

January 1980

No.416

GOLF GREENKEEPING AND COURSE MAINTENANCE



The Official Journal of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association



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WHAT PRICE THE BGGGA?

At a time when argument is rife over what BGGGA 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 4ft wide and slit tine 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 machine using 6in bolts as tines. The depth of operation is controlled by the amount of pressure applied to the operating lever; it is simple but effective. For aeration work a small spiker is towed behind the machine giving reasonable penetration and is quicker than pedestrian controlled machines.

Fertilizing and top dressing have been speeded up by using the Motor Rake to pull a spreader. It only takes 2½ hours to cover all 18 greens and slightly longer if the tees are done at the same time. A dragmat pulled by the Motor Rake 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, bunker 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.

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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!

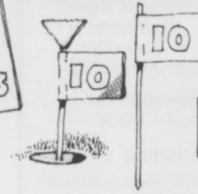
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POWER DRIVEN GANG MOWERS

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 mat 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 floatations 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

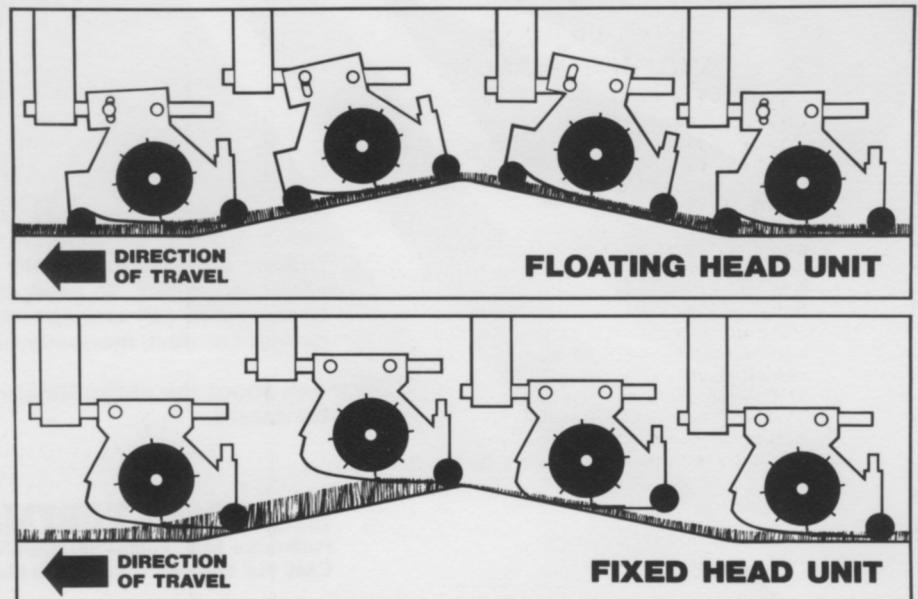
some way in which the height of cut of each unit could be trimmed so that all cutting units could be set precisely to the same height.

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 $\frac{3}{8}$ " 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



This diagram shows the advantage of the floating head unit over the fixed head unit. A front roller and extra pivot, which allows fore and aft tilting, permit the cutting unit to follow ground undulations more closely than any fixed unit

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NICKERSON

aft tilting. 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.

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.

(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.



SUPATURF

A new "Factfolio" providing detailed information about the maintenance of sports-ground and amenity grass has been produced by Supaturf Products.

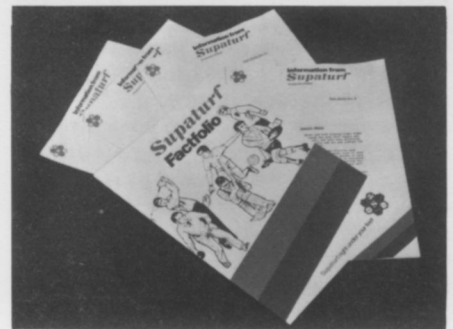
The "Factfolio" is made up of a two-colour folder and a series of inserts relating to cricket grounds, football and rugby pitches, bowling greens, golf courses, amenity lawn and all types of turf.

Each of the inserts, or fact sheets as they are called, gives clear information about the care and upkeep of turf through the playing season and out-of-season.

The "Factfolios" are available free from Supaturf Products Ltd, Oxney Road, Peterborough PE1 5YZ.



The Auto-Triple solved the problem of driving the cutting units by using a separate motor to that used for propulsion



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Analysis:	Nitrogen	Phos Acid	Potash	Fe
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For Fairways and Outfields use Supaturf AW/P

Analysis:	Nitrogen	Phos Acid	Potash
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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. Our 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 and co-operation 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 a firm should give our support to what was obviously a good cause, but when I read through the various reports which accompanied Mr Fawcett's letter I changed my mind. I was dismayed to discover that the whole thing seemed to be run on what I can only describe as charity lines and it has obviously been kept going by the voluntary (and unpaid) efforts 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?"

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 in the past.

EDWARD J. HUXLEY
Huxleys Grass Machinery

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 *sale* 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.



Greenkeepers are no fools any more. They will not pass on their expertise for their 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 one could build a proper Golf Complex with all the trimmings for training and experimenting. I know it's a lot to ask, after all each golfer would need to subscribe one Sunday's lunch drinks a year. But I am more than sure that Mr J. H. Arthur would do more than a good job with such revenue.

Finally may I ask: Please! can we have more of Mr Arthur's articles in the journal, not that I agree with everything he writes but it's a great help.

ROBERT JANOVSKIS
Course Manager,
Worsley Golf Club

Dear Sir,

On leaving the Royal Navy in 1976, I embarked on a career in "Golf Green-keeping", it was around this time that I joined the BGGGA, I seem to remember that one of the items being discussed at that time was the building of a golf course in Kent. As I understood, this golf course was to be run by the Green-keeping Training Committee to assist with the training of golf greenkeepers.

What I would like to know is what is happening, as everything seems to have died a natural death. The impression I got three years ago was that nobody seemed to be interested in the project. Very little was mentioned in the Journal. I believe that the Sussex section did

discuss it at one of their meetings and that was about all.

If this project can really get off the ground it could really be a benefit to young "trainee" 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 BGGGA 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 BGGGA. 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 Mospur 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-foot 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 Mospur Park, the Bunton 71in machine, powered by a 28hp diesel engine.

TURF CAT...

Purrrr-fection!

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 purrr-haps about it!



GREENS KING



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

70" TRIMMER



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.

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- 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
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TURF KING



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 _____

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MC Marshall
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In extending their policy of direct representation, Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd announce the following recent appointments:—

Sales Manager

Sisis are pleased to announce the return, in December 1979, of Gordon A. Argo, to take up the position of Sales Manager. Mr Argo was previously with Sisis between March 1963 and June 1970, before taking employment with a multinational organisation in Africa.

Sales Representatives

Malcolm Gilbert, 35 Teapot Lane, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, now covering the Kent and Sussex areas.

Peter May, 9 Hill Farm Road, Whittlesford, Cambs, now covering Hertfordshire/Buckinghamshire/Bedfordshire/Oxfordshire.

Terry Charlton, 4 Baden Street, Chester-Le-Street, Durham, has taken over North East England and South East Scotland on the retirement of Bill Burt.

Richard Campey, 50 Minor Avenue, Lyme Green, Macclesfield, has been with the company for 3½ years as demonstrator, and has now been promoted to Representative for the North Midlands Area.

Demonstrators

Jim Lawson has taken the vacant demonstrators' position in Scotland, while David Harrison replaces Richard Campey in Macclesfield and John Ashton becomes demonstrator for South Midlands/South Wales/South West.

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.

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Reply with offer:

The Secretary,
Hunstanton Golf Club, Norfolk
PE36 6JQ.
Tel: Hunstanton 2811

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

9-11 Sept: University of London Athletic Ground, Motspur Park, New Malden, Surrey.

1981

15-17 Sept: The Royal Windsor Racecourse, Windsor, Berkshire.



A team representing the British Golf Greenkeeper Association played a friendly match against the Scottish and International Golf Greenkeeper Association at Crow Wood, Glasgow at the end of September. The 18-hole round was an extra attraction at the Fisons Finals, the final of a Scottish inter-regional competition for greenkeepers organised by Fisons, and it is believed to be the first time in recent years that the BGGGA and SIGGA have competed with each other at national level. The BGGGA team, picture above, was BGGGA Chairman Dick Lewis (second from left), past Chairman Colin Geddes (on right) from Moor Allerton, Sid Arrowsmith (left), Hillside and Mike Sheehan, West Derby.

The true spirit of détente prevents us stating who won but a good time appeared to be had, as they say, by all.

AROUND THE SECTIONS



NORTHERN

Chairman:
COLIN GEDDES
Moor Allerton
Golf Club

Hon. Secretary:
JOHN SCOTT
16 Quarry Hill Lane
Wetherby
Yorks
(Tel: Wetherby 61668)



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 drives 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.

Even the very science of raking bunkers or moving tee markers has been vastly improved by the introduction of calculus, pythagorian hyperbolicals and peerless genius.

These innovative qualities of course are attributable to the latest product to emerge from that great seat of learning on the banks of the upper Wharfe: Ilkley Golf Club.

We say hearty congratulations to Mr Richard Storr on his success in cornering 'A' levels in Maths and English Literature. Very well done Richard.

Back to school

Our winter season of lectures took off on 15 November at Moor Allerton GC. Twenty-nine members listened to the man in charge Mr Nick Bissett. Nick in his role of Administrator to the Greenkeeper Training Scheme spoke about the scheme, how it is being implemented and how it is being supported.

Many questions were posed including "Why aren't there many more registered greenkeepers and what are the reasons for this". Out of the number present at the meeting a census revealed that there were nine registered Head Greenkeepers, one registered Assistant Greenkeeper, two registered Trainee Greenkeepers, nine unregistered Greenkeepers, five trade members and the rest, who apparently fell into the "don't

know" category.

To enable the register of greenkeepers to grow more support is required; it was suggested that registered greenkeepers could make an effort by visiting neighbouring clubs and enlisting the support of eligible greenkeepers not yet registered.

Another point raised was that perhaps journal space could be given to trainees or others wishing to enter the profession. It was felt that anyone pressing to be taken on by a club showed promise through his persistence. Nick said he received enquiries of this sort from time to time.

Thank you Nick for coming along to speak to us, your message was clear and concise. Let us hope for further future improvements.

Jack the lad

Our good mate Jack Cogan tells us he's been off work for 12 weeks now with a damaged shoulder. This apparently was caused by lifting heavy machinery ramps at the exhibitions that he and Autoturfcare have been involved with. You know Jack, it's about time that hydraulics took a hand in this for after all most of your machines are oil-drive. You'd think a tail-lift or something wouldn't be too much to come up with. Hope you're back in the race again by now.

Dollar down—dollar a day

We hear that Mountain's of Morley have extended their range of hire machinery to include the Sisis Hyderator and Autoseeder, Allen Mete-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.

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.

One of our VicePresidents Roy Ward has switched from Paton and Baldwin's sports-ground to Green Park Ossett. Every happiness is extended to Roy and his wife on their marriage last summer.

Both Baxter brothers have moved recently.

Joe's new address is 27 Lane End, Harden, Bingley and Alan now lives at 9 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley. Tel Bingley 60671.

On the cards

One date for your diary.

28 February: An evening on drainage with David Boocock of STR1 — don't miss this.

At last

Another of our number has yielded to matrimony. Our warm wishes for a contented, happy life together go to Peter Marshall and his wife on their marriage on 9 October.

Peter's that chap with the blue van and flags and things and can willingly supply you with anything from a pitch mark remover to a tractor scarifier. Please note the new address: 11 Sunningdale Walk, Alwoodley Park LS17 7SG. Tel Leeds 695590.

SUSSEX

Hon. Secretary:
RON JOBSON
10 Blenheim Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 4AG



Our winter lectures are now well under way and may I congratulate all members who turned up on Wednesday, 21 November. What a night. I picked up our Chairman, Dennis Ayling at Manningsheath Golf Club. He looked out his door, I was about 20 yards away and he couldn't see me, what a fog. Anyway we made our way and after a few miles the fog cleared. I won't say the sun shines on the righteous, perhaps the moon.

Our sincere thanks to Mr Tidy, Superintendent of Crawley St John Ambulance

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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.

SOUTHERN

Chairman:
R. TEMPEST

Secretary:
D. GOULD
Langley Park G.C.
Beckenham
Kent.



Ransomes Trip

Our trip to Ipswich on 5 and 6 November was a great success and I'm sure the 22 members who were there thoroughly enjoyed it. We would like to thank Ransomes for their very generous hospitality, especially John Wilson for his very warm welcome and Richard Bishop for looking after us throughout the visit.

After lunch on Monday we were shown around part of the factory and in the evening as guests of Ransomes, splendidly wined and dined in a local hotel. Tuesday morning began by seeing the rest of the factory and after lunch we were shown some of Ransomes latest golf course machinery. Anyone who has not been to Ransomes Nacton works, it is well worth a visit and Ransomes go out of their way to make you welcome. To everyone at Ransomes — Thank you.

Winter Lecture

The second lecture on 7 November was a very interesting one given by David Jenkins from Marshall Concessionaires. He spoke to us about everyone's problem — Thatch. With the aid of slides and the ensuing discussions it was interesting to hear the views on how we try and cope with the problem. Our next three lectures are:

- 5 December Johnson Seeds
- 9 January 80 Tom Scott
- 6 February 80 To be finalised.

We hope to see a large attendance on 9 January because we are trying something different from our usual lectures. As you all know Tom Scott is our ex-national president and well-known golf broadcaster and journalist and so should give us a very enjoyable evening with his thoughts on golf and greenkeeping and his many past experiences in golf.

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 himself and took the lot — never to be seen again.

EAST ANGLIA

Chairman:
D. JONES
2 Golf Cottages
Bucklesham Road
Ipswich

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



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

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holes 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 meeting off, that at Cromer.

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 broly and follow a few games round and what I witnessed was sometimes vintage 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 deeper, but his young partner Norman doing much better. Then on to the Noye Snr/Jnr, Barton and Markham quartet with Noye Snr looking rather debonair with his gaily coloured broly advertising a local car hire firm, what some people will do for a new car, and young Barton looking like he just found a 10 pence piece and split his trousers bending down to pick it up. 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 Moyce 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 Courtauld's 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 being built do 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 with the three of them surrounding it. Saw Ransomes' Rep Clive Lockwood show 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 unabating 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 I 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. Ransomes' 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. Broly, Norman (Bungay) 36 pts. Guests: 1st F. Balcombe; 2nd D. Nicholls.

A small piece of inside information, Mr Noye Snr being Director of Croydons Jewellers

presented the Section with the tankard which was won by say no more. Prizes were presented to winners by Bury Captain Ron Kent who we thank sincerely for taking part.

Just two queries now. Who was the chap who turned up a day early, and what happened to the Silver Shadow Rolls Royce that took the two Norwich nomads to Cambridge? Wasn't Bury good enough?

So thank you Bury for having us and putting on such a good spread to greet us and then sitting down at evening to a wonderful meal.

It just remains to wish you all a Happy New Year from the committee.



Chairman:
JIM ROBINSON
"Bickley"
Allithwaite
Grange-over-Sands

**Hon. Secretary/
Treasurer:**
D. F. GOLDING
38 The Grove, Flixton
Manchester M31 3JH
(Tel:
061-748 8592)

Dinner Dance

Despite the low numbers of greenkeepers attending the section's dinner dance, a most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended. The Council of Dean Wood Golf Club very kindly granted us the courtesy of their clubhouse. Some 30 Dean Wood members joined with us to enjoy a first class meal and our thanks go to Tony Larkin and his staff for looking after us so well. No sooner had we settled down for a drink than our very own "Mr Music" Howerd McAddey started the disco with a little old and

new. We all soon danced the calories off.

Our guest for the evening, a past Captain of Dean Wood, Mr Eric Miller welcomed us to his club and once again offered us their facilities. Gentlemen, we thank you. Finally, I would like to thank Lynn and John Bond for helping in making the dinner dance a success.

1980 Dinner Dance

Members, do we want an Annual Dinner Dance? Every Annual General Meeting members agree the answer is yes and many are very enthusiastic, but as I have already said in this year's dance report, the turnout of our members was bad (or should it be sad?). The dances are always open to members' guests but the question must be answered, we are fast becoming a Golf Society. I have no problem in getting golfers but for dances, trips, etc, it is the same faithful few who attend. I am keen for suggestions, and if we are to have one this year, do any members know where we can hold it. Consider the travelling for all members when suggesting a venue.

Lectures

Our first lecture of the winter series was held at Swinton Park Golf Club on 19 November. A very interesting talk was given by Mr Peter Roberts of Toro Irrigation on all aspects of watering. Toro's local representatives EA Yates of Sandbach were with us and it's nice to see Robin Hulme assisting Peter in trying to impress on us that Pop-ups are only a tool to do a job and it is how the tool is used that is important. I think what they were trying to say is that many soft green problems are because of the tool who has the key to the pump house. Many thanks gentlemen for taking the trouble to come to the North West Section.

We had a tremendous turnout for the lecture and on a very foggy night too. This was encouraging. Our friend Bill Lawson from Heswall Golf Club made a great effort in bringing some 20 members in a mini bus from the Wirral. Thanks Bill for your hard work and I



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

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 BGGGA 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 BGGGA 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 Rishton Golf Club near Blackburn. Well done Peter.

Other new members are Mr Les Adhead 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 Sisis Equipment Ltd.

MID ANGLIA

Chairman:
R. J. GOODWIN
2 Greenkeepers Cottage
Ashridge Golf Club
Berkhamsted
Hertfordshire

Hon Treasurer:
D. H. POOTS
Greenkeepers Cottage
Aspley Guise and
Woburn Sands GC
Aspley Guise
Bedfordshire

Hon Secretary:
R. S. MORRIS
41 Hampden Way
Eynesbury
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
Tel: Huntingdon 213348

On 26 November the Mid Anglia Section held its first 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 Appointments

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.

New Members

We would like to welcome:
Mr D. Reader of Rogers Engineers, Great Barford, Bedford, who has agreed to be the President of our section.

Mr F. F. Pratt of No. 2 Bungalow, Little Hay Golf Course, Box Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Forthcoming Events for 1980

Mon, 11 February — 2 pm Old Clubhouse, Woburn Golf & GC. Mr John Campbell, Course Manager, Foxhills Country Club, will give a talk on practical greenkeeping.

Mon, 10 March — Old Clubhouse, Woburn Golf & GC. Lecture, Cannock Fertilizers.

Mon, 14 April — 2 pm sharp, John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Sutton Park, Sandy, Bedfordshire. 18-hole fixture.

MIDLANDS

Chairman:
V. W. SMITH

Hon. Secretary:
A. KITE
17 Squires Croft
Walmley
Sutton Coldfield
W. Midlands



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.

T. C. Blake, W. Curtis, S. Campbell, B. Campbell, D. Campbell, W. Drewitt, C. J. Evans, I. McFadyen, W. Firman, C. E. Gough, M. G. Hill, A. J. Lawley, M. J. Powell, A. Preston, G. A. Phipps, J. Stevenson, B. J. Swift, S. Timms, F. W. Tong.

SOUTH COAST

President:
J. H. FRY
Chairman:
E. R. JAMES

Hon. Secretary:
Mrs J. STIMSON
Caretakers Cottage
Breamore House
Breamore
Fordingbridge
Hampshire SP6 2DE
(Tel: Breamore 277)



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 presentation 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. Stribling and R. Heyworth of Portsmouth GC; and Mr I. Lowe of Puttenham 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 greensmember 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.

The President,
Chairman
and Secretary
wish
all members
a happy,
prosperous
and successful
year in
1980

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

Humber Manures Ltd, PO Box 27, Stoneferry, Hull HU8 8DQ. Tel: 0482 20458. Contact: Gerald Moxon.

S.A.I. Horticulture Ltd, Hortus House, 3 John's Place, Edinburgh EH6 7EN. Tel: 031-554 5451. Contact: Sales or Technical Department.

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

Supaturf Products Ltd, Oxney Road, Peterborough PE1 5YZ. Tel: Peterborough (0733) 68384. Contact: David Palmer.

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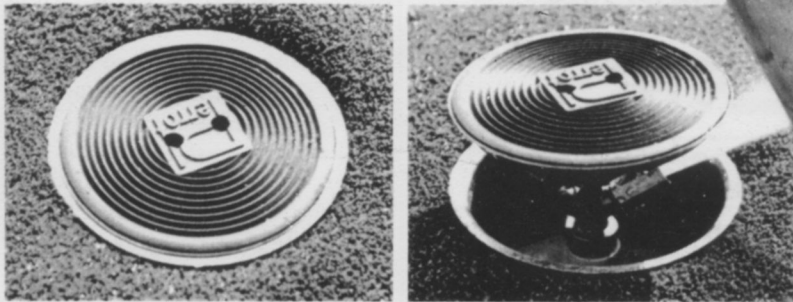
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