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The Official Magazine of the British Golf Greenkeepers’ Association
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UNE SITUATION SUR LE CONTINENT

Britain's membership of the European Economic Community means a great deal more than increased trading links with the Continent, a common agriculture policy and the election of a Euro M.P., it is about people. European people who now have the freedom to cross frontiers, seek work and earn a living wherever they fancy selling their skills.

We have seen few Europeans taking jobs in Britain except in some specialised service industries like hotels and restaurants where the Italians have found a niche. The Germans fly in and out to market their engineering talents, but the British, insular to the last, still treat the English Channel as a moat only to be crossed for two weeks a year on their way to the Costa del Sol.

We have been saying for months the growing business on the Continent is golf. New courses are under construction, established ones are gaining in popularity, additional sponsors are emerging to finance professional events, sales of equipment are booming and there is a demand for British Greenkeepers.

Your Association has received a number of enquiries from Germany, France, Austria and Spain seeking experienced British Greenkeepers to manage courses abroad. Because of this interest the BGGA has decided to set up a register of greenkeepers willing to move to the Continent.

In the first instance write to the Secretary, Walter Heeles (address in the left hand column), giving details of your present position, previous experience qualifications and family details. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence, and only sent to a prospective employer with your approval.

By joining the register there is no guarantee of a job, but the BGGA believes this service will be both useful to its members as well as our friends, the other side of European golf's largest water hazard.

NEXT MONTH

MERE GOLF CLUB. The Editor talks to Mike Sheehan, one of Britain's youngest Golf Course Managers.

COMPACT TRACTORS. The mini power unit made for golf course maintenance.

BUILDING THE P.M. GREEN. from Golf Course Constructor, Howard Swan.

The greenkeeper who developed a taste for his cuttings - A short story from the pen of Vice-President, Fred Hawtree.
MORRISON PUTS MORE INTO A MOWER

Quality costs money. So Morrison gives you more bold designs, more features, more value in a mower. Take the new improved 11 hp Honda engine Triplex Mark III (35 acres in eight hours) with electric lift control.

Or the Morrison Olympic 600 Cylinder Mower with its unbeatable finish and clip rate of 85 cuts per metre (78 cuts per yard). Then there's the new rugged Rapier 710-28" cut 11 hp Honda engine, three forward, one reverse gear with non-slip drive and separate disengagement.

And the Morrison 3'N'1 Rotary. It's a rear discharge mower, a catcher mower and a mulcher.

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MOTOMOP SHOCK LIQUIDATION

Motomop Limited, the company formed to market the revolutionary motorised sponge roller has gone into liquidation with debts in excess of £280,000.

The firm started in 1980 under the name of Duskford Ltd, changed to Varram Ltd. in December of that year and became Motomop Ltd. in July 1982.

The roller met with early success after T.V. coverage during the ill-fated Bob Hope Classic at Moor Park when flooded greens were brought back into use in record time after a torrential downpour. Ex-American President Gerald Ford was intrigued with its capabilities and said so. Later the P.G.A. bought several machines as stand-bys for all their major tournaments.

Last year the company entered into a sales agreement with Jacobsen and later gave the American company a licence to manufacture in the United States for ten years. Similar agreements were made for the Far East markets.

Last year Motomop was displayed at the International Turfgrass Exhibition in the South West, South Wales and the West Midlands.

He is well known to most machinery distributors in those areas and has been connected with the machinery industry for most of his working life representing such well known products as Sheen, Alpina and Ginge Mowers.

Jim, who is a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, is married with two children and spends his spare time on archaeology and swimming.

Brian Stephens has been appointed Area Manager responsible for South Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall with Brown and Sons Seeds Ltd the Bristol based distributors of Sports Turf & Amenity Products from 2nd January 1985.

Brian has joined the company after six years' experience with H. Pattison & Co. Ltd.

NEW Depot in Leeds for Supaturf Products Ltd.

Supaturf Products Ltd, the Peterborough based distributors of seed fertilisers for the golf and sports industry have opened a new depot on the Normanton Industrial Estate to the south of Leeds.

All the northern customers will be supplied from the 5,500 square foot warehouse which is close to both the M1 the trans pennine M62 and the A1 trunk road.

Frank Cookson has been put in charge to organise regional distribution but expects to be back 'on the road' before long.

M.B.E. for Eric Staniforth

When Eric Staniforth joined a small engineering firm in Macclesfield as a 13 year old apprentice 50 years ago, it is doubtful whether he had visions of becoming the Managing Director of one of Britain's most successful turf grass machinery companies.

In July of this year Eric will celebrate the anniversary of that first day at work for the company that has now become SISIS Equipment situated in a modern style factory on Macclesfield's Industrial Estate.

In recognition of his services to the industry, to British exports and for this sterling support of golf greenkeepers, Eric Staniforth was awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's New Year Honours List. An award richly deserved, which his many friends will feel justly proud.

No one has done more to support the B.G.G.A. and in particular the North West Section of the Association, where Eric holds the office of President. Golf Greenkeeping, and the officers of the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association offer their congratulations to Eric Staniforth, M.B.E. and trust he will enjoy many more years as Managing Director of SISIS Equipment as well as his Vice-Presidency of the B.G.G.A.

GREENKEEPERS PRESS FOR FRESH TALKS

Both the British Golf Greenkeepers Association and the Institute of Groundsmanship have requested talks with the Institute of Groundsmanship to discuss greater co-operation between the organisations.

Courses in Turf Management

The Sports Turf Research Institute will hold two, possibly three one-week courses in the spring on the theory and practice of turf construction and management.

The courses, starting Monday morning and finishing on Friday afternoon, last for five days. They will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilizers and machinery.

Starting on 25th February and 11th March the fees (exclusive of accommodation and meals) are £35 for members plus £100 for non-members (plus VAT). A further course will be held during the week commencing 4th March.

Details from The Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire. Tel: Bradford (0274) 565131.

£3 Million Worth of Grass Machinery for the States

By the end of this year, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, expect to have sent £3 million worth of grass machinery to the United States, 82% more than last year and a massive increase compared to sales of £1 million in 1982.

Commenting on the East Anglian firm’s achievement, Managing Director Bob Dodsworth said “Then here people who say this country should be exporting more to the USA because of the high valued dollar. Whilst it may be the case it is doubtful whether he had visions of becoming the Managing Director of one of Britain’s most successful turf grass machinery companies.

When Eric Staniforth joined a small engineering firm in Macclesfield as a 13 year old apprentice 50 years ago, it is doubtful whether he had visions of becoming the Managing Director of one of Britain’s most successful turf grass machinery companies.

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CONTAINERS are loaded with Ipswich-made machines at the factory and besides being sent to the Company’s subsidiary, Ransomes Inc. at Johnson Creek in Wisconsin for unloading and distribution, they also go direct to well-known destinations including Florida, Miami, Florida; Phoenix, Arizona; Salt Lake City, Utah and New York.

The shipments from Ipswich include the Company’s new Motorised and hydraulic gang mowers for use mainly on golf courses which number over 12,000 in the States. Costing over £20,000 in the USA, the Ransomes Power Motor 350D was launched in September of last year following user trials with two prototype machines in the United States as well as other major overseas markets.
HALF-A-MILLION POUNDS FOR WPGA TOUR

Despite the withdrawal of Hitachi, Colin Snape, director of the WPGA has announced prize money of £486,000 for women professional golfers in 1985.

In 1984, WPGA members played for £347,000 on the UK and Continental Circuit.

The continuing growth of interest in the tour in the UK and on the Continent has seen an increase in prize funds "across the board" in a calendar which will include 17 major tournaments to comprise the Ring and Brymer Order of Merit.

Three will be of £40,000 in value, the Hennessy Cognac Ladies' Cup at St. Cloud, Paris, and a new Belgian Open Championship at Royal Waterloo, Brussels, while a third, also destined for the Continent, is to be announced shortly, said Mr. Snape.

Among new events on the home front is the £20,000 John Laing Ladies' Classic, to be staged at Stoke Poges, Bucks.

The LBS £30,000 German Open for the Fürst von Metternich Cup, will be played at Braunfels; and a Swedish fortnight in August will include the Delsjö Open (25,000) in Gothenburg and the Höganas Open (35,000) in Mölle.

The 2nd IBM Ladies' European Open, with a prize fund increased from £25,000 to £35,000 will be staged at the Kingswood Golf Club, Surrey in September.

The Ford Ladies' Classic - one of 12 existing tournaments which continue in 1985 - will again launch the 1985 season with its £20,000 (min.) tournament at Woburn, Bucks, on May 1-4.

Among 1984 sponsors repeating their tournaments, all with increased prize money, are the Ulster Volkswagen Classic at Belvoir Park, Belfast; the British Olivetti Tournament at Moor Hall, Sutton Coldfield; the Guernsey Open and Colt Cars Jersey Open; the Hennessy Cognac Ladies' Cup; and the McEwan's Lager Wirral Caldy Classic; the Bloor Homes Eastleigh Classic at Fleming Park; the Bloor Homes International at Saunton, Devon.

The tour will again conclude with the 20,000 Spanish Open with prize money raised to £20,000.

Women's Professional Golf Association
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE 1985

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COMPANY CHAIRMAN OPENS NEW CENTRE

Sixty years after selling his first lawnmower, Ralph Bird officially opened his Company's new professional grass centre at Willsbridge, Avon last October.

Over two hundred customers visited Willsbridge to see the latest grass-care facilities and biggest exhibition ever held in the West of England.

To coincide with the opening, Managing Director Roger Bird said BIRDS GRASS-CARE would be the new trading name.

Managing Director Roger Bird and Chairman Ralph Bird opening the Willsbridge Centre

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BRITISH GOLFGREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

RECOMMENDED WAGE AND SALARY SCALES

The Executive Committee of the BGGA are recommending an increase of approximately 5% for Association Members when salaries are reviewed by Golf Clubs at the beginning of 1985. This figure falls in line with the general trend of wage increases and is just below the official rate of inflation.

All salaries remain the subject of negotiation between individuals and their employer. The BGGA does not have wage agreements with any of the governing bodies representing golf or golf clubs.

Head Greenkeeper (36 hole course) £9885.87
plus accommodation and 4 weeks holiday

Head Greenkeeper (27 hole course) £9338.23
plus accommodation and 4 weeks holiday

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plus accommodation and 4 weeks holiday

Head Greenkeeper (9 hole course) £8235.86
plus accommodation and 4 weeks holiday

First Assistant £7142.22
or £137.35 per week and 4 weeks holiday

Other Grade 1 Assistants £6591.31
or £126.75 per week and 4 weeks holiday

In addition to an agreed wage or salary it is recommended that as a basic minimum the following conditions should also apply:

The working week should not exceed 40 hours.

Wage earners are opposed to salaried staff should be paid overtime rates outside normal working hours. During the weekend, Saturday working at time and a half, Sundays at double time.

A retirement pension of not less than half salary.

Protective clothing and footwear provided or allowance given.

Travelling expenses on club business at 22p per mile.

Other expenses including telephone charges at the full rate.

Day and Block release for new young entrants to the industry to obtain the appropriate City & Guilds Certificate in Greenkeeping.

Time off for other greenkeeping staff to attend lectures, demonstrations, exhibitions and other external activities aimed at the development of individual knowledge and skills, including BGGA golf tournaments.

 Provision of suitable washing and toilet facilities at the greenkeepers' place of work.

Payment or reimbursement of the BGGA subscription.

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RANSOMES WIN
£100,000
BELFRY ORDER

Ransomes have won an order worth nearly £100,000 for their grass machinery from The Belfry's Golf Complex. "This is the largest single order we have ever had from a golf club" said Sales Director Guy Catchpole, "and as it is for replacing existing equipment at this important golf centre, we are, of course, delighted".

Amongst the many facilities at the Belfry, 9 miles from the centre of Birmingham, are a 168 bedroom Hotel, Conference facilities, Country Pub and indoor Leisure Club. There are also two fine eighteen hole golf courses, the Derby and the Brabazon which is to be the venue of the 1985 Ryder Cup in September.

"We went to great lengths to ensure we got the right equipment" said the Belfry's Chief Executive Brian Cash, "and in addition to demonstrations of the machines here on site, we also visited Ransomes' factory to satisfy ourselves of the back-up we expect when committing ourselves to a company for such an important operation".

The wide selection of Ransomes golf course maintenance equipment, which includes four Triple Greens Mowers, is being supplied to the Belfry through the Company's dealer near Stafford, Burrows (Grass Machinery) who played a prominent role in winning the order.

Turfworld in Birmingham Off

The proposed 'Turfworld' Exhibition and National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham during the first week in March has been cancelled.

In a statement from the Exhibition and Events Division from the NEC it was admitted the response and support has not been translated to make the event fully representative.

When the idea was first mooted prior to the IOG Windsor Exhibition a ground swell of opposition began to emerge, both from the organisers of existing shows, and some of the main manufacturers and distributors who believed their expected presence with expensive stands would cost them far more than the business they were generating.

The IOG Exhibition now remains the major event for the turfgrass leisure industry and is expected to be bigger than ever in 1985 with the introduction of an indoor hall to add to the predominately outside stands.

The recently formed British Golf Industry Association have announced they intend to support two shows a year, the event at Ingliston in January and Sandown in November. They would put up a 'united front' against any additional golf shows in the U.K.

Hold the fort' until Orag can organise a satisfactory distribution network in this country.

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Marshall Concessionaires, the Winchester based national distributor for Jacobsen, Brunton, Ryan equipment is to relinquish the agency, after twelve years.

All the Marshall's outside staff have already been made redundant and the company will just retain their own dealership at Romsey.

Orag, the Swiss based European distributor, will make their own arrangements for UK distribution in the near future, but no announcement had been made when Golf Greenkeeping went to press.

Plans to involve Charterhouse Turf Machinery came to an abrupt end at the end of January when Orag's Directors cancelled a meeting with the Company's Managing Director, David Jenkins. Later that week Lindsay Marshall was asked to hold the fort' until Orag can organise a satisfactory distribution network in this country.

In order to maintain this centre and its work a regular income from fund-raising is essential. This annual Golf Tournament is a small part of that essential work. Any Greenkeepers and their club member friends wishing to take part please contact me on Bristol 719361 (office) or Trowbridge (02214) 5864 (home).

We will also be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to sell Draw Tickets on our behalf even if they are unable to play in the Tournament. Half of the money raised will be for the National A.R.M.S. Charity and half for the Therapy Centre.

Each 25p ticket represents its full value as a donation to the Charity, no expenses will be deducted by the organisers.

Should any of our members wish to know more about the Tournament or the charity I will be pleased to hear from them. Please join in and make this event even more successful for 1985, I know you will enjoy yourselves.

Thanking you all in anticipation of your support.
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The west country has never had a reputation for championship golf, in fact, only Saunton on the north Devon coast made the recently published, top fifty courses in the British Isles, but by the beginning of the 1990s a new name will surely emerge - the Nicklaus Course at St. Mellion.

Hamilton Stutt designed the original eighteen hole course in 1976 on land farmed by the Bond family. Herman and Martin Bond are Cornishmen who have combined their knowledge of agriculture, and a love for golf, with a very astute eye to business, to develop a leisure complex at St. Mellion, which could well be a pattern for the future of British golf.

The original course has already attracted the Benson & Hedges Inter-collegiate Championship and the Benson & Hedges Inter-club, whose extensive sporting facilities are shared by the modern hotel alongside. The family involvement is quite apparent to any visitor to the swimming pool, squash courts and snooker rooms.

Although the existing St. Mellion Course attracted the Benson & Hedges International in 1979, a T.V. industrial dispute killed off the national publicity they were expecting, but even then both brothers had visions of a St. Mellion on a much grander scale. The rolling countryside with deep gorges lined with spruce and native Cornish trees, was a natural setting for the new course was then planned with all the opening holes around the outside of the existing course and the finishing three coming onto the old course with the eighteenth green in front of the club house.

If there is a theme about the Nicklaus plan it could be described as water, trees and carry, with a touch of fade. The trees are already there, growing on the natural slopes surrounding the streams which wind through the valleys and mini gorges surrounding the existing course. What Nicklaus has done is to shape and sculpt this land using motorway bulldozers as his artist's工具s. Streams have been opened up to form lakes, hillsides have been carved away to form greens, and tees and fairways made from the thousands of tons of surplus soil stripped from the surrounding land.

Considering the magnitude of the operation those directly involved seem few in number. In addition to Jack Nicklaus who makes periodic visits, flying in for the day by Concorde to Heathrow and private plane to Plymouth, on site are two of his American staff, Jim Lipe, the resident architect and Bob Steele the man who drives the excavator to fashion the land into the shapes dictated by the design. They are backed up by a firm of sub-contractors from Launceston, Talastone Gardens and the resident greenstaff under head greenkeeper, Roy Battishill. The St. Mellion greenkeepers are involved in the finer part of construction such as building and seeding the tees and greens as well as maintaining the existing eighteen holes in its parkland setting.

The autumn of 1985 was the scheduled target for opening the new course, but it will be surprising if this date can be met, particularly after the very wet Autumn and the snow that has affected the West Country in January. It must be remembered that every piece of ground from the greens sown with Pennycross bent to the areas of rough have to be hand seeded. Unlike many course constructions where the fairways have been adapted from agricultural pasture, the new St. Mellion course has had every inch of playing area taken down to the sub-soil or many feet below the sub-soil level and contoured to suit the design of the Nicklaus organisation.

The greens are, of course, the American sand greens which have attracted increased favour in the United Kingdom, because of their excellent draining capabilities and resistance to thatch. All greens have been excavated to the sub-soil, herringbone drained and covered with a layer of pea-gravel approximately 4 inches deep. A layer of finer gravel is laid on top about an inch deep before the growing surface of 80% sand and 20% peat is laid on top. The sand, grey in colour comes from the English China Clay works in central Cornwall.

An interesting addition is the insertion of polythene sheeting around the edge of the green to stop moisture being pulled from the sand into the green fringes. On the greens already constructed and sown, Roy Battishill has been using Fisons Super N and Supaturf's Spring and Summer. Again to encourage growth he has cut every day, easing to every other day as the growing season come to an end.

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There are so many differing contours on the new course particularly around the greens, with humps and hollows and steep banks to trap the loose shot, the cost of maintenance once the course is in playing condition is expected to be much higher than most inland golf courses. It is certain to be labour intensive because there is no ride-on machine capable of tackling the green fringes and a considerable amount of "flymo" work will be needed to keep the course in a manicured condition.

Most of the best American courses are kept in immaculate condition because they are labour intensive. There is plenty of labour available in the United States because golf is very expensive by British standards and that money is used to good effect on the golf course.

Understanding the American philosophy was part of the deal agreed between Jack Nicklaus and the Bond brothers and Head Greenkeeper, Roy Battishill, then first assistant to Jim Rowlands was sent to the USA for eight months between 1982/3 to study the American methods of greenkeeping. He worked with the superintendents at both Muirfield Village in Ohio and the Bear Creek Course in California experiencing all aspects of the Nicklaus Golf Course maintenance. "It was hard work", said Roy, "because keeping golf courses to the standards they require is very demanding, but with my experience of greenkeeping and prior that farming, I was able to tackle any of the various jobs they gave me to do. It was a great experience, but there is a considerable status difference between the American golf course superintendent and the British Head Greenkeeper.

Anyone who reads the golfing press cannot fail to have seen that St. Mellion not only has a golf course and hotel but is promoting hard the concept of Time-share. Fifty 'lodges' are planned in a village development in the centre of the original course. To say the stone built architect-designed bungalows are luxurious would be somewhat of an injustice as it cannot possibly convey the vision of the superb facilities for anyone wanting to take a family break in accommodation that is entirely their own for a short period of the year. With the dollar rate so favouring the Americans, one would expect the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers to return to Plymouth by the boatload to snap up the bargain of the year. J.E.L.

It was during the Autumn of 1984 that Watermation staff were to be seen ankle deep (and indeed machine deep) in mud, ploughing in the pipelines for the automatic irrigation system for the new Jack Nicklaus designed 18 hole course at St. Mellion.

It is obviously going to be a real challenge for those lucky enough to play this hill clinging course and during that wet Autumn it was most certainly a challenge for those Watermation staff manually placing sprinklers in muddy holes under grey skies.

However, hopefully the skies will once again be bright blue as they were during last summer and that will be the time when Head Greenkeeper, Roy Battershill and his staff will make full use of the extensive and modern automatic irrigation system, with its solidly built pop-up sprinklers under the control of the latest computerised two wire controller.

This controller has been developed and built in this country by Watermation and is unique in that it only requires two wires to feed each solenoid valve, instead of the usual multiplicity. Roy Battershill will find the controller accurate to the second, but nevertheless simple to operate and at the same time clear to read and he will be left with time to do the important tasks of greenkeeping.

The irrigation contract was won by Watermation during the Spring of 1984 when the course was little more than a design on paper. The competition was fierce for this prestigious and unusual course and several companies tendered for the watering needs of the greens, tees and fairways. Watermation soon discovered that St. Mellion required above all robust, reliable equipment, simple to use and straightforward to service. So when it came to awarding the contract for the irrigation, although important, price was not the only factor.

Also on a scheme of this magnitude there has to be the confidence that the Company you are dealing with is able to do what it says it can and certainly there was no shortage of other quality courses around the country where the Watermation system of irrigation has been working reliably year in and year out. Indeed, over the last decade they have become the leaders in the country for golf course irrigation and their systems are to be seen in several European countries and the new golfing areas of West Africa. To prove that their equipment and workmanship was the best, Watermation installed automatic irrigation on to one of the greens on the existing course, giving St. Mellion the chance to see it operating for themselves. The Greens' staff were very satisfied with the results of this "trial" green and the very long, very dry summer which followed served well to prove the rightness of the Club's choice.

Perhaps a deciding factor was that much of Watermation's equipment, like their unique computerised two wire controller, has been designed and manufactured in Britain, which is unusual in this industry. This will obviously be helpful in the future should service be required. There is no doubt, Watermation's technical ability was apparent from the beginning when assessing the situation and necessary changes on the existing course.

When completed, St. Mellion Golf and Country Club will be an exciting and beautiful place to play golf. The owners have certainly gone in for the tops in design and equipment to make sure it is right up there with the leaders.
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THE EFFECT OF GOLF SHOE WEAR ON THE PUTTING SURFACE AND, IN PARTICULAR, the characteristic marking of ripple sole shoes have often created discussion.

In a recent issue of the U.S.G.A. Journal, information on this subject was published from experiments carried out at the Texas A. & M. College. Comparisons were made between spiked, rubber cleated and ripple soles on a sward of seaside bent.

Constant, regulated traversing of the experimental plots was carried out from 29th April to 3rd June. Wear and tear were observed and recorded and, by observing the roll of a ball delivered from a curved aluminium tube released at a constant height, the following conclusions were reached.

There was a gradual decline in the turf subjected to traffic until 13th May. During the following week, there was a rapid decline of plots traversed by spiked shoes and rubber cleats. The plots traversed by ripple soles continued to decline only gradually.

Although all types of traffic produced some injury, the least damage resulted from use of ripple soles. The most severe damage was produced by spikes and an intermediate amount by rubber cleats.

It was also noted that ripple soles made a slightly wider path, whilst spiked soles made a slightly deeper path. From ratings and measurements it was concluded that spikes wear out turf more quickly and completely than the other shoes tested, and that ripple soles produced the least damage on turf.

The measurements on the effect of ripple sole footprints on the direction of travel on a rolling ball showed that the result is the same whether the footprint is near the point of release or near the point where the ball stops rolling. There was no appreciable effect upon the rolling ball provided it had no spin.

As a result of these tests, there would appear to be no basis for discriminating against ripple sole shoes and every reason to hope that spikes will grow no longer.

MESSRS. J. GIBBS LTD., “AT HOME”, 2nd & 3rd MARCH, 1959

by Harry Bennett

In their invitation, the old-established firm of J. Gibbs Ltd. said “The idea is to show you we are equipped to give first-class service with every type of parks and sports ground tackle”. This they achieved most effectively.

The morning was devoted to inspecting a comprehensive static exhibition of the full range of Ransomes gang, motor, and hand lawn-mowers, including all the new models. There were also David Brown tractors, garden cultivators, trucks and tools.

Members of the Gibbs staff were at hand with helpful explanations of new features and modifications.

Lunch was in the Bedfont Public Hall where Senior Partner, Mr. R. H. Gibbs, welcomed guests.

A film show followed, showing all types of Ransomes machines in use in Belgium including the Brussels Exhibition, and the same machines in this country. The commentary on the second film was given by a member of the firm.
MANAGEMENT OF HEATHER ON HEATHLAND COURSES

Heather on a golf course has always produced mixed emotions to both golfer and greenkeeper. To the golfer who finds his ball resting amongst its wiry stems it brings a chill of fear, but at the same time he must also marvel at the sight of the course ablaze in drifts of colour.

The greenkeeper too appreciates the attractive features of heather, but where heather is inundated with grasses the area is in fact with unattractive. Heather and grasses battle it out and neither wins. Occasionally the coarser grasses will gain the upper hand but more usually the heather will come back, thickly veined with grass foliage and flower stems sticking out with large clumps of grass, particularly along paths. The traditional management of heather does little to control the grass. Cutting hard back in the spring will encourage the grass. The expense of the heather, the presence of the heather, to allow the heather to dominate.

Some text books on the subject talk only in terms of eradication of heather with little or no advice on the management of the heather. An example of this is a section on heaths in Mr. Reginald Beales book ‘Lawns for Sports’, published in 1924. He says “Some of the best and most beautiful inland courses have been won out of rough heaths such as Sunningdale and Walton Heath”. He goes on to describe the preparation in the following way “the gorge, bracken and heather should be cut, and the ground broken up by steam and allowed to lie fallow for as long as conveniently possible!”

In 1984 some preliminary work was carried out at St. George's Hill to assess the potential of Dalapon as a controller of a diverse range of grasses while leaving the heather undamaged. At Walton Heath some spraying was also carried out with the same aim, but here Clive Osgood declined to try larger areas using the Cushman.

Dalapon is not recommended for overspraying any plant and spray guards should be used to prevent accidental spray drift. However there have been reports that when applied as an overall spray before heather growth commences in January/February a good kill was achieved with most of the grasses. At Walton Heath the treated areas showed a marked difference in their untreated surroundings. The majority of the grasses were killed and by mid-season, there was a proliferation of wild flora giving a colourful appearance and a considerable increase in growth from the established heather and also in the young second generation heathers growing out of the areas of dead grass.

The rate of application for Dalapon varies very much according to the crop being treated, e.g., 6.75-28 kilos per hectare (7-25lbs per acre), and so various rates were tried to establish a rate that would kill grass but not heather. Treatment commenced in February at St. George's Hill and March at Walton Heath; a knapsack sprayer fitted with a flooding jet and set at low pressure 1 bar (10 p.s.i.) was used at St. George's Hill. The Cushman fitted with size 0 nozzles was used at Walton Heath.

The results indicated that when the Dalapon was applied at between 10-11.2 litre/hectare (10-50 gallons per acre) a good kill was achieved with most of the grasses. At Walton Heath the treated areas showed a marked difference in their untreated surroundings. The majority of the grasses were killed and by mid-season, there was a proliferation of wild flora giving a colourful appearance and a considerable increase in growth from the established heather and also in the young second generation heathers growing out of the areas of dead grass. The site at Walton Heath was inspected again in October and November and the treated area was still easy to identify by its lack of long grass. A close inspection showed the Fescues in particular, were coming back, but as yet only as young plants. This application rate seemed to be the best from the point of view of tolerance by the heather, very little effect was noticed and they grew well after treatment.

Some important lessons were learned during these trials particularly when using the Cushman. Great care is needed to avoid any spray drift onto fairways, tees etc. When spraying has been completed avoid driving or walking across other areas until sprayer wheels and feet have been washed down. As a general precaution it is best to avoid spraying near greens, and other fine grass areas. Cleaning out of spraying equipment, paying particular attention to nozzles and filters, is very important to avoid the possibility of spray damage with later treatments.

Dalapon was introduced in 1965 as a systemic non persistent grass killer for the control of annual and perennial grass species in borders, amongst top and bush fruit, around trees and also to clean up neglected grassland prior to cultivation.

It is available in 25 kilo containers and although a powder it does mix readily with water being a ‘salt’ formulation rather than a wettable powder.

Dalapon is an efficient Couch grass killer particularly when applied to active growth in the spring. It is suitable for use in large or small pressure sprayers. With small sprayers the rate of application is 3-4 ounces over 40 square yards using one gallon of water.
NORTHERN

Hon. Sec: D. C. Hannam, 12 Heights Avenue, Menston, W. Yorks.
Telephone: (0943) 72008

And yet another New Year quietly slips in, tickling thoughts and aspirations. Another to the unknown, bits unknown and speculation. Will we have a good Summer? Will the Spring be a dry one? What new diseases will appear this year? Where will the Sheffield Match be held?!

A contentional area this if ever there was one with thoughts and aspirations. Will we have a good Summer? Converged on Moor Allerton last November in, tickling thoughts and aspirations.

Further glamour was added to the occasion by our chaps being accompanied by their wives. A nice extra touch to a fine occasion.

An excellent journey into the microscopic world was conducted on December 6th by Mr. Roy Woolhouse, Birmingham Turf Research Institute. Roy, no stranger to the Northern Section spoke in his usual precise, authoritative manner starting with information on treatments of turf diseases, changes in nomenclature and the increasing incidence of pathogens hitherto not experienced by greenkeepers.

Many thanks Roy for a thoroughly absorbing lesson.

It gives me pleasure to announce that 1985 marks the 25th consecutive year that our President Mr. William Mountain has held office.

Many congratulations Bill, it’s not too early to begin celebrating. Let us hope this year ahead will continue in the same high vein.

For those of you with an eye for fashion which must include everyone, I have a good range of super lambswool sweaters varied in style and sizes complete with the BGGA insignia for a cool £16. There are also ties in green and the NEW BLUE for £4. Beautiful blazer badges for £5. Smaller round badges for 75p AND the NEW BLUE at £6.

For those of you not able to make 15 in last October, a complete blow-by-blow account is available from the above address for a mere £5. The work constitutes a definitive volume on golf green construction, including advice specifications, technical points on drainage, design, soil and aftercare: an absolute snip.

The BGGA wish to express thanks and praise to Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd. and in particular Mrs. Jane Bailey, for producing the above manuscripts.

Next evening meetings will take place on February 21st (Chris Watmores Turfland and Brouwer Machinery) and on March 14th (a evening on Health and Safety at Work with special reference to golf courses. All at Moor Allerton Golf Club on 30th March.

Our Annual Dinner is in the process of organisation. It will be held at the Harrogate Golf Club, Starbeck, very happy to possibly accommodate any please watch out for fresh details - better still give me a call 0943/72008.

**Praeconar's note:**

Laying off full-time staff during periods of inactivity is perfectly legal and applies equally to those who work outside or to production workers in the factory.

The employer has to pay his employee £10.00 a day for the first five days of lay off (less if the average weekly pay is below £50.00 a week) and then has no further obligation for three months.

Meanwhile the employee can claim £28.45 unemployment pay, plus £17.55 for his wife.

An employee laid off for four consecutive weeks or whose wages in a six week period are less than half his average, can declare himself redundant and claim the appropriate payment.

As Davies & Partners a club committee contemplating reducing their staff by one, for three months, to save a weekly wage, decided that if greenkeeper loyalty, must be somewhat short sighted. If the Green Chairman of the club concerned would care to contact this magazine we would be delighted to prepare a programme of winter maintenance which would beneficially and industriously occupy the time of an extra greensman.

**PRESIDENT'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

Harrogate Golf Club on Friday 8th March

Tickets from David Hannam - £9.00

SOUTH COAST

OUR THANKS TO IVOR TOON FOR MAKING THE ARRANGEMENTS, ENSURING THE EVENING WAS SUCH A WORTHWHILE EXPERIENCE. ALSO TO Moor Hall Golf Club for the use of their Clubhouse.

To all our members of the Midlands Section and all our many friends who assist us with our endeavours throughout the year a happy and successful New Year from the Chairman and Committee.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 27TH & 28TH

/full cost £15/

Ransomes Ipswich. Guided tour of the Works. Contact Hon. Sec. D. Keen on Shrewsbury 247864. To ensure the reservation of your seat on the coach and the booking of the overnight accommodation, please send a deposit of £5 per person.

March 11th

Telford Hotel Golf & Country Club
Great Hay Drive, Sutton Hill,
Telford, Shropshire
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

First Aid
(Shropshire Ambulance Service)
4.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

The History of Fertilisers
(Owen Jones)

The remainder of the afternoon and evening is a social occasion, swimming, squash, snooker, etc. So don't forget your gear. Please contact D. Keen on Shrewsbury 247864.

NORTH WEST

Hon. Sec: Edwin Walsh
69 Anderson Close,
Padgate, Warrington,
Telephone: 0925 815771

First of all I must apologise to all our members for missing the notes in the Christmas edition, this was due to ill health, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the coming year.

A letter has been received from Mrs. Vickers thanking us for the donation received from our section. I am sure that all who knew Reg will miss him, and would like to wish Mrs. Vickers and her family all the best for the future.

Now I must regretfully express my disgust to all members for the poor support given for the lectures, and I would like to remind you that lectures and functions of any kind are arranged for your benefit and can only exist with your support. So please can we see a vast improvement this year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Monday 11th February 8.00 p.m.
A lecture at Arden Park Golf Club
Monday 4th March at 8.00 p.m.
A lecture at Blackburn Golf Club
Wednesday 27th March
A one day seminar at Mere Golf & Country Club. Registration will be £9 to include morning coffee and lunch. Please contact D. Keen on Shrewsbury 247864.

"D" DAY

The North West Section of the Golf Greenkeepers Association declares war on the 27th March, 1985 at Mere Golf & Country Club, against Thatch and Fungus.

This is a one day seminar to be held for all Greenkeepers, Golf Clubs, Secretaries and anyone concerned with turf culture.

The speakers will be Robin Hulme, Dr. Peter Hayes, Ray Woolhouse and D. Matthews.

I am sure this will be both an interesting and educational day for everyone.

Further details, Registration Fee of £8.00 to:
EDWILL
69 ANDERSON CLOSE, PADGATE, WARRINGTON
Telephone: 0925 815711

WELSH

Hon. Sec: Philip Swain
6 Lock Street,
Newport,
Gwent NPT 5HL

This month's notes is to inform all the members the Section is still healthy. Sorry to miss entries in the journal but the same cannot be said for your Secretary.

We recently held a committee meeting to discuss venues for the new year and the possibility of a lecture or film in February details to be circulated later.

We have had replies to some applications concerning new members, but as usual some take longer than others.

We would like to congratulate Mike Jones on winning the trip to the USA in the Marshall, Concessionaires. All our best wishes for your visit to Washington - Mike my apologies for the brevity of this report, but life is quite boring working for the local authority.

If you have anything that can be published in the journal please send it on to me. It is better to read something rather than nothing.

CLEVELAND

Hon. Sec: J. B. Burnell,
2 Clarence Road,
Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees,
Cleveland TS16 8DE

Telephone: (0642) 780647

Fourteen members made the trip to St. Andrews last November to the 100th anniversary of the 'Old' Course and see the machinery in use and the composting system specifically manufactured for the 'home of golf'.

Walter Woods, St. Andrews Links Supervisor made the arrangements for the group to stay at the magnificent hotel adjacent to the Nineteenth, and together with John Phipps, the Head Greenkeeper led our party around the world famous courses.

St. Andrews was a wonderful experience for us all particularly the impressive sight of an autumn re-seeding programme with perfect germination.

On November 28th Mr. Danny Godfrey presented an illustrated lecture on the plant breeding of grasses. Put over in an easy to understand manner combined with a very witty and a deal of enthusiasm the message was certainly taken that to obtain value for money always buy certified seed.

The Spring Tournament will take place at Castle Eden G.C. on 25th April to be followed by the AGM at 7.30 p.m.

A one-day Management Seminar is to be held at Houghall Agriculture College followed by the AGM at 7.30 p.m.

The syllabus will include:

- Programming, Organisation, Motivation, Communication, Role of the Head Greenkeeper, Role of the Employee, Budgeting, Health & Safety at Work

Please telephone Bruce Burnell 0642/780647 for further details.
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Rogers Engineers Ltd., Great Barford, Bedford, MK44 4LP. Tel: Bedford 870021. Telex: B8512. Contact: D. Reeder. Ext. 46. Also at Telford Way, Kettinger. Kettering 82611 and Royce Road, Ripon Industrial Estate, Ripon, North Yorkshire. Tel: (0765) 4455. Contact: Robin Daborn, Tree Sales Manager.

Rows of Chichester, D. Rowe & Co. Ltd., The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4JW.

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Sports Ground Irrigation Co., "Hereward Lodge" Paget Road, Lubbenham, Market Harborough, Leics. Tel: (0561) 63153. Contact: Mr. M. D. Walker.


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