USE YOUR STIMPETER!

With the popularity of golf increasing, the pressure on the Greens crew for the perfect 18 holes is growing. A significant part of this is to achieve a uniform green speed.

So where is your stimpeter? Is it propping open the canteen door, or gathering dust somewhere in your office? Really, it's just as important as the Switch or that drainage you installed over the winter.

Construncted of aluminium, and with a V shaped groove along its length it has a notch at one end where the ball will rest. If you place the ball in this notch and raise the end of the meter the ball will release at 20°.

Now, head out to your greens and get some readings. You will need the stimpeter, 2 tee pegs, 1 golf ball, tape measure, pen and paper.

Step 1: Select an area of the green that is level (ish). Check this by using ball and stimpeter as a spirit level.

Step 2: Mark the release end of the stimpeter with a tee peg. Lift the other end until the ball rolls.

Gi is beginning a new feature this issue, finding out what greenkeepers get up to in their spare time. Here's something you didn't know about me...

In July of this year, I celebrated my 40th birthday, and it has been 28 years since I first tied a pair of ice skates to my feet and did my 'Bambi' like impression on the ice.

This evolved into skating regularly and ultimately playing for the Brighton Junior Ice Hockey team. This would involve playing matches all over the UK. At the age of 15, I progressed into the senior league, still representing Brighton and now playing in international tournaments in Finland, Holland and training with members of the Swedish National Ice Hockey Team.

By the time I was 17, I had been offered a professional contract, to play for Oxford. However, I declined this, and signed a semi-professional contract with Brighton and continued to play for this team until the team folded, (age 23) I then signed a contract with the Bracknell Bees Ice Hockey Team. At this point, I must add that we were training for 15 hours a week on the ice, plus gym work.

I played in their very first televised match, but due to injury, this was to be my very last competitive game (cracked sternum).

Roll the clock forward a number of years, add a bit of grey hair, and a few more pounds, and out of the blue, I received a telephone call from an old team member, Paul Howes.

Paul was trying to get the old Brighton Team back together to play our arch rivals, a Dutch team called the Tillberg Trappers, at their home ground.

Paul succeeded in getting the team back together, unfortunately, we didn't and