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"When you think how weather-tight a thatched roof is, you can see how a build up of thatch will block out air, light and water from reaching the roots. Of course, a little bit of thatch is normal and helps turf to wear better. But, if it builds up too much, you will soon have problems.

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"In fact, you should have a look at the whole range of Ryan turf maintenance equipment. It's the best you can buy".

New vigorous growth after hollow tining
Enterprising Developments

This issue of Golf Greenkeeping is the first as a completely independent publication for the management and maintenance of golf courses in the United Kingdom. Regular readers will notice several changes in the presentation and layout of the magazine, designed to provide not only up to date information on the latest techniques, but in-depth articles featuring interesting projects, concerned with golf course constructions.

The development of a new municipal course at Oulton Hall at Rothwell near Leeds, this month is an example of the type of projects Golf Greenkeeping intends to highlight during the coming months.

Oulton Hall Golf Course is quite unique in its concept, because the local authority have used a combination of resources; their own parks and recreation facilities, outside advice and most importantly MSC labour. Not only has this ambitious scheme provided people who would otherwise have been unemployed with a job, but because there is an ‘end product’ for all to see, considerable enthusiasm has been generated among those involved.

Whether one approves of the political aspects of job creation schemes or not, in this instance there is a considerable benefit for everyone. A golf course is under construction within the budget the ratepayers can afford; a worthwhile job has been provided for people who would otherwise spend their time waiting for pay day on the dole; not least the golfers of Leeds will have the pleasure of another fine course.

The driving range which opened shortly after this article was prepared is so popular, customers are queuing up to use the facilities, providing income already to off-set the costs of construction.

There is a desperate shortage of golf courses around our densely populated cities requiring a combination of finance, land, enterprise, drive and enthusiasm, as well as a relaxation of rigid green belt restrictions.

Because of the crippling costs involved in building an eighteen hole golf course, future developments can only take place in one of two ways. Firstly by municipal authorities who have vast tracts of land, though they may be earmarked for other uses. Secondly by private enterprise, if the planning controllers will accept that golf courses not only provide leisure activities for thousands, but they are conservation areas in themselves.

Collingtree Park, also featured in this issue is a case in point. A total of £50 million has been made available for this enterprising development, most, it must be accepted, will be for the construction of high-class housing, hotels and a private clinic, but there is nothing wrong in building a golf course with a profit motive.

What is certain, the established member-owned clubs, the backbone of golf in this country, will never increase in number.

FRED HAWTRE DEVELOPS THE HUGGING & KISSING SYNDROME COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR GOLF COURSES FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT DUBAI THE COURSE FOR THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP PRODUCT REVIEWS
David Jones said, “Floranid cut leaching to a minimum so we needed fewer applications. We used it on a wide range of areas including raised shrub and flower beds.”

Bill Matthews was looking for strong, even growth sustained throughout the season. “Floranid more than lived up to my expectations. It produced the hard wearing grass that I needed and also gave me vigorous, healthy shrubs with good colour and appearance.”

Geoff Sadler considers that he has already saved money. “Our grass has to look good. Floranid gave us good colour and rapid recovery even after hard wear but without any excessive growth. Floranid has certainly worked well for us!”

That’s what these professionals think of Floranid slow release fertiliser. So whatever your requirements the Floranid range can work for you.

**Floranid**

Effective slow release for quick results.
New Powered Aerator from Sisis

The new Sisis Hydrocore is a powered aerator developed from the well proven Autocrat, ideal for all fine turf areas.

It is a highly manoeuvrable machine which will turn in its own length. There is also a reverse gear for tight spots and the tines are raised and lowered hydraulically.

With its speed of operation and its 3ft. (91cm) working width, the Hydrocore gives a fast rate of coverage; an average size golf green can be completed in approximately 30 minutes.

Interchangeable hollow coring, slitting and solid tines are available for penetration to 3" or 4". Adaptors can be fitted to the tine holder tubes to effectively double the effect of the Hydrocore. By fitting a set of 8 adaptors and 16 tines approx. 150 holes per square metre can be achieved. When hollow coring, a considerable amount of thatch is thus removed as well as the extensive relief of compaction. The tines enter and are withdrawn completely vertically so there is no tearing of the turf and minimal disturbance of the playing surface. Depth of penetration is adjustable. Integral swath boards are fitted to windrow the cores when hollow tining.

Irish Farmer seeks finance for new golf course

A top golf course architect has given the thumbs up to an Irish farmer's plans for developing a new first class 18 hole golf course near Dublin.

Farmer, John Wilkinson wants to turn about 130 acres of farm land just 13 miles north of the city centre into a course to ease massive waiting lists at local clubs.

Keen golfers face a wait of up to 10 years to join one of the other 10 clubs in the Leinster area.

Most clubs are refusing waiting list applications because of the huge backlog among an estimated 50,000 golfers within 25 to 30 miles from the centre of Dublin and John Wilkinson is looking for backers to help him get the project off the ground.

Eddie Hackett, one of Eire's best known golf course designers has drawn up a detailed Feasibility Report and plan for the course.

His proposed course would be in the shape of "an impressive arc" and consist of two loops of nine holes each, starting and finishing at a Club House. The total length would be 6,700 yards, giving a par of 72 (ss 74). There would be four par three holes, four par fives and ten par fours. The eighth hole would be a "fine dog leg line of play" and the long holes would be broken up by shorter ones. Existing trees, hedges, ditches, a stream, a large pool and a river would provide a course of very varied and attractive character.

Mr. Hackett envisages that the course could be constructed and opened within two years. He summarised the excellent potential for the course as follows:

"I must say that a combination of situation, pleasant and varying gradients, adequate acreage, good drainage, magnificently featured land, mixture of terrain... and superb golfing virtues, would all combine to make a golf course here uniquely attractive and memorable".

Appointment of Head of Horticulture

Mr. Tony Bass, has been appointed as Head of Horticulture at the Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

Mr. Bass has been at the Farm College in Milton since April 1986 and prior to that was a Lecturer at the Northumberland College of Agriculture for three years.

The newly-formed College is an amalgamation of three centres - the Cambridgeshire Farm College of Milton, its Agricultural Education Centre at Sawtry and the Horticultural Station of the Isle College, Wisbech.

In addition to a range of part-time and short courses, other courses offered by the College include:

- National Certificate of Horticulture
- Amenity
- Commercial
- Interior Landscaping

New Pump from Grundfos

A horizontal single stage Jet Pump, suitable for a wide variety of water supply applications, has been introduced by Grundfos Pumps Ltd.

Designed to cater for shallow well water supply, boosting and sprinkling, the new pump, known as the JP5, is suitable for both continuous and intermittent operation.

Both JP5 and CH pumps can be supplied with a booster set for automatic operation, comprising a diaphragm pressure tank, an adjustable pressure switch, pressure gauge and five-way adaptor.

Further information and prices can be obtained from:

Grundfos Pumps Ltd.,
Grovebury Road,
LEIGHTON BUZZARD,
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Tel: (0525) 374876
Increased safety with Perstop floor slats

The new floor slat from Perstop Form provides the perfect solution for hard, cold and wet floors.

Easy to install, clean and maintenance free, the floor slats are manufactured in a special grade of low density polyethylene, chosen particularly to provide the correct cushioning effect. Resistant to most chemicals, the slat is hygienic with surface profiles that enable good drainage and have no dirt trays.

News Round-Up

Safety Flooring for Clubhouse

The floor slat reduces the risk of skidding and slipping by keeping the walking surface dry. Several sections can be linked together to cover large floor areas, without the need for additional parts, and are easily cut to shape to fit awkward corners.

Available in standard brown or beige ex-stock, but with other colours available on request and subject to minimum order quantities, the dimensions of the slats are 600 x 600 x 15mm; the weight is 0.9kg.

Contact: The Editor, Golf Greenkeeping for further details.

Two new Representatives join sisis

Mark Mills, joins as a Sales Demonstrator. He is single and lives in Ashstead in Surrey and will cover the South East of England as Demonstrator/Sales. Mark was formerly with Sisis Distributors, T. Parker & Sons Ltd., Surrey.

Two new Representatives join sisis

Tony Cundall, will cover the Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Staffordshire area.

He previously worked on the greens staff at Crewe Golf Club and then became a landscaping contractor. Golf was a major hobby but for the past 6 years all his spare time has been taken up with fund raising as an active committee member of the South Cheshire branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Group.

New Safety Blade for Rotary Mowers

A revolutionary new blade to replace conventional steel blades in rotary mowers has been developed in Australia by Merlin International and is being distributed throughout the UK and Eire by Garfitts Ltd. of Sheffield.

The new Merlin blade is manufactured from a rugged polyamide composition “Zyte” developed by DuPont Corporation. Its performance on wet and dry grass equals that of a steel blade, but the well-known dangers inherent in the latter are reduced drastically in the new product.

Cable-cutting, for example, is virtually eliminated with a Merlin blade, which tends to reject the insulated cable rather than tangle with it.

The fear of flying chippings from stone and concrete is all but removed, and in the event of the feet coming into contact with the rotating blade, any injuries will undoubtedly be less than if caused by a comparable steel blade - although strong footwear must always be worn when using a hover mower.

Garfitts of Sheffield, are the leading manufacturers of steel replacement blades for rotary mowers and John and Derek Cooper the joint M.D.’s are enthusiastic about the new Merlin blade.

“Anything that contributes to greater safety in the garden has to be welcomed”, says John Cooper, “and I see the Merlin blade as a positive advance in rotary mowing. Garfitts have a strong connection with the mower repair industry throughout the British Isles, and I’m sure we will quickly establish supplies for greenkeepers wishing to replace his present steel blade.

New Company organisation for Mallard Trucks

Formerly known as David Brown Developments, the company has re-organised and is now a major re-organisation has adopted the trading name of Mallard Trucks Ltd. They will continue manufacturing at their Ferry Road, Fiskerton, Lincoln address and David Brown - a well known figure in the industry - will continue his role in product design and development, and carry responsibility for sales and leisure markets.

The re-organisation has meant becoming part of the Wood Group Ltd., a substantial private group of companies with a turnover of some £25m. The group is run by Mr. Sidney Wood who will have a non-executive role as Chairman of Mallard Trucks. Two new Directors have been appointed to the Board of Mallard, Mr. David Kilby - Finance and Mrs. Chris Hewitt - Marketing.

Product developments in the pipeline include a new Mk5 4-wheel truck - shortly to be released - and a completely new Golf Caddy Car. Both of these will utilise the unique transmission developed by David Brown, which links the latest Ford 4-speed gearbox to a variety of suitable air or water-cooled, petrol and diesel engines, thereby giving the customer an unsurpassed range of power options together with a full 1-ton carrying capacity. Fitted with the Mallard Mutilift, all of the trucks in the range can be quickly linked to a wider range of existing turfcare implements and this, without the removal of the 1-ton capacity body.

TORO PRO-70 fully reconditioned £895

Heavy duty, fully galvanised grass boxes for Auto Certes £50

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FOCUS ON ROTHWELL

... JOHN LELEAN REPORTS ON THE BUILDING OF A NEW 27 HOLE GOLF COURSE FOR THE LEEDS CITY COUNCIL.

The City of Leeds, has sixteen golf courses, including five run by the municipal authority. By next year this will increase to seventeen when the new public course at Rothwell is due to open, initially as eighteen holes and later with another loop of nine.

Moortown and Alwoodley, designed by Dr. Allister Mackenzie with Harry Colt are listed in the top fifty for the British Isles. Moor Allerton, Robert Trent Jones's first designed course, regarded as a classic never-theless is a redoubtable test of golf. Now the Leeds Council are aiming to produce a course of championship standard on the rolling parkland at Oulton Hall, seven miles south of the city centre.

Demand for more golf courses can be seen by the enthusiasm displayed by golfers wanting to play the municipal tracts. Teeing off by the light of car headlights is a common feature at weekends by those using the two courses at Temple Newsam. At Middleton and Gotts Park, nearby cafes open at 5.00 a.m. to provide refreshment, to those fanatics waiting for the pro's shop to open, to book a tee off time.

The private clubs all have full membership lists and at Wetherby where residential development is mushrooming, the pressure is so great even those wanting Monday to Friday golf will be waiting many years before consideration for entry.

Oulton Hall is a listed building, built by Sydney Smirke in the early 19th century. Unfortunately by the time Leeds MDC was able to acquire it, vandalism and the passage of time had brought the building to a dilapidated state. A planning brief for the Hall had been approved, and it was intended to convert the Hall into a hotel and conference centre with associated facilities for golfers.

Such is the state of our society mindless destruction could well have put this superb house beyond the state of repair. For many years the grounds have been used informally by local residents and the pond in particular has attracted interest from coarse anglers.

The possibility of developing an 18 hole golf course on the Oulton Estate was investigated in 1972 but difficulties with land owner-ship, tenancies, underground coal mining, and finiance, hindered progress. Furthermore it was recognised that acquisition of the Hall grounds was essential to allow development for an 18 hole golf course. The grounds were acquired last year and coupled with a modified financial climate, the readily available MSC labour, provided the impetus for development to start.

As well as developing 18 and 9 hole golf courses a 16 bay driving range was proposed and farm buildings picked out for conversion into a maintenance depot and irrigation control point, thus the possibility of a green-keeper's cottage. Clubhouse facilities will be sited in the Victorian stable block.

Leeds wanted to be sure that the golf course, would attract a range of golfers from beginners to professionals. With this in mind Dave Thomas Ltd., were engaged in the spring of 1985 to provide the overall design input and occasional site inspection. The day to day design and management of the project, however, has been based on the direction of the authority's own Chief Landscape Architect, Mr. John Morgan, who has drawn together expertise from various sources.

Forestry advice was provided by the City Forester, ecological advice has come from the West Yorkshire Ecological information and advisory service. Turfgrass matters were overseen by the experienced parks staff. Water and fishery matters were dealt with through the Yorkshire Water Authority, only irrigation design is being sub-contracted to a specialist company.

On the implementation side, the scheme is unusual in that the works have been by a balanced combination of MSC labour, Parks, Landscape and some contract labour.

Construction commenced in the spring of 1985 when an MSC team started preliminary works on site, including fencing and clearing out existing ditches and drainage works. At this time the condition of the existing woodlands was assessed by the City's forester.

During early 1985 Dave Thomas, in conjunction with the authority, provided the sketch layout for an 18 hole course. A detailed planning application based on this plan was submitted, and approved. Subsequently the consultant provided green and typical tee drawings, and a general specification.

Woodland area opened out to take the tee for the 3rd green.

August 1985 saw rapid progress on the course with the hire of a 915 International and a Caterpillar D8 and Box. The major earthworks then began.

Firstly the position of all the greens, tees and dog-legs to fairways were transferred from the plan and positioned exactly on site. This enabled the consultant to check the positions where he had anticipated that they would be, and if not, to slightly amend them as he thought necessary. After final agreement to these positions, they were then surveyed for future reference. For all positions in wooded areas, tree felling works were carried out carefully to remove only the minimum number of trees.

The next stage was to strip and stockpile topsoil from areas requiring regrading. To avoid problems of grass sods in the soil stack, grass areas were either chemically treated with 'Spacor' or rotovated before being stock-piled. Fairways were stripped over a width of approximately 40 metres. Greens for approximately 40 x 40 metres and tees for approximately 70 x 30 metres. This allowed adequate room to shape them and marry grades into the surrounding landform.

Earthworks involved both large and small areas, and different machines were required depending on the scale of the job. The machines ranged from a D8 and Box to a 951 Caterpillar excavator, 915 International excavator, and a JCB.

The greens were constructed by first removing the topsoil. The perimeter of the greens and any bunkers were then marked out on the ground using spray paint and the level profiles were erected. These areas were then shaped using a 951 Caterpillar excavator for the main cut and fill works, and a JCB to create the initial shape of the bunker, allowing for approxi-mately 400mm of stone, sand and peat on top of the formation level.

On certain greens the D8 and Box (and sometimes the D8 on its own) were used to obtain an initial shape and level to the greens when, for example, they involved cutting into an existing sloping area.

Waterfall built by the M.S.C. labour linking the two lakes.
topsoil was then removed by a
were prepared so that cut and fill
operations. works were phased so that the
areas and depths could be
sand and topsoil prior to seeding
earthworks were proposed,
the land drains, and then a further
100mm of stone carpet was
was then blinched in with 3mm 'Lytag' before receiving
wrapped in Terram' and covered
maximum of 1 in 5 and wherever
they blend
Every effort was made to
provide a seed bed.
Earthworks and grading for
to prevent subsequent settlement.
Slopes between individual tees
too were kept to a
majority were sloped to drain
rearwards
maximum of 1 in 5 and wherever
possible tees were not excessively
elevated so that they blend
smoothly and naturally into the
surroundings.
A 150mm depth of topsoil was
placed on all the tees, followed
by sharp sand at 2500kg per
100 square metres. The whole
tee surface was then rotovator,
to produce an even mixture of
sand, topsoil strip, regrading sub layer,
topsoil spread

When formation levels were
achieved, trenches were dug to
accommodate herringbone land
drainage, using wavencoil pipes,
80mm diameter for mains, and
and Cambridge Roller

PEAT SPECIFICATION:
Finely textured (preferably milled and sieved) peat having a pH of
5.5 to 6.5.

Trees Planted:
Trees for the Main Woodland Area:
Sweet Chestnut . English Oak . sessile Oak . Beech
Sycamore . Larch . Scots Pine . Austrian Pine

Trees for Large Groups:
Lime . Hornbeam . Field Maple
Norway Maple . Sweet Chestnut

Trees for Small Group and Individuals:
Hornbeam . Cherry . Lime (Large Leaf)
Chestnut (Baunani) . Field Maple

The shrubs to be used as an understorey and fringe planting
amongst the groups and also in the existing woodlands where
appropriate, and will include:
Hazel . American Elder . Hawthorn
Guelder Rose . Snowberry

Equipment used for Construction:
Caterpillar D8 and Ripper
915 International Harvester
22RB Dragine

Fertiliser Materials for Pre-Sowing:
2.00 mm diameter

Topsoil went straight back onto an
adjacent area that had been
graded. Profiles were erected to
achieve proposed subsoil
levels.
After the subsoil had been
graded a 150mm layer of topsoil
was spread over the areas and
prior to the seeding operations
some of the more compacted
areas were subsoil ploughed at
approximately 1 metre centres in
two directions.
The seeding operations on the
fairways and around the greens
involved breaking up any hard
pans by ploughing, disc harrowing
dutch harrowing, seeding, chain
harrowing and cambridge rolling,
followed by stone picking as
necessary.
Bunkers were excavated to a
depth of approximately 500mm
by using both the JCB and the
951. First the JCB marked out
the area and generally shaped the
bunkers, and then the 951
tracked and marred the bunkers
into the surrounding ground.
The bunkers were constructed to
allow for 100 to 140mm of bunker
sand on top of a lateral connec-
tion to the land drainage system
or a soakaway at some distance.
When the fairways and sur-
rounding areas of the greens had
been soiled the bunkers were
soiled and seeded to the bottom
of the inside banks. This was so
that the actual shape and size of
the bunker could be marked and
cut out nearer the time of the
opening of the course. This allows a
lip of at least 180mm thickness
to be left to act as a retaining
structure to prevent loss of sand
by erosion. When in place, the
bunker sand comes up to within
50mm of the top of the lip.

An interesting feature of the
course involved the creation of
two small lakes, a meandering
stream, and the dredging of three
existing ponds, one of which was
in use by anglers. Great care was
taken to safeguard the ecology of
the ponds. However, in order that
the largest pond could be
Continued on Pages 10 & 11
The Allen National 68 has got what you can’t see—
reliability. Specifically designed for tough, no-
nonsense, low cost mowing, hour after hour, day after day,
by golf clubs, local authorities and contractors, the tried and
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performance and durability, makes the choice of the professional clear
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The Triple M five-bladed model, superb value
from around £2,599.00 (+ VAT).

Mountfield’s new British built, Triple M cylinder mower
is specially designed to cut time as well as grass. With
three 5 (or 7) bladed cylinders giving a broad 66” cut, the
Triple M makes short work of just over 2 acres an hour.
Take off the cylinders and you have your own tow-
truck or tractor!
It can be manoeuvred effortlessly round
awkward areas. And, with a low centre of
gravity, will cut across slopes as easily as the
flat. Five forward gears, plus reverse, give a
range of speeds up to 6½ m.p.h. So it will cope with
a variety of grass and ground conditions.
Maintenance? No problem. It’s designed and constructed
to make maintenance quick and easy.
Reliable too. The powerful 8 hp Briggs and Stratton
engine with electric start, is guaranteed for two years.
In short, it’s a machine that embodies everything you’ve
ever wanted from a large area mower. And everything
you’d expect from Mountfield quality.
Seeing is believing. Our demonstrator will be happy to
visit you, and show you the Triple M in action. For a free
demonstration or literature, complete the coupon.

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truck or tractor!
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you’d expect from Mountfield quality.
Seeing is believing. Our demonstrator will be happy to
visit you, and show you the Triple M in action. For a free
demonstration or literature, complete the coupon.
dredged, it was necessary to move the fish, and this was done by electro-netting them and transporting them to a new pond higher up the stream. This work was carried out by the Yorkshire Water Authority's river division staff, and a grant has since been received from YWA for the re-stocking.

Using a 6” Univac pump, remaining water was pumped from the pond so that dredging works could commence. A problem arose, however, with the limited access around the pond and progress with the 22RB + excavator type bucket and the low ground pressure Caterpillar D5 (used to push the slurry out into surrounding pastureland) was slow. After a week, it was decided to remove the middle section of the dragline boom and change to a grab bucket. With the low ground pressure Caterpillar pushing the slurry further afield satisfactory progress was made. In this way it took about four weeks to complete the dredging to this pond and two and a half to clear the two other smaller ponds.

In line with the City Foresters recommendations, a management programme of selective thinning, surgery and replanting began in late 1985. A great number of the trees felled were cut up on site, using a diesel powered saw generator and re-used for the timber protective fencing on the perimeter of the new forestry plantations. The majority of the brash and waste timber was either burnt on site by the MSC team or removed to the City's horticultural nursery. The remaining brash and timber was left within the woodland areas to encourage wildlife and flora habitats to develop.

As part of the development it was agreed to plant more than thirty acres of plantations, phased over 3 years, in accordance with a Forestry Commission grant approval. There was also the need for some ornamental tree planting as part of creating the course itself.

The species planted were indigenous in order to be compatible with the surrounding vegetation and the soil conditions. The tree areas alongside the fairways and surrounding the greens will be mainly broadleaves, with shrub understorey and places, and sizes ranges from transplants to standards with the emphasis on feathered whips. Protection against vermin involves fencing to large blocks and rabbit collars to individual trees.

The layout incorporates a number of interesting features. These include: several greens and tees cut into existing woodland; a meandering stream with a timber ha-ha across one of the ponds. The 15th green has been set into a former quarry after landscaping.

The layout incorporates a number of interesting features. These include: several greens and tees cut into existing woodland; a meandering stream with a timber ha-ha across one of the ponds.

The ICI range of turf care products has been developed for professionals. Whether your target is turf weeds, insect pests or turf diseases — whether the location is fine turf or outfield, look to the driving range.

SUPER VERDONE: The effective selective herbicide which controls major broad-leaved weeds in any established turf. Three powerful weedkillers give broad spectrum cover, even to speedwell and yellow suckling clover.

GAMMA-COL: turf. Underground pest like leatherjackets and chafer grubs will cause ugly bare patches as they eat grass roots and stems. Gamma-Col turf will kill these pests and remains in the soil to give effective and long term control. The easy to use liquid formulation has contact and fumigant action.

THE DRIVI

The 15th green has been set into a former quarry after landscaping. (inset) The 'HA - HA' under construction approaching the 4th green. Spring water has been tapped to provide a constant flow to the lake over a gravel bottom.

THE DRIVI

The 15th green has been set into a former quarry after landscaping. (inset) The 'HA - HA' under construction approaching the 4th green. Spring water has been tapped to provide a constant flow to the lake over a gravel bottom.

THE DRIVI
fairways; a timber bridge and rock waterfall between the 2 new lakes; and a small narrow green in a former quarry.

An aspect of the development of this championship style golf course which may be considered by some to be controversial was the extensive use of MSC labour. In the event this has worked well, and is worthy of note.

The vast majority of MSC work has been in connection with general site clearance and in providing a land drainage system to the whole site. This has involved establishing mains, and then laterals where site conditions were found to be poorly drained, apart from the herringbone system in the greens.

The MSC team have also been involved in the work to the existing woodlands and in afforestation, including clearing and burning brash and waste timber and removing tree roots from site. They have erected all the protective timber fencing and planted and maintained forestry transplant areas, as well as the half-standard planting in the critical areas of the course.

Other works carried out by the MSC team include: erection of security fencing and gates around the perimeter of the site and temporary fencing around the decaying structure of Oulton Hall; stone picking using agricultural equipment and pond dredging.

CONCLUSION:
This article illustrates the way, in difficult economic times, how construction of a golf course can become financially feasible when the approach is toward a linked Community Programme and a Local Authority Scheme with further support from Forestry Commission and Fisheries grants.

To work on such a major recreational scheme is a real training opportunity for those seeking employment through MSC.

Lastly, the method of working illustrates how a local authority can maximise the use of its own resources and use specialist consultants and contractors in a most cost-effective way.

The Editor is most grateful to John Morgan, The Chief Landscape Architect to Leeds City Council who has tackled this enterprising project with a great deal of enthusiasm, and injected a similar feeling among those working with him.

The information contained in this article has been obtained from a paper prepared by John Morgan for a forthcoming presentation.
A £50 million golf concept of combining health and leisure facilities on one integrated site has started outside Northampton. It will be the first development of its kind in Britain.

Collingtree Park is the first integrated complex to be built by Health and Leisure International in Britain and is based on the concept of setting top quality executive homes into the beautifully controlled landscaped environment of a championship golf course similar in many ways to both Wentworth and St. George's Hill.

The Company intend to go several stages further by incorporating onto the golf course, Britain's first purpose-designed golfing academy to teach golf to people of all ages and abilities. This will be complemented by further leisure and health facilities designed to give tuition in many other sports. This concept is aimed particularly at senior business executives and professional people and includes a sports injury clinic capable of providing full rehabilitation facilities for top sports men and women. A luxury hotel and homes for retired people are also planned.

Planning authority has been granted by Northampton Borough Council for HLI to develop the 275-acre site a few minutes off the M1 motorway, near Collingtree village, between the motorway and the A508. The total development will cost approximately £50m and take up to five years to complete. Work on the golf course - the first phase of the project - commenced in May and is scheduled to be open for play by the Autumn of 1988.

The site will contain 185 luxury houses on about 60 acres of grounds in a landscaped environment, set between eight lakes. The championship golf course built to USPGA specifications, with a club house, a four-star hotel, and 45 homes for retired people. Later the site will include a forward health sports teaching academy and health centre as well as a 60-bed nursing home.

Collingtree Park was chosen as the site for HLI's first golf complex because of its geographic position at the crossroads of central England and the access to it by motorway. It is within easy reach for executives and professional people to drive to for a day's golf from the Midlands and Home Counties. Watford and the outskirts of Greater London are only an hour or so's drive away. Access is a few minutes off Junction 15 of the M1 just three miles from the centre of Northampton.

The landscaping of 275 acres involves the moving of more than 350,000 cubic metres of earth and the formation of eight lakes with a surface area of approximately 11 acres. The water features will contain some 25 million gallons and will eliminate the occasional flood problems associated with Wootton Brook which runs through the park. Considerable sums of money are being spent on the woodland management scheme which will preserve existing trees and plant new areas.

The 18-hole championship course covering 150 acres will be one of the most spectacular in Europe. It is the second in Britain to be designed to full USPGA specifications - the first being at St. Mellion golf course in Cornwall. Extensive drainage and irrigation will guarantee superb golf play throughout the year.

The course is the first to be designed by Johnny Miller under his own name. Johnny will be responsible for the golf course strategy and has the back-up of Golforce Inc. for the technical design aspects. The course has been specially designed so that the driving tees lead away from the houses making gardens safe from stray or sliced golf balls. Outlying houses will also be protected by the design of the course.

The club house will include dining rooms, bars and rooms for private functions and provide a personal service which will take care of golfers' needs from the moment they step out of their car until they leave the club.

The academy facilities will include three practice holes of golf - a par 3, a par 4 and a par 5 not provided anywhere else in Europe. There will also be the more usual facilities of a double edged driving range, chipping bunkers, practice greens and putting green.

This specially designed academy will run residential and non-residential courses for complete beginners through to advanced players in both golf and later tennis. A sports hall with squash, indoor tennis, cricket and bowls is scheduled for the latter development stages.

The 185 exclusive 4 to 5 bedroom detached homes will stand in a third of an acre looking on to the golf course. Contracts for building some of the homes have already been agreed with Bovis and Wimpey. It is expected that they will be completed and ready for occupation by 1991.

Negotiations are at an advanced stage for the four-star hotel which will have 150 bedrooms and aimed at both the strong mid week commercial corporate market and the weekend resort guest.

The health centre will be one of the most advanced in the world for dealing with stress among executives, treating sports injuries and sports rehabilitation.

A partner company International Resort Holdings, a golf development consultancy, represents Jack Nicklaus Golf Services in Europe and was the developer and consultant involved in the St. Mellion golf course in Cornwall. Shanning Group the other partner is an international healthcare organisation, based at Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire. It has been responsible for hospitals, clinics and nursing homes around the world.

Mr. Graham Fisher, Chairman of Health and Leisure International, said: "Collingtree Park will put Northampton on to the world's golfing map. Collingtree Park has been chosen as the site for HLI's first golf complex because of its geographic position at the crossroads of central England and the access to it by motorway and rail."
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Recently I was fortunate enough to be asked to attend the Toro Turf Professionals Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Travelling with me were Peter Wisbe from North Foreland Golf Club, Kent, Kevin McNeive from Effingham Golf Club, Surrey, and a group of other Superintendents from various parts of the country. Our hosts were Graham Dale, Sales Manager, Lely Imports UK, and Ian Kerry, General Manager, Guildford, Surrey.

Having only ever flown once before, I found getting in a 747 for an 8 hour flight exciting. We landed in Minneapolis to find beautiful weather. In summer the temperature can go up to 85° but because of a large climatic swing, winters can be very harsh, as low as 30°C with four feet of snow. The Golf season runs from approximately April through to the end of November when most Superintendents spray their greens with fertilizers and then cover them throughout the winter.

Our trip was for 9 days, but not all of it was conference and tours, far from it. Our hosts went out of their way to give us a great time. I had oysters and caviar for lunch and a sirloin steak. My only regret is that I did not eat enough of our gallivantings, on to the serious side.

The next morning saw us all on a coach at 6.00 a.m. ready to catch a train to Tomah, Wisconsin where Toro’s production plant is situated. The journey was very scenic and meandered beside the Mississippi. We spent most of the day at the plant where the motto of the Company is Pride in Excellence so much so that in certain parts of the factory quality inspectors have been removed and the responsibility is on the assembly team who provide a guarantee from every worker. Each worker can stop the production line at any time if they feel anything is wrong.

The last day of the conference was spent in round the table discussions, which surprisingly I found very interesting and rewarding. Toro also gained information in these talks from us.

During construction of the course 1 million tons of soil were removed to contour the fairways and greens, also the water table has lowered some 8 or 9 feet. How I would love to come back in 5 years time to play that course. It was one of the most impressive public courses I have ever seen.

So, onto the Conference, there were about 50 participants apart from us few Brits. We were taken to the Toro Shakopee Plant where everything from GM3 cylinders to rotary blades down to small sundries are produced. The tour round this plant was fascinating if a little noisy. Next we were taken to Lyndale Avenue to see the design facilities. Toro are world leaders in this field because computers are used extensively during the design stages. Not being a computer buff I found this all a bit technical but Ian Kerry was in his element.

Next stop were the testing bays where every machine, before going to production, had to go through very extensive testing, for example engines are run for great lengths of time so that carbon build up and internal temperatures can be monitored.

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The Tomah Plant (Wisconsin) where a Toro Turf Pro 84 nears completion

I think other manufacturers could learn a lot by holding such a conference and then listening to those people who use their machinery day in, day out.

Finally there was a true American Razzamataz style Farewell Banquet. It was extremely well organised. We were shown a slide show that evening from pictures that a photographer had been taking of us during the entire conference, we were also all presented with a group photo.

To summarise my trip I feel the Toro Company are fully committed to trying to understand our problems.

I think American Superintendents are extremely professional and are in total command of their courses although I should like to have their yearly budget to use on my course.

FEATURE 1

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

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HUGS & KISSES

Golf's big love affair

... by Fred Hawtree

The cameras next recorded the entrance of a new character on to the green. I took him to be P.S.'s manager. His obvious delight was no doubt enhanced by the prospect of an even bigger cut from the winnings. He and his possessors went into a big clinch with a certain amount of in-fighting, but no instructions to 'break' that I could hear.

Prior to these demonstrations of mutual esteem, the cameras had been picking out a lady in the crowd and recording any visible evidence of her emotions at all costs. I assumed that this was Mrs. P. Stewart, although she only came No. 3 in the pecking order, and that the child in her arms was Miss P. Stewart, No. 4 Precocia (not, I imagine, her real name) got in the way of the full marital embrace which viewers like to see but they got it sorted out eventually and Little Miss P. was transferred to the victor's strong left arm. She too seemed not entirely displeased, though her cut was unlikely to make a dent in Dad's new balance at the bank.

If the T.V. cameras had been at Hoylake in 1913 J. H. Taylor would have had to embrace seven 'times', one by one.

After a short interview with Arnold Palmer, who mercifully refrained from close contact, another NBC commentator took over the show. While an official brought on a cheque measuring about 6 feet by 3 feet and made of wood (not rubber) with 'Payne Stewart' already inscribed in handsome italics as the payee, lumbered as he was with Little Precocia on one arm, the winner had difficulty in adding this piece of plywood to his impediments and stood up against his right leg as the interviewer began his routine interrogation:

'Dad: 'I love you son' Son: 'I love you too, Daddy'

The principal variation on this dialogue takes a some what different form.

Each of these lines was followed by a prolonged emotional impact. But what would happen if the TV cameras had been at Hoylake in 1913 when J. H. Taylor won his fifth Open. Mrs. Taylor would have been pretty sharp with the interviewer if he had tried to investigate her personal feelings. Indeed, by one, J. H. would have had to hoist up about seven tinies each with an individual embrace to maximise the emotional impact. But what would the great man have had to say himself? And how big would the cheque have been? While you ponder these weighty matters I will press on.

When did all this embracing begin? No event is now complete without a big hug. No television serial is complete without frequent variations on a theme where father embraces son and they vigorously pat each other's back while the following laudable sentiments emerge:

'Dad: 'I love you son' Son: 'I love you too, Daddy'

When I met him in San Salvador, the local brewery was running a promotional stunt much to his delight. A certain number of bottle tops was printed a red heart. A certain number of hearts or 'corazones' brought you a cash prize. To find the heart you needed to see the cork disc from the metal top.

Ed regularly complained of feeling dehydrated in the Central American climate and his corrections of this dangerous condition placed him among the leading qualifiers for the top prizes. The strategy was to suffer the sun remorselessly and there was a revolution every four weeks. Ed maintained that these fortunately coincided with the rain storms which, built up in the interests of radical passions in the dry periods. When Ed rained, everybody went indoors until the revolution was over. Alas this happy arrangement seems to have been abandoned. I first came across the big hug in El Salvador in 1954. I had gone out there to design a new 9 holes for the Country Club which was moving out of town (the first of many elsewhere) to allow development on its existing urban site. Ed was one of their profession-sional. He had been engaged at Northwood in Middlesex when he met his wife St. John and they went out to Central America, after the war.

Ed had always enjoyed company and conviviality. For example he never knew who gave him the cheque when his unit was stationed on the South Coast before leaving on D-Day. He swore this was because they had taken all the signposts down. Even so...

While answering these questions Mr. Stewart was, not unattractingly, trying to get a firmer grip on the cheque and even tried abortively to hoist it up under his disengaged arm. The microphone was held out at full stretch to get past the cheque and Little Precocia who was getting bored, took a fancy to the sponge rubber ball on the top of it. So the routine was broken and interspersed with asides to her:-

'Just a moment, darling, you'll get your turn...?'

'Now just wait till Daddy has finished sweetheart...?'

'Just be a good little girlie will you...?'

'O.K. honey. You can have it when we've finished...?'

And she persevered until she did get it, whereupon her interest evaporated.

I fell to thinking what would have happened if the TV cameras had been at Hoylake in 1913 when J. H. Taylor won his fifth Open. Mrs. Taylor would have been pretty sharp with the interviewer if he had tried to investigate her personal feelings. Indeed, by one, J. H. would have had to hoist up about seven tinies each with an individual embrace to maximise the emotional impact. But what would the great man have had to say himself? And how big would the cheque have been? While you ponder these weighty matters I will press on.

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Ed had a wonderful gurgling laugh and could perform both welcoming and parting embracess to perfection, give or take a certain artistic licence. When we parted at the airport after a detailed examination of a certain number of bottle tops, our own embrassio actually out-shone the tragic and blood-curdling affair at the departure gate by much closer acquaintances.

Then, damn it, I forgot about it when I went to El Salvador, as he often did during the winter to visit his mother and frighten the moths out of his overcoat which she kept for him. Far worse, on a later occasion I never got the
message when he telephoned my office from hospital in London. I only found out about six months afterwards. When the woman responsible walked out on her husband, her son, and on the job, I found the note. But by then it was too late. Sorry, Ed.

Now clearly the embrasso has crept north from the Mexican border just as the kissing of all and sundry has crept across the English Channel. There was a time when the bestowal by French generals of military decorations with appropriate facial contact, raised a tolerant smile north of Dover. At least we have not abandoned our natural reserve in that respect. But in social affairs, the polite or 'air' kiss has progressively invaded normal civil contacts. More has been brought back from those Spanish and French holidays then the odd bottle of Fundador or Pernod. Memories of carefree sunny leisure at the pool-side are perhaps revived by acting the part of the natives and giving evidence of international social graces.

In the United States a continuation of these changes has led to a greatly enhanced warmth in greeting old friends. I noticed on the Spring trip earlier that some of the ladies whom in my advanced years I felt able to kiss lightly in the air (or should it be the right ear, I am never very sure) were now clasping me tightly in an embrasso of which Ed Fox would certainly have approved. I am not vain enough to imagine that this is due to any improvement in my general appearance in the three years elapsed since we had last met. Indeed in some respects, my 1987 model verges on the portly and makes a close embrace just that much more tricky.

It is not only outside the Latin countries that greetings and farewells have become even more cordial and demonstrative. Even as late as the sixties, my early relations with the French were still formal and always correct. One never used a Christian name. Even a friend only addressed another as 'Charlie' if they had been at school together and known each other at least thirty years since. That is all in the past. Last year when J. Nicklaus holed all three lefts and two rights as a job, I found the note. But by then it was too late. Sorry, Ed.

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