

JULY 1983

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The Official Magazine of S.I.G.G.A. & E.I.G.G.A.



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This Issue

JULY 1983

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And now you've got to believe us!

This month sees *Greenkeeper* pass another milestone in its short history, assuring that our claim of being the number one magazine in the golf-greenkeeping industry is no idle boast.

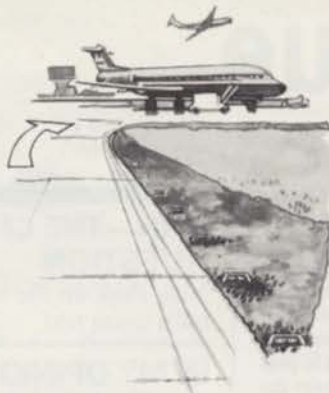
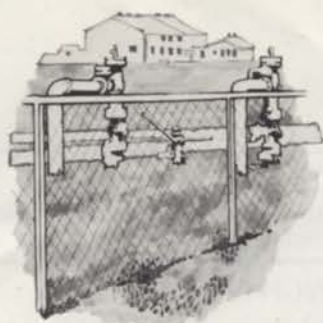
Greenkeeper's circulation has just passed 3,000 copies per issue, significantly more than any other journal. This ensures that advertisers, which are the lifeblood of the magazine, can enjoy the largest readership in the golf course maintenance market by advertising in *Greenkeeper*.

The increase in circulation is no accident. We are particularly pleased by the increase in the membership of both SIGGA and EIGGA and both associations agree that being able to offer an INDEPENDENT magazine as part of the membership package has attracted many recruits to their ranks.

We shall continue with the policy of producing a variety of editorial, which we trust will be informative, entertaining and, occasionally when the need arises, controversial.

Greenkeeper takes this opportunity to thank all readers for their continued support, interest and encouragement in the belief that, through the magazine's pages, we shall bring together more and more greenkeepers with the aim of promoting the profession and the industry in general.

No 1 Greenkeeper



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After extensive research, Nicholas Park—Lindrick's chairman of greens committee—analyses...

Spin—the critical question

ANYONE involved in golf course management, particularly a head greenkeeper or chairman of green committee, spends a good deal of time receiving uninformed criticism. I know from my own experience that comments are mainly uninformed because the member(s) concerned does not appreciate the problems that have to be faced in daily course management. He simply comes once or twice a week to play his golf and socialise in the bar; he cannot—will not—give more than a few moments thought to a reasoned judgement of the state of the course. Usually, it all boils down to how many putts he holes in his round. I have seen people putt well on greens that were as true as the average domestic lawn, yet come off proclaiming the wonders of the course.

For those of us who have followed the Jim Arthur school of thought over the past few years, the dilemma has been even more acute. Not for us the magic of the fertiliser bag or instant heavy watering. Only a long, hard slog towards achieving a turf sward that sometimes never seems to come any nearer. And we suffer attacks of the condition so unfairly—but aptly—known as *Arthuritidis*; fierce arguments on and off the course are daily problems.

My own ordeal of fire came to a head during the Martini tournament at Lindrick last year. Just three years of maximum aeration, minimum fertilising and watering had produced a marked swing back to *festuca/agrostis* turf on both greens and fairways. Some way to go to perfection, but nevertheless a dramatic swing that had dealt a severe blow to the prophets of doom who attended our initial decision to 'go with Arthur'.

The Martini, in early May, is always the first major tournament in Britain every year, because that is when Martini reckon to get maximum publicity. But it is not an easy one to prepare for—is any tournament?—particularly with a severe winter and six weeks of drought before the event. Thanks to Messrs Arthur and Duston and our young, hard-working staff we produced the inevitable result—a

firm, fast course with true greens that resembled in every respect a seaside links course in a hot July.

This was a great shock to the majority of the field, returning from the soft, target courses of France, Tunisia, Japan, etc, and rather a pleasant one to some of the older, more experienced players. It was noticeable that many of the younger players became completely lost as yardage charts proved almost irrelevant in such bouncy conditions.

And so we return to my initial point about uninformed criticism—for complaints abounded from those unable to cope and these were reflected by the Press, with several people who should know better making some rather thoughtless comments. There were positive opinions, as well. The late Pat Ward-Thomas was intrigued by the course, but it seems that bad news is always more sensational than good news these days.



One retired greenkeeper, who wrote to our secretary from Devon after the event, was in no doubt about the controversy: "It was a pleasure to see a club that has the courage to produce real greens instead of the bogs that are called greens on many courses today," he said.

However, I did not spend my time at the Martini attempting to educate good golfers about the glories of true links golf. I sat in the stands and watched a good deal of the play, recorded much of it on video and then went home to have a good think about all that had happened.

Two points emerged from my analysis and they are both extremely thought-provoking.

First, many of the players clearly believed they had got a raw deal in that the course was relatively unwatered and, thus, in their eyes, unplayable. Yet Jim Arthur had been on the course the week before and not only sanctioned the policy, he even chided us for overwatering some greens! So, ecologically, there was no

question but that we were doing the right thing—the golfers, who know little of such restraints wanted water to make playing conditions easier.

The second point is that the best players did manage to control the ball round the course—not all the time certainly, but if they were on the fairway and then hit a good iron shot on to the green, they were rewarded with a large amount of 'check' on the ball. With the short irons, the ball would stop dead after one bounce, with longer irons the bite was evident on about the third bounce. Fortunately, I have many examples of this phenomenon on video, so it is not a point to be argued about.

The conclusion was that a good player could control the ball round the course with accurate placement from tee to green. Once into semi-rough, all control of the ball was lost and many professionals did not seem to grasp this fact. They expected to find a watered green ready to hold a shot from anywhere and since we refused on ecological grounds to water to that extent, their hopes were somewhat optimistic.

Now all this is not intended as a defence of what happened at Lindrick over a year ago, though, in part, it will appear to be. Primarily, it is an attempt at serious analysis of a major problem—the snap judgement of a course by all golfers of whatever ability. And at a major tournament, snap judgements are made very public by a media always hungry for controversy—or, at least, an invigorating dose of criticism! Anyone would be upset at the sort of criticism we had to undergo at the Martini, but the majority of our members and particularly the committee and captain were firm in their support and, significantly, I am still chairman of the green committee.

Eventually, there comes a time when a considered reply should be made to those who talk first and (maybe) think later. If we are ever to sort out the current confusion that exists in golfers' minds about course management, it is painfully obvious that large sections of the Press must be educated about the fundamental

Continued overleaf...

relationship between the golf ball and golf turf. And I stress the word educate, for confrontations of the type seen recently in a national golf magazine are as unhelpful as they are distasteful. We all want the same thing—a thriving, healthy and enjoyable British game of golf, but we will not get it if we continually allow vested interests to interfere for commercial gain.

As an amateur golfer and ordinary club member, I have no vested interest in anything but the ideal stated above. My own living comes from a profession entirely unrelated to golf and my analysis of course management is, thus, truly independent and as objective as possible.

It is, I would hope, not contested that golf began on links turf, which was a *festuca/agrostis* sward. I think most people in this country now either play golf on a *poa-annua* dominated sward or *festuca/agrostis* sward. Probably the great majority play on the former, but whatever the situation, one thing is now abundantly clear—trying to put across the arguments for one type of turf or another is a difficult and time-consuming business—with good and bad golfers alike. If, on the other hand, club golfers can be confronted with golfing concepts to stimulate interest, there is a much better chance of success in putting across ideals of course management.

After the 1982 Martini, I started delving into the physics of ball control to discover how golfers put so much spin on the ball and why it should act on turf that was as dry and firm as Lindrick's was that week. I quickly realised that few golfers understand the mechanics of golf ball control and even fewer the relationship between ball and turf.

A good deal of work has been done on the ballistics of golf ball flight*. But if we know a good deal of how the ball behaves in the air, we seem to know little in the vital area of its behaviour when impacting upon turf. There seems to be an inherent assumption in the physicist's mind that turf is turf is turf; he might perhaps concede a distinction between hard turf and soft turf, but the ecological consequences of such a distinction certainly do not enter his calculations.

Thus, I shall briefly describe some pertinent facts about the ballistics of ball control, in the knowledge that they are well researched and proven. I shall then go on to expound my own theories of ball control related to turf,



Nick Park lines up with Peter Thomson and Maurice Bembridge before a pro-am.

which have come about from a mixture of practical observation, mathematical theory and botanical fact. This area of ball control is in urgent need of more research and discussion for it has great implications on the question of course design; it also seems increasingly odd that the authorities willingly legislate for implements and balls (i.e. ballistics) but ignore the question of playing surface conditions (terristics?)

So, let us start with a few basics of ball control. A ball is hit with a clubhead and the momentum of the clubhead is forcibly transferred to the ball. The ball is given momentum and spin, both measures of energy that need to be controlled if the ball is to go to the desired resting place. They are still present in large amounts when the ball strikes turf, so it is necessary to consider their behaviour both in the air and on the ground. It is not possible to consider one in isolation from the other for their effects are interrelated.

Behaviour in the air

Momentum is the product of the ball mass times its velocity—it gets the ball from A to B and is continually reduced through its flight by air resistance and gravity. It is a relatively easy factor to judge in the air and professional golfers make use of this fact with their yardage charts. A good enough golfer is so repetitive with his shots that average values for club distance become meaningful when trying to calculate carry to the pin. But this depends very much on the state of the ground, for 'average' carry

distances become increasingly meaningless in bouncy conditions.

Spin is a much more difficult factor to control in the air, as we are all well aware. It is important to remember that there are really four components of spin, namely hook, slice, topspin and backspin. Golfers will talk for hours about hooks and slices or their cause. Grip, swing, stance, etc, are all analysed in detail and the great teachers of the game are those with the most lucid explanations of these related phenomena.

Topspin and backspin are the neglected components, or at least backspin certainly is. Topspin has little relevance to our discussion, for it is essentially the sign of a totally mis-hit shot that does not get off the ground properly. It is an important spin in many other sports, for example tennis.

Backspin is imparted to the ball by every club in the bag except (usually) the putter. It is created by a complex physical reaction, which involves the impact of a moving inclined plane with a stationary sphere. In practical terms, the greater the loft of the club, the more backspin will be imparted. Even for an average golfer, the rates of spin are impressive, varying from 3500 rpm with a driver to over 10,000 rpm with more lofted clubs. Some 75 per cent of this spin still remains when the ball hits the turf.

In the air, backspin helps to keep the ball aloft by providing a lift force known as the Magnus effect. Without backspin, the ball would still go in the air—the loft of the club sees to that—but it would come down much sooner.

To further increase help from backspin, we allow ourselves one vital aid—dimples, which 'roughen' the surface of the ball and 'grip' the air even more effectively. This principle first became obvious with the guttie ball, which did not fly properly until it had been hacked about for a time. Dimples additionally reduce the amount of drag the ball experiences in the air due to a reduction in the so-called Reynolds' number.

The important thing to realise is that any moderately hit shot—even sliced or hooked—has a great deal of backspin on it or it would not get into the air at all. The degree of backspin is maximised if the ball is hit from a tight lie, such as found on tees and fairways. If blades of grass come between club and ball, far less backspin is induced (topspin is certainly not generated, as some players imagine) and the ball runs on further than expected, usually to cries of "bad luck," etc, etc.

Behaviour on the ground

The ball now experiences its second impact when it hits the ground. Each bounce is a further impact on a lesser scale than the initial impact. This impact with an object much larger than itself—planet Earth—has been little researched and largely ignored by golfers and physicists alike. Indeed, it seems increasingly odd to me that we should give so much attention to the impact that starts the ball and so little to the one that stops it!

Gravitational and frictional forces reduce the momentum of the ball to zero, i.e. they bring it to rest. Noise and heat are generated in small quantities, but it is deformation of the turf that is the most obvious result of the ball's impact. And it is a variable result, for turf itself is variable in consistency and type.

By consistency, I mean degree of hardness or softness, which is in theory controlled by moisture content. In physical terms, this is known as degree of elasticity and determines the bounce of the ball. Any ball dropped on to a surface will rebound from it, but not to the same height. Some loss of energy occurs during the impact of the ball on the surface, with the result that the velocity with which the ball rebounds from the surface is less than that with which it hits it. In physics, this is known as the coefficient of restitution and is given the letter

$e = \frac{\text{velocity of separation}}{\text{velocity of approach}}$ = coefficient of restitution.

Watering a green—by rainfall or sprinkler—affects this coefficient of restitution as related to the ball. Turf that is soft will absorb momentum easily, turf that is hard will not. Or so theory predicts.

However, the theory must also take account of the fact that the ball is spinning. On a wet, soft green of whatever turf, this does not matter for the ball comes to rest quickly and sometimes may not even move out of its pitchmark. It is easy to control a ball hit on to a soft green and this is the basis of target golf. But a dry, hard green is an entirely different matter. It is now that we must distinguish between different turf types and how they behave when dry.

We must consider the two types of turf that are found in this country—*festuca/agrostis* and *poa annua*. The former is frequently found in the dry state, for it is not subjected to heavy artificial watering. That is to say, in a period of drought it can safely be allowed to dry out without fear of dying. In its dry state, it is receptive to backspin, which can be used to control momentum by acting as a brake (this was the evidence from the 1982 Martini). In other words, dry *festuca/agrostis* turf is *not* hard—it has a degree of resilience or elasticity that partially absorbs momentum while still allowing spin to take frictional effect. This resilience is probably due to the living fibrous mat or sole, which is present in such turf even when it is dry.



However, dry *poa annua* behaves very differently, for by definition it must be dead or dying—it has no living fibrous layer. Indeed, if thatch is present to any great extent this layer is very thick and very dead. But when have you ever seen dry *poa annua* turf? Only when it is being deliberately dried out to produce a swing back to *festuca/agrostis*. The momentum of the ball is not absorbed rapidly and spin does not take effect. This is the golfing penalty of Arthritis that club members find so hard to accept—a surface that behaves almost like concrete in its dry state. Of course, as soon as rain comes along the grumbles subside, but this does not really relieve the greenkeeper for it helps to keep the *poa annua* going! In fact, to break out

of this vicious circle becomes a nightmare to which too many clubs give in after a year or two of struggle.

But give in to what? Usually to any commercial cowboy waiting in the wings with the (inevitably expensive) instant panacea—the fertiliser specially designed for the club golfer, the sand green, etc, etc.

Will we ever learn? There is no quick and easy way to maintain a golf course and no particularly cheap way either. But all the magic solutions currently available point to one thing—a soft *poa annua* dominated green that forces target golf on to club members whether they like it or not. And on our shortish British courses what a flattering game this is, played from bog to bog. Yet, most club golfers put up with it, for over the last 20 years they have never had the chance to play differently. How many genuine *festuca/agrostis* swards have you come across in the country recently? I have visited over 250 courses throughout Britain since 1979 and have come across few.

It is, therefore, easy for commercial interests to confuse golfers and greenkeepers about the possibilities of playing on such turf, though to be fair I suspect that the majority of these commercial interests are utterly confused themselves. Until we all genuinely understand the physics of the game, this confusion will always exist.

So, we have a complete generation of golfers who have been brought up in this country on target golf. We tell them that *poa annua* is not viable financially and ecologically—and we are increasingly proved right—but on the long journey back to *festuca/agrostis* this wretched period of Arthritis intervenes. Only gradually will the turf go through this barrier and often the club golfer cries wolf before this can happen.

It is, therefore, encouraging that a few clubs are making this breakthrough back to *festuca/agrostis* turf and proving that correct application of ecological principles will always work. Maximum aeration, minimum fertilising and watering are the aims, but the rate of progress to the ideal will depend on how severe are the withdrawal symptoms you can endure on your way back. And most club constitutions—in both senses of the phrase—can only stand the symptoms for a year or two.

If we are all to have the time or breathing space to return to *festuca/agrostis*, the golfer must believe that

Continued on page 31...

In My Opinion

GUY CATCHPOLE

Guy Catchpole is the marketing director of Ransomes grass machinery division.

I SUPPOSE in many ways it is appropriate writing this article while on holiday in the home of golf Scotland, as it has to cover some of my opinions on golf and greenkeeping.

We stay in Golspie (some 80 miles north of Inverness) and play the 18-hole course by the sea. The course offers links golf, as well as a few holes more reminiscent of my home club Woodbridge. The fairways are more lush than normal on a links course, as soil is blown on to it from adjoining fields—not a very high fertiliser bill I imagine!

From Golspie, we moved down to St Andrews and played (tried to) the Jubilee and Old Course. Walter Woods has things well in hand after his eight years in control. His golf, as usual, is excellent.

One of our four, Bill Farquharson of Frews of Scotland, was even pressured into holing out in one at the 11th! After St Andrews, we have driven (in the car!) down to Gatehouse of Fleet on the Solway, where we will enjoy the challenges and views of the excellent nine-hole course.

To reach the 1st tee is, in itself, a challenge if you are not in reasonable condition. The first eight holes are played on a hilly plateau, the 9th being off a cliff into a valley. I have learnt that wiser locals, having reached the upper levels, play round



and do not play the 1st and 9th until they finish. The same is the practice at New Galloway.

A holiday such as this makes me realise what differing demands there are on the greenkeeping fraternity, who have to keep these courses in top-class condition. Whether it is nine holes, 18 holes or the 72 holes at St Andrews, whether the budget is large or small, the same standards are expected and the same criticisms levelled. It is the course that is all important to the British golfer, not the frills and furbelows of the clubhouse and its environs.

If the course is of prime importance, why is there not more planning and thought put into its running, as it is the major source of revenue for the club? In the last 20 years, I have seen a change in this respect, but not on as broad a basis as I would like.

In business, we cannot live from day to day or whim to whim. We have to plan forward and we have to have objectives. With the way most club committees are elected, changes of green committees and their chairmen every few years mean a lack of continuity in planning.

The club treasurer is usually a continuing appointment, why not the green committee chairman? This would at least avoid one of the problems for greenkeepers—a constant change in direction. You may be thinking, "but my club does have a permanent chairman" or "we report to the club secretary or manager." Perhaps you are the exception not the rule. In any case, I have to ride my particular hobby horse, which applies to any golf course however it is controlled.

Club committees usually include members who feel they must leave their mark on the course. They have to change a tee or a bunker or even implement some major redesign

Continued on page 11...

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In My Opinion Continued...

project. Design, as with greenkeeping, is a job for the qualified and our architects have trained for years to qualify, as have the experts in construction. To ensure we have planned work on the course, objectives are *essential*.

Talking to Walter Woods at St Andrews, he made it clear that he has been planning for the 1984 Open for years. At some holes, we played off the championship tees. I commented that most courses protect their back tees, but Walter replied that professional golfers demand a firm stance and the best way to give this is to give the areas regular use. It made me wonder if we are over protective of our medal tees!

So, what about these objectives? Well, they are part and parcel of the greenkeeper's or superintendent's job in America. They cover total concept of the course, tees, fairways, approaches, greens, semi rough, rough, bunkers, trees and shrubs, environs of the clubhouse, staffing, machinery and sprinkler system, machinery maintenance, control of rabbits, etc, and budgets for a year, three years or five years.

Let's look at a few of these headings. First, the total concept of the course. It will either be links, heathland or parkland or, as at Golspie, an interesting mixture. The original concept should, of course, be maintained in all the following headings. These would include the type of turf and height of fairway cutting, as well as the flora and fauna. For instance, rhododendrons are hardly in keeping with a links course. At St Andrews, competitors are going to have to play the Open on true links conditions—let's hope the weather also plays its part.

Fairways should have their objectives listed—retention of natural grasses; height of cut; the programme for expected maintenance—spiking and top dressing. Any reconstruction, such as returfing, is also detailed and as each task is completed, it is marked as an objective met. Others will be added as necessary.

Objectives for bunkers would include consistency of sand type. Maintenance should include sweeping tops where sand has been splashed out (either after raking by hand or mechanically). Work on individual

bunkers, such as refacing, would be listed.

Now to the inevitable machinery—where considerable advances have been made in the last 15 years. This has, in part, been due to the increase in labour costs and low availability of labour, as well as course wear due to more play. Greater usage has also cut down on available maintenance time. It is a good idea when purchasing any piece of mechanical equipment to consider the following:

Capability of the machine

- Will it cope with all parts of the course? (Demonstrations do not always last long enough to get to that difficult corner at the far end.)
- If a grass cutting machine, will it cope with all types of growth, wet and dry grass?
- Is it going to be reliable?
- Is it easy to maintain?

Pricing

- What is the total price/cost in use? (Most manufacturers supply cost of usage information, but basis of calculation needs checking.)
- What is the cost of general spares and wearing parts in particular?

The supplier's standing

- Importance of continuity of supply and service.
- Involvement of supplier and/or manufacturer in golf market.
- Ability of supplier to give service and operation instruction.

Finally, does the purchase fit into the long-term plan for replacement machinery or is it a new purchase?

My view regarding objectives is that they are essential to the running of a course and it is an area where greenkeepers can take a lead. It is a language the majority of committee members will understand and appreciate.

Communication and public relations between the greens staff and golfers is also a neglected area. I will

remember a young head greenkeeper from Leicestershire telling me he put on the club notice board an apology and an explanation why he was top dressing the greens, hollow tining the fairways and so on. I was impressed! Whatever the job we have to work constantly at getting on with each other.

The final area to which I will refer is the new association for greenkeepers (EIGGA). I suppose the split was inevitable and I can appreciate some of the reasons for the break. With rising costs, it is very difficult for the various institutes, associations and societies to keep going. Realistic membership fees are looked at critically and if a benefit commensurate to the cost is not seen, problems quickly develop.

We now have three associations connected with greenkeeping in the UK. For the number of possible members and the number of golf courses, this is too many, both in my personal view and that of many others. Some form of collaboration in the coming months (I hope not years) is essential.

When the initial association was formed, a great deal of work was put in by the late Mr Hawtree and subsequently by his son Fred. I am pleased to think Ransomes and other suppliers to the golf course market, as well as the Golf Unions, other bodies and individuals, have also given their help. Too many associations will fragment this support and weaken the aim for better training and opportunities for all greenkeepers.

I hope someone will take up the challenge to get the leaders of the groups together before the next International Greenkeepers and Golf Superintendents Tournament and Conference, which will be held in Scotland in 1985.

Perhaps a worldwide body and exchange of views can be finalised then from a strong integrated UK team of management, whatever the base from which it operates.

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Out On The Course

HILLSIDE

John Campbell meets George Lloyd, head greenkeeper at Hillside
—one of this year's final qualifying courses for the Open.



George Lloyd, head greenkeeper at Hillside.

MOST golfers who know Lancashire's courses would agree that Hillside is a firm favourite—it has never been overawed by its near neighbour and Open Championship venue Royal Birkdale. Hillside has long been an automatic choice for the qualifying rounds of the Open because it is one of the premier links along that natural strip of golfing country.

The course is a fine test of golf blessed with a great variety of challenging holes and the interesting character of the layout places a premium on accuracy and skill. It is a popular and busy club throughout the year and the course is always kept in immaculate condition by an enthusiastic and hard-working team of greenkeepers under the experienced leadership of George Lloyd.

George is a keen family man with two sons—Stephen, nine and Graham, six—and his wife Sheila has recently presented him with a daughter Hazel. He is a Southport man born and bred and has the natural intuition and sharp perception of a shrewd greenkeeper who knows every blade of grass on his course. The tanned complexion, powerful frame and loping stride reveal the character of a man who has walked many miles behind a mower and is used to marching over the undulating links of his native heath in all kinds of wind and weather.

He started in greenkeeping at Ormskirk Golf Club and after four years there he moved to Hillside to work under the supervision of Ted McAvoy, head greenkeeper at that time. George acknowledges that he owes much to Ted for his help and guidance in all aspects of golf-course management. After the death of Ted McAvoy in 1972, George was offered the opportunity to take over as head greenkeeper and he soon justified the club's confidence in him by demonstrating his ability.

George has a staff of five greenkeepers and one part-timer to care for the Hillside course. He is a

Spends time organising the work programme

methodical man, who likes to spend his time organising and supervising the work programme to ensure that everything gets done. He lists engineering among his hobbies and likes tinkering about with cars. He finds this talent very useful for there are few days when some mechanical ability is not called for to deal with running repairs and generally keep the cylinder blades turning!

Jobs such as weedkilling, fungicide treatment, etc, he prefers to do himself or supervise personally. George considers safety on golf courses is something that must be

instilled into every member of the staff.

During an inspection by a local health and safety officer, he was advised to have an on/off switch fitted to the handles of all hand machines to comply with safety regulations.

Every year, Hillside uses about 150 tons of compost for top dressing, filling divot marks on tees and fairways and other essential jobs. There is a specially built shed area for the 'compost factory' and plenty of room to move around with a tractor and trailer.

Like many modern greenkeepers, George feels his tee spaces are not large enough to cope with an ever-increasing amount of play and he is constantly adding to the tees on his course. At the 5th and 9th, he has just completed large tee construction projects, which will add to the playing strategy and give more room for moving tee markers to reduce wear and tear. He also rebuilt a big fairway bunker on the approach to the 5th green with a smart timber face.

There is a good sole of grass on all the fairways at Hillside and it is attributed to Farmura Triple Strength liquid fertiliser. George is pleased with the results obtained by using this material on all fairways, which gives them a fairly vigorous growth without being too lush. Divot marks are filled with a seed/compost mixture on a regular basis and there



New roads and paths were constructed by the staff at Hillside, as were these attractive tee boards.

are few unsightly divot scars.

George enjoys meeting other greenkeepers and exchanging ideas and experiences. He likes to hear the problems of others and recalls being puzzled himself by greyish-brown patches that appeared on two of his greens—at the 15th and 16th. It took him some time to find out they were caused by rabbits nibbling at the turf. He cured this by spraying the affected greens with sulphate of iron.

He has always been an enthusiastic

member of the BGGGA and encouraged his staff to join this association. George is a past chairman of the north/west section and has been a committee member for a number of years, but thinks EIGGA has a lot more to offer and intends to join and support its efforts, while remaining a member of the BGGGA.

George believes that the young men coming into greenkeeping are keen to learn and want to belong to a

progressive and forward-looking organisation.

With his natural interest and flair for engineering, George has learned to appreciate the importance of good machinery and has nine Lloyds 21inch Paladins for cutting tees and greens. He likes single-unit mowers for cutting greens and uses them six days a week during the cutting season.

Continued overleaf...

EIGGA

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF E.I.G.G.A.

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Tel. No. Club or Company

Address

Preferred Mailing Address: Club Home

Designation within Organisation

Registered Greenkeeper or otherwise

Certificates Signature

Further number of Membership Forms required

George Lloyd Continued...



George Lloyd.

For important events, such as the Sun Alliance PGA Championship staged at Hillside last year, he likes to start conditioning the course at least nine months ahead. He maintains every good head greenkeeper should be fully capable of presenting a course that will be an excellent test for tournament golf and that to do this he should be left alone. George believes that most of the pressures come from tournament officials, who are sometimes over-anxious through lack of knowledge and experience.

Quite a bit of tree planting has been done at Hillside over the years—by George and his staff and the Forestry Commission. Trees, he says, should be used to frame and define the route from tee to green along fairways—not in straight rows, but grouped naturally. They can be used to screen a player's view and outline course boundaries from out-of-bounds areas.

The building of bridges, sheds, roads and pathways is something that greenkeepers are often called upon

to do and Hillside is no exception. But wherever they have done these jobs, the end result has been of such a high standard that it evokes nothing but admiration for the professional skill and expertise of George Lloyd and his greenkeeping staff.



Trees help to frame and shelter this green.

EIGGA

DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT ENROLMENT FORM

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Experiences of an Irish advisory tour

*A warm welcome,
as always, awaited
Jim Arthur...*

IN many ways, a recently completed tour of some 20 golf courses in the east of Ireland proved a good cross section of Irish clubs and Irish greenkeeping problems alike. The courses varied in character, from the famous links of Portmarnock, Royal Dublin and Royal County Down to the less well known, but equally magnificent links of Co. Louth at Baltray and Rosslare, as well as a number of links, parkland and moorland courses around Dublin and further afield.

It would be invidious to express any preference and Ireland is blessed with some superb courses and, more especially, links courses. Baltray certainly deserves to be far more widely known and is one of the best, as well as the last, courses to be designed by Tom Simpson and has hardly been altered since he rebuilt the old links in 1938. It has not needed to be!

Not all inland courses in Ireland are on heavy soils or meadowland, but while there are some superb parkland courses, there are few heaths. Carlow is the exception—an almost unique and excellent 18 holes laid out over a sandy hill, freakishly left by the receding glacier that covered almost all Ireland in the last Ice Age.

If the courses vary in character, so do the problems that beset them, but one in particular has always been the worst. This is that almost all the pop-up irrigation systems installed in the early days were appallingly designed and their faults have been directly responsible for the disastrous and instant decline in the condition of the greens on so many courses.

Time after time in the past decade I have visited courses I remember well from 30 and more years ago to discover that disaster had overtaken erstwhile excellent greens. To prove that my memory was not playing me false at one course, the head greenkeeper showed me a report I had written in 1948. I read this with some trepidation, but was relieved to discover I am still saying roughly the same things now that I was then, only the emphasis on aeration is much greater today, since we get much more play. In those days, there was

little or no winter play with its disproportionately more severe effect on soil compaction—and, indeed, aeration three or four times a year was reckoned to be pushing things a bit!

While I am still saying the same things, I seem to take many more words to say them! I am sure there will be no lack of those who will attribute this to old age. I am not sure they're entirely right!

Problems today are far more complex and demand more complex cures and there are many new products to make a greenkeeper's life easier that need some explanation. I do not think a greenkeeper has an easier time overall than he used to, if only because in the old days many courses were left to their own devices from Friday night to Monday morning. Today, few clubs in Britain would tolerate greens remaining unmown over the weekend. In Ireland, despite an enormously high cost of living, I found a general reluctance to work overtime at weekends. There probably is a good answer, but I did not pursue it! There are, of course, many more problems on courses today than there used to be because higher standards are demanded and there are more complex items of equipment, one of them being pop-ups.

In the old days, greens droughted and bleached, but soon recovered

Any form of irrigation was rare

with the first few days rain. Any form of irrigation was rare and attempts were made on many links courses to ease the problem—there must have been as many 'Green is Great' golfers in those days!—by building in a layer of impermeable silt or clay, well below the sandy soil of the green.

This was known as dew-ponding and has been carried out on many British links and heathland greens, with disastrous results if pop-ups are installed, due to severely impeded drainage. In many cases, the only answer is to remove the clay layer by re-building the green, but, as at Sunningdale, it is possible to avoid this by drilling hundreds of holes through the clay, filling them with gravel, to perforate the dew pond like a colander.

The link between the introduction of a badly designed pop-up system and the immediate deterioration of the greens does not seem to have impressed itself on many of the affected clubs. Time after time when visiting courses with boggy thatched greens I have been assured that they used to have the best greens in the area. In many cases, I knew this to be true. On enquiring when this was they invariably said ten years ago. "And when did you put in the pop-ups?" I ask. Not until then does the connection stare them in the face.

I condemn only badly designed systems

Do not for one moment think I condemn pop-up irrigation—only badly designed systems. It is fashionable to deny the connection between bad pop-ups and thatch. One speaker at a seminar this year asked how can it cause thatch? He should go to Ireland and find out. As soon as the pop-ups cease to be used or are improved and intensive deep slitting started, the thatch goes and *Agrostis* dominates over annual meadow grass.

One Dublin club with an appallingly designed system operating on long runs of 1in to 1½in pipe stopped using them and reverted to hand watering. Within the space of two full seasons, their erstwhile bogs with a black slimy layer of peat derived from the wrong top dressing, overlying stinking yellow thatch two inches and more thick, which I risked describing as 'black and tans,' have become as good *Agrostis* greens as you could wish to see. You have to look for the little remaining annual meadow grass on the best greens. The thatch has virtually gone save in a few wetter saucered greens and this has been achieved by weekly deep slitting.

The worst pop-up system installed in Ireland is unquestionably that with heads sited way beyond manufacturers' most optimistic advised spacings, controlled hydraulically and with greens operating in pairs. There are invariably three heads per green.

Continued overleaf...

Jim Arthur Continued...

Spacings at 35 yards were common and in one case just under 40 yards lay between the single head at the rear and the two heads spaced 15 yards apart at the front! Not only were distances far too great as well as asymmetrical, but in many cases the heads themselves were sited below mounds at the rear of the greens. Naturally, the jet fouled the bank, so the head was tilted and the jet pointed up into the air, which it watered with greater efficiency than the green.

If one had wanted to design a system combining every known fault it could not have been worse than these. Twinning greens with totally different requirements, high and low greens together; wet and dry; large and small meant that one got too much and the other too little.

As a result of all this inefficiency and often with pumps not working properly, greens were unevenly covered. In a foredoomed attempt to catch some of the grossly droughted areas, pop-ups were run far longer and the result was the instant creation of thatchy bogs in the centre and still droughted perimeters! The only solution is to rip the lot out and start again.

The problem then arises that people who have to present this unpalatable news to the members are often the very people who recommended the system be installed in the first place and club politics rears its head. But unless the decision is taken or the pop-up system never used, the thatch remains.

It certainly is no solution to turn them on longer and longer in a desperate and fated race against drought—reminiscent of Steamboat

The greens end up as bogs

Bill racing down the Mississippi with the safety valve screwed down to extract that last ounce of effort. He ended up accelerating vertically and the greens end up as bogs.

Virtually all the courses I advise in Ireland, from north to south and east to west, aerate at fortnightly intervals all through the year at least. This is, of course, deep slit tining as it is impossible to achieve this frequency any other way. Certainly, few courses

hollow tine regularly save to introduce, for instance, Turface into wet centres to improve vertical drainage. This mad vogue, hopefully of short duration, for monthly hollow tining will predictably leave disaster in its wake—for one thing, depth is the most important factor and the only way to get depth is by hand.

Excessive hollow tining will destroy surface structure completely and the end result, unless vast quantities of top dressing are used to fill the holes, will be putting over peg board. Soil exchange is all very well, but such methods mean that the green is virtually relaid on the surface only without being lifted and that means only one thing—insoluble root break problems in future years.

There is no question that frequent deep aeration with slit tines, coupled with better irrigation pattern and sensibly limited fertiliser treatment using nitrogen only (part organic and part inorganic) has vastly improved as many greens in Ireland as elsewhere. We are still, however, left with the legacy of greens having been lifted one or two at a time to get rid of thatch. This is not only totally unnecessary, but leaves us with the



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problem of having to put these re-laid greens right.

Generally, they are far worse after several years of hard work than the other greens now that free and reverted to nearly pure *Agrostis*, or, at worst, an even balance of *Agrostis* and annual meadow grass. Significantly, all these better aerated greens drain better and never have to be closed when neighbouring courses are shut.

Of course, badly designed pop-ups are not the only problem on Irish courses, which have suffered as much as those on the other side of the Irish Sea from the attentions of itinerant fertiliser merchants. It amazes me that there are still fertiliser firms manufacturing high NPK complete fertilisers for golf greens and advising fertiliser applications for fairways when there is such a host of annual meadow grass and the almost irretrievable loss of course character.

The problem in Ireland is that its economy is basically agricultural and there is no shortage of agricultural advisers. In some cases, I have managed to convert them to realising that grassland husbandry and

greenkeeping have opposite methods, but when you get a combination of small town golfers of moderate skill listening to respected agricultural pundits, the answer is nearly always a reversion to the heresies of farming golf courses, which has left such a legacy of worms and weeds and lush grass on so many courses.

At one links course, I was (hopefully) just in time to stop a concerted move by farmers to apply granular fertiliser to the thin, but excellent, fescue fairways. It was not until I drew everyone's attention to the lush grass full of 'agricultural' species, which had invaded rabbit scalds, and forecast they would have fairways to match if they persisted in this agricultural folly that commonsense prevailed. Rabbit scalds always show a high phosphate level in analysis, because the droppings are high in phosphate.

Of course, we have a fair share of agricultural colleges using soil analyses to 'prove' that greens and fairways need phosphate, yet the figures they produce—for instance, 40ppm—are vastly too high for fescues and bents, which are quite

happy at levels of 5 to 7ppm.

One of the joys of Irish courses—and there are many others not unconnected with the welcoming hospitality—is that the problems are less complex even if they often are extensive. It is, thus, possible to wave a magic wand at times and a combination of a hard working greenkeeper—and they do work exceedingly hard—with a dedicated committee and tolerant members has transformed some courses in a remarkably short time.

Luckily, we do not suffer from a plethora of pseudo-experts and everyone is willing to learn, but I wish I could say the greenkeeper training scheme in Ireland was any better than it is in England. Hopefully, we may now be able to improve this, with centralised training permitting more control over the content of lectures.

Too many times you feel it is the trainers who need the most training, with fragmented courses at every little agricultural college and the teaching left to the mercy of 'farmers' who do not know one end of a golf club from the other!

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Turf Topic

HARD work, long hours, mental anguish, preparing for the Open Championship is a mixture of all these ingredients. In retrospect, it's the greatest feeling of satisfaction a greenkeeper can experience—that is what championship participation is all about. The results outweigh the effort and the feeling is only second to the realisation that you have given your members a good golf course. When you do the same for the leading professionals in the world, you have reached the top of your profession.

So what is it like to be part of a greenkeeping team on these occasions?

For the head greenkeeper it may mean a few sleepless nights because of the responsibility. He has to think of the many things that can go wrong and be prepared to deal with them.

Professionals expect to find the course meticulously groomed to provide them with a fair and exacting test of golf. The process of bringing the course up to the peak of perfection is a demanding one and the final presentation of an immaculately prepared layout, directly reflects the high degree of skill and experience of the staff.

The maintenance programme has to be adjusted to get all the jobs done outside the hours of play—this means early morning and late evening work. Starting at daybreak is never the best time to do a good mowing job while the dew hangs heavy on the grass, but with mowers accurately set and razor sharp, the staff can accomplish this phase of operations with skill borne of long experience to present a smooth playing surface.

A member of the championship committee generally accompanies the greenkeeper each morning when hole



Jack Nicklaus, 1964 Open vintage, when crowd control at St Andrews was perhaps a little slack...

positions are changed. The green is carefully examined to ensure the area chosen is not on any severe slope and is free of old cup spots, ball marks and any other blemishes. Strong winds and rain can affect playing strategy and a local weather report is always considered in the morning before the course is set up for play.

Most championships are never without incident—during the 1964 Open at St Andrews, greenkeepers arrived early one morning to find that most of the flag-pins had been stolen. A frantic search was made to find them, but without success. Hurriedly, spare pins were summoned from reserve and duly placed on the greens in time for the commencement of play. A few weeks later, the missing flag-pins came to light in the goods yard of a railway station in the south of England. It seems a practical joker had pinched them, tied them in a bundle and threw them into an empty

goods wagon standing in the railway siding by the 17th hole.

A few problems were posed for officials and greenkeepers during the 1970 Open at St Andrews when it was decided to temporarily suspend play in the first round after a severe cloudburst flooded the course and brought play to a halt at 6.30pm. Competitors still out on the course were ordered to mark their ball positions and recommence from that position the following morning at 7.30am to complete their round. The starting time for the second round was scheduled for 8.30am, which did not make life very easy for the greenkeeping staff. Bunkers were raked, new holes cut, tee positions moved and all the greens were mowed in one and a half hours, which is no mean feat when you consider the massive size of the putting surfaces on the Old Course.

JOHN CAMPBELL

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No Short Cut To Success

Some years ago, after listening intently to a heart-rending presentation about the effect of seaweed-based dressings on fine turf by an ardent rep of a company, I decided to put this seaweed theory to the test on one of the leading courses in Hong Kong.

After three years of carefully following prescribed application techniques, I watched, always giving any slight and apparent improvement to the benefit of this treatment. After three years, I cannot, in all honesty, say there was any noticeable change or improvement to tees and greens treated—not even a greater drought resistance.

However, when applied to badly top-soiled approaches, together with finely screened loam and peat (sedge), there appeared after two years to be a noticeable improvement in strength of growth and colour.

I think we have to be more careful and not imagine we see what we are told we should see. I feel that seaweed could be a useful additive to top dressings or aid as a 'soil maker' under certain soil stressed or sand conditions.

A great deal more research will have to be carried out and results monitored and verified before I would use seaweed-based dressings (either liquid or powders) as a standard part of turf maintenance.

Liquid feeding (nitrogen mainly) of sports turf is a necessary evil in my book and can only be justified in extreme emergency situations when all forms of growth require to be encouraged *quickly* by short-cutting the nitrogen cycle.

Another reason often put forward is cost! How much cheaper it is to buy Urea or other liquified animal waste.

The ideal situation would be for bona fide agronomists/advisors to programme maintenance turf work in all instances where help is required or requested, but for these advisors to divorce themselves completely from supply sources, as I feel this is purely a decision for the client to make.

The company salesmen could then compete for the trade of supplying the agronomists' recommended materials.

There is, though, one exception to this; machinery is a much more complex situation and, in all fairness and with due respect, agronomists are not sufficiently well-versed in

mechanics as they are in agronomy.

Commercialism must be taken away from advisory situations where chemicals are concerned. Bias towards one's own products can often lead to incorrect advice being given. However, in all fairness to commercial representatives, agronomists *must* be less noticeably biased towards certain sources of supply.

It would be impossible to expect two agronomists to give identical advice, but the same basic line should be there somewhere if the advice is based on research and results and a genuine and accurate assessment of the problems concerned.

If all factions can work together, instead of becoming diametrically opposed to one another and be more honest with and about each other, I am sure that our tasks would be easier.



Gordon Whitaker,
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong.

Will EIGGA Ever Better Brighton?

There's no doubt that, in future years, the EIGGA annual conference and AGM will vary its venue. Wherever it may roam, one thing, however, is quite certain—the first meeting in Brighton will always be looked back on with affection. It was certainly one of the friendliest—not to mention instructive—gatherings ever held.

For many years, those who were there will be saying: "Do you remember the first conference?"

Do You Remember?

1. The efficiency of Jill when you checked in?

2. Sitting indoors listening to lectures on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when the sun shone outside, but playing golf on Monday in the pouring rain and arctic winds?

3. Mr Arthur and Dr Hayes striding across the road to the prom for a breath of fresh air, where there just happened to be the local nudist beach (but only one male was spotted, which didn't seem to interest either of them)?

4. Linda behind the bar? Shame she was not there on Sunday night, as the third revealing outfit would surely have been quite something...?

5. Discussions and socialising well into the early hours for those with the stamina?

6. The 'model' on the lecture-theatre platform that confused and startled a few people?

7. The warm welcome from Brighton Poly?

8. Those girl-students' bedrooms with pin-ups on the walls?

9. Those five-star breakfasts?

10. The smart EIGGA blazers and ties?

11. That marvellous soup, magically produced by Hugh MacGillivray on the course, which rescued many scores and circulations?

12. A marvellous club and staff at Worthing golf course, where nothing was too much trouble?

13. The way Anthea, Jill, Linda and Charlie from *Greenkeeper* organised the show so smoothly?

14. Learning more about greenkeeping and having a good time doing it?

15. The commitment of Jack McMillan, the trustees and all the board of management?

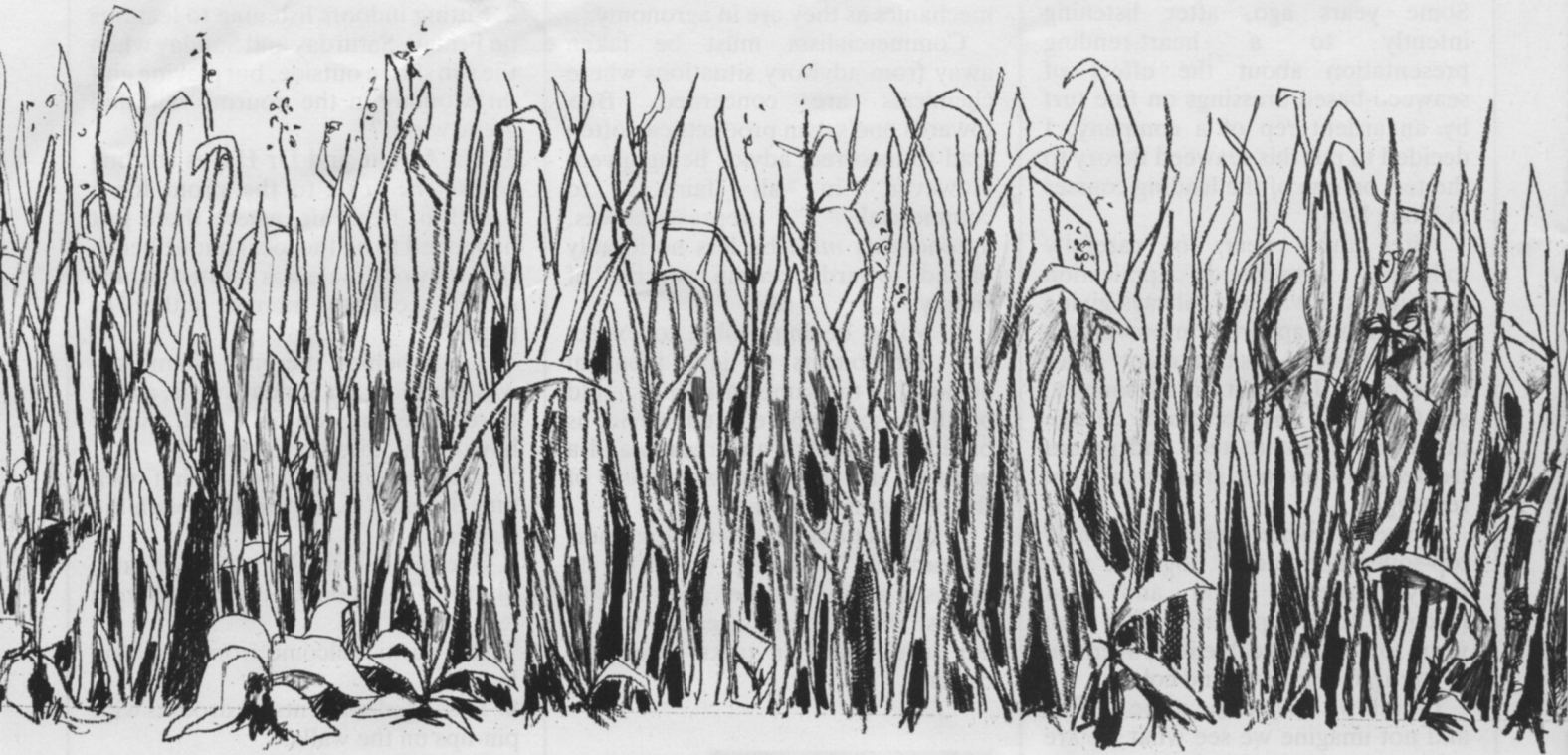
Let's look forward to next year!

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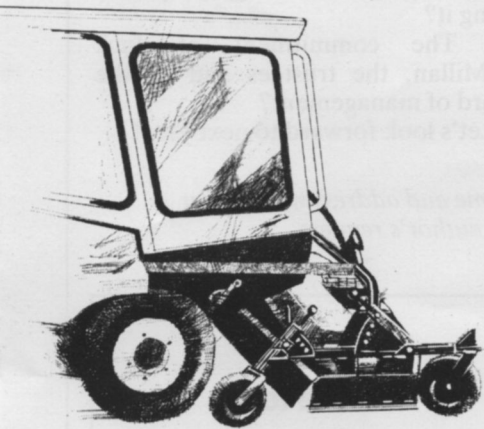


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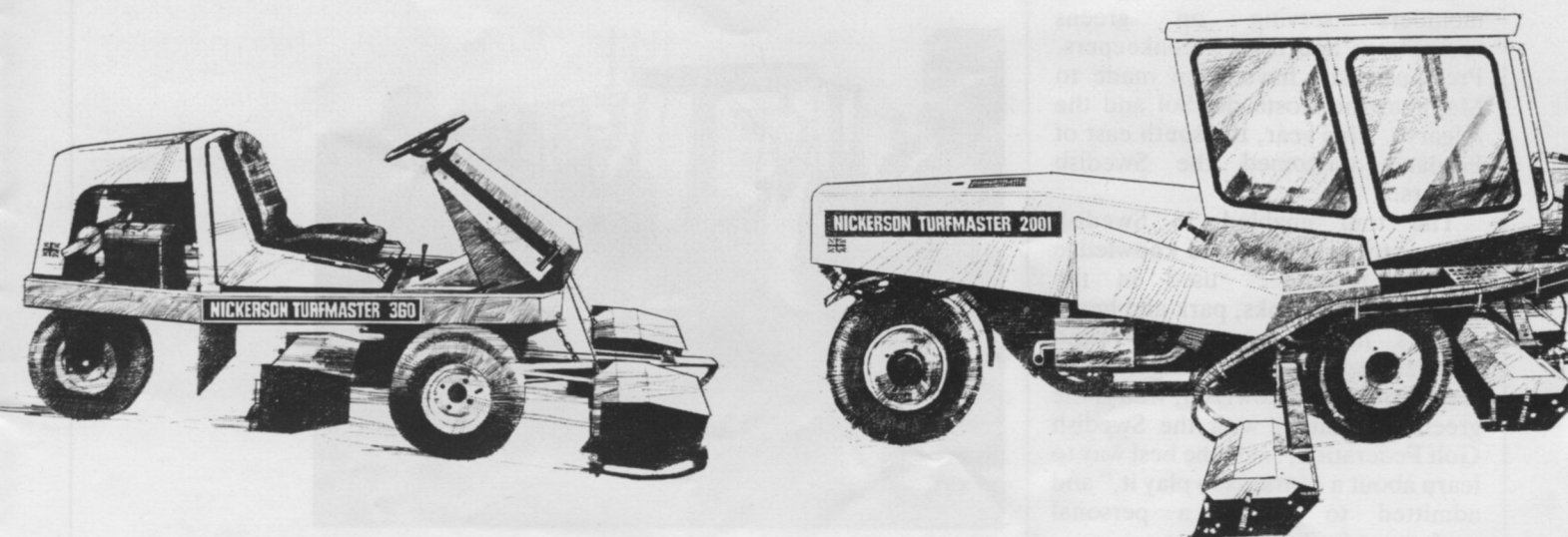


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Farmura Goes To America

After its successful introduction at the Atlanta show, Farmura liquid organic fertiliser is to be made available to the American market. Jim Hartnett of Emerald Isle Ltd flew to England recently to sign a distribution contract and place the first major order.

While in England, Jim took the

opportunity to see Farmura in use on the course and discuss its merits with head greenkeepers, including Lionel Harris at Ifield, West Sussex and Derek Green, course manager at another major Farmura customer, Woburn Golf and Country Club, which has used the product for three

years. Not only were there twenty 210-litre drums of Farmura in evidence at Woburn, but fairways were being sprayed, giving Jim the chance to see the product in use.

Also present was David Morgan, the main Farmura distributor in the Birmingham area.



Pictured at Woburn, Derek Green, David Morgan and Jim Hartnett, who is set to distribute Farmura in America.

Golf Landscapes In Demand

In a spate of recent orders, Golf Landscapes of Brentwood, Essex, specialist golf course constructors and installers of Toro irrigation systems, is working at Potters Bar GC, Herts on new tees and fairway drainage; Brookmans Park GC, Herts on fairway drainage; Enfield GC, Middlesex on fairway drainage; Davenport GC, Stockport, Cheshire on reconstruction of greens by PM green technique; Ruxley Golf Centre, St Paul's Cray, Kent on the re-design and major reconstruction of the existing 18-hole course and irrigation due to A20 road improvements and Cobtree Manor Golf Course, Maidstone, Kent on contract maintenance of a new 18-hole public course to open next summer.

Swedes Journey South

Every two years, the greens section of the Swedish Golf Federation organises an overseas tour for club members serving on greens committees and head greenkeepers. Previous visits have been made to Majorca, the Costa del Sol and the Algarve. This year, the south east of England welcomed the Swedish visitors.

The tour enabled 38 Swedish visitors to gain first-hand knowledge of the techniques used in the maintenance of links, park and heath courses in the area from head greenkeepers, club managers and secretaries. Rolf Löwgren, who is the greens consultant with the Swedish Golf Federation, said "the best way to learn about a course is to play it," and admitted to having a personal preference for links courses.

The week's tour included visits to Royal St George's, Royal Blackheath and Royal Cinque Ports and ended with a morning at Ransomes and an

afternoon at the Ipswich Golf Club (Purdis Heath).

It is unlikely they were able to take home many ideas about maintaining courses within the Arctic Circle, which are open for only three months

of the year. At the Gällivare-Malmberget club, some 1,400 kilometres north of Stockholm and the northern most course in the world, golfing marathons during the season



Among Swedish Golf Federation members who visited Ransomes (left to right) were: Lars Edstrand, Falsterbo GC; Sune Linde, federation director; Roland Knuttson, Hokensas GC and chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers' Association and Rolf Lowgren, federation greens consultant. They are seen talking to Ransomes' sales manager John Wilson.

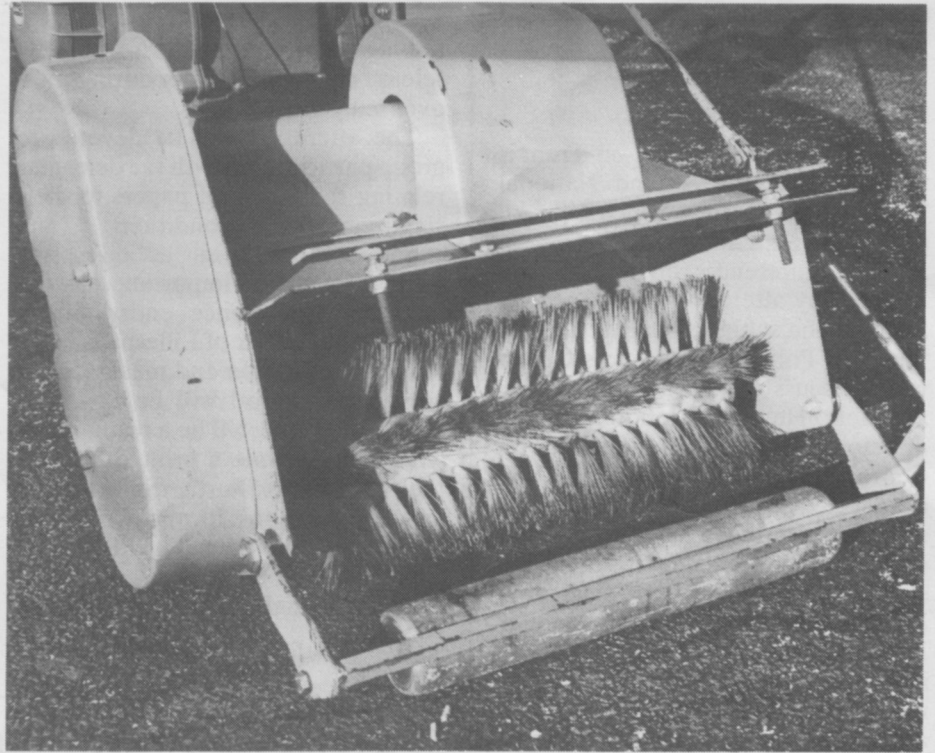
New Brush Reel For SISIS Auto Rotorake

SISIS has introduced another reel for its Auto Rotorakes. It is a brush unit, which can be easily fitted by the same means as the other interchangeable scarifying reels.

Use of the brush, in conjunction with the grass box, ensures that all fine residue in the grass sward is removed, as well as light surface debris.

The horizontal grasses are lifted into an ideal position for mowing and greens treated with the brush prior to cutting can show an increase in speed.

Brush height is fully adjustable to provide the desired effect, from severe remedial treatment to the lightest contact for cosmetic striping of fine turf. It costs £62.50 (packing and carriage extra).



A close-up of the brush reel.

And A New Control Unit...

A new control unit has been incorporated into the SISIS Hydromain Sprayer. The control has a telescopic adjustment, variable to suit operator reach, enabling the same sprayer to be used with both the Hydromain Fourteen and Seventeen. It also simplifies operation with other tractors.

An improved design of taps is now fitted to control boom sprays and an individual tap is provided for the hand lance. A better on/off valve is also fitted and relocated to simplify operation. The hand lance is now standard and not an extra.

Booms have been strengthened by extending the top support nearer the

boom ends. The breakback mechanism is now provided with spring tension adjustment.

The centre boom section is overhung rearwards to ensure uninterrupted spray from the centre-section nozzles.

Elmwood Leads The Way

Following on from the more advanced courses in supervision the college has successfully offered to head greenkeepers and course managers the last two years, Elmwood is now offering a specialised four-week block course aimed at greenkeepers who have just completed their ap-

prenticeship or mature greenkeepers who may wish to gain knowledge of supervisory techniques (just prior to, or post promotion).

Project work, much of which will be carried out in students' own time, forms an important part of the course.

At the end of the course, successful candidates will be awarded the City and Guilds* Phase III Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf

Management. It is interesting to note that, although the examination award is national, the syllabus the college uses was devised at Elmwood and approved by the City and Guilds examination board.

**It is hoped that a suitable Scotec Course in greenkeeping Supervisory Studies will be available for the 1984/85 academic year.*

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Second National Turfgrass Conference

Keele University at Stoke-on-Trent is the venue of the Second National Turfgrass Conference, which will take place from September 28-30.

The conference opens on the Wednesday afternoon with Synthetic Surfaces the subject. Graeme Tipp of the GLC Polymeric Materials Group will discuss materials currently available. He will be followed by the director of Lilleshall National Sports Centre Derek Tremayne, who will describe his experiences with synthetic surfaces and give the conference a foretaste of what will be seen at Lilleshall on the final day. Prior to an open discussion, Jennifer Millett of the Sports Council will introduce brief presentations on the most recent technical advances in artificial grass and synthetic carpet surfaces.

The first session on Thursday, entitled Soils And Sands For Winter Games Pitches, will be opened by Dr Raymond Gemmill of the Joint Land Reclamation Team, who will impart his considerable experience in bringing what to some would seem impossible sites into use with conventional grass playing surfaces.

The next paper will be given by a member of the Netherlands Institute for Land and Water Management Research Dr Aad van Wijk, whose doctoral thesis was published in English as *Playing Conditions Of Grass Sports Fields*.

Dr Bill Adams, soil scientist of the soil science unit at the University College of Wales, will introduce Fertilizers For Winter Games Pitches with a review of the nutritional requirements of grass grown on sand compared with conventional soils. He will be followed by Roy Woolhouse of the Sports Turf Research Institute,

who will tell the conference of his findings using various forms of slow-release nitrogen fertilizer during trials over ten years.

The afternoon will be devoted to group participation with the delegates relating the technical papers to their requirements, conditions and experiences, as well as discussing matters of major importance to the industry. Conference ends midday Friday after a tour of Lilleshall.

Accommodation and meals for the conference period will be £40. The registration free will be a further £40, which will include a printed copy of the proceedings. Further information and application forms from the Secretary, National Turfgrass Council, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ.

Home Grown Product

The Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset Seed Growers' Association recently held its annual competition when samples of grass seed are submitted for germination and purity tests. These samples are judged under code numbers and marks allocated according to quality.

This year, British Seeds Houses' Derby Perennial Ryegrass, grown under contract by John Rowsell of Stoke Charity, Winchester, Hampshire, won the competition. A spokesman for British Seed Houses said it was company policy to have more of its grass seed grown in the UK and that the company was delighted with the excellent quality of seed produced so far.

EIGGA Benefactors Head For Sunshine Trip!



Winners of the first EIGGA national draw were Mr and Mrs Peter Martin of Crawley, West Sussex, who received a £1,200 holiday voucher from EIGGA president Jack McMillan (right). Also pictured is association trustee Hugh MacGillivray.

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IT RHYMES WITH POWER

Brighton Backs The Cushman

Brighton council's parks and recreation department now has the largest complement of Cushman Turf Trucksters at work in the UK following its recent acquisition of two of the latest Four-Wheel models from dealers Paice & Sons of East Grinstead, Sussex.

Launched last autumn, the Four-Wheel Turf Trucksters are working in conjunction with Brighton's seven existing Three-Wheel Cushman machines to help maintain more than 3,000 acres of amenity, park and sportsground fine grass and turf areas.

The first Cushman Three-Wheel machines were purchased by Brighton three years ago primarily for turf maintenance work on the borough's two public 18-hole courses.

Mike Griffin, director of parks and recreation, commented that top dressing of fine turf and other amenity areas throughout the borough by Turf Trucksters had produced excellent coverage and first-class results. "We cannot level any criticism at either the performance of the Turf Trucksters or the turf care equipment they operate," he said. "The sprayer attachment is particularly effective as the boom is closer to the ground, giving better control and more even spray coverage. In relation to our previous limited equipment used for the work, the price of the Cushmans is very reasonable, with the added bonus of a tipping dump truck body for movement of materials and equipment."



Seen with the Cushman Four-Wheel Turf Trucksters recently delivered to Brighton council are (left to right): Vic Cadman, department transport and equipment officer; Mike Griffin, Brighton's director of parks and recreation; David Luxford and Eddie Murray, sales manager and professional sales rep of Paice and Sons.

Association Welcome

At a recent British Association of Golf Course Constructors members' meeting, it was decided to open a new membership category for individual associates. Those interested, who

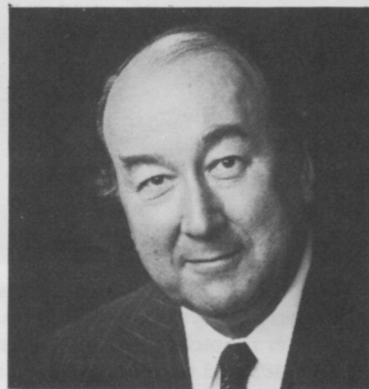
may include agronomists, golf course managers, greenkeepers, etc, should apply to the BAGCC, Little Dukes, The Street, Roxwell, Essex, CM1 4PE for further details.

Man At The Top

Succeeding Mr Geoffrey Bone, the retiring chairman of Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, is Mr H. Astley Whittall, CBE, the company's deputy chairman for the past three years. A chartered engineer, Mr Whittall, who joined Ransomes' board in 1979, is chairman of BSG International and on the boards of APV Holdings and LRC International.

A member of the CBI Council since 1974, Mr Whittall was chairman of the employment policy committee for four years and only recently retired from the president's committee after being a member for five years. A member of the National Economic Development Council from 1978-82, he was vice president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for three years.

He joined Belliss and Morcom as a pupil apprentice in 1942, becoming works manager in 1954, general works manager six years later and managing director in 1962—an appointment he held for six years until becoming managing director of the holding company Amalgamated Power Engineering. Elected chairman in 1977, he held the position until 1981 when the company was taken over.



The new chairman of Ransomes is H. Astley Whittall, who has been deputy chairman for three years.



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US For IOG Comp Winner

The 1983 Young Groundsman of the Year will be bound for the USA in 1984. First prize in the competition organised by the Institute of Groundsmanship will be a visit to Las Vegas to attend the 1984 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America annual convention and exhibition.

The winner will receive an engraved trophy presented by Steetley Minerals; the trip to America, which has been presented by Marshall Concessionaires; a library of reference books worth £100 donated by Nickerson Turfmaster; a briefcase presented by Alginure Products and the chance to attend one of the practical weekend courses at either Milton Keynes or Crewe organised by the IOG.

In America, the winner will be given an official welcome at the opening ceremony of the GCSAA conference. An invitation to attend the Toro International luncheon in Las Vegas has been issued and Toro Irrigation will also present the Groundsman of the Year with a £25 cash travel award.

Second prize winner in the contest will receive a main prize of a trip to Holland as the guest of Mommersteeg International. The all-expenses paid trip will include a tour of the Dutch sports turf research institute at Pappendall and Mommersteeg's plant breeding and research centre at Vlijmen.

Each runner-up will attend an IOG weekend training course and runner-up prizes include two awards of professional knapsack sprayers, each worth more than £50, presented by Solo Power Equipment (UK), as well as a variety of other prizes.

The competition is open to fifth and sixth form students, those studying at

colleges and institutes, trainees and apprentices and those considering a career in the care and maintenance of sports turf and amenity grass areas.

Closing date for entries is July 31. Completed entry forms should be sent to the Institute of Groundsmanship, Woughton Pavilion, Woughton-on-the-Green, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK6 3EA.

What Walton Heath Wants...

Speaking at the first EIGGA Conference and AGM recently, Wing Commander Bill McCrea, secretary of Walton Heath, said: "Winter greens and frost holes probably attract more adverse criticism than any other aspect of greenkeeping. I believe head greenkeepers generally are too quick to move the pins at the first sign of frost. I know there are dangerous conditions when frost is coming out of the ground, but we should *close* the course without hesitation. At all other times, I like to see normal pin positions and remain unconvinced that greens suffer any lasting damage. There is some bruising and scorching, but these blemishes disappear with the first spring growth.

"The increased pleasure for members—and extra revenue from visitors—would more than compensate for any minor damage to putting surfaces. Members pay a lot of money for their golf and it is my job as secretary to see they get the best possible value for it.

"I finish on this slightly controversial note because it illustrates what I expect from my head greenkeeper—that even if he doesn't agree with me, he does at least listen to my point of view."

Cordless Telephone Available

The first legal, cordless phone for the UK is also British made by Fidelity Radio and simple to install and plug-in to a British Telecom socket.

Needing no licence, the phone can make and receive calls to and from anywhere in the world.

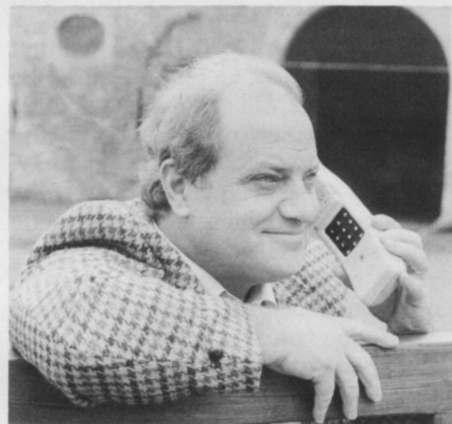
The range of the cordless phone is nominally just over an eighth of a mile (700 feet), but given a first-floor location for the base unit and a reasonably unobstructed site, it can be effective up to a quarter of a mile.

In use, it sounds no different from a conventional, fixed phone and is operated in the same way.

Left in the base unit cradle overnight, self-contained batteries in the handset are automatically kept fully charged.

Authorised distributor for the Fidelity cordless phone is the Micro Equipment Centre, 18 Brock Street, Bath BA1 2LW. It can be ordered, of course, over the phone (Tel: 0225 20312), by quoting a credit card number.

It costs £169, including VAT and a year's warranty. The standard plug socket is installed by British Telecom for £11.50 (including VAT).



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Branch News

London Area

Notes by David MacIndoe—chairman

The first meeting of the new London area branch (formerly the southern section) was held at West Herts Golf Club recently. The object was to formulate a steering committee until the AGM in February and to set objectives for the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave Low (administration), M.Peters (assistant to the administrator), T.McDonald (entertainments), Bill Thomson, Stewart McMillan and, finally, Hugh MacGillivray for his invaluable help and advice. I was honoured to accept the responsibility of the chair.

The new branch will cover an area from the Thames, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and as far north as Luton/Dunstable. Any member of EIGGA in or around this area will be most welcome at all functions.

An evening golf competition has been arranged for Friday July 8 at Northwood Golf Club. Members wishing to play should contact the administrator as soon as possible.

Other dates being arranged are an autumn tournament in either September or October, and the dinner-dance will again be held at the Post House on November 18. It is also planned to hold two half-day lectures—one in November, the other in February—which will incorporate the branch AGM.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact David MacIndoe on Watford (0923) 36416 or Dave Low, branch administrator, Hartsbourne Golf and Country Club on 01-950 4270.

East Anglia

Notes by Mick Lathrope

May 11 at Colchester Golf Club saw the last AGM of the BGGGA East Anglian section and, with its ending, a new branch of EIGGA was born. Both AGMs went off without a hitch, due mainly to the tremendous efforts of David Jones and Steve Noye, our competent secretary/treasurer.

The section now has a new chairman in S. Goddard from Bury Golf Club. His move from vice chairman was proposed by Doug Neville and seconded by Clive Lockwood.

After business was completed, lunch was enjoyed by all, which was followed by golf. Nice course, shame about the greens is all I think I'd better say, although, as the following shows, plenty got the ball into the hole without much trouble.

Results: 1st greenkeeper 0-18 section (Victa Cup)—Paul Fitzjohn, 32 points; 1st greenkeeper 18-27 section (Rushbrook Salver)—E.Everett, 44; 1st guest—George Freear, 38; 2nd greenkeeper 0-18—Tom Watt, 31; 2nd greenkeeper 18-27—J.Wood, 33; 2nd guest—D.W.Fox, 33; 1st ladies—Pat Boulton, 23.

There was one fit man in our midst, Trevor Manning who ran the London Marathon in three hours and seven minutes. Well done, Trevor.

Our thanks go to all the organisers for getting nearly 70 fed and watered and kept under control!

• *If anybody found an American silver quarter at Colchester, I lost it and will buy the finder a pint upon its return.*

Kent

Notes by Peter Wisbey—chairman

After quite a successful season of winter lectures, the spring golf tournament was held at Broome Park Golf and Country Club recently. Over 30 members attended.

The lads from Darenth Valley cleaned up in the morning with first place going to I.Rodger, nett 69; 2nd—K.Noble, nett 70 and 3rd—A.Weller, nett 71.

The scratch prize went to George Brown with a 75 on his home ground. The afternoon Stableford for the branch's new EIGGA shield was won by Chris Marden with 36 points. Then came Clive Edmunds with 34 (back nine) and Peter Sharp, also with 34.

Thanks to Ransomes, Sparfax, Paice and Sons, Rigby Taylor, Pattison, David Craig and T.Parker & Sons for donating prizes. Thanks also to George Brown and staff for organising the day so smoothly. A special word of gratitude goes to Hugh MacGillivray for making the journey up from Sussex to present the prizes—it really was appreciated.

Two events that have been arranged are a golf match against Sussex at Dale Hill on July 20 and a visit to Ransomes on November 16. This has been organised by Vic Maynard of Paice & Sons. All are welcome but EIGGA members will have priority in case of too many applications for the 35 places available.

Check *Greenkeeper* for more details of these and other events.

Finally, a welcome to nine new members this month. It's always good to see new faces.

Sussex

Notes by Ron Jobson

When the Sussex branch arrived at Bognor Regis Golf Club for a match against the Sussex Secretaries, the sun was shining after a heavy downpour. Pat Moore and his staff were pushing water off the greens. The teams consisted of ten a side plus two reserves, which our captain Lionel Harris and Jimmy Coote for the secretaries had selected from around the county for this the third match. After a great day's golf, the Sussex branch retained the trophy winning

three to two with a re-match to be held later in the year.

Thanks go to the club captain, Mr W.Duck (secretary), Pat Moore (head greenkeeper) and all the staff at Bognor Regis GC for a most enjoyable day. The raffle winner was Alan Butemowicz.

As most members in the county will know, Richard Barham, who has worked at Worthing GC, is leaving us to take up a job in Canada. Richard will be greatly missed, especially by me as he has been a great help on golf

days. He has also been a very active member of the committee.

Next month's golf includes Goodwood Golf Club on July 14. Please arrive no later than 3pm. Guests are welcome and invitations will be sent stating cost, etc. Will members please note that a membership number should be given when returning forms.

Invitations will be sent out to selected members for the Sussex branch v Kent branch at Dale Hill to be played over 18 holes on July 27.

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Faverdale West, Faverdale Industrial Estate,
Darlington, Co. Durham
Tel: (0325) 55101 Telex: 587182
Sole U.K. distributors for Toro and Gravely.

GRASS SEED

Gerson Grass Seed,
Grove Lane, Smethwick, Warley,
West Midlands, B66 2SE
Tel: 021 558 3551

Contact: Frank Gerson,
Mommersteeg International,
Station Road, Findon, Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire

Tel: Wellingborough (0933) 680674
Contact: Michael Perkins.

Suttons Seeds Ltd.,
Hele Road, Torquay, Devon,
TQ2 7QJ

Tel: (0803) 62011
Contact: R. W. Palin.

Sinclair McGill PLC.,
Attenburys Lane, Timperley,
Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5QL
Tel: 061 973 2214 Telex: 665130
Contact: Andrew J. Forbes.

British Seed Houses Ltd.,
Bewsey Industrial Estate,
Pitt Street, Warrington,
Cheshire

Tel: (0925) 54411
Contact: Roger Saunders.

IRRIGATION

Perrot Irrigation Ltd.,
38, High Street, Rowhead,
Colchester, Essex, CO5 7ET
Tel: Colchester (0206) 867624.

Watkins Naylor & Co. Ltd.,
Friar Street, Hereford,
Tel: Hereford (0432) 274361 Telex: 3502
W. Naylor or contact your dealer.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

British Overhead Irrigation Ltd.,
The Green, Upper Halliford,
Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8RY
Tel: 09327 88301 Telex: 928767
Contact: Sales Department.

Sports Ground Irrigation,
'Hereward Lodge', Paget Road,
Lubenham, Market Harborough, Leics.
Tel: (0858) 63153.

Toro Irrigation Ltd.,
Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate,
Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SD
Tel: Ringwood (042 54) 6261.

Watermation Ltd.,
Monument Way E., Woking, Surrey, GU21 5LY
Tel: Woking 70303 Telex: 859224.

LIQUID ORGANIC FERTILISER

Farmura Ltd.,
Stone Hill, Egerton, Nr. Ashford, Kent
Tel: Egerton (023 376) 241.

MOWERS

Morrison Precision Lawnmowers,
16, Byward Street, London, EC3R 5BQ
Tel: 01-481 4851 Telex: 885476
Contact: Tim Chapman.

MOWERS (SALES-SERVICE-SPARES)

Parker & Ballinger Ltd.,
71, Hill Village Road, Four Oaks,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 5BH.
Tel: 021-308 6888.

PATHS, ROAD & PARKING AREA CONSTRUCTION

ICI Fibres: 'Terram',
Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 0YD
Tel: (04955) 57722.

PLAQUES AND NAMEPLATES

Thos. A. Ingram & Co. Ltd.,
P. O. Box 305, Birmingham, B19 1BB
Tel: 021-554 4576
(Brochure available).

POP-UP SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

RIS Cameron Irrigation Systems Ltd.,
Harwood Industrial Estate, Littlehampton,
West Sussex, BN17 7BA
Tel: 09064 3985
Contact: Sports Division.

RANSOMES DISTRIBUTORS

Henton & Chattell Ltd.,
London Road, Nottingham
Tel: Nottingham 862161
Contact: Christopher Bryden.

Wilcocks

Walker Street, Preston, Lancs.
Tel: Preston 53068.

D. Rowe & Co. Ltd.,
The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 4JW
Tel: (0243) 788100 Telex: 86110
Contact: Mr. D. Strange/Mr. J. E. Burfoot.

SAND

George Garside (Sand) Ltd.,
39, Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
Dry and Semi-dry sands for Golf Courses,
Sports Greens & Grounds.
Tel: (0525) 372201
Contact: Mr. M. R. Adams.

Martin Bros. Ltd.,
1A, Clifton Street, Alderley Edge,
Cheshire, SK9 7NN
Tel: Alderley Edge (0625) 584571/2
Contact: Nick Gray.

SEAWEED FERTILISERS

Seamac Agricultural Ltd.,
Foundry Lane, Chippenham,
Wilts.
Tel: (0249) 652811.

SEMI-MATURE TREES

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher.

SEMI-MATURE TREE PLANTING

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher.

SEMI-MATURE TREE PLANTING (EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE)

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher.

SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

Evers & Wall Ltd.,
Hardi Division, St. George's Way,
Bermuda Industrial Estate, Nuneaton,
CV10 7QT
Tel: Bondgate 020364 2054 Telex: 312426
Contact: Mr. W. Hayward.

TEE MATS

The Charles Lawrence Group Ltd.,
153a Farndon Road, Newark, NG24 4SP
Tel: 0636 76218 Telex: 37668
(Synthetic Grass Backed Rubber).

Cian Marketing Company,
Milton House, Loddington, Kettering,
Northants, NN14 1JZ
Tel: 0536 710328
(Heavy Duty).

TREES & SHRUBS

Eastcote Nurseries (Solihull) Ltd.,
Wood Lane, Barston, Solihull, West Midlands,
B92 0JL
Tel: 06755 2033/4
Contact: Stephen or Michael Fisher.

Notcutts Nurseries Ltd.,
Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF
Tel: 03943 3344
(Incorporating Waterers Nurseries,
Bagshot, Surrey).

TREES TIES & TREE GUARDS

J. Toms Ltd.,
Wheeler Street, Headcorn,
Ashford, Kent,
Tel: Headcorn (0622) 891111.

TRENCHING MACHINES

A. F. Trenchers Ltd.,
Gosbeck Road, Colchester,
Essex, CO2 9JS,
Tel: 0206 44411
Contact: W. D. Baker.

Turf
Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd.,
Elvington, York, YO4 5AR
Tel: (0904) 85661.

TURF DRESSING & FERTILISER

Suttons Seeds Ltd.,
Hele Road, Torquay, Devon,
TQ2 7QJ
Tel: (0803) 62011
Contact: R. W. Palin.

John Campbell
Golf Course Consultant



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Two years old, in good condition, regularly used and well maintained.

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Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

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Applicants must possess a sound knowledge and experience of modern turf management techniques. A thorough practical knowledge of the use and maintenance of machinery together with the ability to manage a young hard-working staff of three.

A three-bedroomed semi-detached house is available if required. Rates and rent are free.

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GREENKEEPER
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Appointments

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL (NORTH OXFORDSHIRE)

CHERWELL EDGE GOLF CLUB GREENKEEPER

Salary: £81.85 per week, plus £2.75 charge hand allowance,
maximum bonus earnings of £45.

The Cherwell Edge Golf Club is a nine-hole course, first opened in May 1980. It is currently being extended to 18 holes and is due for completion in the Spring of 1985. We are looking for a qualified greenkeeper, preferably with the Institute of Groundsmanship certificate or related City & Guilds certificates and practical experience of between three and five years.

You must be conversant with all types of machinery used on golf course maintenance and construction and have a thorough knowledge of herbicides, fungicides, and fertilisers. You will have had experience of staff supervision and must be able to maintain appropriate records. A current clean driving licence is essential.

Assistance with housing for married applicants will be considered in appropriate cases.

If you are interested, telephone Ian North on Banbury 52535 Ext. 175 for an application form and further details. Closing date two weeks from appearance of this advertisement.

Spin—the critical question. Continued from page 7...

the end product will be really worthwhile. We know many of the advantages of festuca/agrostis—it is cheap to maintain (once you have got it), needs little water, little nutrient and is virtually weatherproof. It does go brown in drought, but does not die, is resistant to disease, does not produce thatch, drains well, plays well throughout the year, etc, etc.

But can the club golfer control his golf ball on it? That is the critical question, for you can put all the ecological and financial points you want—if the club golfer sees his scores going up, he will not wear it.

This question of control on festuca/agrostis depends on two things—the golfer and the weather. Hopefully by now, I have proved that momentum and spin are the factors the golfer seeks to control; turf is the factor the weather controls, or should be. It will only be the better golfer who consistently controls the ball in dry weather and he will adapt his strategy accordingly. The poorer golfer must be told—in no uncertain terms—that he has no right to expect good scores

in time of drought. In many other outdoor pastimes, there is nothing peculiar about this reliance on weather. As a keen, but novice angler, I do not expect to catch fish when river conditions are difficult, such as in time of drought. But I enjoy the fresh air, the sunshine and the contact with nature. When playing golf, you usually have the additional pleasure of sociable companions. Golf on a true, dry links is, and always



will be, the ultimate mental and physical test of skill. The best players can cope with it—remember Turnberry in 1977?

Fortunately for the temper of the club golfer, these trying conditions do not occur for many days in most years. With festuca/agrostis turf, we can have the best of both worlds in being able to utilise both spin and softish turf and you can be assured club members will bless you for ever if you achieve this aim.

There is no question that this is a difficult balance to achieve and maintain, but it is possible and, indeed, it is the only balance that can be achieved as a long-term solution for golf turf in Britain. In essence, we seek to return full circle and depend on the factors that allowed golf to develop in the first place—the particular climate and geology of Britain.

Many people now understand the ecological and financial reasons for the non-viability of poa annua turf in Britain and for this we owe an enormous debt to Jim Arthur. But the average golfer does not have the time or detailed scientific background to understand this complex problem. We must give them a peg on which to hang the arguments, so that they can relate to our problems. It is not enough to suggest firm, fast greens as the golfing justification for festuca/agrostis turf. We must understand and explain the mechanics of spin and momentum as related to flight and turf if we are to succeed in course management.

"Nobody's Cutting Like Cushman"



Grass cutting used to be the one job nobody expected a Cushman to do.

After all, when you're already using your Turf Truckster every day of the year to spike, aerate, transport, topdress, vertirake, or spray, you can't expect it to do everything. But that's just what Cushman Users seem to do!

The all-hydraulic Huxley Reelmower is the very latest in our range of British made turf care implements, specially developed at the request of Greenkeepers and Groundsmen to make the Cushman Turf Truckster even more versatile and productive.

The Reelmower gives an exceptional finish on golf course aprons and large tees, as well as

on semi-rough or fairway areas — even in wet conditions when other equipment cannot be used.

You can cut up to 6 acres per hour, with easy operation of all controls from the driver's seat, and the cutting units follow undulating ground contours.

Ask to see how your course can benefit from Cutting the Cushman Way, and how, with a full range of quick-fitting accessories, the Cushman Turf Care System will carry out almost any specialist job you have to tackle.



IT'S A SYSTEM that really WORKS, and that's why to hundreds of Golf Greenkeepers IT'S THE ONLY SYSTEM