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Getting to Kingsknowe you

Nestling on the outskirts of Edinburgh and managed by staunch BIGGA supporter Willie Blair, lies city course Kingsknowe. David White examines this 'wee gem' – when he eventually manages to find it...

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Double figures for Education fund

More good news for greenskeepers as a career as the BIGGA Education and Development Fund presents a plaque to its tenth member.................Page 7

Managing water effectively

David Hemstock looks at the science, rather than the art, of using water for effective golf course drainage ..................................Pages 8–9

Hayter Challenge Tournament

Heavy rain failed to dampen enthusiasm for the eagerly anticipated final of the prestigious Hayter Challenge Tournament ........................................Pages 10–12

Students line up for glittering prize

It’s time once again for the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenskeeper of the Year Award and eight hopefuls prepare for battle ............Pages 14–15

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Faces and places

Letters

Around the Green

COVER PICTURE:

Mike Hughes demonstrates the swing that won him top spot in the Hayter Challenge Tournament.

Greenskeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenskeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 0347 838581.
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The STRI will hold four five-day courses at Bingley in the autumn of '93 and spring of '94, on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses (Monday-Friday) will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers, machinery, ecology and conservation management.

The 'Golf Only' courses begin on 1 November and 8 November '93, and in '94 on 21 February and 28 February. The cost for '93 is £185 (members) and £230 (non-members) and for '94 will be £195 (members) and £240 (non-members). Prices do not include VAT, accommodation or meals. Details: Mrs M Currant, STRI, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU. Tel: 0274 565131.

Allan Stow, left, technical sales advisor at Vitax, was seen wearing a larger than usual grin on his monicker at IOG. When quizzed by editor White he spoke of upcoming wedding bells, or whatever the equivalent tune is played at the 'registry'. So to Nina, the lucky gal, and to 'Stowie', the lucky lad, every happiness and good fortune!

What is believed to be Fife's first commercial pay and play golf course, perhaps even the first in all of Scotland, Charlton House is due to open to the public next year. Head greenkeeper David MacOwet is busy putting finishing touches to the parkland course, which overlooks the Firth, hard by a cluster of such famous member clubs as Elie, Leven and Lundin Links.

Parker Hart has announced the closure of its Warlington depot, declaring the operation insufficiently profitable. The company will now concentrate its resources in the south, where the appointment of Richard Gooding as sales director of their sister company, Roffey Bros., is seen as strengthening further their selling operation in the south-west.

Golf course architect, Martin Gillett, has developed a most distinctive style in his many years of designing courses, with an emphasis placed clearly on strategy.

Not afraid to create something different, Gillett has designed one of the longest holes in the country, the 18th at Cruddon Park, Essex. It measures a full 645 yards — though golfers will be pleased to know it's downhill all the way and normally plays with the prevailing wind. An additional feature at this Gillett designed course is a 19th hole, designed as an extra to be incorporated when one hole needs to be taken out of play for maintenance — or simply to change the length and playability of the course.

Martin Gillett's current commissions include the acclaimed pay and play at Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, one of a number of such courses the development of which Martin believes are essential to the future well being of the game. Three Gillett designed holes have opened in the past year. Details: Tel 0277 231371.

David McNenes, 31, has been appointed sales manager for the south of England by turf. amenity and landscape equipment specialist, Turfmech Machinery Ltd, Hixon, Staffs.

Working from Bicester, Oxon, David takes on responsibility for sales of Turfmech machines, including vacuum collectors, tractor-mounted blowers, fine cut rotary mowers, stone buriers and the recently-introduced trailed top dressers.

I don't know if league tables are kept of such things, but I understand from Woodwell Contracts Ltd, the Essex based golf course construction company, that they lay claim to a record by constructing 18 holes (and numerous water features) at Bletchingly GC in just 36 working days. In this period all works up to topsoil return and preparation were completed in readiness for turfing, which was undertaken by another contractor.

The first pay and play course to be constructed in the Sheffield region for over 20 years opened for play recently. The nine hole family course at Bondhay complements the existing driving range and the new 18 hole course, which opens in 1994.

Cedric Johns has been appointed by the British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association as its press officer. Involved in the UK irrigation market since its early days, his knowledge and journalistic skill will be utilised to improve standards of technical awareness — both in the industry and in the education of potential end users responsible for sports turf.

Speaking of CJ's appointment, BTLIA chairman Paul de RHam said 'with him on the BTLIA team we plan to step-up our professional presence in the market and broadcast the message that high standards of irrigation design, installation, its use and the conservation of water should be taken seriously by our industry and end-users alike.'

The Toro Division of Lely (UK) Ltd announced recently a programme of nationwide 'Workman Field Days', where the acclaimed Workman 3000 maintenance vehicle, left, will be demonstrated and made available for personal test drive; including the use of a wide range of attachments. Full details of the programme may be obtained from Toro dealers. Already well underway (it started on 13 September), the programme is proving most popular with greenkeepers and will continue until 29 October.

Driving Force Leisure have appointed David Murphy, latterly with Sta-Brite Supplies, as their rep. for Herts, Beds, Cambs, Northants and Warwicks.

The Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association is holding its first Turf Maintenance Exhibition in early November. This will bring together in Dublin suppliers of materials and services, both Irish and international, and will be the essential event for greenkeepers and those who maintain sports and leisure facilities throughout the UK and Ireland. The dates are 4-5 November and the venue is the Royal Dublin Society Showground, Ballsbridge, Dublin, which is easily accessible. Details and invitations from Fairlink Ltd., 58 Clonard Court, Ballbriggan, Co Dublin. Tel: +353 1 8411362. Fax: +353 1 8412934.

Under the by-line 'they don't make 'em like that anymore', it was good to learn from John Phillips at St David's City Golf Club, Pembroke, that he still uses a turf cutter (by Pattisson, I believe) which he thinks may first have seen the light of day before World War I. What's more, John tells me it still works perfectly. Does anyone know its history?

As a finale to their full time year of study, 15 National Certificate Greenkeeping students from Elwood recently took a post long week tour to the Rhone - Alps region of France.

Based at the 'Lycée Horticole' they also visited France's oldest course, Golf Aix les Bains founded in 1913, and the six year old layout at Correncon en Vercors, which at over 4000 ft is under snow for four months of the year. (During this time the head greenkeeper works as a ski instructor). The 36 hole Golf Club de Lyon, and the nine hole Golf 'Ile d'Abbeville' were also visited during the study tour. Aspects of the design and layout and turf maintenance were discussed, and compared to the studies students at Elwood.

Of course there was also time to relax; two of the clubs visited offered free use of their practice area. A free day enabled a look round Grenoble, then there was the coffee and croissants, warm sunshine, cool beer, alpine scenery... All things considered a successful tour was enjoyed by everyone.
Be on the ball this Christmas – settle all your present-buying problems with exclusive, top quality BIGGA merchandise! Fill Santa's sack with a whole range of goodies shown on this page. Choose a smart BIGGA blazer or perhaps a stylish rainsuit. You can buy with confidence because each item has the BIGGA seal of approval – and a BIGGA logo too!

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Keep the snow off with this smart, recently introduced greenkeepers' cap available in blue complete with BIGGA logo. Similar to baseball caps, it is fully adjustable. Special price for Christmas of £6.50 including post and packing.

**Books**

- *All Year Round Golf – Principles and methods required to achieve this ultimate goal*, by Jim Arthur with Barry Cooper and Brian Pierson. 172 pages of no nonsense advice on practically every aspect of golf course construction and maintenance £29.95 inc p&p.
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- *Raincoats* Designed and manufactured by ProQuip exclusively for BIGGA, our rainsuits are guaranteed to keep you dry when it's wet and snug and comfortable in all weathers. Only limited stocks left in smart silver and navy at the incredible price of £65. Only size available XL (46''-48'').
Countdown has started to BIGGA’s main event

Harrogate is now only four months away – so read all about it now, make a note in your diary of the dates and get your place booked!

Included in this issue of Greenkeeper International you will find a copy of the Educational Seminar Programme giving details of the workshops and seminars together with a copy of the BTME Newsline. A booking form is also enclosed and as always, please book early especially if you wish to make use of BIGGA’s education and accommodation packages.

At Harrogate, we will be launching the much awaited career video and if it receives as much acclaim as the recent training video, then it is bound to be a success. We have received numerous letters and telephone calls at HQ congratulating us on the professionalism and quality of the video on “Setting the Standards in Spray Application”.

The Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award is reaching its climax. As you will read on Pages 14/15, the eight finalists will meet at Aldwark Manor on 10/11 October to decide the 1993 winner and runners up.

The ICI Greenkeeper of the Year Award has now reached its next stage and the five regional finalists have been selected. They will now receive a visit to their course by Huw Parry, BIGGA’s Education Chairman together with Richard Minton from ICI.

The five finalists will be featured in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.
It's official! According to figures from the National Environment Research Council, we have had a year of awful weather. Four years of drought conditions, which started at the end of 1988 and resulted in depleted water stocks over much of the country, have been countered by last winter's well above average rainfall and a gloomy summer with slightly above average rain, an awful lot of it falling in one of the wettest July months for 30 years.

The bad weather during the summer and autumn of 1992 was instrumental in the financial hardship felt by some new course development projects, adding to the misery of the trough of recession. Earthworks came to a standstill from June onwards for many, and the windows for proper seed-bed preparation and sowing were few and far between.

Judging by the number of enquiries we've received from existing clubs on drainage problems, many established courses had a wet and soggy summer with plants and fairways standing up to the weather. Some of the straightest fairways and putting greens were covered with what looked like a black blanket of wet soil, and too many established courses had a wet and soggy time of it over the winter of 1992/93.

It's ironic, of course, that I should have co-written an article for this magazine, ('Too hot to handle', Jan 1992) just before the flood, based on the imponderables of global warming and the implications on drought and water use efficiency. Our predictions of a wave of poor growing conditions have not been far off track, and the problems caused by exceptional rainfall events are problems.

Parity due to this unpredictability, we do have a tendency in the UK to avoid the issue when it comes to long term improvements to water sourcing and storage, drainage and irrigation. We can always be pretty sure that today's problem - drought or flood - is unlikely to last too long, and is quite likely to be solved by one of those characteristic 'mood-swings' in the weather. Install a new drainage system, followed by four years of drought, and you will have members muttering about over-draining (whatever that is) and the essential nature of fairway irrigation.

When dealing with a new course, the opportunity to tackle issues such as water sourcing and storage strategically, the integrated design of drainage and re-contouring, and the efficiency of irrigation really should be grasped as early as possible. We know how important water is, where we need it, and where we don't, but it is useful to take a look at the importance, from cloud or sprinkler to outfall.

In essence, the water which is required in summer for irrigation falls in winter. If the course does not store water in winter for irrigation directly, mother nature does geologically or a water company does for a financial return. If the NRA allows it, and water passes by or through or lies under the course, abstraction is possible. Even interest to the NRA is the fate of drainage water, the constraints on use of this source are less rigorous than some of the others. Rainwater harvesting is a neat idea, i.e. recyling rainfall, avoiding potential pollution problems, making secondary use of a drainage system, but there are problems. Firstly, if water percolates freely through the soil profile to groundwater, directing it through pipes may not be possible or may not be very fruitful. The type of course with this problem is also the one most likely to have water sourcing problems, unfortunately.

If this is not the case, but the contours do not naturally lead to a useful outfall, it may be possible to lead water away from a natural catchment, around the nose of a hill for instance, to an artificially extended catchment. This is assuming that infiltration of water into the soil is reasonable or that the soil can be manipulated to absorb water rather than allowing it to go, possibly to waste, as run-off.

The proportion of rain which becomes run-off or infiltration depends on many factors: slope, drainage, soil type and compaction status, rainfall intensity etc. On a compact soil, run-off may constitute virtually all of the fate of rainfall, similarly on a sloping site run-off may be much more problematic, even in heavy rainfall events; this is the basis of the 'American style', heavily re-shaped, course with swale and gully-pot drainage system which relies on run-off to work.

Run-off would normally find its way into an open watercourse or more permeable area and hence to drains or groundwater. It is quite easy to collect water as run-off in low spots where it lies, but to transfer it to the ideal position may often require pumping, which is better avoided if there is an alternative. To increase the amount of water finding its way into a drainage system, and therefore increasing the control of where it goes to, a more intensive pipe system is needed in conjunction with a permeable topsoil, or some method of intercepting water at the surface is required, by improving soil structure potential, by introducing drains and/or slits, grooves etc. with sand to the surface.

The technique for designing a rainwater harvesting system that I use is based on the contour bund (or grip) method used in Africa against erosion on sloping land and sometimes in forestry and moorland drainage. Drains or slits with a highly permeable soil type and the flatter the contour with a slight grade to act as water interceptors. At calculated intervals the interceptors connect with a carrier system, which may be sealed to prevent blow-out occurring, which takes the water down the slope to the required place. The flatter the land in question, the easier it is to avoid problems caused by exceptional rainfall events.

I have covered the subject of drainage systems and installation in some detail in another previous article ('Drainage Decisions' Oct. 1992). Basically, purely from a drainage rather than a rainwater harvesting point of view, the system installed initially is usually there to keep the water table below the level of significant root activity as well as to collect areas of water concentration, i.e. hollows, bases of banks, greens, bunkers, springs etc. Operating below the surface layer, this system requires regular aeration or de-compaction treatment on most topsoils. If these treatments cannot effectively keep water infiltrating through the soil then help may be needed from a 'by-pass' system such as sub-surface slitting - to remove water directly from the surface and transfer it to the carrier system. At the same time, the slit system is acting as a close-spaced soil drainage system, absorbing soil water and acting as a water interception potential. This is a key point: pipes and slits may not be there simply to pick up wet spots, a more important role may be to keep soils inherently dryer, thus reducing compaction problems.

If drainage water is being harvested, it is worth directing it to the chosen point with the maximum preservation of head, which might be useful. So, having directed water to a particular point, and solving problems on the way, how is it going to be stored?

I am personally very keen on...
EFFECTIVELY

A round of golf is an encounter with whether or not they come into play. Water features on the golf course, particularly attractive or natural in appearance, and anything which increases the diversity of flora and fauna on the course must be a good thing. However, an area of water designed to store water for future use will require some sort of treatment to disguise the draw-down that is inevitable once irrigation is underway. This could be very expensive, yet still not be particularly attractive or natural in appearance. Protecting banks from fluctuating water levels requires stone, concrete or similar revetment, gabions, mattresses, palisades, plastic reinforcement, or whatever. And the more shapely the edges are made in an attempt to soften the pond or lake appearance, the higher the cost is likely to be. Civil engineering solutions to a problem often preferred to mineral workings may become essential to golf and other developments soon.

Following construction, the very effective drainage systems of some courses, whether relying on swales and carrier pipes or under drainage and slitting could also cause problems downstream, with immense peak drainage flows compared to previous land uses. These abnormal peak flows could be blamed on over-efficient drainage, changes to catchment characteristics, or even on untreated and widespread compartment on the course.

Perhaps the water feature installed as a combined golfing hazard and wildlife sanctuary might have a further dual role in storing water for future use and in temporary storage of potentially damaging storm flows. In a true re-circulation system — where water is pumped back up to maintain flow of water through ponds to aid aeration or to occasionally top up water levels in ponds or storage reservoirs — a sizeable pump may be required. I say 'may be' because I have been involved with three new golf course developments where only a small, constant flow was required to maintain water levels, this within the range of the irrigation system itself to supply through a valve arrangement. However, all three systems were designed to operate with a smallish pump feeding water from the outfall end of the watercourse system to separate from the irrigation main. Inevitably, moving large amounts of water costs a lot of money, but it is not just Kiawah Island clones that can justify total water management.

Managing water effectively in the UK means removing it efficiently from the rooting depth of the turf, applying it only when needed (which is a science rather than an art) and manipulating what passes through to maximum benefit, so long as the course of nature isverted no more than temporarily and harmlessly.

The author, David Hemstock BSc, runs his own golf course consultancy, David Hemstock Associates, specialising in aspects of golf course design development and construction.

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THAT'S THE

HAYTER CHALLENGE
TOURNAMENT 1993

THREE and a half inches of rain dumped on Sand Moor’s eighteen holes in twelve hours or less adds up to an awful lot of wet stuff - enough, I fancy, to fill a fair-sized lake. Also, it occurred to me that if the Great Controller In The Sky bore grudges on Yorkshire, which of course was a ridiculous thought, the spot chosen for his extra irrigation must have been Leeds. Dire warnings predicting floods, pestilence, doom and disaster, in Leeds above all other places, frequently interrupted every radio station as I travelled to Sand Moor, and though I may have swum through deeper rivers, there seemed a distinct possibility that any three going greenkeepers, along with their team managers and cheer-leaders, would soon be opting for an early bath and a return to base. As it poured and poured, playing the Hayter Challenge Tournament seemed less and less likely.

Thankfully, the deluge abated, at least the heavy stuff, and though players would experience the odd puddle of 'casual water', the stout-hearted green staff of Sand Moor, managed so capably by Bobby Barnes, were able to enact their game-plan according to King Canute, keeping most of the waters at bay on this free-draining golf course. That stated, even Bobby and his crew were powerless to repair all of the damage wrought by such liquid ferocity, for though many bunkers were washed thin of sand, there was no time for replenishment; the game had to continue!

Greenkeepers love the Hayter and Hayter’s love greenkeepers. In fact, there is no argument amongst the cognoscenti, the most eagerly anticipating event of the calendar is that which is now titled the Hayter Challenge Tournament. After all, players in the Hayter don’t get to compete for more than the most fervent driver, they are the lynchpin for the soon to be victorious Northern team, whilst Mike Hughes is the man with the trophy. Well, I’m telling you, when I spotted Paul Jackson early in the round, spied him through a camera lens, I couldn’t believe my eyes. He has a ten handicap, swings like a three, hits the ball a country mile and is oh so tidy around the greens. Not surprising, then, that he should romp home, leading second placed Matthew Blake (S.W & S Wales) and the ever grinning Owen O’Connor (Fire), by eight glorious shots.

The seasoned reporter (for that matter, the seasoned golfer) must never write off those dark horses in category three, for with literally Paul of shots, they often can prove an enormous upset. Whilst it’s easy to pick winners, kid myself I can spot a champ after a mere dozen shots have been fired. Playing the hunch, I drifted with the first game of the day, green with envy for the fluidity and suppleness of Martin Scothern and his plus one swing, mindful also of the innate talent of Mike Hughes, always a danger off his handicap of five. These two were my first ‘bankers’ and, bless their hearts, they both paid dividends. It was Martin Scothern who produced the lowest gross score, 111 for a round and a half of glorious golf under trying conditions, certainly acting as the lynchpin for the soon to be victorious Northern team, whilst Mike Hughes won the premier trophy of the meeting, the Hayter Challenge Cup, with a nett score of 102.5. It was the same golf course for everybody, it just happens that Mike Hughes is the man with the trophy.

I’ve watched Mike quite a bit over the years, impressed always by his workmanlike approach to the game. The moment he bagged a majestic four at the second, after floating a soft wedge that could so easily have found the green into the greenside bunker, splashing out, and ferreting the putt, I knew this was to be his day. That he went on to fire a cluster of birdies spoke volumes for Mike’s power of concentration - even he began to fancy his chances - whilst Midlands team captain, Dean Cleaver, was often at his side, whispering words of encouragement.

Playing the hunch again, I nipped back a couple of holes to watch Bill Francis, a ‘banker’ for the South East if ever I saw one, finding him well out of character in shooting the rapids, visiting parts of the course best left to wild beasts. On two holes I watched him poke his tee shot into the boondocks, twice marveling as he recovered with consummate ease. It says something for Bill that he’s not given to panic, but it is not fair for an editor to hover at such moments of stress, so I pushed off elsewhere. Later I learned that my hunch was correct again, Bill’s score of 107 in category one leading the class by 4.5 shots from Northern Ireland’s Jonathan Guest (nice chap, full of strong, vibrant feelings for the occasion) and five less than Jon Moorhouse, the Midlands cornerstone.

Predicting winners in the second category isn’t so easy, even practice rounds make ‘em edgy, they’re the ‘anything goes’ brigade. Well, I’m telling you, when I spotted Chris Hulme early in the round, spied him through a camera lens, I couldn’t believe my eyes. He has a ten handicap, swings like a three, hits the ball a country mile and is oh so tidy around the greens. Not surprising, then, that he should romp home, leading second placed Mathew Blake (S.W & S Wales) and the ever grinning Owen O’Connor (Fire), by eight glorious shots.

The seasoned reporter (for that matter, the seasoned golfer) must never write off those dark horses in category three, for with literally Paul of shots, they often can prove an enormous upset. Whilst it’s easy to pick oneself, it’s tough to pick a ‘banker’ from these ranks. Paul Jackson hails from Bournemouth, working and playing at Ferndown, which by anyone’s reckoning is a tough old test of nerve. A player holding 19 handicap at Ferndown might easily be a 14 elsewhere, such is its test of severity.

So, was Paul Jackson one of my bankers? I’m sorry to say that he was not, though around the turn at Sand Moor he revealed how lacking the powers of observation had been to miss him - this guy is really hot mustard, he hits the ball with meaner vigour and must be regarded as a ‘soon to be’ candidate for category two, his score of 104.5 almost proving the upset of the day. Unlike Mike Hughes or Martin Scothern, I’ll bet Paul can look back over his 27 holes and say if only I hadn’t missed

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID WHITE

Winners all: top, Bill Francis, first in category one; main picture, Chris Hulme, first in category two; and Paul Jackson, first in category three.
In the swing: Martin Scothern, left, who achieved lowest gross score and William McMeikan, under 21s winner

such and such a shot... but such is the agony of golf. Suffice to say Paul's 104.5 was streets ahead of the second placed 112 of Toney Livingstone, and 7.5 stokes to the good of third man, Chris Powley. Chris also collected a nice award for being closest to the pin on a selected hole, whilst for the longest drive of the day we turned to the incredible Brian Mulholland, Northern Ireland's answer to John Daly and of not dissimilar stature. Brian is huge fun to be around, has a reputation for wicked humour - and we know he has a deft touch equal to Daly regarding the right elbow!

Of the Scots, I must report less than perfect results, perhaps explained by the 'entertainments' enjoyed with those wild men of the Emerald Isle the previous night. Whatever, it was left to Alex Wallace and young William McMeikan to bring a smidgen of comfort back to the Scottish team, Alex's 118 taking the 'over 55's' award, William's the 'under 21's' with a score of 116.5.

When the accolades were given, there was a sense of elation in the victorious Northern team;

**Come with BIGGA to the GCSAA Conference and Show**

DALLAS 1994

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be holding its 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas from 4-7 February.

BIGGA's party attending this major international event will assemble on Sunday, 30 January at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, leaving the next morning on a direct flight to Dallas Fort Worth Airport and arriving back at Gatwick on Wednesday, 9 February.

In over 150 years, Dallas has grown from a cabin on the banks of the Trinity river into an internationally recognised commercial and manufacturing centre thanks to the discovery of Texan oil and the tenacity and spirit of its people. It is a major cultural centre of skyscraper banks and offices; elegant shops, fine restaurants and hotels. Neighbouring Fort Worth, originally a military outpost, retains a 'western' atmosphere and continues to be headquarters for the cattle industry. Fort Worth's clubs feature country and western music whilst its western heritage is most evident at the Historic Stockyards Area where there are frontier-style shops and cafes.

GCSAA will be organising more than 70 educational seminar sessions and forums, a three-day, 190,000 square foot trade show with more than 600 manufacturers and distributors of golf and turf industry products, supplies and services together with a gala banquet featuring performances by the Oak Ridge Boys and country star Crystal Gayle.

An exciting trip is in prospect and bookings with full payment must be received by 19 November.

**ITINERARY**

**Sunday, 30 January**
All participants assemble at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, overnight accommodation with FREE car parking is included.

**Monday, 31 January**
Depart Gatwick for Dallas Fort Worth Airport on British Airways - 10.05 hours - arrive 14.40 hours. Upon arrival transfer to Hotel Loews Anatole, stay 8 nights.

**Tuesday, 8 February**
Return transfer to Dallas Airport and depart on British Airways - 16.40 hours - arrive 07.30 hours on 9 February. Return transfer to Hotel to collect cars and drive home.

**Price**
£724 per person based on twin shares; £1,060 per person based on single room accommodation, plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration: £35.

Included are: flights UK to Dallas and return; US Airport taxes; Hotel accommodation in the Loews Anatole including taxes, room rate only; Full comprehensive travel insurance for the duration.

Please forward full payment of £759 or £1,095 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF. Please arrive by Friday 19 November at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

**GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL** October 1993 11
RESULTS

The Hayter Challenge Trophy: Mike Hughes (Midlands) 102.5

Low gross score:

Martin Scothern (Northern) 111.

Over 55's:

Alex Wallace (Scotland) 118

Under 21's:

William McMeikan (Scotland) 116.5

Category One: (0-9 handicap)

1st: Bill Francis (Southeast) 107
2nd: Jonathan Guest (Northern Ireland) 111.5
3rd: Jon Moorhouse (Midlands) 112

Category Two (10-18 handicap)

1st: Chris Hulme (Northern) 106
2nd: Mathew Blake (S. West & S. Wales) 114 (countback)
3rd: Owen O'Connor (Eire) 114

Category Three (19-28 handicap)

1st: Paul Jackson (S. West & S. Wales) 104.5
2nd: Toney Livingstone (Midlands) 112
3rd: Chris Powley (Northern) 113

Nearest the pin: Chris Powley

Longest drive: Brian Mulholland (Northern Ireland)

Team Prize:

1st: Northern 916
2nd: Midlands 943.5

The spirit lives – it’s called the Hayter Challenge Tournament’

Financial Services to Members

The Association is pleased to announce that with the help of Peter Hoare & Co Ltd., a panel of F.I.M.B.R.A. registered brokers has been set up which is able to give pensions and related advice to members. The panel will consist of a total of 35 brokers across the United Kingdom enabling a local service to be offered. Each broker will be monitored to ensure a high standard of service is maintained.

Initially members’ enquiries should be sent to BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, to be forwarded to the local contact.

Members’ attention is drawn to the enquiry card (postage paid) at the front of this issue of Greenkeeper International and it is proposed to feature this every alternate month.

All brokers in the panel have joined BIGGA as Associate members and there will be a strong representation at BTME '94.

In the meantime, members requiring information on the scheme should contact either their local secretary or John Pemberton at BIGGA HQ. (Tel: 0347 838581).

Above: Hayter Challenge Winner Mike Hughes, centre, receives his trophy from BIGGA Chairman John Crawford as Kim Macfie looks on.

Left: Members of the Northern Team receive their prize.

PETER HOARE & CO (Insurance Brokers) Ltd.

32 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3HN

Tel: 0171 241 8018  Fax: 0171 241 8009

12 August 1993

Neil Thomas, B.A.
Executive Director
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Albany House
Albany Walk
New York
York T589

Dear Neil,

Independent Financial Advice For Members

Many thanks for appointing us to act as lead member of a team of professional
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We are in the process of creating a list of first class advisers across the country in order to

give BIGGA members unbiased and independent advice on any topic, within our
capacity to provide, that the members will be pleased with the resulting response

and the ability to talk over their problems with a local IFA at their leisure with no
pressure being brought to bear.

Being able to talk about any insurance company product has a distinct advantage

compared with the restrictions placed on a representative of the company. All the
members will be in a position to deal with any insurance company and will do their

best for your members. In fact, the role of our governing body must be that the client's
interests come first and we must put the best advice at all times.

The panel will also be able to provide advice on policies of all types — whether short

or long term or for life assurance, pensions and investments can be very complex but you can have peace

of mind in the knowledge that our panel members are well versed in all matters.

We look forward to a long and happy relationship with your association.

M.0.1. Rower

Directors

Financial Services to Members

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Traditionally, there have always been two types of utility vehicles: Either they were built for rough, off-road work, or for on-turf applications.

But now, two new utility vehicles threaten to send them the way of the dinosaur. The Gator 6x4 and 4x2 from John Deere. Vehicles made to take on the off-road as well as work on turf.

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For more information about the Gator 6x4 and 4x2, see your local John Deere dealer or contact John Deere Ltd., Tel. 0949 863299.

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE
Meet tomorrow’s Student Greenkeeper of the Year T

he field of greenkeeper education, or more specifically the training colleges around the country and across the Irish Sea, has seen a hive of activity lately, with the selection process to find the 1993 Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year reaching fever pitch. In previous years ‘approved colleges’ were invited to nominate a student candidate, who then went forward automatically to the final. This year it was decided by both BIGGA and the sponsors that all colleges offering greenkeeping courses at craft level should nominate their ‘Student of the Year’, with regional finals staged to select the final eight candidates now featured.

Six regional finals have been held recently, the first at the Welsh College, followed by Oaklands, Cannington, Warwick, Askham Bryan and Elmwood. In addition, our colleagues in Eire and Northern Ireland held their own selection process. Thirty one nominations were named as ‘student of the year’ by their colleges, and by a process of interview and assessment we now have reached the final eight candidates now featured.

The Candidates:

ALEXANDER McAULEY
nominated by Greenmount College, Northern Ireland

Thirty six year old fitness fanatic Alex is not the sort you would care to upset, for in a jiffy he’ll likely have you on the deck! Joking aside, Alex is an avid and highly accomplished practitioner of the art of ju-jitsu and boasts a yellow belt – which means he’s pretty damned good.

He’s also made impressive in-roads toward carving a solid career in greenkeeping, having begun his fine turf education as an apprentice with the City of Belfast, working at numerous different sporting locations and including a lengthy spell on the underrated but significantly important task of nurturing a bowling green to the standard demanded of championship courses.

Now with the Ballyearl Golf and Leisure Centre, he’s been their head greenkeeper for some five years, during which time he’s tucked an NJC in Horticulture and Turfculture under his belt and completed Phase II in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, with a distinction in paper two. Currently undertaking some major course development work at Ballyearl, when this is complete Alex intends to concentrate more on what he describes as ‘getting serious’ about playing golf.

BRIDIE REDICAN
nominated by Teagasc National Botanical Gardens, Dublin

Glory be, for the first time ever we have a lady nominated for this prestige award, and a practicing greenkeeper to boot! Bridie is 25, lives in County Kilkenny and works as an assistant to the new Jack Nicklaus designed Mount Juliet, a course which played host in 1993 to a PGA European Tour event, the Carroll's Irish Open. What a busy schedule Bridie has packed into her life, with a good deal of golf course experience, including construction of tees, greens and bunkers, in such far flung places as Australia and Michigan USA, all this before joining the team at Mount Juliet under Aidan O’Hara.

Bridie started her career by studying Horticulture at An Grianan College, though since becoming a full time greenkeeper she has followed the time-worn path of studying City & Guilds in Greenkeeping, working now toward Phase II with plans to continue with Phase III on block release.

Pat Suttle, Bridie’s tutor at Teagasc, praises her conscientiousness and is fulsome in his admiration for her ability to compete – and to win – in what is often considered a male dominated profession. Like many who enter greenkeeping, Bridie is hooked on golf, though she does not have a handicap just yet – no matter, watch out Laura Davis!

IAIN McCULLOCH
nominated by Langside College, Glasgow

We may assume that Iain McCulloch has a strong right arm and a splendid pair of lungs, for he is a member of the Scottish fly fishing team – a Scottish Youth International no less – and he also plays the bagpipes as a member of the local band. He’s just 20, took to greenkeeping first as a seasonal employee before catching the eye of his employers and being offered a three year apprentice at Torrance House GC. Iain has taken all modules in the Scovec National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, and was chosen as the best second year student in 1992. Not content to rest on such laurels, he will soon undertake further study by way of an HNC in Golf Course Management.

Writing of Iain, Langside tutor Colin Urquhart declared him a sound theoretician and an eminently practical exponent of the art of greenkeeping, whilst bringing to the college an inspiration to others in his peer group, offering well rounded and coherent points of view, often with originality and insight. Guess what, he’s a beginner at golf and is already ‘hooked’ – forgive the pun!

JONATHAN OLDKNOW
nominated by the Warwickshire College

Twenty six year old Jonathan was voted the championship’ golf courses for them all!

The winner, who will enjoy a Toro sponsored expenses paid trip to the USA, including student membership of the Winter School for Turfgrass Managers at University of Massachusetts, will be featured in the next issue of Greenkeeper International, as will the two runners-up, whose prizes will take them to a European Tour event as part of the PGA Support Team. The event takes place at Aldwark Manor on 10 October.

‘championship’ golf courses for them all!
Warwickshire’s top practical greenkeeping student of 1993, having completed C&G in Phases I and II before moving to Year IV in Turf Management. Like so many who turn to greenkeeping as a career, he’s a keen sportsman, having represented the City of Coventry schools in both football and cricket, whilst also nursing a pretty good golf swing to a handicap of 16. Full time education gained Jonathan six ‘O’ levels and an ‘A’ level, and he began his career with the Metropolitan Police Force – ‘Oldknow of the Met’ has a nice sound about it – but altered his ideas of a police career after a spell with the West Midland Police Force, thus taking a complete change of direction by working for the Warwick Parks and Leisure Department. This valuable experience in sports turf management and horticulture, both practical and theoretical, brought him to his present task, that of assistant greenkeeper with the Coventry Hearsall GC.

Jonathan’s tutor at the Warwickshire praises his leadership qualities, whilst being equally impressed by his extensive knowledge of plants, his commitment, his self motivation and his high level of initiative.

**ANTHONY BINDLEY**  
*nominated by Reaseheath College*

The catch-phrase in East Midlands golfing territory, as players quietly succumb to defeat at the hand of Anthony or his brother – the notorious Bindley twins – is to murmur ‘I’ve been Bindleyed’.

Anthony, 30, is described as the ‘quiet man of golf’ by his tutor, Denis Mortram, also ‘one who has excellent dedication to his chosen career, being highly perceptive and with the ability to work diligently whilst alone.’ Not content with ringing Anthony’s praises, Denis quietly let slip his opinion that Anthony is ‘Reaseheath’s best nominee for several years.’

Anthony has been in golf greenkeeping for three years, having taken C&G in Greenkeeping and Sports turf Management at Phase II (and winning the ‘Best Student’ nomination) whilst working as an assistant at Kirby Muxloe GC. He plans to begin Phase III in the coming year.

Before Kirby Muxloe, Anthony spent a decade as an assistant groundsman at the Leicestershire County Cricket Club and, as you might imagine, cricket is as much a love as golf. He’s captained the village cricket club for the past five years – whilst ‘Bindleying’ his way to wins in the BIGGA E Midlands Singles and Pairs Knockouts in 1992. Nice fellow, quiet maybe, but a deep thinker and a canny wee golfer.

**MIKE YORSTON**  
*nominated by Sparsholt College*

Mike, 24, is fortunate to work at that most delicious of Surrey courses, Worplesdon. Luckier still that he took to greenkeeping, for the job which has become so much a part of his life was originally a ‘temp’ post, a chance simply to earn enough to travel around Europe! Mike must have liked Worplesdon and they must have liked him, for the rest is history – three years working his way up to first assistant – whilst also taking C&G in Greenkeeping and Sports turf Management at Phases I & II. In writing, Mike explained the Worplesdon job offer was ‘too good to refuse’, and he is deeply involved now in all aspects of course maintenance, priceless experience that includes a programme of clearing scrub and suckings to encourage heather growth where it had been shaded by trees, also to the benefit of wildlife.

Hailing from New Zealand, it’s not surprising that Mike is a keen rugby player, playing for the first team in the London New Zealand Rugby Club, but his sporting fancy also covers golf – playing to a mean 12 – and he serves on the Surrey section of BIGGA – a busy man. Like all Antipodean’s he wants to travel, but his real ambition is to become a golf course manager – either here or on the sunny shores of New Zealand.

**RICHARD ANDREWS**  
*nominated by Oaklands College*

Richard, 26, is an assistant greenkeeper at Highgate GC, a post he has held for less than a year. OK, it’s a short spell, but having been accepted at Oaklands on a full time ONC in Greenkeeping and Sports turf Management, Richard knew that it was here his new career would go and he threw himself into greenkeeping like no other. I suspect also that Richard doesn’t ever do things by halves, you would never expect it of a man who this year alone has competed in a 25 mile walk, a 75 mile bike race and a half marathon, plus a swimathon for charity. By the way, he plays tennis, golf's well enough to shoot level par (his best) at Brent Valley, and likes taking photographs – phew!

Ian Merrick is fulsome in his praise for Richard, his ‘Top Student and Award Winner’ declaring him as being possessed of a high degree of personal motivation and taking particular pride in projects. Voted by his peers to become their course representative, in this capacity he became a member of their Greenkeeper Liaison Committee. Richard joined Highgate GC for just four weeks work experience under Derek Mason, the course manager, and as a direct result he’s now full time at this London parkland club. Coming soon – Richard Andrews in Phase IV Business Management!

**CHRISTOPHER SOLMAN**  
*nominated by Pencoed College*

In humorously describing life before greenkeeping, Chris, 24, wrote of starting in sales – followed by nearly three years in the Army, where the attraction was to learn a trade and travel the world – and of being thoroughly disillusioned! His only trip was a boot-camp week in Scotland, his time spent playing rugby for his regiment at Bordon, Hampshire. The sum result was three months training as a vehicle mechanic, untold rugby games and lots of bull! – he quit. Returning to civvie street, quite by accident Chris was directed to labour as a summer worker at Cardiff GC. He thought his military training might come in useful (machinery maintenance, presentation, discipline, time-keeping, that sort of thing), and hoped, as he liked the life so much, that the club might take him on permanently. They did, he’s been with them for four years now, the accidental start becoming a very smart career move indeed.

Luck has a way of following the lucky, and Chris admits to having his fair share of good fortune – Cardiff GC agreed to him attending Pencoed, he’s currently completing his second year of Phase II G&STM, and he’s soon to make a start into Phase III. His tutor, Peter Gillard, thinks Chris is rather special and wrote glowingly of his ‘presenting the image of a very modern, progressive greenkeeper.’ Peter’s convinced he’ll go to the top. By chance, Chris and Mike Yorston have much in common – Chris plays rugby and holds the record number of tries in one season at Tongwynlais – 32 in 18 games!
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Kings of the castle

DAVID WHITE discovers a jewel nestling in the Edinburgh suburbs

Leaving the by-pass which skirts forever round the City of Edinburgh, bound to keep an appointment with Willie Blair at Kingsknowe Golf Club, I missed seeing any 'KINGSKNOWE THIS WAY' signs and for a while became hopelessly lost in a jungle of look-alike, mostly post-war housing. Recalling Pete Seeger's famous song, I thought the place could easily have been Pete's role model. The song begins "Little boxes, on the hillside, and they're all made out of ticky-tacky, little boxes, little boxes, and they all look just the same". Left with my own homing device and lacking guidance from the natives, all of whom seemed to vapourise as I searched, I scrabbled around following instinct rather than map, before catching a sudden sweet glimpse - through high and extremely sturdy chainlink fencing - of Kingsknowe's lovely little golf course, a view that conjured up a wicked thought: a rose amongst thorns! Peering through the grill I sensed how it must feel to be imprisoned and how inmates must react, looking out at the promised land - yet knowing it is out of reach. Granted, I was on the outside looking in, but Kingsknowe Golf Club seemed just such a place, inviting freedom and escape from an otherwise cramped suburb, a course overshadowed to the south by high-rise blocks and surrounded by an assemblage of anonymous houses and other assorted bits of 'ticky-tacky', yet with lush green fairways that beckoned and beguiled.

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Do I malign this suburb of Edinburgh? I think not; for I reckon residents who have the Kingsknoe course on their patch are positively blessed. Further, as I later discovered, they are thrice blessed, for a tail-end of the Pentland Hills nips at their back door, peering moodily across the fairways. As a bonus, the views north to the Ocle Hills and especially toward Edinburgh Castle some five miles distant are simply stunning.

The course at Kingsknoe was opened in 1908, long before the ugly high-rise apartments were plonked out of place, certainly before the majority of Kingsknoe's surrounding housing plots attracted land-hungry developers. It is easy then to imagine how the territory must have appeared when James Braid cast his expert eye over what is now Kingsknoe Golf Club. Braid, Open Champion for the fourth time, obviously was not too busy with exhibitions to turn down the chance of an honest guinea or two for course design, and he must have liked what he saw, for this layout is simply one of his cleverest. It began life as a par 74 in the days of hickory, and is now par 69, stretched to its fullest extent to be no longer than 5975 yards. There is no vast grandeur as may be found at Gleneagles; where Braid designed The Kings, but with the meagre acreage allotted he certainly turned up trumps. The proof is there to see: Braid's only creation in the whole of Edinburgh is no simple rose amongst thorns, as I had surmised originally, rather a wee gem set fair in the outer perimeter of this ancient city.

Willie Blair, a man hugely proud of his greenkeeping heritage, is the custodian of Jimmy Braid's rather special patch. It was Willie who'd suggested my visit, urging me to 'come cast your eyes over a great little city course'. En route for Dunbar, I needed no second bidding.

Willie's greenkeeping career followed an almost perfect learning curve, for he was apprenticed to the legendary Andrew Anderson at Gullane, a man oft likened to a professor and one who ensured his charges were expertly tutored in the art of greenkeeping. In the event Willie stayed with Andrew for close on fifteen years, giving every credit to this sadly missed old sage, declaring Andrew as the one who taught him everything. As a single example of the clever way Andrew worked, Willie told how during one season at Gullane the team lifted, rebuilt and restored six greens - without the membership knowing! Of course, those were the days before Arnie's Army, before courses were as overplayed as they are now and before the game, fuelled by TV, had reached fever pitch.

Readers travelling through East Lothian will surely have noticed the Lothianburn Golf Club, hard by the main road into Edinburgh. Slap on the east slope of the Pentlands, laden bounteously with broom and gorse, it was until recently over-run also with sheep! It was to this mountain-goat territory that Willie made his move after over fourteen years at Gullane, poached, would you believe, by two Gullane members who happened to be members also at Lothianburn. They'd seen how well Willie...
cleverest layouts...

performed as foreman on Gullane's Number Two, they knew his greenkeeping pedigree to be beyond reproach and they wanted him as their head greenkeeper. They persuaded the 29 year old to bring his wife and three young- 
sters to the 'Windy City'.

From seaside links to heavy clay-based hillside site, when Willie arrived at Lothianburn it was run-down that folk declared even raking the bunkers would show a big improvement. In the event, Willie took the place by the scruff and gave it a thorough shake-down, spending eight happy years there and leaving it a much better golf course than anyone could have imagined. He left to take over at Kingsknowe after Peter Dodds departed to Royal Aberdeen.

Working on just three golf courses in close on 40 years (he's been at Kingsknowe now for some 17 years) seems to me pretty good indication of dedication to the task, and in summarising that dedication it seems also that Willie thrives on what I'll call the 'high aggravation' factor.

Certainly there was aggravation aplenty at Lothianburn, with claggy clay and rocks galore, sheep to dodge, no water at all, not a single tap until Willie installed one, all this on a course that defied the laws of gravity. Now at Kingsknowe he works within the confines of just 110 acres; every inch parkland, every inch cultivated and every inch (including rough) cut to some degree, all in the interests of keeping the overplayed areas uncluttered, of speeding players through.

His course again is on clay, which is nobody's friend, and his predominantly meadowgrass greens grow on old clay puddle constructions (save one, the 17th). What's more, he's surrounded, literally, by a ten feet high fence, a la Colditz! What purpose does it serve? It keeps some of the vandals at bay (though last year alone over 400 flag sticks were stolen) and reminds, if nothing else, of trespass boundaries. Kingsknowe members cannot enjoy the luxury of timber benches, fibreglass flagpoles or decorative chains round tees – these simply would disappear. Last year the club lost, in addition to flags, some £15,000 of equipment to burglary, which has resulted in an elaborate alarm system being installed at the sheds.

On the course it's a case always of keeping the hard-played greens in good shape with, Willie hints, 'an old head and a little sulphate of iron'. Rather more, it is a case of composting the surfaces regularly (every six weeks or so) with sandy loam (which Willie swears by), and keeping the overly lush fairways cut every single day (he just can't stop 'em growing), in the summer months. Keeping thatch at bay demands regular spring and autumn hollow coring and the utilising of groomers and verticutters, Willie believing in working these tools hard and scarifying the daylight out of the Poa annua. With 600 members and a busy schedule of visiting societies to keep happy, this is the only way he can manage – and it works.

He's mean on fertiliser, mean on water, in fact he's a believer in Jim Arthur's regime of austerity in greenkeeping, following it almost to the letter, though he admits he couldn't get away with one Arthurian practice – slitting in the summer months – certain that his members, '600 amateur greenkeepers', wouldn't stand for it.

Willie doesn't think he'll ever move away from Kingsknowe, content in the satisfaction the job gives him, happy to be working with a great crew and pleased to be amongst 'good club people who are nice to work with'. He's an honorary member of the club, he sits on committee, prepares monthly reports and presents his own budget. Granted he seeks approval for such expenditure, which is normal enough, but Willie feels he's master of the golf course rather than its puppet, not having to rush for 'second opinions'. In a nutshell, he appears to have Kingsknowe licked, though I reiterate, he thrives on conditions from which I would run a mile: those that would top my 'high aggravation' list.

There can be but few greenkeepers who don't know 'Our Willie', especially through Association activities. He's been secretary of the Scottish East section for 15 years, beginning with SGGA and latterly SIGGA before amalgamation some five years ago into BIGGA. He says "I don't know what I'd do without it", and one is moved by his sincerity, aware that he's the Association's most ardent ambassador, devoted to the hurly-burly; the selling of a greenkeeping philosophy. He gets peed when discussing those greenkeepers who distance themselves from BIGGA. Far too many, he thinks, even in such a golfing enclave as Edinburgh. "They say they won't join because they don't play golf", he says, "but the Association was never set up for golf alone. We're about education, about seminars, about training; helping them to be better at their job" – OK Willie, I'm convinced!

I found myself charmed by Kingsknowe, despite first reservations, and Willie Blair warmed me greatly. As we ended he leaned across, grinned, and spoke directly into my recorder: "I'm just a routine worker", he whispered, "I never say a word out of place and I get on well with everyone"...OK Willie, I believe you, I'm convinced!

On the horizon at Kingsknowe GC: top, the clubhouse with Braid Hills behind; one view across to the 'high rise horrors'; and a city vista, with Edinburgh castle in the background.
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Anyone visiting the IOG Exhibition at Peterborough hoping to compare the merits of tripod-type greens mowers would have been struggling to spend much more than half an hour at the event. With the exception of John Deere, all of the leading manufacturers of such machines had decided to give the show a miss for 1993.

Their reasons ranged from a dislike of the location to the fact that they had little new to exhibit or had better things on which to spend their money. In the first case, at least, the return of the show to Windsor next year should please a number of companies, particularly those hoping for a more international event.

John Deere's managing director, Alec McKee, agreed that the show needed to attract more overseas visitors and the move back to Windsor would help in that respect. "However, we have the situation in the UK where there are several large events during the year aimed at the grounds maintenance industry," he commented. "All have their slight differences, but they also overlap in many areas. The organisers of each really should get together so that we have just one major show in this country - a truly European event, which could be supported by all companies within the industry."

John Deere's decision to attend Peterborough in 1993 was rewarded by a steady stream of visitors and those on the look out for innovations on the company's stand were not disappointed.

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Suitable for mowing large areas of parkland and sports turf, Ransomes' Commander 3500DX can be equipped with 6, 8 or 11 knife cutting reels.

21 - world. The mower has no gearbox. Its transaxle is direct driven from the engine via a two-section hydraulic pump. One section drives the reel motors, the other supplies the steering and cutting units' lift rams. Apart from the 'Diesel' logo, the only visible difference between the petrol and diesel-engined machines is the rear hood which has been raised slightly to accommodate the taller power unit. Available next Spring, the JD 2243 diesel greens mower costs from £12,887.

Two cutting reel options are offered on two new lightweight fairway mowers also launched at the IoG exhibition by John Deere. Labelled the 3215 (25.5hp) and 3235 (32hp), the machines have been designed so that users can select the optimum power output and cutting unit to suit their grass and terrain. The smaller machine is offered only with standard seven-bladed, 5in diameter reels, said to be suitable for any turf type, but particularly the more delicate grasses found in cooler climates. Either the standard units or heavy-duty, eight-bladed, 7in diameter reels, can be specified for the larger JD 3235 fairway mower, the latter being better suited to longer, lusher conditions. Both reel types are 22in wide and feature a patent-applied-for mounting to the rear of the cutting unit. John Deere say that the design maintains a balanced force over the front and rear rollers keeping the cutting unit level and in more solid contact with the turf. Available with four-wheel drive, fairway groomer and verticut options, the mowers are priced from a little under £21,000.

Although absent from Peterborough, both Toro and Ransomes announced new five-gang ride-on mowers to coincide with the IoG show. The Toro Reelmaster 4500-D is based on the RM 450-D, but features some important upgrades including a four wheel drive option, a larger capacity engine, a new cooling system and a four post roll-over protection structure, the latter standard on the four-wheel drive mower and optional on two-wheel drive machines. Four-wheel drive is engaged by a switch on the instrument panel and operates in forward mode only. The engine has been changed from the Mitsubishi 4DQ5 (50hp governed down to 40hp) to the latest Mitsubishi 4DQ7, rated at 55hp. This is governed similarly down to 40hp, but the additional power available throughout the speed range will, says Toro, reduce noise levels and help prevent smoking under heavy load. A new water pump, two speed electric cooling fan and larger capacity radiator provide for cooler running, assisted by a new air intake and cooling system, now drawing air from the rear. Available with 5, 7 or 11 bladed reels, the 3.5m (lift 6in) cut Reelmaster 4500-D costs from £25,725.

Also offering a maximum cut of 3.5m is the new Ransomes Commander 3500DX, a five unit mower suitable for parkland and sports turf. It has full hydrostatic transmission, on-demand four wheel drive and a choice of 6 knife fixed head and 8 or 11 knife floating head cutting unit options. Power comes from a 51hp diesel helping produce a maximum workrate of 3.2ha/hour at 12.5km/hr (8 acres/hr at 7.5mph). Features designed to improve cutting performance and operator comfort include variable cutting speed reel control, a differential lock, articulating mower wing units for work on slopes, a rubber-mounted operator's platform and fully-enclosed engine compartment. An optional all-weather cab with roll-over protection structure is available for the new Commander 3500DX, which costs from £23,339.

Described as a tees and surrounds mower, the Sabo Roberine C400 from Claymore Grass Machinery offers a number of interesting features which extend its versatility for those looking after a variety of grass conditions and areas. The basic machine resembles a triple greens mower having a rear-mounted 16hp diesel engine, hydrostatic drive, rear wheel power steering and up-front driving position. However, the two front cutting units have hinged rear deflectors which, when raised, allow grass to be discharged direct from the rear of the unit. With the deflectors down, grass can be collected in the normal manner in the optional front grass boxes. On the rear cutting unit, the grass collector fits to the rear of the assembly, removing the need for any deflec-
23 tor. Price of the 1.8m (6ft) cut C400, complete with three-wheel drive, fully-floating 7 bladed reels and de-luxe seat is £12,250. Grassboxes and 5 or 10 bladed reels are optional.

First seen at last year’s IoG exhibition, the Green’s 20in super-fine pedestrian mower now has a name – Romax. The 10-bladed machine includes a number of detail improvements as a result of testing by selected golf clubs over the past year. Probably the most important is the fitting of an indexing adjuster for bottom blade adjustment, with a quarter turn of the hand wheel giving a thousandth of an inch blade movement. Price of the Green’s Romax is from £1,800. Turf combs and transport wheels, yet to be priced, are extra.

Staying with pedestrian mowers, Allett has modified the powered brush on its Tournament 20in greens machine. The fully adjustable brush serves three main purposes: It keeps the front roller free of grass build-up to maintain a consistent height of cut; it brushes the turf, promoting healthy growth; and it helps lift lateral growing and flattened grasses for a complete cut across the full mowing width. Changes to the spiral brush include increasing the number of coils per inch and moving from nylon to polyethylene bristles. The result, according to Roy Allett, is an improved grooming action and extended working life. Price of the Tournament mower is £1,995.

Lloyds of Letchworth is introducing a 24in version of shortly to be offered with a 10-bladed cylinder, the Masport Olympic 500 combines a ‘no-frills’ design with an economical purchase price.
Truly way out in front, the T44 is the self-propelled gang mower. The only choice you need to make is 10" fixed or 8" floating heads with 6,8 or 10 knives. Ample power, advanced controls, weight transfer, four-wheel drive and differential lock combine to make this machine your perfect playing partner. To proceed further in your quest for perfection, call your dealer today for full details and a demonstration.
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CUTTING EDGE

24in its long-established Paladin mower, to be sold alongside the 21in model. The 18in Paladin is to be discontinued. The principal change is to the width of the aluminium rear roller and 5 or 9 bladed cylinder, although Honda’s GX120 4hp engine is now used on the range. Ideal for large, flat greens, the 24in Paladin weighs just 3kg (6.6lb) more than its 21in stable-mate. Price is expected to be around £2,200 when it goes on sale for next Spring.

Dennis, winner of the most innovative new product at last year’s IoG exhibition with its FT510 20in fine turf mower, has extended the range of cassette heads available for the machine. A turf roller and sorrell-type surface spiker are now available, with a slitter and wire rake currently undergoing prototype testing. All are interchangeable in less than one minute without the use of tools.

Finally, one name which would not spring immediately to mind when discussing pedestrian greens mowers is Masport, distributed in the UK by Autocar Equipment Ltd. Although badged as Masport, the mowers are in fact now built by New Zealand company, Steelfort, following the take-over of Morrison by Masport, and the resulting rationalisation.

If price is a major consideration, it could well pay greenkeepers seeking a ‘no frills’, sturdily-built machine to take a look at the Olympic range, especially when a 10-bladed cylinder option becomes available next year. Estimated price of the Masport Olympic 500 with 3hp Tecumseh petrol engine, 20in cut and self-adjusting chain drive is under £900. Although not seeking to be placed in the same class as the top professional pedestrian greens mowers, it is still expected to cut fine turf very nicely, thank you, at considerably lower cost.
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NORTH SCOTLAND
Not much happening just now to report, either that or nobody is talking to me about it! Congratulations to the five lads from the North section who went to Dunbar for the BIGGA National Championships. They could make up only one team, so Gordon Moir elected himself non-playing captain (just as well, I hear) and the four proceeded to win the competition for our section. Well done Alick Mackay, Stephen Sullivan, Paul Murphy (he gets everywhere) and George Paterson. George merits extra praise for actually winning the individual prize (he was both low gross and low nett). George is enjoying a purple patch just now as he also retained the North Order of Merit, with fellow greenkeepers John Urquhart and Stevie Macintos also finishing high up. Brian Fraser won his home club’s 36 hole Open at Inverness – it’s a pity he can’t make that or nobody is talking to me about it! Congratulate him when you next meet him and tell me about them.

Next month’s report will carry a summary of our autumn jaunt to Kirriemuir (no balls or virgins, I’m afraid), which at the time of writing (August 31) has an entry of 80 – watch this space.

Three more new members to welcome: Barry Cuerne, Newtonmore GC, Alisdair Macleod, Stornaway GC, and Alan Kemp from Blair Atholl, who is a student at Elmwood College. All the best to Stuart Griffiths, who after working at Tain for the summer has gone to Elmwood College for an one year full-time course. I’m glad to report that Colin Mackay now has a full-time post over at Cruden Bay and will be starting college this winter – well done, Colin.

SOUTH WALES
On Tuesday 5 August at Southerndown GC the annual Secretaries v Greenkeepers match took place, with fine weather and a cool breeze blowing from the sea. The result was a win for the greenkeepers by four games to three – ‘and about time too’ – for this was the greenkeepers first win in six years! Yes, the last time we won was back in 1987 and that also was at Southerndown. The winning pairs were: Mike North, Alan Richards, Gary Johnston/Patrick Jones, Tyrone Garland/Robert Johnston/Chris Thomas. Our thanks to Southerndown GC, its staff, caterers and committee, also to Fred Crossman (from the secretaries) for his splendid organisation.

Royal Porthcawl GC hosted this year’s Birdie Cup competition held on 17 August. Again the weather was kind, warm and sunny, and the course was as testing as ever. Our thanks go to Birds of Cowbridge for sponsoring the day and to Dave Ward and his staff and to all at Royal Porthcawl. Results: Best Gross, Birdie Cup - Mike Jones. Runner Up - Gerwyn Price. Best Nett, John Duncan Cup - Andrew Jenkins. Runner Up - Ted Thompson. It was great to see Ted back in action after two years in the wilderness (and taking second place as well) – we’ll have to watch him! The semi-finalists in the PRO TURF sponsored matchplay competition are Mike Jones, Laurence Walter, Robert Frater and Dougie Donne. Results will follow.

Good luck to both Tyrone Garland and Laurence Walter of Wenvoe Castle GC. Tyrone has been nominated to represent South Wales in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year, whilst Laurence is the only section entry to 30

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Note: Do not use with turf groomers.

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Around the Green

Following a superb spread of fare in the artis- 
sans clubhouse, our thanks were extended to 
Lawson Bingham and Robert Brewer, plus of 
course all the green staff at Sunningdale, for 
the fine condition of the course. In addition we 
acknowledged and thanked the Sunningdale 
Artisans Club for their hospitality, whilst not for-
getting the caterers for a grand meal.

Please remember that the Autumn Tourna-
ment takes place at Epsom GC on Thursday 21 
October — with closing date for entries being 7 
October. The format is 27 holes Stableford, 
7/8th stroke allowance. Please also note that a 
jacket and necktie must be worn in the club- 
house.

Following the success of last year's mini-bus 
trip to Harrogate for the BTME (run by the sec- 
tion in conjunction with Ian Kerry), we are con-
sidering a similar trip this coming January. Will 
members please contact a committee member if 
they are interested in this venture — thanks.

ROGER TYDEMAN

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Our thanks to Mark Barthelmeim at Risboro Turf 
for organising the annual Jacobsen Tournament, 
held at Hazlemere G&CC on 4 August. Forty five 
greenkeepers from the area were invited, all of 
whom had the pleasure of playing a course in 
superb condition, thanks to Russell Lucas and his 
fine band of men. The event was Stableford off 
full handicap (max 18). RESULTS: 1st St. Georges 
Mentmore GC 44. 2nd S Edwards Whiteleaf GC 
43. 3rd A Wells Charridge Park GC 39, Wooden 
spoon John Witney 20.

Mark would like to thank all those that helped 
to make the day a success, particularly the trade 
Jacobsen, Hardi, Ieki, Etesis, Saxon, BLEC and 
Lamborghini.

May I remind everybody that our Autumn Invita-
tion Tournament is being held at Calcot Park 
GC on 11 October. The format is Stableford, 
9 holes having been built 'in-house' by George’s 
own staff. Also at Brass Castle, Stuart Vickers is 
confirmed as first assistant — congratulations.

Brass Castle's head greenkeeper, having 
recently opened Hunley Hall GC at Broton, East Cleve- 
land, is busily turfing over large mounds (anti 
rum-rail) near the new clubhouse. The view 
from the clubhouse overlooks all 18 holes.

Ron Cole, head greenkeeper at Kirby Moor-
side, has retired, while Steve Parsons has moved 
to Hunley Hall from Saltburn GC and Nick 
O'Grady has moved from Wilton GC to Saltburn 
GC.

The next meeting will be at Darling-
ton GC on 21 October, a talk 
pre-
sented by Pur 4 Irrigation Systems entitled 'Modern Control Systems'.

BRUCE BURNELL

SOUTH COAST

A new venture has been arranged for Wednes-
day 3 November — a golf game in the morning, 
followed by buffet lunch and an afternoon talk. 
East Dorset GC and British Seed Houses have 
kindly agreed to assist the section with this 
venture, a departure from our normal winter 
evening lecture, and I trust members will give 
time to their forthcoming programmes.

The date, let me remind you, is 3 November, 
golf starting at 8.30 am. A buffet lunch will 
be available from 12.30 pm and the talk begins 
at 2.00 pm. Members wishing to take 
advantage of either golf, or lunch, must contact 
me on 0962 797288 (day) or 0962 733574 (evening) before 24 October, though no 
advance notice is required if you are coming only to listen to the lecture. East Dorset GC is 
situated at Hyde, Wareham, and the lecture will 
be given by Jonathan Franks.

Our other winter lectures are: • Tues. 7 Dec: 
Royal Winchester GC, 4.00 pm — AGM. • Wed. 
12 Jan: Dorset College of Agric, 2.00 pm — Ed 
McCabe and Arthur King on 'Communications 
in a Golf Club'. • Wed. 2 Feb: Alresford 
GC, 4.00 pm. — Ken Barber, East Sussex

ROGER SHAW, latterly course manager at Bran- 
cepth Castle GC, has moved to a new course 
development at Ronside Hotel, Carville, 
Dumfries.

George Malcolm, tells me the new course lay-
out at Brass Castle is fully operational, six 
holes having been built 'in-house' by George's 
own staff. Also at Brass Castle, Stuart Vickers is 
confirmed as first assistant — congratulations.

Bucks, Berks & Oxon members please 
contact a committee member if 
you are interested in this venture — thanks.

TONY HOWORTH
EAST OF ENGLAND

Kenwick Park GC, Louth, was the venue for the Rigby Taylor Trophy and our thanks are extended to head greenkeeper Ian Morton and his staff for the super conditions we enjoyed at this new course. Thanks also to Brain Booth and Stuart Jeffs, representing our sponsors, who presented some great prizes.

The Results: 1st David Horney 33 pts, 2nd Josh White 30 pts, 3rd Graeme MacDonald 27 pts, 4th Ian Morton 26 pts, 5th Mike Finney 26 pts.

It is hoped to organise a trip to Hardi Sprayers, Hinkley, Leicester, the proposed date being 18 November. Section members should now have received an invitation to this visit. If you have any queries, please contact me.

PETE THOMAS

NORTH WEST

It is with regret that I report sad news. Graham Teasdale, head greenkeeper at Swinton Park GC, has died after a long illness. Graham moved to Hinkley, Leicester, the proposed date being 18 August for the 'Big Hill' to take responsibility for Swinton Park from Dean Wood GC two years ago, although unfortunately he only enjoyed about one year of good health after his move. Our thoughts at this sad time are with his wife and two daughters.

Mike Goodhind, the head greenkeeper at Cavendish GC Buxton, is on the move and is going over the 'Big Hill' to take responsibility for managing the course at Tytherington GC. Mike has been at Cavendish for nine years and tells me they are a great club to work for. I'm sure that Cavendish will be sorry to lose him as he has always enjoyed the job and been respected by the staff.

Good luck to both men in their new posts.

JOHN PRICE

NORTHERN GOLF TEAM

Congratulations to you both. Whilst writing about GEM, I am in the process of organising a trip to Gem's plant in the winter, details later. I will be sending out brochures. I can hardly wait. Still, we did manage to get a car to the edge of the beach and the smile is looking more apologetic by the minute. As he finishes - is that a bead of perspiration on his brow? - the kids start squabbling, the wife bad-temperedly packs away the beach gear and starts thumbing through country house brochures. I can hardly wait. Still, we did manage to get a game of golf last week. I played a reasonable shot to the first green and affluently marked the ball with a pound coin. My elder son looked horrified as I carried my bag to the edge of the green and bellowed 'Dad, you're not going to leave that pound there, are you?'

May I take this opportunity to welcome the dozen or so new members who have taken advantage of the half-year discount and recently joined the section. Entry forms for the autumn - winter programme will be in the post soon, and I wish these folk all the best and look forward to meeting them.

PAUL WORSTER

AROUND THE GREEN

Woodcote 91  EXH. Please include your deposit of £10. Latest date for entries is 27 October. Any complaints, news or enquiries, please call me on 051 724 5412.

BETT CROSS

SOUTH WEST

August is the holiday month and I'm on mine - currently enjoying some rare sunshine in the Lyme Regis area of East Devon. The weatherman has just appeared on the TV screen, he smiles confidently, but half way through his forecast we realise that he is cunningly standing directly in front of a large area of low pressure and the smile is looking more apologetic by the minute. As he finishes - is that a bead of perspiration on his brow? - the kids start squabbling, the wife bad-temperedly packs away the beach gear and starts thumbing through country house brochures. I can hardly wait. Still, we did manage to get a game of golf last week. I played a reasonable shot to the first green and affluently marked the ball with a pound coin. My elder son looked horrified as I carried my bag to the edge of the green and bellowed 'Dad, you're not going to leave that pound there, are you?'

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PAUL WORSTER

NORTHERN GOLF TEAM

I am pleased to report that there were no problems in the Autumn Tournament this year to play in the 'Battle of the Roses'. Only two members were unable to accept the invitation, as they were playing in the National at Dunbar. I am also pleased to report that the Northern Team looked splendid in their beautiful white sweaters, given to each player for a photo. Do you recognize the member without a white sweater? It is our chairman, Phillip Taylor, who was not playing golf. I must thank those who accepted the invitation to play for Yorkshire versus Lancashire and I am delighted also to inform our team's success, winning back the Shield from Bert Cross and his team. It was four years since Lancashire last won, in 1992, so lets hope it's at least another four years before they win again! Well done the North, represented by Messrs Midgley, Lealman, Storey, Jarvis, Smith, Collins, Kirkbright, Gamble, Gee, Johnson, Waite, Spencer, Linley, Oxley, Potter and Mennell. I must thank Fulford Golf Club for extending the courtesy of their course to us, also our colleague Mark Mennell and his team for preparing the course 18 October. Any complaints, news or enquiries, please call me on 0274 568128.

PAT MURPHY

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October 1993

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Many have tried various methods of removing sand from the grass faces of bunkers. Larry Gilhuly has shown you one technique (in a previous article - editor) using water to wash away the accumulated sand on a steep sand bank. It's a good one and it works. Mike Rewinski, superintendent at Westhampton Country Club on eastern Long Island, has found another innovative approach worthy of our attention.

While blowing out his irrigation system to prepare for winter, Mike found a large rented air compressor ideal for blowing sand from grass. 

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33 - bunker banks back into the bunkers. He outfitted the compressor with a hose attached to four feet of 1/2-inch pipe. One person can easily blow the sand back into a bunker usually in 15 to 20 minutes. Some dried grass clippings will settle in the sand but are easily cleaned up with leaf rakes.

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● This article first appeared in the USGA Green Section Record and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement and thanks to the USGA Green Section and author Gary Watschke.

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Around the Green

DEVPON & CORNWALL

Five candidates competed for the honour of representing Devon and Cornwall in the forthcoming ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. In scoring, the section committee decided to use the Master Greenkeeper assessment paper to mark each of the five courses, and these were visited by Jeff Mills and Steve Redman.

Only half a point separated first and second place and our congratulations go to Lauchlan Miller, head greenkeeper at Dawlish Warren GC, who went forward to represent the section in the regional final, selected subsequently to represent the region in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year finals, to be held on Dec. 6-7 at Aldwark Manor. I am sure Laughlan will be an excellent representative for our region and we wish him good luck in the final.

Our AGM will be held at Torquay GC on Wednesday November 17 and, as usual, this day will commence with golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, with prizes kindly donated by DGM and Lely. The section's AGM will follow lunch, and this year we will be seeking three new committee members as our current serving chairman (Bill Pile), vice-chairman (Brian Summers), and president (Don Hollingshead) will not seek re-election. On behalf of all section members I would like to thank these gentlemen for all their hard work, put in over many years. The section will require one member from Cornwall, one from Devon, and one from the trade, all to be elected to the committee. RICHARD

WHYMAN

NORTH EAST

On 20 July we held our annual match against the North East secretaries at Foxton Hall GC, the result being a halved match at three all, thus giving the greenkeepers retention of the salver! Our thanks to the committee for granting us courtesy of the course, and to the head greenkeeper and his staff for excellent playing conditions. A personal observation, I hope the Foxton hall secretary takes heed next time he sees swallows swooping low on the fairways, for this action means it is going to rain, not what he thought.

Well, there are quite a lot of people in the move in the section, starting with me. I've moved to a new 18 hole development at Matfen Hall and can be contacted on 0661 886084. Needless to say, any member who wished to visit Matfen Hall will be most welcome. Congratulations to Clive Parson, formerly of Arcot Hall, who has returned to the Isle of Man, also to David Jennings, formerly of Newbiggin, who is now first assistant at Morpeth. Finally, I believe Glen Barter, latterly of South Shields, has taken the job of head greenkeeper at Seahouses - best of luck to you, lads. May I also congratulate Caroline Malone, who worked at Alnwick in the past, on joining the greenkeeping ranks once again. Caroline, I wish you well in your new venture. The match against Cleveland will probably take place this month (October) - details to be advertised. Finally, congratulations to Tony McLure (Whickham) on representing his country in the two-man team event staged in August, England v France.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

EAST SCOTLAND

Dunbar Golf Club was, as you all know, the venue for the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament, played on a course presented to the highest order in true Scottish links fashion. Our grateful thanks go to the captain & committee of Dunbar GC, and in particular to Graham Wood and his staff for wonderful playing conditions. A great number of people left with fond memories, for believe it or not, Dunbar is the driest part of the country and boot-printed greens were very much in evidence throughout the match. This was certainly the case during the championship, with the wind cutting the grass and continually drying the course. Many of Graham's staff worked through the night, watering the greens constantly, though this all came to naught when the winds rose at dawn, drying them out again. As Graham said: "That's sod's law."

The tournament certainly was well run. 

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Efficient team

I am most grateful for the help which we received from BIGGA members during the course of the most recent Open Championship. They did, as I am sure you know, provide a most efficient team of bunker rakers and their efforts were very much appreciated. As did they, too, tend to stand out from the crowd with their flail shirts, which I am assuming is now the official BIGGA uniform.

I would be most grateful if you would convey our thanks of those of your members who were involved.

G E Watts, Secretary, Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent

More on mowrah

Re Jon Allbutt's letter (August) asking for information from 'mature' greenkeepers regarding the use of mowrah meal, although a mere 'young upstart' of 23, I believe I have something of interest.

The following was taken from GOLF COURSES, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND UPRKEEP: Published in 1933: 'Mowrah meal was recommended to be used at the rate of half a pound per square yard. After the powder has been spread it should be thoroughly watered in, even if rain is falling at the time. It is useless to spread the meal when worms have been driven below either by frost or a prolonged period of dry weather. Nor should it be used during the growing season. When the grass is in a young and tender stage of growth.

Mowrah meal also possesses some slight fertilising value. This product is the residue from an Indian Bean, known as Bassia latifolia, after it has been crushed for the extraction of oil. There are many grades of mowrah meal according to the degree to which the residue is ground. Coarse grades are of small value for killing worms, and although samples of such grades are offered at cheap rates it is uneconomical to purchase them as they may only be 50% effective. Mowrah meal can also be used to eradicate small grubs that feed upon grass roots, the most common of these being Biblo.

It would appear therefore that mowrah meal was only a by-product from the manufacture of the compound of nylon utilised and a change in the coolant cycle, not the original tool that has been made that actually manufactures the hole cup. Our original patented drawings for the hole cup clearly show the diameter should be 108mm. 

Copper Sulphate, Phosgeneate of Potash, Lime Water etc. There is little doubt that rabbits had been found dead following the use of Lead Arsenate. Copper Sulphate, Phosgeneate of Potash, Lime Water etc. There is little doubt that rabbits had been found dead following the use of Lead Arsenate.

Roger Tydeman, Croham Hurst Golf Club, South Croydon, Surrey

Picture this

I must have been in one of my bolshie moods when I read the July issue, for I took exception to no less than three pieces of editorial on Page 22: Why not a full picture group of the greenkeeping staff, instead of Japanese golfers?

Roger Tydeman, Croham Hurst Golf Club, South Croydon, Surrey

The hole facts

I write in response to Mr S Antolik's letter in last month's Greenkeeper International.

If Pattisson & Co came under new management on July 5 1993 and I became the new managing director. Since taking over the company we have embarked on new strategies, better production methods and new quality checks. Obviously it is difficult to achieve this overnight. On Aug 11 1993 a letter was received from Mr Antolik pointing out that he was in possession of one of our hole cups measuring 111mm in diameter, contrary to the R&A rules of golf. We promptly replied to Mr Antolik, thanking him for bringing this to our attention and took immediate action by making contact with our manufacturers.

After a short investigation we found a small batch of hole cups to have a diameter change from 107mm to 111mm prior to directing the compound of nylon utilised and a change in the coolant cycle, not the original tool that has been made that actually manufactures the hole cup. Our original patented drawings for the hole cup clearly show the diameter should be 108mm. 

The problem has now been resolved and a new quality control procedure put into place to ensure that all hole cups produced are rechecked and sets are set down by the R&A. The small batch with the size differential problem have been sourced and returned to the manufacturer. I have also been assured by the Rules Committee that

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Around the Green

Willie Woods event, we are delighted to have a Tuesday evening was first class. All of these on 4 December (at Turnhouse). Returning to the committee consisted of yours truly, Stewart & Fiona & mum Agnes Greenwood for their assistance, and comedian Gary Dennis. The social committee consisted of ‘yours truly’, Stewart & Agnes Greenwood and Steve Dixon. To all who took part in the tournament we say ‘haste ye back.’

With this event behind us we can now concentrate on section events: The Willie Woods Memorial event this month (19 October) sees us again returning to Dunbar, with the AGM taking place on 24 November, followed by the annual dance on 4 December (at Turnhouse). Returning to the Willie Woods event, we are delighted to have a new sponsor – Huxley’s Grass Machinery – who have kindly offered to donate the prizes. I’ve met the local agent, George Brown, and the final details are almost to hand. Information regarding all events (including the winter programme), will soon be posted to section members.

SUSSEX

The weather forecasters said ‘warm with a few showers’. Fact – torrential rain and blowing a ‘hooli’ from tee-off until conclusion of the first round! Anyway, our mid-summer (?) 36 hole tournament saw us at the newly opened Singing Hills GC, near Brighton and how well course taking part that counts.’

The section is indebted to Singing Hills for their generous hospitality, with special thanks to their business manager, Jim Broomfield, 2nd Chris Allen, 3rd Roland Hughes. There was a special prize for Steve Voguls, who came in with just one point. As they say, ‘it’s the taking part that counts.’

On 18 August a group from the North Wales section visited the Gem Professional factory in Oswaldtwistle, witnessing the process and production of top dressings, fertilisers, and many other products made at the Gem factory. On behalf of those who made the journey, our thanks to Terry Adamson for organising the trip (especially the coach!), and to John Hardy, and Andy Harris, for their hospitality and for providing an excellent and interesting tour. Also a big thanks to the coach driver for a most enjoyable journey.

In December (date still to be decided) we will be holding our Christmas competition at Llangollen GC, so once again, when these forms come out, get them filled in and sent back as soon as possible – don’t forget the entrance fee!

With winter nearly upon us we hope to organise seminars for the winter period. We would also like to present a first aid course at Northrop College, but as you will appreciate, we need to know well in advance if anyone is interested before we set a date and price.

Please, if you have an interest in first aid, give me a call on 0248 713490.

DAVID PROCTOR

MID ANGLIA

The Autumn Tournament will again be staged at Woburn G&CC, this year on 26 October. The format has been changed slightly to accommodate our AGM – with 18 holes in the morning, followed by lunch, the AGM itself, held in the afternoon. The meeting will start at 3.00 pm approx., though this time may be altered depending on starting times for the golf. Because of the slight delay in confirmation of this event, entries will be accepted until 15 October – by form only and with cheque – to Chris Brook.

By the time you read this column the Lodge Way Four-Ball final will have been played – over 27 holes at Brocket Hall GC. Results will be published in November. The semi-finals produced the following results: D Low & A Freeman (Northants County) beat I Oliver & D Croxton (Cold Ashby). P Lockett & R Coogan (South Beds) beat R McKeown (Arley) & K Bunting (Ashridge).

David Low and Tony Freeman were eventual winners over the Cold Ashby pair, but it took an incredible 40 holes of golf to separate them! Thanks to Chas Ayres for again organising the event and to his company – Lodgeway Tractor Co – for its continued support.

One piece of news concerns David Murphy, who many of you will know as the rep for Sta-Brite. David has left to join a fairly new company – Driving Force Leisure – which started last year. Good luck David.

PAUL LOCKETT

EVENTS DIARY

October 10-11: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Althorp Manor.
November 4-5: Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association Trade Exhibition, Ballsbridge, Dublin.
December 6-7: ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Allders Wood Manor.
February 4-7: GCSA Conference and Show, Dallas, Texas.
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