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 raters and their efforts were very much appreciated. Although they did, too, tend to stand out from the crowd with their flack shirts, which I am assuming is now the official BIGGA uniform.

I would be most grateful if you would convey our thanks to 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 UPKEEP published in 1933: 'Mowrah meal was recommended to be used at the rate of half a pound per 100 square feet of soil. After the powder has been spread it should be thoroughly watered in, even if rain is falling at the time. It is useless to water the meal when worms have been driven below either by frost or a prolonged period of dry weather. Nor should it be used at a time when 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 un-economic 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 Biboo.

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.

The hole facts

In response to Mr S Antolik's letter in last month's Greenkeeper International, I said that Pattisson & Co had never come to our notice.

M Hinch, Managing Director, Pattisson & Co Ltd, Luton, Bedfordshire

Copper Sulphate, Permanganate of Potash, Lime water etc. There is little doubt that the use of these substances as a worm killer is restricted by the R & A, and has been for many years. We have received reports from some golf clubs that rabbits had been found dead following the use of Lead Arsenate, with no case of poisoning of human beings has yet come to our notice.

MOWRAH MEAL is the crushed residue of a species of Indian Bean known as Bassia. Not only is the product very efficacious in killing earthworms, which are brought to the surface, BUT IT IS OF AN ORGANIC NATURE AND POSSESS ESSENTIAL NUTRITIOUS PROPERTIES. Further, it is non-poisonous and easy to use.

An interesting fact. In the 1926 price list which Roger enclosed, the price of 'Carters tested worm killer (i.e. Mowrah meal)' was quoted at £12 per ton, less than in the 1924 Carter list I have in my library, where the price quoted was £15 per ton. I believe there is potentially a full group picture of the greenkeeping staff, instead of Japanese golfers? Surely the locals deserve better recognition. Page 19: The redesigned bunker at Sandwich is an eyesore, and the most un-natural man-made obstacle I've ever seen on a golf course. It’s not the contractors fault, but the club's, and I trust they have considered the implications of accidents at work by those who might be required to maintain it, or possible claims by golfers injured in an attempt to scale this obstacle, the turf of which is clambering about in there during The Open? He was lucky, someone was on hand to rake it afterwards, though ordinary golfers will take so long in restoring it that people waiting on the tee will need great powers of patience – I’d like to hear the greenkeepers’ reaction to this ‘improvement’.

Page 19, lower: Presumably neither Rhone-Poulenc nor their advertising agency found the complexity of cricket score-boards, this one shows the score at 142 for 4, the last wicket having fallen at 122. So, twenty runs have been added since the fall of the last wicket, but one batsman has 23 runs to his credit, and the other one 458! Clearly someone has a point to make; could it be 122 + 23 = 145. There’s one exception to this scenario. For a year’s subscription, Rhone-Poulenc will let you decide who is correct, or perhaps tell Rhone-Poulenc what it is!

Well, that’s off your chest; you can’t say that Greenkeeper International isn’t policy-conscious. But you must keep up the good work. Your July cover picture is delightful with such natural beauty looking an acceptable part of the golfing scene.

Peter Bow, Winterbourne Houghton, Blandford Forum, Dorset

The Last Word

Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL

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