Supaturf fertilisers, grass seeds, top dressings, weedkillers
Supaturf, soil testing laboratory and maintenance equipment

Supaturf, the professional service every greenkeeper and groundsman can rely on

Detailed literature and free advisory service from
Supaturf Products Limited
Oxney Road
Peterborough PE15YZ
Telephone (0733) 68384

Supaturf right under your feet
Comment 5

From the Chairman of the Association

Thatch Dr K. A. Hurto and Dr A. J. Turgeon 7

The Suitability of Thatch on Golf Courses

Golf Course Design J. Hamilton Stutt 14

The Man who Maintains Turfgrass 19

Standards

Greenkeeping in the USA

Letters 23

News 24

Use of Alginure 25

Section News 27

Golf Course Directory 30

Front cover

This latest powered aerator, from SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited, is ideal for regular use on golf greens and other fine turf areas. Three types of tine are available, in sets of 48, for year-round use: hollow coring, solid and slitting. For good manoeuvrability and ease of handling, the Hydratora has a free-wheel differential and for transport or turning at the end of a swath the tine drum is lifted hydraulically. Drive direct to the drum means that the machine does not rely on wheel traction, making it ideal for softer conditions as the weight on the wheels is minimal. For transport, the wheel drive is connected by a simple mechanism and permits a comfortable walking speed between areas of work.
If you've never seen thatch like this come out of a green...

you've probably never used a **sisis** Rotorake

combat thatch and excess fibre the SISIS way — the choice is yours

All SISIS machines are designed, patented and manufactured in Gt. Britain

**sisis**

SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD. Shoresclough Works, Hulley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2LZ. Telephone: Macclesfield 26363 Telex: 669795
I am just over halfway through a most enjoyable term of office as Chairman of our Association, and it really has been a pleasure meeting many old friends and making many new friends during this time.

One thing that struck me during some of these meetings was that some of our members seem to think very little is being done for the golf greenkeeper and that there is not enough contact between the greenkeepers themselves.

Well, it seems rather timely that I should be able to write these notes at the introduction of a new magazine, and I think it would not be amiss to remind members of the aims of our Association.

1. To advance and strengthen our Association by a modern and skilful approach to golf greenkeeping through sound training and education, by lectures, educational training or technical literature.

2. To involve members in social functions and golf competitions thereby encouraging members to learn and play the game of golf, to learn and observe the rules of golf and golf etiquette.

3. To maintain a benevolent fund.

4. To publish a monthly magazine.

Well, as the magazine is probably making the biggest change in its history, and it is also one of the best ways of keeping in contact with one and another, here is one aim that has been achieved. But the magazine cannot run itself. Despite the tremendous efforts of our Editor, Derek Hopkins, your help is needed with letters or articles of interest. If it is snippets of local information let your section secretary know for publishing in section notes. Remember that members up and down the country that are not in contact with sections because of distance relish the information that is published in your magazine.

The benevolent fund is in a healthy state and is being administered soundly through our Hon. Treasurer and executive committee.

The organization and running of sections throughout the country may be done by a handful of stalwarts but, I am pleased to say, all appear to be healthy and active and plenty of things are happening both socially and educationally.

So most of our aims I feel are being achieved, but the true strength of our Association is through fully trained and technically competent members and because of this we are now insisting that all apprentices who are receiving training through the new Training Schemes are registered on the BGGA register.

We in the Northern Section have organized an advance course in Greenkeeping Science at Askham Bryan Agricultural College, the course being compiled by meetings between the members of college staff and our section committee. The course is open to all!

So come on members, do not sit back and say little is being done for the golf greenkeeper; come and join us, become involved or if that is not your scene write to the magazine and complain, criticize, let off steam or give some suggestions and then with your support we can achieve all the aims of the British Golf Greenkeepers’ Association.

COLIN GEDDES
Chairman, BGGA
SNAPPY DRESSER

Quick, efficient, self-propelled and economical top dressing, up to 225 ft./min. from the 13.5 cu. ft. hopper. 36 in. rotating brush drives the dressing to the base of the turf—where it belongs! Feature packed, the Allen Mete-R-Matic Top Dresser is powered by a 5 h.p. Briggs & Stratton engine and available now from your local Allen distributor.

Also available, Bantam Turf Cutter. Engineered to make turf replacement easier, faster and more economical. Cuts 12 in. width cleanly and easily at speeds in excess of 120 ft./min.

Please send me immediately details on the Allen
(a) Mete-R-Matic Top Dresser
(b) Bantam Turf Cutter

Name

Address

Tel. No.

ALLEN
ALLEN POWER EQUIPMENT LTD.
THE BROADWAY, DIDCOT, OX11 8ES
TELEPHONE: DIDCOT 813936
Optimizing the Suitability of THATCH

by Dr Kirk A. Hurto and Dr A. J. Turgeon

Reprinted from "Golf Superintendent", official publication of the GSAA

Studies of the physical and chemical properties of thatch to determine its suitability as a growing medium for turf-grasses have shown that, compared to soil, thatch is far from ideal. However, because it is a common problem, turf-grass managers should recognize its characteristics as a growing medium and modify cultural practices as necessary to optimize the quality of turfgrass on thatchy sites.

Thatch is basically a tightly intermingled layer of living and dead grass stems, leaves and roots that develops between the zone of green vegetation and the soil surface. A shallow thatch layer provides some surface resiliency and increased wear tolerance, while an excessive thatch accumulation results in turf that is more susceptible to environmental stress, disease and insect problems.

Thatch results from an imbalance between accumulation and decomposition of organic surface debris. Thus, any cultural or environmental factor that stimulates excessive growth or impairs decomposition may contribute to thatch development as well. Turfgrass growth habits also can affect thatch development. Grasses with a creeping growth habit, such as creeping bentgrass, are more prone to thatch development than are tufted grasses, such as perennial ryegrass or tall fescue. It is not exactly clear how thatch actually develops, however. While clipping debris has not been found to be a major component of thatch, the accumulation of clippings and senescent leaves on the ground provides a suitable microenvironment for the initiation of adventitious roots above the soil surface.

If a stable layer of surface biomass is formed, new crowns can develop from emerging rhizomes within the thatch layer. Because internodal elongation of rhizomes continues until the terminals are exposed to light, the accumulation of a surface biomass apparently prevents light from striking the soil surface.
Low centre of gravity and wide track means the Allen National 84 takes bankwork in its stride. Free floating power driven cylinders hug the ground contours providing a fine even finish over a full 7 ft. cutting width. Functionally designed as a commercial quality machine to cut grass continuously day in day out throughout the cutting season means you really can bank on the National 84 for low cost, high output grasscutting. Send for details and read the full story today.

Also available 68 in. model.

I'm banking on the Allen National 84 being the answer to my grasscutting problems. Please send me full details.

Name .................................................................

Address ..................................................................

Tel. No. .................................................................
TO THE COMMITTEE.

We desire to nominate as a candidate for election as Ordinary/Restricted Member:

Surname .................................. Christian names ..................................

Private address .................................................................

Occupation .................................................................

Age.................................................................

If an Assistant, except Apprentices, how long have you been employed under a Greenkeeper?........

Golf club address ..........................................................

.................................................................

We, the undersigned, do from our personal knowledge of the above recommend him for election,

Proposed by .......................... Seconded by ..........................

If elected, I agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

Signature of candidate ..........................................................

When completed, please return to:
Hon. Secretary, Mr W. Heeles, 7 Tentergate Close, Knaresborough HG5 9BJ.
Form of Nomination of a Candidate

TO THE COMMITTEE,

We desire to nominate as a candidate for election as Ordinary Registrant

Member

Surname

Christian name

Private address

Occupation

Age

Is an Assistant expert Anderson from your firm been employed

under a Greenkeeper?

Club address

We, the undersigned, do from our extensive knowledge of the above named

propose for election

Seconding

If elected, I agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

Signature of candidate

Nomination paper please return to: Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. H. Neal, 17 Tentertons Close, Kingspan House, HGS 98.

Please provide details of the candidate as requested in the form.
1979 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

20, 21, 22 AUGUST
THE ROYAL BIRKDALE GC
SOUTHPORT, MERSEYSIDE PR8 2LX

PROGRAMME

20 August a.m.
3.00 p.m.
18-hole Stableford Competition
Annual General Meeting

21 August
36-hole Scratch Cup and Prize
36-hole Senior Division Handicap
36-hole Junior Division Handicap
18-hole Coming-of-Age Cup

22 August a.m.
3.00 p.m.
18-hole Medal Competition
Prize Presentation

ENTRY FORM
(Block letters please)

Name
Address
Club S.S.S
Section
Handicap

Tick box if eligible for □ Coming of Age Cup (Age 60 and Over)

Tick box if requiring Caddy Car □ £5 deposit with entry form

Entries to be returned to:
D. GOLDING, 38 THE GROVE, FLIXTON, MANCHESTER M31 3JH

Not later than 30 June 1979
1979 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

20, 21, 22 AUGUST
THE ROYAL DILRAS
SOUTHPORT, MERSEYSIDE PR8 2LX

PROGRAMME
18-hole Stableford Competition
Annual Prizegiving and Dinner
18-hole Stableford Cup and Prizes
18-hole Junior Division Handicap
18-hole County Amateur Cup
18-hole Medal Competition

ENTRY FORM
(please return this page)

Name
Address
Club
Section
Handicap

Tick box if eligible for County or Age Cup (18s and Over)

Tick box if requiring Entry Form

D. GOLDFING 33 THE GROVE, WILMSLOW, CHESHIRE, SK9 2NH

Note your plans by 30 June 1979
Rolawn

A range of specialist turf

for perfect results .... sooner
Rolawn 'Olympic' for cricket wickets
A very high quality turf that, with good management, will produce a hard wearing, fast and smooth playing surface. This turf contains a selected mixture of Browntop, Chewings Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue and Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass.

Rolawn 'Tournament 1' for golf greens and 'Olympic 2' for teeing areas
A range of first class turf developed especially for golf courses. The greens quality contains a Browntop and Chewings Fescue mixture, and the teeing area quality a balanced mixture of Browntop, Chewings Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue and Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass.

Rolawn 'Sward' for quality landscaping, parks and gardens
A very high quality turf containing a well balanced mixture of top quality cultivars providing a durable lawn surface of superb appearance. Suitable for all but the most hardwearing applications when one of the 'Commando' qualities should be used.
Rolawn 'Tournament' for bowling greens
A very fine textured closely knit sward providing a superb playing surface able to withstand regular and very close mowing.
The best varieties of Browntop and Chewings Fescue have been selected to produce this very fine quality turf.

Rolawn 'Olympic' for tennis courts
A hard wearing fine textured turf containing a blended mixture of Browntop, Chewings Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue and Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass for a durable playing surface and aesthetically pleasing appearance.

Rolawn 'Commando' for football pitches
A vigorous hard wearing turf developed especially to withstand the 'studded boot'. A carefully selected mixture of grasses are contained in this turf including Browntop, Chewings Fescue, Smooth Stalked Meadowgrass and one of a new generation Perennial Ryegrass.
Rolawn in early stages of development.

Spray treatments on 'Olympic' turf.

Irrigation on 'Tournament' turf.

Harvesting 'Olympic' turf.

'Tournament' turf close-up.

Size and strength of Rolawn turf.

Laying 'Commando' Turf.

Newly constructed golf green, with Rolawn.

Site preparation for 'Commando' turf.

Laying Rolawn 'Tournament' turf.

Rolawn's Middle East trials station.

Field inspection 'Commando' turf.

Rolawn (Turf Growers) Limited

Elvington, York, England Y04 5AA Telephone: (0904) 85406 Telex 57796 ROLAWN G

Licensees of "The S.A.I Turf Process" (U.K. Patent 1194281)
Therefore, the transition from elongated stem growth (rhizome) to unelongated stem growth (crown) occurs above, rather than slightly below, the soil surface. As this process continues, additional organic debris is being deposited from clippings, senescent leaves and roots from older shoots and crowns. The results of this complex process is the development of a semi-stable layer of surface biomass, or thatch.

Where a substantial thatch layer exists, new root and stem growth from plant crowns occurs, at least initially, within the thatch. In some turfs, very little rooting may occur in the soil underlying the thatch. The thatch layer may then constitute the primary growing medium supporting the turfgrass community, while the underlying soil is of only secondary importance.

**Physical characteristics**

Thatch is a very porous medium with a lower bulk density than either the underlying soil or the surface soil from a thatch-free turf. Due to the lack of root and rhizome growth in the soil underlying the thatch, the soil tends to become compacted. This illustrates the beneficial effects of root and rhizome growth on soil structure.

By definition, thatch is assumed to be free of soil. However, it may contain varying amounts of soil, depending on the vertical movement of soil and organic debris by earthworms within the thatch/soil profile, particularly in the spring and fall. The overall effects of the incorporation of soil into thatch are not entirely understood; however, thatch does result in a hybrid entity with different physical and chemical characteristics. Much like topdressing, the incorporated soil may favour the decomposition of organic debris by allowing better moisture retention, greater microbial activity and possibly physical deterioration due to the abrasive action of soil particles on thatch fibres. The bulk density, then, increases as a result of the intermixing of soil with thatch.

At saturation, the water content of thatch is substantially higher than that of soil because of the greater total porosity of the thatch. However, most of this water is not held very tightly because the thatch has predominantly large (non-capillary) pores. Therefore, much of the water that thatch contains is lost by downward movement into the underlying soil and by évapotranspiration soon after irrigation.

Traditionally, irrigation provides deep watering of the soil profile, promotes deep rooting and reduces the potential for soil compaction. However, upward water movement by capillary action stops at the thatch/soil interface where the continuity of capillary pores is disrupted. Because thatchy sites have roots confined primarily to the thatch layer,
Turf hygiene with Daconil 2787

Daconil 2787* is the all-round non-systemic fungicide that offers a wide spectrum of control. It cures important turf diseases, precluding harmful soil residues with a high degree of crop safety.

Use Daconil 2787 and your green hygiene will improve within a season. Dollar spot, leaf spot, red thread, fusarium patch and fusarium leaf blight all brought under control. Easy and economic to use, safe for humans, domestic animals, livestock, birds, bees and beneficial insects, Daconil 2787 is prepared in a formulation especially adjusted to your turf requirements.

Send off the coupon and find out more about Daconil 2787.

*Daconil 2787 is the reg trade mark of Diamond Shamrock Corp.
more frequent irrigation is required to sustain plant growth. Because thatch is highly porous and fibrous, it is quite resilient and therefore resists compaction from traffic. Shallow and frequent irrigation to prevent the thatch from drying out appears to have minimal impact on its aeration porosity and is actually essential for sustaining the turfgrass community growing in it.

Chemical measurements
The frequent watering required for sustaining thatchy turf tends to increase the leaching of nutrients through the thatch. Because of this, more frequent fertilizer applications may be required to sustain a desired level of growth, especially where water-soluble nitrogen carriers are used.

An alternative approach to fertilization of thatchy turf may lie in the use of slowly soluble carriers to take advantage of the gradual release of nitrogen from these materials. Recent studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana, have shown soluble nitrogen to be more mobile in thatch than in soil from a thatch-free turf. Where a slowly soluble nitrogen source was used, loss of nitrogen by leaching through the thatch was reduced. Limited studies have yielded results suggesting that incorporation of soil into thatch may substantially improve its nutrient retention.

Measurements of pH have revealed that thatch from Kentucky bluegrass had the same pH or was slightly more alkaline than the underlying soil. This is contrary to reports in which thatch was found to be more acidic than the underlying soil. The study revealed that the pH of thatch probably reflects the presence of materials supplied through irrigation, fertilization and other cultural practices.

The differences in physical and chemical characteristics of thatch and soil suggest that cultural practices should be adjusted to compensate for the poor nutrient and water retention properties of thatch. However, because of its superior aeration porosity and resiliency, thatch resists compaction under traffic. Therefore, the non-living organic material associated with thatch is not altogether undesirable, and some benefits could be derived from this surface biomass.

Core cultivation followed by re-incorporation of soil cores is one method that appears to be effective in modifying the thatch layer. Besides alleviating soil compaction and improving water infiltration in thatchy turfs, coring can alter the thatch's physical and chemical properties. Core cultivation will penetrate 2–3 in. below the turf, extracting soil cores that are then dispersed on the ground surface. If the process of dragging the cores back into the thatch layer is repeated often enough, the thatch layer can be modified, forming an integrated medium similar to the hybrid entity discussed earlier. The improved moisture and nutrient retention resulting from this process could reduce irrigation and fertilization requirements while providing a resilient, compaction-resistant medium for sustaining a turfgrass community of excellent quality.
Turn the visiting teams green with envy

A fine playing surface shows you've done your best by the home team.

But fine turf needs lots of care and attention all year round.

Fisons Greenkeeper* range provides a really effective answer to feeding and encouraging grass.

There's Greenkeeper 1 for autumn and winter treatment to encourage root growth.

Greenkeeper 2 is for spring and summer top-growth.

And there's also a combined fertilizer and weed-killer with Greenkeeper Plus.

Some fertilizers leave a patchy, unsightly surface and even badly scorch the grass after spreading. Not the Greenkeeper range.

Greenkeeper's new formulation of fine-particled, peat-based granular fertilizer is unobtrusive even immediately after spreading.

And being peat-based it is readily absorbed into the soil.

Greenkeeper is a lightweight granule which makes for easy and even spreading and minimises any risk of scorching.

Each bag weighs only 28kg (61.71lb) but is sufficient to treat 800m² (956.8 sq.yds.).

The final result being that when the home side plays they're already on a winner.

Fisons Greenkeeper 1, 2 and Plus

*Greenkeeper is a Trade Mark of Fisons Limited.
Importance of an understanding of golf architecture

All of us close to golf will have heard the old story of the harassed club secretary (or was it head greenkeeper?) who complained that in his club, "he had 500 members and 500 would-be golf architects!"

This story, which must at times seem all too true, underlines the important part which I believe greenkeepers can play in the way in which our golf courses will develop over the years to come.

More mistakes are made in golf due to lack of continuity in management and control than any other cause. So far as the golf course itself is concerned, the person who is the best placed to provide the continuity of knowledge and experience which I believe to be so important is, or should be, the head greenkeeper. I would like to see good head greenkeepers given far more authority than they have at present in many clubs.

In most existing clubs, the head greenkeeper (or course manager, if you prefer the term) backed by a strong secretary (or club manager) are really the only people in a position to provide the continuity of influence essential to persuade successive committees to work to a long-term plan for their golf course. The alternative is the hotch-potch of ideas (good, mediocre, or sometimes disastrous) each new captain or committee, quite understandably, want to introduce during their terms of office. Having served for a good many years myself on club committees, as chairman of the green and as captain, I know only too well the temptations which can arise to "leave one’s personal mark" on the course!

The position is equally vital in the case of new golf courses. On my own new courses, I always impress on clients that the first and most important post they have to fill is that of head greenkeeper. The critical early development period of a new golf course is very dependent on choosing the right man.

Ideally I like the new head greenkeeper to start (as clerk of works) early during the construction period so that he can fully appreciate construction problems, gradually take over maintenance, and, most important, feel part of "the team" from the very start.

My experience is that, unfortunately, very little indeed of the aims and complexities of golf course architecture is understood by golfers as a whole. Although normally reluctant to put pen to paper, I therefore agreed when asked to write this series of articles.

I feel it important for the future of golf that, at the very least, those who occupy positions of influence in the game should understand some of the fundamental principles involved.

By knowing what to look for, I hope there will arise a more critical awareness of the difference between good golf architecture, the mediocre and the bad or non-existent!

Perhaps it should be emphasized that the views I am about to express are my own personal ones, and not necessarily those of the British Association of Golf Course Architects of which I have the honour to be Chairman! Although we each have — and rightly so in my opinion — our own personal approach to golf architecture, I do not, however, think that any of my colleagues in the association would disagree with any of the fundamental principles stated.

With a number of notable exceptions, the golf boom of the 1960s and 70s has not been a golden age comparable with the last golf boom in the earlier years of this century.

Far too many new golf courses in recent years have been poorly planned and executed by those lacking the necessary skills for the job. The situation has been made worse by the number of construction companies who have jumped on the band-wagon without proper experience or skilled foremen for the job — often at the expense of the very few specialist golf construction companies (those with a reputation to maintain) still around. Part of the blame must also lie with golf architects when we have fallen into the trap of accepting more design commissions than we can properly handle. Like the girl in "Annie get your Gun", some of us "Can’t say no"!

If you feel I am being unduly harsh, please do not take my word for it alone.
Go and visit a random selection of new golf courses constructed in your area in recent years, then compare them critically with:

1. The subtleties and challenges of many of our great sea-side championship links.
2. The man-made artistry of the really great golf architects, men like Tom Simpson, Abercrombie, Fowler (Worplesdon, the Berkshire, Walton Heath); H. S. Colt and those two great golf architects with whom I had the privilege of serving my apprenticeship — John Morrison and Mackenzie Ross (Sunningdale, Stoke Poges, Swinley Forest, Wentworth, Turnberry, etc.).

Look also at the many fine courses constructed in the 1920s and 30s by James Braid (whom I can remember well from my school days!) and my father, John R. Stutt; also by J. H. Taylor and Fred Hawtree, father of my esteemed colleague, F. W. Hawtree. Many of these golf courses were constructed for amazingly little cost and all show a standard of design and construction which is all too seldom reached nowadays.

In subsequent articles I shall be dealing with detailed aspects of golf course architecture. In the meantime, some of the fundamental differences between what I would classify as good design and bad may be gathered from the following diagram:

Course modernization and improvement

Although the “bad” has been labelled for kindness sake as “old fashioned”, many such examples abound today. I was recently shown the layout plan for a new championship golf course designed by someone of well-earned fame as a player of the game. Every hole had one or two bunkers on the left of the drive, one or two bunkers on the right. Every green was a vague oval shape with — guess — one or two bunkers on the left, one or two bunkers on the right! Enough to make the great early golf architects turn in their graves! There is more subtlety and strategy in one hole of the Old Course, St Andrews, than in this entire 7,000 yard course.

Come now, we must all do better than this! We must try to see that the 1980s, at least, will be a new “golden age” of golf architecture, with really worthy new golf courses to hand on to future generations.

Thought for today

Does your course have a lot of straight sided fairways like the left hand diagram? If so, can you mow them now to natural, sweeping curves as shown on the right — better for golf and much more attractive in appearance?

March 1979
Three essential machines

Mounted Hydraulic 5
Specially designed for golf course fairways and large grass areas, this compact machine can be quickly attached to the tractor’s PTO. The hydraulically driven, fully floating, 8 knife cutting units follow severe undulations, leaving a good finish without scalping. The Mounted Hydraulic 5 has a cutting width of 3.57m and all units are raised for transportation on the tractor 3-point linkage.

Buy or ask for Leasing Details
Tournament Triplex

This Ransomes Greens Management System is a 12 h.p. vehicle powering 4 separate turf maintenance operations, with a working width of 1.71m.

**Greens Units**
Fixed or floating to suit your greens conditions.

**Utility Units**
Heavy duty, for approach and tee mowing.

**Verti Cut Units**
For removal and control of thatch.

**Motor Rake**

Save time and money. The Motor Rake is revolutionising the labour intensive area of bunker maintenance just as the Tournament Triplex did for greens. By removing foot and club marks the Motor Rake gives a consistent depth of raking and can speed from bunker to bunker at up to 14·5 k.p.h.

Optional extras include scarifier, weeder and sand scoop.

Vibra Spiker
To keep the surface open and promote good root growth.

Dump Cart
Strong, general purpose trailer.

or write direct to Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Ipswich
WE TAKE A SIZE 15 COMFORTABLY.

On the surface of it golf may seem like a relatively harmless pastime.
But take a worm's eye view of an amateur golfer and it's a very different story.
One glimpse of those brand new spikes followed by a slicing number 9 iron can strike
terror into the hearts of some makes of grass seed.

However at Suttons we're not so green.
Golfers, pro and amateur have been walking all over us for years, on
courses from Turnberry and Sheringham to Golf Ismolas in Sardinia.

We can offer you an extensive range of grass seeds for tees,
fairways, greens and the rough. Plus a big range of fertilizers and
turf dressings.

Write to us at Torquay TQ2 7QJ or phone Torquay 62011
for more information. We'll show you how sowing the
perfect golf course can be a walk-over:

Suttons Seeds
170 years experience at your feet.
The superintendent can exert a tremendous amount of influence on the game strictly by his philosophy of golf course maintenance. If he is sincerely interested in maintaining a playing surface for the game itself, inherently, the members at the club will accept the conditions and become relatively proficient at the game. However, if the superintendent is of the philosophy that “green is good — dark green is great”, and that every inch of the golf course has to be a soft, lush turf, the membership will also adopt this philosophy. In all the comments heard at these courses about how great the golf course looks, you seldom hear any mention of playing conditions. Because of the potential influence on the game that the superintendent exerts, whether it be intentional or unintentional, he should have extensive knowledge of the game. He need not be an expert, but he should have a knowledge of the Rules of Golf, what is required to play a good shot (whether the golfer believes he has hit a perfect shot, and the green did not hold the ball!)

The past 20 years have provided a tremendous amount of technological advances in golf course maintenance. However, it seems that in the past 10—15 years the overall quality of playing surfaces has sometimes been diminished by the misuse of some of these advances. Too many clubs have become victims of the advances made by the irrigation industry. Too many clubs have fallen into dependence on the use of too many chemicals. Although the chemicals are used according to label recommendations, when they are used in combination or at the same time they actually have a detrimental effect on the quality of the playing surface. It appears that the process of the great American golf philosophy that if a large number of people cannot meet current standards without having to work or practise, then the standards should be lowered.

It appears that, although we are more sophisticated in the maintenance of the golf course today, fairways are becoming wider and are being mowed higher (so that they are prettier); the roughs are becoming shorter (because of the very weak excuse that the ball is easier to find and, therefore, will help speed play); and that the greens are becoming softer (because it is no longer the responsibility of the golfer to execute the shot properly with a proper amount of spin so that the ball will hold the green). It is now almost a requirement that the green should hold the ball on its impact alone.

Strangely enough, despite all the advancements in new, stronger turf providing year round playing surfaces, and, with more and more money being spent on golf course maintenance, some golfers believe they must still have the right to improve their lie before every fairway shot. This is the same golfer who expects the greens to be soft. If the ball is teed high, there is a tendency to pick the ball and not put backspin on it. When it hits the green, it will bounce and roll farther than if it had spin. But our golfer believes he has hit a perfect shot, and the green did not hold the ball!

The manicured approach to golf course maintenance is causing a number of severe problems in turf-grass management. We are no longer conditioning grasses to withstand stress; rather we are forcing them into an unusual growth pattern which makes them more susceptible to stress from weather, traffic and wear and tear. When our maintenance programmes reach a point where we are forcing grass growth, we artificially create more problems than we would have under natural conditions.

We constantly hear of programmes being altered because XYZ groups are being made happy, and, hopefully, keep his job. The manicured approach to golf course maintenance is causing a number of severe problems in turf-grass management. We are no longer conditioning grasses to withstand stress; rather we are forcing them into an unusual growth pattern which makes them more susceptible to stress from weather, traffic and wear and tear. When our maintenance programmes reach a point where we are forcing grass growth, we artificially create more problems than we would have under natural conditions.
With pleasure announce that they hold the greatest concentration of lawn mower spares and lawn mower engine spares in the country

ENORMOUS STOCKS OF RANSOMES SPARE PARTS

Also ASPERA, B.S.A., BRIGGS & STRATTON, DENNIS, HONDA, J.A.P., VICTA, VILLIERS

OUR FLEET OF VANS IS OCCUPIED DAILY IN MAINTAINING OUR EXPRESS SPARES DELIVERY SERVICE

Telephone your immediate requirements to

RELF & KENDALL
406 BRIGHTON ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON, SURREY. CR2 6XX. Tel (01) 688 0578
16a PLANTAGENET ROAD, NEW BARNET, HERTS. Tel (01) 449 8228

RELFKENDALL
OF CROYDON AND BARNET

ALGINURE* GRANULATE ‘S’

A PURELY ORGANIC SOIL CONDITIONER BASED ON SEAWEED

IT IS NOT A FERTILIZER BUT IMPROVES YOUR SOIL STRUCTURE ALLOWING APPLIED PLANT FOOD TO BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY. INCORPORATED IN NORMAL TOP DRESSINGS IT WILL STIMULATE A RICH AND RESPONSIVE TURF.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER BILL VISSE.
Because of ever-increasing traffic on our courses, it is necessary to follow proper maintenance schedules. It is essential that certain operations be performed to prepare the golf course for its peak and heavy play months. Some of the most important operations are the most basic and time-consuming ones:

1. Aeration — By either removing the core or a spiking procedure, aeration is basic to good turf-grass management. The grass plant needs air in the soil to provide for strong growth. Without mechanically renovating the surface, it is absolutely impossible to maintain a good soil—air supply. Compaction from cart traffic, mowing equipment, and foot traffic has a tremendous affect on the soil. This applies not only to greens and tees, but fairways as well.

2. Vertical mowing — Vertical mowing has a tremendous benefit for grasses and golf in removing the dead and decaying organic material that accumulates as a thatch layer on the soil surface. By a regularly scheduled vertical mowing operation, control of this thatch layer will be achieved mechanically and will prevent the grasses from becoming puffy or spongy. Whether in the fairways or on the greens, grasses that become puffy are most difficult to maintain as quality playing surfaces.

3. A regularly scheduled top-dressing programme — This will encourage the grass to develop a strong, upright growth. The top-dressing of greens is of tremendous assistance in providing a smooth surface so that the ball, when properly struck, will roll with a good pace along its intended line. Top-dressing operations on tees are beneficial as well to smooth the surface and fill the divot scars. With few exceptions, it is not practical to top-dress fairway areas.

By following these three basic programmes, turf for golf will be tremendously benefited.

The over-use of chemicals, such as fertilizers and herbicides, soften grass growth and weaken its performance in stress periods. The philosophy that “it has to be green to be good” has caused heavier applications of fertilizers to be made earlier in the spring. By stimulating the grasses at an early date and trying to get mid-summer colour by the end of April, serious problems could develop during the summer. An application of fertilizer in the early part of the spring causes the grass blade to become wide and the growth soft. This makes it more susceptible to traffic injury, it will require more water and it becomes more susceptible to diseases. By controlling nitrogen in the spring and waiting for normal initial green-up, the plant can maintain a thin upright posture and be able to condition itself to the stresses of the coming months.

Putting surfaces are the one place on the golf course where absolute control over the growth rate of the grass is necessary. Ideally, on a bent-grass putting surface the grasses will only be growing fast enough to recover from the traffic injury that is received from day-to-day play. It is not a contest on the putting surface to see how fast you can get the grass growing, but how fast you can get the ball rolling. It is most difficult to maintain a quality putting surface when the grasses have a rapid and soft growth rate.

As a result of overstimulation of turf grasses in the spring, it becomes necessary to apply water on a more frequent basis. The growth rate demands it. Once we start applying too much water, soil compaction is increased. Air spaces in the soil are greatly reduced. This starts a vicious cycle of having to apply more and more water to keep the grasses growing in order to survive the stress they are being placed under.

Once the soil is saturated, disease susceptibility increases, especially to Fusarium patch disease. Because the Fusarium fungus needs mild weather and moisture to be active, we are artificially creating a condition that provides excellent growing conditions for it.

It is not hard to see how golf courses can find themselves in a programme of lowered standards. The vicious cycle begins with the misuse of turf management techniques. Mismanaged techniques will cause more problems than are normally caused naturally.

As we look ahead, let us hope that golf course maintenance programmes will be directed more towards quality playing surfaces than towards aesthetics. This will call for a greater understanding and appreciation of golf on the part of most club members and the golf course superintendent.
TURF AS IT SHOULD BE

★ Grown from selected amenity grass seeds in light stone-free soils.
★ Available in several textures, all beautifully consistent in quality.
★ Harvested in square yard rolls, easy to handle, quick to lay.
★ Supplied virtually all year round, anywhere in the Country.

ITS NAME — Rolawn

For details of our comprehensive range of sports and amenity turf PLUS our new and rather special amenity grass seed mixtures please contact:

ROLAWN (TURF GROWERS) LIMITED
BGG DEPT
ELVINGTON
YORK Y04 5AA
Telephone (0904) 85 406
Telex 57796 ROLAWN G

Watering

A selection from the Valentine Plastics range of top quality watering products.

All Valentine Products guaranteed against manufacturing fault. All products ex-stock — 14 days guaranteed delivery.
For information, literature or prices, write to Valentine Plastics, Dept.R, Colham Mill Road, West Drayton, Middlesex. Tel. West Drayton 42233.
Dear Greenkeeper,

This time I would like to ask all greenkeepers a question. Are you giving your club good value for its money? Ask yourself whether you are obtaining good value for the materials you buy. Just because a greenkeeper with a course nearby uses certain materials successfully, we must not assume that this same material will work well on our course. Mr Cleaver, President of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, writes, “buying a few ounces of active ingredients in a barrel of water and getting a ‘free’ watch just does not make sense, either on the balance sheet or the moral balance sheet in your mind. Those who do this sort of thing are cheating the course and themselves.”

If you are not sure whether a product is good or better for your course, try it out against your present products, treat half a green with one, and the other half with the other. This is often a time-consuming job, and trying something new just once is not always enough. It often should be used over a number of years to be able to give a fair judgement.

The profession of greenkeeper is getting more complicated, and requires more knowledge than is realized, and in our part of the world mother nature is not always helpful. Sometimes it is necessary to take a stand even against experts. Whenever possible discuss problems with fellow greenkeepers or at meetings. As we know, diseases and insects are always with us. Whatever it is the turf suffers from will usually return year after year at approximately the same time. Ask yourself if it is not cheaper to carry out a preventative programme. As far as diseases are concerned it is certainly better, but with insects the problem is different. It is very important that the materials used reach the insect, therefore it is better to apply them when the insect is near the surface. The first sign of this are birds on the greens. Most insecticides require washing in. A lot of the old insecticides are now forbidden in some countries, and I find the new ones are not as efficient, often several applications are required.

Faster greens; to put it simply this is a question of closer mowing and more top dressing. However, it is not much good mowing them low once or twice a week, this would make them putt uneven, not faster. Fast greens should be mown every day. There are some courses which on big competition days mow them twice per day. In my opinion a cutting depth of 5 mm is about right, certainly never lower than 4 mm. If you have a mixture of grasses on your greens, or if they are mainly composed of Poa annua, then if you want a true putting surface it is essential to mow every day. Always remember that normally Agrostis stolonifera greens play the fastest. There is now an instrument to measure the speed of a green, and with this the greens can be classified. It still surprises me today to find many courses where the greens are only mown twice per week, with the resultant bad putting surface. When lowering the blade of a green machine it is important not to lower more than 1 mm at a time.

Fertilizers for greens should be as fine as possible. The pick up and removal of fertilizers, especially if they are granulated, during the mowing of close-cut greens, can be a problem. This can be minimized if the fertilizer is applied after mowing. The fertilizer should be brushed and watered in, but I find watering it in immediately after spreading, leaving the box off the machine for two mowings, is about the best. However, the grass should be dry when doing this. It is also possible to damage the covering coat of so-called long-lasting fertilizers with mowing. This does not apply to all fertilizers. Remember that a light application of nitrogen should be made immediately after any cultural practice that disrupts growth and quality of the grass. Do not apply ready available nitrogen at more than 25 g/m². You could exhaust the plant carbohydrate reserves. Summer nitrogen fertilization should be done very judiciously.

In closing, I think that foliar feeding through the irrigation should be mentioned. This is not as easy as it sounds unless you have a 100% overlap, otherwise you are liable to get too much fertilizers in the middle of the green. In spite of this I still think that it is worth a trial, giving at the most 50% of the usual amount used. This is a complex problem and I hope to write an article on this in a future issue.

Donald Harradine
President
International Greenkeepers Association

Woodstock
Brandon Parva
Norwich
Norfolk NR9 4DG

Comments on cutting with triple and hand cutting machines

Dear Sir,

I agree with Mr Moore in December’s Journal. I have a new course, the first nine holes I cut with a 20 in. Auto Certes as these greens were not established and this machine was ideal. Six months later another nine holes were constructed and got under way. As I have a small staff we could not cope with hand mowers so I purchased a Toro GM3 Greensmaster, it has been cutting three to four times a week. I do my own servicing and back grinding, I have never had a breakdown. This machine will vert cut all the greens and collect the thatch whereas with small S/P machines the thatch has to be collected with another machine. Turning with the GM3 is no problem, most of my greens are raised, some with steep banks and large bunkers, also most of the greens are tiered so I have to turn on the banks never on the green. The machine has a very unique turning ability. The GM3 has four cutting units and every unit is interchangeable with each other, thus spreading the wear. If these machines are set up right there should be no problems in maintaining greens to a high standard. During the winter we still use the Auto Certes to cut with. When one looks at a green cut with a 20 in. mower and sees the cross pattern effect this always looks so pleasing.

J. A. Young
Head Greenkeeper

March 1979
AUTOTURFCARE ADDS NEW AERATORS TO GOLF RANGE

Hydraulic pressure-controlled aerators which can be fitted to a variety of power units and utility vehicles available to golf courses are being introduced to the United Kingdom by Autoturfcare Ltd of Guildford and Darlington.

Known as the Dedoes “One-Man” Aerator units they feature a self-contained hydraulic unit with patented hinged tine giving almost perpendicular penetration for removal of clean round plugs without injury to fine greens.

The aerators are the latest golf club equipment available through the Autoturfcare organization which is UK distributor for Toro turf maintenance equipment and a range of standard golf products.

A time-saving feature of the Dedoes units is that “plugs” can be collected within a roller drum with one of the two basic units. This enables the operator to assess the most convenient time and situation for emptying the drum.

A two-drum unit has 72 pluggers and aerates a 25 in. swathe.

Slicer or spiker units can be fixed to the drum of Dedoes units and are interchangeable with the 3 in. tines which can be provided in three diameters — \(\frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{2},\) or \(\frac{3}{4}\) in.

The Dedoes system can utilize a number of drum units and a five-unit with a 72 in. swathe makes it possible to aerate an 18-hole golf course fairway in under eight hours.

Where units are used over extremely large areas, drums without side sections can be used and the cores are ejected to form windrows.

Manufactured by Dedoes Industries Inc., of Michigan, the aerators are already in wide use on many United States golf courses.

NEW FROM MOMMERSTEEG

Plant breeders Mommersteeg have produced a series of leaflets to promote their new turf-bred perennial ryegrasses, Caravelle, Grandstand and Majestic. The company has also produced a companion leaflet featuring its approved blends of wild flora for landscaping and conservation.

Mommersteeg’s full range of seeds for sports turf and amenity use is featured in an attractive new mixture leaflet. Copies of any of the pamphlets, and further information, is available on request to Mommersteeg International, Station Road, Finedon, Wellingborough, Northants NN9 5NT.

"Nay, Walter, I thought you would have been sat on the Triplex. Does Betty know what you are doing?"

"No, she doesn’t, it’s these students from Askham Bryan; they won’t allow me on it and they are too big to argue with."

Golf Greenkeeping and Course Maintenance
A nine-hole golf course was built five years ago on subsoil, at Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and was not open for play for the first three years.

A particular problem was green no. 5 which, since opening, had provided a good grass cover. The head greenkeeper has been at the club for three years, that is, since it was opened for play.

He has tried for two years to improve the grass sward on this green, but to no avail. He has used every type of fertilizer from organic (hoof and horn) to slow release N (Gold N) plus usual cultivation techniques. A complete soil analysis was also taken to try to get an indication as to the lack of growth. As a final resort the old-fashioned method of liquor from farmyard manure which has soaked in a water tank was also tried, with no success. In early spring 1978 a plan to reseed this green was put forward as it was not possible to do anything else with it. It would mean closing it off for at least 18 months, and on a nine-hole course this was a last resort.

The parks superintendent had heard and read of Alginure Products and had procured some for trial purposes. This and read of Alginure Products and had

The green was closed off for the first six weeks after treatment and then reopened. During this period a considerable improvement had taken place, and has continued to take place even whilst being played on. Since being reopened it has had 30,000 rounds of golf played on it. At the end of September/October it had a second application, the same as the spring dressing. During the summer the normal feeding using Fisons Greenkeeper No 1 had taken place as and when necessary.

The use of Alginure Granulate “S” on this occasion would seem to be in its ability to affect the soil structure. The underlying cause for poor growth in a soil can be directly linked to the level of its fertility. So often fertility is measured in the level of plant food available in a soil sample. The physical structure of the soil and its effectiveness in being able to support both micro fauna and flora is virtually disregarded.

The development of a complete ecological system under the soil is very important. The attributes of Alginure granulate “S” in promoting this function are well displayed on this site. The compact soil structure has been broken down by the ability of granulate “S” to physically crumb soil particles together. This leads to improved drainage, aeration and gaseous exchange for root growth. Water is held by surface tension on the soil crumbs and in the soil voids. Root penetration can be greatly improved due to an easier path for this growth.

Due to the colloidal nature of granulate “S” a lattice is set up between soil crumbs, which has the effect of reducing water loss, due to either evaporation or drainage, but still maintaining a free movement of ground water.

As regards soil fauna and flora, as long as good soil structure is maintained, the growth of soil bacteria, fungi, earthworms, etc., are stimulated, the products of their metabolism being very beneficial to grass growth. Earthworms in their own right, create drainage channels, to the lower levels, as well as mixing grass cuttings and the soil horizons.

Colloids are also well known for being able to electrolytically hold plant foods ionically on the lattice, against the percolation of either rain or irrigation water, making plant food available over a longer period of time.

Alginure granulate “S” being a completely organic product derived from seaweed, provides all the essential trace elements required, and seaweed being a living plant in the sea, there is no possibility of them being found in excess levels.

The overall dramatic improvement in the turf over such a short time is a complementary one. The unique action of Alginure granulate “S” to improve soil structure, and the high degree of greenkeeping skills in making full use of a regenerated soil system.

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

£66.00 per week

(Pending pay award)

The above vacancy has arisen to take charge of our golf course and bowling green in Seaford due to retirement.

Applicants should be fully conversant with all aspects of greenkeeping and able to adapt working methods to retain a high standard of heavily used facilities.

Experience in bonus schemes would be an advantage and preference given to applicants who are members of the Greenkeepers’ Association or the Institute of Groundsmanship.

Salary includes average bonus and chargehand rate for a 40 hour week. Overtime on a rota basis at enhanced rate. Housing accommodation available to rent, plus reallocation allowances.

For further details contact the Personnel Department, Lewes District Council, Lewes House, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Tel: Lewes (07916) 71600, Extn. 235 (24 hour answering service).

ewes

DISTRICT COUNCIL

March 1979
The Master Model gives fast, even distribution of fertilisers, grass seed, etc., providing a spread pattern of 5 feet feathering out to 8-10 feet. It has a unique sector control provided by a special stainless steel cut-off, enabling operator to spread to one side only. The hopper is corrosion resistant and holds sufficient fertiliser to treat one green without refilling.

Price
£85.00
PLUS £6.80 VAT

The Parker Spreader
MASTER MODEL
for the professional user.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PURCHASING AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM

An irrigation system is probably the largest single capital purchase a golf club will make, it is therefore essential that care is taken in selecting the right system. The following tips may assist the unwary avoid an expensive mistake.

1. Ascertain the amount of money available for the system and make the tenderers aware of the approximate amount to avoid unnecessary delays in preparing details.

2. (a) Confirm you have sufficient water and power available or that arrangements are in hand to obtain the necessary requirement.
   (b) If a water abstraction licence is required be sure you have this before placing the order.

3. Each company bidding should be requested to give a price based upon the same or similar specification to obtain a fair comparison.

4. Satisfy yourself that each bid is to the specification and within accepted codes of technical and installation practice.

5. Select a type of sprinkler designed for turf applications to ensure the even application of water, flexible control and ease of maintenance.

6. Satisfy yourself that the manufacturers' recommendations have been followed in design and application.

7. Confirm that reasonably local and prompt after-sales service and adequate spare parts are available with manufacturers' back up.

8. Take up references on previous installations made by the tenderer and view his work.

9. Ascertain the warranty terms applicable.

10. Carefully study the contractor's terms and conditions.

CONTACT TORO OR YOUR LOCAL TORO DEALER WHO WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST AND PROVIDE EXPERT ADVICE ON ALL ASPECTS OF PURCHASING AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM.
would be banned under an EEC proposed ruling.

When this comes to pass the greenkeepers' defences against turf disease will be lessened. Many thanks, Roy, for your time and spending it with us.

New members
The following gentlemen have joined our gang. We hope that their association with us will be lasting and beneficial.

Mr W. L. Marshall, 14 School Lane, Copmanthorpe, York. (Askham Bryan College).
Mr D. Parkin, 15 Howe Street, Acomb, York. (Askham Bryan College).
Mr B. Hill, The Flat, East Bierley Golf Club.
Mr M. G. A. Edwards, 40 Constantine Avenue, Colburn, Yorks. (Head Greenkeeper, Richmond GC).

Diary dates
Anyone interested in land drainage and associated techniques should make a point of going to the Farmers' Weekly International Drainage Event. This year it will be staged at Drakelow Gorse Farm, Byley, Middletwich, Cheshire, on 10 May. This day is always a "right good do" and well worth a shot.

Spring Tournament: 9 May - West Bowling GC.

President's Day: June (date unknown) - Headingley GC.

Stop Press
Mr John Scott, Head Greenkeeper to Wetherby Golf Club, and well-known Assistant Secretary, is now in contact with the wider environs. His number is Wetherby 61668.

The Annual Dinner will take place at Walton Heath on 16 March 1979, tickets available from David Crawford, 17 Kings Road, Newhawk, Weybridge, Surrey, price £7 per head. In addition to this there is an 18-hole foursome competition which will start at 12 noon.

On 24 May 1979 our Spring Tournament will take place at Croham Hurst Golf Club followed by our AGM. People wishing to play in this tournament please contact Ray Tempest, 45 Telston Lane, Otford, Kent. The cost for the day is £6.50 per head which includes coffee on arrival, lunch, tea and 27 holes of golf. When you send your entry to Ray please enclose £5 deposit and a stamped addressed envelope otherwise you will not be entered for the competition. Closing date for the entry is Thursday 10 May 1979. No entries will be taken after this date.

Entries for the diary
26 September 1979: Autumn Tournament, Surbiton Golf Club.
3 October 1979: Southern Section v. Secretaries, Sandy Lodge Golf Club.

On 11 January we held our first meeting of 1979. Although there was a rail strike, 27 of our members made the effort and attended, and in its place we held a quiz. Our thanks go to David Crawford for bringing along 25 questions for us to answer and it turned out to be a very enjoyable evening.

In view of David Crawford's departure to become Head Greenkeeper at Royal Jersey, subscriptions due on 1 April should be sent to Derek Gould, Langley Park Golf Club, Beckenham, Kent.

Chairman:
D. JONES
2 Golf Cottages
Bucklesham Road
Ipswich

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer:
STEVE NOYE
71A Dales Hall Lane
Ipswich
(Tel. Ipswich 216196)

To begin with let me first apologise for the lack of scribes last month. Anybody who knows me at all well will know that I usually leave everything until the last moment. Perhaps it can be called methodical madness but that is in case of any last minute notes coming to hand. Well done, chaps, we had not provided, or educated, their greenstaff regarding the use of safety facilities and had not provided, or educated, their greenstaff regarding the use of safety facilities.

March at last is here with all its infamous idiosyncrasies and not a day too soon. One wonders how we all kept going through those long winter months, they did seem exceptionally long, almost as long as waiting for directory enquiries. Perhaps it was the early start we had with the snow and ice. There were times when we could not get out on the course for days on end, making one feel as if something kept us in the snow and ice. There were times when we could not get out on the course for days on end, making one feel as if something kept us in the snow and ice.

March at last is here with all its infamous idiosyncrasies and not a day too soon. One wonders how we all kept going through those long winter months, they did seem exceptionally long, almost as long as waiting for directory enquiries. Perhaps it was the early start we had with the snow and ice. There were times when we could not get out on the course for days on end, making one feel as if something kept us in the snow and ice.

March at last is here with all its infamous idiosyncrasies and not a day too soon. One wonders how we all kept going through those long winter months, they did seem exceptionally long, almost as long as waiting for directory enquiries. Perhaps it was the early start we had with the snow and ice. There were times when we could not get out on the course for days on end, making one feel as if something kept us in the snow and ice.
Note from the Hon. Treasurer to members
Will all members who have not paid their subs for the current financial year please forward them immediately, and add to the outstanding amount a £1 fine imposed by the section in accordance with our rules.

Any member wishing to resign from the section in 1979-80 season please inform the Secretary of your intentions by the end of April this year. This is necessary to prevent your name and address being entered on to the mailing list and the section incurring the cost.

In the future it will be the responsibility of the members themselves whose subs are paid by their clubs to inform their club secretary when the subs are due, and not leave it to me. As you can appreciate it has in the past involved the section in unnecessary expense for postage and stationery.

Please send your remittance to: Hon. Treasurer, Mr E. V. Thomas, 78 Hillmorton Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Sisis Trophy
As a new season approaches, we are all looking forward to the first of this year’s golf competitions the “Sisis Trophy”. Members are advised to root our their clubs and clean their shoes for 3 April when we all attempt to conquer the Macclesfield Golf Course. Any member found sliding into the clubhouse after only nine holes will be brought before the committee and if found guilty will be subject to buying a round of drinks! Our last visit to Macclesfield Golf Club with Sisis was a most enjoyable day and we were made very welcome, so come on, lads, let us support Sisis. Entry cards are available from me or if you ring me with your handicap, etc., I will direct them to Sisis. Hopefully by April the snow will have gone or we will have to play with our red balls!

On our last visit to Macclesfield Golf Course many members thought there was a donkey roaming the course, but it turned out to be our own Percy Edwards, Mr Ernie Drage, so this time, Ernie, no competing with the farm animals even though some people thought you sounded more like the donkey than the donkey did.

The Spring Tournament
Monday 14 May has now been confirmed as the date for our Spring Tournament. Mr Bill Lawson has been very helpful to me in arranging this event at his course, Heswall Golf Club. My thanks go to him and the club, all we want now is plenty of entries and a fine day. This is an excellent chance for our Merseyside greenkeepers to show themselves, as it is some time since we went out west.

The NW Section AGM
The Section’s Annual General Meeting will be held on the same day as the Spring Tournament at Heswall GC so do not keep any suggestions quiet, come and voice them, as new ideas are always welcome. Please let me have any nominations for committee as soon as possible.

Subscriptions
It is not long now till the end of our year, 30 April 1979, but there are still many greenkeepers who have not yet paid their subscriptions, so no money, no magazine, etc.

Lecture
The final lecture of our winter series takes place at Swinton Park Golf Club on Monday, 19 March at 7.30 p.m. Mr David Royle of Ransomes will be showing us the “Greenkeeper Training Film” as well as a talk on general care and maintenance of machinery.

Handicap Revision
At a recent meeting of the handicap committee a certain Mr Gary Moseley’s handicap was discussed at length and we decided that for the forthcoming season we will tie Gary’s hands together. This decision was well applauded!

BURY YOUR CABLES AND PIPES
WITH LESS COST AND REINSTATEMENT

Save money and make light work of burying your cables and pipes with our purpose-built rubber tyred or tracked trenching machines. Choose your trench width from our range of 2½ to 12 in wide for minimum reinstatement. All machines can have high lift soil conveyors fitted which dump the soil straight on to a trailer for drainage work. Self-drive hire facilities also available. Write or telephone direct to the manufacturers for details or demonstration.

A. F. TRENCHERS LTD.
GOSBECKS ROAD
COLCHESTER CO2 9JS
TEL: 0206 44411

March 1979
BUNKER RAKES

"AJAX" brand bunker rakes, also traditional wooden grass and leaf rakes. From your local supplier, or T. Parker, or contact Wheltemn Woodwork Ltd, Bury St Edmunds (028482) 630.

COMPLETE GOLF COURSE SUPPLY

T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd, Waterl, Park, Surrey. Tel: 01-337 7791. Contact: R. F. Cook.

COMPOST TOP DRESSINGS

Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks. RG11 5HF. Tel: Wokingham (0734) 785655.

COMPOST/PEAT PRODUCTS

Fisons Limited, Horticulture Division, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: Ipswich (0473) 830492. Contact: Recreational and Industrial Department.

Humber Manures Ltd, PO Box 27, Stoneferry, Hull HUB 8DQ. Tel: 0482 20458. Contact: Gerald Moxon.

M.R. Peat Limited, 75 Main Street, Brampton, Cumbria. Tel: Brampton 2392. Suppliers of turf, seed and potting composts and high quality sphagnum peat at competitive prices.

Silvaperl Products Ltd, P.O. Box 8, Dept. 18A, Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 630. Tel: Ipswich (0473) 830492. Contact: Recreational and Industrial Department.

Humber Manures Ltd, PO Box 27, Stoneferry, Hull HUB 8DQ. Tel: 0482 20458. Contact: Gerald Moxon.

FERTILIZERS & TOP DRESSINGS

Chipman Ltd, Horsham 60341, Mr J. L. Collins. Derby 364271, Mr B. Roden. Harrogate 686586, Mr S. E. O'Donnell. Rigby Taylor Ltd, Victoria Works, Garaside Street, Bolton BL1 4AE. Tel: Bolton 389888.

FLAGS

Bridges Pennants, 68 Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR. Tel: 0702 612344. Flags, PVC Flag Poles, Signs & Tee Equipment.


FUNGICIDES

Chipman Ltd, Horsham 60341, Mr J. L. Collins. Derby 364271, Mr B. Roden. Harrogate 68658, Mr S. E. O'Donnell.

GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES


GRASS SEED

British Seed Houses Ltd, Bewsey Industrial Estate, Pitt Street, Warrington WA5 5LE. Tel: Warrington (0925) 54411. Order and Enquiries Contact: Mr R. Saunders.

British Seed Houses Ltd, 37 Five Mile Drive, Oxford, OX5. Tel: Oxford (0865) 50702. Advisory Service and Enquiries Contact: Mr J. H. Franks.

Cannock Fertilizers Ltd, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 3LW. Tel: Cannock 2727.

Gerson Grass Seed, Grove Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands B65 2SE. Tel: 021-558 3501. Contact: Frank Gerson.


FERTILIZERS

Joseph Bentley Ltd, Barrow-on-Humber, South Humberside. Tel: Barrow-on-Humber (0469) 30501.

Cannock Fertilizers Ltd, Cannock, Staffs. WS11 3LW. Tel: Cannock 2727.

Fisons Limited, Horticulture Division, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: Ipswich (0473) 830492. Contact: Recreational and Industrial Department.

Humber Manures Ltd, PO Box 27, Stoneferry, Hull HUB 8DQ. Tel: 0482 20458. Contact: Gerald Moxon.

Maxwell M. Hart (London) Ltd, Winnersh, Wokingham RG11 5HF. Tel: Wokingham (0734) 785655.

S.A.I. Horticulture Ltd, Hortus House, 3 John's Place, Edinburgh EH6 7EN. Tel: 031 554 5451. Contact: Sales or Technical Department.
It's the little things that make the difference.
Ransomes Golf Accessories

- Putting Green Markers
- Large Tee Markers
- Flag Poles
- Direction and Rule Signs
- Putting Cups
- Quick Change Flags
- Individual Club Designs
- Tee Plaques

Ransomes Grass Machinery (Scotland) Limited
St. Ninians Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh EH12 8AN.
Tel. 031-334 2261.