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Venue:
The Royal Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire.

Dates:
17th, 18th and 19th September 1985

Times:
10 am till 5 pm daily.

Entrance:
By Catalogue £1.50. Complimentary admission to IoG Members.

How to get there: (Windsor is just 22 miles west of London.)

By Road: A few minutes off the M4 Motorway (Junction 6) on the Windsor-Maidenhead road (A308). Ample car parking facilities available at £1.50 per vehicle. Coaches free.

By Rail: Frequent services to Windsor from Waterloo, Reading and Paddington with connections to all parts of the country. A complimentary coach service direct to the Exhibition grounds will operate each morning and afternoon from Windsor & Eton Central and Riverside stations.

By Air: Close to London Heathrow and convenient also for London Gatwick airports.

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HEATHLAND
Maintaining the balance and balancing the maintenance, by Kevin Munt

NOTEBOOK
It's news to you

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EIGGA goes to Royal St George's

THE English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association will have its own hospitality marquee at the Open Championship next month, continuing the R & A's courtesy SIGGA initiated so successfully at St Andrews last year. EIGGA's marquee, in the tented village at Royal St George's, will be opposite the R & A members' pavilion and will be open from Monday July 15 to Sunday July 21. The marquee itself, sponsored by Greenkeeper, will be open to all greenkeepers and those connected with the golf course maintenance industry. It will offer a bar, light refreshments and closed-circuit television. The main feature will be a display of EIGGA activities, covering educational opportunities, the annual conference and other aspects of association membership. Two members of the EIGGA board of management will be in attendance to answer visitors' questions and act as hosts to guests.

The Open tented village at Sandwich during the 1981 championship.
How this speedy gets longer
Floranid the new slow release fertiliser range for turf

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Floranid is a BASF trade mark
John Campbell meets the man in charge of 36 holes of prime
golfing territory at The Berkshire.

THE Berkshire Golf Club at Ascot is
one of those natural heathland
courses in an attractive silvan setting.
Two 18-hole courses—the Blue and
Red—have a rich variety of excellent
golf holes to test the skill and ability of
all kinds of player. The club has all the
character of the acid heathland—
resilient, springy turf, an abundance
of heather and majestic tree-lined
fairways that contribute an essential
element of strategy and add to the
aesthetic appeal of the golfing scene.

The upkeep of the two courses is in
the capable hands of Bob Moreton, 40,
an intelligent and genial family man
who moved to the club nearly three
years ago with his wife Valerie,
daughter Rosalind, 19, and son
Adrian, 16. "I came into greenkeeping
by accident. My family were in golf,
but I was more interested in farming,"=
Bob said. "At 21, between jobs, I was
asked to help my father who is a
professional golfer. I was then a low-
handicap player and enjoyed
working on the course.

"Eventually, I was faced with the
decision to become a professional
golfer or take up greenkeeping as a
career. I chose the latter. I don't play
quite so much golf nowadays. My
hobbies are music, male voice choir
singing and, more particularly, my
job."

Bob Moreton began greenkeeping
at Flempton Golf Club—a nine-hole
course in East Anglia on sandy soil.
After seven years there, he took up his
first job as a head greenkeeper at
Bishops Stortford Golf Club. From
there, he went to Ashburnham, a
championship links in South Wales.
He was persuaded to return to
Bishops Stortford and stayed for
seven years, after which he went to
Patshull Park, a new complex that
went bankrupt. He worked with the
receiver for over two years before
finally moving to The Berkshire.

"After caring for an 18-hole course,
I was not quite sure how I would
handle 36 holes, but I soon got into my
stride and enthusiasm for the job has
enabled me to cope.

"There are nine men on the staff—a
full-time mechanic Vic King, who has
proved to be worth his weight in gold.
My assistant, John Haines, was
promoted from the ranks and the
other seven are all experienced
journeymen greenkeepers. I take
special interest in the training of
younger staff members and consider
it important to tell them what is being
done and why.

"I often wish that youngster coming into greenkeeping would ask
more questions, rather than just being
content to pick up the rudiments of
the trade by seeing it being done. If they
were more inquisitive, they would
learn more quickly. If they aspire to
the top of their profession, they must
take the initiative by studying
everything about the scientific
aspects of turf culture and golf-course
management.

"They should try to obtain
books on the subject, read articles by
experts and make a conscientious
effort to absorb all they can. You won't
learn everything from books, but they
are a good basis from which to build
up a deep fund of technical
knowledge.

"Like most golf courses nowadays,
our main problem is dealing with
compaction due to the heavy volume
of play. At the moment, about 80 per
cent of the work is concentrated on
aeration—hollow-tining, slitting,
spiking and spooning, all of which
plays a vital part in our regime. It's
well proven that regular aeration is an
important and essential phase of good
turf management.

"We are often plagued by cold, dry
spring weather in this part of the
country, which seems to retard early
growth on heathland courses and it is
not always easy to present the best
The Berkshire Golf Club.

I don't think it would be appreciated if we slavishly dedicated our methods to producing exceptionally fast greens. Nobody likes to take three or four putts at every hole.

"I am fortunate to have a good committee and the secretary Mr P. Clark has helped me enormously since I came here. The club has invested over £60,000 in machinery and a lot of money has also been spent on materials within the last three years. The committee has given me full support in all that I have done, although we have not yet reaped the full benefit of our investment."

"To carry out any programme of course improvements, you have to discuss all aspects of the work with club officials to gain their approval and convince them of the necessity for any changes. I always make a point of meeting the secretary every day to discuss any problems, the work programme and generally keep him up to date on all that is happening on the course, so he is able to keep the membership informed."

"We have recently installed one of the latest and most sophisticated irrigation systems with individual head control," Bob said. "Having an automatic watering system is a good thing in itself. It allows you to carry out an extensive programme of verticutting, top-dressing and fertilising, whether it is sulphate of ammonia, sulphate of iron or whatever you use."

"But having single head control is far superior, for it gives me greater control over the amount of water I place on each part of every green. One of the things I am looking forward to is being able to judge which particular section of the putting surface wants that little bit of extra water—slopes and undulations will have to be taken into account.

Continued overleaf...

Greenkeeping staff have a spacious machinery and equipment shed.
"It's going to take a little time to sort everything out and, obviously, it will be important to rely on our local knowledge of all the prevailing conditions to determine a satisfactory programme for each individual green. Single head control will help eliminate the deluge effect of four sprinklers coming on together. With each pop-up set on its own timed schedule, there will be greater efficiency, less chance of flooding and better water absorption.

"On heathland, the grasses come under a little more stress from drying winds and, while there may be moisture in the soil, the surface tends to dry out. We can alleviate this by light syringing with the irrigation system to relieve the surface tension."

Installation work on the irrigation scheme commenced at the beginning of the year and it is now in operation. Golf Landscapes of Brentwood in Essex has designed and laid out the new Toro system to the 36 greens, tees and approaches and it has been tailor-made for the club.

The interesting feature of this new system for the greens is that they will each be watered by four 650 series pop-up sprinklers by individual control for improved efficiency. In this country, most other systems have been installed on a block design, which activates all the sprinklers on a green simultaneously. This means that the same amount of water is applied to each part of the green.

Watering in this manner is not always desirable since slopes and high spots on the surface may need more water than hollows and areas in constant shade. The single head system gives a greater degree of flexibility to the watering programme and has implicit advantages in turf culture for the course manager.

All the tees and approaches on the two courses will be watered by Toro 650, 640 and Super 600 series sprinklers, with use of full circle, adjustable part circle and two speed heads as particular locations require. Certain fairway areas will be watered with quick coupling hose points and Toro's new Micro 44 travelling sprinkler.

Additional Data

A total of 800 stations can be deployed at The Berkshire. These are connected by 15,000m of piping. The controller is an eight zone Toro Aquasonics 800 station sequential electronic and served by a special set of three Grundfos pumps. "This is the first large scale single head control irrigation system, giving flexibility to the management of golf turf, to be installed in the UK. I'm sure it is the first of many," Golf Landscapes director Howard Swan said.
Ask your Ransomes dealer to show you the **New Triplex 171 Mark 2**, you'll immediately see changes we know you'll appreciate.

The new **Greens Cutting Units** give you an even finer finish—whatever the conditions. The smooth flow of grass from the cylinder, makes the Triplex cleaner in operation—cleaner than any greens machine you have ever handled. The grasscatchers are just that bit wider to give you excellent collection. Even the adjustments are more simple and more positive to set.

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