Power-packed and eager to mow!

Superfine turf calls for a superfine mower, every time. And more and more Atco 20" Specials are to be seen cutting at famous international golf courses around the country.

The increasing popularity of the 20" Special is due to features like its power-packed performance with the new 6H.P 220cc four-stroke engine, its cutting perfection of 135 cuts per yard from a precision ground twelve-bladed cutting cylinder and special thin bottom blade. Then add to this an ability to cut down to \( \frac{3}{16} \)" and its general value for money appeal and you will see why it is becoming a favourite with Club Secretaries, Greens Supervisors and Club Members alike. It is cut for cut the best specialist mower on the market today.

If you want to know more, just let us know at the address below and we will arrange for our Distributor in your area to send you a brochure or to visit you, whichever you wish.

By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen Manufacturers of Motor Mowers Charles H. Pugh Ltd.

Atco 20" Special at Turnberry Hotel golf courses.

As famous as the turf we cut.

Charles H. Pugh, a member of Birmid Qualcast (Home & Garden Equipment) Limited, Sunnyhill, Derby DE3 7JT
WHAT PRICE THE BGGA?

At a time when argument is rife over what BGGA membership subscription should be levied in the future to provide the type of association we want and the services that it should provide, spare a thought for those who revived the association after the war. In the mid-40s when advertisements tell us a head greenkeepers wages were £5-£6 per week, members felt that an annual subscription of £1 was appropriate and an entrance fee of 2/6d. Relating this to current earnings of head greenkeepers we should have a subscription of £15 and an entrance fee of £2. Considering what the Association offers members now compared with then these figures would be the minimum that this earlier breed of greenkeepers would expect to pay today for their association. At this sort of level we would be well on our way to having a full-time secretary, something which I am sure they were striving for over 30 years ago.

NEW FROM SISIS

Sisis of Macclesfield have announced an advance prototype of a new ride-on golf greens maintenance system named the Sisis Hydromain which it is claimed will hollow tine 4" deep and silt tide 6" deep and 4ft wide. A 4ft wide top dresser incorporating a new principle is available which accurately places top dressing and other materials. Tining and top dressing takes approximately 15 minutes per green. Other implements are being developed and will be available in 1980. Sisis tell us that several clubs in the Cheshire area have used the machine and are impressed with the results. The cost of the system will be considerably lower than imported machines and it is expected that machines will be available for demonstration in early 1980.

This month’s front cover

Filey Golf Club are owners of a Ransomes Motor Rake.

The machine has been in use there for nearly three seasons and in addition to raking bunkers it has proved to be one of the most used pieces of equipment on the course as it does a variety of other jobs as well.

The Motor Rake was bought with the standard rake attachment only and the head greenkeeper, Mr Stan Hardwick, has carried out a few alterations so that a hand rake can also be carried. He has built his own scarifier unit out of an old pedestrian controlled machines.

For aeration work a small spiker is used afterwards for working in the top dressing. Watering the course is by hose and sprinkler which means transporting up to four hoses from green to green. A Ransomes trailer is used behind the Motor Rake when doing jobs such as changing holes, repairing tees, collecting cut grass from areas that have become overgrown, bunkering edging, turf collecting, and a host of other small jobs. It often saves using a large tractor and trailer to transport equipment around the course.

There are areas on the course which cannot be maintained by gang mowers such as between trees and in the semi rough. The club uses a single gang unit behind the Motor Rake for this. Areas which normally would not get cut can now be kept tidy.

All the bunkers can be raked on one gallon of petrol in approximately 2½ hours. In three seasons no money has been spent in maintaining the machine and the greens staff prefer it to an agricultural type tractor as a course runabout.
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

TORO TOPICS

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER SEASON

Despite the merchants of gloom and doom, one fact happily remains constant — whatever political colours may influence our lives, grass will continue to grow — and with a little help of Toro Turf Irrigation, grow a pleasant shade of green!

Talking of green, you may be interested to know that our new, 650 sprinkler system, designed especially for Bowling Club greens, has really caught on. Nearly fifty installations have now been completed and we are receiving more enquiries all the time... Just to show how versatile the 650 sprinkler is, similar models have been ordered for the Eden course at St Andrews. Since this is our first "topic" of 1980 we cannot finish without wishing you all a Happy, Prosperous New Year. May your efforts be rewarded with results you'll be proud of!

TORO IRRIGATION LIMITED
Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate
Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SD
Telephone: 04254 6261
POWER DRIVEN GANG MOWERS

Brian Mitchell
Grass Machinery Division Technical Officer Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies.

Over the last twenty years, many developments have been made in the field of large area grass-cutting, which has led to the high output hydraulically driven machines which are on the market today.

The traditional method of cutting large areas is to use a number of cutting units coupled together and towed behind a tractor to give a wide cutting width. Until the late 1950's all these gang mowers used a gear drive from their wheels to the cutting cylinder. This type of drive, although efficient in ideal conditions, has limitations because it relies on wheel grip.

Where growth is heavy or wet the cutting unit wheels slip, and the cutting cylinder does not turn and because the required drawbar pull from the tractor is high — being the effort to tow the units along, as well as to drive the cylinders and cut the grass — tractor wheel slip becomes a problem when cutting up slopes.

There was therefore a real need to improve on trailed gang mowers, and this led to the development of power driven units, and the appearance of the Ransomes Power Quintuple and the Ransomes/Sisis Auto-Triple. In this type of machine, the drive is transmitted through a series of shafts, gears, chains, or belts from the tractor P.T.O. shaft, or from a separate engine. This was a great step forward — the drive no longer relied on grip between the gang mower wheels and the ground. It was now possible to cut in heavy growth and wet conditions, and up steep slopes without wheel slip.

There was also an added bonus that a range of cuts per yard was now possible. By selecting the appropriate gear on the tractor, varying grass conditions could be tackled with the same cutting unit. Moreover, power driven gang mowers could now cut down into the matt or thatch where trailed units tended to skid or ride over the surface.

However, some new problems appeared:
(i) Belt slip in wet conditions.
(ii) The need to remove belts to enable the cutting units to fold for transport.
(iii) Chain failure due to shock loads.
(iv) Wear on drive shafts and failure of universal joints due to high loads caused by acute working angles.

The next logical step was to use hydraulic drive. There are then no limitations on flotations of the cutting units over undulations, or folding of units for transport. The number of adjustment and lubrication points is reduced and the hydraulic drive allows the cylinders to be reversed to clear blockages and backlapping. The whole system can be protected by relief valves which open when a pre-set pressure is exceeded.

In 1967, Ransomes introduced the Hydraulic Power 5/7 Mk.1, which rapidly became a standard piece of equipment with many local Government Parks and Education Departments in Britain and Europe.

This machine took gang mowing another step forward and also incorporated other advantages over trailed gang units. Because the units run on skids and there are no drive wheels, they can cut over the edges of verges and bunkers. Wheel marking from the cutting units is eliminated and because the machine is fully mounted on the tractor, there are no wheel marks from a trailer.

A "quick set" height of cut adjustment was incorporated which was very successful for playing fields, parkland and general purpose cutting, but on fine, high quality turf, such as golf course fairways, slight differences in height of cut on individual units became apparent due to wear on the skids and "quick set" adjustment.

It was therefore necessary to provide}

some way in which the height of cut of each unit could be trimmed so that all cutting units could be set precisely to the same height.

A new cutting unit was designed which was introduced in 1973 on Ransomes Hydraulic 5/7 Mk.2, and which is also fitted to the Mounted Hydraulic and Motor 5/3. This unit incorporates a rear roll which can be adjusted in height independently at each side.

This allows all units to be set to give a perfectly even height of cut over the whole cutting width. The "quick set" adjustment is retained so that the height of cut can be altered in two ⅓" steps without disturbing the setting of the rear roll — a useful feature where the machine is required to cut at more than one height on the same area.

These developments, although far reaching, still left room for further improvement. On undulating ground changes in height of cut, occurred. The cutting height increases as the unit cuts down into a hollow, and reduces as the unit cuts up out of a hollow. In severe cases, the unit will scalp — removing all the turf and leaving an unsightly appearance and causing soil erosion.

This problem has been overcome with the introduction of "floating head" units which incorporate front and rear rolls and an extra pivot which allows fore and
Solid engineering, made to last — that's what the Turfmaster name means on mowers, tractors, scarifiers, and sweepers. Quality without fuss. Built in Britain at sensible prices. To look after your grass, to produce a quality finish. To cut it on steep banks up to 35° and speeds up to 3 acres an hour. With power, safety, comfort, manoeuvrability and tight turning circle.

Ask about the entire Nickerson Turfmaster range — ring or write for details.

NICKERSON TURFMASTER LTD
The Auto-Triple solved the problem of driving the cutting units by using a separate motor to that used for propulsion. The unit is able to follow ground undulations closely, thereby providing an even height of cut. Floating heads are offered as options by Ransomes on the Hydraulic 5/7 Mk.2 and Mounted Hydraulic 3, and are fitted as standard to the Mounted Hydraulic 5 for golf course fairway cutting.

Where has twenty years of development left the cutting of large grass areas? The answer to this can be summarised as follows:

(i) Ability to cut in wet conditions.
(ii) Ability to cut in heavy growth conditions.
(iii) Ability to cut into the matt or thatch.
(iv) Ability to cut on steeper slopes.
(v) Elimination of belt slip.
(vi) No failure of drive due to shock loads — safety valves built into hydraulic system.
(vii) Easy folding of units for transport — no drives to disengage or dismantle.
(viii) Fewer adjustment points.
(ix) Fewer lubrication points.
(x) Reverse drive for clearing blockages or backlapping.
(xi) Ability to cut over the edge of verges and bunkers.
(xii) No wheel marks from cutting units or trailers.

(xiii) Precise matching of height of cut on all units.
(xiv) "Quick set" height of cut adjustment.
(xv) "Floating head" units for even height of cut on undulations.
(xvi) Variable cuts per yard.
(xvii) Exceptional manoeuvrability with fully mounted cutting units.

Collectively, we now have a range of gang mowers which can cut in most weather conditions in widths from 2 feet 6 inches to 15 feet at rates of up to 9 acres per hour, and which maintain the highest standard — a fair way towards our high output, high quality target.

Nickerson Turfmaster Limited of Maldon, Essex are strengthening their Sales Force and have appointed Peter F. Wyatt as their Representative for the west country.

Peter Wyatt has had twenty-five years experience in the machinery business and specialises in grass cutting and turf care equipment. He is married with two daughters and spends his spare time rowing.

Join the professionals use Supaturf autumn and winter fertilisers

Autumn maintenance and fertiliser treatment is important and sometimes not fully appreciated. It plays an important role in the success of the turf the following spring.

For Fine Turf use Supaturf AW/B
Analysis: Nitrogen Phos Acid Potash Fe
Water Sol 2.5% 5.0% 7.0% 1.7%
Insol 3.0% 3.0% 3.5% 10%

For Fairways and Outfields use Supaturf AW/P
Analysis: Nitrogen Phos Acid Potash
Water Sol 3.0% 6.5% 3.5% 10%
Insol

Supaturf Products Ltd., Oxney Road, Peterborough. Tel (0773) 68384 Telex 32465

January 1980
Dear Editor,

This is an open letter to all members in which I wish to raise the question of the status and indeed the future of The British Golf Greenkeepers Association.

At the moment our Association is a small body with a very small voice that is only just heard and largely ignored.

In order to change this situation we must all take an active part in the recruitment for and running of the Association by attempting to recruit new members whenever possible, attending meetings and voicing our opinions and ideas, and assisting in the running of our Sections whether it be licking stamps or involving yourself more closely with your Section's committee.

But the most immediate and effective way in which we can all help the Association, and therefore ourselves, is by volunteering a large increase in the annual subscription rates to about £13 per annum, 25p a week.

This would more than double the profits of the first year, making us more financially independent and enabling us to engage in long term planning which has so far, apparently, been beyond our somewhat precarious means.

At present we appear to be getting by on the efforts of the few hard-working volunteers who comprise our committees, but who nonetheless can not, and should not be expected to, devote themselves full time to the running and problems of the Association.

The paperwork alone must be very time consuming, let alone organising functions and lectures, being involved with discussions with golf unions, our sponsors from the trade and Golf Clubs, trying to attract new members, assisting in organising training schemes and generally attempting to improve our lot with our Golf Clubs.

To this end I propose that we all agree to a drastic increase in subscription rates and with the money then available that we appoint a full time, paid secretary to the Association who would take on most of the above jobs and the day to day running of the BGGA.

With a full time secretary who understood our jobs and our situation I feel sure that we would be taken more seriously by other golfing bodies and Golf Clubs alike, and so begin to approach a situation of increased communication by which can only lead to greater respect and recognition (monetary and otherwise) for the job that the Greenkeeper does.

If you agree with this proposal then suggest and support it at the next meeting in your Section or if you think it is wrong or you have other ideas on the subject then write to this column in reply.

I am only a young and relatively inexperienced Greenkeeper but I have great hopes for this Association and this profession.

Yours faithfully,

BENEDICT L. FREEMAN
(Wetherby GC Northern Section)

Dear Sir,

In the November issue there were two interesting features. As a mere trade member of the BGGA I hesitate to interfere in greenkeepers’ affairs but I do recommend that every greenkeeper reads both of them very carefully. I refer to the statement by the new President, Peter Allis, and the letter on Greenkeeper Training by Jim Arthur. There is a definite connection between these two items; both of them are concerned with raising standards which means, to quote Mr Allis “things must change if we are to improve”. As far as Mr Arthur’s letter is concerned, I would just like to comment on what little I know about the Greenkeepers’ Training Committee.

The first I heard of this organization was when, a few months ago, I received a request from Mr Frank Fawcett, the Chairman, for a contribution to its funds. My initial reaction was that we as greenkeepers could raise a few £ here and there on special occasions and contribute to the Association. However, I discovered that the whole thing seemed to be run on what I can only describe as charity lines and it has obviously been left to the voluntary effort of some stalwarts and by appeals to “the trade”. Perhaps one quote from the Hon Treasurer’s report dated 6 December 1978 will suffice: “The chief item of expenditure is the salary of the Administrator and his expenses . . . he does a first class job and we are lucky to be able to find someone willing and able to do it for such a low salary. We wish we could pay him more.”

I suppose you are all now thinking “It’s alright for him to criticise but what can we (the greenkeepers) do about it?”

Dear Sir,

In reply to Mr J. H. Arthur’s article in the November journal “Greenkeeping Training and Other Matters”, I must say he has done it this time — he’s hit the nail right on the head. The latter part of his article concerning training of young greenkeepers is full of colour and bare truth. How on earth can you train or educate anybody at academic level on such a subject as greenkeeping when there are no qualified teachers to deal with such a subject and there is a lack of tried and proved literature.

The real knowledge is in the hands of greenkeepers and very few intellectuals. Take away Mr Arthur and a few from STRI and we are left with no independent intellectuals in the British Isles. The rest of the experts are in the trade, some of whom are very good, but they don’t specialise in greenkeeping alone. And there is always that safe on which their livelihood depends.

Present training of apprentice greenkeepers is just a waste of time and money. I am talking from experience. If Golf Clubs have not yet learned what a greenkeeper is and the shortage there is of good ones, then there is still time, but they had better hurry, or they will have to start digging up the old ones from their graves.

Well, gentlemen, it is really all up to you and I would like, if I may, to throw out a few ideas and comments.

1. Greenkeepers are professional people, doing a professional job, but if they want professional status they must be prepared to work for it, and pay for it, themselves.

2. Subscriptions would have to be raised to provide the necessary finance. How much? Well, say £50 per annum for a Head Greenkeeper and £25 for an assistant. I am sure that the more enlightened Clubs would be prepared to contribute towards their staff's membership of the Association. Don’t forget that the subscription is tax deductible.

3. With finances secured, the Association could do many things including setting up and controlling its own training.

I hope these observations will help to stimulate the discussion on greenkeepers’ status and future training and also that they will not give too much offence to those hardworking and unrewarded people who have carried the burden for so long...

EDWARD J. HUXLEY
Huxleys Grass Machinery
Greenkeepers are no fools any more. They will not pass on their expertise for their own good name alone, and on the other side we still need intellectuals to get it out from our hard heads. Start training teachers from present top greenkeepers and bring in intellectual experts to get knowledge out of their hard heads. Only such teamwork can find the right training and not some books written more often for financial gain than true and proven knowledge.

Just think, if golf unions did put a levy of £1.00 per annum on every registered golfer, collected through golf unions, it would cost practically nothing. I have been told by experts that such a levy would bring in a revenue of over £1 million per annum. With such a yearly revenue, we could start training our young golf greenkeepers. I realise that there must be a lot of problems involved in such a project, but the end product would benefit so many. The main problem must be finance, as in all these large projects.

The City and Guilds training that I have been undertaking has been first-class, and I congratulate the teaching staff at Sparsholt Agricultural College and a special mention to Bob Young. If this training could be incorporated with this new golf course, the sky is the limit. Possibly the members of the trade could test their new machinery, try out their new fungicides, herbicides and insecticides, also the suppliers of our many species of grass seeds could try out their latest cultivars.

The training aspect is, of course, just one part of the scheme. Once the course is established the BGGA tournaments could be played there; the AGMs could be held there. Whereas the Belfry is the headquarters of the PGA, this could become the headquarters of the BGGA. I realise that being positioned on the South coast it would not be the most centralised position for our Northern colleagues, still this would have to be discussed and alternatives put forward.

I hope that this letter will get some of you greenkeepers with a few years experience and the young trainees to put pen to paper and get your ideas made known. I am sure that our views can only help the Greenkeeper Training Committee in their decision.

Yours sincerely,

K. F. LODGE
Southwick Park GC,
Nr Portsmouth

NEW FROM MARSHALLS

Marshall Concessionaires of Brackley, Northamptonshire, unveiled two new machines at Motspur Park, one of which is claimed to be the most powerful mowing machine on the British market today.

The new Bunton 71in machine, designed and manufactured in the USA, is powered by a 28hp diesel engine. The tractor mower has an extremely rigid and tough construction, a near six-feet cutting width with rear discharge, a zero turning radius, hydraulic lift for climbing curbs, all-round visibility and built-in safety features.

The second development, also from Bunton, is a 52in mulching mower which has a new design concept which permits very close trimming on each side, avoids windrows, and gives a clean and good-looking cut. Powered by a 16hp Briggs engine, the mower features an electric start and sulky rider. Its variable speeds of cut enable it to cope equally well with either fine lawns or tough grass areas.

Both of the introductions are being demonstrated on the Marshall's stand, No. C6, along with the company's 1980 range of equipment especially designed for golf course maintenance including mowers, aerators, core processors, rakes, levellers and de-thatchers.

Unveiled at Motspur Park, the Bunton 71in machine, powered by a 28hp diesel engine.
Turf-Cat has everything — but everything.
Like three large wheels for sure-footed stability. And the ability to creep softly but quickly over every variation in ground contours.
There’s a choice of 50 or 60 inch out front rotary cutters. And a pussyfooted anti-scalp facility.
Both operator and environment will appreciate the stealthy quietness.
Groundsman’s and Greenkeeper’s happiness is a Turf-Cat — no purrrr-haps about it!
The Jacobsen Greens King, supplied complete with grass boxes and front rollers, is the ideal greens machine for you. Powered by a 14HP engine, it can cut an average 18 hole golf course in less than four hours.

Jacobsen engineering can provide you with the following features:
- High quality cut on your greens
- Regular vertical mowing to give good grain control and remove thatch
- Tight turning radius on difficult greens
- The ability to select any of the three reels for the final pass
- Excellent weight distribution eliminating tyre marks and compaction
- Operator comfort and ease of control including the ability to get on and off the machine from either side, making for operator efficiency
- Two transport speed ranges giving the operator the ideal speed between greens

The Jacobsen 70" Triples Trimmer is the answer to quality mowing in areas which require a lot of manoeuvrability. It is ideal for getting under overhanging branches and shrubs and will cut around trees without a second look.

The Jacobsen 70" Trimmer provides:
- Strength, giving long working life
- Power, with eight HP engine
- Operator comfort and ease of control
- Up to four miles per hour mowing speed
- Transport speeds in excess of 7 miles an hour
- High stability for banks and uneven areas
- Grass boxes, front and rear rollers, supplied as extras

The Jacobsen Turf King comes in two sizes of 76" and 84" width of cut to give the user the ideal machine for his application. Powered by a 14HP engine through hydrostatic transmission and controlled by a single pedal the Turf King can cope with almost any conditions. The constant cutter speed can give a wide range of finishes from extra fine for quality turf to a standard acceptable for parks and recreation grounds all in the same machine.

The Turf King gives you all you could ask for including:
- Good curb-climbing for road verges
- Hillside stability for mowing slopes
- Ease of control and operator comfort
- All-day petrol tank to save time on refuelling
- Fully articulated units which follow uneven ground contours
- Grass collection boxes and rollers supplied as an extra

Demonstrations arranged.

Please send me complete details.

NAME _____________________________

ADDRESS __________________________

January 1980
Two new Mitsubishi tractors are being introduced to the United Kingdom by newly-appointed national distributor, Autoturfcare Ltd of Guildford and Darlington.

They are powered by 15 hp water-cooled, two-cylinder diesel engines. Model D1300 has two-wheel drive and model D1300FD four-wheel drive.

The three-point hydraulic linkage system is powerful enough to lift up to 1,260 lb.

A built-in safety feature is that all moving parts are totally enclosed while large mudguards are designed to overcome injury from projectiles. The engine can only be started when the main clutch is disengaged.

Both models have six forward and two reverse speeds with a maximum 7.5 mph in forward gear.

With side brake turning, the D1300 has a minimum turning circle of 61in. The rear-mounted implements available for 1980 include a triple-rotary mower, a flail mower, a rotary cultivator and a two-furrow plough.

The D1300 model, fitted with a Dedoes hydraulic pressure-controlled aerator, has a patented hinged tine giving almost perpendicular penetration for removal of clean round plugs without injury to fine greens.

Fisons announce that their combined turf fertilizer and weedkiller for fine turf, previously called Fisons Greenkeeper Plus, is now re-named Fisons Greenkeeper Extra. This change of name highlights the extra benefits which may be obtained from using a combined treatment, in place of separate application of fertilizer and herbicide.

In addition to virtually eliminating the hazards often associated with applying herbicide in confined spaces or adjacent to susceptible flower beds, the combined treatment of Fisons Greenkeeper Extra can give a financial saving of at least 10% over separate fertilizer and spray treatments. This takes into account the cost of both materials and the labour to apply them.

The amount of fertilizer applied by Fisons Greenkeeper Extra is similar to that of the well-known Fisons Greenkeeper 2 summer turf dressing whilst the double herbicide treatment of dicamba and 2,4-D will control a wide range of common turf weeds. Like all the Greenkeeper range, Fisons Greenkeeper Extra is formulated by the unique Hi-Lite process which uses peat granules as the carrier to give lightweight products easily applied through conventional spreaders.

The Institute of Groundsmanship wishes to confirm the dates of its annual International Exhibition of Groundsmanship as follows:

1980

1981
15-17 Sept: The Royal Windsor Racecourse, Windsor, Berkshire.
The Chairman and Committee of the Northern Section wishes its members and families a very happy and healthy New Year.

Success
If you chanced to ask the poet John Keats "What's a Grecian urn?" he would probably reply "Oh about 150 drachma a week".

Joking aside though no-one can escape the fact that this summer past, golfers wending their way up Ilkley's leafy-lined fairways have been pulled up short by distant murmurings of "Et tu Brute", "To be or not to be" or "Wherefore art thou Romeo", plus other equally tasteful soliloquies.

Dollar down—dollar a day
We hear that Mountain's of Morley have extended their range of hire machinery to include the Sisis Hydrator and Autoseeder, Allen Meto-R-Matic, Bantam turf cutter and National 68" triple as well as the Little David tree stump remover.

All change
Best wishes go to Graham Teasdale who has recently moved to Glossop Golf Club from Garforth. Best of luck also to Robert Lupton on taking over West Bradford GC. Bob was originally at Baildon. May things work out for you both.

Another point raised was that perhaps journal articles should be extended their range of hire machinery to include the Sisis Hydrator and Autoseeder, Allen Meto-R-Matic, Bantam turf cutter and National 68" triple as well as the Little David tree stump remover.

Dollar down—dollar a day
We hear that Mountain's of Morley have extended their range of hire machinery to include the Sisis Hydrator and Autoseeder, Allen Meto-R-Matic, Bantam turf cutter and National 68" triple as well as the Little David tree stump remover.

So if you're seedin', spikin' n' soddin', nip round to Mountains, they've a machine for you.

It's Playable because it is the best Smooth Stalked - Meadow Grass!

BenSun (A 34) is available from:

- HURST GUNSN COOPER TABER, LTD.
  Witham, Essex CM8 2DX - Phone: Witham 516600 (STD Code 0376)

BenSun (A 34) is a product of Warren's Turf Nursery, Inc. research. Palos Hills, Illinois 60465. U.S.A.
Brigade who came along on this dreadful night and gave a most enlightening lecture on First Aid. Quite honestly if other secretaries read these notes I would recommend you get your local Superintendent of the St John Ambulance Brigade to come along to your meetings and give you a talk. How many of you would know how to treat a severe cut, burns, give the kiss of life. All these and many other First Aid ideas were given and shown. The highlight of the night was when Mike Butrymowicz volunteered to be a patient. We all thought he had gone to sleep but he soon came round when someone shouted What's yours Mike. Please keep up our good attendances. We still have some good lectures to come and we all like to see each other and sort out any problems we might have.

I would like to thank the Southern Section for their kind invitation to join them on their trip to Ransomes at Ipswich which I gladly accepted and my thanks to them for a smashing time and my friend John Dearlove who I shared a room with. I have never heard so many jokes. He was really on good form.

Annual Dinner
To be held at Walton Heath GC on Friday, 14 March 1980. Tickets available from Derek Gould — price £7. Tickets will not be handed out or sent without payment. Golf will be available in the afternoon, from 12 noon onwards, for those members and their guests who wish to play.

The section, this Christmas, is able to donate to retired greenkeepers and widows in our section a sum in excess of £200. We are able to do this because of the hard work done by our raffle ticket sellers and it is something which the section has always done in the past and hopes to continue in the future.

Archie Creese has been in touch with us and asks if anyone has any unwanted golf balls and putters he will be only too glad to receive them. Archie looks after the putting green at the Royal Chelsea Hospital where a number of clubs and balls are left out for the use of the pensioners or their guests to help themselves should they wish to play. Well, someone did help themselves and took the lot — never to be seen again.

Annual Dinner

To whom it may concern. It seems as though you have tried your best this past year to dampen the enthusiasm of our EA Section. Well let me tell you now, you have failed and failed miserably. Almost 70 guests and greenkeepers turned out in the pouring rain at Bury St Edmunds to play 18
horses of either scintillating or nauseating golf. This is not the first time we have had to play in the rain this year, indeed we even had to call one match off, that of Norwich.

I say 18 holes of scintillating or nauseating golf because this scribe could not play that day because of injury so decided to don galoshes and brolly and follow a few games round and what I witnessed was something to bring back memories of Nicklaus and Player and sometimes Laurel and Hardy. There was Mick Meen from Bungay in trouble in the rough at the 3rd ricocheting off a tree and going onto the 4th tee, sorry mate but you did, remember! Next was Mitchell from Norwich starting off with two pars then gradually falling by the wayside.

Watched some scintillating stuff from new boy Tom Watt and his combo. Then to Chairman Jones with a four foot putt for an eagle at the 16th with guests Ed Holt and Ken Jones showing up very well and the other half of the Eaton duo Mick Lathrope struggling just a wee bit, perhaps because of his waterproofs, making him look a shade like a redundant coxswain. Across to Roy Vernon and his four from Frinton with Roy having a wonderful putt off the 4th tee, sorry mate but you did, remember! Watched a great game go up the 10th which turned out to be the four from Courtaulds which incidentally had a winning guest amongst their midst, and did you know Courtauld's course happens to be about the oldest course in Essex, 95 years old to be precise. I suppose you remember it was built don't you Thompson?

Didn't see anything of our President Ron Fuller or guests Terry and Ralph Sewell on the course. They didn't show up very well out there, but I noticed Ron had a win on the raffle, then heard the bandit machine rattle more than once and on a very foggy night too. This was Ransomes' Rep Clive Lockwood showing Kings' Rep choochie face Moye how to play a short hole. Sorry John but you can't even remember how to hold a club correctly, it's said when one reaches middle age your memory is the second thing to go.

Just had time to watch John Carey doing an imitation of John Cleese when the unseasonal rain started dripping down my neck so thought it time to beat a hasty retreat back to the clubhouse. Was just about to down my second gin and tonic when in walked Sturley Goddard, the host Head Greenkeeper with Jim Cooper, who together played only a few holes because as I'm sure you all know Sturley had a nasty heart attack a few months ago. Although he is back to full strength he felt he shouldn't overdo it in the circumstances. Wise thinking Sturley.

Welcome back John Carey now Head at Rookery Park, Lowestoft, one of the founder members of the Section. Remember John when we used to have our tournaments we would have a full turnout of about 16 of us, now look at us; nearly 70 of us at Bury St Edmunds. Another new face was that of Jim Cooper from Lark Valley, an ex-mate of Sturleys but now Head at Lark Valley. You must have taught him well Sturley. Let's hope he can do for the Valley what you have done for Bury. You must know every blade of grass on your course now after 22 years.

And so to the prizewinners: 1. Ramsey's watch and tie, A. V. Webber (Woodbridge) 38 pts; 2. T. Parker's tankard, P. E. Seago (Cromer) 37 pts; 3. Croydons tankard, S. Noye (Ipswich) 36 pts; 4. Brolly, Norman (Bungay) 36 pts.

What did they say at the interview? "We don't pay big wages, but you will get your share of fresh air!"

January 1980
hope everyone enjoyed their trip despite the foul weather. Keep them coming Bill.

Dress
It was noticeable at the lecture that despite my notes in October's journal, members are still coming in jeans and without ties. I am afraid somebody is going to be asked to leave the club and that may well offend which is the last thing I want, so please dress correctly at all times when attending BGGA functions and other Golf Clubs. Please don't let me have to write about it again. It is not only committee members that bring it to my attention but several other people have commented too, so come on lads, fly the BGGA flag.

Welcome to the North West
(The Biggest and the Best!)
The Northern Section's loss is the North West's gain. That is in the case of Mick Bottomley formerly of Clitheroe Golf Club who is now Head Greenkeeper at the Rochdale Golf Club. Congratulations on your promotion Mick and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Another man on the move is Mick's old workmate our own Peter Shaw who has taken over Rishston Golf Club near Blackburn. Well done Peter.

Other new members are Mr Les Adshead of Bramhall Golf Club, Mr Ron Gibson of Hazel Grove Golf Club and Mr A. Clarence of Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club. A warm welcome to you all.

Forthcoming lectures
21 January, Mr Fred Reid of Lloyds and Co, Letchworth; 18 February, Mr Ken Heath of Sissons Equipment Ltd.

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Ashridge Golf Club
Berkhamsted
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On 26 November the Mid Anglia Section held its final winter lecture in the Old Clubhouse at Woburn Golf and Country Club. Mr Clive Lockwood of Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd came along and showed us two films, along with a number of slides showing new equipment being marketed by Ransomes. Our thanks to Mr Lockwood and also thanks to Mr D. Reader, Mr B. Cullis, and Mr D. Prior of Rogers Engineers, Great Barford, Bedford, for their organisation of the afternoon's lecture and their answering of some of our mechanical problems on the golf course equipment we operate.

New Members
Our congratulations to Andrew Moreton who after five years at Woburn Golf and Country Club is shortly to become Head Greenkeeper at Batchwood Hall, St Albans, Herts.

Mr R. J. Goodwin
2 Greenkeepers Cottage
Ashridge Golf Club
Berkhamsted
Hertfordshire

My wife and I would like to wish members and their families a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Note from the Treasurer
Will the following members please send their subs plus the £1 fine which is now in force. Those among you whose club pay the subs are responsible for paying their own fine as it is not the club's fault that they were not reminded in time.


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We had a splendid start to our 1979/80 Winter programme of lectures. Our speaker was Mr G. S. Taylor, Technical Officer to Johnsons Seeds, and he gave us a very interesting and informative talk, illustrated by slides. It was pleasing to see so many of our members at Alresford that evening, 6 November.

The programme for our evening on 5 February 1980 will cover the use and benefits of chemicals with regard to turf culture. The speaker will be Mr S. A. Rose, Garden Products Manager with May & Baker Ltd.

I have no news of members to impart, other than to let you know that Ian Rickman, formerly Head Greenkeeper at the Black Swan GC, has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Wexham Park GC.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members, and hope that their association with us will be a long and happy one: Mr L. M. Dennis of Lyme Regis GC, Messrs R. Jones; D. Striling and R. Heyworth of Portsmouth GC; and Mr I. Lowe of Pottendale GC, who has transferred from the Midlands Section.

LETTERS continued

Dear Sir,
I am anxious to buy a book about Greenkeeping for Golf Courses and general course upkeep — but here is the snag — the book needs to deal mainly with greenkeeping for golf courses in the tropics.

My reason for trying to get such a book is that I am the greenskeeper of a small nine-hole course in Africa, Malawi and I would therefore welcome some knowhow on this problem. Basically of course although the seasons are different, Malawi only gets rain for about four to five months of the year, the routine we try and adopt is somewhat similar — monthly fertilizing during the growing months, topdressing and watering, plus a constant battle against pests.

However, I have been in touch with the British High Commission in Malawi and they suggest that I should contact you. Again I am wondering if you have any information about greenkeeping in South Africa or know of any books on this subject.

If you can help I should be very much obliged.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. CHANELL

Private Bag,
303 Chichiri,
Blantyre 3,
Malawi

If any reader can help Mr Chanell please contact him direct or write to the Editor.
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