TURF IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS

We supply:

- Manual or automatic pop up installations
- Mobile or static sprinklers
- Subterranean porous hose systems

Irrigation for:

- Golf Courses
- Bowling Greens
- Football Pitches
- Cricket Squares
- Riding Areas
- Public Amenities and Gardens

We offer full Design, Installation and After Sales Service

FOR ADVICE AND NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

Hortech Systems Ltd,
Hallgate, Holbeach,
Spalding, Lincs PE12 7LG
Tel: 0406 426513

* Tomorrow's Technology Today *

COMPACATION? POOR DRAINAGE? POOR GROWTH?

Are you experiencing any of these problems with your SPORTS FIELD, GREENS, CRICKET SQUARES, LANDSCAPES, TREES?

Call for the TERRALIFT
Use the TERRALIFT SUB-SOIL RESTRUCTURING SERVICE

The TERRALIFT also incorporates soil conditioners and root feeds trees. The probe can reach 1m or 1.5m depths.

SOILCARE

C & P SOILCARE LIMITED, UNIT 3,
BUSH FARM, NEDGING, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.
TELEPHONE/FAX: 0449 741012

Recommendations, demonstrations and free site visits available.

Netlon Advanced Turf Systems, Netlon Limited, Kelly Street, Blackburn, England BB2 4PJ
Telephone: +44 (0)254 262431
Fax: +44 (0)254 694302

Netlon is the registered trade mark of Netlon Limited in the UK, the USA & other countries.
Netlon Advanced Turf is patented in the UK, the USA & other countries.

Turf grass scientists created a term to describe the unique mechanism they identified whilst examining the performance of Netlon Advanced Turf plots.

Self-cultivation (n. the effect of small polypropylene mesh pieces as they flex within a free-draining rootzone material to create and maintain voids and to resist soil compaction. The mechanism takes place as the surface is compressed during play, maintenance or by other activities.

Maintaining health and minimising damage

You will not find the term self-cultivation in any dictionaries at the moment, but you will find evidence of its effect on tees, greens and paths. There will be deeper root penetration, higher infiltration, greater divot resistance and faster recovery rates due to the stability and root anchoring provided by the elements.

Telephone Emma Burns on 0800 585012 if you would like more information about Netlon Advanced Turf or return the coupon.
Some did more than others

£12,500 from the independent guy. He said he would fit whatever controller I wanted – either one from the big companies or one from a smaller company I’d never heard of.

Control panels
Some did more than others, but in general they all did the same thing. With the constant updating of panels, I realised that whatever I bought would be out of date by next year. The fact that a company had produced a brand-new control panel tended to put me off because although they were a big name, that panel was no more tested than some of the smaller names. I did a phone round of greenkeepers to find out what they used and what they knew. I went down to Worthing Golf Club to look at Watermation, I knew the Wright Rain one from my days at Ham Manor, although they had just brought out a new one that is completely different. I had a friend who had a Toro system, although not the one I was interested in. And then cost came into it. I had to balance up what I felt was giving us best value for money.

The installer then pointed me in the direction of another little company in Littlehampton. He said he’d only fitted one of their units but it’s a superb little controller. The company was HHI Electronics, who normally make controllers for nurseries and horticultural applications but have one model suitable for golf courses. I hadn’t heard of this company before so I got a few references and went down and spoke to them. I got the man who designed the controller to show me how it works. It’s a no-frills unit with some great little features, very versatile and they haven’t had any problems with the decoders.

So, in four years time, we’ll have a watering system that will be functional for a small 18-hole golf course. It won’t be state of art, it won’t have all the gimmicks, but it should do the job. I’ve researched it thoroughly (over six months), but whether I’ve made the right decisions or not, only time will tell. I’m waiting for the weather to break to start installing the system. Since the course is on clay, I don’t want heavy plant driving around when it’s wet.

In fact, it hasn’t stopped raining since we got our proposals passed!

Ifield Golf and Country Club is a fairly standard 18-hole parkland course with a membership of 800-900. It is two and a half miles from Gatwick Airport so, with a large number of shift workers in the area, play on the course is quite heavy. Built on solid clay, the course has changed little during its 60-year history.

Four more head greenkeepers talk about irrigation, amongst other things, on Pages 47-48.

Super Mosstox is as effective on turf as it is on hard surfaces (and as gentle)

SUPER MOSSTOX is a liquid Mosskiller that can be used on fine turf and hard surfaces, wherever moss is a problem.

Controlling moss and spores, SUPER MOSSTOX is easy to use, effective, yet kind to both turf and hard surfaces, such as synthetic sports pitches, car parks or stonework.

SUPER MOSSTOX may be used at any time when the conditions are moist.

Rhône Poulenc Environmental Products, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW Tel: 0277 301301 Fax: 0277 301119

SUPER MOSSTOX CONTAINS DICHLOROPHEN. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.
MIDLANDS
I would like to start by thanking ET Breakwell for their kind sponsorship of the Rose Bowl and to congratulate them on becoming Gold Key members for 1994. Well done, Len!

It was nice to see so many of our members at Harrogate, with many of them staying for the whole show. The show continues to grow both in size and support, which makes us all, I'm sure, proud to be members. Many thanks to our staff at HQ for their hard work and commitment in producing the show. While at the show I met our new editor, Chris Boiling, who seemed full of enthusiasm for the job in hand.

Our first lecture of the winter – in February – attracted 25 members, who heard two speakers: one from Dowlenco and another from the NRA. Our thanks to David and John.

Dates to remember: March 25 – Lecture on Hardi sprayers and Bob Pilsbury on diesel engines, Telford GC, starting 2pm; April 6 – Spring Tournament, Trentham Park GC.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH EAST
Once again the BTME at Harrogate was a huge success and it was good to see quite a lot of greenkeepers ranging from YTS to head greenkeepers from the North East. Only one of them attended any of the workshops – well done Mal Latham, at least he is trying. Believe me, they are worth the money.

Bumped into Tony Chambers of Shorts of Whitburn on behalf of the section – get well soon, Tony.

Golf dates: April 14 – Spring Competition, South Moor GC; July 20 N/E v Secretaries, Seaham GC; September – Autumn Comp, TBA; October 6 – N/E v East Lothian, Westerhope GC; Match v Cleveland TBA.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

EVENTS DIARY
April 8-10: National Education Conference, University of Warwick
April 27: Westurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol
June 8-9: BALI Trade Show, Stoneleigh
June 29: Southturf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park, south west London
July 14-17: Open Championship, Turnberry
August 1-3: National Tournament, Dartmouth Golf Club, Devon
September 6-8: Saltex (previously ICG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire
September 22: Hayter Challenge Final, Paranal Golf Club, Harrogate
November (to be confirmed): Scotsurf
January 25-27, 1995: BTME ’95, Harrogate International Centre

SHEFFIELD
Firstly, this month I would like to, on behalf of the section, congratulate Barry Heaney on becoming vice chairman of BIGGA. Barry takes over on April 8 at the National Conference, and he becomes chairman of the Association next year. This is a great honour for Barry and for the Sheffield Section, and I hope we can give Barry all the support he needs.

Our winter lecture in February was given by John Souter of Souter’s Sportsurf. John delivered his lecture to a packed meeting which was good to see, I hope we can keep the numbers up. John’s lecture was superb and one of the best we’ve had, we thank him for his time and his interesting, informative and sometimes lighthearted lecture.

Two of our golf fixtures have now been arranged for 1994, they are at Workspop Golf Club on April 26, which will also be the Hayter Qualifier. Our Annual Tournament (27 holes) will be at Tankersley Park GC on July 14. This brings me on to wishing Ron Graham of Tankersley a speedy recovery after his accident at work and also to Ian Lilley of Lindrick GC who is recovering after an operation.

Congratulations go to Ian Whitehead on becoming deputy head greenkeeper at Hillborough GC and also to Mike Coultas who has now joined Dave Chapple at Boundhay Golf and Country Club as Dave’s deputy. I understand from David that construction at Boundhay has got off to a slow start but things are now in full swing. I’m sure we all look forward to playing it in the future.

On February 16, 26 members of the section went on a trip to the John Deere factory at Langar near Nottingham. We would like to thank Steve Jeffcock, Paul Beckett and Peter Chambers of Mitchells for organising the visit and to Howard Storey, Richard Charlton and Ivan Miller of John Deere for looking after us so well with an interesting insight into the workings of John Deere and an excellent lunch – thank you once again.

Finally, I would like to welcome John Coleman, James Hall, Paul Smith, Ryan Binns, Andrew Chapman, Andrew Hadin, Paul Green, Jonathan Shaw and David Sulley who are all new members to our section. I’m sure you all will be made welcome and we look forward to seeing you all at our winter lectures and golf meetings.

IAN COLLETT

EAST MIDLANDS
Congratulations go to David Sankey on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Grimsby GC. David was formerly assistant at the Leicestershire GC.

This year’s golf tournament dates have been arranged:
April 29 – Spring Outing and Hayter Qualifier, Sherwood Forest GC; September 28 – Autumn Outing, Welllington GC, Northamptonshire; November 16 – AGM Tournament, Ullenhope Court GC, Leicestershire; December 14 – Christmas Tournament, Birstall GC, Leicestershire. All members should be receiving their entry forms shortly, please try to return them to me as soon as possible.

This month we welcome the following new members to our section: Mark Reeves, Charnwood Forest GC; Nick Howe, student, Brackenhurst College; David James, student; Nick Danvers, associate/company, Hewitt’s Sportsurf; Garry Jukes, Lutterworth GC; Peter Walker, Lacey Manor.

With the National Education Conference not too far away, let’s hope to see as many members as possible from our section supporting this important event.

ANTHONY BINDLEY

SOUTH WEST
Who’d manage sportsurf? That question must have been on many people’s minds after the
rainfall we have been blessed with over the winter. Several inches of rain over short periods has disrupted many winter course programmes and restricted playing. Filton was no exception with large areas of instant water featuring overnight. It pleased only the local seagulls who on numerous occasions could be seen paddling around the 16th fairway.

On a brighter note, the Spring Tournament is the regional qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament which will be held on Thursday April 21 at Chippenham GC. Application forms will soon be dropping through your letter boxes to register for this and other events. I look forward to meeting you then and throughout the season.

The following week it’s Westurf. Its success in the last few years has been quite outstanding but it needs your support to continue to do this, so make the effort and bring someone interested in turfcare with you. We will also need some assistance in its organisation, particularly in the car park and on the entrance, so if you can spare some time please contact me at home on 0272 793127.

Anyone interested in playing in the match on June 28 at Clevedon GC against the secretaries can be seen paddling around the 16th fairway. It’s the regional qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament will be held on Thursday April 21 at Chippenham GC. Application forms will soon be dropping through your letter boxes to register for this and other events. I look forward to meeting you then and throughout the season.

The evening entertainment was very enjoyable and well worth the late nights.

Our first golf event of the year is April 18 at Porters Park GC. The Hayter qualifier will be the main event but various prizes will be up for grabs. Entry forms will be with you this month but do not hesitate to call me if you have not received one. Finally, will anyone interested in becoming an NVQ assessor for the industry please contact David Golding at the GTC headquarters.

NORTH SCOTLAND

Only ten months until BTME ‘95, Yes, this year’s was that good. The whole week was excellent. The ‘Evening Gang’ is growing bigger each year. Soon there will not be a restaurant big enough to accommodate us all at once!

What a place Harrogate is for pubs with 12-hour Happy Hours and a pizza restaurant letting you eat as much as you can for £2.25! Entertainment was first class, if you missed the Paterson and White trick involving a jacket, an overhead fan and a pint of lager, then I feel sorry for you, although not as sorry as the poor bloke who finished up wearing the pint.

The workshop I attended on health and safety will keep me busy all year. Thanks to Jon Albutt for a very informative two days. The show was so big this year, I just wish more Scottish firms were in attendance; I’m sure it would be worthwhile. The seminar programme was first class and congratulations to all the speakers. The new BIGGA staff were all very friendly and helpful and I wish them a long association with us.

Congratulations to Colin Mackay of Cruden Bay for winning the BTME competition in the magazine, I am sure he enjoyed his week. To anyone who has not been to BTME yet, I advise you to get yourself there next year, combine some work with a lot of fun and a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. I am sure the National Conference next month will be just as good and there is always Turr- berry in July.

No new members to welcome this month so come on – get recruiting, you could win airline tickets for a holiday. All you need for the chance to win is to recruit two new members and get them to say that you recommended them. It is as easy as that.
FIRST CHOICE IN SCOTLAND FOR VERTI-DRAINING

SPORTS TURF SERVICES CONTRACTING

NEWBRIDGE MIDLOTHIAN EH28 8LE
FAX 031-333-5311 TEL 031-333-2345

THOMAS SHERRIFF & CO LTD
Groundcare Division

Main dealers for John Deere professional and domestic products for the Lothians and Borders.

- Walk behind commercial and domestic mowers
- Lawn and garden tractors
- Compact tractors
- 2 and 4 wheel drive front mowers
- All terrain utility vehicles
- Professional self-propelled turf mowers
- Hydraulic gang mowers
- Triple greensmower
- Professional utility mower
- Bunker and field rake

For information on these or any other John Deere products contact
DREW HARKNESS on Haddington (062 082) 6614
or JOHN ARMSTRONG on Berwick-on-Tweed (0289) 306697

Lightweight, Breathable, Waterproof

GOLF SUITS

Now you can keep warm and dry AND look smart on the golf course with the NEW BIGGA golf suit!

Supplied in navy blue with a stylish jacquard pattern, the suit comprises jacket and trousers made from a soft, supple and waterproof material. Manufacturers Walrus have got together with BIGGA to supply these quality suits for a special price of just £79.95. An embroidered BIGGA logo is featured on the arm and leg. All seams are stitched and heat taped to guarantee the garment being waterproofed. What’s more, a ‘breathability factor’ of 70% keeps you cosy whatever the weather!

Please rush me (quantity) of the new BIGGA Golf Suits at £79.95 including post and packing. Sizes available: Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large.

Name:
Address:
Post Code:

Clip this coupon and post with your cheque made payable to BIGGA, to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aire, York YO6 2NF. Write the details on a separate sheet if you don't want to cut up your magazine.
NORTH WALES
For those of you who attended BTME, I trust you enjoyed yourselves and those that stayed. The competition was fierce with darts, dominoes, bowls, pool and snooker being the popular games night. For the West of Scotland section games night. It was good to see a few more South Coast members at BTME this year. We ran a minibus to Bristol to connect with the main coach to Harrogate. Nine South Coast members travelled on the regional coach – five more than last year, but still leaving room for more. What about a coach from the South Coast next year! BTME is a great show and super social event so make a note in your diaries for next year.

Our thanks go to Gordon and Marion Child who do so much of the organising work. Without them our region would not be in the position it is. It is hoped there will be a coach to Westurf this year paid for by section funds. This is the most important event of the year for the South West and South Wales region and helps keep us financially secure so that we can offer such a good deal on the trip to BTME. All bookings to your chairman, Ken Lodge (tel: 0329 282362).

April 21 is the date of our spring tournament at Trenance GC. Call the organiser, Bob Cully on 0489 782976.

ALAN MITCHELL

MID ANGLIA
The section's first lecture of the year, at the Family Golf Centre, Stevenage, featured Guy Longshaw of Symbio. He spoke in some depth about a new product called Green Circle, which is applied to greens. It's basically a mineral with micro-organisms attached to it which are able to the plant. The benefits in the short term are less incidence of disease and good colour and, in the long term, a reduction in fertiliser needs. This is an undoubted success. It was pleasing to see so many section members attending. Harrogate is an excellent venue for such an event and I hope it will stay there in the future.

Next month – April 27 – sees our first golf event. It was good to see a few more South Coast members at BTME this year. We ran a minibus to Bristol to connect with the main coach to Harrogate. Nine South Coast members travelled on the regional coach – five more than last year, but still leaving room for more. What about a coach from the South Coast next year! BTME is a great show and super social event so make a note in your diaries for next year.

Our thanks go to Gordon and Marion Child who do so much of the organising work. Without them our region would not be in the position it is. It is hoped there will be a coach to Westurf this year paid for by section funds. This is the most important event of the year for the South West and South Wales region and helps keep us financially secure so that we can offer such a good deal on the trip to BTME. All bookings to your chairman, Ken Lodge (tel: 0329 282362).

April 21 is the date of our spring tournament at Trenance GC. Call the organiser, Bob Cully on 0489 782976.

ALAN MITCHELL
fixture at Harpenden Golf Club. This will be a qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge. Entry forms should be with you by now for all upcoming events, and please note that the cost is £20. As the cost was £17 for the last three years, the committee felt a rise was due, so the day can pay for itself without the need for subsidisation. Entry forms should be sent to Chris Brook with a cheque by Wednesday April 13. If anyone has any queries, call me on 0582 490746 (work) or 0525 402550 (home)

PAUL LOCKETT

CLEVELAND

Envirogreen provide a service for the collection and disposal of empty pesticide containers, in a legal manner. This protects the greenkeeper at Eaglescliffe GC. During all these years our agronomists have been STRI whom I would not like to be without. This is a wonderful service for our benefit. We get an annual visit followed with a detailed report of findings to help us. They will also do soil tests, pH tests and if we need top dressing, root zone or sand testing for particle sizes this can also be done. Diseased turf can be examined and identified so we can use the right treatment. Subscription to the STRI is good value.

Gary Munro, our secretary, is working on future events including the Spring Tournament/Hayter Qualifier on May 19 at Dinsdale Spa GC

Members will be visiting the new Gem Top Dressing base in South Yorkshire and to Jacobsen in Kent.

BRUCE BURNELL

SURREY

Our Spring Meeting at Malden GC is not far off – April 20. After that it’s the Cresta Cup at Laleham GC on June 1. We may even see some new faces.

Please make sure all entries are in on time and remember, entry forms are only available from the section secretary.

Congratulations to David Paterson, formerly of Abridge GC in Essex, upon his appointment as deputy greenkeeper at Great Park GC under Eric Green. Welcome to Surrey.

DAVID GIBBS

SOUTH WALES

Firstly, I’d like to thank Richard Minton of ICI (or is it Zeneca?) for presenting last month’s evening lecture/slide show at Pencoed College. The subject was the history and use of chemicals on sports turf.

We were indeed lucky to have Richard, let alone the 20 or so in attendance taking into consideration the weather conditions. But the evening was enjoyable and indeed educational and I thank all of those who were present.

Our first GTC-approved, newly-formed liaison meeting held at Pencoed College was deemed a success by all those in attendance and is definitely a step in the right direction for greenkeeper education in South Wales. On a personal note, I look forward to developing a closer working relationship with the WGU, GTC and the secretaries in the very near future.

The seventh BTME and seminar programme was again seen as a total success for the greenkeeping industry as a whole. Many of the exhibitors at I spoke with were busy for the whole three days with no let up at all and had no doubt that the show was busier than last year.

The seminar subjects were varied with topics ranging from the humorous ‘How to get your way at work’ to the hilarious ‘Light at the end of the tunnel’, to the more serious educational ‘The history of golf and greenkeeping’.

Gordon and Marion Child must again be congratulated for their efforts in organising the Westurf-sponsored trip for it was thoroughly enjoyable and extremely well organised.

Colin Murphy has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks to all those who not only attended the funeral of his late wife but to all those who sent cards, flowers and kind regards.

Dates for your diary: April 13 – South Wales Seminar; April 20 – Hayter Qualifier, Newport GC; April 27 – Westurf, Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Hopefully the worst of the winter is behind us now and we can look forward to better weather as the days lengthen. We ‘tee off’ this season’s events with the Spring Tournament at Monifieth Links on Tuesday April 26. This is also the section qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament and a large entry is anticipated, please return your forms (with the correct remittance) in plenty of time. No form, no fee = no play.

Another social night is being arranged for the G-X Superbowl in Falkirk. Entry forms should reach you soon. This is a great night if you enjoy a laugh as there are no ‘experts’, so bring along your partner or just come yourself and meet other members away from work.

Are you interested in attending courses on health and safety, first aid, chainsaws, COSHH Regulations etc. if your committee organises them for you? If so, please complete the form enclosed with your golf tournament entry form and if enough members are interested courses will be arranged for later in the year.

Having attended the BTME at Harrogate, it was pleasing to see so many Central Section members there, everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves with those who were there for the first time attending the seminars during the day and then being ‘educated’ on Harrogate’s nightlife by the ‘Auld Hands’ in the evening. Who’s booked up for next year?

Best wishes from everyone in the section go to the Association’s former educator, Debbie Savage, who has moved to Cambridgeshire.

Here’s wishing you every success and happiness. Keep in touch!

JOHN CRAWFORD

BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

Many thanks to Mark Chesman for organising our winter lecture programme – they were very much appreciated by all.

Mark is currently getting to grips with next year’s programme and would be only too pleased to hear any of your ideas. Please contact me on 0628 829208 and I will put you in touch with him.

Another big thank you to Mark Barthelmie of Risborough Turf Supplies who generously sponsored all the trainees for the section coach trip to Harrogate. In all, 18 members of the section travelled to Harrogate and although it was a long day they all enjoyed it.

Forthcoming events: March 16 – Gentlemen’s dinner, Beaconsfield GC; May – Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier, Mill Ride GC.

RAY CLARK

EAST OF ENGLAND

For the first time, the section’s AGM was held in conjunction with a golf competition, which was sponsored by John Deere and took place at Sleaford GC.

A thoroughly enjoyable day’s golf was had, with 20 players venturing out on a remarkably dry day and superbly presented course. The format of the day was greensomes with a draw for partners. The worthy winners were Mike Feeney and Ted Lailey. A special mention for John, the greenkeeper at Sleaford, for expertly guiding us round the last three holes in darkness!

Out thanks to John Scoyne and all his staff, the course was a treat to play, especially after all the rain we had during December. Thanks also go to the captain and vice-captain who joined both for the golf and evening meal.

Next followed the AGM where there were a few changes made to the section committee due to members standing down.

Our chairman, Graeme Patrick, handed over the chair to Dave Walden. Our thanks go to Graeme for all the hard work he has done for the section. After the AGM, your committee is as follows: Chairman – Dave Walden; Vice-Chairman – Gary Munro; Secretary – Mike Finney; Treasurer – John Scoyne; members – Barry Anderson, Ian Morton, Mike Wood.

Finally, it was good to see a few section members at BTME and I would suggest that any member who has not been to the exhibition make an effort to attend in ‘95 because it is by far the best show for greenkeepers.

MIKE FEENEEY

No names, no pack drill

So you missed Harrogate this year, but you’re thinking of going in ‘95. Want to know what a trip to the BTME is really like? A south-west greenkeeper reveals all (except for the names, to protect the guilty)...

6.30am: A dark grey morning but spirits light and sunny as the car speeds towards our first destination. “Left, right, right at the roundabout,” the driver needs very explicit instructions or we will end up taking the scenic route.

First stop – a large cholesterol breakfast, a few cups of coffee and a lot of conjecture over the trip. Back into the car, more instructions to the driver, and on to the coach pick-up point...

First ones there for a change. Other greenkeepers arrive in dribs and drabs from all points of the compass. Banter and greetings. The coach arrives on time, another first, we all load suitcases and climb aboard. We greet the other travellers and settle down for the next stage of the journey.

With talk of the AGM and reps’ fat wallets,
the time passes quickly as we speed on to our next stop. "45 minutes break," shouts the driver so we rush en masse to the toilets. More coffee and cakes then we meet up with the last lot of travellers to board the coach. ("That chap from Wales has brought his wife and the ex chairman has brought his too.") We are accustomed to one female on our trip, but this is stretching greenkeepers’ hospitality too far! But who am I to complain? Would I? Moi?

A desperate situation – we are one short. Count again. One person is meeting us at journeys end. No, we are still one short. Wait a minute, we forgot to count the driver. Onwards ever onwards we travel, banter, boiled sweets and fun.

One more stop for toilets and coffee, then into the “Father-Land”. Cooling towers, coal mines and slag heaps.

We arrive on time with no mishaps and pile into the hotel. Nice hot shower, a change of clothes and down to the bar.

Talk and drink, drink and talk ("Look, there’s the new rep on the trip, looks very smart in his suit and shiny shoes.") We tighten his wallet with profuse thanks for his hospitality.

Out into the damp and drizzle, 15 hungry people in search of food. We sit around one big table and eat, drink and laugh. On again to find a bar. More drinks, more chat. Back to the hotel to meet up with all the others, some go to a bar. More drinks, more chat. Back to the hotel where some fool told jokes and drank too much.

We arrive on time with no mishaps and pile into the hotel. Nice hot shower, a change of clothes and down to the bar.

Talk and drink, drink and talk ("Look, there’s the new rep on the trip, looks very smart in his suit and shiny shoes.") We tighten his wallet with profuse thanks for his hospitality.

Out into the damp and drizzle, 15 hungry people in search of food. We sit around one big table and eat, drink and laugh. On again to find a bar. More drinks, more chat. Back to the hotel to meet up with all the others, some go to a bar. More drinks, more chat. Back to the hotel where some fool told jokes and drank too much.

Around the Green

more do you need? The National Conference maybe?

Machines from all over the world. The large and small. The good and not so good. All vying to get your custom. The chemicals and fertilisers. When will one of the manufacturers come up with a survival kit for this week’s entertainment?

A good evening meal with 20-ish in the party. Plenty of drinks to wash down some good steaks. Some off dancing and some return to the hotel for more meaningful dialogue and the odd drink.

The next morning produces some funny heads and funny eyes. Breakfast is taken by some but not others, then off to the show again.

The last talk of the day was the highlight of the week. When he asked if anyone had tried to find an underground drain with a bent coat hanger, I thought, "I’ve been there". You could say I was hooked. What a talk, excellent.

Back to the hotel to wash and change then back to the show for some of us. Well I enjoyed myself and, despite having to ask people to be quiet during the entertainment, had a very pleasant evening. Then it was back to the hotel where some fool told jokes and drank too much.

Breakfast was a fragile affair for quite a few. Some did not even make it. Bags packed and loaded onto the coach. A steady walk to the show, gently does it. But looking around, I’m not the only one.

"Be on the coach outside the halls by 12 noon" was the instruction. So, zombie-like, we did as we were told. But there is always one – we had a right one. By 12.15, he who must be obeyed is telling the driver to move off. But she who will be obeyed overruled this and went in search of the lost soul. Needless to say, it was the tall rep of a firm near Bristol who got sheepherded onto the coach amid catcalls and jeers.

A stop at Tamworth was much needed, by me anyway, and after some food I felt my usual self again. She who will be obeyed was thanked at this point for all her hard work and was presented with a bunch of flowers by our Welsh friend.

Our next stop was just outside Bristol. Here we deposited some of our fellow travellers, and said our goodbyes and vowed to meet again next year. More tea, then on once more.

We dropped one chap at another services. He was the one who stayed up for two nights drinking and never used his bed thinking he could get a discount on his bill.

The next stop is where I get out with my lift. We say goodbye and walk to our cars only to find that two of them have been broken into, thankfully nothing has been taken.

More explicit instructions for the driver and we are on the right road for home. A final stop for a big roast meal at a transport cafe. We count up how much we have spent. How much? Roll on next year.
With 5,162 members in 1993, the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association has continued its impressive growth into a powerful, professional and influential body within golf.

Refer to the information starting on Page 23 in November's Greenkeeper International to discover how you will benefit from being a member in 1994.

With the strength of a professional Association behind you, plenty of encouragement to do better in your career and someone to fight on your behalf if necessary, you're doing the right thing by joining BIGGA.

Complete the postpaid card facing this page for more details and an application form.
Many greenkeepers make the mistake of selecting grass seed mixtures on the basis of price. This is not surprising when you consider the budgets that most greenkeepers are working with and the pressures put on them by their golf clubs. Yes, even with things that are as essential as grass seed.

The trouble is a cheap grass seed mixture leads to a bad sward, more maintenance (and associated costs), it requires more water and fertiliser and earlier overseeding – which shows that, in the end, quality pays off and can actually save money.

The 1994 turfgrass seed booklet from the Sports Turf Research Institute shows that the difference in quality between the top varieties and the average of each major list is huge. (Figure 1).

This means that you can increase the quality of the sward by over 30 per cent by using varieties which are proven to be better.

More and more greenkeepers are realising this, as there has been a significant increase recently in the demand in the UK for quality varieties (and British Seed Houses says there may well be a shortage of the better cultivars of perennial ryegrass by the end of the year). This increasing demand for better quality seed mixtures is not just coming from greenkeepers renovating/overseeding their greens, tees and fairways, but also from turf producers who are being asked by greenkeepers for ever higher quality turf.

Higher quality varieties are needed as greenkeepers are confronted with more complicated influences: heavily polluted soils, low maintenance requirements, environmental laws, saline conditions and extreme wear conditions for greens and tees. All of these problems highlight the need for accurate information in order to match specification to demand.

Therefore, ongoing discussions between the leading breeders and greenkeepers, architects, and agronomists is essential and enables breeders to collect and breed varieties which are tailor-made for golf courses.

One example of this is a new species that has entered the world of turfgrasses recently and is being hailed as a breakthrough in breeding. The species is crested hair-grass (koeleria cristata). At Barenbrug we are calling our variety Barkoel.

The original breeding stock was found by chance on an old golf course. Despite drought conditions and infertile soil, certain very attractive, green grassplants were found to be thriving whilst others suffered. These were crested hair-grass, a grassplant common to many dry and sandy areas. A major programme of breeding and development followed, finally resulting in a uniform and stable variety which provides an extremely dense turf and very fine leaves which maintain an attractive green colour under the worst conditions. It has outstanding drought tolerance and remarkable disease resistance and can withstand very close mowing (under 20mm).

At Barenbrug, intensive testing has proved that Barkoel is best suited for fairways and (semi) rough when used with other species like red fescue and brown-