

Looking After Our Heritage At The Home Of Golf

The trustees of the St Andrews links, charged by act of parliament with the efficient stewardship of all aspects of the links, have initiated action that will shape the future of golf there well into the next century.

At a joint meeting of the St Andrews Links Trust and St Andrews Links Management Committee, it was agreed that a comprehensive long-term plan should be prepared to 'cover all facets of potential development and improvement of the link's.

Golf clubs in St Andrews, including the Royal and Ancient, as well as the North East Fife District Council, St Andrews University and the Scottish Tourist Board, were invited to contribute.

It is expected that outline proposals should be available for discussion in the spring. Anyone with views on the matter is invited to write to the Secretary, St Andrews Links Trust, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9JA.

Meanwhile, the St Andrews Links Trust has sold the Rusack's

Marine Hotel to Trusthouse Forte. The 50 bedroom hotel offers views of the Old Course's 1st and 18th holes and was acquired by the trust in 1982 to provide showers, changing and locker rooms and dining facilities, all of which came to fruition when the Links Rooms were opened in 1983.

The sale will provide substantial capital for the St Andrews links development plan. The priority is to ensure an improvement in the basic health and quality of the turf and, to this end, recommendations by consultant agronomist Jim Arthur are being followed.

At least £200,000 will be spent solely on the turf, over and above normal maintenance costs, up to 1987. Additional Verti-Drain equipment, together with maximum recommended volumes of Farmura and increased use of Fenpeat, are expected to ensure the return of exemplary playing surfaces to all St Andrews courses.

Good News All Round For Souter

Souter of Stirling (Sportsturf) has been appointed sole Scottish distributor of Rigby Taylor's Mascot range, which now includes Ultra Sonic, a combination of simazine and glyphosate, as part of the Sonic (glyphosate) line.

Souter is to design and build a new golf course in the Spey Valley. And, after its success with the Maltese national football stadium, the company has been awarded contracts for seven more pitches. Souter has now installed five underground heating systems at soccer grounds and has recently been appointed technical consultant and constructor of the first new racecourse to be built in the UK since the early 1950s - at Musselburgh.

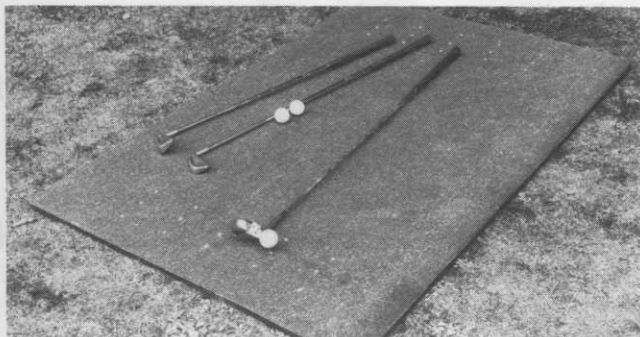
To cap it all, John Souter has been made an honorary member of the Sports Turf Manager's Association of America and addresses the association's conference at San Francisco in February.

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