From Gloucestershire to Tunisia and back again

Dealing with contrasting sites and contrasting problems, how does a golf architect make the most of the golfing opportunities without ruining the varied environments in which he works?
Noel Forester reports

One can only imagine about the life of a golf architect and the requirement to perform when under the influence of lag, not so much induced by jet or time but by local environments.

A respected golf architect plies his trade far and wide and deals with any number of conflicting and contrasting problems as he wrestles with several different projects at any one time.

How easy it must be to jump to an all too hasty decision when standing on the windswept heights of the Cotswolds, following hard upon a flight back from Tunisia. What might there possibly be in common between the island of Djerba off the coast of southern Tunisia and the cornfields at Minchinhampton in Gloucestershire apart from them both tending to test the limits of the thermometer?

It cannot be easy to cast aside those extremes of climate when the summer temperatures on Djerba – Homer’s island of the Lotus Eaters incidentally – can soar into the not altogether soporific 40s while the opening day in May at the new Cherrington course at Minchinhampton struggled to reach five degrees. How can an architect cope with the huge demands these extremes place not only on himself but on the grass. After all the golfer has a choice about whether to brave the elements but the grass had no such luxury.

If you continue to peel away the onion-skins of the Djerba and Cherrington projects you will discover more and more the differences and difficulties that an architect faces.

In the case of Djerba, very high temperatures; strong winds; a semi-arid site of sand and palm trees overlying limestone; a high water-table; a water source containing six grams of salt per litre – the usual tolerance for Bermuda grass being one gram per litre – and a water need of half a million gallons per day. Combined or individually these hardly suggest that the site was suitable for a golf course. For an architect, however, there is always something to be thankful for and in the case of Djerba it was the lack of conditions laid down by a planning agency.

That cannot be said to be the case at Minchinhampton where the site, included within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, was the subject of a full-scale Planning Inquiry. Permission was eventually granted subject to conditions attaching to earthworks and landscaping – no change of level greater than 1.5 metres, fewer than ten bunkers with the sand not be visible from any public highway; reconstitution of hedgerows and stone walls; a tightly controlled tree planting scheme in consonance with the Cotswold landscape and greens and tees to be sited at a respectful distance from neighbouring properties.

The two sites had quite different soils, the one sand and broken shell, the other Cotswold brash with an alarming quantity of stones – the first job was to instigate a complete mechanical stone-picking and stone burying operation. Djerba was a ready-made golfing landscape with dunes and rolling terrain right down to the beach with a scattering of palm trees throughout. Cherrington, on the other hand, was stone-walled, treeless and at first sight not an inspiring canvas despite its Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status. A very shallow valley floor and fairly uniform gradients were the only native material.

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GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT
If, however, you turn away from the manifold differences between the two sites and search for something which might unite them in the work of the golf architect it is clearly to do with the artificiality of the intention and how the architect integrates that artificiality with the site and defends the charge or landscape ruination. An environmental cynic would recognise the colours and textures of the one site transposed to the other and the shapes and features of the other imported back to inland Britain.

But it should not stop there. The principle aim, and it is one that would surely be shared by all golf architects is not to allow the artifice to conceal the original site. When you cannot see the origins and history or a piece of land you are playing golf over, then a large part of the spirit and purpose of the game is lost and sensitivity in design has been surrendered to artifice, self-promotion, gimmickry and introversion.

It is not simply about leaving shadows of the former site, encouraging the golfer to play over Cotswold stone walls or thread his or her way among the strategically retained palm trees. It is about using the character or the site as a form of discipline and restraint in the design and construction processes. It is about getting under the skin of the site and using all of the architect’s experience and judgment in defining the limits, scale, style and intensity of the artificial design which are appropriate to the particular site.

In the last analysis it is about losing part of the architect’s personality in the site itself. The site is far, far more important.
After all, we often learn more individually before it can be combined with others and seen as a package. Nevertheless, each problem area needs to be identified, evaluated, and considered individually before it can be combined with others and seen as a package.

An article in last month's Greenkeeper International discussed the top 10 maintenance pitfalls of greenkeepers as identified by the USGA Green Section in a survey of its staff. The article received lots of response, with the most common question being, "What are the second 10?" The staff was surveyed again, and the results follow:

11 Time on the Golf Course

The greenkeeper is hired to supervise the maintenance of the golf course. Sounds like an obvious statement, doesn't it? Well, it's amazing how often the agronomics of golf course maintenance takes a back seat to the many other hats worn by today's greenkeeper. That is, of course, until problems develop. Then, everyone wants to know what's happening to the turf, and the primary focus, once again, is the agronomics.

Very few greenkeepers have the time or take the time to walk their golf courses daily to closely observe turf conditions. It isn't because they don't want to; most are simply pulled in too many directions. Many greenkeepers will acknowledge they are spending more and more time on the job with each passing year, but less and less time is spent actually on the course. "When I got into this business I didn't have to put in this many hours with non-turf-related activities," is a common response.

Is this a young man's profession? Or is it time to simplify and get back to the basics, and if so, how can we do that?

How about playing the game? How can a greenkeeper prepare the golf course for play if he or she does not play regularly? How can solid decisions and diagnoses be made without spending some time carefully scouting the course? To accomplish this, it takes more than the greenkeeper just being aware of the need. It requires an owner, president, or green committee chairperson becoming involved and encouraging, or even mandating, that the greenkeeper play weekly or at least walk the course on a regular schedule. The greenkeeper also needs support to hire specialty staff, like a secretary, an experienced foreman, irrigation and/or spray technicians, which allows for a more realistic workload so that quality time can be spent out on the course. We cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that golf course maintenance still is a "hands-on" profession.

12 Documentation

Documentation involves a systematic programme of recording
activities of importance. Record-keeping practices we see range from very good to non-existent in golf course maintenance operations. In a world that is scrutinising pesticide usage more and more, it is vitally important to record every detail leading to and including the decision to actually apply a chemical. The days of making notes on a desk blotter concerning pesticide usage are long gone, or they should be.

With the computers available today, pesticide applications, inventory status, and payroll and budget tracking all can be done quickly and professionally. Every operation is different, and the use of a computer can be as simple or complex as a particular operation may need. That's the beauty of today's personal computers. Nevertheless, there are relatively few operations that are using computers to full value. Some control their irrigation systems with computers, but most golf course maintenance operations have not tapped into this valuable resource. Computers are somewhat like golf carts - they are here to stay. If you cannot use a computer to its full potential, either hire someone who can, or take time to learn.

It is not uncommon to visit a golf course and see a nice improvement project that has been completed by the greenkeeper and staff. Projects like bunker renovation, tee additions, and even the construction of a new putting green are clearly over and above routine golf course maintenance. The documentation of improvement projects with pictures or video can be very worthwhile when, a few months later, the golfers forget what it used to look like and who actually made the improvements. A camera can be an excellent tool to help document the work being done on a golf course. It is amazing how valuable pictures can be when budgets are being considered or salaries reviewed.

Documentation is a lot like communication - you are doing it all the time. It is either being done by you or by someone else, or done by default. It will either work for you or against you. Review what you are doing in this area and take the time to lay a positive foundation for the future. Document what you and your staff actually do!

13 The Bandwagon Syndrome

The "Bandwagon Syndrome" refers to those times we do something or try some thing just because the golf course down the road is doing it or someone told you he was. Does it really work? Is it economically sound for your course? It must be - isn't the highest budgeted/best golf course in town doing it? It must be the right thing to do!

An example of this would be the use of the new "lightweight rollers." It is amazing how many course officials ask about rollers. In most cases, they have heard the course down the street is using them.

"Will they make the putting surfaces faster?"

"Absolutely," is the quick response from the course down the street.

"Is there danger of surface compaction?"

A frequent answer is, "Possibly, but we haven't seen any problems yet."

Let's hope your course won't be the exception to the rule. As with most every thing in our industry, rollers are tools which can be used or abused.

What about chemicals, soil amendments, plant growth regulators, or bio-stimulants? Too often, the same reasoning is applied: If the well-known course or greenkeeper is using it, then it should work for us. However, you should ask yourself if university testing has been done. Also, has the testing been repeated enough in the field to suggest that it will work equally well at most sites? What do the Green Section agronomists think? The "Bandwagon Syndrome" can and has led to wasted time and money. In a few situations, both turf and jobs have been lost. There are no miracle cures in golf course maintenance. Look carefully before you leap, and be very sure of your information source. If you are not sure, be conservative and wait and see. Never hesitate to ask questions about new products or procedures. Avoid jumping onto bandwagons too quickly!

14 The Rules of Golf and Marking the Course

What value would our roads and motorways be if drivers did not follow the rules? Can you imagine what would happen if people were allowed to make up their own rules while driving their cars? It is not a pleasant thought. Golf is similar in that golf without rules is something other than the game we all love. If you do not play by the rules, you are not playing golf. It follows, then, that to properly maintain and mark the course on which the game is played, a greenkeeper must have a working knowledge of the rules.

What is the difference between a "hazard" and a "lateral hazard"? What are the options for putting a ball back into play when it has been lost in a "hazard" or "lateral hazard"? What is the procedure when a ball is hit into a pile of grass clippings waiting to be removed? Is it possible to have an illegal hole location? What is the difference between illegal and unfair? How about the so called "winter rules"? These are only a few examples of questions every greenkeeper should be able to answer. This is not an area that should be left just to the golf professional. Knowing the rules and staying up with changes is some thing we all need to actively pursue.

15 Lack of Outside Interests

There are no perfect golf courses, either in design or maintenance. As such, the job of maintaining and conditioning the golf course is never completely finished. There is always something that needs attention, and this is why the greenkeeper is such a key component in the game of golf. Yet, no one can work 10-plus hours every day of the week for months on end without paying a price. The price may be "burnout," lack of effectiveness on the job, or eventually the pursuit of a different career. Marriages have failed and families have been shattered by the pursuit of a perfectly conditioned golf course. Every greenkeeper knows he/she must leave home to go to work, but how about leaving work to go home? Are you living to work or working to live?

Take a day off every week. Have and pursue some type of hobby or non-golf-related interest. Spend quality time with your spouse and family. Take time for refreshment and revitalisation so you can meet the needs of your family and yourself.

To accomplish these things, every greenkeeper needs the support and encouragement of management. Green chairperson, owner, course official - do not allow your greenkeeper to burn the candle at both ends. Do not allow the short-term conditioning of your golf course to cloud the long-term picture or the personal life of your greenkeeper. Continuity over the long run is more important than course conditioning on any one day.

Take or make time to rest, relax, and recharge your batteries and relieve stress. It will make you more effective, and remember - golf is, after all, a game.

16 Test Plots

The value of on-course testing cannot be overemphasised. How can you know that a new product or technique will work in your maintenance programme without doing some controlled evaluations? Controlled means working with enough area to obtain a fair evaluation without affecting the budget or the playability of the golf course. It is not a very good place to do controlled testing. Every golf course maintenance operation should have at least one turf nursery.
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strips when making applications on the golf course is another good way to determine the effectiveness of the product. This makes it possible to determine if the pesticide application was really needed. Nobody particularly likes leaving control strips, but it is the only way to really know what degree of success you are achieving from a product or procedure.

Take the time to do on-course testing. Keep the boss and others who need to know informed of the results. They, too, will be interested in what is happening on their golf course. The information you gather should help save time, money, and aggravation the next time the application or procedure is carried out.

Keeping up with Technology

Attend local, regional, national, and even international educational conferences, field days, and seminars. Subscribe to industry magazines and read them while they are reasonably current. Take advantage of publications from BIGGA and the STRI, as well as the USGA, GCSAA, and others. A tremendous amount of information is available, but you have to take the initiative to take advantage of it. Too often, the demands faced by today’s greenkeeper will affect his/her ability to stay involved with the information gathering process. Course officials need to make sure that both time and money are available for the greenkeeper to stay current with the fast-changing technology of our industry. Do not allow the hectic pace of day-to-day golf course maintenance to prevent you from staying informed about tomorrow.

Long-Range Planning

As the old adage says, “When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” This is true for course improvements as well as for maintenance. Long-range or master plans allow the greenkeeper and course officials to establish obtainable goals and objectives. This makes it possible to establish realistic budgets for both maintenance and course improvements. A well-thought-out master plan that has been approved by those in authority can help bridge the gap in continuity when greenkeepers or course officials change. As a matter of fact, a good master plan can help increase the longevity of the greenkeeper simply because he/she has a much better idea of what is expected and where the operation is headed. Everyone benefits from this combination.

Long-range plans can include time being set aside for the greens to be aerified each year, allowing golf events to be scheduled around maintenance activities without deferring maintenance work or eliminating it altogether. There are no surprises; everyone knows when the work will be done and what to expect. The continuity and direction that are established through long-range planning pay dividends.

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19 Training and Delegation

A good indication that a potential problem exists in this area is the need to have a pager, mobile phone, or two-way radio in constant use. If it is that critical that you are reachable every second of every day, maybe it's time to spread some responsibility to other key employees. This also ties in with the need to have outside interests and low-stress personal time. If the greenkeeper is carrying the entire load alone, sooner or later something will snap.

A good rule-of-thumb to follow in training key employees is to help that person learn to do all that you do. Don't be insecure about this. It takes a person with confidence in his/her ability and the capability of seeing the big picture to delegate authority. Investing in people is what life is all about. A supervisor who is good at training and delegating is respected by his/her staff and usually enjoys life a lot more.

20 Managing Carts and Cart Paths

This ties in very closely with the eighth pitfall. That is, Amount of Play. More and more maintenance operations are installing tee-to-green golf cart path networks. While no one likes the idea of having paved surfaces on a golf course, a well-built golf cart path offers the best wear control and maintenance options where heavy cart traffic exists. Ropes, signs, and fencing can be used to help control golf cart traffic and wear, but these usually offer less than ideal results and increased maintenance costs. It is amazing how people ignore signs and ropes!

In designing a golf cart path network, begin at the 18th green and work backwards around the course. If there is a problem area where golf cart traffic is hard to manage, begin the network design at this point. It is important to locate the cart path where it will be used. However, try to stay at least 30 feet, or 10 yards, from a green or fairway. Where possible, avoid ball landing areas, though no path location is immune to shots hitting the surface. Under the Rules of Golf, relief is given from an artificially paved surface. On the other hand, no relief is allowed from the bare ground or thinned turf that often results from concentrated golf cart traffic.

Be sure to construct a golf cart path with a good base, and preferably it should be eight feet wide. This allows maintenance equipment to use the paths and makes it possible for one cart to pass another without leaving the paved surface. Properly built and located cart paths also can be used as channels for surface water runoff when pitched or sloped or with curbing installed.

Give serious thought to the current and future usage of golf carts at your course. While cart paths do involve some cost initially, over the long run they can pay for themselves in increased cart usage, especially during inclement weather. When the course is wet but playable, the sign would read, “Golf Carts Restricted to Paths.” Isn't that better than, “Course Closed to Golf Carts”?

Conclusion

This listing of the second 10 pitfalls, follows in the footsteps of the first 10 in last month's magazine. The intent has been to discuss maintenance pitfalls, as seen by Green Section agronomists. Once identified as a concern on your course, a strategy can be developed to make the necessary changes. It is never too late for change!
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. The directory shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Until the report is complete, anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aire, York Y06 2NE; telephone 01347 838640.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE 

CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER 
Wythenshawe Park Centre, Moor Road, Manchester M23 9BQ. Contact Peter Riley/Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1526. Day Release and Full Time courses leading to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with the Greenkeeping option.

HOUGHAL COLLEGE 

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE 
Moreys Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Mary Jones. Tel: 01995 640611. Full time courses: National Certificate in General Management and Greenkeeping - 2 year; BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports Management - 3 years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management - 3 years (Both these courses include one year's paid industrial experience). Part time courses: NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; NVQ Level III Sports turf Maintenance; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with BTILA). A range of short courses including FEPA etc.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE 
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DE. Contact Dennis Mottram. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. Full time courses: BTEC Professional Diploma Horticulture (Sport and Leisure) - 1 year; BTEC Professional Diploma Horticulture (Sport and Leisure) - 2 year; BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time courses: NVQ Level II Golf Course Management - Distance Learning; NVQ Level III Greenkeeping - Day Release; NVQ Level III Greenkeeping - Two Block Release; NVQ Level III Golf Course Management - Two Block Release; C&G Phase IV Greenkeeping - Block Release. NVQ Level III Sports turf Maintenance; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with BTILA). A range of short courses including FEPA etc.

BROOKSBY COLLEGE 
Brooksbury, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Contact Ann Hurn Tel: 01664 434291. Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part time courses: Day Release training to NVQ Level II in Amenity Horticulture - Greenkeeping option. Short courses are also available in Horticultural Machinework and Arboriculture.

BROOMFIELD COLLEGE 
Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3 day blocks, or APL service.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE 
Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridgeshire CB4 6DB. Contact Martin Crimmins. Tel: 01223 860701. Part time - Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II (Greenkeeping Options), including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences September/October 1995.

RODBASTON COLLEGE 
Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: Craft Level NVQ Level I, II and III. Day Release. Duration: Over two years, each of weeks duration (September - June). Registration Date: Please contact the College.

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE 

BRINSBURY COLLEGE 
North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel: 01798 873832. Full time courses: New courses in Greenkeeping Course - 36 week; NVQ Level II Greenkeeping option plus core. Approximately a third of the course is delivered on college site and local golf course. Part time - Day Release to NVQ Level II. Both full time and part time students work both full time and work both full time to the NVQ II work book and the Greenkeeper manual. NVQ Level II (National Technical Certificate) with the option in Turfculture course. NVQ Level III (National Technical Certificate) with option in Turfculture course. NVQ Level II (National Intermediate Diploma in Turfculture); NVQ Level III (National Diploma in Turfculture); NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping - Block Release. Part time courses: NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; NVQ Level III Sports Turf Maintenance; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with BTILA). A range of short courses including FEPA etc.

HADLOW COLLEGE 
Hadlow College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part time Day Release over two years with two periods of Block Release. Level II in Amenity and Groundsmanship Courses with Day Release. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping new as from Sept. '95. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury and Maidstone.

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NESCOT 
North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epson, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. PEPA Spraying Courses.
OAKLANDS COLLEGE
Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Boad, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01278 850651. Part time courses leading to NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, evening courses leading to City & Guilds Phase IV Business Management. One year full time NC Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Courses start September 1995.

OTLEY COLLEGE

PLUMPTON COLLEGE

WROTHING COLLEGE
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3BB. Contact Dail Edwards. Tel: 01245 420705. Fax: 01245 420456. Part time courses include: NVQ Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4; Sports Turf & Greenkeeping. Day Release. Includes training and assessment of Greenkeepers Training Manual. Full time courses include: BTEC First Diploma (1 year), BTEC National Diploma with Opt in Sports Turf and Golf Course Management, 3 mini sandwich course; BTEC Higher National Diploma with Opt in Golf Course Management. NVQ Level 3 Specialist Modular course. RSC (Rust) Degree course in Landscape and Amenity Management. Short courses for FEPA, Imprinting, Pool Lift Trucks, Chainsaws and First Aid also available. Associate students welcome, progression courses identified, accreditation of prior learning possible.

CANNINGS COLLEGE

HARTPURY COLLEGE

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE
Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NE. Contact Bob Young. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FBWM: Short Courses, Chainawm. Short Courses. All courses, other than Phase IV are offered on Block release.

KYLE AND GARRY DISTRICT COUNCIL
Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr KA7 1UT. Contact Lesley Keenan. Tel: 01292 281511. SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping – Day Release up to three years. Level II Amenity Horticulture.

LARGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE
Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Geoff Jenkins. Tel: 01849 462114. Day release courses leading to (i) Level II Certificate in Greenkeeping and (ii) Level III Certificate in Golf Course Supervision.

TEAGASC COLLEGE
Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Sergeant. Tel: 005531 371 636. Phase II Greenkeeping – Block Release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Greenkeeping – Block Release, one week, three times per year.

WELSH COLLEGE
Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop, Mold, Clwyd CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 01352 840861. Fax: 01352 840861. Full time courses: NVQ 4, 3, 2, 1 all available on block weeks. Short course: Pesticide Inspection, RCU, NVQ 1-3 day courses (training and testing). GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate. GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate.

Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.
**THE BIGGA LIBRARY**

The BIGGA library is continuing to expand, with new titles being added regularly. A full list, as at May 19 1995, is shown below. Up to date lists may be obtained from BIGGA HQ or from regional administrators.

At the last BIGGA board meeting, it was decided that BIGGA members should be given full access to the library by introducing a book lending scheme.

Therefore, as from June 1 1995, books and videos, except those marked 'Reference' may be borrowed by BIGGA members for a period of up to six weeks.

Each member may borrow up to two books/videos on each occasion. Members are responsible for returning books to BIGGA HQ. If books are not returned by the due date then borrowers will be invoiced for the cost of a replacement.

A book loan application form is printed opposite or contact Regional Administrators or BIGGA HQ for more details.

**ZENÉCA PREMIER GREENKEEPER**

The response to this year's competition has been encouraging. However, there is still time for head greenkeepers/course managers to enter or be entered by their greenkeeping team or golf club. Remember, that the competition aims to award the “unsung heroes”, ie those greenkeepers getting the best from their courses, on low budgets etc. There is an extra prize this year, which will reward the winning greenkeepers team with £500. So don't be shy, enter now.

**TORO/LELY/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

Entries for this competition should have been sent to Aldwark Manor by May 31. Any college intending to enter a student(s) who have not submitted application, should do so as soon as possible.

**NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 1996**

I would be interested to hear from greenkeepers who have had and overcome problems with dry patch, fusarium, moles, earthworms, or other pests, diseases or other turf grass problems who would be willing to take part in a Practical versus Theory session, jointly with consultants from the STRI, during the National Education Conference 1996. Sessions would last for 40 minutes and public speaking training could be given to greenkeepers inexperienced as public speakers.

The finest of turfs - that's what this greenkeeper achieves with Toro's unique water injection Hydroject aerator. Able to tackle very wet or rock hard ground conditions, it allows play to resume immediately. On the golf green, bowling green, cricket wicket or tennis court, Hydroject complements conventional aeration methods. And for large turf areas, Toro's Fairway and HC4000 heavy duty aerators cover up to 1.5 acres per hour with ease.

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<td>The Golf Course Planning Construction And Maintenance/FW Hawtree</td>
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<td>Tony Jacklin The Price of Success/Liz Kahn</td>
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