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COVER PICTURE: Bunkers at Royal St George’s: 75 have undergone restoration and now face the ultimate challenge
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Education director: David F Golding
Administrative Officer: Sue Gudgeon
(formerly BIGGA education officer)

The GTC Education Unit, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF
Faces and places

- Rolawn Ltd have appointed Andy Church, latterly with Lawn Technology Ltd and formerly chief grounds manager with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, as their area manager for London. Andy will cover an area extending northwards to Milton Keynes.

- I was sorry to learn that Dennis Archer, a valued friend and latterly a member of the board of management until ill-health dogged his mobility, had fallen foul of the surgeon’s knife and is now slowly recuperating following the loss of a limb. Reportedly swinging his way around the surgical ward, in a wheelchair, just days after the operation, this lion-hearted man never did know the meaning of the surgeon's knife and is now slowly recuperating following the loss of a limb. He should have taken place between them. Using the home advantage, Reaseheath College used a fistful of trump cards – escaped bullocks on the fairways, hailstorms, rain, and a low flying hot-air balloon – to scrape home winners from a hard-pressing Cannington College.

- Only two colleges run HND courses in Golf Course Management at present, and it is appropriate that a golf match should have taken place between them. Using the home advantage, Reaseheath College used a fistful of trump cards – escaped bullocks on the fairways, hailstorms, rain, and a low flying hot-air balloon – to scrape home winners from a hard-pressing Cannington College.

- Four former Maxwell Hart staff, made redundant when Maxwell Hart was bought by rival T Parker recently, have joined forces to set up a new company – Driving Force Leisure. The company will supply a comprehensive list of products for the greenkeeper, distributing from premises in Maidstone (Tel: 0734 266130) and Oxford. Also formed to operate in tandem with Driving Force Leisure is a sister company – Easy Picker Europe – an exclusive agency for the American ‘Easy Picker’ range of driving range equipment.

- The first of the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional finals, held at Stirling, proved to be a double bonus for Kim Macfie, Hayters’ sales and marketing director. First, he was mightily pleased to see all of Stirling’s greens cut with a Hayter 193 triple, expressing the view that whilst overt commercialism is not what they would wish from the sponsorship it was gratifying to see some of Hayters’ products in prominent positions. Second, he played a round with Murrayfield’s Jimmy Neilson and managed to actually beat him – as Kim put it, Jimmy was playing a diplomatic game! Declaring the day a great success, Kim now hopes to attend all five of the Hayter Challenge regional finals. He’s pictured left, with Jimmy Neilson.

- Alresford GC’s Mark Webb took delivery recently of 20 tonnes of Boughton Loan’s Sterilised Turf Dressing, won in the Boughton Loan prize draw organised at BTME. Declaring himself well pleased with the ‘windfall’, Mark found the dry material a pleasure to apply and was impressed by the speed in which it integrated into the sward.

- After many years of mutual co-operation, Charterhouse Turf Machinery and Redexim BV of Holland have decided to forge closer links by merging. Redexim BV has extensive interests in hotels, leisure, management consultancy, real estate and turf machinery manufacture. Amongst other products they produce the Verti-Drain machines which Charterhouse Turf Machinery introduced into the UK market back in 1982. Throughout the ‘80s Charterhouse has developed a comprehensive range of its own equipment, mainly in the areas of top dressing, spiking and overseeding, and these products have a natural synergy with the original Verti-Drain and other Redexim products. The joint company will still function much the same as before with the addition of Mr Ruud Franciessen (pictured) to the Charterhouse Turf Machinery Board of Directors.

- Two grass machinery manufacturers, Hayters plc and Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, have announced their withdrawal from this year’s IoG show. This follows examination of the benefits derived and is based on three major factors.

- Firstly, an analysis of last year’s figures suggested that the quality and quantity of visitors who took an interest in goods on display did not measure up to the expenditure made.

- Secondly, marked changes over recent years, partly as a result of CCT and the proposed changes likely to be introduced with the arrival of the new Unitary Authorities, have led to an alteration in the expectations and requirements of customers. These, combined with the Peterborough location, have all made an impact. Hayters’ sales and marketing director, Kim Macfie, said: “We believe the point has been reached where we can no longer derive sufficient benefit from our investment.”

- Ransomes will introduce UK regional launches under the title Total Turf Plan, these taking place closer to customer locations and beginning this month.

- New and current models will be demonstrated, service support programmes more relevant to the changing market will be launched and a new ‘Ransomes Bouncer’ software package will be displayed.

- Our heartiest congratulations are extended to BIGHGA ex-chairman (1988) Jack McMillan, former manager of Sunningdale Golf Club and now a director in the consultancy firm McMillan-Shiel Associates, on his receipt of a Royal ‘gong’ in the 1993 Honours List. His accolade, an MBE, is believed to be the first awarded to a member employed in the fine turf industry.

- The Inturf Group has announced the appointment of Chris Bradshaw to its management team. Chris, who held a directorship with the company that invented the Big Roll turfing system, will be responsible for all technical and marketing aspects of turf sales and installation work throughout the south of England.

- An internal promotion at Sleaford-based Sharpes International has resulted in Wilson Hendry being appointed assistant to Paul Billings, who is the company’s amenity grass seed product manager. Prior to joining to the amenity grass seed department, Wilson worked as a seed analyst at Sharpes licensed seed testing station – the largest commercial station in the UK.

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On the day I won the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, together with a Toro sponsored trip to the USA, I was dumbstruck. In truth, I had never expected to win anything; leave alone the Toro Student Greenkeeper title, and certainly never realised the magnitude of the prize. The shock didn’t really begin to ’sink in’ until I received my November ’92 issue of Greenkeeper International. On the front cover, there for all to see, was the proof – my photograph!

Quite apart from the great kudos attached in winning such a prestige award, the trip to America was a great adventure in itself, begun in early January. After a time span of some 17 hours, which included two air flights and a bus ride, I arrived at the motel where I was to stay at the start of the next few weeks. It was a dark night and very cold. Over the next seven weeks my colleagues and I experienced some very cold conditions indeed, with temperatures down to minus 30° centigrade and lots of snow!

Attendance at the Winter School for Turfgrass Managers, University of Massachusetts, started at 8am the very next morning, which alone should have indicated that I was in for some pretty hard work. Our timetable dictated attendance to 35 hours of lectures each week, studying such diverse subjects as: Turfgrass Management; Irrigation and Drainage; Machinery; Turfgrass Diseases; Soils and Fertilisers; Turfgrass Calculations; Turfgrass Physiology; Trees and Shrubs; Personnel Management and Golf Course Architecture. We crammed in a deal of work over the next seven weeks, for example, on one occasion we were called upon to design a complete computer-controlled irrigation system. As past winners have often intimated, the terms and titles used by our American cousins are often quite different to those common to the UK. I came to terms with most of them quickly enough, though the hardest to use and understand were the American units of measurement – yards, fluid ounces, US gallons (not Imperial) etc., which were confusing to such as me, brought up on metric scales.

The university (and the Turfgrass course in particular) has an international reputation, though most of the 65 students attending were from the USA. In addition, students came from Canada, Argentina, Austria and France, along with one other Englishman, Londoner David Cluggie. As an example, one student visitor was the Frenchman Eric Alber, who had won the title of ‘Best Young Superintendent’ in his country and Toro had sponsored him also – with a trip to the USA as his prize. I was amazed at the sheer size of the university, which seemed to be like a town built specifically around a population of some 25,000 students and staff.

However, do not believe that the trip was all work, for upon completion of our course Eric and I went to Minneapolis, thereafter visiting the Toro factory at Tomah in Wisconsin to witness the actual manufacture of Toro turf equipment. On the day we arrived the new Toro Workman 3200 was being constructed in petrol engined versions, along with Greenmaster 3100s. Needless to say, this was extremely interesting, it being obvious how much attention is paid by Toro personnel to the quality of their machinery, with each person on the production line carrying out numerous quality control checks.

The day following we visited Toro headquarters and enjoyed a guided tour of the factory, including the design, development and testing cells. Following this we were taken to the ‘Mall of America’, the biggest shopping centre in the world, with some 10,000 retail outlets under one roof and crowned – smack in the middle – by a theme park!

From Minneapolis we flew to California, discovering that 28 inches of rain had fallen in the past four months compared to only 8-12 inches in a normal year. In this State we visited the Toro irrigation plant at Riverside, about an hour or so by car from Los Angeles, and here we saw sprinkler parts being constructed, assembled and tested – again a most informative and interesting diversion. Touring of the plant completed, the following day saw us on the fairways of Moreno Valley Ranch GC, playing golf in the rain!

To finish, we had two ‘free’ days during which Eric and I elected to visit Hollywood and the Universal Studios – an unbelievable trip to the world of celluloid make-believe – this before returning to Riverside and taking the long flight home.

Looking back, I can declare it an absolutely fantastic trip, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There are so many people to thank that it is impossible to mention them all individually. That stated, the Toro people in both America and Britain must be singled out for praise, for making me feel so welcome. Follow these good folk with praise for BIGGA, for arranging and running the event, and also to my new-found American friends and everybody at home and at my workplace.

I’m sure that anyone lucky enough to have attended such a trip will echo my sentiments – that it is a wonderful learning experience, a fantasy, an amazing and overwhelming prize. Future winners, for the moment, must content themselves with mere dreaming!

BARRY NEVILLE
Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year 1992-93.
Doug McClymont, estates manager of the Elephant Hills Golf Course, Zimbabwe, describes the joys of managing a golf course where big game hunting begins in the air...
Realisation that tyres are a major contributor to soil compaction has resulted in a change in the types of tyre used on golf courses, while the risk of soil compaction has been increased by greater volumes of traffic as clubs become more mechanised and use heavier equipment, typically with the use of tractor-mounted slitters and corers replacing pedestrian machines. Furthermore, it is not just greens and tees which are getting increased traffic, fairways and rough get more traffic too.

The concise dictionary definition of tyre is 'a rubber ring placed round wheel of vehicle to prevent jarring', however this only reveals one single function. Most tyres are required to transmit traction or steering forces and spread the weight of a load as well as acting as shock absorbers. Tyre technology and reliability have developed very considerably in the last few decades but then so have the demands placed upon them.

Greenkeepers give low ground pressure and minimum grass damage their highest priority and this usually takes precedence over grip. Nevertheless, grip is often required and without it smearing of the grass or soil surface is likely—a problem which may be no less important than compaction when it comes to reducing air and water permeability.

There is a direct relationship between tyre and ground pressures and most vehicles designed specifically for turf have wide low-pressure tyres, typically with pressures under 15 psi or 1.0 bar. These tyres will also have a non-aggressive tread pattern, which will not impress or cut in, thus further minimising the danger of soil and turf damage. A useful way to assess ground pressure and damage potential is to run over some loose sand such as the edge of a bunker and measure the impression. It will be seen that traditional traction tyres such as those used on agricultural tractors are likely to leave marks fully one or two inches (25mm-50mm) deep. Ribbed steering tyres may be even worse, and because they are narrow they are liable to produce even higher contact point loadings. The worse culprits of all are two-wheel drive loader tractors with conventional single rib steering tyres.

Vulnerability to damage is also effected by soil conditions, when wet poorly structured soils such as clay are easy to compact and deform, as are some of the finer sands. Thus care needs to be taken in these circumstances. Similarly, wet conditions are also likely to produce lusher grass which is more easily smared, and of course wet conditions reduce tyre adhesion and so make slipping more likely. All tractors and most mowers are offered with various tyre options, the cheapest inevitably being the narrowest and potentially the most damaging.

Unfortunately there is a direct relationship between ground pressure and grip: greater weight provides greater grip, hence agricultural tractors which are loaded up with weight to gain traction. Fortunately grip and traction can also be increased by increasing the ground contact area or footprint, hence the market for very wide low ground pres-
sure (Igp) or flotation tyres and even dual wheels. These options are available for the golf course tractor, though they do mean an investment which can be quite significant as wider, stronger wheels will likely be required. Of course there is little point in putting wide wheels on the back unless the same is done for the front axle. Problems can arise with older tractors - due to the extra forces imposed on the steering system and axle - and in many cases it will be more cost effective to start with a new tractor bought with the right wheels and tyres.

There is contention over exactly what is low ground pressure, with some tyre manufacturers maintaining that their low profile tyres fitted to standard rims and operated with low inflation pressure have a low ground pressure. This is something the greenkeeper should judge for himself - try the sand-pit test.

Equally important to ground pressure is tread pattern, eg. cleated, barred or ribbed tyres produce localised higher pressures on the ground with greater grass damage. Worst offenders are new agricultural tyres designed for grip, and easy options include dual-purpose road/traction tyres such as those found on diggers, which have more rubber and are less aggressive, while full road tread patterns are even better - all of these fit standard rims. However, there are a growing number of tyres with treads specifically designed for fine turf and these are likely to be produced with a wide (or wider) profile and softer sidewalls, thus further reducing damage potential. This can be done because these tyres do not need great sidewall strength as they are not designed for traction.

'Preventing jarring' is of course one of the most important aspects of a tyre as far as the golf course is concerned, as most ride-on machinery has minimal other suspension - perhaps a sprung seat - and thus depends on the air in the tyres. Obviously the greater the pressure the harder the ride.

Tyre markings provide a great deal of information and need to be quoted in full when ordering replacement or alternative tyres. Tyre developments have complicated the marking system to the extent that it can be confusing to all but the experienced, and there are a number of traps for the unwary, particularly if trying to fit non-standard sizes and tyres on wheels produced to differing standards. While the first numbers give tyre size and the nominal rim diameter, the final alphanumeric code is now likely be a speed/load indicator, which imparts detail of the tyre's load rating at specific maximum speeds - this code replaces the ply rating given in the past - still found on many older tyres.

Other problems in fitting alternative sized tyres and wheels include the possibility of altering rolling radius so that speeds vary. This is not significant if only the speedometer is effected, however with four wheel drive there is a danger that front and rear axle can be mismatched, leading to wind-up and potential damage to the drives. Specialists in this field should have tables to provide a list of the possible options.

Few regulations apply to golf course machinery tyres unless used on the road, when they must be 'suitable' and in good order. Health and Safety requirements will apply to inflation pressures and to maintenance, especially if you have your own compressor. However, most turf tyres operate at relatively low pressure, where there is little danger of a high pressure blow-out.

Maintenance of tyres should be a simple routine of regular inspection and pressure check. This inspection should look for wear and damage, particularly to the wall •

---

Top: Is this really necessary? Will the added weights come off when the implement is removed from the tractor? Too much weight in the wrong place is bad for both turf and tractor.

Middle picture: A decent width of tyre - but it still may leave lines.

Left: Ugh! Tractor 'traction' tyres at play - is this necessary?
Making tracks

9 → and shoulder, as early discovery can often save sudden failure or prevent premature wear and damage. Marking the correct pressure, either on the vehicle or on the wall near the pump, makes it easier to ensure that tyres are maintained at optimum pressure. Load carriers such as trailers have a range of optimum pressures, but inevitably these have to be set for the maximum load — unless you are prepared to adjust pressures frequently.

Tyres are actually designed for a specific deflection, or bulge, and the use of pressure as a measure of inflation is purely for convenience, allowing the tyre to be set for maximum loading and preventing over-inflation. Nevertheless with non-load carriers it is perfectly practical to measure the deflection rather than put a gauge to the valve.

Some greenkeepers undertake their own repair of punctures but most rely on specialist fitters. Punctures should not be a frequent occurrence unless you have bad tracks or are abusing your tyres by driving over rocks at high speed. If you have a lot of punctures, perhaps you should first look at the specification of the tyres — chances are that they are under-specified and an alternative make or pattern may provide the simple solution. Other premature failures come from misuse, abuse and under inflation, causes about which most tyre fitters readily inform you, especially if you accuse them of supplying a faulty tyre. However, tyre faults do occur occasionally and most manufacturers are happy to give a replacement or credit when this is due.

That stated, most greenkeepers get very good value from their tyres and apart from an occasional puff of air, seldom need to touch them from the time the machine is purchased until it is sold or scrapped — this makes it vital that the right tyres are fitted right from the start.

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Trade Topics

A new range of distinctively styled tractors has been launched by Renault Agriculture Ltd. Identified by the new name and logo — CERES — the new line-up has power outputs from 54 to 83 DIN hp. Of particular interest will be the availability of a creeper transmission and the ability to lock a spool valve in the open position.

Comprising four models — the Ceres 65 (54hp), Ceres 75 (65hp), Ceres 85 (75hp) and Ceres 95 (83hp) — virtually every aspect of the range is new, with the exception of the engine. The robust and fuel efficient MWM (Ceres 65, 85 and 95) and Perkins (Ceres 75) power units used in the former MX and PX models have been retained. All models are available with either two or four-wheel drive. Details, Tel: 0608 62727.

The Farmura range of Flo Gro Super Concentrates are now available with new colour coded, wrap-round sleeves giving comprehensive information on how to use. Analysis is also expressed in weight:volume, enabling the turf manager to calculate the exact amount of nutrient he wishes to apply. Packed in 10 litre containers there are two containers per outer. With a concentration of two to five times greater than ordinary liquid fertilisers, Super Concentrates claim major advantages in storage, handling, distribution and packaging. Details, Tel: 0233 76241/581. Fax: 0233 76419.

Launched for the first time in the UK in April, Supaturfs Dilute ‘n Shoot has been repackaged into one litre containers. Dilute ‘n Shoot is the alternative way to apply a full strength application of AquaGro Liquid in a quick one-step operation. The package now incorporates a lightweight container of AquaGro Liquid attached to a handheld spray gun that fits into the end of a standard hose pipe. The gun injects the correct level of AquaGro Liquid into the flow of water from the hose at a safe level for all turf areas. Details, Tel: 0455 234677.
BOOKINGS FLOOD IN FOR 1994 BTME

A MASSIVE 74% of the total space sold for the 1993 BTME has already been taken up for the 1994 show - and there's still seven months to go!

More and more new companies have confirmed stand spaces, including Amazone, Charterhouse, Philip York, ALS, Brian D Pierson and John Deere. In fact, John Deere have secured one of the largest stands occupied to date. "This is due to our continuing development in the golf and turf industry in the UK and Ireland," says John Deere's Groundcare Division Manager Graham Williams. "We consider the BIGGA exhibition to be the right exhibition to promote our full range of golf course equipment."

A large number of the 1993 exhibitors are increasing the size of their stands - some by twice as much. Hardi, Rhône Poulenc, ADAS and Lloyd & Co have all booked double the amount of space they occupied last year - and in some cases, more.

The event's international flavour continues to grow with enquiries coming in from Europe and the USA.

The 1994 education programme is almost finalised and details will be announced soon. Workshops take place before the show opens and informative seminar sessions run concurrently with the exhibition.

Halls are filling fast for the Harrogate event. By 18th June, 76 companies had already paid their deposits to secure their stands. Bookings will be accepted through to the date of the show itself - but the longer companies leave it, the less choice of space will be available.

Call Louise Lunn on 0347 838581 if your company would like more details and a BTME information pack.

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THIS MONTH'S BIG QUESTION

* Who is John Deere's Groundcare Division Manager?

Keep your answer to this month's Big Question - and the three from last month - in a safe place. There'll be a question next month and a final one in September, together with full details of where to send your entry.


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THE NEED FOR SPEED

Has your club ever suffered from post-Augusta syndrome? Sometimes within a few weeks of the great event you arrive at work, bleary-eyed, at six o'clock on a Sunday morning to do your duty and cut for the day's competition. Arriving at the sheds you find a note pinned to the door which reads: 'Greens are too slow. Lower cut. Green Chairman.'

Knowing that you will shortly have a hoard of members eager to get out and play, you are ready to fill the course with some terrible golf and cheerful expletives, the last thing anyone would want is to have to start ripping units from machines and messing around with height bars. It is little wonder then, that in the post-Augusta days, greenkeepers have been known to roundly curse televised golf in general and Americans in particular.

One might ask at this time if the best of the US suffers from the same backlog, or is the need for speed a driving force in American golf? Following the words of Dr Robert Brame (USGA Green Section) delivered at this year's BIGGA Education Conference, the latter would seem to be true. Not only do our American colleagues accept this, they boast to each other about speeds achieved and will go to extremes to effect improvement. For instance, cutting at one eighth of an inch has become widespread. In an effort to dissuade courses from doing this, agronomists have endorsed the use of powered ride-on rollers, recently introduced, to produce good speeds with a raised cutting height. The findings have been, however, that course superintendents are using the rollers and still cutting at one eighth to produce ever-faster surfaces. Further, grass species for greens are being selected purely for their ability to produce fast surfaces. As a result, Dr. Brame tells us that the fine courses at Pebble Beach and Pine Valley are growing stands of pure Poa annua because it gives the best results.

Returning to the UK, it would be fair to say that most club golf is not played under these constraints. I wonder however, how many agronomists in this country are fed up with being called to judge (to borrow a biblical expression) the quick and the dead? The agronomist's consensus on cutting height for greens would seem to be as follows: a quarter of an inch is desirable; three sixteenths if you must; any less - a sharp intake of breath and don't tell anyone I advised it!

It is understandable that when a sensible programme of aeration, nutrition, watering etc., has been recommended, to find greens that are nearly white through close mowing and scalped down to the soil on the smallest undulations, any agronomist may begin to despair.

Nevertheless, the stimpeter is with us. The simple inclined-plane device that at the correct elevation causes a ball to roll more than eleven feet across a green at Augusta may now have become the yardstick for us all. Many older greenkeepers consider the implement is only fit for testing marbles - if the user has any! Perhaps, however, the owner of a Mini may be forgiven for wanting to drive a Porsche, and the golfer likewise.

So where does this leave the greenkeeper? Opinion seems to vary on what is the balance point on cutting height to give optimum speeds and maintain a healthy sward. Some would hold that they can cut at three sixteenths all year round with no adverse effects. Others cut closer for major competitions only and allow the greens to recover afterwards. Cutting aside, it is becoming increasingly common to use other management techniques to adjust green speeds, these being multi-cutting, grooming, rolling and irrigation control.

To offer a brief comment on each - cutting greens twice or more in different directions can increase speeds, but this follows the law of diminishing returns. Grooming aims to give speed by thinning the sward. Rolling, with the turf-iron type ride-on machine, is claimed by manufacturers to increase green speed considerably. All of the above may be helpful in achieving faster green speeds without closer mowing. I wonder, however, what the compound effects will be in terms of compaction? Even grooming means units with extra weight running over the greens.

At one time cricket wickets and golf greens were diametrically opposed in the turf management spectrum. Will we next see the introduction of the sarel roller to golf green maintenance to enable water to penetrate the surface? Returning to the last alternative - irrigation control - this method may, if meticulously tried, prove the most costly. To use the cricket analogy again, it is a requirement that a wicket is allowed to dry out in preparation for a match to inject pace. The same approach may be employed with a golf green. But at what cost? The green could become unresponsive to the approach shot and leave the golfer with an unfair challenge irrespective of his putting ability. The worst scenario could also include loss of sward due to drought stress.

All techniques designed to increase green speed may have their pitfalls, but if Curtly Ambrose turns up at your eighteenth green one day and expresses a desire to bowl on it, I think it's a fair bet that there is something wrong.

I think it is important also to look at green speed from the point of view of the golfer. If most of us could ride a docile old nag, not many would fancy his chances with a racehorse. So, it is not surprising on the day after the big competition to find the club regular standing slack-jawed on the first green as his putt snakes two feet left of the pin and ends up six feet past. His game is not set up for this level of green speed, and I would ask, is anyone's?

Augusta is a marvellous spectacle set out to test the best in the world. But when we see top golfers using cross-handed grips and chin-high putters, ostensibly to control the putting 'yips', are we doing the right thing? When a stroke becomes a nudge and a good reading becomes a good guess, I wonder.

As an interesting aside, the committee at Augusta National posted the cutting regimes undertaken during this year's Masters as follows: "Our fairways are now being mowed at 7/16", the tees at 3/8", the greens at 1/8", and these levels are to be maintained until the conclusion of the tournament. All mowing schedules are, of course, subject to weather conditions." Augusta's greens are Penncross bentgrass, tees and tees Bermuda grass. The course is closed for play between May and October. - Editor.
Problems of us and them

May I offer my sincere congratulations on the timely editorial highlighting the situation 'greenkeeper replaced by milkman from committee.' Granted, this was seen as a 'mere trickle that could become a flood', but there are, believe me, many similar cases that do not necessarily come to the attention of the Association.

I too suffered a similar fate - at the whim of a committee member who I apparently upset over a matter of 'policy'. I had been head greenkeeper and, latterly, course manager for 26 years. I left of my own accord and compensation was paid to me following my taking legal action.

I am of the opinion that this whole 'fire at whim' situation needs careful consideration by our Association, if only to provide help and guidance for future victims. Clubs always will face problems when short-term committee members make long-term decisions - which may be altered or scrapped at a later date. The only man to see through such course-related policies is the head greenkeeper - after all, he above all has a vested interest and he usually survives longer than any committee. Please understand, I have no wish to devalue the duties of elected committees, but in so many instances a better and closer working relationship would remove problem situations. Certainly, when we arrive at the 'milkman' situation, we are on the start of a very slippery slope indeed.

My congratulations also for a superb magazine month upon month. The content and format are excellent and the editorial style especially is of the highest calibre - our gain is Fleet Street's loss. As a long established member I have always welcomed advice on any particular problem I might have. Though I didn't always heed the advice, I found it beneficial to learn of the options available. Judging by some of the new courses I have seen in recent weeks, there are some chronic errors still being perpetrated, this at a time when we should be able to get it right the first time around.

Well paid and experienced course managers/head greenkeepers need nothing to fear from consultants as long as the consultant is experienced in the areas for which he is being consulted - a second opinion is always worth while, especially if it saves a limb!

DAVID JONES
International Golf Course Consultant, David Jones & Associates, Chesham, South Wales

The point made in the leader - growing concern that some consultants are reportedly attempting to usurp the head greenkeeper and run a golf course by 'remote control' - remains real reason for disquiet. If my comments result in just one green committee re-thinking a suspect decision, a valuable purpose will have been served. - Editor.

Fescue's future assured

Regarding 'Future of the Fescue' (May '93 issue), may I offer the following observations? I firmly believe that the greenkeeper should be as conscientious regarding selection of grass seed varieties and mixtures as the farmer is when selecting semen from the right breed of bull to inseminate the cow.

Yes, there is a future for the fescue, but before explaining the breakthrough in the breeding of fescue I must debate the contentious comment in the first paragraph of Tony Howarth's article - "Seldom is a top quality seed mix offered without it". I question this, being of the opinion that only seldom does a seed mix contain top quality varieties. More importantly, I ask - when have top quality varieties been used? In my experience, varieties and mixtures have all too often been selected on price alone.

Howarth asks: Is the greenkeeper able to achieve a fescue/bent green? The answer is yes, right now (and certainly in the future), with the breakthrough of Barcrown slender creeping red fescue, Baruba/Bargreen chewings fescue and with good management, the greenkeeper is able to achieve a fescue/bent green and he can also control Poa annua.

What do I mean by the breakthrough in the breeding of fescue? Ongoing discussions with greenkeepers, architects, agronomists and our breeders has enabled them (the breeders) to collect and breed varieties which are tailored made for golf course requirements. Nowadays, greenkeepers are confronted with more complicated influences: heavily polluted soils, low maintenance requirements, environmental laws, saline conditions and extreme weather conditions for greens and tees. All of these criteria highlight the need for accurate information, in order to match specification to demand.

In the past, many failures occurred because of poorly selected species, varieties or mixtures, (often selected merely on price), and we know for certain that even forage grasses have been used for amenity purposes. In the sixties Barenbrug started to change its breeding goals, beginning with the desire to breed new varieties which would withstand the stresses and extreme conditions required for golf. Simultaneously, our breeders became convinced that grasses bred under poorer environmental conditions, eg. on soil with low fertility levels and given less water and/or nutrition, would give a better indication of quality.

It then became clear to us that varieties bred in poor conditions performed as well as other varieties which demanded higher maintenance levels. The concept of testing new varieties under stress conditions such as drought, low fertility soil, minimal fertiliser application and pressure from diseases etc., proved successful. The first results came in the late seventies, and in the eighties a real breakthrough was achieved.

All this may clearly be seen, reflected in official independent trials conducted by institutes such as the CPRO in Holland, the INRA in France and the Sports Turf Research Institute in Britain. BIGGA members would find it worthwhile to inspect the findings contained within the booklet 'STRI Turfgrass Seed 1993', and we at Barenbrug would be happy to supply copies free of charge.

Above all, let it be stressed that with good management and the careful selection of cultivars and mixtures, rather than with the hit or miss 'bag of seed for the green' approach, healthier greens with more fescue can be assured.

MICHEL MULDER
Marketing Director, Barenbrug UK Ltd, PO Box 2, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9NW

Please give me a chance

I have been a member of BIGGA for over five years but due to unemployment and limited finances I have been unable to renew my subscription for 1993. This has meant that I have been unable to see your excellent recruitment pages and thus my chances of finding further employment in greenkeeping are restricted.

So, if any employer reading my letter would care to give a chance to a 22 year old greenkeeper with five years experience, together with Phases 1 and II in Greenkeeping, I would welcome their contacting me.

In the meantime, I thank BIGGA and Greenkeeper International for all they have done for the profession and look forward to the day when I can return to the fold of such a forward and excellent Association.

ROB PARKES
177 Coast Road, RhyL, Chwyd, LL18 3US

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July '93 13
Most sports and recreational turfs are subjected to traffic stresses. A hidden but very important component of traffic stress is soil compaction, which is defined as the pressing together of soil particles into more dense mass. Soil compaction tends to be greater in the upper 50 to 75 mm of the root zone profile. Proneness to soil compaction tends to be greater (a) in finer textured soils such as clays, particularly in comparison to sands in the medium particle size range, (b) at higher soil water contents, and (c) with a higher amount of canopy biomass function as a cushion to traffic stress pressures.

Traffic stress pressure aspects
Another aspect affecting soil compaction is the intensity and frequency of pressure applied during traffic stress. Basically, pressure is calculated based on the weight of the pedestrian or vehicle divided by the surface area actually in contact with the turf-soil surface. Consequently, to minimise soil compaction it is desirable to have as great a contact surface area as possible relative to the amount of weight being applied. For example, a footballer with studs or flat-cleated shoes has a majority of the weight applied on the base of the cleats, in contrast to a flat to wafer-shaped tennis shoe where the pressure is applied broadly across the full base surface area. This results in a 25-fold greater intensity of traffic pressure where stud/cleated shoes are used in contrast to flat-soled shoes. For the same reason, a golf shoe with the traditional hubs or shoulder with spikes results in much higher pressure stress in comparison to spiked shoes with either inverted metal bases flat with the sole or else nonspiked shoes.

In terms of the frequency at which traffic pressure is applied, obviously the more frequently that pressure stresses are applied, the greater the potential for increased soil compaction problems. There are a diversity of traffic control techniques that can be used to encourage broader distribution of traffic across turfed areas. In the case of sports fields, it may necessitate developing a greater number of sports fields so that use can be reduced on any one field by rotation of play to allow turf rest and recovery periods.

Effects of soil compaction
The pressing together of soil particles into a more dense soil mass as a result of traffic pressure causes a number of problems in maintaining a healthy, dense turf. The first negative event resulting from soil compaction is the loss of macro-pore space and associated soil aeration. Turfgrass roots and beneficial root micro-organisms require oxygen for respiration to support vital life processes. The loss of soil aeration results in (a) the inability of oxygen to move from the above external atmosphere into the root zone environment and, (b) the blockage in outward movement of excessive carbon dioxide and anaerobic gases that are potentially toxic to beneficial micro-organisms. The loss of porosity in the root zone also significantly reduces the water infiltration and percolation rates and therefore increases the amount of precipitation lost by surface runoff. The lack of oxygen and presence of potentially toxic anaerobic gases and chemicals result in functional restrictions of the turfgrass root system, and eventually root dieback, which in turn is reflected in reduced turfgrass health and eventually actual thinning of the above ground canopy.

Correcting soil compaction problems
Problems develop on extensive turf areas that can only be managed through corrective measures such as turf cultivation. By definition, turf cultivation refers to mechanical methods of selectively tilling an established turf without destroying the sod characteristics. The goal of this practice is to enhance exchange of air and water between the soil and the above atmosphere. Since soil compaction is most severe in the upper 50 to 75mm, it is important that turf cultivation operations penetrate at least 80mm, and preferably 100mm deep. A key principle in implementation of turf cultivation operations is that they be used only as needed to correct a developing soil compaction problem. In other words, it should not be used as a...
routine cultural practice, as there are negative aspects as well as positive benefits. Deep turf cultivation may never be needed on high-sand root zones constructed of the proper particle size analysis, whereas turf cultivation may be needed as frequently as monthly during the playing season on intensively trafficked, fine-textured clay soils. Symptoms used in diagnosis of soil compaction problems requiring turf cultivation include (a) a more impervious, hard soil mass as indicated by increasing difficulty in pushing a soil probe or cup cutter into the profile, (b) a reduction in the amount of water penetrating into the soil per unit of irrigation time, (c) reduced rooting depth and root number, and (d) actual thinning of the turf canopy. Turf cultivation is best accomplished when the soil is relatively moist to ensure maximum penetration and at a time of the year when moisture and temperature conditions will ensure rapid turf recovery over the openings, but when the seed germination and invasion of problem weedy species are minimised.

Coring
A form of turf cultivation involving a hollow tine to remove soil cores and leave a hole in the turf-soil profile is termed coring. There also are devices that produce an opening and lift out soil by means of drilling. Coring generally has been preferred over the years in terms of beneficial responses. There is the option of either (a) removing the soil cores, if of an undesirable soil texture, followed by topdressing with an improved root zone mix, or (b) returning the soil cores, if of an acceptable turf texture, during which they are broken up and matted across the turf surface where they serve as a topdressing to enhance thatch decomposition. Most traditional coring machines penetrate 85 to 100mm deep. The more recent innovative development of deep tine coring units with the capability of penetrating 200 to 300mm deep has proven very beneficial in many situations. However, this does not mean that this deep penetration unit will replace the more traditional coring devices. Both approaches have a place in the culture of intensively maintained turfgrasses for sports and recreation uses.

Slicing
A form of turf cultivation involving a deep vertical cutting action that provides soil openings and loosening, but without removal of soil, is termed slicing. It typically involves V-shaped knives mounted in a circular arrangement. The penetration

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15-20 depth depends on the weight applied to the slicing knives. Slicing does not cause as much disruption of the turf surface as coring but, by the same token, it is not as effective in enhancing soil water and air interchange. However, it is used effectively where a soil compaction problem has started to develop in the upper 50 to 75mm that cannot be corrected by coring, because it would be objectionable to the users during periods of intense play, or when high level competitions are scheduled.

Injection displacement
A recent innovation in turf cultivation involves the development of high pressure pulses of water or air that create openings in the soil profile to varying depths up to more than 200mm. The water injection displacement unit has created a great deal of interest, and is an innovative mechanical procedure involving sophisticated mechanical engineering approaches. They are advantageous on greens in that turf cultivation is achieved with minimal surface disruption. However, in the process of soil displacement, the soil must be moved somewhere and there is the question of just how much localised soil compaction or differential displacement of certain soil particles may occur under continued use. Time and further research will answer these questions. In the meantime, turf cultivation by water injection displacement is another tool for which the turf manager has available to choose, depending on the particular circumstances under which the soil compaction problem develops.

Spiking
Turf cultivation involving shallow perforations of the turf surface by solid tines or blades is termed spiking. Because the penetration depth is 20 to 30mm, spiking does not correct a major soil compaction problem. Rather spiking is used to break up an impermeable organic/compacted surface layer. It can prove particularly effective on high-sand root zones of the proper particle size distribution when the profile as a whole has an adequate infiltration rate and all that is needed is to break up the impermeable surface layer.

Preventing soil compaction
The preferred approach to solving soil compaction problems is a preventive basis. This typically involves root zone modification which tends to be relatively costly and thus is restricted to moderate to small areas such as sports fields, putting greens, and tees. The objectives of root zone modification are to select a particle size distribution that will have minimal compaction tendency, and maximum air and water exchange with the upper atmosphere. Construction starts with the proper subsurface drainage system. A 300 to 350mm deep root zone is placed over a gravel or crushed stone drain-bed of 100mm in depth. The best long-term performance has involved placement of a 50-60mm coarse sand layer above the drain-bed to create a perched hydration zone. This minimises soil drought stresses typical of sand root zones that do not possess a perched hydration zone. Construction systems such as the older Texas-USGA Method or the more recently published 1993 USGA guidelines are found to be the most effective (see References).

It is essential that the high-sand root zone contains a fully decomposed organic matter component to ensure proper infiltration in terms of nutrient availability and protection against excessive leaching and allied environmental quality concerns. Note: the gravel, sand or organic matter materials being assessed for use in the root zone modification must be chosen based on established, detailed physical soil analysis, following the procedures outlined in the USGA guidelines.

Mesh system
A recent innovative development, one that has been researched since 1985, is use of the randomly oriented interlocking mesh element system. High-sand root zones have many advantages but they do tend to be less stable. There are a number of types of fibres available of a two-dimen-
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The introduction of National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications to our industry has had serious implications for greenkeeper training.

The principles of vocational qualifications are endorsed by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), however it is more than a little concerned regarding the qualification standards agreed by the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture (ILBAH) on behalf of greenkeeping.

Unfortunately, golf greenkeeping only employs around 10-11,000 persons in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and with such numbers, this does not give the profession its own Lead Body status.

However, in order to protect the greenkeeping profession, the GTC moved swiftly in producing a new Training Manual, which incorporates the standards of NVQ/SVQ Amenity Horticulture.

The manual already includes the craft level skills and work in progress to produce supervisory and management sections by the end of this year.

The changes in education have also coincided with major changes in how our training colleges are funded. I do not intend to explain in how our training colleges are also coincided with major changes this year.

The NVQ/SVQ qualification in greenkeeping is under review by the ILBAH and the GTC is continuing to lobby for the Training Manual to be recognised as a candidate's Record of Achievement for the qualification.

The responsible GTC approved colleges will be offering training courses to complement the GTC training manual, incorporating NVQ/SVQs in Amenity Horticulture.

Having set out standards in the Training Manual and agreed to endorse and approve training courses at certain colleges, we must now provide trained assessors and verifiers to monitor these standards as an industry.

The GTC wishes to train sufficient assessors and verifiers throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and funding will be made available to allow course managers and head greenkeepers to obtain the required qualifications.

Nominations are therefore invited by the GTC from course managers and head greenkeepers who wish to be considered as assessors and/or verifiers. Forward your current curriculum vitae to David Golding, Education Director, at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF, or call 0347 838640 for more details.

The great work carried out at some colleges and whilst we intend to very closely monitor all training courses offered for greenkeeping, it is vital that we encourage golf clubs to support the courses which are offered, to complement the widely-acclaimed Training Manual. There will be numerous centres offering NVQ/SVQ Level 2 (Greenkeeping Option), but beware, many of these establishments have no experience in training greenkeepers or assessing standards in our profession.

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Mother Nature gets a helping hand from a crew of seven in preparing for this year's Open Golf Championship. DAVID WHITE reports from Royal St George's

Reaching the links at Sandwich Bay, home of the Royal St George's Golf Club and arena for the 122nd Open Golf Championship, is rather like riding a Tardis time-warped machine.

Upon leaving London there's a lovely beginning buzz as thirty or so miles of M2 motorway are gobbed up with rapidity, followed by further encouragement in taking the dual-carriageway which loops around Canterbury, for negotiating that ancient city no longer causes the hassle it once did.

So far, so good, but once free of those 'Canterbury tails' the traveller starts to slip in reverse in terms of modernity. En route to Royal St George's he must negotiate the pretty but twisting and often inadequate A257, following this tiresome frustration with a mere dollop of Sandwich by-pass before plunging aeons back in time to negotiate the town's quaint, mysterious and ridiculously narrow streets, a route infinitely more charming to pedestrians than motorists.

Taking the one-way system, the driver should force himself to ignore the few out-of-character
‘We've never ever seen the need to apply fertiliser on the fairway...’

PREVIOUS OPEN WINNERS AT ROYAL ST GEORGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>John Henry Taylor</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>Harry Vardon</td>
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<td>1904</td>
<td>Jack White</td>
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<td>1911</td>
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<td>Walter Hagen</td>
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<td>Roy Whitcombe</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>Bobby Locke</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Bill Rogers</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Sandy Lyle</td>
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‘Mother Nature is quite wonderful’, I observed, as the club’s head greenkeeper, Derek Scarborough, drove me round the course in his trusty Cushman. ‘Yes’, he replied, ‘though what you see today shouldn’t be credited to her alone, for this is down to Nature and seven men – she gets a fair share of help from my crew’. Derek Scarborough has been at the club since 1966, leaving Woodhall Spa to become Ralph Davis’s assistant and in 1976 taking over the headship when Davis retired. This Open Championship will be the club’s thirteenth and Derek’s third, though for three of his crew it will be their first. As Derek pointed out, 1981 was undoubtedly a huge challenge as none of them had been involved in an Open before, though the club is no stranger to the big event and has hosted Amateur Championships, Walker Cups and a European Amateur Team Championship, as well as jointly hosting, with Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, the public schools ‘old boy’ spring bean-feast that is the Halford Hewitt.

Derek Scarborough appears the very epitome of calm, a man who seems content to let the madness of the world wash over him – I’ve never met a greenkeeper so laid back – as though he’s preparing the course for a monthly medal. ‘Of course’, he said, ‘preparing for The Open is still a challenge, but it hasn’t got any harder, for you must understand that I attempt to keep the course in first class condition all the time’. Point taken, but hadn’t certain things changed, I asked. Observing that the course had been relatively quiet prior to the ’81 Open, Derek is of the opinion that now it seems everyone wants to play and this has obviously brought about some changes in the course maintenance programme. If pressed, he will admit that the Vertidrain is used a little more frequently, but more than anything he puts Royal St George’s fine appearance and irresistible turf down to ‘just routine maintenance and good greenkeeping practices. ‘Yes’, he says, ‘the course is marvellous, all down to Nature and the crew’ – he grins, but you feel it – I could sense it – he’s very proud of his team.
Looking at the course it is easy to see why he is optimism personified, for he tells me that there are no problems, no diseases, and there's plenty of fescue sprouting. The weather (my visit was in April) had been kind, the course was 'looking great' and now they were hoping for kind weather during Open week. 'And if it rains continuously?', I ask. 'Well, the organisation of the course for The Open under R&A appointed agronomist David Stansfield, along with the club committee and The Championship committee, is programmed to the n'th degree, so nothing is left to chance. Being on sandy soil the course drains well and I honestly don't envisage any problems in that respect, though we need good weather if only to keep the spectators happy'.

The programme leading up to The Open is one of 'business as usual' — with top dressing for the greens done with a mix of the club's own making, using sandy soil taken from fields adjacent to the course, a source sufficient to last well into the next century. Green cutting, normally done with triplexes, moves gradually toward pedestrian Ransomes Auto-Certes as The Open gets nearer, the better to obtain the finish, desired speeds and consistency required. This cutting routine with the Auto-Certes begins at first twice weekly in May, progressing to three, four, five and finally seven days a week as 'the big one' looms close. Blade settings begin at \( \frac{3}{16} \) " and are very gradually lowered to a minimum of \( \frac{1}{8} \) " — 'we cannot go lower', he told me, 'for the green undulations just would not permit it'. Verticutting takes place twice weekly, greens are watered 'when necessary' and only 'just enough' is applied to keep them healthy — say five minutes each evening, dependent upon God's own contribution.

'We've never overseeded the greens', Derek declared, 'we don't need to, though of course we repair divots on tees and fairways using a proper selected mix. What's more, we've never ever seen the need to apply fertiliser on the fairways'.

In truth, the main cause for concern comes not from golfers but from those terrible twins, wind and erosion — and it was erosion that prompted the Royal St George's committee to instruct Brian Pierson a year or so ago to undertake the complete restoration and revetting of some 75 bunkers — representing about three-quarters of the total bunker population. If solitude is one of Royal St George's outstanding characteristics, its bunkers are another — not flat and purposeless like the seashore, but greedy, jeering obstructions that have as great a psychological effect as any I've ever experienced. It's as though they lie around, challenging and defiant, waiting to put the player completely off his stroke. Pierson's have done a wizard job.

Another contractor had recently vacated the links, having achieved what Derek described as 'a good kill' — in a single day of labour wiping out the irritation of daisies and clover on all the treated fairways. The staff meantime had applied Supertoxx to the greens and this also had achieved the desired effect — weed free putting surfaces.

Those putting surfaces are Royal St George's third outstanding characteristic, for many a match has been lost on its teasing and mischievous greens when the player's talent elsewhere has been beyond reproach. Most are big, all are undulating, each has hidden fall and slope to catch the unwary — all are infuriatingly cunning... and a drying wind can make them skin slick.

Come the hour the team — comprising Tony Adamo, Chris Marsh, Robin Holloway, Graham Royden, Neil Metcalf and Dennis French — will be on tenterhooks. The course will close for seven days to permit a last roundelay of fine-tuning and the greens will feel the mower blades nip over them at least twice a day. Sandwich's solitude will evaporate, but at a time when too many championship courses have compromised their integrity, were the ghost of Dr Laidlaw Purves to return he'd find the old girl he created much the same as when he left her, deceptive, mean, magnificent — and a terrific test of golf... which should cause Derek Scarborough's men to feel rather pleased with themselves.
There will of course be many who read this article who are expert at grass identification – an essential facet of advanced greenkeeping education. Nevertheless, I never cease to be amazed at the very poor level of skill in the identification of grasses in mown turf, and not just by new entrants to the profession.

Yet accuracy in this aspect of greenkeeping training and practice is equally vital to both sound advice and sound management. This inability to pick out even half a dozen of the commonest grasses in mown turf is by no means confined to practical greenkeepers. Advisers, who should know better, not only mis-identify species but confirm their errors in writing! I have in my possession a report from an agronomist purporting to show that on the course he was advising, the greens are some of the best annual meadow grass greens I have ever seen – and those were greens which had been managed on sensible lines for a score of years and which were dominantly Agrostis! In another case, the virtues of Penn-ncross were being extolled by one unconvinced greenkeeper. In both cases, the greens were Pennncross, on the grounds that they spent so much money on overseeding the greens that ‘they had to be Pen-ncross’. But then he added that he was a chemist not a botanist!

Mis-identification is not confined to confusing bad species with desirable ones. I remember one unconvincing greenkeeper swearing that the ‘invading’ Agrostis and fescue in greens, swearing that the ‘invading’ Agrostis and fescue in greens, was in his view annual meadow grass. Responding to better management, was in his view annual meadow grass and ‘his’ annual meadow grass greens were, he swore, Agrostis!

I fully accept that identification is not always easy and I confess that I have been picked up more than once by on-the-ball greenkeepers, when confusing fine-leaved native links bent with equally fine-leaved fescue, relying on the colour change – in winter – of Agrostis, often bronze or purple tinged due to frost. So was the fescue. We all make mistakes! It is, in fact, the general appearance and colour, different of course at different times of the year, which gives the first clues, but closer examination is always wise, as I know full well, despite the problems of getting down to eye level, with my arthritic knees.

One thing is certain. There is very limited value in teaching grass identification from the examination of mature grasses growing in ‘museums’ or as ‘pot plants’. Any reasonably observant person can be trained to identify common grasses in the flowering head stage. Thrusting bouquets of seedling grasses into students’ hands is no way to teach them what is undoubtedly the most important aspect of their craft – the identification of grass species in mown turf.

Lucky there is only a relatively few grasses which are of economic importance in turf, either as beneficial species or as undesirable weeds. I am fully aware that there are well over a hundred grass species (excluding cereals) in the family Gramineae, as well as an enormous number of strains. Many, however, are so rare and so localised that even in a lifetime of botanising there are still a few that I have not seen. My ‘life-list’ was immeasurably helped by being trained in the field over 45 years ago by a botanist with an international reputation, Bingley’s senior adviser, the late Richard Libbe, and on our joint visits to links courses we wangled the first round of drinks that evening on the number of grass species identified in the fairways.

However, if any young (or indeed older) greenkeepers can reasonably accurately identify a very small number of useful species and half a dozen harmful or undesirable ‘weeds’, then he will have the edge on many ‘experts’, ranging from university professors to so called turf doctors. Any educational course on grass identification in turf must be based on turf samples (hole cuts from mown grass). You do not see many grasses flowering in close mown turf and even that ubiquitous pest annual meadow grass hardly throws up flowering stems, but flowers and seeds under the blades of the mower.

Of course, practice makes perfect and in time species which can be easily confused, especially at first glance, can be picked out. Initially it is enough to be able to identify the relatively few useful species – when all the rest can be dismissed as irrelevant to greenkeeping, if not actual weeds – in the sure knowledge that few will be able to contradict you!

What then are these species on whose identification correct management must be based? In today’s greenkeeping there are really only three species which it is essential to correctly identify, if

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IDENTIFICATION

only to be able to assess the progress or otherwise of a line of management or to identify and treat problems (or otherwise), which the dominance of a particular species indicates. These three are the bents (Agrostis spp), fine fescues (Festuca rubra) and the meadow grasses (Poa spp). It is a quirk of botanical fate that the last two, the first so much our ideal grass and the last containing that enemy of greenkeeping, Poa annua, are botanically closely related.

There is of course no substitute for field training by a really knowledgeable grass man. It is, I suppose, the same with bird watching. For someone like myself who has been bird watching for 65 years - (and what a suspect hobby it was pre-war and how sophisticated it has all become, with all the twitchers ‘artillery’ and communication systems) – a glimpse of a bird will tell me at once either it is – or more important still, suggest that it is something out of the ordinary. There is much in common with bird and grass watching. The first glimpse is equivalent to the first impression – the ‘jizz’ of the bird. Colour (so variable with the season), texture, reflected light, turf density, upright or spreading growth – all help to group the turf under dominant species.

Some grasses never blend easily with others in a multi-species sward. Fine fescues especially tend to grow in distinct zones, whereas Agrostis generally but not invariably mixes well with annual meadow grass (Poa annua). In passing, look carefully at the margins of such zones. If they are clearly defined, this indicates active growth outwards and so management is favouring that grass. If the margins are indeterminate, with other species ‘probing’ into the zone, then that grass is suffering and present treatment is not favouring it.

Experience is the best teacher in such matters - you will quickly get to recognise the distinctive greyish or yellow green colour of fine fescue in winter. (Of course, when greens are growing fast, whether fertilised or not, and a uniform green, this masks any colour variations.)

Bents, especially creeping bent (Agrostis stolonifera), turn almost purple after frost and because they have ribbed leaves which do not reflect the light, always look dull. Closer examination will confirm the species within reasonable limits of accuracy. Cross sections of leaves (illustrated) show what to look for. The bents (Agrostis) with very close parallel ribs on upper leaf surfaces are quite distinctively different, even to the naked eye, from the fibrous needle leaves of fine fescues and especially the soft, stubby, sappy leaves of our old enemy annual meadow grass. Indeed all the Poa species show the same twin parallel mid-rib, (created by two lines of motor cells which open and close the leaf blade in response to wet or dry weather, to produce the effect of a double, parallel mid-rib as illustrated. Note that all the Poa family have leaf-tips shaped like the bow of a boat, and if flattened out, the point splits to give two lips (as illustrated). One of the problems of grass identification is that the same species can have very varied forms, none more so than Poa annua. These forms range from the coarse open growth of the invasive type, colonising any bare spots, to the biennial fine leaved form which characterises fairways. Its main disadvantage is that it is dies out under close mowing. Its characteristic blue green leaves (with marked boat-shaped tips and double mid rib) are unmistakable – giving it its US name of Kentucky blue-grass. It is not in my view as important as some would have us believe. Each species shows indications of the turf may be variable. The characteristic surface running stems of creeping bent (Agrostis stolonifera) are not often seen on greens, but more commonly on less frequently or closely mown surrounds. They contrast, not just with browntop (Agrostis tenuis) but with the Pennnecross family (A. palatensis) (which is not to be confused with our creeping bent, though often so described on the other side of the Atlantic). This grass is totally unsatisfactory for any area where there is a long, drawn-out, cold, wet winter, as it becomes dormant, sickly, pale and weak under these conditions. For those areas where there is no winter (and no dormancy therefore) or where there is no winter golf, as courses are under feet of snow, it is ideal, being a rapid establisher and with proper management, money and man power it can produce superb surfaces, whether this be in Mediterranean zones, Asia, NZ North Island, or of course certain areas of the United States, but by no means all of them. Under more temperate climates it produces thatch second to none and after dormancy it is so weakened that it soon becomes invaded and eventually replaced by annual meadow grass, even with the skilled management and high budgets which enable it to survive longer.

Next month we will deal with the useless or weed grasses, always remembering that what is a rubbishy weed to a greenkeeper can be a productive crop plant to a farmer.

CROSS SECTIONS OF LEAVES

Poa annua/annual meadow grass

Note sappy unstrengthened leaves - Motor cells give a double mid-rib

Open – Wet atmosphere

Shut – Arid atmosphere

Agrostis tenuis/Browntop bent

Note even ribbing and fibrous leaf

Festuca rubra/Red fescue

Note very fibrous leaves for maximum moisture conservation

Closed – dry

Open – wet

LEAVES

Poa annua

Note parallel mid-rib and boat-shaped tip

Note divided tip when flattened

Festuca rubra

Note needle leaves

Agrostis spp

Note flat dull fibrous ribbed leaves

Two other Poa’s are found but are not important in golf greenkeeping. Rough stalked meadow grass, (Poa trivialis), is a surface growing (stoloniferous) perennial which is useless in turf. Smooth stalked meadow grass (Poa pratensis) has masses of chizomes and is sometimes advised for tees and fairways. Its main disadvantage is that it is dies out under close mowing. Its characteristic blue green leaves (with marked boat-shaped tips and double mid rib) are unmistakable – giving it its US name of Kentucky blue-grass. It is not in my view as important as some would have us believe. Each species shows indications of the turf may be variable. The characteristic surface running stems of creeping bent (Agrostis stolonifera) are not often seen on greens, but more commonly on less frequently or closely mown surrounds. They contrast, not just with browntop (Agrostis tenuis) but with the Pennnecross family (A. palatensis) (which is not to be confused with our creeping bent, though often so described on the other side of the Atlantic). This grass is totally unsatisfactory for any area where there is a long, drawn-out, cold, wet winter, as it becomes dormant, sickly, pale and weak under these conditions. For those areas where there is no winter (and no dormancy therefore) or where there is no winter golf, as courses are under feet of snow, it is ideal, being a rapid establisher and with proper management, money and man power it can produce superb surfaces, whether this be in Mediterranean zones, Asia, NZ North Island, or of course certain areas of the United States, but by no means all of them. Under more temperate climates it produces thatch second to none and after dormancy it is so weakened that it soon becomes invaded and eventually replaced by annual meadow grass, even with the skilled management and high budgets which enable it to survive longer.

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MICHAEL BIRD examines communications on the golf course

"O K then Steve, tell me why you wouldn't recommend Citizens Band radio for on-course communications?"

Silence, while Steve Garrett composes an appropriate answer: "Let's put it like this," he begins, "if I say that CB radio is the equivalent of a crazy golf course and Private Mobile Radio is the equivalent of St Andrews, then I think your readers will understand that there is a world of difference between what can only be described as amateur and professional wireless communications systems." Mr Garrett ought to know. As sales manager for Cotswold Telecommunications Ltd. he is responsible for advising on and supplying two-way radio systems, cellular radio telephones and radiopaging systems to customers throughout southern England. The company secured the British Standards Institute's BS 5750 part 2 accreditation more than a year ago and is the largest privately-owned provider of mobile communications services in the region with additional sales and service centres at Newton Abbot and Truro.

"Don't think I'm out to knock CB radio," continues Mr Garrett. "As a public access system, it has an accepted role to play as a low cost means for people on the move or on their own to keep in touch. However, if you want a private conversation with one or more of your staff without worrying about a complete stranger listening or butting in, then CB is not the answer. It has to be Private Mobile Radio, normally known as PMR."

Why Private? Because each system is allocated a specific operating frequency by the Department of Trade and Industry enabling private communication between all equipment tuned to the same frequency. To prevent others 'tuning in', all equipment has to be pre-set by the supplier to the frequency given by the DTI to each licence holder for use on the assigned channel, with other users within a prescribed area - usually up to 40 miles radius - being 'locked out', preventing access to your designated frequency.

There are four principal frequency bands available to PMR users, each offering a different transmitting characteristic to suit the location, topography and density of buildings and other obstructions. The bands are VHF low, mid and high, and UHF, each with their own range of frequencies one of which is allocated to the user by the DTI. A preferred frequency band can be indicated on the licence application although if a specific channel is required, the reason must be given.

In London, because of the high demand for PMR during the late 1970s and early 1980s, no new frequencies have been allocated for more than five years, new users having to wait until someone else gives up an existing frequency. Although the UHF band is geographically restricted, it is ideal in built-up areas due to its ability to penetrate steel and concrete better than VHF signals. On the other hand, radio waves produced on VHF low band hug the contours giving good coverage in hilly areas while VHF high band is able to travel long distances in a straight line, producing a high quality signal on open terrain.

These variations in signal characteristics make a thorough site survey the fundamental starting point for anyone considering installing a mobile radio communications system. Mr
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Garrett points out that no-one wanting to do the job properly should attempt to do it themselves. "There is plenty of cheap equipment advertised, but once purchased, you could very well find yourself on your own," he says. "Although it is possible to apply for a licence and be up and running within a few days, users can find that they have selected the wrong equipment, the wrong frequency or even the wrong licence for their specific requirements."

There are two basic types of licence appropriate to golf course applications, both costing from £20 a year. The first is 'local area', permitting wireless communications within a 3km (1.9 mile) radius of a permanent base station transmitting at a maximum five watts power. This system can be used to link a base station with staff and management over a greater course area, particularly when leaving the course to transmit at a maximum five watts power. For this, one radio to talk to mobiles on one frequency and another to another. Here, aerial type, location and direction is the pager. Comprising a simple one-way transceiver (combined transmitter and receiver), it enables subscribers to communicate with other mobile radios on the same frequency over the complete area covered by the community repeater's aerial - typically a 30 to 40 mile radius.

With a base trigger station in the office linked to an aerial pointing at the community repeater, all mobile and hand portable radios on the course should be able to communicate with each other, subject to the terrain, at considerably lower cost than attempting to overcome the problem using all one's own equipment. Indeed, there need be no capital outlay at all, as rental options are normally available for the full range of mobile telecommunications equipment available, irrespective of the licence type or system selected.

A further option which provides nationwide mobile radio coverage, yet is suitable also for those in cities where new frequency allocations are restricted, is National Band Three. Using a network of land lines and hilltop aerials, this service is used principally by distribution and haulage companies throughout Britain paying a monthly subscription per mobile set, with no call charges. National Band Three is available also with just regional or local coverage at lower cost and this could be appropriate for a club within the M25 area where new PMR frequency allocations are restricted.

If two-way voice contact is not essential, then the most economical form of communication is the pager. Comprising a simple one-way system, it uses a similar national network of landlines and relay base stations to that used by National Band Three. The basic pager uses a 'bleep' signal to alert the carrier that he or she should make contact with base. On more sophisticated systems, a message can be displayed on the pager's screen while the most advanced offer one-way voice communication. The disadvantage with most pagers is that communication can be from the base only, eliminating the opportunity for a conversation between two handsets.

And what about cellular telephones? Steve Garrett reckons that he can dissuade anyone working in a fixed location from investing in a mobile telephone for routine or even emergency communications with fellow members of staff. "A mobile radio system can be installed and operated for a known monthly figure, with no call charges," he points out, "if you're always going to be talking to the same people, a mobile telephone will usually prove a far more costly alternative."

A final word of advice concerns after-sales service. "Don't assume that the equipment you choose is going to prove totally trouble-free," he comments. "Dust, water, vibration and knocks can upset even the best-protected electronic circuitry. Mobile radios also need retuning from time to time. Buy from a reputable company able to provide the level of service that you would expect from any other supplier of golf course equipment. There is no mandatory requirement for suppliers of telecommunications equipment to be members of any industry association or governing body, so beware of shady operators who may not be around tomorrow."
It was great to see such well argued and thought provoking articles by Arne van Amerongen and Tony Howarth in the May issue. My first reaction was to note that the subject matter was basically the everlasting debate about Poa annua, fescue and bent. All this indicates to me that after twenty years of political in-fighting between rigid dogma and liberal experimentation by agronomists, we are no further forward toward any consensus on even the basic ground rules, such as grass species and subsequent management.

I am sure we all agree that pure fescue greens licked keen by sea breezes are the only true golf greens. On established greens anywhere, management by Arthurian principles is the best way to try and emulate them. New constructions on inland sites are, however, surely a case apart. The specification of the seed mix and in many cases the planning of the aftercare is generally in the hands of agronomists.

Some stick doggedly to saving fescue where it is surrounded by Poa annua. The new sward, subjected to heavy play and minimalist policies can only result in a weak turf ripe for invasion. Others sow creeping bents with scant regard for whether the resources to manage such a grass (including the ability to limit winter play) are in existence or not. Whatever has been tried, it seems there has been very little success in producing Poa annua free greens. Those that have owe it more to a cut-it-out-and-patch-it policy than to their own efforts. It was great to see such well argued and thought provoking articles by Arne van Amerongen and Tony Howarth in the May issue. My first reaction was to note that the subject matter was basically the everlasting debate about Poa annua, fescue and bent. All this indicates to me that after twenty years of political in-fighting between rigid dogma and liberal experimentation by agronomists, we are no further forward toward any consensus on even the basic ground rules, such as grass species and subsequent management.

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SHEFFIELD
Sheffield's David Chappell (Grange Park GC), has been appointed to manage Bond Hay &GC, Worksop. David has served 27 years as a greenkeeper, starting in 1966 at Rotherham GC under the watchful eye of Harry Harringham, in 1971 moving to Grange Park as head greenkeeper where he remained for the past 22 years. David is most enthusiastic about his appointment and is looking forward to working alongside architect Donald Steel and the development team. The Bond Hay site is an 18 hole (pay and play) course with potential to be further developed into a driving range and clay pigeon shoot facility. The 9 hole will be open around August '93, and the 18 will start construction (it is hoped) in July '93, with an opening target of September '94. A keen golfer, David married to Gillian and they have a daughter, Jenny. We send our best wishes to them and we shall certainly look forward to playing Bond Hay in the future.

The Spring Tournament was held at Notts GC 13th March and was a 27 hole turn-out of 50 competitors. The course proved difficult, with a stiff breeze and a lot of rust swings after the winter rest, reflected in the scores of all save one well-tuned member, Wollaton Park's Martin Scronthorn, who comfortably won the Peatmeat Prize and the first division Hayler qualifying prize with a marvellous score of gross 75 nett 76 (yes, you guessed it, Martin's handicap is plus one). What a credit Martin is to our profession. The day was marred by a few hiccups, with our competition secretary, Barry Heaney, having to stand on his soap box voicing his favourite saying, "I'm sorry, but you are out of order!". I don't know if his comments were directed at our players or those Hollinwell members who enthusiastically cheered on the England football team during the prize presentation, but seriously, it was a real treat to play Hollinwell, especially at a time when the gorse was in full bloom. Our thanks must go to head greenkeeper Graham Arrowsm & his staff for presenting us with a superb course, which must be rated one of the best in the area. We can anticipate a similar trip to see the progress work out for the best.

For the results - here goes. The Rigby Taylor morning Stableford was won by Jason Bean with 35 points, hotly pursued by Dave Vidler, Richard Hopgood, Nigel Stapley and John Wakelin. All received very attractive cut glass trophies courtesy of Bernard Dibley. The highest nett score had to go home minus the top trophy as someone forgot to bring it along! Yes, that someone was last year's winner, our section secretary David Wood - perhaps it is superglued to the mantelpiece! The main Haytor Medal 9 handicap section was won by new boy, or boys, Huw Morgan with a nett 72, with other qualifiers (in order) being John Wakelin, Mike Smith and Steve Suttie. Reserve Ian Rawlins. The 10-18 group was won by another new participant, Richard Hopgood with a nett 71, followed by Malcolm Arthur, Peter Biscoe, Jon Allbutt and the progress of greenkeeperreserve Graham Child for what was undoubtedly the most successful Westurf to date. We gathered in the college's liaison officer, D Geoff, and principal training officer, J Curtis. Jon Allbutt's session left many of us grappling with their responsibilities regarding new NVQs, which takes place after this report goes to press. The scratch prize (on count back), went to Huw Morgan with an 80. Many thanks to our gracious hosts at the club, especially at a time when the gorse was in full bloom. We all hope things work out for the best.

KENT
April 26 saw a large turn-out for our visit to the new London Golf Club, with 55 members viewing developments and enjoying a very interesting afternoon. Thanks for this visit must go to Joe Paulin and his staff and I am pleased to note that we can anticipate a similar trip to see the progress work out for the best. Again another very large turn-out for our Spring Tournament and Hayter Challenge Trophy qualifier at Rochester & Cobham on 10 May. Many thanks to our gracious hosts at the club, especially at a time when the gorse was in full bloom. The course proved difficult, with a stiff breeze and a lot of rust swings after the winter rest, reflected in the scores of all save one well-tuned member, Wollaton Park's Martin Scronthorn, who comfortably won the Peatmeat Prize and the first division Hayler qualifying prize with a marvellous score of gross 75 nett 76 (yes, you guessed it, Martin's handicap is plus one). What a credit Martin is to our profession. The day was marred by a few hiccups, with our competition secretary, Barry Heaney, having to stand on his soap box voicing his favourite saying, "I'm sorry, but you are out of order!". I don't know if his comments were directed at our players or those Hollinwell members who enthusiastically cheered on the England football team during the prize presentation, but seriously, it was a real treat to play Hollinwell, especially at a time when the gorse was in full bloom. Our thanks must go to head greenkeeper Graham Arrowsm & his staff for presenting us with a superb course, which must be rated one of the best in the area. We can anticipate a similar trip to see the progress work out for the best.

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Another interesting recent event saw a small number of greenkeepers attend the second annual Kent Golf Union Seminar for secretaries and club officials, held at the Weald of Kent GC on 12 May. The main topics were Health & Safety by Jon Albutt and the progress of greenkeeper training by John Millen. Supported by Hadlow College's liaison officer, D Geoff, and principle training officer, J Curtis. Jon Allbutt's session left many of us looking a bit uncomfortable at the prospect of grappling with their responsibilities regarding new provisions from HSE. Greenkeeper training is definitely heading in the right direction, with John Millen working locally behind the scenes for some time, along with the Kent Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, in developing a recognised National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in greenkeeping. This will be based at Hadlow College and will replace the old City & Guilds examinations. The details and principles of the new NVQ are somewhat lengthy for me to outline here, but no doubt they will soon be made available to us all.

Late news: A summer tournament (18 holes) will be staged at Moatlands GC on 27th July. For more details, call David Wood on 0342-850875.

PAUL COPSEY

CLEVELAND
As reported in the June issue, Ian Harrison has left Darlington GC to become course manager of the Mendip Spring GC, Avon. We take this opportunity to wish Ian, his wife Carol and their daughters Nicky and Kelly every happiness in this new venture. On the same subject, Paul in Usk. The club has worked at Darlington GC for 14 years, has been appointed 'acting' head greenkeeper for six months.

A visit to Wynyard Hall, Wolviston, took place in May, led by Terence Redding, owner of Maxel Golf. A large number of greenkeepers turned out to view the new course under construction, designed by Steve McFarlane of Hawtree & Co. Turf and greens are nearing completion and the drainage system utilises storage tanks. The course is built over 150 acres and is 6600 yards in length. A further 150 acres are planned for housing development on this attractive rolling countryside site.

A trip to the Annual golf match against the Eaglescliffe GC green committee is set for late July. Members will be contacted by Ian Holloran.

BRUCE BURNELL

SOUTH WALES
Congratulations are again due to Marion and Gordon Child for what was undoubtedly the most successful Westurf to date. We gathered in the college's liaison officer, D Geoff, and principal training officer, J Curtis. Jon Allbutt's session left many of us grappling with their responsibilities regarding new NVQs, which takes place after this report goes to press. The scratch prize (on count back), went to Huw Morgan with an 80. Many thanks to Barry Heaney for the prizes and for the goodies on the first tee.


Spring Tournament Winners. R Ullathorpe 81, D Rigg 78, A Whittington 78, P Unwin 79.

Annual Tournament 23rd May at Liddrick GC, tee off 10.30am & 2.30pm. Please book early and return your form and remittance by the closing date to Barry Heaney. Tel: 0742 884063. No late entries will be accepted.

Please contact the manager with any news on 0298 813374, or write to StowEIFORD, Chapel-En-Le-Frith, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 6QU.

JANE RYAN

KEEPING IN TOUCH WANTS
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

GreeNKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1993 31
Around the Green

and I didn’t once mention the greens.

I would like to end on a serious note. In the April issue I read the biggest load of rubbish about ‘Green’s men. Not be spared and frantic did not expect to see such an article in a greenkeeping magazine — the Beano maybe, though I expect Biffo the Bear would have done a better job. After years of trying to rectify the effects of over-watering and over-feeding and the ravishing Pao annua which we come across an article expressing the views of an ex-apprentice greenkeeper who after just six years thinks he knows it all. If Pao annua is wanted, his method is the sure way to get it, but if you want quality — then please ignore the whole thing. The trouble is that a lot of other amateurs — i.e. green chairman — will be waving it about like the gospel. If ever proper was needed that ‘a little knowledge is a dangerous thing’...

MICK LATHROPE

NORTHERN

To begin, may I thank Kevin Garffit of Pontefract and District GC, Allan Gamble of Pannal GC, and Arthur Mason of Millfield Golf Complex, for applying to represent us in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper Award. I am pleased to inform members that Allan Gamble has been chosen to represent the Northern section.

I am also pleased to welcome the following new section members: Gordon Morrish, Mathew Mortimer, Peter Hay and Robert Britson (Pike Hills GC), Gavin Hawker (Slidener GC), Richard Pull (Knaresborough GC), Nigel Wild (Skipton GC), Joe Mellor (Worthing GC), Alan Crowther (Woodsome Hall GC), Mark McEvoy (Malton & Norton GC), Simon Wood (West Bradford GC), Graham Bates (Cheekheaton GC), Lee Hebdon (Garforth GC), David Bertrier (Kirklees Leisure Services), Paul Jackson (Castlefields GC), Kevin Garffit (Pontefract and Dist. GC), Mark Jones (Cocksford GC), Phillip Bassei (South Bradford GC), Chris Birkett (Nettleham GC), Brian Jenkins, Kevin Glyde (Pannel GC), Brian Dean, Dominic Parr and Lee Dacre (Moore Allerton GC), Adrian Anderson and Matthew Houseman (Harrogate GC), Nicholas Hodgson (Shipley GC), Robert Crossley (Calverley GC), Mawson (Kirklees Council), Matthew Green (Rawdon GC), Stephen Roeback (Crossland GC), John Heaton (Filey GC) and Derek Wilkinson (Pannal GC), Brian Dean, Dominic Parr and Lee Dacre (Moore Allerton GC), Adrian Anderson and Matthew Houseman (Harrogate GC), Nicholas Hodgson (Shipley GC), Robert Crossley (Calverley GC), Mawson (Kirklees Council), Matthew Green (Rawdon GC), Stephen Roeback (Crossland GC), John Heaton (Filey GC) and Derek Wilkinson (Pannal GC).

If any new members (or old-established members) want information whatsoever, please contact me on 0274 568128. There are still a few places left for our golfing events, so if you have not yet booked please do so immediately by sending your name and a £10.00 deposit to me. In doing so you will avoid disappointment.

PAT MURPHY

NORTH WEST

Fine weather, an excellent course and good food all these awaited the North West section when the Spring Tournament was played at Birchwood GC on 10 May. Keith Addison and his staff had this very testing course in beautiful condition and, as is their custom, Birchwood GC made us very welcome. Once again the prize table was well furnished, mainly by our friends in the trade, and the NW section would like to thank them for their generosity. The tournament was also a qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional final, which will be played over Worksgo GC by the time this report reaches you. Even with this added attraction the number of competitors was low, with only 28 members playing. As usual there were some excellent scores and many of the prizes were awarded to non professionals. The following qualified for the regional final: 0-9: Paul Pearse. Mike Sheehan. Bill Horvath. 10-18: Paul Smith. Robert Janosikis. Chris Hulme. 19-28: John Wright. Gerard Corness.

Our next golf will be at Fulford GC on Tuesday 3 August. A team of 16 will be required, so if you would like the opportunity to play this very fine course and represent the NW section, please contact me as soon as possible.

There will be a visit to Balmoral Golf Club on 6 October, which will be winging its way to you around the end of August, although the date has not yet been finalised. Further details will be in the August section news, but in the meantime it would be advisable to contact me if you are interested in attending.

The closing date for entries is 19 July and the correct fee, should be sent to: Joe Burdett, 23 North Parade, Northwich, Cheshire. Additionally in that year he held the presidency of the North Wales Junior Golf Association and all in all he has been a very busy man in North Wales Golf. On behalf of section members I would like to wish John the greatest happiness and to thank him for all he has done for golf in North Wales. Congratulations to Pat Valentine (otherwise known as Curly, though I can’t think why), who has taken over from John — we wish him well.

On 6 October our Autumn Tournament will be held at Pwllhegli GC, so reserve the date in your diary. Forms will be handed out nearer the time.

A trip to the Gem factory at Oswestry will be arranged for late July or early August and there will also be a trip to Haydock Park Show on 29 or 30 September. Interested? Contact me — David Proctor, or Terry Adamson.

Apologies to Gem Professional for not including them in last month’s magazine, for they kindly sponsored our match at Llanymynech against the North West Section, also to Pro Turf, sponsors of our events, who for some reason have not been mentioned in the section notes — sorry Glynn.

DAVID PROCTOR

SOUTH COAST

Our Summer Tournament will be held at Alresford GC on Thursday 29 July, teeing off from 2.00 pm. The closing date for entries is 19 July and the entry fee is £13.50. The member and guest competition will be the usual four-ball better-ball format, to be played over 18 holes. A guest may be either a member of your own club or a greenkeeper from a different club.

Written entries, giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the correct fee, should be sent to: Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Oakford, BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset. DT11 8EA. Tel: 0258 861482.

SPRING Tournament From a disappointing field of only 25 players, the South Coast greenkeepers played a most enjoyable round. Although the field was small, the quality of golf was of a very high standard. The morning round produced a new Nita Stamford winner in Joe Newman (Downshire) with a score of 74 nett, whilst Paul Jackson (Ferndown) stole the morning show with a sparkling 67 nett. In the afternoon, Brian Forder (Southampton) made sure of retaining the
Tregunna Trophy by shooting a gross 78 to add to his 77 in the morning. Bernard Emberly (Knighton Heath) made a brave attempt with an afternoon round of 77, but was pipped for runner-up spot by Joe Newman, who returned a gross 75, which was the best 18 hole score of the day.

The prizes were kindly sponsored by Huxleys Garden Machinery Ltd., and our section president, Jim Fry, Dave Rogers of A-Brite kindly donated wine for the prize table and prizes were distributed by Eddie Fox and Jim Fry (sponsors) and by the host club captain, John Heyes.

Results: THE NITA STIMSON TROPHY (over 50's low nett) Joe Newman 81-7=74. THE TREGUNNA TROPHY (low gross 36 holes) Brian Forder 77+7=154. THE ROWES ROSE BOWL (runner-up 36 holes gross) Joe Newman 81+7=156. THE ROFFEY GUフ (Low nett 36 holes) Paul Jackson 67+9=76. THE LASSIE CLAIBROOK TROPHY (run-up nett 36 holes) Terry Patchin (Hockley) 71+7=142. THE CHRISTOPHER FRY TROPHY (under 25's low nett 36 holes) Mark Diment (Knighton Heath) 73+5=148. Lowest surviving gross (am) Bernard Emberley -75. Lowest surviving nett (am) Jamie Friend -71. Lowest surviving gross (pm) Ted West -77. Lowest surviving nett (pm) Ian McLean -70.

BOB DENNIS

LONDON

Congratulations to Linda Exley on her recent Northwood GC appointment. We wish you well, Linda, and thank you for joining us at many of our functions. We also welcome Paul McDowell (Sandy Lodge) to the committee and thank him for his support.

The Cup for the Emergency First Aid course is now set and will take place at the St John Ambulance Centre, St Albans, on 20 August. The four-hour session will cost £18 per person and members wishing to participate should contact me before August 15.

The summer four-ball tournament is now well under way and I would urge all participants to play their matches before the deadline. Remember also that the most important thing of all is to enjoy your golf.

Please keep me informed of any news, no matter how insignificant, and if you have any queries or need for information - call the hot line on 081 9595629.

TONY DUNSTAN

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Many thanks to all who attended the Hayter Challenge Tournament qualifier at Burnham Beeches. I know you found the course impressive and we were equally impressed by the club's head greenkeeper, Brian Payne Sr., who held his second shot on the third for an 'eagle' two. Talk about setting up your golf.

Finally, we need your ideas for social events that you might like to see staged next year, also brain-waves for next year's lecture programme. Ring or write to me with your valued input, please.

RAY CLARK

AROUND THE GREEN

North Scotland

Another two new members to welcome this month: James Mackay from Wick GC and Neil Whyte from Elgin GC - two young lads to whom we wish a long and enjoyable career in greenkeeping.

The Spring Outing to Murcar, Aberdeen was a great success despite the now familiar atrocious weather! We thank Murcar for their hospitality and especially Chris Pearson and his staff for the conduct of the course. Ninety members, guests and trade representatives were present, with 84 braving the elements and playing. The prize winners were: Scratch - 1st George Paterson (Fortrose) 77, 2nd Ian Macleod (Tain) 80 (also winner of the Committee Trophy). Class 1 - 1st Chris Pearson (Murcar) 79-6=73, 2nd Robert Patterson (Royal Dornoch) 81+7=78, 3rd Kevin Peace (Peterhead) 81-4=77. Class 2 - 1st Stewart Mc Bain (Nigg Bay) 86-10=76, 2nd Colin Mackay (Forres) 84-8=76, 3rd Sam Morrison (Royal Aberdeen) 87-10=77. Class 3 - 1st Michael Clark (Kingussie) 90-16=74, 2nd Wilson Morrison (Alford) 93-18=75, 3rd Hughie Mclatchie (Peterhead) 99-21=78. Class 4 - 1st (in process - James Step) 71 (Strathpeffer) 86-11=77, 2nd Barry Cameron (Inverurie) 86-9=77, Veteran - 1st Roy Donald (Oldmeldrum) 79-5=74, 2nd John Taylor (retired) 84-5=79. Trade Shield - Kevin Brunton (Souters) 71. Class 1 - 1st Stuart Balfar (Booby Prize - Stuart Hogg (Fortrose). Eric Pickard (Ellon) won the longest drive at the 18th, with a drive that finished through the green, whilst Royal Dornoch men Robert Patterson and Eoin Riddell were nearest the hole prizes. Our thanks to Murcar professional, A White, for these prizes.

The winner of the free draw for a BIGGA blazer was Derek Roy (Nairn Dunbar), and our four lucky prize winners in the 200 Club were (January) E30 - Ian Carson (Nairn), (February) E30 lain Grant (Alyth), (March) £40 - Steve Sullivan (Craigieloch) and (April) £100 - Kenny Anderson, formerly of Newmacher but now at Sheringham GC, Norfolk. Raffle prize winners were too numerous to mention.

Congratulations to George Hampton (Pitlochry) on winning the seniors event in the Scottish Professional Golfers Championship at Dalmahoy. George is a regular at our section events and is putting up a brave attempt with an afternoon round of 71 Scr=71. Guest - Keith Loades 84- 6=78 BIH.

The winner of the 200 Club were played during May and June. Class one with a nett 63, whilst in class two with a nett 72, whilst in class three Hazlehead's Keith Wood with a fine nett 67 and Harris Rogers (Fraserburgh) with a nett 70 were also successful. We wish them success in the final at Sand Moor GC, Yorkshire, in September.

JAIN MACLEOD

SCOTTISH REGION

Pictured at the recent Dundee College student prize presentations, sponsored by BIGGA Scottish Region, are James Fox (Dundee United FC), Steven Pelfers (Carnoustie - first year prize winner), Colin Anderson (Tayside Regional Council youth training managing agent), Peter Fox (Dundee United FC, second year prize winner), Robert Whitehead (Carnoustie GC, third year prize winner) and John Philip (Lindsays, Carnoustie).

The awards were presented by Alisdair MacLaren (Aberdeenshire GC), who is also education convenor for the North section.

MID ANGLIA

First round matches of the Lodgeway Tractor Four-Ball Tournament were played during May and June. Although one match has still to be played (as of 31 May) I can give the following results: D Croxton and I Oliver (Gold Ashton) beat B Allonby and B Wright (Letchworth). C Brook and E O'Hanlon (Cheshfield Downs FGC) beat J Wells (Brocket Hall) and P Simmons (Verulam). A Freeman and D Lowe (Northants County) beat M Morgan and J Gentles (Griffin). K Bunting (Ashridge) and R McKeown (Arley) beat R Saunders and J Burton (St Neots). P Lockett (S. Beds) and R Coogan (Stockport St.Ck) received a first round bye due to odd numbers.

The Summer Tournament is being held on 31 July at St Neots, a 16 hole tourney. Closing date is three weeks prior, so if you read this, panic, pull out the cheque book - and enter!

A match against BB&O section has been arranged for 20 July at Harewood Downs, ten a side, starting at 2.30pm. If you wish to represent the section please contact a committee member (as listed above who is organising the match). Good luck to all our representatives in the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional final at Northants County on 14 July.

Finally, a match has been arranged at Dunstable Downs GC on 10 August against the Midlands section. John Wells is organiser, so contact him if you wish to play.

PAUL LOCKETT

SOUTH WEST

The merry merry month of May saw a major break in the South West. For 'donkeys years' the section have been enjoying the delights of the historic Westonbirt School golf course for the ever-popular Greenkeeper & Amateur Greensomes. Originally inaugurated in 1964 to celebrate the centenary of the school, success eventually overcame the tournament, with the vastly increased number of competitors over running the charming little nine-hole course. The decision was reluctantly taken to move to a larger course. Our eternal thanks go to Westonbirt, and to the bursar John Hall, for the welcome and support we have enjoyed over the years (I did hear a rumour that the course extended to 18 holes one day, in which case it might be just au revoir, not goodbye).

GReenkeeper International july 1993 33
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Lucky winner of our June competition is Mr T Reynolds, from Dartford, Kent. Mr Reynolds is set to pocket a useful £50 courtesy of Greenkeeper International - and all for spending just a few minutes looking through the Buyers’ Guide section. It could YOUR TURN to win this month — enter today!

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RECRUITMENT

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due to the opening of our second course.

The applicant should be experienced in modern Greenkeeping practices and machinery and be capable of working to a very high standard.

Applications in writing, with details of age and experience to:
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Chestfield Golf Club
require a QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have good knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems.

No accommodation is available.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
The Secretary, Chestfield Golf Club, 103 Chestfield Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3LU

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For further details and application form, please contact:
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The course is currently being seeded and is programmed to open in June 1994. The person appointed will be required to build up a greenkeeping team and take the course through from seeding to opening.

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Salary by negotiation, excellent working conditions within an experienced professional team.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Managing Director
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The Managing Director
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Cheshire SK10 2JP

Auchterarder Golf Club
require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management. Salary negotiable.

Appointment to commence 1st October 1993.

Applicants should apply in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Mr W Campbell,
Auchterarder Golf Club, Orchil Road,
Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LS

Telephone: 0764 662804

Palheiro Golf Club, Madeira, Portugal

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Auchterarder Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management. Salary negotiable.

Appointment to commence 1st October 1993.

Applicants should apply in writing with CV to:

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Telephone: 0764 662804
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For this brand new 18 hole parkland course (currently under construction), and 9 hole par 3 course. Would suit young enthusiastic person with the ability to build their own team.

Salary in line with BIGGA rates.

No accommodation.

In the first instance please write, giving details of CV, qualifications and experience to:

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An ability to manage, lead and motivate staff is a priority, to include training and education.

No accommodation available. Salary negotiable.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Laleham Golf Club
Laleham Reach, Chertsey KT16 8RP

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Salary negotiable according to qualifications and experience.

Assistance will be given in finding accommodation.

It is envisaged that shortlisted candidates would be initially interviewed in the UK.

Prospective candidates should apply in writing with full CV to:
Mr Norbert Ebert
Golf Club Darmstadt, Dippelshof, 64367 Muehltal, Germany

The Ridge Golf Club require a FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified and have sound practical experience and the ability to motivate staff.

Excellent prospects with modern machinery for enthusiastic applicants seeking career progression.

Apply with CV and relevant certificates to:
The Course Manager, The Ridge Golf Club, Chartway Street, East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3DL
Incidentally, best wishes and a speedy recovery to John Hall following his back operation.

Where do we go from here? Enter Derek Eves, who generously threw open the doors of Painswick Golf Club. This course has to be one of the most natural, scenic courses anywhere in the country and at 4800 yards, albeit up-hill and down-dale, it made for exactly the enjoyable sort of day we have come to expect. Painswick has long had the reputation for being the friendliest of clubs and it certainly lived up to its reputation. The golf was keenly fought, as usual, and the full results are as follows:

1st L. Johnson (22) & R. Hodgson (18) 41 pts.
3rd. N. Wilson (9) & A. Young (9) 39 pts.
4th. A. Johnson (28) & J. Stubbs (28) 38 pts.
5th. P. Corfield (15) & S. Gallier (16) 38 pts.

Our sincere thanks to Painswick GC for being such good hosts, and to all the club staff, both indoors & out, for making the day such a success. I am looking forward to next year when the competition moves to another very traditional club, Minchinhampton Old Course.

Having seen such a wonderful display of wild flowers at Painswick, I wonder, in these days of the decline of traditional wild plants such as the cowslip, primrose, spider orchid etc. do we really need to worry? It seems that the farmers have come up with another plant which is rapidly becoming indigenous - oil seed rape. In the Cotswolds, any patch of bare ground, roadside verge or hedgerow is rapidly becoming overgrown with the stuff. Never mind, I'm reliably informed that a strong mix of 2-4-D & Dicamba - plus a flamethrower - keeps it in check!

The wettest May for seven years turned many parkland courses into virtual grass factories and really tested out the available mowing equipment towards its latter stages without delay and please remember that it is the responsibility of the winning pair to notify Derek with their result.

Looking ahead to August, the McMillan Tankard takes place at its traditional venue - Sunningdale - on 12 August. Please ensure that entries are dispatched before their 'sell-by' date!

Hopefully this section will be well represented at The Open Championship - if you have volunteered to help, please be sure to attend.

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d) - New Gwyrch Golf Club
- Charleslea Leisure (Co. Wexford)
- Carrickfergus Golf Club
- Kinross (Green Hotel)
- Pittendrum Golf Club
- Collingtree Leisure
- Leek Golf Club
- Ponteland Golf Club
- Crompton & Royton Golf club
- Lingfield Park
- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club
- Delapre Golf Complex
- Masserenoe Golf Club
- Royal Dornoch Golf Club

COMING UP

July 15-18: The 122nd Open Championship, Royal St Georges, Kent
July 18-24: International Turfgrass Research Conference, Palm Beach, Florida, USA
August 2-4: BIGGA National Golf Tournament, Dunbar Golf Club, Scotland
August 18-19: The Walker Cup, Interlaken, Minneapolis, USA
September 7-9: IoG Show, Peterborough, Northants
September 24-26: Ryder Cup, The Belffy, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire
October 11-12: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor.
December 6-7: ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor.

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