

B.I.G.G.A. ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

TO BE HELD AT

**VERULAM GOLF CLUB, LONDON ROAD,
ST. ALBANS, HERTS.**

17th, 18th, 19th AUGUST, 1987

*Those wishing to take part in the Tournament must complete the Entry Form
and return to Tournament Organiser:*

**K. BUNTING,
1 Greenkeepers Cottage, Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1LU**

1987 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

Monday, 17th August: 1st Round of 54 and 36 Hole Competition
Scratch and Nett
Senior Division
Junior Division
18 Hole Coming of Age Cup

Tuesday, 18th August: 2nd Round 54 Hole and 36 Hole Event
18 Hole Medal Competition
Putting Competition

Wednesday, 19th August: 18 Hole Medal Competition
(Final Round of 54 Hole Competition)

PRIZE PRESENTATION AT 3.00 p.m.

(Entry in the Tournament Events is open to Full Members of B.I.G.G.A.)

*Accommodation details can be obtained from Ken Bunting - Tel: Little Gaddesden 3359
or Tourists Information Centre 99264511*

ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ COUNTY: _____ POST CODE: _____

GOLF CLUB: _____

SECTION: _____

HANDICAP: _____

- TICK BOX IF ELIGIBLE FOR UNDER 25 CUP
- TICK BOX IF ELIGIBLE FOR COMING OF AGE CUP (Age 60 or over)
- TICK BOX IF REQUIRING TROLLEY

ENTRY FEE: £10.00

(Cheques payable to B.I.G.G.A. to be enclosed with entry form)

**Return to: K. BUNTING, 1 Greenkeepers Cottage, Ashridge Golf Club,
Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1LU**

(CLOSING DATE 30th JUNE, 1987)

RELIABLE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS are not a bargain basement investment says John Lelean

Irrigation systems, like hedgehogs are inclined to winter hibernation, but there the comparison ends. Whereas our spiny friends emerge unscathed and ready for a summer's foraging, the irrigation system is affected from the ravages of the winter and when needed most, suffers the inevitable breakdown.

Now is the time to test the system, ensuring all the sprinklers are working correctly and the underground pipes and electrical controls are functioning to full efficiency.

During the winter months, course maintenance is such, greens, may be reduced in size, the cutting regime is drastically curtailed and sprinkler heads become buried. A complete survey of the whole system is a must during the month of April to avoid unnecessary expense later in the year.

There are few courses in Britain that have not installed at some time an irrigation scheme, though many of the early installations are now out of date compared to the modern computerised schemes available from the major manufacturers.

An update of the existing system or the installation of a completely new one is fraught with danger if care is not taken. Because the irrigation scheme is likely to be one of the largest capital expenditures any course is likely to make, price often becomes critical and there is a tendency for clubs to cut corners and take the cheapest option.

The major suppliers of irrigation schemes have recently formed an Association - The British Turf Irrigation Association, under the chairmanship of Peter Roberts of the Toro Company. Their aim is not only to protect the good name of the irrigation industry

but to maintain the high standards necessary to produce systems which will not only work, but give service throughout the life of the scheme.

In a recent statement a leading manufacturer has criticised the cost conscious attitudes of some green committees for accepting quotations purely on price without regard to the needs of the course. Efficient irrigation is a scientific engineering operation, not something that can be given to the local plumber!

An acquaintance presently working in Tunisia on the development of a new course has discovered this to his cost. Because of the shortage of foreign currency, local materials and labour were used rather than the equipment specified. It does not take much imagination to realise what happened. The pressure required to put sufficient water on the tees, greens and fairways, blew the system. Unfortunately there will be many similar 'cowboy' operations in this country if price is regarded as the dominant factor.

The problem, according to Peter Roberts, is based on the fact that club secretaries and greens committees are not technically aware.

"How can they judge if an automatic watering system is hydraulically sound? How can they tell if underground pipe joints are capable of standing water pressure put through them or that the pumps specified are man enough for the job? The simple answer is that they cannot - yet they are the ultimate decision makers!"

"We are spending more and more of our time improving or up-dating other people's handiwork these days but when we negotiate with clubs seeking their first, new watering

system, we find that the bottom line figure seems to be more important to them than the long term quality of the system!"

"If my designers thought that cheap plastic sprinklers were the answer to a golf club's needs we would specify them. The fact that we do not must surely be significant" he says.

What about the B.T.I.A. standards? we asked. Most golf course watering systems are designed to standards laid down by the Association.

"Yes they are" says Roberts. "But these standards have to be interpreted on a local basis. What is good enough for one club's system is not necessarily good for another. It depends on the course location, soil structure, prevailing winds, existing water resources and other factors like the quality of installation work and subsequent re-instatement". We have a found a recent case where a local council accepted a 'lowest price' quotation - from a local plumber!"

"Club secretaries should view the B.T.I.A. standards as a minimum requirement but experience indicates that although many system designs adhere to these principals they do not take into account local conditions which quite often call for a much higher specification, if the system is to be really efficient. As it is, a lot of systems rely on natural rainfall to get by. When the weather suddenly turns dry over a few weeks the problems become evident as greens become hard and green, turf changes to straw..."

"Unless golf clubs are prepared to look beyond the bottom line figure I'm afraid that quite a few of them are going to end up with just an expensive collection of pipes, pumps and sprinklers".

CAMERON INTRODUCE NEW RAINBIRD RANGE

Cameron, the horticultural, sports turf and amenity division of Wright Rain Ltd., are using a new range of Rainbird products, for which they are the sole U.K. distributor.

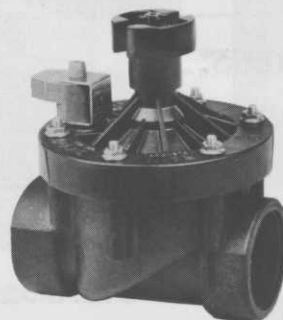
The 95DR valve-in-head electric rotor is ideal for irrigating large turf areas such as football pitches, lawn bowling greens, golf courses and parks. The 95DR combines part and full circle operation capability in one unit, its unique circular or wheel impact drive resulting in a slower and more even rotation speed for longer life. This water lubricated impact sprinkler has a precision moulded power nozzle to maximise radius of throw, while its low 23° angle of trajectory provides superior wind resistance.

PES - ELECTRIC PLASTIC SCRUBBER VALVE

PES scrubber valves are effluent water valves which contain a self-cleaning flow activated scrubber consisting of a stainless steel cylinder screen and a plastic scraper. The scrubber keeps algae, micro-organisms or silt from clogging the valve control ports thus giving trouble free operation in very dirty waters.



Rainbirds new 95DR
Valve in Head
Electric Rotor.



Scrubber Valve keeps algae and silt
from clogging system

PES valves are available in two sizes and can also be ordered with an optional pressure regulating device, the PRS-2 which senses inlet pressure and maintains constant outlet pressure despite fluctuations in mainline pressure. This ensures better sprinkler performance and saves water energy. PES valves have a brass flow control stem and manual on/off capability. PES valves provide brass valve features including high pressure operation at economical plastic valve prices.



Launched in October last year is a new advanced, TW2 computer irrigation controller from Watermation.

This all British designed and made controller has all the advantages of a low cost computer controller. The operation is extremely simple using prominent push buttons and it requires no previous computer knowledge.

The TW2 has been developed by Watermation from their TW1 two wire controller, which has been enormously successful, especially with golf clubs. It is capable of controlling 396 individual irrigation stations, which means it can handle a complete golf course scheme including greens, tees and fairways - all from one unit.

The TW2 will operate four different zones, each zone capable of having four different start times. In practical terms this means that given sufficient water and pumping capacity, four different areas could be operated simultaneously, or, in fact, any combination of areas. The timing, is computer accurate with set times as wide as one minute to ten hours, which makes it suitable for both drip and sprinkler irrigation. It displays "rain" when the rainstat has operated during the night.

This is a flexible, easy to use irrigation system suited to all types of layout, soil, elevation and weather conditions.

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- Unlimited number of manual starts • 7 day operating cycle • No computer language needed!

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ISS Ask Gary Parker for more details - he will be pleased to show you how...

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Sprinklers, the sharp end of a golf course watering system are vitally important to the economics, efficiency and long term viability of your club's investment!
If your club is thinking of installing or improving an existing water system, now is the time to consider the types of sprinklers to be used...

Consider these important points:-

- 1. CORROSION & DAMAGE**
Unlike sprinklers containing corrosive metal working parts, Toro Sprinklers are engineered with hi-tech plastics such as 'Cyclocac'® and 'Delrin'®. This eliminates corrosion whilst making each sprinkler highly resistant to impact damage. (It also saves expensive mower blades from accidental damage!)
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Being gear driven each Toro Sprinkler provides a smooth, uninterrupted working action which enhances water distribution.
- 3. SELF PROTECTION**
The gear drive assembly inside a Toro Sprinkler is lubricant sealed and, therefore, protected from water-borne materials such as particles of sand. This ensures the gears work smoothly and helps reduce maintenance.
- 4. WET SPOTS**
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- 5. INDIVIDUAL CONTROL**
The valves also enable greens staff to use sprinklers individually - applying larger or smaller amounts of water on selected parts of the course...
- 6. EASE OF MAINTENANCE**
Toro Sprinklers are designed to make servicing simple. Repairs can be carried out on the spot - no need to take the sprinkler away to a workbench!
- 7. IMPROVED WARRANTIES**
Toro now offer increased Warranty protection for large size sprinklers - in some instances these have been given twice the length of validity - there's confidence!
- 8. WHO USES TORO SPRINKLERS?**
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- South & South West Irrigation Slurry Services, Downton, Wilts. Tel: 0725-20377
- Midlands, North, Scotland & Wales
Turf Irrigation Services, Sandbach. Tel: 04775-255

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SECTIONAL News

SOUTH COAST

Hon. Sec: J. R. Dennis,
Hampshire College of Agriculture,
Sparsholt, Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 2NF.
Telephone: (096) 272441 Ext. 288.

For the Section's last winter lecture held in March, members had the pleasure of Geoff Yelland, Technical Manager for Rigby Taylor. Geoff showed a number of slides on turf diseases and also talked on the new pesticides legislation. Our thanks Geoff, for ending our winter programme of lectures and thanks also to Mark Wilton for his assistance.

The Section's A.G.M. was then held with the Secretary giving the Annual Report and Financial statement.

A report on the Section's Tournaments during 1986 was given, and a report from the Board of Management by our Chairman, Eric James.

I am also pleased to report that the vacancy of Tournament Organiser has been filled by Mr. Joe Burdett. Joe volunteered his services and in the absence of any other nominations was unanimously elected. Our thanks to Joe for taking on this job, and we look forward to meeting you at our various Tournaments and Meetings. For information, Joe is Hon. Secretary of the National Association of Public Golf Courses and joined the Section last year.

A tournament in which members can represent their Section is planned for later in the year. This is the Annual Match against the South West Section. The venue will be HIGH POST GOLF CLUB and the date is September 3rd, 1987.

Members who would like to take part in this tournament are invited to let Joe Burdett know, so that team selection can be spread among the Section's membership.

Details for the Spring Tournament are:- Venue: Stoneham Golf Club
Date: Thursday, May 28th, 1987

Competition: 36 Hole Medal Competition

Members wishing to play only 18 holes will be entered in a 18 hole Medal Competition.

Members aged over 50 can also compete for the Nita Stimson Trophy.

The entry fee is £8.50 per person (cheques and postal orders to be made payable to the B.G.G.A. South Coast Section).

Members who intend to play should send in a written entry, **giving name and address and their current handicap**, together with the **entry fee**. Please also state whether you wish to enter the 36 or 18 Hole Medal Competition, and the Nita Stimson Trophy.

**Entries to: Mr. Joe Burdett,
948 Castle Lane East,
Bournemouth BH7 6SP
(Tel. No: 0202 483017)**

to arrive not later than the 18th May.

Will trade members requiring meals also contact Joe by that date.

PLEASE NOTE:

No late entries will be accepted.

SHEFFIELD

Hon. Sec: G. Brammah,
302 Redmires Road,
Lodge Moor, Sheffield S10.
Telephone: (0742) 302526

As we emerge from the cold winter months we look forward to what promises to be a milder spring than of recent years. So, with the long hot summer days in mind, the Section enjoyed an excellent and informative talk given by Watermation's Service Manager - Mr. Jack Wheeler. Armed with a table full of equipment he demonstrated the workings and maintenance of various items including sprinklers, valves and controllers. Mr. Wheeler's presentation was practical and workmanlike, encompassing design, installation and fault finding and we look forward to a future visit perhaps on pump design and maintenance. Thank you again Watermation for your support.

Attendance at the winter lectures has been very good and I am sure the summer's golf events will be well supported, however there must still be some greenkeepers who are not members of the Association. So, come on you Head Greenkeepers encourage all your staff to join and support the new Association -

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!

Our April visit will be to Bingley Research Institute on 1st April.

CLEVELAND

Hon. Ass. Sec: Roger Shaw,
12 Bede Terrace, Ferryhill,
Co. Durham DL17 8AJ

Our thanks go to Allan and Dale from Gills, the Massey Ferguson dealers, who gave us a very interesting lecture using video's about the various tractor ranges from the compact to the larger machines.

The video on the 3000 series drew a lot of attention featuring the Auto-tronic and Datatronic range of tractors, showing that not in the too distant future computerisation will reach most greenkeeping machinery.

Also in February we had a lecture from Mr. Graham Munroe of Burtts & Harvey featuring two video's which are probably very well known now, which helped a little to explain the complex problems that will be encountered with the new Pesticide Act. After the lecture, the jokes told from one table to another could be the subject for one lecture on its own!!

By the time you read this the seminar at Houghall College will have been held. There are over fifty greenkeepers chairmen and secretaries already booked so it seems as if there will be a good attendance.

The Spring Tournament is being organised along with our usual summer matches, details will be published later. So please make the effort to enter for these events, please contact either myself or Roger Shaw for your availability, otherwise what is a solid social side of our Section will founder.

MIDLANDS

Hon. Sec: Steve Wood
37 Holford Avenue,
Bescot, Walsall
Telephone: (0922) 611380

Fixtures for 1987 Golf Tournaments are as follows:-

Spring Tournament, Robin Hood G.C.
May 14th

Summer Tournament, Ladbroke Park G.C.
July 1st

Autumn Tournament, Brocton G.C.
September 21st

Christmas Tournament, Lilleshall G.C.
December 7th

The match against the Mid-Anglia Section will be played as an away fixture this year at Berkhamsted G.C. on July 9th.

Entry forms for golf tournaments will be sent out by Arnold Phipps-Jones.

The lecture scheduled to be given by Watermation in January at Moor Hall Golf Club was cancelled due to bad weather, when our speaker was unable to attend, however the members who did arrive spent a pleasant evening watching videos of our golf tournaments.

We were more successful with our February lecture with a good attendance by members to hear Mr. Dennis Mottram of Reaseheath College of Agriculture, Cheshire talk about Man Management and Health and Safety. Our thanks are extended to Moor Hall Golf Club for the use of their clubhouse.

Our Section Committee met on Wednesday, March 11th to discuss the formation of B.I.G.G.A. and how it will affect the Midland Section as we know it.

SEMINAR SUCCESS

The Seminar at Houghall College was a great success, thanks to Jack Macmillan for chairing the seminar and to the various speakers, and also to all the greenkeepers who travelled from all over the region from as far as Alnwick and Carlisle to show that we are on the way to achieving a more united association. I am sure that those who did not attend missed a very educational and informative day. It is hoped to hold it again next year.

A total of 68 greenkeepers, chairmen attended.

Future Dates:

June - Billingham

July - Dartington

August - Eaglescliffe

September - Brancepeth

Actual dates are to be confirmed

Spring Tournament

Saltburn Golf Club,

Guisborough Road,

Guisborough

Tee off 1.00 p.m. Monday April 27th
Please arrive early

Bill Matthews, Superintendent,
Parks & Gardens,
Thanet District Council, Kent.

Geoff Sadler, Head Groundsman,
Talbooth Hotel & Restaurant, Essex.

David Jones, Superintendent,
Parks & Gardens, City of London.

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David Jones said, “Floranid cut leaching to a minimum so we needed fewer applications. We used it on a wide range of areas including raised shrub and flower beds.”

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

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FORTHCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENTS

<p>APRIL 16 St. Mellion G.C. (Welsh) 27 Saltburn G.C. (Clev) 30 Moor Allerton G.C. (Rufford Top Dress Invitation)</p> <p>MAY 14 Robin Hood G.C. (Mid) 20 Vitax Tournament Ferndown G.C. 21 Bury G.C. (N.W.) 28 Stoneham G.C. (S.C.)</p> <p>JUNE 3 Keighley G.C. (Northern) 16 Horsforth G.C. (Northern) 17 Arkley G.C. (Mid Anglia) 18 Southerndown G.C. (Welsh)</p>	<p>JULY 1 Ladbroke Park G.C. (Mid) 9 Berkhamsted G.C. (Mid Anglia versus Midlands) 13 Welwyn Garden City G.C. (Mid Anglia) 16 Lee on Solent G.C. (S.C.) 22 Saddleworth G.C. (Roses Match)</p> <p>AUGUST 17-18-19 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT Verulam Golf Club</p> <p>SEPT. 3 High Post G.C. (S.C.) 21 Brocton G.C. (Mid) 23 Woodlands G.C. (Mid Anglia) 24 Cowdray Park G.C. (S.C.)</p>
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Contact Sectional Secretaries for entry forms

DEVON & CORNWALL

Hon. Sec: Bill Pile,
 33 Knowle Drive,
 Exwick, Exeter EX4 2DF.
 Telephone: 214053

Once again without the benefit of yours truly the section managed to come together for our penultimate meeting of the season at St. Enodoc G.C.

I am reliably informed the course was in superb condition with weather to match. Two trophies were in contention and the results were as follows:

May & Baker Assistants Shield

1st P. Newcombe (Exeter G.C.) (1)	34 pts.
2nd A. Woolnough (Teignmouth G.C.) (12)	12 pts.
3rd J. Parr (Exeter G.C.) (5)	33 pts.

Supaturf Cup (For Head Greenkeepers & Trade)

1st G. Hargrave (Sidmouth G.C.) (16)	37 pts.
2nd M. Pike (Elfordleigh G.C.) (18)	31 pts.
3rd R. Battisill (St. Mellion G.C.) (16)	30 pts.

I have been asked to thank Stuart Dymond, the head greenkeeper, for giving the non-golfers an informative tour of the course and a first class history lesson.

After a sumptuous lunch the afternoon was taken up by an update of the progress of the B.I.G.G.A. from Gordon Child and a general discussion.

I would like to conclude by congratulating Richard Wisdom of Okehampton Golf Club on gaining a distinction in his City and Guilds exam at Bicton College.

SECTION SECRETARIES

The Editor would appreciate all items for the Sectional News Pages for inclusion in the May issue to be submitted not later than 18th April.

Please give details of Golf Events to be published in the **TOURNAMENT DIARY**

The Scottish Sections are also invited to submit details.

ROMAN CITY VENUE FOR FIRST BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Mid Anglia Section of BIGGA are pleased to welcome members to Verulam Golf Club for the Annual Tournament over 54 holes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 17, 18, 19th August.

The Verulam Golf Club is situated just outside St. Albans, the Roman city of Verulamium.

The Catuvellauni Tribe had a 'oppidum' or settlement at Prae Wood extending down the hill to the banks of the River Ver.

The original timber fort built by the Romans, around which the first town grew, was destroyed in Boudicca's Revolt in A.D. 60-61, but afterwards the town was rebuilt in grand style.

In 1905, the Verulam Golf Club was opened. Among the early members was Samuel Ryder, the St. Albans Corn-Merchant who presented the Ryder Cup for the professional golfers of Gt. Britain and U.S.A. to compete for bi-annually.

While the Course measures just under 6,400 yards, the 71 S.S.S. is a fine test and many of the approach shots to the Par 4 holes need to be

played with a degree of precision if a good score is to be achieved. Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Smith, and his thoroughly competent staff, provide excellent greens - always a pleasure to play on.

Most of the Green Staff are keen golfers and very hard to beat, especially when a friendly wager is at stake on the outcome.

Hotel accommodation and Guest Houses are plentiful in and around St. Albans. A list of addresses and approximate cost has been compiled and is available from Tournament Organiser, Ken Bunting, Telephone: Little Gaddesden 3359 or write to the address (to be found on Entry Form), or contact the Tourist Information Centre, 37 Chequer Street, St. Albans, Herts. - Telephone: 99264511.

The centre of London can be reached by car or train in minutes and a wide range of entertainment is available with very little travel.

It is intended to hold a Dinner on Tuesday evening, 18th August, and further details will follow.

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GOLF CLUB SIGNAGE

WOODBlast SIGNS, Lower Standen Hey, Whalley Road, Clitheroe, Lancs. BB7 1PP. Tel: (0200) 22156. Signage with a difference. Quality, plus distinctive and unusual character. Tee signs showing hole layout. Prestige entrance signage with club name and golfer silhouette. Information and direction signs, etc. etc. COLOUR BROCHURE.

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David Bell Limited, Eastfield Industrial Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian. Tel: (0968) 78480.

Mommersteeg International, Station Road, Finedon, Wellingborough, Northants NN9 5NT. Tel: Wellingborough (0933) 680674. Telex: 311234.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

Cameron, St. Richard's Road, Four Pools Industrial Estate, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6DP. Tel: Evesham (0386) 49341 Telex: 334141

Wright Rain Ltd, Flordon Road, Newton Flotman, Norwich, Norfolk NR15 1QX. Tel: Norwich (0508) 470402 Telex: 975015

Wright Rain Ltd, Bank Head, Medway, Sighthill Industrial Estate, Edinburgh, Scotland EH11 4BY. Tel: (031) 453 4789

Wright Rain Ltd, Unit 3D3, Thorp Arch Trading Estate, Boston Spa, Wetherby, Yorks. LS23 7BJ. Tel: Wetherby (0937) 845788

Cameron Irrigation, a Division of Wright Rain Ltd., Harwood Industrial Estate, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 7BA. Tel: (09064) 3985. Telex: 877483.

Par 4 Irrigation, Ash Grove Industrial Estate, Ash Grove, Ripon, N. Yorks. Tel: Ripon (0765) 2175. Supply, installation and servicing on automatic irrigation systems. Contact: E. B. Simms or L. Oyston.

Sports Ground Irrigation Co., 'Hereward Lodge', Paget Road, Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leics. Tel: (0858) 63153. Contact: Mr. M. D. Walker.

T. & G. Turf Irrigation Services, 8 Whitcliffe Grove, Ripon, North Yorks. Tel: (0765) 2941.

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Toro Irrigation Ltd., Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 3SD. Tel: Ringwood 6261/2.

Watermation Ltd., Monument Way East, Woking, Surrey GU21 5LY. Tel: Woking (04862) 70303. Supply and installation of golf course irrigation.

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