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A birds eye view of Loch Lomond Golf Club

MAY 1990

18
Advanced technology improves fairway mowing
Richard Bishop

20
The Yanks are coming to the bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lomond
John Lelean

26
The North, South divide
Roger Newman

28
A firm no to sand only greens
Jim Arthur

34
Turf or seed
Robert W. Laycock

38
Powered tractors, compact and versatile

Departments

4
Resume

5
Greenside Comment

6
Out and About

23
New Developments

35
From the Fairway

39
 Buyers Guide

43
Appointments
Le tout dernier-né des terrains de golf d’Écosse, sur les rives du Loch Lomond, va très probablement soulever bon nombre de controverses, non seulement parce qu’il a été conçu par deux Américains, mais parce qu’il est prévu que le responsable des parcours sera recruté en Amérique. Le projet du Loch Lomond a été lancé le mois dernier à une réception de presse dans la demeure ancestrale du propriétaire du terrain, Sir Ivor Colqhoun, le ‘Laird’ de l’un des clans les plus anciens d’Écosse. Le parcours de la ‘High Road’ est déjà été tracé au travers d’une forêt de pins et sera semé de gazon ce printemps. Un second parcours, celui de la ‘Low Road’, est encore dans sa petite enfance et les travaux de construction n’ont pas commencé.

Tom Weiskopf, un ancien Champion ‘Open’ et partenaire de l’association Morrish/Weiskopf, conseils en conception-tracés, a déclaré que le groupe d’investissement responsable du complexe de 52 millions de livres sterling, donnerait la charge du parcours à un Américain, un ‘greenkeeper’ britannique n’étant pas capable, à leur avis, d’entretenir le terrain dans ses premiers temps. Il est appuyé en cela par Alec Hay, journaliste sportif de la BBC et manager du Golf et Country Club de Woburn, qui a commenté que les entreteneurs de parcours britanniques n’avaient pas suffisamment d’expérience dans les techniques de gestion pour entretenir des golfs de type américain.

Ce numéro du ‘Golf Course’ contient aussi un commentaire sur la rétention du Veston Vert - le ‘Masters Green Jacket’ - par Nick Faldo qui l’a gagné pour la deuxième année consécutive à Augusta. C’est là encore une nouvelle preuve de la place de plus en plus prépondérante du golf européen. Il est noté que c’est la cinquième victoire d’un golfeur européen au cours des huit dernières années.

Cela ne peut qu’entraîner une demande de plus en plus grande pour la création de terrains de golf dans toute l’Europe, ce qui, à son tour accentuera le besoin d’entrepreneurs de parcours ayant reçu une formation de haut niveau technique.
As a European Golf industry publication it is right and proper that we should bask in the reflected glory of Nick Faldo's retention of the Master's Green Jacket at Augusta. Not only did he create a little more golf history, but this is now the third successive year that a British golfer has been crowned king of world golf and the fifth European victory in the past eight years.

If a few more facts are required to press home the increasing dominance of European golf, Faldo's caddy, Fanny Sunesson is a Swede, the first woman to carry the winner's bag in a major championship and the Augusta course was designed in partnership with Bobby Jones, by Dr Allister McKenzie, who cut his teeth on golf course architecture in Yorkshire.

All this glory, can only create one result, a demand for more golf courses, which in Britain at least is highly unlikely to be met. After all it was watching Jack Nicklaus winning the Masters on TV in 1972 that inspired a 14 year old sport mad Faldo to persuade his parents it was the game he wanted to play.

Just how many potential Faldo's, with drive, determination and potential ability have been similarly spurred to emulate his performance by the end of the century?

Which leads us logically into "The Demand for Golf," the document from the R & A, examining the present facilities, area shortages and recommending ways and means for the construction of more golf courses.

That sufficient land is available cannot be in dispute, what is more of a steeple-chase fence, than a hurdle to be overcome, is the attitude of planners and by residents to the change in land usage.

The mere mention of a rural golf course plan is certain to inflame local councillors, aided and abetted by self appointed custodians of environmental protection, whose outcries are often only thinly disguised excuses for maintaining their private outlooks over an uneconomic pasture, inhabited by a few sheep.

The objections, when analysed, are often not against the golf course per se, but the fear that the club-house and the rest of the infrastructure to include a couple of acres of tarmac car parking will become a gross intrusion into the country dweller's cooed existence.

There is also the potential threat, real or imaginary, that once planning permission has been granted for the golf course, how long will it be before the developer slides in another application for residential prop-erty, diluting even further their isolation from fellow man.

If there is to be an increase in playing facilities it can only come about in one of three ways. From the large scale developer, who is out to make a substantial profit from an hotel or housing, the farmer with financial resources to launch his own private club, or existing membership clubs expanding their present set-up with a further nine or 18 holes.

Local authorities, particularly now they are funded by the poll-tax rather than the rates, are not in the market to build new municipal courses, rather it is likely that existing lay-outs will be sold off to the private sector.

There are around 300 applications in the pipe-line according to the rather vague statistics available. Vague, because there is no compulsion on planning officers to notify a central coordinating body, though the English Golf Union have formed a golf development committee and would welcome information from all sources.

What is desperately needed is a greater understanding, not only how golf courses can enhance the environment, but a change of attitude away from conservative selfishness, which denies the right of outdoor enjoyment to others.

Into that category falls the private club member, now reaping the benefits of a legacy from the club's founders, often at a fraction of the true cost, who is totally opposed to extending his golf course for future generations.

The Nature Conservancy Council, with financial support from the R & A, have published a most beautifully illustrated book "On Course Conservation" - managing golf's natural heritage. Having been distributed to all UK golf clubs, it is available from The Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA at a cost of £ 7.50 (post free).

This will be of use to any developer, planner or club manager no matter where they are situated in Europe as it gives a clear message as to how a golf course can improve the environment, flora and fauna.
STEWARTS NAME NEW TEAM

Widespread business diversification during the past two years has led to the creation of a new senior management team at Stewart and Company, the Edinburgh-based turf management specialists. "As we move into the 1990s Stewards have become Scotland's leading turf management suppliers, sportsground contractors and growers of Inturf," said Greame Forbes, Stewarts managing director. Ken Waddell (below) relinquishes his position as Sales Manager to become the company's new General Manager, and Alan Miller (below), previously Stewarts Area Manager for the East of Scotland, is promoted to Sales Manager. "The development of Stewarts in recent years has been encouraging for all involved with the company but we are keenly aware of the importance of close day-to-day management which Ken and Alan will be able to provide," said Mr. Forbes. In addition to his role as MD of Stewards, Mr. Forbes is also a director of Inturf.

COMPULSORY COMPETITIVE TENDERING ADVICE FOR PUBLIC GOLF COURSES

Anticipating the impact of Compulsory Competitive Tendering in 1991, which will mean public golf courses being put out to private tender, Golf Course Management (Europe) Limited is launching a special service to advise local authorities. From its base in Richmond Park, Surrey, it's associate company Golf Course Management (Richmond) Limited, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, runs the two public courses in the Royal Park. G.C.M (Europe) Ltd. will advise on all aspects of the government act particularly with regard to maintenance. They can recommend on the provision of better facilities such as extensions from 9 to 18 holes, par 3 courses, driving ranges, enlarged clubhouses and golf shops. The G.C.M (E)Ltd, service covers planning, development and construction, funding if necessary and management and financial consultancy role. Gilbert Lloyd, G.D.M.'s Managing Director, said "With over 20 years experience in helping local authorities develop their golf facilities, we believe we can improve both the quality and profitability of any public pay-as-you-play golf course".

SISIS IN SCOTLAND

John Yeates is the new Area Representative for the West of Scotland. John a keen sportsman from a farming background and has worked in agricultural engineering and forestry. The East of Scotland Area Representative is Les Westwater who also has an agricultural engineering background, and was previously with A. J. Bowen. The SISIS Centre in Scotland at Falkirk will continue as the base for this expanded team, serving as demonstration, service and spares supply depot for Scotland. Keith Vertigan has returned to Cheshire to take up the appointment as SISIS Northern Regional Manager with overall responsibility for Sales and After Sales Service.

PERSONALISED BUNKER RAKES

Club names can now be printed on the header panel of the attractively designed new Prorake bunker rakes. As an optional extra a courteous reminder about raking bunkers, and repairing pitch marks can be incorporated. "Prorakes are popular with members, according to Ralph Pickering secretary of Stoke Poges."Even the pilferage factor seems to have been eliminated." Rakes cost £4.95 each, plus printing costs to individual club specification and logo. Further details from Robin Hunter B.D.P. Ltd. 0990872321. Boundary House, Lady Margaret Road, Sunningdale SL5 9QH.
LELY APPOINTMENT

The United Kingdom importers of Toro machinery, Lely (UK) Ltd have announced that Graham Dale has been appointed managing director. Graham who has been in charge of sales on the Toro turf care equipment side for many years will now be responsible for both agricultural and turf equipment. The former accounting for some sixty percent of Lely's business. The company will be appointing two new sales managers for each division.

LINDUM TURF SALES SUCCESS

Just under a year after Geoff Hodgson was appointed sales and marketing manager for Lindum Seeded Turf, they have a full order book and a number of notable firsts to their credit. The company is the only one to supply turf as a full package with grass seed compatible with their turf for fairways and rough, fertilisers are also included as well as a soil analysis service. In the last year Lindum have brought a farm near Thorganby, near York, which has increased their turf capacity to some 650 acres. Last Christmas they were awarded the contract for turf, grass seed and wildflower seed for the 1992 Garden Festival of Wales to be held at Ebbw Vale. Recently they have also supplied all the materials for two new courses turf, seed and fertiliser at Tallpines at Bristol and Hawthorn Hill in Berkshire. They have supplied in the last year turf to over 100 golf courses including Royal Birkdale, Wentworth, Walton Heath, and in the near future they will be supplying turf to the new course at Froome and Gleneagles as well as Meon Valley. Lindum Seeded Turf can supply a complete service from conception to completion which puts them on course to be the number one supplier to the golf course industry in the 1990s.

GMA SHOW VISITORS TO GET HANDS ON EXPERIENCE ON THE DEMONSTRATION SITE

Visitors to the GMA show in September will not only be able to see, touch and compare the latest machinery and equipment on the market but they'll also have the chance to test it in the enormous Demonstration Site at Kempston Park. Over 30 companies have opted to use the Demonstration Site including Ransomes Consumer, Kubota, Husqvarna, Briggs & Stratton and Charterhouse Turf Machinery. This eye-catching feature enables visitors to watch exhibitors' demonstrations and to obtain first hand experience by testing out the machinery for themselves. Catherine Sleigh, Sales Manager of the GMA show commented "We are delighted to have so much space available at Kempston Park for demonstration purposes. Whilst static displays are essential, the demonstration area will provide colour, noise and activity - all necessary ingredients for compulsive viewing. For the first time in the UK, market leaders are making use of the demonstration facility giving buyers and specifiers a real opportunity to test and compare machinery." Exhibition dates September 2-4.

LIQUID ANSWER

With the hot summer of 1989 still in peoples minds dry conditions this year have started even earlier and it could be the beginning of a long hot summer for greenkeepers. Traditionally this has meant major problems with fertilisation and presentation of golf courses. One Company that has developed at least some of the solutions is Farmura Environmental Products. The recent successful introduction of the Flo-Gro Range of clear liquid fertiliser means that the Company can offer a complete range of liquids from their organics to clear liquid feed. Because they are liquid they do not need to be washed in, and the problem of mower pickup is also avoided. All the products are formulated to avoid scorch and the Company recommend spraying either in the early morning or in the evening to maximise plant take-up. Usually, the members do not even know the greens have been fertilised! Before competition, or other important events, Ferrosol Liquid Iron is the ideal green-up product to ensure perfect presentation. Having recently introduced their own Wetting Agent ZoRbit the Company have just acquired the distribution rights for Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator - the top selling product of its type in the USA, with sales of Ten Million Dollars. Blazon is ideal for ensuring that liquids go on correctly and in the right place, for maximum effect and the least possible waste.

All in all, a useful range of weapons in the greenkeepers armory to ensure that the best possible standards can be maintained in what are very difficult conditions. For more information contact Farmura Limited, Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent. Tel: 0233 76 241/581 or Fax: 0233 76 419.

SPINNING DISC IMPROVED

Nomix Manufacturing has redesigned the spinning disc on their award winning handheld spray lances, reducing the risks of environmental contamination. The new component incorporates a cone which changes the way the liquid is metered onto the disc, so the pattern of spray droplets falls more accurately into a range of sizes that don't drift or fall off the weed leaf. Nomix have developed a system where the weed-killer is specifically formulated to produce a set of droplet pattern that is slightly too coarse, and although the formulations contain advanced sticking agents to keep the chemical on the leaf, a number of large droplets have bounced off target.

"The new disc means that we are able to reduce the risks of environmental contamination at the same time as improve herbicide efficiency", claims Nomix chairman, David Gill. Nomix are inviting SuperPro and Panther spray lance owners to contact them by phoning 0272 574574, so that they can be sent the new disc free with the redesigned disc.
In comparison to previous years, the summer of 1989 saw very few days lost to rain. Courses remained playable for a much greater period of time than usual and received heavier wear as a result. The predictions this year are for a deluge of rain in early summer, which taken in conjunction with the compaction resulting from last year’s increased use, will lead to the type of standing water and flooding of greens that makes play impossible and loses both goodwill and green fees.

The use of turf drying machinery for ensuring that courses remain playable has, quite naturally, always taken a very distant second place in the minds - and budgets - of most greenkeepers. Traditionally the way to keep a golf course playable has been to rely almost solely on drainage. The cost and disruption of green reconstruction makes this, however, an expensive solution that cannot be undertaken lightly, and when, in years like last, older greens come into their own again, with their higher loam/clay constructions holding the moisture better under the drought conditions, there seems to be little to cause concern. Yet there is a price to pay, for these are exactly the greens most likely to flood.

Most greenkeepers will admit, if even only to themselves, that they have a few trouble spots on their courses which are liable to flood. These may be greens, low spots on the fairway, or bunkers - notoriously difficult to drain and impossible to pump out with conventional pumps, as the sand destroys the pump.

In all cases where course design and geology is less than perfect, the solution is a water removal machine, with the most popular machine for Golf Courses being the Hoverdry. On the market for only three years, the Hoverdry has built up an impressive track record, having been purchased by both St Andrews and Gleneagles and used at all the British and some of the European PGA tournaments during the last two years. This year Augusta National evaluated the Hoverdry and had two machines on standby for the whole of the US Masters Tournament. The Japanese have shipped container loads of machines for their Golf Courses. The Hoverdry machine looks like a giant Flymo. One metre in diameter and weighing 38 Kgs (80lbs), it fits neatly in the back of a Cushman, although it can be supplied with a carriage trolley like a golf caddy, if required. The machine works on an unique patented principle invented by the company’s technical director. The machine hovers on a cushion of air. The air pushes the water into the reservoir in the body of the machine, from where it is pumped via a long hose up to 60m (200 ft) long and out of harm’s way. This could even be up a hill if necessary.

At a pumping rate of 275 litres/min (60 gallons/min) or its own weight every 7 seconds, the Hoverdry will remove an average puddle on a green in 3-4 minutes. Combatting the results of compaction, the machine cannot itself, because of the Hoverdry’s unique hovering action, cause any damage. Indeed it never touches the turf as it dries the grass. Of course, compaction is a particular problem for British courses, as unlike their northern US counterparts, they play throughout the year, and especially so in winter with the grass dormant, ground soft with rain, and when traffic over the turf causes maximum harm to root growth and recovery.

Golf courses buy Hoverdrys for many different reasons. There are those that buy them for championships, when the cost of a day’s play lost is many times the cost of the machine (£1,750). The there are those who use the machine throughout the year to remove puddles formed on the course. Some, especially Public Courses, use them to get more play, with one course on Jersey recovering their investment, in terms of greater green fees in a matter of weeks. Others use the machine to remove water so that there is no build up of compaction and thereby save money on maintenance as well as giving a much better and more professional service to their golfers.

**ALLEN APPOINTMENTS**

Two new Directors have been appointed to the Board of Allen Power Equipment. Lance Bassett becomes Sales Director and Jonathan Allen Technical Director. Having worked for the company for 15 years as sales representative then sales manager, Lance Bassett, 45, lives near Oxford and is married with three children. Jonathan Allen, 29, has a thorough knowledge of Allen machines and spare parts, having a technical background and experience in the spares department at Didcot. Jonathan will be involved with the development and introduction of all new Allen products. He is married with one son and lives in London.

**DOG AND RABBIT REPELLENT**

Golf greens plagued by the attentions of dogs and rabbits will benefit from an application of Renardine. This repellent from Gilbertson & Page keeps pests and pets away from greens and fairways; also from flowers or shrubs near the clubhouse. In continuous use since 1896, this well-known repellent looks set to become even more popular with the introduction of a new easy-to-use one litre spray dispenser, which has the advantage that it keeps hands clean. The dispenser supplements the one and five litre cans, and all three appear in a bright new green and yellow design. Renardine is now backed by independent research which proves that it really does provide an effective deterrent, without harming animals in any way.
To say that our natural turf system is tough is merely scratching the surface.

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GC/1
East Sussex National Golf Club is now open for its members to play. This encompasses both the East and West courses, as well as the practice grounds. Both golf courses, under the control of Ken Siems and his 40 strong greenstaff, will be maintained to give the finest inland playing conditions available in the UK.

Both 18 holes will also be primed for a number of special events that East Sussex National has agreed to host this season. These include the visit of the GB and Ireland Curtis Cup team. They have selected East Sussex National to stimulate the speed and contours of the greens they will be confronted by during their defence of the cup in America. This practice week-end will be the 30th June and 1st July. Later in the year, the club's West course will play host to the Montorola Classic. This satellite tour event will be followed by the inaugural Wilson Amateur Masters invitation event.

Kevin Munt, who was until recently course manager at Wentworth, has been appointed a director of John Jacobs Golf Associates Limited, the Hertfordshire based golf course design and project management company.

Mr Munt joins John Jacobs as part of a major expansion programme. Several large contracts have been won in recent months and the company is now developing its activities in both the UK and Europe.

Kevin Munt, who is 32, has 15 years greenkeeping experience, eight years of which have been spent in golf course management. He was links supervisor at the Royal Dornoch Golf Club, ranked as the 12th best course in the world by 'Golf Digest' magazine. But it was at Wentworth in October 1987 that his name first hit the headlines when he and his team worked round the clock to save the Suntory World Match-Play Championship from disaster after the worst storm on record brought down some 300 trees, flooded the greens and made the course totally unplayable.

The following year Kevin Munt (below) prepared the Wentworth courses for the Volvo PGA, World Match-Play and English Ladies Stroke Play championships and in each case they were generally recognised as being in the best possible condition for championship events.

It was during his time at Wentworth that much of the work on the John Jacobs' designed new South Course took place and although not directly concerned with its construction, a lasting relationship was forged with John Jacobs and the company's managing director, David Pottage.