of FARMGRAN will improve soil structure stimulating micro organisms and aiding moisture retention. FARMGRAN supplies all known trace elements in an organic chelated form for rapid assimilation by plants and fills the "fertility gap" so often present under today's high input management practices. Can also be incorporated into top dressing.

Uses: Golf courses, sports fields, landscaping, seeding, planting and land reclamation.

FARMURA PRE-PLANT is a creamy liquid root dip which reduces dehydration of the roots and provides a protecting semi-permeable "skin" protecting the roots from damage yet allowing them to breathe and take in moisture.

Uses: All plant, shrub and tree transplanting situations.
RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY/WAGES SCALE

In response to many requests, the Association has formulated a recommended minimum salary/wages scale for 1988, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the golf club and greenkeeping staff. The quoted rates apply to 18 hole golf courses.

- Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper: £12,650 per annum*
- Deputy Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper: £9,100 per annum*
- First Assistant: £150.96 per week*
- Assistant Greenkeeper: £141.54 per week *
- Apprentice 50% of Assistant Greenkeeper rate i.e. £70.77 per week *

and to increase annually by 12.5%

The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy the appropriate salary scale of £9,100 per annum should apply.

N.B. Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

* Basic conditions of employment should include:-

1. where accommodation is provided by the Club it should be rent and rates free with heating/lighting costs borne by the club.
2. where accommodation is not provided by the club a suitable remuneration should be paid.
3. 40 hour week
4. Retirement Pension Scheme
5. Telephone costs on club business
6. Mileage allowance
7. Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
8. If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half on Sundays and Statutory Holidays.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

To promote and advance all aspects of greenkeeping; to assist and encourage the proficiency of members; to arrange an International Annual Conference, educational seminars, functions and competitions; to maintain a Benevolent Fund; to act as an employment agency; to provide a magazine; to collaborate with any body or organisation which may in any way benefit the Association or its members or with which there may be a common interest; to carry out and perform any other duties or responsibilities which shall be in the general interests of the Association or its members.
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The choice is yours, the productivity, economy and durability comes to you courtesy of Turfblazer, making the cutting easy — whatever the conditions.

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Please send me details of the Turfblazer range.

Name........................................... Position.................................

Address..............................................................
Figure 1: Initial symptoms of take-all on fine turf

Figure 2: Classic symptoms of take-all
FOR over a century, take-all patch disease has been recognised in agriculture as a problem of global importance, limiting significantly the productivity of pastureland and cereal crops. On British golf greens however, take-all was relatively unknown until the 1950's. On British golf greens, heavy applications of fairways of heathland grasses take-all, and severe outbreaks were recorded. During the next 25 years the disease attacks the plant is not widely understood. Take-all survives the winter in the soil as spores and dormant mycelium awaiting more favourable conditions the following spring. When warmer soil temperatures arrive, the fungus penetrates the vascular tissues of the plant, thus preventing the uptake of water and nutrients. Infected roots then turn brown and die and consequently affected turf may be easily detached from the surface. The disease then spreads up the plant as runner hyphae (thick mycelial threads which run in lines on the surface of the plant) which eventually penetrate the crown and later the plant. The disease then produces flask shaped structures (perithecia) filled with spores which can then be spread by wind or water-splash to new areas.

FAVOURED CONDITIONS

When a greenkeeper first experiences the disease on his course the first question he may ask is "Why has the disease suddenly appeared here?" In fact the disease has probably been present all the time. During the 1970's an extensive survey of British golf courses revealed that Geaumannomyces graminis is nearly always present in turf at low population levels, even if the symptoms of disease attack have not been seen. Thus, if the fungal inoculum with potential to cause take-all is there, the disease can develop once turf conditions are favourable. There are two main reasons why take-all in most situations remains at these naturally low disease levels. Firstly, present in the turf and soil are many other fungi and bacteria that are antagonistic to take-all and suppress the disease to such an extent that its pathogenic activities are almost totally inhibited. Any turf management practice that is detrimental to these antagonists may consequently lead to an outbreak of take-all. For example, sand-constructed greens are naturally low in antagonists and as such, are prone to take-all. The use of sterilised turf or materials in which the antagonists have been killed also aids rapid colonisation by take-all. Secondly, a strong relationship between turf pH and take-all has been identified. It has now been well established that a sudden raising of the turf pH by the (often not deliberate) application of lime materials can lead to severe take-all attacks. On golf courses, the application of lime is rare and generally only acidic fertilizers are used. However, there are several other possible sources of alkalinity. If water is taken from irrigation bore holes it can be hard, i.e. contain lime. Thus, every time the watering system is used, lime is being applied. However, in most cases this is not of major concern as not all water classified as "hard" has a high enough lime content to appreciably raise the turf pH. Another important source of lime is the sand used either in construction or top dressing. If this sand has a high lime content then, particularly in wet regions where the lime can go into solution quickly, a rapid increase in turf pH can occur.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

It must be emphasised that once the disease has become established, there is no effective control measure. At present two fungicides, namely carbendazim and...
chlorothalonil, have a manufacturer's recommendation for control of take-all. At best these chemicals will give short term suppression of the disease only, and sometimes, following an application of these materials, the take-all will reappear at higher levels than previously. It is thought that the reason for this is that the fungicide will inhibit fungi in the soil that are antagonistic to the take-all and consequently this biological control mechanism is lost. Consequently, fungicides may inhibit the process of take-all decline (see later) and therefore applications should be kept to a minimum. However much can be done to lessen the severity of a take-all attack. All efforts must be aimed at preventing outbreaks.

Firstly, the conditions under which the disease is likely to occur must be recognised. The sand construction method of building greens appear particularly vulnerable as sand can support only a low population of antagonists. There is some evidence that new courses built in woodland areas (where soils are low in antagonists) are also prone to the disease. By far the best prevention of take-all can be achieved by careful management of turf pH. Any practice that will rapidly increase turf pH should not be used. Determine the lime content of sands used for construction, bunkers or top dressing. Also, be aware of any other possible sources of alkalinity, e.g. fertilizer and irrigation water.

A long term solution to take-all is offered by a phenomenon known as take-all decline, in which, given the right conditions, the disease will become less severe and disappear of its own accord. Consequently, once the disease has become established, our aim must be to establish these conditions so that the eradication of take-all is achieved as quickly as possible.

TAKE-ALL DECLINE
The decline of take-all takes place when the disease, after being present in an area for a number of years, apparently disappears, even if no active control measures have been taken. In this country, three years may elapse before the disease becomes severe and may then be present at significant levels for a further one or two years. Associated with this increase in severity of take-all is a build up of antagonistic fungi and bacteria in the soil. Eventually the antagonists reach a point where they are able to inhibit the take-all and consequently the disease declines. These antagonists can be divided into two groups. Firstly, bacteria, certain soil fungi such as Trchoderma spp and strepto-mycetes which are able to produce antibiotics and thus inhibit the take-all. Secondly a fungus known as Phialophora has been shown to colonise roots and thus leave little available root for take-all attack.

Experiments are in progress at the STRI in which laboratory cultures of fungi have been added to turf infected by take-all in an attempt to boost this process of decline. Take-all decline can be promoted as follows: As new outbreaks of the disease occur rarely in acidic turf, take-all can be discouraged by application of calcined sulphate of iron. Application of fungicides should be kept to a minimum as they may inhibit the build-up of antagonists responsible for take-all decline. Outbreaks of fusarium patch disease can be prevented to a great extent by cultural control methods, thus minimising the need for fungicides.

Ensure healthy vigorous turf growth by supplying essential nutrients. Phosphates promote good root growth (and consequently discourage take-all) and potassium is generally regarded as beneficial as it enables the plant to withstand disease attack. Whilst these elements are often present at adequate levels in most greens, chemical analysis of soil samples in cases of take-all outbreak can determine the need for any fertilizer applications.

G. graminis, the causal fungus of take-all, survives unfavourable periods on dead plant material in the thatch layer. Remove excessive thatch by mechanical operations, e.g. hollow tining and scarification. Take-all is usually most severe on wet, water retentive turf, as the disease spreads in water. Attention to drainage is consequently important.