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Front cover: Henry Cotton, three times Open champion, is pictured officially opening the magnificent course at Letham Grange, near Arbroath. The course has already won much praise and it has been described as the 'Augusta of Scotland.' Certainly, Henry was impressed with the complex, which includes an hotel and restaurant, curling rink and horse-riding facilities. The maestro spoke with great wit when congratulating the developer Ken Smith on "turning a dream into a glorious reality."

BIGGA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The association appoints a general administrator and there's news from the board of management

NEWS & VIEWS

From the north-west and the National Turfgrass Council

OUT ON THE COURSE

This month, we look at Letham Grange

SEVE, ARE YOU SURE?

Greenkeeper tackles the world's leading golfer...

A PROBLEM SHARED

Stephen Redman of the Yelverton club in Devon profiles his golf course

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BIGGA UPDATE CONTINUED...

Volunteers for bunker raking are still required so, if you are attending the Open Championship, please offer to help. A substantial packed lunch is provided, as well as free admittance to the course.

The bunker raking operation will be controlled from a Portakabin, provided by the R & A, beside the 1st tee. Any greenkeepers wishing to partake should contact Cecil George, 4 Alexandria Road, Lenzie, Glasgow, Scotland.

BRANCH NEWSLETTER
The first newsletter will be published and mailed out with the July issue of Greenkeeper.

All Branch Administrators should send their notes to reach the Editor by the 1st of the month preceding publication. After August 3rd branch news should be sent to the General Administrator.

IOG EXHIBITION - WINDSOR - SEPTEMBER 14th - 17th
BIGGA will have a stand together with Greenkeeper magazine. Board of Management members will be in attendance together with the General Administrator. The magazine will be announcing a change of title at this time.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS
As an interim measure, regional administrators will supply a letter or a 1986 card overstamped to members requiring proof of BIGGA membership.

EDITORIAL PANEL
Jimmy Kidd has been appointed Chairman of BIGGA’s editorial panel and is presently responsible for the Board of Management minutes until the General Administrator takes up his post on August 3rd.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
This will take place at the Verulam Golf Club, St. Albans, Herts 17th - 19th August 1987.

If you have not already entered contact:- Ken Bunting, 1 Greenkeepers Cottage, Ashridge Golf Club, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1LU. Tel: 044 284 3359. Entry is open to full members of BIGGA. The tournament fee of £10. should be sent with your entry.

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"You'll see alright. It may be surface water is still a problem. The turf could be looking thin and tired. Weeds could be on the increase.

"What you can't see so easily is the cause. Compaction. Or a build up of thatch. Probably both. Either way, the result's the same. Water doesn't soak in properly. The soil gets starved of oxygen. Rooting gets shallow. Weeds and disease get a hold. You've got a problem and just spiking holes in the ground isn't going to solve it.

"Hollow tine aeration is the answer. What the Ryan people call Core Cultivation. In fact, I reckon it should be a routine part of any turf maintenance programme, not just a problem solver.

"In fact, you should have a look at the whole range of Ryan turf maintenance equipment. It's the best you can buy."
North-West
The spring tournament was held on a chilly but dry day at Bury GC. There was a disappointing turnout of 25 members, who competed for the Hargreaves Cup. The winner was the former assistant greenkeeper from Wrexham GC, Terry Adamson, whose 69 included a hole in one!

Terry's score was matched by Andrew Peel, who had to be content with second net. Chairman Brian Moss was third. David Berry, who worked so hard to prepare the course, finished fourth. David was the holder and, no doubt, he will bounce back at Heswall in the autumn.

Once again, ‘Gypsy’ Frank Tyson won the over-55s cup (Frank is the chap who brings his caravan to tournaments from Seascale, Cumbria.)

Finally, thanks to all who sponsored the day - SISIS, Burrows Grass Machinery, Martin Bros Sand, Hayters, Rigby Taylor, Trident, Rufford Top Dress, Maxwell Hart and Cheshire Light Tractors.

The final AGM of the old association was held on spring tournament day and the following elected to form the new BIGGA north-west committee: president - E. Staniforth; chairman - B. Moss; vice-chairman - D. Lucas; secretary - D. Golding and treasurer - H. McAddey.


The SISIS invitation takes place on July 1 at the Cavendish club, Buxton. Anyone wishing to play who has not already received an invitation, should contact me immediately.

The section's most important information by his article for greenkeepers.
He refers to codes of practice and I thought it would interest him and your readers to know that the NTC is working to develop a special code of practice for amenity horticulture, which would deal with points specially related to turfgrass and amenity grass in a way not covered by the 'draft code of practice on the agricultural and horticultural use of pesticides,' which was available at the Stoneleigh workshop.

If we can get a code specially for turfgrass areas, we can cover points such as the proper procedures for spraying golf greens and other areas where play is taking place all the time, as Peter mentioned in his article.

The NTC is still at the stage of persuading the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to set in train the arrangements that would produce such a code, developed by all interests within the industry, but we would certainly hope that Greenkeeper, perhaps through Peter Wisbey, could have a voice in writing up such a code.

Your magazine's support for this would be a great help.

John Shildrick,
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Out On The Course

LETHAM GRANGE

Jim Grainger, course manager at Letham Grange, talks to Greenkeeper correspondent John Campbell.

THE opening of a new golf course is always a cause for jubilation among golfers in any part of the country, but it is even more important to the greenkeeping profession. Scotland has always had more than its share of good courses and now another has been added to the list in the shape of the Letham Grange Golf and Country Club, near Arbroath.

The inauguration ceremony was performed adroitly by the old master, Henry Cotton, whose golfing skill in an earlier age is still remembered on the famous Carnoustie links nearby.

Tribute was paid by members and guests to the way the course is being groomed and gradually brought to maturity by course manager Jim Grainger and his staff.

There can't be many greenkeepers with a greater wealth of golf course construction experience than Jim has under his belt at such an early stage. Jim, 37, is essentially an outdoor man, a great lover of country pursuits such as fishing and shooting. With his tall, muscular frame he is a natural athlete and was a useful boxer.

Idyllic

Jim and Jean Grainger live with their two children in idyllic surroundings. "I longed to have my own house with a little piece of land. I have been able to buy this right on the edge of the Letham Grange course and I am monarch of all I survey," Jim said.

"After leaving school and trying one or two jobs, I went to work with Jack McMillan at Cardross Golf Club in the west of Scotland. I got a first-class training in all aspects of course management and upkeep and I was also involved with the building and construction of three new holes there.

"Afterwards, I moved to Durham City GC where I helped to build a completely new course. Then at Middlesbrough I brought on another new course until it was opened for play. Later, I went to Largs in Ayrshire where we did a lot of alterations to greens and tees.

"I came to Letham Grange because it was a challenge and it looked a new and exciting project in over 300 acres of beautiful country. It seemed to be an ideal piece of land for such a develop-