STRI get £50,000 to worm out the woes

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club have announced a further research grant of £50,000 to the STRI, thus remaining the biggest contributor to STRI projects. Currently these include formulation of an EC standard (CEN) for golf green construction and effective earthworm control under current EC legislation. This latter topic involves a detailed study into the biology and lifecycle of the earthworm and will hopefully result in an effective cure to the damaging and unsightly worm cast smears effects on golf courses, without resorting to harmful pesticides.

The STRI was originally established in 1929 under an initiative of the green committee of the R&A, over the past five years receiving a research grant from them amounting to £50,000 per annum.

The Institute continues to act as an advisory to the Championshıp Committee of the R&A, advising on an annual basis those clubs which host The Open Championship and, more frequently, at the venue for the current year. In addition it advises clubs at all the qualifying courses hosting The Open, the Walker Cup and Amateur Championship.

It all began in a shed in Phoenix Arizona... and if fortunes might be made from advertising inside golf cups, proof that an innovative manufacturer can scoop the pot was revealed when Karsten Solheim, inventor and manufacturer of Ping golf clubs, was listed in the Forbes Four Hundred, an annual listing of America's 400 richest people - and they said his 'funny' putter wouldn't catch on! Karsten is said to be worth $450 million.

Education and Development Fund gathers momentum

1993 has brought an influx of new members to the Education and Development Fund. On the company side, both Rigby Taylor and Hayters PLC have joined the Golden Key Circle whilst the list of individual members of both the Golden and Silver Key Circles grows steadily. Executive Director, Neil Thomas commented: "The fund is now a year old and it is pleasing that so many of our members in renewing their memberships for 1993 have chosen the Golden or Silver Key options. They are signifying their wish to support the education and training programmes which have done so much to further the cause of the greenkeeping profession in recent years and will be vital in advancing the status of greenkeepers in the future."

These are the members who to date have made the commitment for 1993:

Golden Key Circle: Kenneth Neale, Jim Fry (Associate), Ernie Bernberg (Associate), F A McKee (Company), Roy Kates.