However, the biggest problem of all is the rough - because of overgrazing, we are reaching the stage where the rough is gradually being eaten away. During winter months, ponies think nothing of grazing on the gorse and heather and any young trees are instantly doomed. Then, with increased grazing in summer, any new growth is immediately eaten down.

We are, at present, in consultation with the Dartmoor National Park's ecologist in an attempt to find ways of regenerating the growth of heather and gorse. Only time will tell how successful we shall be.

Our maintenance consists of lots of aeration work, frequent topdressing, a little fertiliser and regular scarifying and mowing of greens and tees. During summer, the chain harrows are rarely still on fairways. There is no watering system, but then

Dartmoor is one of the wettest places in England. You don't always get the water quite when you want it, but you never have to wait too long.

Spraying of chemicals is something we have to be very careful about but, fortunately, we seldom need to use them.

There is a greenstaff of four (including myself), which is kept pretty busy all year round. The majority of comment from visitors and members is praiseworthy, but I dream of the day when the fairy godmother of greenkeepers will come and spirit away all the animals. Then we'll give 'em a course to be proud of!

The par-three 12th from the teeing area. "On a clear day, you can see the moors in the background," Stephen promised!