Extensive trials by Levington Research Station staff show that Tritox has a faster kill of common turf weeds — and it is effective against 'difficult' weeds such as knotgrass. They're not just knocked out — they're dead.

2nd. Test: value for money
Tritox proves so efficient there is less need for a second application. You use less product, less time, less labour — and save money.

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Tritox has been approved under the Agricultural Chemical Approvals Scheme, an independent endorsement of product efficacy. The active ingredients are MCPA, Mecoprop and Dicamba.

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Tritox is easy to handle and apply. It comes in sturdy 5-litre and 20-litre polythene containers. We even attach the instruction leaflet so that it's always at hand.

5th. Test: distribution
Tritox is widely available through Fisons national network of stockists.

This is the breakthrough in weed control you've been waiting for.
Put it to the test!
The annual EIGGA conference is almost upon us and, again, it is not being as well supported as it should be. An excellent programme has been put together for you, the membership, and the conference promises to be a lively and informative event with plenty to interest everyone.

Registration for delegates will be on the first day, Friday April 4, from 9am-11am. The conference itself will be opened by EIGGA's president, Dennis Ayling, at 11am. At present, there is only one amendment to the conference programme - the lecture session from 4.45pm to 5.30pm on Friday April 4, will now be taken by C. Mardon, course manager at West Malling Golf Club, Kent. His talk will be entitled Back To Hand Mowing.

If you have not yet reserved your place, please do not delay further. The success, or failure, of this conference depends upon your support and, while the conference is more than ably promoted by a first-class gathering of speakers, it will be a poor reflection on this association if the lecture theatre is only half full.

EIGGA asks that all golf club secretaries and committee members ensure that their club's greenkeeper/s and/or yourselves attend this important educational event in the greenkeeping calendar. To do so, can only be of benefit to your golf club. The number of places reserved to date will ensure that the conference does not make a loss but, unless more places are taken up, the future of the annual conference will be in jeopardy.

It is noticeable that the same people who attended the 1985 conference are reserving places this year, which must be a good recommendation in itself, but I am concerned that the greenkeeping world is suffering from either the apathy of golf clubs, which are not sufficiently concerned with the condition of their courses to fund the education of those persons they employ to maintain them, or the apathy of greenkeepers themselves. I hope to be proven wrong on both counts.

**Good programme**

I can promise those who do attend that they will not be disappointed. As well as a very good programme, the conference provides a marvellous opportunity for greenkeepers to socialise and exchange views. The venue — once again, the University of Warwick — boasts excellent facilities and the meals and accommodation are of a high quality.

On the first evening, there will be a wine reception preceding dinner and, later that evening, Rigby Taylor will sponsor and host a lighthearted team quiz.

Saturday is a full day, with lectures from a wide variety of speakers, including representatives from the Greenkeeper Training Committee and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

The EIGGA AGM will be held later on the Saturday from 6.00-7.30pm and, as the meeting will be dealing with some very important matters regarding EIGGA's future, I trust that it will be well attended.

The AGM will be followed by the formal dinner and EIGGA is honoured to have as its guest speaker Sir Rex Hunt, formerly civil commissioner of the Falkland Islands. Dress for the dinner will be an EIGGA blazer and tie or suit.

Sunday brings another full day of lectures, including a session given by the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, and the conference closes at 5.00pm, allowing most delegates to get home at a reasonable time.

The application form below is for your use and if you require further information or a copy of the conference programme, please write to me, Danielle Jones, General Administrator, EIGGA National Headquarters, 11 Cae Mawr Grove, Caldicot, Newport, Gwent NP6 4EW. Tel: 0291 424235.

**I wish to reserve a place at the EIGGA Annual Conference and enclose a deposit of £20 made payable to the English and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.**

Post to Danielle Jones, General Administrator, EIGGA National HQ, 11 Cae Mawr Grove, Caldicot, Newport, Gwent NP6 4EW.

Name _____________________________________

Address ___________________________________

Residential [ ] Members £112
Daily Attendance [ ] Wives £90
[ ] Non-Members £125

Daily Attendance £25
GTC Registered Apprentices £90
Log Book No._____________

- Three free places to the EIGGA conference were on offer in a competition open to all apprentices. The essay subject was Greenkeeping - The Future. The best entry was submitted by N. Beckford and so high was the overall standard that four other apprentices were awarded free conference places by the EIGGA board of management. Greenkeeper is sure that they will all find a great deal to interest them in the three days at Warwick University.
Surrey

Members should have received entry forms for the annual dinner and dance to be held at the Drift Golf and Country Club on April 19 - tickets are £12 per head.

Anyone who has not had a form and would like to attend should send their remittance, together with a stamped SAE, to A. Bradshaw, 61 Windsor Avenue, New Malden before April 2.

The spring tournament will be played at Hankley Common GC on May 13. Entry costs £12 and forms will be forwarded in due course.

It is with regret that we have said ‘goodbye’ to branch general administrator Mike Hayle, who has been appointed club secretary at Wimbledon Park GC. On behalf of the branch, I wish Mike the very best of luck in his new post.

Paul Pearse.

North-West

The Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs held a meeting at Chester GC recently to tell north-west clubs about greenkeeper training.

The meeting was well-attended and those present included G. Ashton, CUGC president, who opened the proceedings, Roger Robinson for the R & A, Peter Wilson for the EGU, Dr Frank Hawkins, CUGC liaison officer, and Dr Dennis Mottram, senior lecturer at Reaseheath College. The branch thanks the club and its secretary Vic Wood for their help.

Dennis Mottram has graduated two more very successful students - Alan Frost (Astbury) and Alan Huxley, head greenkeeper at Astbury GC. Well done, lads!

A presentation was made at a committee meeting to Raymond Hunt, who is leaving the area to join Bruce Jamieson as assistant head greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl.

SISIS sales director Arthur Harrison is now recovering from illness and I'm sure that the best wishes of all EIGGA members go to him.

This year's EIGGA conference runs from April 4-6 at Warwick University and I hope to see the north-west there in force!

Bill Lawson.

From A Greenkeeper's Wife

When I married, greenkeeping meant little to me. Now I know about all the hard work that goes into the job, especially the paperwork that has to be done 'after hours', which employers sometimes don't realise.

We often wondered what it would be like when John retired and we could pass a golf course in the car without him saying: “Just stopping to look at the greens - won't be long.” All would be well if the greenkeeper wasn't around; if he was, there was little else to do but settle down with a good book!

Now, after minor operations, John has been forced to give up his job and he doesn't know when he'll be able to return to greenkeeping. We now know how much we were both involved.

Often he would come home at night and say: “Sorry, I forgot to ask you this morning. The ladies are having a match tomorrow, could you bake a cake?” While father and son settled down by the fire, I would be in the kitchen.

On another occasion, one of the men was off work, so I was brought in to rake the bunkers and change the flags! So, it was up at six and off to work and just as we were ready to leave for home, “Will you have time to type this report? It's needed for a meeting tonight.”

At one of my husband's clubs, I was picking up stones in the morning and pulling pints at night!

We spend our holidays on the north Norfolk coast and we must have visited every course in the area. Now he has our son on his side and I think that golf might be the game for me when he is able to play again.

Back at home, we have a small lawn that has to be cut the right way, “Brush it first, then cut it,” I'm instructed. I even have to spike the lawn with a garden fork, but I agree it does look good.

If any wives are fed up with being grass widows, especially at night when their husbands have to check the watering system or tackle a job that can't be done while the members are playing, I would say: go with him! He'll enjoy the company and, remember, a job can be done quicker with an extra pair of hands.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of EIGGA's East Anglia branch for their good wishes and get-well cards. It's nice to know John is still remembered and he hopes to see you all again in 1986.

Mrs John Young

Support your association at EIGGA's annual conference - Warwick University, April 4-6
The new Greenmaster range from Fisons gives more accurate control of fine turf growth than ever before.

Between them, these five new formulations provide a year round fertilizer programme for all situations.

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- **Greenmaster Mosskiller 14:0:0 + 8.9% Fe**
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- **Greenmaster Super N 24:0:0 + 2% Fe**
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West

Since the last executive, a series of winter lectures has been undertaken by the section. Presented by D. Coleman, A. Connell and J. Kidd, they were also given to third-year students at Woodburn House.

The section wishes every success to D. McLellan on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Eastwood GC in succession to A. McDougall, who has become course manager at Stirling GC.

Finally, the committee wishes Bob Fitzpatrick (Whitecraigs GC), section vice-chairman, a speedy recovery to full fitness after his recent operation.

A. McDougall.

Ayrshire

Proposals by J. McKean were discussed at length during a recent committee meeting. The wording of a letter from P. Wilson caused concern and the committee wished clarification on the points raised.

It was felt that there should be an increase, on a sliding scale, in subscriptions for the new association.

Ayrshire finished 1985 with 70 fully paid-up members, an increase of some 20 on the previous year.

The spring outing is to Thornhill on April 17, while the autumn outing courtesy of Lundin GC on Thursday September 18.

Central

Section events organised for the coming year include a spring outing courtesy of Lundin GC on Tuesday April 22 and an autumn outing courtesy of Muckhart GC on Thursday September 18.

Congratulations go to these members upon their new appointments: Craig Stewart, who moves from Stirling GC to become assistant links supervisor at St Andrews, and Douglas Mackinson, promoted from assistant greenkeeper to head greenkeeper at Braehead GC.

Agronomist Martyn Jones gave a talk to the section recently. Sixty members were treated to three hours of interesting, informative and, in his own words, at times controversial aspects of greenkeeping.

We are indebted to Martyn who, despite his father being seriously ill, travelled up from Preston. Our thanks to Dunfermline Golf Club for the use of its clubhouse.

We are pleased to welcome five new members from Carnoustie GC, one from Crieff GC, one from Falkirk Tryst, one from Grangemouth GC and one from Souters of Stirling to the section.

Tulliallan Golf Club staged the section AGM, at which Sandy Brown retired as chairman and Elliott Small took his place. Jim Cameron (Callander GC) was unanimously accepted as vice-chairman.

John Crawford.

North

After a committee meeting at the Bon Accord club, a carriage clock was presented to Doug Grassick in recognition of his hard work and service to the section. Best wishes for his future were expressed on behalf of all north section members and Doug replied by saying how honoured he was to have served the section over the years.

We welcome N. Metcalf, K. Wood, K. McGrath, D. Wilson and M. Pearson as new members to the section.

I. Hamilton

East

The date of the spring tournament has been brought forward from Tuesday April 15 to April 8. Royal Musselburgh is the venue for the autumn tournament on Wednesday September 24.

It was gratifying to see a large turnout of the membership for an extraordinary general meeting recently.

W. Blair

Executive Report

The AGM of SIGGA will be held on Thursday March 27 at the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling at 8pm. A comprehensive agenda was set at an all-day executive meeting recently.
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Out on the course

John Philp, links superintendent at Carnoustie, recently met Greenkeeper's regular correspondent John Campbell.

The town of Carnoustie is a small unpretentious resort on the Angus coast – a popular spot for family holidays. Its main claim to fame is a championship golf course, well-known all over the world. Carnoustie has carried the game to most corners of the golfing world and, since the early days, has produced many teaching professionals.

To Americans, Carnoustie is holy, for it was in copying the swinging of Stewart Maiden that Bobby Jones learned to play. The famous links has been the scene of many epic events including the Open Championship, which was last played there in 1975 when Tom Watson triumphed. The quality of the test of golf is reflected in the names of other Open winners there - Player, Cotton, Armour and Ben Hogan.

The man recently appointed to manage the links is John Philp, formerly assistant links supervisor at St Andrews. John is an energetic and enthusiastic student of golf-course upkeep with a knowledgeable viewpoint on many aspects of his chosen profession.

"I was attracted to greenkeeping when I used to play a lot of golf at Pitreavie Golf Club in Dunfermline, my home town," he said. "During school holidays, I worked on the course and found the style of life and involvement in the game appealed. On leaving school, I was offered a job with the club as apprentice greenkeeper and my career has gradually blossomed from there. "I was a fairly good player and toyed with the prospect of taking up professional golf and, in fact, I was appointed head greenkeeper/professional at Pitreavie in 1970. After marrying in 1971, the following two or three years were very hectic with my dual role at the club and it became apparent that a choice had to be made.

"The golf professional position was a 'sideline' really and my heart was in course maintenance, so I opted for greenkeeping and have no regrets. It is a way of life I enjoy and you generally find that the vast majority of good greenkeepers or superintendents are dedicated to their vocation.

"In 1974, I moved to Newmarket Golf Club on the Suffolk-Cambridgeshire border, where I had my first experience of triplex greens mowers and automatic irrigation systems. I enjoyed five years in the employ of a friendly and generous club, looking after an attractive heathland/parkland course. From there, I was fortunate enough to be appointed to the new position of assistant links supervisor at St Andrews in 1979.

"Going to St Andrews was a big step up. To be involved with the home of golf and the famous links was getting close to the peak of my ambition. I was tackling a much bigger challenge where there are four and a half golf courses to look after – all public links – which also meant broadening the scope of my experience and getting used to dealing with a much bigger staff.

"I enjoyed working with Walter Woods at St Andrews and learned a great deal from him, as well as from the links engineer George McLaren, for which I am deeply indebted. Now I have the responsibility of managing the Carnoustie links, my ambition has been realised."

John and Helen Philp have three children – two boys and a girl. "At the moment, I am commuting daily to Carnoustie until I sell my house in St Andrews – it's about 40 minutes by road, not always convenient with regular early starts and late finishes."

Open venue

"It is my goal and the wish of the links management to stage the Open Championship again at Carnoustie, but we have to convince the powers that be of our suitability. Of course, there are several aspects to be considered by the R & A, apart from the course itself. However, we feel these can be accommodated and the aim is to get the course into a condition that merits their unequivocal support.

"My brief is to raise the standards by improving the efficiency and quality of the maintenance programme, encouraging the return of true links conditions. We are working in close collaboration with Jim Arthur and the intention is that everything possible be done to achieve our objective.

"We have a big job ahead of us and there is a great deal of work to be done. Bad flooding last autumn from the Barry Burn overflow set progress back and is something that will have to be dealt with in the long term. Although our priority is getting the championship course into first-class condition, we cannot af..."
When the excitement, the cut and thrust between winner and loser is over, when crowds have drifted away, Toro sprinklers remain - watering the sacred turf in their own quiet, efficient way. Toro, helping Greenkeepers prepare for sporting battles yet to come...

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ford to neglect our other two 18-hole courses, which are an im-
portant part of the operation.

"To maintain the three courses, we have 11 on the greens staff
and a full-time maintenance engineer, supplemented by one
or two seasonal employees and young lads on the government
YTS programme.

"We really have to persevere
with our system, similar to that at
St Andrews, where young men
with the right potential, are
employed, fully trained through
college courses and built up
through on-the-job training. We
have three young apprentices
who recently completed educa-
tional courses at the Kingsway
Technical College in Dundee and
one in training at present.

"We have two major events
here this year, the British Youths'
and the Scottish Amateur Stroke-
play Championships, in addition
to a whole host of foreign visitors
and golf society bookings, not
forgetting local clubs' calendars.
About 40 per cent of our income
comes from visiting golfers, of
which a high percentage are
American - they boost the
revenue and allow us to invest
more money on the upkeep of the
courses.

"Our maintenance programme
is along the lines of proven green-
keeping practices. The high
volume of play creates major
compaction problems and much
wear and tear, so regular aeration
is an important part of the regime,
particularly during autumn and
winter. We don't have an exten-
sive automatic irrigation system,
but we have embarked on a
scheme to provide automatic ir-
rigation on the championship
course for greens, tees and ap-
proaches. Eventually, we plan to
extend this to the fairways and, in
phased stages, to the other
courses.

"A present priority is improv-
ing the drainage on the cham-
pionship course. We have about
five or six fairways where work is
needed to get rid of casual water
in low 'lying' areas more rapidly.
We have done a considerable
amount of this work on the 6th,
17th and 18th fairways, where
some sunken spot levels have
been raised and pipework install-
ed with boxes and drain covers to
ensure quick dispersal of surface
water into the Barry Burn or open
drainage ditches.

"The fairways are dominated
by poa annua, which aggravated
the surface water problem last
year. We intend to reduce this in-
festation by appropriate manage-
ment encouraging the in-
digenous bents and fescues to
gradually re-populate the sward.
We will be looking closely at
reducing seed-head production
and will be over-seeding as and
when the situation dictates.
Routing fairway aeration is ac-
complished with two SISIS
D.P.48s, varying the knife depth.
All fairways have been hollow-
tined with a fine turf aerator.

"The links management has
recently purchased SISIS Triple
Veemo units and a Litamisa
Spreader, as well as an Atkinson
spreader.

"Approaches to the greens in
certain places are dominated by
ryegrass, which was probably in-
troduced many years ago by seed
or the use of poor-quality turf for
repairs. It creates an unsightly ap-
pearance, with dense colonies of
rye standing proud of the sur-
rounding areas of finer grasses. It
is particularly noticeable in the
winter and has no place on any
links.

"Obviously, the quickest way
to deal with this problem is by
returfing, but this would require
several acres of good nursery turf
and we don't have a sufficient
supply. Most of our nursery area
has been reseeded recently,
leaving about an acre of usable
material. The new sward is not
established well enough for our
purposes yet - it generally takes
about four or five years for
nursery turf to be mature enough
for use on the links, so a good
proportion of our turf require-
ment is cut from outlying areas on
the Buddon course.

"The unused nursery area is
dominated, to some extent, by
finer grasses, but it has a fair
amount of Nardus Stricta, or mat
grass, which does not form a
good dense sward at low heights
of cut. I am reluctant to use it, for
it does not blend well due to its
habit of growth - it has been used
on several tee extensions in the
past, but not very successfully.

"Teeing-ground, especially on
the championship course, is
generous with many holes having
well over 1,000sq yds in total. Tee
maintenance will be similar to
greens, although not so intensive.

"The greens, like the other
main playing surfaces, contain a
fairly high percentage of annual
meadow grass, concentrated
mainly in the centres creating a
marked contrast with the better
quality grasses dominating
perimeters and higher spots on
most greens. The correct firm-
ness and turf resiliency, critical
playing qualities, are almost im-
possible to achieve while poa an-
nua dominates the sward. This,
of course, is not an uncommon situa-
tion and the promotion of
desirable bent species, which
contribute about 50 per cent along
with the poa annua on many
green centres, will be the initial
objective as the small percentage
of fine fescues is unable to com-
pete effectively at present in
these heavily compacted areas.

"I am not convinced that over-
seeding in this situation is the

A modern clubhouse overlooks the 1st tee on Carnoustie's championship course.