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£1200 inc. Drop-On Easi-Link arms and pressure frame.

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A DEDICATED COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
Back to the drawing board

There's more to the planning, design and construction of a workshop than asking a builder to put up a shed, as Michael Bird discovers in the first of a two-part report

Pages 13, 15

Making the figures add up

The men who started their careers as accountants and who now are backing BIGGA........Pages 45, 46

Brought to book

David White flicks through the pages .........Page 7

DEPARTMENTS

Faces and places

Bridlington's new course... new life for open cast mines... new appointments... top awards and just about everything that's going on............Page 4, 5

Letters

ICI explains the costs involved of introducing a new chemical... and Britain's first airborne greenkeeper........................................Page 10

Regular updates from our correspondents. Find out what's going on ..........Pages 46, 48, 49, 58

COVER PICTURE:

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 03473 581.

GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

- Hardi Ltd
- Hayter PLC
- ICI Professional Products
- Jacobsens
- Kubota UK Ltd
- Lely UK Ltd
- Ransomes
- Rigby Taylor Ltd
- Risboro' Turf
- Toro Irrigation

ICI Professional Products' Roger Mossop, left and Ian Harrison, Premier Greenkeeper of the Year
National Education Conference

26–28 March 1993
University of Keele, Staffordshire

For the fifth consecutive year, BIGGA’s National Education conference in the spring will feature a programme of international speakers. The Conference Programme will be available on the BIGGA Stand, C15, at the BTME.

The speakers and their topics are:

- Professor Noel Jackson, The University of Rhode Island, USA: Cool Season Turf Diseases in the USA and the UK
- Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager, Lausanne Golf Club: The Problems Associated with Maintaining a Golf Course at 2,800ft Altitude in Switzerland
- Antony Mears, Course Manager, Dinsdale Spa Golf Club: The Wild Side of Golf
- Dr Peter Hayes, Director, The Sports Turf Research Institute: Re-Building of a Golf Green with a Drainage Carpet Layer and Having it Back in Play in 17 Days
- Gary Grigg, Board of Directors, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America: Current and Future Issues in Golf Course Management
- Severin Schnitz, Course Manager, Golf Club Schloss Myllendonk: How a Personal Computer Can Aid a Course Manager
- Ian Thompson, Course Manager, Wetherby Golf Club: Trees and Tree-Planting for Golf Courses
- Anthony Davies, Course Manager, Prestbury Golf Club: Right or Wrong – I Did It My Way
- George Brown, Course Manager, Turnberry Golf Course: Being Open-Minded
- Gordon Child, BIGGA South West Regional Administrator and Course Manager at Churston Golf Club: Greenkeeping – Past, Present and Future
- Iain Ritchie, Course Manager, Portmarnock Golf Club: Three Years at Portmarnock
- Robert Brame, Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section: Poa Annua: Wherever Did It Come From and How We Manage It

Cutting edge technology will be available as a distance learning course. An HND course is also planned.

Congratulations to Jonathan Gaunt on his admission to Associate membership of the regulatory body for golf course architecture, the British Institute of Golf Course Architects. Jonathan, an exceptionally talented young architect, joins colleagues Steve Marnoch and Ken Moodie in having successfully completed the BIGGA Students Education Programme – a highly technical course which takes a minimum of two years to complete.

The vision of three times Open Champion, Sir Henry Cotton to make golf courses of simpler proportion and open to all members of the family will soon be realised when Bridlington Bay opens for play in May. Course architect Howard Swan, who had the great privilege of working with the late Sir Henry throughout the 1980s, has created two golf courses at Bridlington Bay on the cliff tops, together with a driving range and golf academy.

Both Swan and Cotton shared the same belief that golf is a sport for everyone, and to this end a complex of courses at Bridlington have been created, designed simply and with nature fully in mind. The Sir Henry Cotton Foundation Course – for beginners – has wide open fairways and no bunkers.

Elmwood College recently held its annual awards ceremony, with the greenkeepers pictured having much to smile about. Norman Wood (left), head greenkeeper at Burntisland GC, gained the prize for the best Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) portfolio. Robert Rees (centre), presently working at the college golf course, achieved the award for the best student in the first year of the full-time SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping. Michael Clark (right), head greenkeeper at Aberdeen GC, achieved first place on the Supervisory Management Course.

All three are now continuing their education by attending the first HNC course in Golf Course Management. This is currently a day release option, though from September ’93 it will be available as a distance learning course. An HND course is also planned.

American Turfgrass management, with the greenkeepers pictured having much to smile about. Norman Wood (left), head greenkeeper at Burntisland GC, gained the prize for the best Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) portfolio. Robert Rees (centre), presently working at the college golf course, achieved the award for the best student in the first year of the full-time SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping. Michael Clark (right), head greenkeeper at Aberdeen GC, achieved first place on the Supervisory Management Course.

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industries where efficient supply is of the utmost importance, his appointment seen as a further indication of the company's commitment to the operations side of their business. Mark's position carries responsibility throughout the company for all aspects of supply and distribution.

Maxicrop International is redirecting its five technical reps. to support sales in the amenity sector. The move comes as a result of a 21% increase in volume sales (amenity) in 1992. The reps. who also handle the company's sales activities are: Willie Robertson, Scotland (0343 544551); George Atwood-Harris, N England (0782 515679); John Plant, Midlands & Wales (0630 86524); Eric Coley, E Counties & S England (0359 70450) and Peter Light, SW England (0823 251110).

Clive Carter, sales manager of Turfmech Machinery Ltd., tells me that the company now have new premises, just a few miles from their old location, situated at the New Road Ind. Estate, Hixon, Staffs. Apart from increased office, workshop and machinery space, they now boast a four acre demo area where customers can see Turfmech's range of mowers, stone burniers, vacuums and debris blowers in action. Their new number is 0889 271503.

Linctum Turf have announced the appointment of David Snowden as their new sales manager. David, who hails from Leeds, is finding his feet quickly in the fine turf industry, having a strong horticultural and agricultural background. He has a particular appreciation for turf quality, being a keen golfer as well as a rugby union player for the local club, Otley. David can be contacted on 065261 329.

The John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf Young Greenkeeper of the Year award is a new competition open to all young Irish greenkeepers who have not yet reached head greenkeeping status. This year's winner, BIGGA member Charles Edgar, hails from Portstewart GC, where he is first assistant to Bernard Findlay. Second placed Alan Walsh is Iain Ritchie's star apprentice at Portmarnock and is currently studying at Elmwood, whilst third placed Paul Lappin, Royal Portrush, is being trained by yet another BIGGA man, ex Surrey chairman, Phil Baldock. If all this proves that greenkeeper education and awareness is on the up, it also proves that it is no bad thing to be under the expert guidance of a well qualified BIGGA course manager - our congratulations to them all!

- Picture below shows John Lindsay, left, looking on as Charles Edgar, centre, receives his winning certificate from chairman of Northern Ireland Golf Greenkeepers Association, Joe Millar.
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SEE US ON STAND A48 AT BTME, HARROGATE
A ny book which begins with a dedication – to golf greenkeepers who, through their tireless work, maintain, enhance and conserve a large area of our countryside for the benefit of all – is bound to attract my attention. I equally believe that it will attract readers of this magazine in great numbers. The authors, John Hacker and George Shiels, have produced a fascinating little work entitled *Golf Course Presentation*, purposely to bring to the notice of all greenkeepers the highest importance that should be placed on presenting a golf course to its best advantage. This is essentially a book of guidance and doesn't purport to teach its readers to suck eggs – far from it, it treats the reader as an equal and gives valuable advice on how to get the best from a golf course without ignoring its general health and well-being. Does presentation make a difference, it asks, answering with a categoric YES, it definitely does. The authors maintain that it is the surface finish which stamps the greenkeeper as being someone who cares; producing an extra effort which suggests that today is special – which is a fantastic character and situation, the author states in his introduction, 'are drawn in part, never wholly, from my own personal memory bank. I even appear myself from time to time in various guises. Every story has its twist and the reader is kept in suspense until the last line. Some of the characters and situations, the author states in his introduction, 'are drawn in part, never wholly, from my own personal memory bank. I even appear myself from time to time in various guises. There are no prizes for guessing who's who'.

Leslie Edwards, the author of *The Game That Was Golf* is the elder of two surviving founder members of the Association of Golf Writers. He's what some might describe as an 'ancient', which qualifies him better than most to write first hand about the golfing stars (and characters) of a former era, and his book offers the reader a splendid opportunity to re-live the memories of championships of the past forty or fifty years. The book also gives insight into the world of golf correspondents, men too often decried by fools who aver 'they never left the clubhouse'. Such contributors to the game as Darwin, Longhurst, Crawley and Ward-Thomas are all dealt with comprehensively and as a personal friend of them and of most of the men and women who have covered golf in the past sixty years, the author is able to provide clues as to their character and help explain what gave their writing such compelling appeal. Highly recommended, *The Game That Was Golf* (197pp hardback) is published by Fore Golf Publications, 129a High St. Dovercourt, Harwich CO12 3AX and costs £17.49 post inclusive.

Having written two successful golf books John Behrand has turned his pen to fictional short stories. Culled from a lifetime of golf, which includes captnacy of the R&A and the Royal Liverpool GC, together with playing golf at country level and in national championships, the author has assembled a collection of stories – *St Andrews Night and Other Stories* – which entrance, delight and perhaps also raise a few eyebrows. Every story has its twist and the reader is kept in suspense until the last line. "Some of the characters and situations, the author states in his introduction, 'are drawn in part, never wholly, from my own personal memory bank. I even appear myself from time to time in various guises. There are no prizes for guessing who's who'. St Andrews Night and Other Golfing Stories, (130pp hardback) is published by Grant Books, Victoria Sq., Droitwich. WR9 8DE. and costs £15.50 post inclusive.

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On Tuesday 9 March 1993 the Scottish Region will once again be holding their annual one-day conference.

The venue, as part of the Region's plan to move the conference around the country, will be Oatridge College near Broxburn. In complete contrast to Langside in 1992 which lies in the hustle and bustle of Glasgow, Oatridge is located in the midst of lovely rolling farmland in West Lothian.

Gordon Moir and Cecil George have gathered together an excellent array of speakers including the well known and sometimes controversial Eddie Connaughton and John Philp; and new blood in the form of Jim Grainger, who has suffered and sometimes celebrated in the growing in process at Latham Grange. Alasdair Wellwood and Roy Auld will be looking into the future of aeration and looking backwards at greenkeeping history will be Oatridge College's own Steve Miller.

We'll be kept right up to date with Jon Allbutt and of course David ('Mr Education') Golding.

The entire event is sponsored once again by our Scottish Region patrons and the cost is even less than last year - at £10 for BIGGA members and £12.50 for non-members. Don't miss what should be another interesting and educational day.

BOC Ltd has produced a video to promote the safe use of gas cutting and welding equipment throughout industry.

'Safe under pressure' runs for 18 minutes and carries vital information on the correct procedures for using oxygen and acetylene in cutting and welding. It covers cylinder identification and the properties of the gases, cylinder handling and storage, equipment assembly and lighting up and shut down procedures.

Available from BOC's 75 cylinder centres nationwide, it costs £11 plus VAT.

BOC cylinder centres also offer free safety literature and advice. Call free on 0800 5155661 for your nearest centre.

BOC is a member of The BOC Group, the worldwide gases, health care, vacuum technology and distribution services company which operates in some 60 countries and in 1991 had sales of £2.8billion.

Grass maintenance equipment specialists, ET Breakwell Ltd of Shirley, Solihull, have become the first in their industry to achieve the coveted BS 5750 Part II award. The quality assurance certificate is the result of eight months hard work for the Stratford Road family business, established more than half a century ago. Breakwell's are one of the UK's leading distributors of professional lawnmowers and grass machinery for the maintenance of public amenities such as parks, golf courses and sports grounds.

Europe's largest plant breeder, Force Limagrain, has launched a new range of grass seed mixtures for the amenity sector. Top Green will be marketed under a banner headline promising 'quality, performance and reliability'. The new range comprises 25 mixtures: EuroGolf, EuroSport, EuroSpace for landscaping and utility, EuroClass for domestic lawns, EuroTop for seeded turf production and EuroSpecial, a custom mixture of wild flowers and grasses.

Force Limagrain already markets the range in Europe and Force Limagrain Top Green marketing manager, Stephen Alderton sees great potential for the philosophy in the UK: 'We estimate that the total European turfgrass market is around 55,000t and while the UK uses less than France and Germany at 9,000t, it has the reputation as being the leader as far as quality is concerned. In this respect Top Green is hard to beat'. Top Green will be available next spring.

Details: 0954 61456.

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constructed on heavy clay-based meadowland and is squeezed into just 81 acres, yet he manages to produce consistently good playing surfaces that are a credit to him and his dedicated team. All this on a modest though well documented budget and under the critical eye of a larger than average committee of fourteen and a huge and demanding membership. In addition, Ian is a delightful person with a keen sense of humour, known to be a good friend as well as a good boss to his staff. He masterminds a tight and efficient ship, keeps an immaculate workshop (sparkling enough that you could eat off the bonnet of his tractor, said one first hand observer), and he is a fine ambassador for BIGGA and the education cause. On that front, he gives credit to Frank Newberry and Paul Whiteley, those BIGGA management course wizards, for their clever guidance in bringing out the best in his personal presentations, both written and verbal.

Returning to Roger Mossop’s presentation speech, it was so refreshing to hear him describe Ian Harrison as being ‘not only good for the course but good for the cause’, a sentiment that his colleagues in the Cleveland section will recognise and be proud to echo, for they know Ian as a greenkeeper whose heart is and always has been in his work and in BIGGA.

I watched Ian’s face as he was named the victor, first displaying total disbelief but quickly recovering composure as he declared to an admiring audience that his dear wife Carol should be sharing equally in his happiness. We learned that Ian’s father had died early in 1992 and that his first reaction had been to withdraw from the event. Spurred on by Carol, even though his heart had at times understandably been elsewhere, he declared that the win was ‘theirs’, a joint effort spurred on by a loved one who had supreme faith in him. In talking to Ian afterwards, he declared that winning the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award would be a worthy dedication to the memory of his father.

Of the future, we were delighted to learn that this hugely prestigious award, now moving into its fourth year, is to continue under the patronage and guidance of ICI Professional Products and that once again the search will begin to elect another BIGGA member as ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year – it could be you!
May I respond to the letter that appeared in November from Sandy Brown, Crieff GC., seeking clarification on the pricing of pesticides labelled for golf course use as opposed to horticultural or agricultural uses?

To begin, may I make it quite clear that the chemical industry, like any other, has to run on a sound commercial base. That means covering all the costs of development, registration, production, promotion and staff – and then returning a positive contribution to its directors or shareholders. We are not profiteers as was implied, but companies that seek to survive in an increasingly difficult climate.

The legislation associated with pesticide registration is now so complex and rigid that extensive development trials and efficacy work has to be done for every individual label recommendation; let alone the initial toxicological, ecological, residue and storage tests that have to be undertaken for any pesticide registration. This is a very expensive process.

To explain this in simple terms let us take for example the easiest and cheapest route to introduce a chemical, i.e. an established agricultural product such as a fungicide that has potential in turf.

Costs involved

i) Development programme
  Minimum 3 years of replicated trials which will hopefully give adequate efficacy on a range of turf diseases. Cost of 4 trials = £20K/year
  approx £60,000

ii) Trials clearance (MAFF) permit $1,550

iii) Registration submission
  Preparation of trials protocol, the written submission, letters of access to ingredients, final formulation, writing of label, etc $15,000

iv) MAFF Submission (fixed charge)
  New label usage ..................£2,250

This can take up to three years from submission to receiving approval. The possibility of introducing a new molecule into the amenity sector that is not already registered in the UK for other uses is dictated by the considerable costs involved. A new molecule would require extra support data to the previous example plus an increased registration fee:

Costs involved

i) Toxicological studies
  Human and environmental safety $30,000–50,000
  Residue data ..................approx £10,000–20,000
  The registration fee to the Ministry in this case is a fixed figure of: ..................£53,000
  TOTAL ..................£93,000–£103,000

The registration of a new molecule can take up to six years from submission to approval. The costs involved in developing a new product are therefore considerable, but it does not end there. All the older established products have, by law, been subject to reviews and their data packages updated so registrations could be maintained. The amount of work required will vary but can cost up to £50,000 per product.

Unfortunately the golf/leisure and amenity markets are relatively small and therefore any costs have to be spread over a much lower sales opportunity than experienced in agriculture or horticulture. Customers operating in these sectors must be prepared to pay a premium if they want manufacturers to retain current registration and invest in the registration of new products.

To compound the manufacturers problems of cost, the timescales are also prohibitive. Money has to be invested over a 4-10 year period and at any stage of development the programme may have to stop for a multitude of reasons. Even when a product is launched the threat of competitors is ever present and the opportunity to recoup these costs can be limited.

The information provided here are facts and are the justification for the price differentials that occur. To use chemicals that do not have a specific label recommendation is illegal. If the industry wants the opportunity to use chemicals as a management aid they must accept there is a price to pay in order to provide the necessary data for registration of label recommendation. Failure to accept this position could ultimately mean manufacturers will not invest, and products needed to maintain our courses and public areas will disappear from the market.

Despite these costs and resources involved, ICI Professional Products will continue to be committed to providing high quality products to the UK golf market.

ROGER M MOSSOP
Marketing Manager, ICI Professional Products.
Haslemere, Surrey

I read with great interest (Faces & Places, November) that Robert Brewer had attained his Private Pilot's Licence – well done Robert. Is he Britain's first airborne greenkeeper, you ask?

Discounting the many apprentices that have become airborne off the end of some crabbit auld greenkeeper's boot, we at Tulliallan Golf Club must deny Robert this title. Some four years ago whilst first assistant at Tulliallan, Kenneth Turnbull (then aged 26) gained his Pilot's Licence. Friend and fellow assistant Kenny Thomson can attest to his skill in that he has twice flown with Kenneth and returned to tell the tale. This is more than can be said for a certain trade sales manager, who has managed to side-step all Kenneth's invitations to 'come fly with me'.

Unfortunately Kenneth decided the glamour of greenkeeping was not enough and is now a member of London's finest - the Metropolitan Police. So look out Robert, don't go speeding in the skies or you may get picked up by Kenneth Turnball, one of Tulliallan's claims to fame in having been Britain's first airborne greenkeeper.

Incidentally, both Robert and Kenneth worked at Stirling Golf Club, albeit at different times.

ELLIOTT R SMALL
Head Greenkeeper, Tulliallan GC, Scotland