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Times: 10 am till 5 pm daily.
Entrance: By Catalogue £2.00. 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 (Junctions 8/9 or 6) on the Windsor - Maidenhead road (A308). Ample car parking facilities available at £2.00 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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ASSOCIATION APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Neil Thomas gets the top BIGGA job

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Your application form – don’t delay, send it off today!

GREENKEEPING CAN BE A ‘BOARING’ CHORE!
It certainly is at times for Simon Taylor in the first of a series that looks at the profession abroad

MACHINERY REVIEW
The Huxley TR138 – and some of its stablemates – comes under our spotlight

NOTEBOOK
Talk of the trade

TOO MUCH WATER OR TOO LITTLE?
The NTC’s 4th residential seminar could provide the answer

PEOPLE, PLACES, PRODUCTS

OUT ON THE COURSE
With Ken McNiven

EDUCATION CORNER...

APPOINTMENTS
And there are more on page 9!

BUYERS’ GUIDE

NEIL THOMAS (above) is the new executive director of BIGGA and, from August, he will be based at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire.

His family – wife Elaine, Scott, four, and Grant, two – was recently augmented by another young member and is looking forward to establishing a new home in Yorkshire.

Neil was born in Penarth, South Wales. He attended the local grammar school and, subsequently, the University of Wales at Cardiff, where he obtained a history degree. He later entered local government and soon became a principal officer in the social services department of the newly formed West Glamorgan County Council.

His management progress did not stop there – as a chief administrative officer, he managed personnel, financial and general support services within a large social services department. His experience embraces committee work, working parties and industrial relations.

Neil’s first sporting loves were rugby, tennis and cricket, turning out for Penarth in the Welsh Clubs’ Cricket Conference. He became hooked on golf following a visit to that memorable 1975 Open at Carnoustie, when Tom Watson held off the luckless Jack Newton in a play-off.

“I’ve been a fan of Tom Watson since and, in recent years, have enjoyed the meteoric rise of fellow Welshman Ian Woosnam. Carnoustie gave me the inspiration to take up golf and I joined Fairwood Park Golf Club in Swansea. I then spent a couple of years at nearby Clyne GC before returning to Fairwood Park.”

Neil describes his current game as “average, but...
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Where there is heavy use maintenance costs are cut to the minimum. Reseeding and returfing is needed much less frequently and appearance is maintained.

Golf Courses
Protect those areas where wear is heaviest.

SPECIFICATIONS

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Grassed areas with heavy use tend to become compacted and good quality grass cover is difficult to maintain. Wear and compaction in such areas can be minimised by using Geoblock. The blocks provide the load bearing element so that the grass can grow normally without continually being worn away by the traffic. The root system is protected.

Geoblock offers an attractive and effective alternative to hard surfaces particularly in environmentally sensitive areas. When the grass has become fully established the visibility of the block is minimal.
Dear Greenkeeper

The Golf Course is a place for relaxation and an increasing number of people are playing the game. It is also part of the natural environment which under heavy use can very easily show signs of unsightly wear and tear.

Under many pairs of feet grass becomes compacted and dies leaving bare patches which damage the overall attractive appearance of the course.

GEOBLOCK is the answer to the problem. The moulded plastic block absorbs the loads, protects the root system and enables the grass to grow normally. Once established it is unobtrusive and the grass can be mown in the normal way.

So, if you have paths, car parks, verges or other grassy areas that are showing signs of wear and tear consider GEOBLOCK.

Complete the reply paid card and return it to us and we will make contact with you to discuss the product in more detail.

Yours sincerely

P J Freeman
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Neil Thomas is flanked by Peter Wilson (left) and Walter Woods.

in dire need of more practice!

"I am very excited by the job that awaits me and look forward, through the board of management, to organising the association's affairs. It's my aim to establish BIGGA as a major force in the game and, to this end, I am ready to listen and learn. I feel it is of paramount importance that the membership makes its views known - the association is there for the members’ benefit.

"At present, course managers and greenkeepers generally have a low profile. A unified association will be able to project a far more positive image of the profession, nationally as well as internationally. "Our public and press relations will be tightened up and I aim to get around the regions to meet the members as soon as possible, although I would ask for patience in the early stages! There is much to be done and a secretariat to be established at Bingley.

"I was very impressed by the way board of management members, all working course managers, sacrificed their time to establish BIGGA and the contribution by the two R&A trustees, Peter Wilson and Roger Robinson, was invaluable. "There's no reason why the association cannot become pre-eminent within golf. The board and I will set about achieving this and it is my fervent hope that we will receive the backing and active participation of every member, enabling BIGGA to become established and then move forward."

BRITISH and INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Greenkeeping member

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Preferred mailing address ...............................................................

I attach my cheque for £15 (plus VAT) = £17.25 Signed......................................

Return to: The Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, W. Yorkshire.
Rainbird sprinklers are made in California, so are Toro, so are Buckner. Weathermatic sprinklers are made in Texas, Perrot sprinklers are made in Germany and Roland are made in France... but Watermation Sprinklers are made in Britain.

Along with their unique TW1 and TW2 computer controllers and other specialist equipment, Watermation have now designed and built their own GN range of sprinklers. Apart from keeping their own people in work, there are other advantages to buying British. The prices won't be subject to increase with the dollar, deutschmark or franc and there are always spare parts quickly available.

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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.

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The splendid backdrop of Stratfield Saye House, with its 30 acres of landscaped grounds, provided the perfect setting for a demonstration of three new items of professional grass and turf maintenance equipment from Huxleys Grass Machinery.

The company’s full range of equipment, which includes the Cushman, Huxley, Royer, Little David, Red Rider and Yankee product names, as well as the latest introductions, were shown as part of a three-day exhibition.

Staged at the country estate of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, situated midway between Reading and Basingstoke, the exhibition attracted one group of visitors from Madrid.

Their interest centred on Huxley-made attachments for the Cushman turf care system and particularly the latest addition to the range - the H44 Fine Turf Scarifier for use with Cushman Turf Truckster vehicles.

Of identical working width, and operating details, the Huxley TV36 Fine Turf Scarifier has been produced by the company for use with the smaller compact tractors in the 14 to 18hp range. The Huxley H44 and TV36 Fine Turf Scarifiers both cost £1,335 (plus VAT).

The second machine making its first major public working appearance at Huxley’s Stratfield Saye exhibition was the latest Cushman Front Line ride-on rotary mower with its three-cylinder, 21.5hp diesel-engine, priced from £9,830 (plus VAT).

But of special interest to golf greenkeepers, with undulating fairways to maintain, was the Huxley TR138 Golf Course five-gang hydraulic reelmower, with its new floating top link and rear caster wheel options.

Although providing all the transport and manoeuvrability benefits of a fully tractor-mounted machine, these two optional items give the mower the characteristics of a trailed unit in work, allowing the frame to follow ground contours independently of the tractor.

The Huxley TR138 Golf Course mower has twinroll floating head cutting units as standard and is equipped with seven-knife reels for a precision finish.

In standard form, this 11ft 6in (3.5m) cut mower, which requires tractors developing a minimum of just 25hp, costs £6,700 (plus VAT). The floating top link and castor wheel options for undulating surfaces add £125 (plus VAT).

Huxleys can arrange demonstrations of any item of equipment throughout the country, either direct or through appointed dealers.

For more details, contact Paul Huxley on Alresford (0962) 733222, or Barry Huxley on Egham (0784) 38666.