

MARCH 1983

Greenkeeper



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



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THIS ISSUE

MARCH 1983

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THE BROUWER TURF CUTTER



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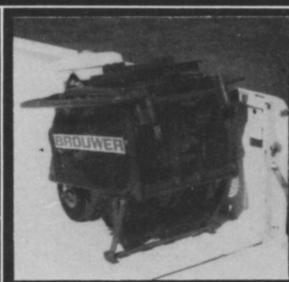
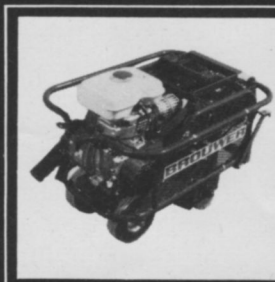
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IN MY OPINION

HOWARD SWAN

Howard Swan is a director of Golf Landscapes, Brentwood, Essex, one of the leading golf course construction companies in the UK. He is also the founder of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors.

IN my 15 years of golf course construction, one thing that saddens me above all is when I read national press comment about a new golf course. It is usually, if good, well built by the course architect or, if bad, badly built by the contractor. Neither statement is a true reflection of the real situation.

Undoubtedly, there have been good and bad golf courses built, but the pressures for a good quality product have increased steadily as the demands for the game have increased. In consequence, the need for quality in design and construction is paramount.

Jim Arthur was quoted recently as saying that there are no bad contractors, only bad architects. I do not believe this is true either. There are both bad architects and bad constructors. There are also more good architects and good contractors and together it is they who can produce the quality product for which we all search.

No good golf course architect would take credit alone for a good course, as he certainly does not build it. No contractor, good or bad, would admit readily to a bad product. The building of a golf course through design, construction and maintenance is a team effort and must be regarded by all as such.

It needs an architect and a constructor, an irrigation specialist and, of course, a greenkeeper to take the virgin land through to a golf playing situation.

Within that team effort, it is important to improve each part and it was with this in mind that my ideas were formulated to begin the British Association of Golf Course Constructors. The ultimate objective is to improve the industry and we strive to do this by education and a monitoring of workmanship and quality in the field itself.

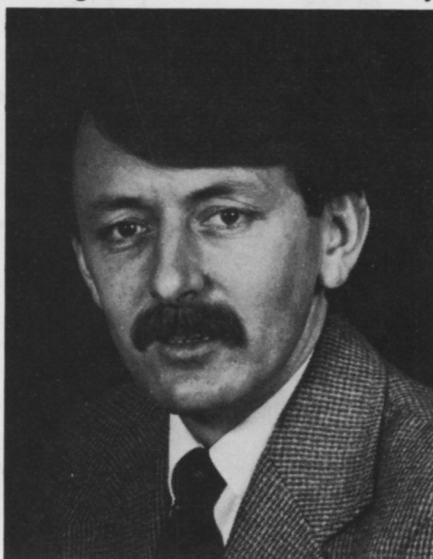
Our efforts to provide education for the trade have met with remark-

able success. In many ways, it is a sad reflection of the industry that it takes a constructors group to provide such education. However, the two education sessions we have hosted have been met with enthusiasm, excellent participation and much optimism for the future.

It is the overall need to work together that I would like to emphasise. There has been far too much open criticism and argument about various ways to design, construct and maintain our golf courses. This is not really something we want. Healthy criticism is good, but destructive criticism can only harm. There is no one way. There will always be many, but each of those ways can never be so diametrically opposed to each other that they cannot be reconciled.

We need a diversity of view as with one common consensus we will not progress. We need competition, we need rivalry but we do not need enmity.

It is, therefore, with such unifying thoughts in mind that I look forward to the time when more of those involved in golf get together to discuss their mutual differences, problems and views. The bodies representing these sections of the industry



are developing in differing ways.

I am greatly encouraged by the efforts of David Jones and Hugh McGillivray, who have founded the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

While the strength of such organisations lie, to a great extent, with the body of the membership, in the regions, section committees and the like, central strength of the association must be underlined. It must be from this source that the association is led.

I believe EIGGA will effect such a leadership and will be recognised by this as a professional organisation. The education and certification programme the new association has compiled is an ambitious one and must be applauded. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America can teach us a lot (but not everything) and we may well look to them for ideas on procedure and programmes.

I was appalled to discover how poorly subscribed the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley is from the golfing organisations. This cannot be the way to go. Well-funded research must be a priority. It may be difficult to justify such an investment in research for golf alone and I know that the National Turfgrass Council is striving to improve the funding of research in turfgrass generally, but with limited success.

While we may go towards forming a British Golf Association Greens Section, or similar, we should look more widely. In America, they have a loose discussion forum called the Allied Associations In Golf, which meets from time to time to look at the game and how it is progressing. At such a gathering there may be the administrative bodies, turfgrass representatives, golf professionals, secretaries and managers. Such gatherings have worked well in America and I see no reason why they shouldn't do the same here.

Come And Join Us!

The association continues to go from strength to strength. If you have not yet filled in a membership form, do not hesitate any longer. Don't forget, until you've paid your £12 (£16 if you are a member of the trade), your membership will not be registered. EIGGA's membership year runs from January 1.

Membership benefits include a regular copy of *Greenkeeper*, as well as 24-hour life cover. Personal membership cards are now available and the association's constitution, which is forwarded to all new members upon joining, contains an order form for ties (gold motif on dark blue), pull-overs with the EIGGA crest in full colour (wine, navy, blue, green, camel) and blazers with a gold wire badge, all of which can now be

obtained from the general administrator.

The National Grand Draw with a first prize of a £1,200 holiday for two is also now under way. Proceeds will help finance a full-time administrator, so please try to sell as many tickets (obtainable from the general administrator) as possible to make this venture a success. The draw will take place at the AGM at Brighton on April 17. (See booking form below.)

In the next issue of *Greenkeeper*, a full book service list will be published. Available to members through the association will be books on many aspects of greenkeeping, design, technical reference, as well as golf.

Diary Dates

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon branch is

holding a meeting at Maidenhead Golf Club on March 23 at 7.30 pm. Donald Steel, golf correspondent of the *Sunday Telegraph*, will address members.

The southern branch is holding its annual dinner at Walton Heath on March 25. Tickets cost £8 and are available from David MacIndoe, 39 Winton Drive, Croxley Green, Watford, Herts. Tel: Watford 36416.

Finally, the EIGGA Spring Golf Tournament will be staged at West Herts Golf Club in May. Full details of the day's play will be published in a future issue of *Greenkeeper*.

Any queries regarding EIGGA should be addressed to the General Administrator, EIGGA, Malden Green Farm, Worcester Park, Surrey.

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Now for tees . . .

There is much more to a golf course than 18 greens but, to listen to some, you would think that greenkeeping is purely concerned with looking after greens. This is not helped by green committees referring to themselves as greens committees. There is a world of difference. Their jurisdiction covers the entire course, i.e. the green as opposed to the house.

Admittedly, in the days when there was little money for course budgets, most of it perforce had to go towards looking after the greens — members being expected to find a level stance 'on the fairway' and play the ball where it lay, on fairways that received virtually no treatment other than occasional mowing, and with penal rough coming right to the edge of the fairway.

Today, graded rough is accepted as normal and fairways must receive more attention, mechanical rather than manurial, if only to help them withstand the wear and tear of a level of play unimagined 25 years ago.

Obviously, there must be priorities — and even agronomists concede that the house should have its share, but *not* the lion's share. Too often what is available for the course is what is left after the purchase of new curtains or carpets for the clubhouse, or even the car park being tarmacadamed.

When working out yearly maintenance budgets, all too often far too little is allocated to looking after teeing grounds. On far too many courses, tees are treated as poor relations yet, as I am never tired of saying, they suffer more intensive wear than any other part of the course, and deserve more generous treatment.

Not only do tees get very little attention, but available teeing space is often no larger than it was years ago when play — and especially winter play — was a fraction of today's levels. Admittedly, on many courses, restricted space may prevent the enlargement of some, but surely never all tees, even on the most restricted layout. Furthermore, already limited space is often further restricted by visibility from the tee to the green being affected by trees encroaching on the fairway — and no golfer will use the edge of a tee if it puts his shot in jeopardy, wherever the greenkeeper puts his boxes.

I never fail to understand why the judicious trimming or even removal

of trees that have outgrown their allocated space should create such high temperatures among conservationists, when foresters know they must thin out and brash their crop if it is to mature properly into specimen trees.

Equally, to listen to some of the anguished cries when scrub and undergrowth are cleared to let in light and air, you would imagine that golf is some slightly dubious activity, to be shielded from the prying eyes of the public, instead of a game of open spaces. Wooded, parkland courses, whatever their merits, can never rank in my estimation with open links and heathland.

I digress — and must return to the question of better tees. This comes under several headings. First, new tees must be constructed with as much care and to similar specifications as greens, with special drainage and some provision for irrigation, even if this is not necessarily automatic pop-up watering. They must be free draining, but of course soil depths over drainage carpets need not be so great, since we do not have to sink the cup on a tee!

Tees must be large enough to spread the wear and wide enough to permit lateral moves of the markers. Thankfully, that vogue for long, narrow tees (emergency landing strips) seems a thing of the past — typical of a fad in design started by someone with no practical experience. A moment's thought would show that two tees with nominally the same surface area could have vastly different available teeing space. Consider a tee five yards wide and 60 yards long, and I have seen some even narrower and longer. Available space is probably less than 150 square yards, bearing in mind that a yard at each edge is unusable, but a tee 15 yards wide by 20 yards long would provide 230 square yards of teeing space.

We may yet see a swing back to separate tees at each hole, characteristic of links courses, often at a slightly different orientation, but not the pocket handkerchiefs which the topography of the dunes so often enforced. One advantage of separate tees is that it greatly facilitates repair work, since the tee can be closed for renovation, though I accept that one large tee does tend to make working, especially mowing and aeration, easier.

By
Jim Arthur



The main advantage of separate tees is, of course, that wear is spread, not only in walk-off traffic between green and tee and off the tee, but down the fairway with different drive-landing areas. It is also possible to shut up paths to and from tees for rest and renovation when they become eroded by traffic.

On this subject, I am opposed to multi-level tees, and to exaggeratedly built-up tees, especially when the slopes of the banks are so severe that it is impossible to mow them with anything save a Flymo. There is so much space lost in accommodating the change of level, not only the slope itself, but the need to leave at least a yard at the top and foot of the slope, that often over half the theoretically available space is lost.

Tees should certainly be built so that modern equipment can be got on and off them without too much problem. This includes tractor-mounted fairway aerators, as these are a quick and efficient method of aeration, which I often advise on greens when conditions are suitable.

There is a good case for making special over-drained winter tees, which may be scrubbed out by winter play, but then closed for intensive renovation and allowed six months to recover before being brought back into play. Many clubs that pride themselves on virtually never switching to temporary greens think little of asking their members to tee off from fairways for most of the winter. Of course, such tees with shallow soil depths would need irrigation to aid

Continued on page 30 . . .

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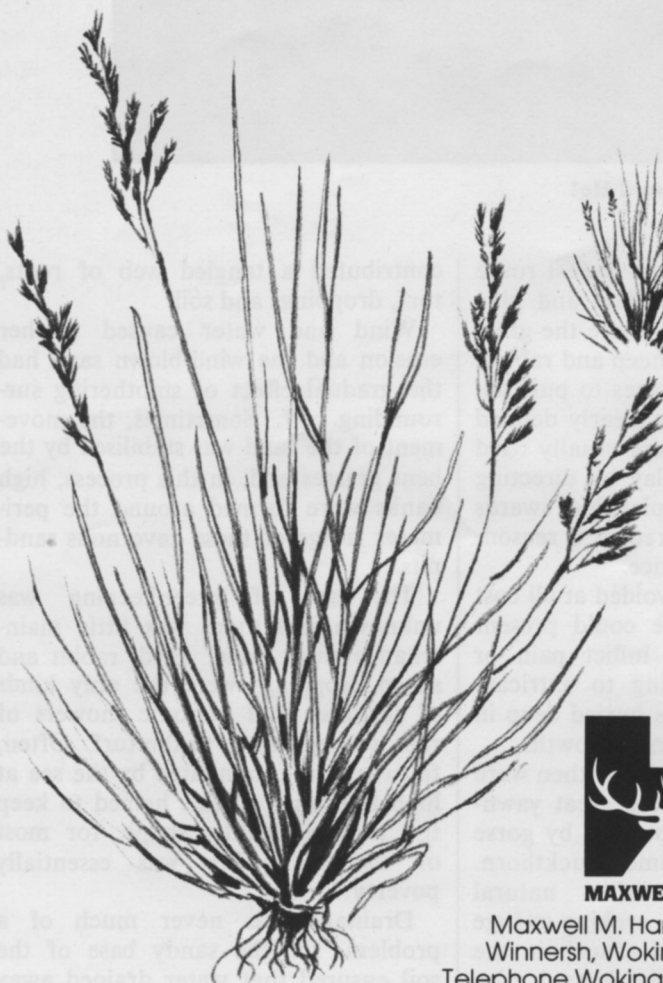
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Bunkers!

An historical appraisal by John Campbell



An awesome, timber-faced bunker on the 4th hole at Westward Ho!

Sand bunkers on a golf course are a constant reminder of the origins of the game, which was played over the undulating tracts of firm, sandy turf adjacent to the Scottish coast. There were no trees or lakes on these ancient links, but there was always a profusion of prickly gorse or whins, which offered some shelter to wildlife and, when in bloom, filled the air with a subtle fragrance and rich gold colour.

The early Scottish courses were, to a great extent, fashioned by nature and the typical conditions found there consisted of towering, windswept sand dunes and hollows where the grass grew if the soil was reasonably fertile. The impoverished soil conditions only sustained certain kinds of vegetation including bent grasses and a little bit of fescue, which was best adapted to this particular habitat in close proximity to the sea. The dwarf growing habit of this type of vegetation was ideal for golf with the leather-encased, feathery balls of the time.

The undulating nature of the sandy terrain dictated the line of play and

golfers would choose the easiest route through the natural valleys and play to small plateau areas where the grass was nibbled short by sheep and rabbits to form primitive surfaces to putt on. There were no tees or clearly defined fairways and the players usually tried to keep the ball in play by directing their shots for the playable swards where they were assured of a reasonable lie and a level stance.

Dunes were to be avoided at all cost for the dreaded gorse could present severe penalties and inflict pain or injury when attempting to extricate the precious featheries buried deep in the tangled mass of undergrowth.

But the real terror of golf then were the bunkers, which were great yawning sandpits often populated by gorse or broom and sometimes buckthorn. Early bunkers were often natural sandpits where sheep seeking refuge from the winds would crouch in the hollows and behind the lofty banks, enlarging the process of erosion. Undermining caused by burrowing activities of rabbits and other animals

contributed a tangled web of roots, turf, droppings and soil.

Wind and water caused further erosion and the wind-blown sand had the gradual effect of smothering surrounding turf. Sometimes, the movement of the sand was stabilised by the bent grasses and, in this process, high banks were formed around the perimeter fringe of these cavernous sandpits.

The art of greenkeeping was unknown and there was little maintenance work done. Bird, rabbit and sheep droppings were the only kinds of fertiliser and periodic showers of rain washed this in to the turf. Often, fairways were inundated by the sea at high tides and all this helped to keep the turf in healthy shape, for most of the plant life was essentially poverty loving.

Drainage was never much of a problem, for the sandy base of the soil ensured that water drained away quickly. Flocks of grazing sheep and wild game kept the grass down to the right height for golf and if the con-

ditions were too lush at times, the golfers would simply abstain from playing. The sandy wastelands and bunkers were never raked or tended, except when smoothed by random gusts of strong wind or heavy rain.

So revered were the bunkers on many of the old links that they were given names befitting their designation. At one time, Sandwich had a vast 15-acre sandy wasteland that had to be carefully avoided from the 3rd tee and was appropriately named Unknown Sahara.

Prestwick is a splendid test of golf and this famous links abounds with every conceivable hazard, from the watery grave to be found in the Pow burn, which intersects the course at so many points, to the huge Cardinal bunker where the tee shot must be long and straight before the trap can be negotiated safely with the second shot. Then, when you tee up in front of the Pow burn, you are confronted with enormous sandhills, appropriately named the Himalayas. There is also the dreaded Alps bunker.

The Old Course St Andrews also has its fair share of tough bunkers, many of which have quaint names such as The Principals Nose, Ginger Beer, The Beardies, Coffin and, the most famous of all, Hell, which at one time was a massive deep sandy waste.

The notorious reputation of Hell bunker inspired a vivid poetic description by P. P. Alexander in the 1880s:

What daring genius first did name
thee Hell?

What high, poetic, awe-struck,
grand old Golfer?

Misdeem him not, ye pious ones, a
scoffer —

Whoe'er he was, the name befits
thee well,

"All hope abandon, ye who enter
here,"

Is written awful o'er thy sandy jaws,
Whose greedy throat may give the
boldest pause,
And frequent from within comes
tones of fear —

Dread sounds of cleecks, which ever
smite in vain,
And — for mere mortal patience is
but scanty —

Shriekings thereafter, as of souls in
pain,

Dire gnashings of teeth and horrid
curses,

With which I need not decorate my
verses,

Because in fact, you'll find them all
in Dante.



The Hell bunker at St Andrews — untypically under water.



Mid-winter at St Andrews and the gorse in bloom.



A view across the Jubilee Course at St Andrews from the dunes.

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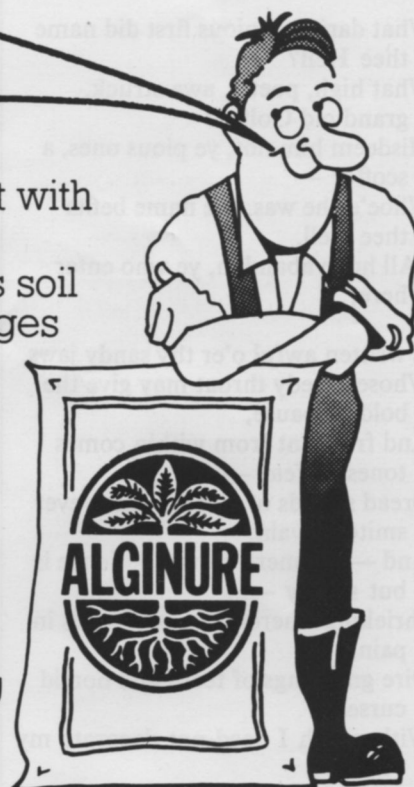
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The Azores — soon to be a top draw . . .



The Golf Course on Terceira Island.

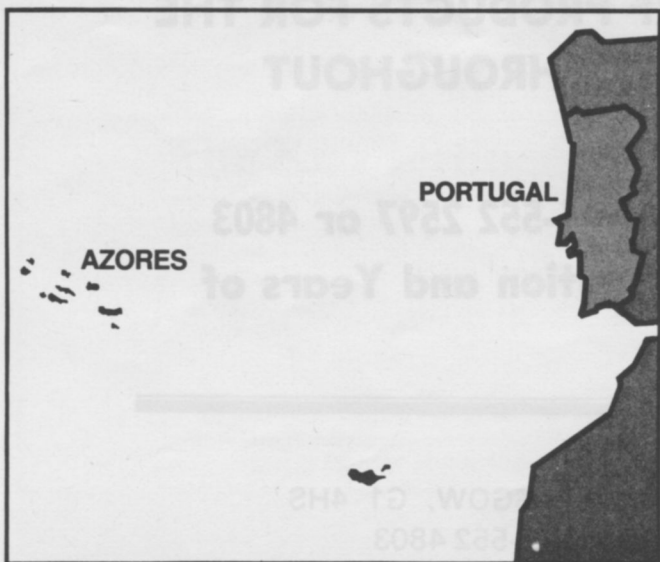
NINE islands form the Azores. They are all different in shape and size, but all equable in climate; each has its own character and idiosyncrasies, each is of volcanic origin and content. The mean winter temperature is 12° to 15° and rarely does it become warmer than 30° in the summer. Contrary to popular belief, they do not lie in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, but only a third of the way across — some 900 miles about due

west from Lisbon and less than a two-hour flight. Where it is never too hot throughout the day for golf, nor too cold, it is safe to predict that the keen golfer's energy would not be sapped after 36 holes at any time of the year.

By
Frank Pennink

I first went there in January last year at the invitation of the Regional Office of Tourism situated on the Island of Faial at Horta. I visited the islands of Sao Miguel, by far the biggest, and Terceira, by far the busiest in a military sense.

At Furnas, which is a 45-minute drive from the capital of Sao Miguel, Ponta Delgada, a considerable town of over 50,000, are found not only the fumaroles of boiling water, its lake of





A typical coastal view.

deep blue and green in separate halves, the famous Terra Nostra park and hotel of the same name, but a McKenzie Ross course of quite exquisite design.

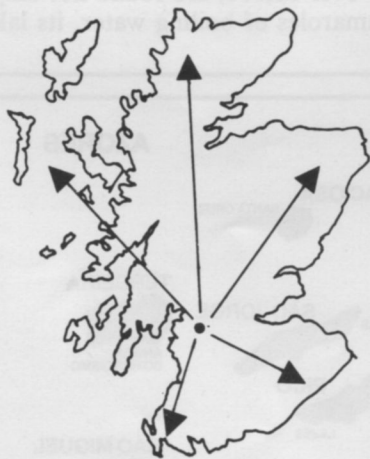
When first I walked round it in the depth of winter and about 15°, I felt it emulated our own, celebrated Royal

Worlington. I have not changed my opinion. Translate the Japanese pines there into the Scotch pines at Mildenhall and you have strangely similar courses. While there is perhaps no green as fiendishly contoured as Worlington's 5th, at Furnas, all the greens have very strong slopes and none too

many pin positions for the level yarder.

A pleasant surprise is that the additional land available for building is equally exciting and undulating. On the western side are three hills and I would dearly love to flatten part of the first, set the clubhouse thereon, as

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well as a putting green, perhaps a tennis court and swimming pool. Golfers would be able to enjoy not only a view of every single hole, but extensive views over this green and beautiful island.

It would hurt me, though, to make openings through the thick lines of pine and the ubiquitous hydrangea hedges. This could, and I think will, become a jewel of a course — some 6,000 metres long and much sought after by the real connoisseur.

A bonus after 18 or 36 holes would be a swim in the hotel pool, always at the same, lukewarm temperature and very useful for rheumatics and creaks of other kinds!

Probably, they will keep the clubhouse on its present site until finance and more play justify the expense of flattening some of the hill and the construction of a short but somewhat alpine access road. There is a formula for two loops of nine from there as well.

Whisked round in a buggy

I saw the first class 18-hole course on the Island of Terceira and was whisked round by the professional in a buggy. I found the course beautifully kept, with 1,000 members, a fully automatic irrigation system (not really required in the climate) and typically American in its bunkering — obviously indicating the need for another course on an island with a vast US air base where all the staff seem to play the game.

Arriving at Horta, the charming capital town of Faial, I enjoyed a great exchange on the virtues and interests of the islands at a buffet thrown by the tourist board in the Estalagem de Santa Cruz — a 14th century fortress turned into a delightful hotel on the waterfront.

There followed two days exploring



Lagoa Do Fogo ("Fire" Lake), Sao Miguel Island.

what must be one of the finest golfing sites I have seen. Climbing north, some six kilometres on a steep and winding road, past the Dutch windmills that overlook the Flemish village, I approached rugged woodland. Down a farmland track, a magnificent panorama welcomes — with the neighbouring island of Pico in the immediate background, its peak snow-clad in winter, with the stretch of ocean below. The golf site of 50 hectares or more lies in a wide basin, gently sloping to the sea a few kilometres distant, containing its own minor hills and valleys, a stream, tree-bound running diagonally across, with other groups of woodland and bounded on the other three sides by pinewoods.

It is fortunate that almost all the land is government property, though I have recommended about 15 hectares of private land, whereon a few holes of exceptional quality could be

made. Apart from some drainage (most of the land drains well and naturally) this would be a below average costing 18 holes as all the land is under grass, a considerable proportion of which is bent and fescue. It is possible, too, to return to the clubhouse sited on the highest point, by a tacking and not too energetic means, with each loop of nine holes.

The intention certainly appears to proceed with the extension to 18 holes on Sao Miguel, where another 18-hole course may appear by means of French finance on the banks of the lake of Sete Cidades; and to make the new 18 holes near Horta.

Ultimately, there may well be a course on all the islands though Corva may be rather too small to house one. Altogether, a welcome addition for world golf and perhaps a somewhat surprising and unexpected one.

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KEY RANGE



The Seamac Success Story

Few greenkeepers have the chance to guide a new course from its early days. But that was the responsibility placed upon Derek Green when he arrived at Woburn in 1975.

Derek started his career as an apprentice with Birmingham Parks. Later, he worked for two years at the Birmingham Municipal Golf Course. Then, after about six years as greenkeeper at Gay Hill GC, he moved to Woburn at a time when the Duke's Course was already in existence. The new Duchess's Course was built with the estate's own labour.

By the time Derek joined the staff, most of the new course was down to grass and he had five months to get it into playing condition. This time was occupied by shaping fairways, cleaning approaches to greens, spiking, top dressing and tree work.

Now, both courses are very busy all-year-round and one 'aid' to which Derek gives repeated approval is Seamac 600 seaweed extract, which he started using three years ago. He used the extract experimentally at first, applying Seamac at the rate of one gallon per acre mixed with Farmura at nine gallons per acre, to one green and one fairway. He has since been using this treatment as routine on fairways, tees and greens — except that he now normally uses Seamac at three gallons per acre with Farmura at seven gallons. Derek reckons a green takes about three pints of Seamac 600.

He is well satisfied with the long-term results and believes the effect is best judged over a period of time rather than on any one-season experiment, which can be falsified by exceptional outside factors. He is even more firm in echoing the words of Jim Arthur that this treatment is a beneficial adjunct to, but no substitute for, the traditional spiking and top dressing, which must go on as before.

What, then, are the benefits to be expected from using Seamac? Even in his first test season, Derek recorded much more uniform growth and concluded that the more vigorous growth of the seeded fescues and bents had quite noticeably contained and controlled the amount of annual meadow grass. Another favourable result was that during the first winter after application, there was much less disease than usual on the test green.

On the fairway, he noticed good



Derek Green applies Seamac seaweed extract to one of Woburn's greens.

uniform growth throughout the season and drought resistance was markedly improved — important to him, as Woburn has no water supply to the fairways. The time it took for drought effect to show, and the speed of recovery after the first rain, were markedly improved compared with untreated areas. All his test areas were on the actual course, receiving the same playing use as the control areas with which they were compared.

Derek is still working out the best treatments and the times and rates of application through which he can get the maximum help from Seamac. He now applies Seamac 600 three or four times a year, sometimes to greens alone, and two of those applications are in conjunction with Farmura. These treatments are dovetailed into his spiking and top dressing, which he carries out two or three times a year.

On an alkaline soil, he likes to add chelated iron or sulphate or iron to give good colour and is still experimenting to find the optimum rate for this ingredient. Such additions usually need to be related to the peculiar needs of each course, according to the underlying soil. Therefore, it is not possible to recommend a universal cocktail of trace elements to suit everyone.

Apart from seasonal cultivations, Derek finds other uses for Seamac now that he has found by experience what it can do. For instance, he uses it on tees in divoting and records a tremendous improvement in germination and tiller development. In 1981,

he applied his last Seamac treatment of the year in late September, to assist over-wintering of the grass, and noted that, in what was generally a very bad year for fusarium, his greens showed little disease.

Year round, he appreciates that Seamac is quick and easy to apply, does not scorch the grass or cause any interruption of play.

Derek is perhaps fortunate in that he is responsible directly to the club management and discusses proposed turf management techniques with them. This arrangement ensures continuity of policy, which has facilitated his success with Seamac because he is convinced the benefits of seaweed on turf are cumulative. Sometimes, the benefits may be swift — but again the benefit may take a season to be properly appreciated.

"The product works," he said, "but the greenkeeper must be given time to make it work." This is inevitable with a catalyst that works through the plant's own natural biological system, which cannot be manipulated to function outside its proper seasons.

Seamac can, however, be a great help in stimulating grass when used to assist the normal growth programme, as Derek found when he had to re-lay two compacted greens. The greens were cut up in November, re-laid and were ready for play again in April. He noted that the speedy re-establishment of close, well-rooted turf was greatly assisted by Seamac, which he now always uses for re-laying greens.

Constructors On Course At Writtle

The organisers of the four-day educational conference of the British Golf Course Constructors' Association at Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex deserve praise for their choice of speakers and the smooth way the whole thing was run. Attendance was up to expectation with over 80 delegates and the general consensus was a highly successful meeting, *writes John Campbell.*

The paper presented by Jim Prusa, educational director of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, dealt with course maintenance in the US. In comparing notes, he saw many similarities in the problems of upkeep on both sides of the Atlantic and stressed that the popular image of unlimited budgets, immaculate grooming and highly manicured course conditions, as seen at Augusta and other championship venues, did not reflect the true picture of the average course in America, where such high standards are not the norm.

He added that most American superintendents operate on a tight budget, do course construction and

alteration work, have to cope with the wear and tear of heavy play and an ever-increasing volume of golf car traffic. With regard to course upkeep, he reported that mounting costs are forcing many clubs to restrict the amount of course grooming and revert to a more traditional British-style of maintenance with the rugged and natural look.

On the subject of golf-course architecture, Mr Prusa confessed to having a great admiration for the work of Scots Dr Alistair Mackenzie and Donald Ross, whose design work has created some of the finest courses in America. Much greater use of high technology in turfgrass research was helping to achieve more efficiency and the use of computers was fast becoming a reality in developing new turfgrass cultivars, etc.

Dick Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, was guest speaker at the conference dinner and acknowledged the need for more money to be invested in turf research and golf, which has always been one of the poor relations in the sports and recreation industry in the past.

I recently had an enquiry from a 25-year-old American greenkeeper in Massachusetts. He has ten years experience in course management and would like the opportunity of working on a course in Britain for a few months. He admits to "being useful with a tractor and bucket, a fairly good mechanic and known to dig a pretty good ditch when needed!" He is available from May onwards and would appreciate offers of help. Anyone interested should write to Patrick Kristy, 96 Fairview Way, Amherst, Massachusetts, 01002 USA.

Lancs Link

Nickerson Turfmaster has appointed a new distributor to look after its sales interests in Lancashire.

Gibsons Garden Machinery, Highgate Garage, Newton, Kirkham, Lancs — Tel: Kirkham 682516/685881 — now forms part of the national network selling Turfmaster equipment.

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Ransomes Wins Trade Award

At the British Agricultural and Garden Machinery Association (BAGMA) annual awards evening recently, Ransomes won the 1982 trophy for the greatest contribution by a manufacturer to the specialist garden machinery trade.

With a membership of 1,000 dealers, of whom 350 are garden machinery specialists, the origins of BAGMA date back to 1917. But it wasn't until 15 years ago, with the increasing use of motor mowers by the public and high-output turfgrass cutting machinery by professionals, that the specialist garden machinery section was formed.

Sales manager John Wilson said: "It was an honour to receive the award on behalf of Ransomes in the company's 150th year of grass machinery manufacture. We appreciate the manner in which BAGMA members have acknowledged our achievement."

Ransomes reported exports to America in 1982 of over £1 million — 100 per cent up on 1981.

"This has offset," sales director Guy Catchpole said, "the business we have lost in Europe as a result of the cur-



BAGMA president Bryce Houston (left) presents the award to Ransomes sales manager John Wilson.

rent recession, enabling us to expand in the States faster than we originally intended." He went on to say how, for a number of years, the company has been attending major exhibitions in the States and sending out experts to get its products known and in the hands of users.

Finally, in recognition of promoting sales of Ransomes in the Netherlands

during the past 20 years, Charles de Wolff and his wife visited Ipswich for a luncheon party and presentation upon his retirement.

Employed by the company's distributor in the Netherlands Landre Milieu for 30 years, he was responsible for placing Ransomes mowers with Ajax and Feyenoord football clubs.

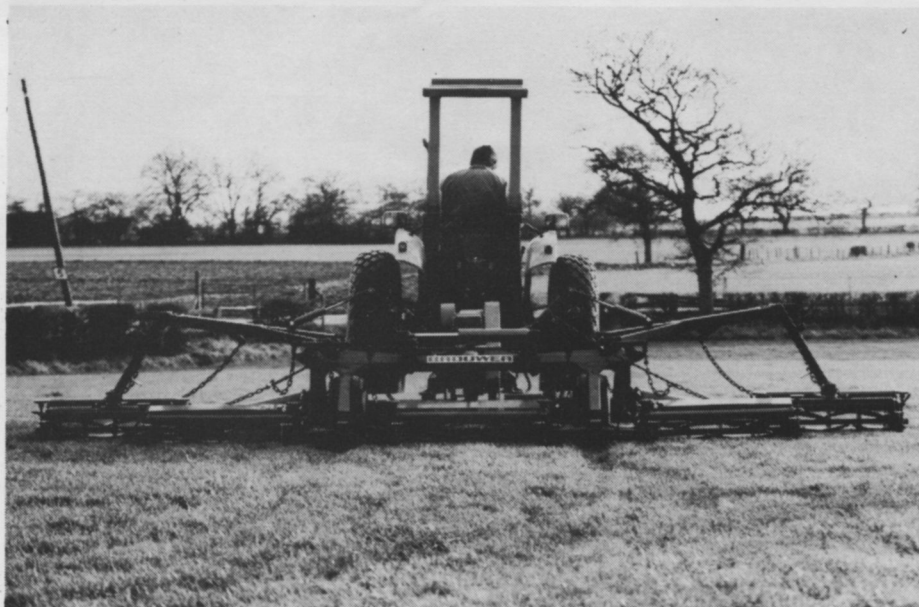
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The overall unit as a seven gang configuration.

To cope with undulations encountered on golf courses, parkland and amenity areas, Brouwer has developed the floating head version of its successful PTO gang mower.

The cutting units have been given a fully articulated linkage which, combined with a front roller, ensures that even the most difficult of contours are followed accurately and without scalping damage.

With the benefits of the PTO direct drive system, a Brouwer Floating Head mower is capable of mowing semi-rough grass areas up to 3in long as easily as producing a fine finish on fairway and green surrounds. This eliminates the need for two separate sets of gang mowers saving capital expenditure and reducing maintenance costs. The Floating Head mower is available with five and six bladed reels and five and seven gang units. By adding the tractor track remover kit, wheel marks are brushed out and grass can be cut when longer to give a uniform appearance and finish.

The conventional Brouwer direct drive PTO mower was originally developed some six to eight years ago for use on the turf farms owned by the Brouwer group in the Ontario region of Canada. Following careful research and progression, the unit has now been introduced to, and accepted by, local authorities, golf greenkeepers and contractors throughout the UK as an extremely cost effective and efficient method of maintaining large amenity, fairway and general grass areas.

The Brouwer mowers use a simple, self-adjusting belt system taken from a standard PTO shaft to provide direct power drive to each cutting unit. They are available with either hydraulic or manual lift to the cutting units to provide a versatile transport position.

The Brouwer product range is distributed throughout the UK by Watmore's Turfland, Red House Farm, Preston-on-the-Hill, Warrington. Tel: Aston (Runcorn) 261.

Soccer Substitute

The Poligras mobile installation used for the Football League's Soccer 6 indoor tournament at the Birmingham International Arena can be laid in a working day and removed in four hours or less.

"The unique zip-up, zip-down method of laying this surface means that large, non-sport venues can be used for football and hockey with a minimum of disturbance to normal programmes of events," said Richard Tigwell, marketing manager (special products) for Maxwell Hart, UK agents for Poligras.

"As well, the surface can be moved from one venue to another quickly. It is also easy to convert ice-rinks to football and other indoor sports by placing a geo-textile layer between the Poligras and the ice surface.

Unlike outdoor installations, where two-metre rolls of Poligras are sewn together, the mobile installation uses 'hook and loop' fabric to join the lengths of synthetic turf together. As the fasteners are recessed into the backing of the turf, the joint is flush and the players do not notice any change in the surface.

To join the adjoining rolls of fabric, a special ploughshare-like device inserts the rolled up hook tape under the mat. The hook and loop fastener can then be easily closed for a secure join.

For these mobile installations, all wooden, asphalt or cement floorings can be used as long as they are level, free of cracks and without angular edges.

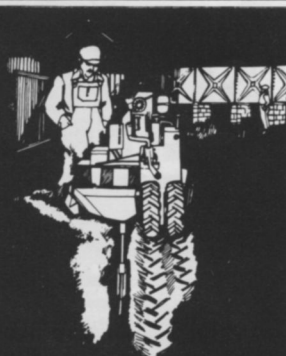
"No additional use of adhesives or pinning is needed to keep the surface stable and flat," Mr Tigwell said.

Further details from Richard Tigwell, Marketing Manager, Special Products, Maxwell M. Hart (London), 612 Reading Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 5HF. Tel: Wokingham (0734) 785655.

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Powerscreen's Answer To Peat-Processing

Powerscreen, the Warrington-based suppliers of mobile screening, conveying and materials handling equipment, has introduced, through its Powersizer subsidiary, a compact screening unit ideal for processing peat, compost and topsoil with high moisture content.

This new development, the Mark III Finesmaster, had a proving period in Ireland and produced an impressive result. With an overall length of 16ft, the machine presents material to the 6ft x 4ft vibrating deck, making maximum use of the screening area.

A Finesmaster was installed at the Bord-na-Mona peat factory in December 1981 and has been working a 24-hour-day since. It handles about 15 tons of peat per hour with a moisture content of over 50 per cent. This represents 60 per cent of the total production, the remainder being screened with a 15ft x 4ft Hunt West screen and a Spoke Wheel Probability screen. The Finesmaster separates at 4mm and the other two screens at 10mm.

The Finesmaster has proved to be a very efficient way to handle this material and the aim is to replace the other two screens with another Fines-

master. Because of the corrosive nature of peat, a stainless steel speed-harp has been fitted and after more than seven months production, the wear rate has been negligible.

The factory cycle involves unprepared peat being put through a shredding plant and then presented to the Finesmaster where oversize lumps are separated at 4mm from the fine material. The reject oversize is used as a fuel to heat the steam boiler in the factory while the fine peat con-

taining more than 50 per cent moisture is dried to bring the moisture content to below ten per cent.

● Powersizer is a member of the Powerscreen Group of Companies and was formed in January 1982 to extend the selling activities of Powerscreen equipment into manufacturing.

With its head office and main depot at Warrington and spares and service units at Teeside, Chesterfield and Bristol, both service and advice to the customer are readily available.

Product News

Soilife is a new scientifically developed organic liquid soil conditioner. It performs three functions, which collectively ensure improved soil conditions and promote healthy grass and plant growth.

First, through its enzyme action, it increases micro-organic growth and bacterial action in every type of soil. Second, it allows deep water penetration of the soil filtering below root systems to aerate compacted subsoils. Finally, it breaks up surface compaction and will also reduce clay soils to

a much more friable condition giving improved drainage.

With the application of Soilife, the need for soil slitting and hollow tining is reduced if not totally eliminated. Soilife should be applied three or four times in the first year and should be well watered in. It can be applied in conjunction with any watering system and is completely harmless.

For further details, write to Groves Marketing, PO Box 29, Guildford, Surrey. Tel: 0483 811933.

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Alan Miller.



Claire Kilmurray

Appointments

Alan Miller, 35, has joined Stewart & Co Seedsmen of Dalkeith, Edinburgh, as a technical sales rep. He will cover part of the Lothians, Borders and north-east England.

Alan gained wide experience during 15 years with SAI Agriculture and Horticulture.

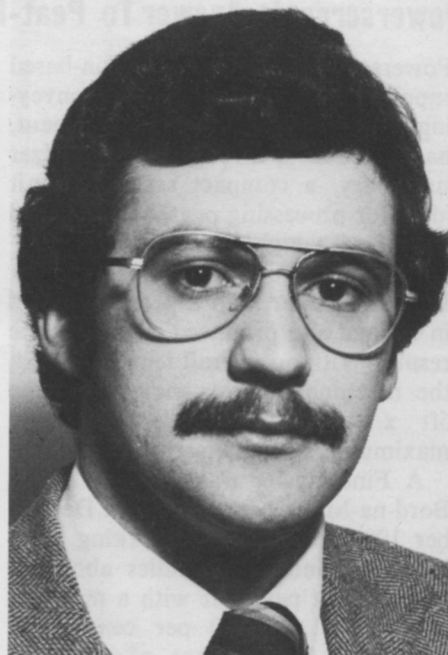
Claire Kilmurray and Neil Mackenzie are the latest additions to the Rigby Taylor sales team.

Claire, who becomes technical rep for the London area, was formerly with Nursery Trades, advising the horticultural trade, and Fisons Horticulture, where she was a technical rep. Born and educated in Ireland, she holds an OND in commercial horticulture.

Neil is now an assistant to the sales manager at Rigby Taylor's Bolton office. Previously, he worked for Chorley council's amenity and recreation department.

Alan Moffatt has been appointed area rep for T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management), Worcester Park, Surrey. His area covers the north-west of the Thames, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Graham Dale has been appointed sales manager of the commercial division of Autoturfcare, Darlington, Durham. His responsibility is for the national sales and marketing of Toro and Gravely grass maintenance machinery. Graham was previously southern regional manager for Autoturfcare. This position has now been taken up by Terry Upton, who comes from Turf Machinery (London).



Alan Moffat.



Graham Dale.

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Ransomes Grass Machinery

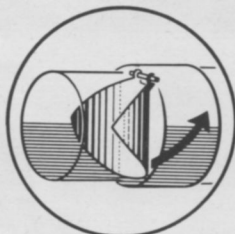
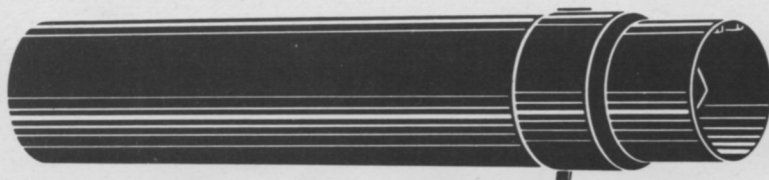
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New Mole-Traps From The Continent

Bymail has found a method, tested on the continent, of dealing with the problem of moles. By placing two traps (one facing in each direction) in the underground runs, the moles can be caught alive without resorting to poison or gas.

The traps consist of an 8in tube with a stainless steel hinge, which allows the mole to enter but not get out. They cost £5 for the pair, inclusive of postage and packing, and come complete with instructions and two yellow markers to show where the traps have been placed. Available by post from Bymail, 29 Cavendish Road, Redhill, Surrey.



DETAIL OF HINGE



Something Special

Green Brothers, makers of the Lister range of solid teak outdoor furniture, has introduced a range of 'specials'. The new development has been made

possible by improving production techniques for greater manufacturing flexibility and it means Lister seats can now be customised.



The Lister love seat — commissioned to commemorate last year's Royal Wedding is an example of the new facility offered by Green Brothers.

Flymo Rewards Top Groundsmen

David Bellamy discussed the finer points of lawn care with Andrew Taylor and Julie Hough after presenting them with their awards as groundsman and junior groundsman for 1982.

They won their awards in a competition sponsored jointly by Flymo and the IOG.

Andrew, 30, the groundsman of the year, is a groundsman with Lucas Aerospace in Coventry. Julie, 20, is a trainee with the Vale Royal District Council in Cheshire. Each received a silver trophy and video tape recorder.

SWINDON has a new driving range with an addition to Broome Manor's facilities, which already include an 18-hole course and clubhouse.

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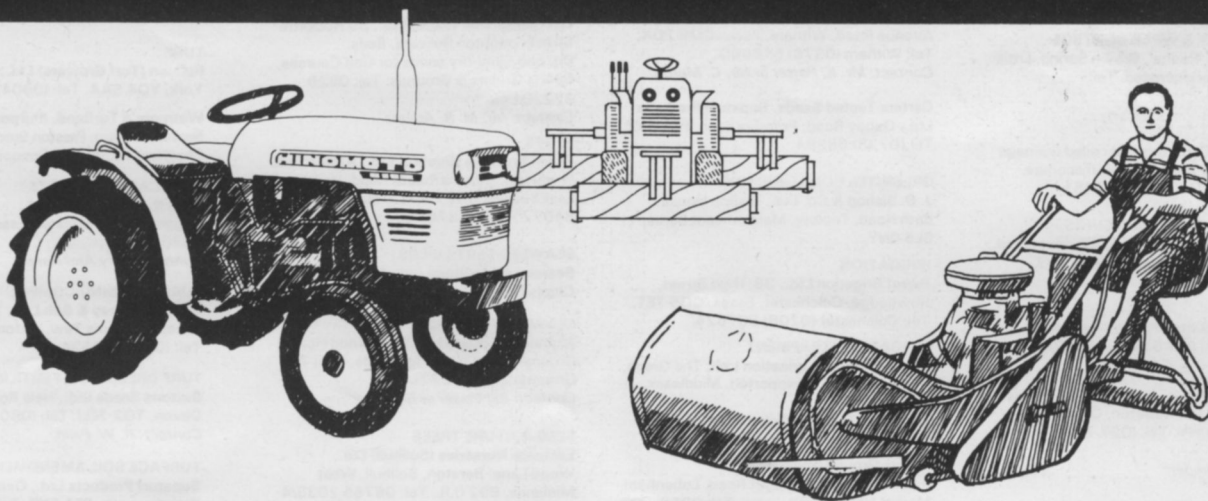
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Buyers' Guide

ARTIFICIAL GRASS

Greensward Company, The Old Hall, Langham, Oakham, Rutland, Leicester. LE15 7JE Tel: (0572) 2923. Contact: S. C. Abel-Smith.

BARK & BARK BASED PRODUCTS

Camland Products Ltd., 36 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1DB Tel: (0223) 68780 Telex: 81254.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

Cotton (CK), Pennick, Lawrie & Partners Ltd., Marlow Place, Station Road, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 1NB. Tel: Marlow 72555 Telex: 31121.

Hawtree & Son, 5, Oxford Street, Woodstock, Oxford, OX7 1TQ. Tel: Woodstock (0993) 811976

Hamilton Stutt & Co., 12, Bingham Avenue, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8NE. Tel: (0202) 708406.

Contact: J. Hamilton Stutt.

T. J. A. McAuley BSc FICE, 7, Donegal Square West, Belfast, N. Ireland, BT1 6JF. Tel: (0232) 26981.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTORS

Golf Landscapes Ltd., Ashwells Road, Bentley, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9SR. Tel: 0277 73720.

Land Unit Construction Ltd., Folly Farm, Hanslope, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK19 7BX. Tel: 0908 510414

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd., 27, Vicarage Road, Verwood, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 6DR. Tel: 0202 822372.

Southern Golf & Landscapes Ltd., 85, West Street, Warwick, Tel: 0926 492898.

Chipman Ltd., Horsham, Sussex, RH12 2NR Tel: 0403 60341

CONSTRUCTION

Charles Lambert (Lawns) Ltd., Dudley Court, Cramlington, Northumberland. Tel: Cramlington 714121. Contact: D. M. I. Emmerson

DESIGN, PLAY & WEAR CONTROL

John Stobbs, 'Roona', Brown Spring, Little Potter End, Berkhamsted. Tel: 04427 2927.

DRAINAGE

Lamflex P.V.C. corrugated coiled drainage pipe. **Critchley Bros. Ltd.**, Brimscombe, Stroud, Glos. Tel: 045 3882451.

FERTILISERS & TOP DRESSINGS

Cannock Fertilisers, Supaturf Products Ltd., Oxney Road, Peterborough, PE1 5YZ. Tel: (0733) 68384.

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

C. H. Binder Ltd., Moreton, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0HY. Tel: (027 783) 246 & 320. Contact: F. Binder.

A. W. Maskell & Sons Ltd., Stephenson Street, London, E16 4SA. Tel: 01-476-6321.

GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

Bridges Pennants, 68, Southchurch Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2RR. Tel: 0702 612344. Contact: Mr. Elvin.

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

H. Pattison & Co. Ltd., Stanmore Hill Works, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 3HD. Tel: 01-954 4171. Contact: Peter Dell.

GOLF COURSE AND BOWLING GREEN CONSULTANT

John Campbell, 121/123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex. Tel: 02555 7526.

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

J. S. Bishop & Co. Ltd., Bishop House, Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 0NY.

GOLF COURSE CONSULTANTS

John Souter Esq., Cunningham Road, Stirling, Scotland. Tel: Stirling 2141.

GRASS CUTTING EQUIPMENT

Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies PLC., Nacton Works, Nacton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP3 9QG. Tel: (0473) 712222. Contact: J. F. R. Wilson/T. J. Knight.

GRASS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

Turners of Wheatley Ltd., 64, London Road, Wheatley, Oxfordshire, OX9 1YB. Tel: 08677-2349.

Professional Grass Machinery Ltd., Unit 5, Oaklands Industrial Estate, Cannock, Staffordshire. Tel: 05438 77866. Contact: Vicky Stevens.

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.

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

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

Hurst Gunson Cooper Taber Ltd., Avenue Road, Witham, Essex CM8 2DX. Tel: Witham (0376) 516600. Contact: Mr. K. Potter or Mr. C. Martin.

Carters Tested Seeds, Supaturf Products Ltd., Oxney Road, Peterborough, PE1 5YZ. Tel: (0733) 68384.

GREEN/TEE CONSTRUCTION

J. S. Bishop & Co. Ltd., Bishop House, Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 0NY.

IRRIGATION

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

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 Limited Unit 7, Millstream Trading Estate, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SD. Tel: Ringwood 6261.

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

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

J. S. Bishop & Co. Ltd., Bishop House,

Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 0NY.

LIQUID ORGANIC FERTILISER

Farmura Ltd., Stone Hill, Egerton, Nr. Ashford, Kent. Tel: Egerton (023376) 241.

LITTER BINS

Green Brothers (Geebro) Ltd., (Lister Teak Products) Summerheath Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3DT. Tel: (0323) 840771 Telex: 87676.

MOWERS

Brouwer P.T.O. Gang Mowers, (U.K. Concessionaires), Watmore's Turfand, Redhouse Farm, Preston Brook, Warrington, Cheshire. Tel: Aston (Runcorn) 09286 336.

Morrison Precision Lawnmowers

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

MOWERS - ROTARY

Lawnboy Farm Services Ltd., Railway Road, Downham Market, Norfolk. Main agents for Lawnboy Rotary Mowers. Contact: Nick Brett.

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.

W. Mountain & Son Ltd., Jackson Lane Works, Bank Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9JE. Tel: Morley (0532) 531201 Telex: 557067. Contact: A. C. Mountain.

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

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

SEATS

Green Brothers (Geebro) Ltd., (Lister Teak Products), Summerheath Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3DT. Tel: (0323) 840771 Telex: 87676.

SEAWEED FERTILISERS

Seamac Agricultural Ltd., Foundry Lane, Chippenham, Wilts.

SEAWEED PRODUCTS

Alginure Products Ltd., Leyswood House, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent Tel: Groombridge (089276) 782. Contact: Bill Visser or Ben Simpson

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.

SOIL CONDITIONERS

Alginure Products Ltd., Leyswood House, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Tel: Groombridge (089276) 782. Contact: Bill Visser or Ben Simpson.

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

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

(Heavy Duty)

Clan Marketing Company, Milton House, Loddington, Kettering, Northants NN14 1JZ. Tel: 0536 710328

TOP SOIL

Havering Landscape Supply Co Ltd., Havering House, Thornwood Common, Epping, Essex, CM16 6LT. Tel: Epping 76161. Contact: P. J. Furner.

TRACTORS

Lely Iseli Tractors, Crosshall Works, Gt. North Road, Eaton Ford, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs. Tel: 0480 76971. Telex: 32523. Contact: C. Gregory.

TREES & SHRUBS

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

Nottcutts Nurseries Ltd., Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF. Tel: 03943 3344.

TREES TIES & TREE GUARDS

Green Brothers (Geebro) Ltd., (Rainbow Products), Summerheath Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3DT. Tel: (0323) 840771 Telex: 87676.

TRENCHING MACHINES

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

TURF

Rollawn (Turf Growers) Ltd., Elvington, York, YO4 5AA. Tel: (0904) 85406.

Watmore's Turfand, (Purpose Grown), Redhouse Farm, Preston Brook, Warrington, Cheshire, Tel: Aston (Runcorn) 09286 336.

TURF CARE PRODUCTS

John K. King & Sons Ltd., Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex. Tel: 0376 61543. Contact: Mary Ann Hanik.

TURF DRESSING COMPOST

E. A. Goundrey & Son Ltd., The Nurseries, Duns Tew, Oxford, OX5 4JR. Tel: (0869) 40224.

TURF DRESSING & FERTILISER

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

TURFACE SOIL AMENDMENT

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

TURF (SPECIALITY)

Watmore's Turfand (Purpose Grown), Redhouse Farm, Preston Brook, Warrington, Cheshire, Tel: Aston (Runcorn) 336.

WATER & LIQUID STORAGE

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

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IT RHYMES WITH POWER

Jim Arthur Continued . . .

recovery and to survive summer droughts.

In designing tees, obviously the ground contours influence shape, but I am pleased to note a swing away from rigidly rectangular patterns and a reversion to landscaped tees with irregular shaped outlines and rounded fronts. That great architect Tom Simpson used to say "greens are not squares, so why should tees be?"

It all proves my old contention that if you stick to your beliefs long enough, you come back into fashion!

Such roughly circular tees lend themselves to mowing with a triplex and if we achieve 400 square yard tees we need to mow them with something swifter than an old 18 inch Auto-Certes relegated from regular use on greens perhaps a decade ago.

Management of tees must be much more intensive. In fact, on exactly the same lines as the greens. On a visit to the St Andrews courses in late January, I was impressed, yet again, by the quality of the tees and surrounds — especially on the Old Course.

Their tees are managed on exactly the same lines as the greens, even cut with a triplex at the same height. One man measuring the course for the next Open Championship complained that his task was made so difficult because he could not tell where approaches ended and greens began, or which was tee and which was green, where the two surfaces adjoined.

I agreed with Walter Woods that this was the highest possible praise — though perhaps not so intended — and, indeed, you can putt on Walter's tees. The point is that these tees, though so fine textured, are also very hard-wearing and in infinitely better condition, because they are more intensively maintained, than the tees on the majority of courses. This gives the lie to the contention that fine fescues and bent (*Agrostis*) will not wear well and disposes of the idea that we need ryegrass on tees.

While there is now general acceptance — at last — that ryegrass makes appalling fairways, there is still some advocacy of the use of new strains (which seem to come and go with monotonous regularity) of this unsuitable species for tees, on various grounds from hard-wearing capacity to quick establishment and recovery.

In practice, the ryegrass and its inevitable companion, annual meadow

grass, never seem to blend and in winter especially we suffer from the worst possible combination of ryegrass growing in distinct zones, much taller and coarser than the adjacent, rather sickly annual meadow grass. We would not tolerate for long — well, I would not anyway! — such zoning on greens, so why is it regarded as acceptable on tees? Yet another point to emphasise my contention that there is no place for ryegrass anywhere on any European course.

Patches of ryegrass

In recent weeks, I have seen many more such reasons — the pock-marked patches of ryegrass derived from divotting fairways with the wrong seed, and the coarse-textured surrounds to so many greens, coinciding with areas of wear, producing conditions that are equally impossible for chipping or putting. In my view, you should be able to putt with confidence, hazards permitting, from several yards off the actual putting surface. On one course with ryegrass fairways, which has had more than its fair share of adverse publicity, one of its best features are the tees, sown



Walter Woods stands by a new tee recently built at the 14th on the Old Course, St Andrews.

with a non-ryegrass seeds mixture. Would that the fairways had so been!

Walter would, I know, endorse my views on ryegrass, particularly as he has well started the enormous task of patching the Old Course greens at St Andrews, replacing ryegrass-contaminated turf from prime pin positions with fescue turf taken from between the double greens, where there was less traffic, less wear and so no patching.

The ryegrass came in, of course, by selecting the wrong turf over many years ago when plugging worn areas. Incidentally, I have never seen better turfing work than that on these greens over the past three seasons.

To return to tee management, treatments should be ideally exactly the same as for greens. With limited budgets and often below-strength staffing levels, this may be impracticable, but nevertheless the treatments must be on the same lines, even if less intensive.

How can we expect small areas of turf subjected to intensive traffic and considerable damage from club marks to provide good teeing conditions, when all they get is, at best, a 'bit of granny' (granular inorganic fertiliser) and a handful of seed once in a blue moon?

Tees need intensive, frequent aeration — hollow tining has its problems with 'lost' tee pegs; regular top dressing with sandy 'compost'; the same organic nitrogenous fertiliser as the greens; regular mowing; scarification (often as an aid to reseeding, with a non-ryegrass mixture, of course); controlled irrigation and, above all, regular frequent moves of the boxes. Once a week is simply not enough, but you need big tees if worn areas are to be rested long enough before coming back into play and, furthermore, you must have space to move markers laterally.

Never permit players the full width of a wider tee and make sure they do not break the rules and play from outside the markers. Concentrate the wear and so shorten the recovery period, but move markers frequently to avoid completely scrubbing off the turf.

Of course, good greens and good tees are not the only aspect of good course condition and we might devote some thought to better approaches and surrounds, as well as to conserving the natural ecology of fairways and rough, realising how many of our famous links and heathland courses have been so severely threatened by the worshippers of The Great God Green.

Appointments

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