T he aim of the golf greenkeeper is to produce the best possible quality of turf with the resources available. In general, this means that the presence of broad-leaved weeds in any number is unacceptable not merely from an aesthetic point of view but also because weeds can actually influence play.

If weeds are beginning to become a problem, there may well be an underlying reason. The most common causes are over-acidity of the surface soil, poor drainage, or poor nutrition. Weeds can act as indicators of an underlying problem and without tackling the underlying cause then weeds will always be present. It is a wise policy to try to discover why weeds are present, particularly if they are a recurring problem, and to adjust turf management in conjunction with chemical control measures accordingly. For example, sheep’s sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) is associated with an over-acid surface soil, creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) is often found in damp, boggy corners and white clover (*Trifolium repens*) is often seen in areas that have not been fertilised for several seasons.

The greenkeeper must be familiar with the common broad-leaved weeds and if there any doubt about identification, then advice should be sought or a good flora purchased.

**Hand weeding**

Before reaching for the sprayer it is always worth considering hand weeding, particularly in small areas. Much effort and money can be saved by always carrying a knife to remove weeds during the course of the day. Even some grass weeds can be significantly discouraged by regular slashing, for example the spread of Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) can be limited in this way.

**Spot treatment**

In general, spot treating individual weeds needs to be done carefully, as so often weed-killer is over-applied with the result that as well as the weed, surrounding turf is killed. A single nozzle, lance-type sprayer is not recommended for spot treating weeds in turf for this reason. However, provided care is taken, correct doses can be applied to small areas using, for example, aerosol spot weeders.

As is the case when hand weeding, spot treating weeds is really only practical over fairly small areas of putting surface or tee.

**Spraying – choosing a herbicide**

Once it has been decided there is a weed problem and the weeds have been identified, the next step is to choose the appropriate herbicide for selective control.

Commonly available selective herbicides are based on the active ingredients MCPA, 2,4-D, dicamba, dichlorprop, fenoprop, mecoprop and ioxynil. Normally proprietary products contain one or more herbicides. The different combinations increase the number of weed species it is possible to control. The choice of product should be based on the susceptibility of the weed species to any of the available herbicides or a mixture of herbicides. Information is available and the table lists a selec-
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Selective weedkillers

Selective weed-killers or herbicides will control most broad-leaved weeds of turf. They may contain one or more active ingredients. At least one of the active ingredients is normally a foliage-applied translocated herbicide with growth-regulating activity, such as MCPA, 2,4-D or mecoprop. These chemicals are taken into plants chiefly through leaves, but also through roots, and upset normal plant growth processes and distort growth within susceptible weed species. Effects can be seen in twisting of leaves and distorted growth within a day or two of application, but weeds may not die for four to eight weeks. Resistant species may take in less chemical (eg. because of angle and type of leaf, which partly accounts for selectivity between grasses and broad-leaved species) and also avoid the toxic effects in various ways. Some herbicides, eg. ioxynil, act primarily by contact, producing a rapid contact scorch and then yellowing of foliage on susceptible plants as photosynthesis and other processes are affected.

Selective herbicides are sold as proprietary products containing variable amounts of active ingredient (a.i.). For some herbicides, the active ingredient is expressed as acid equivalent (a.e.). Although the two terms are not the same, they have a similar meaning for the layman, both being used to distinguish the active ingredient from the ‘carrier’ or solvents in a proprietary product. The proportion of active ingredient varies between products. Thus, if two firms sell weed-killers with the same active ingredient, firm A may formulate its product with 20% a.i. while firm B formulates its product with 30% a.i. Manufacturer’s label recommendations must be followed at all times.

Approved products

All pesticides, including herbicides, currently used must be approved by MAFF; this can be checked by ensuring the product label displays a MAFF number.

Choice of application equipment

Herbicide application by sprayer generally gives the best results for professional users. The spray droplets give good cover, reaching, at least partially, the undersides of leaves and lower parts of the plants, but spray drift may give risks to non-target plants, the operator and the general public.

There is a wide range of spraying equipment available. For comparatively small areas or for spot treatment (putting greens) a knapsack sprayer may be acceptable. For larger areas there are ‘knapsacks on wheels’ or other pedestrian equipment, e.g. Walkover sprayers, while for larger areas, e.g. fairways, tractor-mounted or tractor-drawn models are available. The volume of liquid applied by a sprayer depends partly on the machine itself (eg. pump output), partly on nozzle size, and partly on speed of movement over the ground.

The following are generally accepted definitions of the various volumes of application appropriate to conventional sprayers with nozzles:

- low volume 55 – 225 litre ha\(^{-1}\)
- medium volume 225 – 675 litre ha\(^{-1}\)
- high volume 675 – 1125 litre ha\(^{-1}\)

Details of application volumes for herbicides may be found on product labels and must be strictly followed.

Controlled droplet application (CDA) sprayers based on a spinning disc principle work at very low (11-55 litre ha\(^{-1}\)) or ultra-low volumes (1-11 litre ha\(^{-1}\)).

There are several traditional application methods still in use, eg. wick applicators, fluted rollers, or a watering can with a rose or dribble bar). These methods are generally less efficient than spraying and the product label must be checked to ensure these methods are recommended. For areas containing low populations of weeds only, spot treatment may be appropriate. This is often difficult to achieve with any degree of accuracy in practice.

Checking spraying equipment

Prior to every spraying operation make sure that the application equipment is in good working order and that pressure hoses, joints and unions are watertight. Ensure that the jets and filter screens of spraying machines are clean.

Table: Broad-leaved weeds and their herbicide susceptibility as mature plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>MCPA</th>
<th>2,4-D</th>
<th>Mecoprop</th>
<th>Mecoprop/2,4-D</th>
<th>Ioxynil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creeping buttercup</td>
<td>Ranunculus repens</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbous buttercup</td>
<td>Ranunculus bulbosus</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse-ear chickweed</td>
<td>Ceratita holostoeides</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common chickweed</td>
<td>Stellaria media</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearlwort</td>
<td>Sagina procumbens</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blinks</td>
<td>Montia fontana</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black medick</td>
<td>Medicago lupulina</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suckling clover</td>
<td>Trifolium dubium</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White clover</td>
<td>Trifolium repens</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinquefoil</td>
<td>Potentilla reptans</td>
<td>MR-MS</td>
<td>MR-MS</td>
<td>MR-MS</td>
<td>MR-MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fransley Piert</td>
<td>Aphanes arvensis</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MR-MS</td>
<td>MR-MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep's sorrel</td>
<td>Rumex acetosa</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common sorrel</td>
<td>Rumex acetosa</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curled dock</td>
<td>Rumex crispus</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slender speedwell</td>
<td>Veronica filiformis</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-heal</td>
<td>Prunella vulgaris</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad-leaved plantain</td>
<td>Plantago major</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribwort plantain</td>
<td>Plantago lanceolata</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common ragwort</td>
<td>Senecio jacobaea</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daisy</td>
<td>Bellis perennis</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarrow</td>
<td>Achillea millefolium</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat's ear</td>
<td>Hypochaeris radicata</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse-ear hawkweed</td>
<td>Hieracium pilosella</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dandelion</td>
<td>Taraxacum officinale</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toreador</td>
<td>Juncus bifidus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field woodrush</td>
<td>Luzula campestris</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Herbicides used at full recommended rates according to manufacturers’ instructions.

Key: S = Susceptible, one application kills
MS = Moderately susceptible, one application usually kills, sometimes a second needed
MR = Moderately resistant, two to three applications needed
R = No useful effect
- = No information.
with a beaker under each nozzle and rejecting nozzles from which output differs from average by more than +/- 5%.

The spray boom needs to be positioned so the nozzles are at the correct height from the ground, so that the ‘cones’ or ‘fans’ of spray just overlap when they meet the turf surface. To keep this correct height consistently, make sure that on a 3 or 4 wheel sprayer the boom is level and securely fixed at the right height, and that a 2 wheel sprayer can always reliably be held at the correct distance from the ground (eg. using a chain of just the right length hanging from the boom). The nozzles of hand-held booms on knapsack sprayers or the working height of controlled droplet applicators are even more difficult to keep a consistent height above target level during operation, but unless this is done, calibration will be meaningless and the application rate quite different from what is intended.

Cleanness of spray machines is of paramount importance, especially where one machine is used for many different products. If equipment is shared with other users, it is advisable to wash it out thoroughly both after spraying is complete and also before the next use. Ideally, a separate sprayer should be kept for total herbicides or other similar chemicals, to avoid problems of contamination which damage turf.

**Calibration of equipment**

The first essential of accurate treatment is to know what volume per unit area you will actually be applying when you start work. Otherwise you cannot possibly work out the correct rates of chemical. Establishing this volume per unit area is calibration. Calibration is not a magical process, but it is all important. It must be done afresh every time you spray and must also be done every time equipment is altered or changed, or a change in herbicide product is made.

The volume of liquid applied by a sprayer depends on nozzle size, pressure and travelling speed.

Always wear suitable protective clothing when mixing chemicals. (Refer to product label for details.) Follow any specific instructions given on the label but, as a general rule, add half the required quantity of water, then the chemical, then the remainder of the water (which can be used to rinse out the container in which the chemical was measured). Powder formulations can usually be added to the water and stirred to give a suspension or solution, but it may be necessary to pre-mix the powder by adding a small amount of water to it and mixing thoroughly, to the consistency of a thin cream. This ‘cream’ can then be added to half the quantity of water in the spray tank and topped up in the normal way.

**Patterns of spraying**

Accurate marking of strips is essential to minimise misses or overlaps. If chemicals do not contain a dye, or sprayer wheelings cannot be followed, lines and/or marker pegs should be used or a marker dye added to the spray, particularly on important areas such as golf greens.

For such areas, it is also advisable to spray twice over with a half-strength tank mix, the second time at right angles to the first. This makes misses or overlaps less serious. All spray work using a boom should be done in parallel lines, not curves (to avoid different speeds at the two ends of the boom). Even with single-nozzle equipment, parallel working is more methodical.

**Special points on applying growth regulator herbicides against broad leaved weeds**

**Timing**

Apply any time from spring to early autumn, preferably in fine, warm weather when the soil is moist and growth is vigorous. Late spring is generally considered best. Avoid applying herbicide treatments during hot, dry weather, or in late autumn (when weed control may be good but the turf may not fill in adequately before winter). Heavy rain shortly after application may reduce effectiveness. Wind gives risk of drift, but a slight constant breeze may allow better work than light variable winds. Growth-regulator herbicides act best when both weeds and grass are growing vigorously. Therefore, if the turf normally receives nitrogenous fertilizer, give some a week or two before spraying. Fertiliser/herbicide mixtures may be followed, and a granular herbicide may be washed off by rain more easily than a spray, especially a rain-fast one.

**Mowing before and after spraying**

Turf mown infrequently (every seven to ten days, or more).
A large leaf area of weeds allows maximum herbicide absorption: therefore delay spraying until a few days before a cut. But then make sure not to cut for two to three days, to give time for herbicide absorption before weed leaves are removed by mowing.

Frequently mown turf
Weed growth between cuts will not matter. Some people would advise not to spray freshly cut grass, but many greenkeepers mow fine turf and spray the same day with no apparent damage. Also, there is no need to refrain from mowing to allow herbicide uptake if all weed foliage is below mowing height.

Disposal of clippings
After use of growth-regulator herbicides, the clippings from the first four mowings must not be used directly as a mulch round broad-leaved plants or shrubs but may be incorporated into compost heaps, provided that they remain there for at least six months before the compost is used for broad-leaved plants or shrubs.

After the first four mowings no special precautions are needed.

Grass weeds
The three most common grass weeds found in fine turf are annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*). There are no suitable chemicals available for their control in fine turf and the best way to avoid them is by employing suitable management practices. Removal of grass weeds is possible on a small scale by, for example, hand weeding, plugging or re-turfing.

Certain resistant broad-leaved weeds may require more than one application of herbicide for effective control. Consult the product label for instructions on repeat treatments.

Precautions
Growth-regulators are very powerful and can affect non-target plants even in minute doses. Risks are very real where crops and plants other than grass and cereals are grown in the vicinity of spraying. Do not treat areas of turf near valued plants in flower beds, etc. except on a calm day. If contamination of such plants is suspected, wash them down copiously with clean water. Clean out spraying equipment thoroughly after use.

All herbicides are potentially harmful to the user; follow safety instructions on the product label carefully. Always be careful when measuring out and mixing concentrated herbicides, avoid inhaling the spray, and store and dispose of containers carefully. Always wear minimum protective clothing, i.e. gloves, protective clothing and face mask. Above all, read everything on the label before opening the container. It should be understood that herbicide users are under an obligation to comply with legal requirements governing the usage of such materials and that the instructions included with each product are mandatory, including instructions regarding application rates. Users should be familiar with the FEPA (1985) Part 3: Control of Pesticides Regulations (1986).

The author, Roger Evans, is an advisory agronomist with the Sports Turf Research Institute.

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AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

COMING UP

April 8th: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, Royal York Hotel (immediately adjacent to York Railway Station), York. Commencing at 2.30pm.

April 29th: BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 – Long Ashton GC, Bristol.


July 16th-19th: The Open Championship – Muirfield, Scotland.

August 10th-12th: BIGGA National Golf Tournament – Littlestone GC, Kent.

September 8th-10th: IOG Trade Exhibition – Peterborough, Northants.

September 24th: ISEKI Championships Final – Coventry GC, Warwickshire.

October 12th: TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award – Aldwark Manor, York.

October 14th-15th: Kubota Challenge – The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

October 26th-November 27th: BIGGA Management Courses (five weeks) – Aldwark Manor, York.

November 11th-12th – IOG Scotsurf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh.

November 12th-14th: Golf Course Europe '92 Show – Cannes, France.

December 7th: ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper Award: Finals – Aldwark Manor, York.

KENT
Our Spring Tournament at Darenth Valley on the 6th May will soon be upon us. Hopefully spring will also bring some welcome encouragement for some very tired looking turf. Mild winters may be good for maintaining a golf course's income, but they leave behind some very thin and worn turf. Looking ahead, we don't have a Summer Tournament arranged for this year as we are hosting the BIGGA National Tournament at Littlestone. No doubt more detailed information will appear nearer the time, but I can give you some outline of the format in the hope that we in the Kent section can support this very important event.

The Tournament itself will take place on the 10th, 11th and 12th of August, but a practice round will be available on Sunday the 9th August between 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm, with the registration for the main event taking place during the Sunday evening. As for the social side, we hope to have an informal barbecue in a marquee adjacent to the club house on Monday evening, with the banquet the following evening.

Much of the thanks for the organisation of the event must go to those at Littlestone Golf Club. Malcolm Grand always has this gem of a links course in tip-top order and a special thanks to Littlestone's 1991 Club captain, Brian Evans. It is great that Brian can lend his enthusiasm and organisational abilities to the event, for as some of you may know he is also secretary of the Kent Golf Union and EGU golf development officer for the South East. Perhaps he would rather I forget him as one of the Kent youth selectors many, many, many years ago – about as long ago as the last time I hit a decent shot!

Touching on the subject of club captains, we may have a BIGGA first in that our chairman, Chris Marden, is the captain at West Malling Golf Club this year. He brought his own special slant to the drive-in proceedings at the start of the year by arriving on the tee, in front of the assembled galleries, dressed in overalls, boots, cloth cap and donkey jacket. In one hand he clutching his trusty driver and in the other a large bucket of soil and seed, with which he diligently began to divot the first tee.

To the horror of the ladies present, he then began to strip off – thankfully to reveal more correct golfing attire. He then drew a ball from his pocket (apparently preferring to supply his own as those supplied in the past by supposed friends of the new captain had a habit of exploding!), teed it up and struck a remarkably straight shot some 164 yards. That is a good 164 yards further than I have seen some new captains attempt to drive, but I can't help but wonder that it was a relief he hadn't previously divoted another tee, as this may have only resulted in a drive of some 82 yards! Perhaps the policy of appointing the head greenkeeper to the position of Club captain should become more common practice at all Clubs, for it would surely result in an improvement in the general condition of the course, after exercising the “first decree” – the banning and dis-solution of the green committee!

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH COAST
Members unable to attend the February lecture missed a very entertaining and interesting talk from our editor David White, who spoke of his annual visit to Augusta for the Masters Tournament and showed a number of slides covering the organisation and running of this prestigious event. This was followed by a talk on the Association's magazine, which resulted in a number of questions being voiced and with more bouquets than brickbats going in David's direction. It was pleasing to note that such is David's fame that a few greenkeepers from the Surrey section joined us for the evening.

The next section event is the Spring Tournament, which this year is being held at the Weymouth GC on Thursday, May 28th. The format...
for the competition is a 36 hole medal, though members not wishing to play two rounds can play a single round. A number of trophies are available to various playing categories and the entry fee, which includes all meals, is £11.00.

Further details and all applications to play should be directed to our tournament organiser, Mr. Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8EA. Tel: 0258 861482. Other section tournaments for 1992 are: Summer Tournament, Basingstoke GC, Thursday 6th August, Autumn Tournament, Bulberry Woods GC, Monday 5th October.

Finally, please make every effort to attend Westurf at Long Ashton, Bristol on April 29th. This has become a major regional event for green staff and exhibitors alike and is well worth a visit.

BOB DENNIS

SHEFFIELD

As the first lady secretary, I am slowly finding my feet, though the responsibility is far greater than I expected. My Phase III training at Askham Bryan College is proving invaluable, for BIGGA has grown in size and stature, which in turn leads to more administration. I have drawn up an agreement with my husband: if he puts central heating in the spare bedroom and converts it into an office, he can relax in his lounge without the sound of the typewriter clicking every night. "Agreed!"

I attended my first Regional Board Meeting at Cleckheaton Golf Club on the 12th February, where some very valid points were raised, all of which, I must stress, were in the interest of members and the success of the Association. I must congratulate the regional administrator, Howard McCaddy, on the professional way in which he arranges and administers regional affairs.

GREEN RULES;

The executive director, Neil Thomas, has requested the section secretary to ensure at all times that the dress rule is observed. More important, when visiting a golf Club on a section event or for a ‘courtesy’ round, all members must observe the host Club rules and standards. In addition, please also note that it would be advisable to take a letter of introduction from your own golf Club when requesting a courtesy round at another Club. This will help to identify you and maintain the goodwill that has been built up between greenkeeper and golf Club.

WINTER LECTURES;

The winter lecture at Rotherham GC on April 2nd is scheduled for 2.00pm., and will be a talk on the RULES OF GOLF, delivered by a member of the R&A Rules Committee.

COMPETITIONS;

SPRING TOURNAMENT:11th May Wheatley GC, tee off 2.00pm., ANNUAL TOURNAMENT: 6th July, Buxton High Peak GC 27 hole competition, tee off (morning) 10.30 am (afternoon) 1.30pm. AUTUMN TOURNAMENT: 7th Sept., Sitwell GC, tee off 1.30pm. Please contact the competition secretary, Barry Heaney, for further information. Tel: 0742 884065.

Barry is to be admitted to hospital for surgery and the section send their best wishes to him and his family. Get well soon Barry, we need you.

If any further information is required or I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to phone me on 0298 813374; or write to

15 years there. All section members wish you every success in the future, John.

DEAN & COWNE

As we arrived at Bigbury GC for our February meeting we found the course under a blanket of fog, which locals said would last all day. Nevertheless, 28 golfing members decided to brave the conditions and play for the Avoncrop Amenities Trophy. To their surprise the fog cleared as the first players reached the tee, though delight soon turned into despair as the heavens opened, with many running for cover to the club house and only a few brave souls managed to complete eleven holes before call ing it a day.

During this time our non-golfers were being shown Rhone Poulenc's computer software, which was presented by Shaun Price and Paul Clifton. Many thanks gentleman. To present the Avoncrop Amenities Trophy (and prizes to the brave) was John Palfrey of Avoncrop Amenities, these going to: 1st: C.Rawlings-18 pts 2nd B.Lewer-15 pts 3rd B. Ridgeway-14 pts. Many thanks to John for donating & presenting the prizes to our lucky winners and also our thanks to Graham Davis & his staff, who kept the course playable in such appalling weather.

After an excellent lunch we continued on the theme of computers with course manager Kerran Daly, from Salisbury & South Wilts G.C, presenting his paper on "Computers and Greenkeeping". Kerran must have thought he was back on the coach from Harrogate when water started to drip onto his overhead projector, but to his credit he waded on in fine style and brought home the point that we do not need to be afraid of computers, as those available today are 'user friendly'. He further suggested that we will all be using them in the work place in the near future. Many thanks, Kerran, for a splendid talk and also to Bigbury Golf Club, for allowed nearly sixty members to use their excellent facilities.

Members please note that WESTURF is now only a few days away. You should all have received your free invitation to the show which will be held at Long Ashton GC on Wednesday 29th April. If you haven't received an invitation, please contact me at once.

RICHARD WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA

Well, once again the Harrogate exhibition has come and gone, and it was pleasing to see so many members of our section in attendance at the workshops, seminars and trade exhibition. Let us look forward to next year, and to it being equally enjoyable.

Congratulations to our chairman, John Wells, who will shortly be starting his new appointment as course manager at Brockett Hall. Welwyn Garden City Golf Club must be very sad to lose John, who has, I believe, spent all his working life with them.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Paul Worster to the show. Paul has been with us before on a number of occasions and has always contributed greatly to our programme. We are delighted that he has been invited to attend again this year and we are sure he will have a very enjoyable visit.

In conclusion, I would like to extend a special welcome to our new committee member, Paul Lockett, who has joined us from Leicestershire. Paul has been actively involved in the Mid Anglia Section for many years and we are sure that he will make an important contribution to our affairs.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of this year's exhibition. Without their hard work and dedication, the show would not have been possible. I would particularly like to thank our sponsors, the Mid Anglia Committee, for their generous support and the Mid Anglia Golf Club for their hospitality.

PAUL LOCKETT
WEST DERBY, Liverpool, on Tuesday May 12th.

It's not too late to enter the Spring Tournament at Wollaton Park GC on April 28th: you may ring me for an entry form if you haven't had one already. This competition will again be a qualifier for the ISEKI Tournament in September. There seems to have been a space of injuries to section members over the past few months, so would prospective ISEKI team competitors, especially Roger Williams and Steve Goude, please take extra care, at least until the 28th, or we will end up fielding a team of reserves!

The tournament will take the form of an 18 hole medal round, with the tee available from the section office. Rule 5.11 will let you have full details later.

The section is once again pleased to welcome the following new members: Andrew McGeal of Lingdale GC, David Johnson of Ruddington Grange GC, Edward Mitchell of Springwater GC, and Philip Jennings of Rushcliffe GC. In addition, we welcome back Philip Reefin, also of Rushcliffe GC; and Anthony Burgoine, now at the new Uppingham Castle GC.

Finally, I am in the process of preparing a section name, address and telephone number listing for circulation to all East Midlands members, which should come in useful for arranging matches etc. If, because of past inaccuracies, an antisocial desire for privacy; or for any other reason, you do NOT want to have your details circulated, please give me a ring on 0509 650140.

TONY HOWARTH

AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire section Spring Outing will be held at Irvine Ravenspark GC on April 30th, commencing with coffee and biscuits on arrival and tee-off at around 9am. Please ensure that your entry forms are returned promptly in order that meals and tee times may be booked.

An added incentive this year will be that qualifying to the ISEKI final at Millport in September, and those lucky enough to reach the ISEKI final at Sis is in the chair, examined aeriation techniques and equipment past and present. Two main conclusions seemed to be reached, one being that it is up to greenkeepers to educate players and Club members of the necessity for on-going aeration programmes and ensure careful planning in order to give prior warning of interruption to play. Thanks went to the panel, to Merrist Wood College for the use of their excellent facilities, to David Lusford for his organisation, and to Sis for sponsoring the event.

Our Spring Tournament takes place at Foxhills GC on April 23rd, entrants being reminded that they will be required to produce an Association membership card before playing, and that the ‘one prize per player’ rule applies. A presentation will also be made at Foxhills, this by Huxley’s to the holders and three times winners of the Huxley Bowl, Alex Armitage and Paul Weston.

Finally a plea for section news, which should be conveyed to either Dave Andrews or myself. In a section as large as ours, something must be going on that is worth reporting — so let me know!

ROGER TYDEMAN

MIDLANDS

The recent debate held at Merrist Wood College was a huge success, with over 50 members in attendance. A panel consisting of Jack McMahon of York, David Raftery, with Bill Hargreaves of Sis in the chair, examined aeriation techniques and equipment past and present. Two main conclusions seemed to be reached, one being that it is up to greenkeepers to educate players and Club members of the necessity for on-going aeration programmes and ensure careful planning in order to give prior warning of interruption to play. Thanks went to the panel, to Merrist Wood College for the use of their excellent facilities, to David Lusford for his organisation, and to Sis for sponsoring the event.

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DEAN CLEAVER

SURREY

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ROGER TYDEMAN

EAST ANGLIA

Our first winter lecture for some time was most successful, with over 60 turning out at Purdis Heath at very short notice! Michael Peters did very well at his first attempt at public speaking, addressing us on the subject of irrigation systems and techniques.

Colin Pryce, whose company, Solicare Ltd, both sponsored the event and provided the welcome refreshments, spoke at length on deep soil aeration, followed by Patrick Lucas from Connecticut, USA, who gave a very interesting talk on deep ‘aerification’ and most aspects of American greenkeeping, most noticeably on how sand greens are not all they are cracked up to be! All in all a very worthwhile evening and well done to all concerned and thanks to Purdis Heath GC for the use of facilities.

Club at any future section event – golfing or non golfing – get them in order, or don’t send them at all.

ANDREW PHILLIPS
There is a diary change, with our game at Eaton GC now fixed for SEPTEMBER 23rd - not missed the publication deadline (again-I hear you cry!), sorry, lads.

Man on the move Paul Bertinshaw bids a fond farewell to Royal Norwich after eight years, moving to Delamere Forest in Cheshire. AGM on 17th November. We all wish Paul and his family the very best for a successful future.

Now for the be-all-and-end-all of why farmers don't make good greenkeepers. One of the many fields with 18 flagsticks that have been described as 'golf courses' has an active farmer owner. He has a good head greenkeeper (for now) but over-rides everything the head man suggests. The greenkeeper, fed up with all the arguing, has decided to toe the line and do just what he is told - e.g. scarify and top dress in early February when there is a hard frost in the ground, never close the course, and if it snows the green staff will be laid off without pay! Not surprisingly, this course is going downhill even faster than Eddie the Eagle, and serves to highlight the enormous potential for 'quality' courses when one considers the vast numbers who play these 'mickey mouse' set-ups, simply because there is nowhere else to go.

MICK LATHROPE

SOUTH WALES

First, I must apologise to Celtic Mowers and their managing director, Mr Kim Davies, for not acknowledging in print the recognition they so rightly deserve. As a section we are indebted and thank them for their financial donations throughout 1991 towards both education and the section cup competition, which was played last year for the first time. In my last report, I forgot to give the results of the above competition, played for throughout the season: Huw Morgan won the Matchplay Shield, the first prize of £75.00, and an engraved salver. Phil Swain was runner-up, his behalf to send congratulations and thanks to the staff at HQ for their hard work at Harrogate, which made BTME such a success. 

PHILIP SWAIN

NORTH SCOTLAND

On behalf of the section, I would like to congratulation our own member, Gordon Moir, on his election to the post of chairman of the Scottish Greenkeepers' Association. John Crawford, who has taken over from Harry Diamond as chairman. Harry is a hard act to follow but I'm sure that John will prove a very able replacement. Thanks finally to Harry for all his hard work.

Finally, Hugh Parry, our section chairman and handicap chairman has asked me on his behalf to send our sectional officers and handicap certificates to Harry Diamond as chairman and handicap chairman. Harry is a hard act to follow but I'm sure that John will prove a very able replacement. Thanks finally to Harry for all his hard work.

Milton Keynes Borough Council

TENDER FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKS: STAGE 4

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1988, the Council will be inviting tenders for Grounds Maintenance in parts of the Borough. The work will comprise:

Complete Landscape Maintenance of the Council's two municipal golf courses situated at

1. Windmill Hill, Bletchley and
2. Abbey Hill, Two Mile Ash Milton Keynes.

The works will be of a specialist fine turf nature associated with the maintenance of golf courses.

Specimen Contract documents and indicative plans will be available for inspection from Wednesday 22nd April, 1992.

Applicants wishing to be included on the select tendering list should be of a sufficient size to undertake the work and have a proven history of fine turf maintenance relating to the maintenance of Golf Courses.

Applications for a copy of the questionnaire for Contractors should be made to:

Assistant Director (Services Administration) Milton Keynes Borough Council
PO Box 113 Civic Offices
Saxon Gate East
Milton Keynes MK9 3HN
Telephone (0908) 682454 (Questionnaires) or (0908) 682574 (Appointments).

Completed Questionnaires must be returned to the above address by Friday 15th May 1992.

CHRISTCHURCH

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE DIVISION LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1988

TENDERS FOR GROUND MAINTENANCE

The Council intends to let the following grounds maintenance contracts as two separate packages to run for a period of 5 years from 2 November 1992.

1. Contract No. 1 (General) comprising of wide variety of work to include open spaces and general amenity areas throughout the Borough, allotment gardens, woodlands, highway shrub beds and roundabouts plant containers and the Grounds of Highfield Castle.

2. Contract No. 2 (Sports/Fin Turf) comprising of two individually located Bowling Greens and Hunt Bridge Sports Ground housing Christchurch Football Club, football pitch and high quality cricket pitch. The contracts will be output performance based.

Specifications will be available for inspection on purchase at £50 each by the end of May 1992 at the Civic offices.

Contractors wishing to be considered for inclusion on the select list must write to The Manager: Environment & Leisure Division, Christchurch Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, christchurch, Dorset BH23 1AZ by April 24, 1992.

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GREAT WESTERN GOLF CO. LTD.
CASTLE COMBE GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

FOR PRESTIGIOUS PETER ALLISS/CLIVE CLARK DESIGNED COURSE
CASTLE COMBE WILTSHIRE

The new Castle Combe golf course, set in 200 acres of outstanding natural beauty in the southern Cotswolds, is due to open later this year and aims to become one of the top courses in the country.

Reporting directly to the Chief Executive you will join the senior management team at this exclusive members only club and become responsible for all aspects related to the management of this exceptional 18 hole course, including staff training, budgetary control and equipment specification.

Obviously for a position of this seniority you will need a relevant qualification and a minimum of 3 years senior greenkeeping experience, preferably with a working knowledge of sand greens.

In addition you will need to demonstrate an understanding of computerised irrigation systems and competence in health and safety practices.

A genuine interest in environmental issues is also an essential prerequisite for all candidates.

We can offer an exceptonal salary package for the right individual and applicants should apply giving full personal and career details to:

ANTHONY WALTERS, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
CASTLE COMBE GOLF CLUB, CASTLE COMBE, WILTSHIRE SN14 7PL

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS APRIL 30TH 1992

DOUGLAS GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1910

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Douglas Golf Club requires AN EXPERIENCED HEAD GREENKEEPER. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects relating to the upkeep and maintenance of the 18-Hole Course and Grounds to the highest standards in accordance with an approved Work Plan.

Accommodation available, if required.

Replies with full CV to:

The Manager
Douglas Golf Club
Douglas
Cork
Southern Ireland

By 25th April 1992