

SIMON TAYLOR, 22, joined the greens staff at the RAF Germany Golf Club, Bruggen in June 1985, originally to earn some money before returning to university.

However, when September came, he decided not to return to his studies and the club kept him on.

"I have played golf since I was eleven, but had never considered how enjoyable and rewarding working on a golf course could be. Being a golfer means I can appreciate why each job has to be performed in a certain way and what results are expected."

The course at Bruggen has 18 holes, with an SSS of 71, measuring 6,522 yards off the back tees.

## Greenkeeping can be a 'boaring' chore!

**Simon Taylor works at RAF Bruggen in West Germany where he has to contend with some unusual damage to the course within the station's grounds...**

There are three members of the greens staff and an extra worker in the summer. The course is heavily wooded, which means there is plenty to do during the winter when the weather prevents other jobs being undertaken.

"Removing dead and misshapen trees improves the appearance of the course and speeds up playing time. It also makes it easier for the sun and the wind to get through to wet areas. I find tree work in the winter healthy and enjoyable and a welcome change from painting tee markers and flagsticks.

"But the major problem we have at Bruggen is damage to the course by wild boars. This problem occurs most years and it is a long and laborious task levelling out soil and replacing turf so that the ground can recover. Special lamps, smelling deterrents and even gas-guns have little success in keeping the boars away and it is very frustrating to spend all day repairing a damaged area of fairway only to find it ripped up again the next day.

"In 1986, eight fairways were quite extensively damaged and repair work went on until May. Naturally, this meant that basic course maintenance suffered and, to some extent, our summer programme depends on just how much boar damage we experience in spring.

"Permission to shoot the boars has to be given by the German forest master and this is a lengthy process which, in any case, has little overall effect, as the damage has been done by the time per-

*Continued on page 21...*



Simon Taylor - exasperated by the boar damage to his 16th fairway.

*We've built more courses than everyone else put together...  
for new constructions, alterations or improvements on your course...*

## GOLF LANDSCAPES LTD.

ASHWELLS ROAD  
BENTLEY, BRENTWOOD  
ESSEX: CM15 9SR

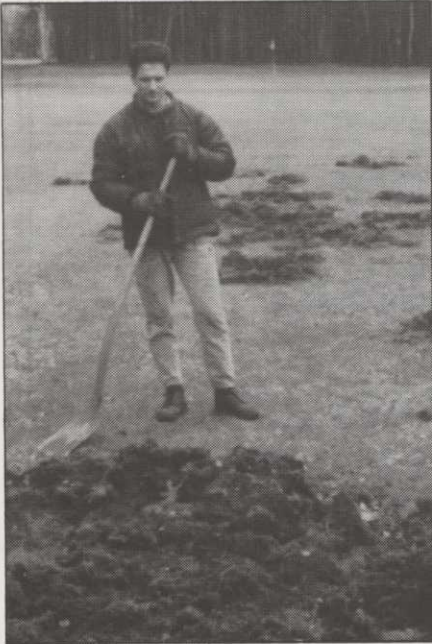
Telephone: (0277) 73720  
Telex: 995215 GOLF LG



*The proven experience in the field  
for construction, drainage and irrigation*



## BOAR DAMAGE CONTINUED...



mission is granted.

"We also experience a great deal of rabbit damage, due to the course being heavily wooded and, as with the boars, permission has to be obtained before any

shooting can be done.

"The relationship between staff and members here will interest other course managers. As Bruggen is an RAF course, the majority of members are only here for about three years and there are a lot of greens fee players. There are also a great number of competitions and society meetings from April to November, both weekdays and weekends.

"The course is relatively busy, so a lot of the work is done while play is going on and some players seem unreasonably impatient when required to wait a few minutes before playing their shots.

"There also seems to be a lack of willingness to consider plans for the course any further ahead than the present time, possibly as a result of short-term membership."

Simon enjoys a good working relationship with colleagues, a Dutchman and his son. However, there are language problems. "It is difficult for me to learn the theoretical side of greenkeeping and also impossible for me to attend college for the same reason."

Simon says he has gained much

more enjoyment from greenkeeping than he would have ever imagined possible and after another year at Bruggen, he intends to look for a position at a course in the UK.

**● To keep pace with the ever-changing face of our industry, Greenkeeper is spreading its wings to take on a more international appeal.**

**It is already widely read in continental Europe, in America, the Far East and Australia and this report by Simon Taylor is the first in a series that will highlight courses, problems and peculiar traits all over the greenkeeping globe.**

**Future articles will cover such diverse locations as Greece; Zimbabwe, where importation problems for spares and chemicals are a major headache and make for some interesting improvisations; the Algarve, now ripe with golf course and property development; and the States, when we will compare the lifestyle and working conditions of an American superintendent and his UK counterpart.**

# NG RANGE.

**TORNADO\*** Based on carbaryl, Tornado gives economical, effective and long-lasting control of casting worms. Because it works by contact and ingestion it gives quick results and good residual activity. The special liquid formulation is easy to mix and simple to apply. After application it leaves no unpleasant odour – so as soon as the grass is dry, play can continue.

**DACONIL<sup>†</sup> turf.** A broad spectrum fungicide for the prevention and control of major turf diseases. Its unique multi-site action and chemical composition means that even after years of successful use it continues to be effective – even sequential spraying programmes create no problems. Daconil turf has dependable and consistent activity at any time of year.



**BANG ON TARGET!**  
**Products**

Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: (0252) 724525  
Read the label before you buy: Use pesticides safely.