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effect from this method, the same applies to trapping and snaring.

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Rabbit control is a long term project. A professionally drawn up plan of campaign combining ridance and exclusion is the first and most important step.

The presence of large numbers of Cockchafer grubs in fairways and in the 'rough' will often lead to major excavations by rooks and badgers. The cure on areas frequently damaged lies in spraying the turf to kill the grubs and leather jackets, not in destroying the rooks and badgers - another example of, remove the food and the pest moves on! Likewise create a barrier, like electric fencing between a feeding area and shelter habitat and the pest feeds elsewhere.

Wildlife is something to be encouraged on golf courses. The provision of rough natural areas and ponds for conservation will enhance the appeal of any such Club. Staff trained to recognise and treat developing problems will make such areas both rewarding and valuable.

Professional consultation, service, staff training and co-ordinated help, provide the link between wildlife and habitat conservation and damage prevention.

To return to my opening question, 'What is a pest?' - some things are always pests, and anything can be a pest. Everything has its place, but it doesn't have to be on your place.

Andrew Venables is an expert in pest control systems specialising in assisting golf clubs. He operates A & R Fairway Pest Control from Tywyn, North Wales offering both consultancy on pest problems, staff training or eradication.
Having heard and read much about the Nicklaus International Course at St. Mellion, Cornwall, it was interesting to visit the complex recently to tour the layout and facilities by courtesy of Herman Bond, co-owner of the club with his brother, Martin. When I arrived there the place was a seething hive of activity in the morning sunshine, the car park full, a golf school in progress on the practice ground and an enthusiastic group of society golfers preparing to go out on the course. On a pleasant hillside location overlooking the golf scene, earthmoving machinery was busy preparing a site for building luxury homes as part of the complex - it seemed a superb setting.

Commanding views of the surrounding countryside from the clubhouse and parts of the course are a scenic feature. Although there is a fall of 200 feet from the clubhouse to the lowest point of the course, by dint of extensive earth movement most of the fairways have been constructed on the level. The course layout has been designed to accommodate special routes for golf buggies and other traffic flow, also with big events in mind there are many natural vantage points to present ideal viewing facilities for spectators.

While the course was specially designed to offer a challenging test for professionals and low handicap players it also caters for the ordinary golfer by a choice of tee positions at each hole. The contemporary style of green design gives the course a good degree of character, the mounds and traps around the putting areas are well balanced to provide contrast, depth perception and blend well with the surroundings. Water is also an attractive feature and good use has been made of lakes and streams to enhance the playing strategy.

British Seed Houses supplied all the grass seed for the course construction. Their A12 fairway mixture - 35 per cent Frida/Checker chewings fescue, 45 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue, 10 per cent Julia smooth stalked meadowgrass, 10 per cent Highland browntop bent, is an ideal blend of species now well established on all the fairways to make a good playing surface. It allows the ball to sit up well and is a boost to the golfers confidence for the next shot to the
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Water is an attractive feature of the course at St Mellion.

Penncross was used on the tees and the green where it has provided a smooth resilient surface for putting. I was also impressed by the colour and density of cover achieved. The remarkable vigour and strong stoloniferous habit of this bent grass seems to keep annual meadow grass at bay and is extremely hard wearing. It has the advantage of rapid establishment and can cope with intensive play.

Because it has such vigorous growth it has to be carefully managed, frequent scarification or verticutting is needed to reduce thatch accumulation it also requires nitrogen at low rates every six weeks in the form of sulphate of ammonia. It will make excellent root growth on sand greens or those constructed on a soil peat and sand mixture. Penncross has been successfully used on as many as 50 golf courses in this country.

I have also seen the new Johnny Miller course at Collingtree Golf Village, Northampton owned by International Resort Holdings. Plans for the new complex include low density housing, 180 residences, private nursing clinic and retirement homes along the fringe of the playing areas.

The original site for the course, a flat area of land has been skilfully transformed by earthmoving techniques to create a gently undulating landscape ideal for golf. Excavation work for lakes and swales has enabled thousands of cubic yards of soil to be moved around for the construction of mounds, greens, tees and bunkers that now look as though they had been there from time immemorial. The golf course architect has obviously considered ease and economy of course upkeep by thoughtfully providing gentle grades for machinery maintenance which will allow the work to proceed smoothly and quickly.

Peter Jones, course manager at Collingtree is full of enthusiasm for the project and working hard with his staff to get the course completed for the opening date in 1990. Their modern equipment building and staff quarters has all the facilities and is centrally situated for easy access to most parts of the course.

Stone paths to take golf buggies around the course are also being installed to absorb some of the wear and tear that results from this traffic movement. Storm water drains in catchment areas on the fairways are designed to discharge high volumes of water through a network of large bore pipes to adjacent lakes on the course which will also be used for irrigation.

British Seed Houses supplied all the grass seed for the 27 hole golf complex. The Penncross Bent chosen for the greens and tees has rapidly established within a short period and Peter Jones was pleased with the progress of these important surfaces. The fairway seed has also germinated satisfactorily at this stage and some fairways sown
Peter Jones, Course Manager at Collingtree Golf & Country Club explains how the storm water drains in the catchment areas are designed to work.

earlier look good enough for play already. The mixture - 20 per cent Frida chewings, 25 per cent Checker chewings, 20 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue, 10 per cent Logro slender creeping red fescue, 10 per cent Highland bent and 5 per cent Julia smooth stalked meadowgrass.

All the Surrey heathland courses are popular venues for golf enthusiasts, particularly Wentworth where the completion of the new South Course to add a third course to the complex is a significant landmark in the history of this famous Club.

This is no ordinary layout - par 72, 7,100 yards - it is planned to present a real test of championship golf amid heath, heather and tree lined surroundings - a golfer's dream. The construction work was undertaken by Golf Landscapes to a design specification by John Jacobs Associates. With the contractors work completed the important phase of grooming and getting the course ready for play is a priority for Michael Hunter, clerk of works and the greenkeeping staff who are looking forward to the task they have ahead. It is anticipated the new course will be open for play in the spring of 1990. The above average size greens have been laid with turf from Inturf Ltd on a sand base to a specification by the Sports Turf Research Institute. British Seed Houses A12 fairway mixture has been used on the fairways which along with the greens are already looking in good shape. The amount of growth and density of cover should provide an ideal playing surface to cope with all the wear and tear of play.

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Offers to Gay Hill Golf Club, Alcester Road Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5PP Telephone: 021 430 8544
In this third profile on speakers to be heard at the conference, THE GOLF COURSE this month features Tony Gentil of the Cheshire College of Agriculture, Reaseheath. For Conference details, please contact Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU. Tel: 0274-560556

TONY GENTIL

Tony Gentil is Deputy Head of Horticulture at the Cheshire College of Agriculture, Reaseheath - one of the approved Greenkeeper Training Colleges. Tony has extensive experience of further education within the sphere of horticulture and management. He is also involved with the writing and editing of educational texts and has been particularly active in open learning. Tony will be elaborating on different aspects of the educational minefield and explaining the complexities of current educational opportunities. His lecture will explain the changes in philosophy and attitude towards education being developed in conjunction with the industry rather than in the traditional way of educational bodies telling the industry what it should need, and his lecture will be of particular value as the Association moves forward with its education and training plans for greenkeepers.

Tony promises to offer some encouraging and controversial insights and delegates should thereafter have a much better understanding of terms like BTEC, NCVQ, CPVE, TVEI, 'Open Learning', and Distance Learning! Conference attendees can look forward to an informative lecture.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1989

Members should note that this will be held at The Lyme Regis Golf Club, Lyme Regis, Dorset from 14th–16th August 1989.

For full details, please contact

Gordon Child, Regional Administrator, Archways, Churston Road, CHURSTON FERRERS, Nr Brixham, South Devon, TQ5 0HU.
Tel: 0803-844056.

G.C.S.A.A. CONFERENCE AND SHOW, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

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A BIGGA party of thirty persons attended the recent G.C.S.A.A. Conference and Show. A full report with photographs on this major greenkeeping event will appear in the next issue.
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A Round The Green

Midland and North Wales Section
Mid Anglia Section
The first meeting of 1989 was held at Deadlow Manor Hotel, Golf and Country Club on Monday, 23rd January with a look back over 50 years in Greenkeeping through the eyes of Bob Plain. Bob’s early days at Gullane were spent mowing greens with a 16” Certes push mower, top dressing fairways with dune sand, controlling weeds by digging them out with hand forks. Soon after World War II, Bob moved to the beautiful Beaconsfield Course in Bucks where he was to spend well over half his working life. He recalled the using of Morrow Meal as a worm killer, which needed hundreds of gallons of water to wash into the turf and then the sweeping up of barrows-full of worms as they surfaced. In later years, arsenate of lead, an evil but very effective worm-killer was introduced only to be replaced in the ‘60s by Chlordane. The introduction of Ransomes Overgreen was a major innovation in the late ‘40s but things really took off in the ‘60s with the first pop-up irrigation system installed at Handsworth in 1964 and in the early ‘70s with Triplex Ride on mowers.
Bob has also derived much pleasure from his impressive playing record, winning the Greenkeepers Annual Tournament at Sudbury Golf Club in 1947 and tie-ing for the News of the World Scratch Cup at Handsworth in 1964 and in the early ‘70s with Triplex Ride on mowers.
Bob’s talk was both interesting and colourful and was followed by a brief look further back to 1923 with a short film of a Professional Golf Tournament at Venulam Golf Club, sponsored by Mr Samuel Ryder and his brother, who a few years later donated the Ryder Cup. Each Professional was paid £5.00 to cover his expenses for the day, and the 36 hole Tournament was won by Arthur Havers, the Open Champion, whose Second Round 67 was 10 under par (bogy) and the original Course Record was bettered no less than 21 times during the day.
The film was in remarkably good condition and the holes shown have not changed in 65 years. We thank Mr Len Ryder, grandson of the sponsors, for the loan of the film and to Bob Plain for what was indeed a fascinating glimpse into the history of our great game.

Out thanks also to Mr J Minashi, managing director and members at Beadlow for the use of the club house. We return to Beadlow Manor on Wednesday, 28th April for the Spring Tournament over 27 holes. The entry fee is £17.50 for coffee, lunch and evening dinner. This should be sent to:- Ken Bunting (0442-843359) by 19th April. Other dates for this year’s diary include:- Monday 10th July, Summer Tournament at Berkhamsted Golf Club, 36 holes.
Tuesday 26th September Autumn Tournament at Buckingham Golf Club 27 holes.
Thursday 7th December Christmas Scramble at South Beds Golf Club, 18 holes.

R J Goodwin

Midland Section
Our Christmas Tournament in December attracted a record number of players and guests, over the Whittington Barracks Golf Club. Our thanks to Trevor Morris and his staff for producing the course in wonderful condition on such a still and sunny day after early frost. Two starting points proved its worth with all of us sitting down to our traditional Christmas meal by 5.30pm. Many thanks to the inside staff and also to the gentlemen who provided us with coffee and mince pies at the halfway point. First prize was won by E. King, with Ted Evans in second place. The AGM on the 13th December at Edgbaston Golf Club was conducted with 22 members present to elect the same officers and Committee as last year, plus one new Committee member Dean Cleaver.

Our 1989 Golfing Competitions are booked, the first one will be on Tuesday 25th April at Bridgnorth Golf Club, fee £12.00 per person, closing date for entry, 5th April. You will all receive an entry form for all the tournaments sometime in March. Remember you MUST always book your entry through Peter Richmond, including your entry remittance. NO-ENTRY on the day.

On the 9th January Mr David Jenkins (Charterhouse Turf Machinery) gave a very interesting talk on that age-old problem of “Compaction”. He gave some very useful advice on the setting-up of a Verti-Drain machine, for different depths pattern and lift. Many thanks to David Jenkins and the 20 or so members for attending.

March 29th Moor Hall Golf Club. Your chance to hear and put your questions to Neil Thomas! Hope to see you there.

IR Toon

East Midlands Section
For the first time we held a golf tournament prior to the AGM held at the Erewhal Valley Golf Club, Iketon, Derby on 14th November. Fifteen members played on a very successful day with the main prize donated by Maxwell Hart Limited. Our thanks to Erewhal Valley Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of their course, to the inside staff for the hospitality and the excellent meal, and to Graham Arnold and his staff for the very good condition of his course. Nick Danvers, our retiring Chairman, presented the winners with their prizes who were as follows:- Winner - G. Arnold, 2 up. Second - R Willars, 1 up OL9. Third - M Billings, 1 up. Fourth - D Leatherhead, 1 down. Fifth - G Mitchell 2 down.

The AGM at 6.30pm was attended by 18 members and the following officers were elected:- Chairman Nick Root, Vice-Chairman Richard Barker, Secretary Roger Willars, Committee Graham Arnold, Nick Danvers, Paddy McCarron and Gordon Mitchell, Section representatives Nick Danvers and Roger Willars.
Another first time event was the Rigby Taylor Winter Stableford held at Birstall Golf Club on Wednesday 14th December. This event to be held annually was a bring and win competition with 21 members and guests attending. Our thanks to Birstall Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of their course, to Doreen and Reg James for the excellent Christmas Dinner presentation and hospitality shown to us, and the outside staff were also thanked for the very good condition of their course. Steve Blakeman of Rigby Taylor presented the divisional winners with their Rigby Taylor Salvers, who were:- 0-14 R Willars, 40pts. 15-28 M.Hopkins, 33 pts. As it was a bring and win competition, all competitors took something homewith them at the end of a successful day.

R W Willars

Bucks, Berks, & Oxon Section
All members of the Section please note details for the forthcoming Spring Tournament:- To be held at Badgemoor Park Golf Club 24th April, 1989. The entry fee...