To my knowledge, most head greenkeepers prepare annual budgets for their respective Clubs and, once approved, work within accepted limits. To do this effectively, one must have up-to-date prices and I am thus bound to ask: 'why is it so difficult to get these from stockists?'

Writing in late April, I have received just one 1992 price list, and this came through the pages of Greenkeeper International. When requesting lists the excuse offered is often that they are still 'at the printers' or 'one will be sent' (still waiting!) and I am prompted to ask: why are they not printed at the same time as brochures, which are always in abundant supply?

Do stockists resist sending them for fear of price comparisons, or are they just saying to themselves 'greenkeepers need the products anyway, so why bother?' I would like to think this letter will bring me some price lists, and would urge suppliers to send brochures only when they can be backed up with prices.

SAM MORRISON
Head Greenkeeper
Royal Aberdeen GC, Scotland

I am writing to you to raise the subject of dyslexia. Over the last couple of years we have been in the process of getting help for our son, aged ten. Well, what has this to do with greenkeeping? It all started when he was playing golf.

During practice sessions with a 7 iron, he often that he was still 'at the printers' or 'one will be sent' (still waiting!). He improved on the putting green - or at least was able to make more of the putts he was getting up to the green. However, if a specific learning difficulty is established, help can be obtained in many areas and examining boards can allow extra time and/or make a greater allowance for spelling/grammar errors in such cases.

I think more discussion needs to take place on the subject in order to remove the cloud of academic failure from some of our able workers. How can the Association help? What can a head greenkeeper do if he believes one of his staff has a dyslexia problem?

More information about resources is available from local Dyslexia Institutes - details in local phone books or contact the Dyslexia Institute, 133 Gresham Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2AJ.

RICHARD HEASLIP
Hainault Forest GC, Essex

I read with interest the articles (May G.I.) about water features on golf courses. Certain points led me to wonder how hazards such as these are now influencing the design of new courses in the British Isles. At Bank House they have 18 holes and a driving range in a limited site of just 120 acres. I presume that most of the 13 lakes must be used as safety zones between fairways, as opposed to being created merely to provide further income for the course, or is the real reason for creating all these lakes I refer to the Dyslexia Institute for assessment of my dyslexia? Are the lakes about aesthetics? I shall try to explain.

We came to realise that our son was having learning difficulties, particularly in reading, writing, and also in short term memory, although he had no trouble solving practical problems. We took him to the Dyslexia Institute for assessment. The report confirmed our fears - in spite of an IQ of 120, specific learning difficulties were identified.

It was in conversation with the psychologist that she told us the Institute had been consulted by an agricultural college to advise of ways they might identify and help students who have problems. It had become apparent to the college that agriculture tends to attract a higher than average number of people who have some form of learning problem and greenkeeping must be included in this.

With more and more emphasis placed upon written examinations, this, in some circumstances, could preclude individuals with natural flair and ability from advancing to their full potential unless appropriate strategies are used and problems addressed. Our younger greenkeepers who feel their exam mark is below their ability at practical greenkeeping may well have a specific learning difficulty and should get specialist testing as soon as possible, as help should be available. The test for adults can cost around £25 and there is often a waiting list. How can the Association help? What can a head greenkeeper do if he believes one of his staff has a dyslexia problem?

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RICHARD HEASLIP
Hainault Forest GC, Essex
nowadays, often selling at a premium. One resort course I know on the outskirts of Norwich undertakes several dredging operations throughout the year, a highly profitable exercise.

Surely this relates to the type of course being offered to the golfer – the developers of ‘Pay-as-you-Play’ courses are keen to keep players moving as swiftly as possible. If a golfer hits his ball into a lake, he doesn’t have a choice – the ball is irretrievable, he has to forget it and play another. This means that five minutes are not otherwise spent looking for a ball in deep rough or scrub and it keeps the golfers moving. (Unless of course the golfer keeps playing each subsequent shot into the lake!)

This, however, has a detrimental effect on the standard of the golfer. How can a player become proficient at shots from different and varying lies if the only hazards on the course are water, closely mown semi-rough or widely spaced staked trees. Where is the rough and deep rough?

I feel that the element of surprise is, effectively, being removed by incorporating an excessive amount of lakes into a golf course design. Maybe this is best explained by the following analogy: two golfers tee off down a par 4 hole, one hits his ball straight, the other slices into the lake! (Which is based on an element of chance or good fortune.

The usual chemists came to the fore when we do greenkeepers trained? They then ask for better wages and conditions or are poached by other courses or organisations. ‘One of the newly constructed greens on my course is appalling, it must be the greenkeeper’s fault (even though he couldn’t build it) and what yard stick can we use to show ineptitude and sack him!’ Also ‘why do greenkeepers need managerial, accounting and computer skills to cut grass’ – this from the odd secretary no doubt.

Of delegates actively support our technical support team. At least one large user but transportation and cleaning costs (including investments in equipment) make this a discouraging proposition. Perhaps the plastics industry should itself take some responsibility for the recycling of packaging materials. However, we acknowledge the legitimacy concerns of West Sussex GC and remain willing to discuss the matter with any interested parties.

**Letters**

| Golf isn’t a water sport | Training is The Way Forward | A waste |

I am pleased to say some there are very keen for BIGGA to provide more information on training – perhaps encouragement for us to move forward and do more. Finally, may I thank Brian Evans and the KGU for a cracking event – I can’t wait for the next one, for it is clearly what is needed to enhance co-operation, communication and response to ‘The Way Forward’.

**Paul Copsey**

Head Greenkeeper, Barnhurst GC, Bexleyheath, Kent

The ‘concerned greenkeepers’ of West Sussex GC and the KGU may wish to issue in your May edition. Our company gave consideration to the problem of container wastage at the design stage of our green foliage feed, Agrimaster, and we opted to reduce the number of plastic containers in circulation while offering a high nutrient input at the same time. In the result one 25 litre container of our concentrate proved sufficient for treating 18 golf greens, thus greatly reducing wastage, storage space and handling.

From time to time we have recovered empty containers from some of our larger users but transportation and cleaning costs (including investments in equipment) make this a discouraging proposition. Perhaps the plastics industry should itself take some responsibility for the recycling of packaging materials. However, we acknowledge the legitimacy concerns of West Sussex GC and remain willing to discuss the matter with any interested parties.

**Roger West**

Technical Director, Agriland Ltd.

Bournemouth, Dorset

In July of this year my husband, Eric Palmer, will have served 50 years as a greenkeeper – 41 of those as a head greenkeeper. During his career he has worked on just three courses, Sirwell Park in Rotherham, Abbeydale in Sheffield, and his present Club – Hickleton near Barnsley.

His dedication to his work cannot be surpassed and he is and always has been a credit to his profession. He has seen so many changes over the years and I feel justly proud of him – indeed I have learned quite a lot myself.

Eric has been nominated by his peers as the ‘Greenkeeper of the Year’ award, but notwithstanding this I feel his 50 years of dedication deserve recognition.

**Mrs Margaret Palmer**

Bally, Doncaster, S Yorkshire

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